

Nothing But Nets Cont.

114 c Kodiac (GB) Bailonguera (Arg) 280,000
Consigned by Haras d’Ommeel

Purchased by Peter & Ross Doyle Bloodstock

Bailonguera once fetched as little as \$3,700 in the sales ring, at Keeneland November in 2012, and a handful of black-type updates by her siblings since that time have helped increase the value of her produce. Her 2-year-old Bated Breath (GB) filly Under Offer was a €40,000 foal and a 52,000gns yearling, while this Kodiac colt was picked up for €85,000 at Goffs November last year.

122 f Olympic Glory (Ire) Blissful Beat (GB) 170,000
Consigned by Haras de l’Hotellerie

Purchased by Castlefarm Stud

Agence FIPS picked up this daughter of first-season sire Olympic Glory for €70,000 at Arqana’s February Sale this year, and just six months later she realized a healthy return back in the same ring. The bay is a half-sister to group-winning sprinter Home of the Brave (Ire) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}), with both their sires being sons of Choisir (Aus).

133 c Le Havre (Ire) Core Element (Ire) 140,000
Consigned by Haras des Capucines

Purchased by James Crupi/Marco Bozzi

Haras des Capucines parted with 75,000gns to secure the Irish stakes-placed Core Element (Ire) (Consolidator) at Tattersalls December in 2013. The foal she was carrying at that time, the winning War Minister (Fr) (Iffraaj {GB}), was bought by Jean-Claude Rouget for €90,000 at Arqana’s October Yearling Sale and this is her second foal.



Almanzor winning the Champion S. | *Racing Post*

Almanzor’s 4-year-old debut was significantly delayed after he was affected by an EHV-1 outbreak in Rouget’s stable, and he made the lone start of his campaign when beating just one home in last week’s G3 Prix Gontaut-Biron.

“We all remember his three Group 1 wins at three including his amazing finish in the Irish Champion S.,” Vidal added. “The best horse in Europe in 2016 with a rating of 126, he has huge potential as a stallion. Decisions regarding his career at stud will be made and announced at a later date.” [\(Return to story p1\)](#)

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NEW HORIZONS FOR VERCKEN WITH EQUIWAYS *By Sue Finley*

They say timing is everything.

It was early 2016, and Camille Vercken, the longtime head of the Syndicat des Eleveurs, the French Thoroughbred Breeders Association, decided it was time to move her young family from Paris to their home in Normandy. Just one year later, she has not only made the move, but has completed a highly selective course of study in biosecurity and launched a company, **Equiways**, which shows farms how to reduce their risk of contamination and transmission of potentially deadly viruses and diseases.

The fact that the degree would come about at the exact time where racing experienced two serious, costly and deadly outbreaks of disease on two continents was merely chance.

Vercken, who already held a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Dijon and a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky, was in the midst of her most recent studies in January, 2017, when **equine herpesvirus paralyzed the backstretch at the Fair Grounds in Louisiana**. Just three months later, there was an **EHV-1 outbreak in April at Jean-Claude Rouget’s barn in Pau**.

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EUROPEAN NEWS



Champion Almanzor Retired Cont. from p1

That victory that also kicked off five-race win streak that encompassed the G1 Prix du Jockey Club, G2 Prix Guillaume d’Ornano, G1 Qipco Irish Champion S. and G1 Qipco Champion S., the latter two coming at the expense of G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe winner Found (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

Last October Haras d’Etreham, which bred Almanzor and sold him for €100,000 as a yearling, bought back into the colt in partnership with SF Bloodstock.



Camille Vercken | Sue Finley

New Horizons for Vercken With Equiways Cont.

These high-profile cases followed the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza which shut down racing in Australia, costing the industry millions. At its peak during the Australian crisis, 47,000 horses were affected on almost 6,000 different properties.

"That is the worst thing that could happen," said Vercken. "You have one horse coming back from training with rhinovirus and within a few days the whole barn has it. You see how quickly the Australian flu spread. Within four days, it affected Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, racetracks, stallions and it spread out throughout Australia."

While people cannot become infected with EI, they can carry it on their clothes, shoes, and bodies and spread the infections to other horses with which they come into contact.

And therein lies much of what is at the heart of Vercken's new business.

"Basically, what I do is risk assessment at stud farms, stallion barns and racetracks. Anywhere horses meet, and where people and equipment come into contact with them. Biosecurity is basically the process of reducing infectious disease and the proliferation of it in one structure and the containment of it so it doesn't go to other structures. You say biosecurity and people think it's very complicated. But it's not at all."

Vercken's model is simple: imagine her, she says, as a drone over your farm, watching the movements of horses, people and equipment as they go through their daily routine. After a half-day of observation, clients receive a schematic of their farm showing who has gone where throughout the day, and identifying risky procedures. Looking at the results and the amount of traffic in and out of every area can be a bit shocking.

She then divides the farm into three zones: green, amber and red, and shows the farm manager how the traffic should be moving. Anyone can come and go in the green zones, which

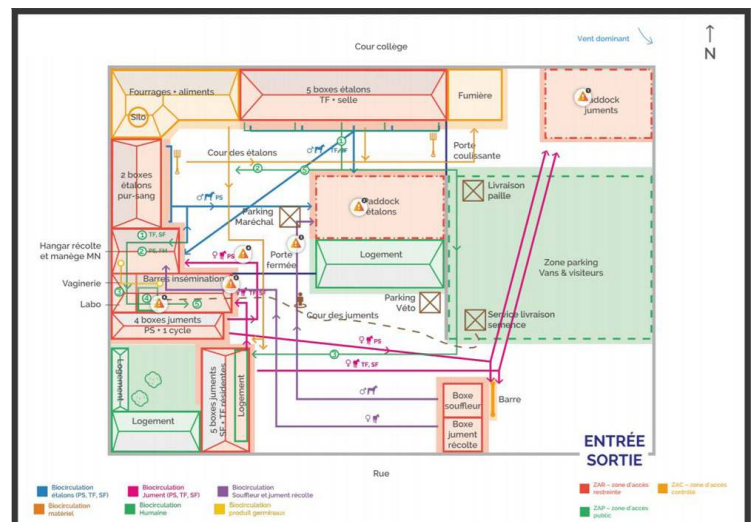
typically are comprised of the parking lot, visitor center and offices. Movement in and out of the amber zones are somewhat restricted, and the tightest procedures implemented in the red zones.

"Red is the color you absolutely have to protect," she said. "It's the nuclear reactor. Inside the stallion barn, the foaling barn. At farms with AI, that could be the lab."

Her final plan also identifies five major problems and poses solutions and new procedures. "I give them no more than five, because people are not going to follow the rules if it's too complicated. Then for every problem I identify, I do a matrix. You can see for each problem, how you could spread rotavirus, pneumonia. I look at the layout of the barns for each problem identified, propose at least three solutions and then together with the farm, we choose which one fits their farm best. Because if you're not going to apply it, my work is not worthwhile."

One recent farm with which she worked, run by veterinarians, thought they were doing a good job by having the AI delivery man park in the green zone to pick up the samples.

"They are vets, so they have a knowledge of biosecurity beforehand," said Vercken. "So the manager tells me he used a semen delivery service who went to all the farms. So he tells me the car parks there, far away from everyone. I said, 'Good, the car should be there in the green parking, far away from everyone. So where does the man go then?' 'Oh, then he walks through here, into the lab to pick up the boxes.' It would be like allowing the Amazon delivery man to go into the operating room to deliver his packages. It's just about the same thing. Because he delivers everywhere, and if he walks through a little foal manure with rotavirus, what then? He's just walked that into your lab. So now, he picks it up outside the facility in a refrigerated locker." **Cont. p10**



The existing movements of horses, humans and equipment at a farm

New Horizons for Vercken With Equiways Cont.

Hiring Vercken allows farms to make her the bad guy when it comes to instilling new procedures among staff and supplier.

"You go to a farm and they say, 'here is the parking place for the vet. Right in front of the stallion barn. And here is the parking place for the farrier. Right in front of the isolation barn.' And it's quite hard for the farm owner because the vet has been parking there forever. So it's easier for him to say, 'you know that girl came and studied what we do, and now she wants you to park here. We are asking everyone to park a bit further down.' I can be the annoying person in the system. I love it."

Vercken also color-codes equipment which shouldn't be shared across the farm. "The pitchforks and the wheelbarrows in the stallion barn are blue.

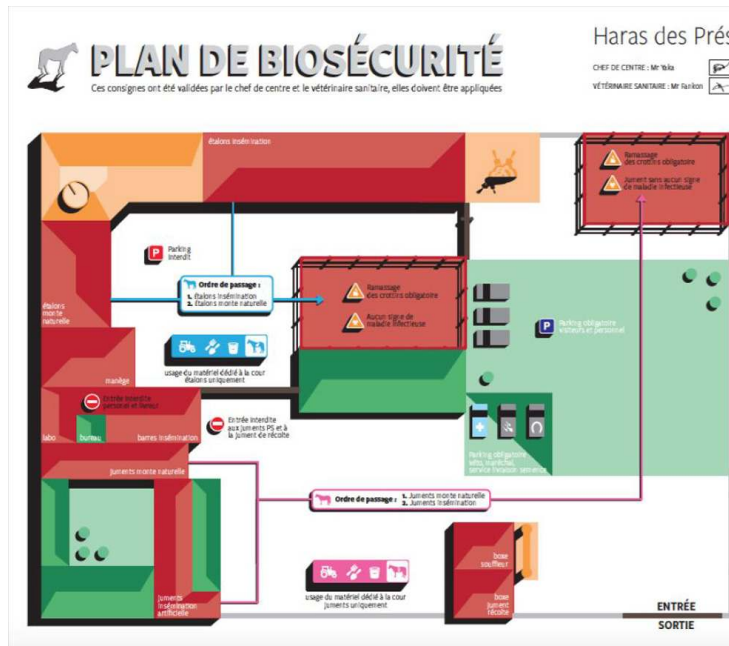
The ones in the mares barn are pink. That way, when someone sees a pink fork in the stallion barn, right away they know that's wrong."

She also works with the structures already existing at the farm.

"I don't come in with a bulldozer and say, 'we have to start fresh.'"

"People are already working hard," she said. "They are working hard to take care of the horses and sell nominations, and I can come in from the outside with the knowledge I have and provide them with a fresh perspective."

While biosecurity experts already existed, their advice tended to be in cookie-cutter form. Vercken brings custom solutions. "I think some people just get general advice," she said. "Where I am a pioneer is that I do everything tailor-made for the farm." [Cont. p11](#)



Recommended movements on the same farm

TDN WEEKEND
AUGUST 2017

Fall racing in **TORONTO**
SOUTH KOREA is the next big thing
ANNA SUNDRÖM has the Last Word
 Lord Grimthorpe talks **YORK**
D. WAYNE LUKAS video sitdown

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New Horizons for Vercken With Equiways Cont.

Vercken, 37, has always been a trailblazer. The daughter of a Parisian lawyer father and financier mother, she said she dreaded the thought of going to work in an office "with all of those books" for her whole life.

Introduced to racing by a family friend with horses, by the age of 12, she was begging the family to not go on vacation during the summer, rather, to let her spend her holidays at Deauville mucking out stalls. After graduating from the university at Dijon, she headed to America, where she spent two years working for bloodstock agent Peter Bradley, and another year selling nominations at Castleton Lyons. When she met Martine Head, she came back to France to work at Haras du Quesnay, where she spent three years before accepting the job with the French breeders.

Since leaving that role, she has not only launched Equiways, but is helping to manage Haras du Vieux Pont for new owners who purchased the farm outside Lisieux from Sven and Carina Hanson last year. She is also writing a children's book series on historical horses, developing a comic strip, has launched a pinhooking venture and is raising three children under the age of five.

But helping to prevent the spread of infectious disease in the industry could yet be her most important role.

"There isn't a 100% solution," she says. "That's next to impossible. But as professionals, you want to reduce your risks. Maybe you have foals every year with rotavirus, and you look around and you don't know why it's happening to you, because you feel like it's not happening to other people. A foal at the vet clinic on an intravenous drip is €1,000 per day."

"I see big applications for Thoroughbred stud farms," she said, "and huge ones for racing barns. In a racing barn, you have a huge turnover in people, and everybody is in a rush. Even if you have super people, you cannot help it. Everyone knows their staff has their own horses. Every morning, I take care of my horses before I go to work. What if one of my foals has rotavirus, and then I go to work in someone else's foaling barn? So every day, I change my clothes. I change my shoes. But how many people do that? How many farm managers make sure their people do that before they come to work?"

"The Australian flu cost the whole industry \$3.3 million a day. Racing was banned, breeding was banned. I calculate that if you have a stallion that's not available for one day, you lose in one day the price of the stud fee. If you have a €5,000 stallion, you lose €5,000 per day. If you have a €100,000 stallion, that's €100,000. That's why people with expensive stallions should just take a minute and consider that."

Sunday, Deauville, France

DARLEY PRIX MORNAY-G1, €350,000, DVL, 8-30, 2yo, c/f, 6fT, 1:08.92, gd.

1--**UNFORTUNATELY (IRE)**, 126, c, 2, by **Society Rock (Ire)**

1st Dam: Unfortunate (GB), by **Komaite**

2nd Dam: Honour and Glory (GB), by **Hotfoot (GB)**

3rd Dam: Cheb's Honour (GB), by **Chebs Lad (GB)**

*1st Group 1 win. (€24,000 Ylg '16 TIRSEP). O-J Loughton & Mrs E Burke; B-Tally-Ho Stud (IRE); T-Karl Burke; J-Tony Piccone. €199,990. Lifetime Record: 6-3-2-0, €295,888. *1st Group 1 winner for freshman sire (by Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}).

1/2 to Look Busy (Ire) (Danetime {Ire}), GSW-Eng & Ire, SP-Ger, \$524,059. **Werk Nick Rating: B. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.

2--**Havana Grey (GB)**, 126, c, 2, Havana Gold (Ire)--Blanc de Chine (Ire), by Dark Angel (Ire). (42,000gns Wlg '15 TATFOA; €70,000 Ylg '16 ARAUG). O-Global Racing Club & Mrs E Burke; B-Mickley Stud & Lady Lonsdale (GB); T-Karl Burke. €80,010.

BBA Ireland — Transport Purchase Insurance

3--**Different League (Fr)**, 122, f, 2, Dabirsim (Fr)--Danseuse Corse (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). (€8,000 Wlg '15 ARQDEC; £14,000 RNA Ylg '16 GOUKPR). O-Mme Theresa Marnane; B-Lotfi Kohli (FR); T-Matthieu Palussiere. €40,005.

Margins: 1 1/4, SHD, SNK. Odds: 5.70, 6.20, 4.00.

Also Ran: Zonza (Fr), High Dream Milena (Fr), Nyaleti (Ire), Tantheem (GB), Dameron (Fr). **Click for the Racing Post result. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

With some judges questioning the merit of his surprise win in the G2 Prix Robert Papin over 5 1/2 furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte July 23, Unfortunately put that beyond doubt here by leading home Havana Grey and a Karl Burke one-two in this feature event. Having opened his account in authoritative fashion at Hamilton May 19, the bay had been second to Ardenode (Ire) (Hellvelyn {GB}) in the Listed Prix la Fleche at Maisons-Laffitte June 10 before finishing in the same position behind the subsequent G2 Superlative S. fourth Zaman (GB) (Dutch Art {GB}) and ahead of the eventual Listed Prix Six Perfections winner Izzy Bizu (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) in Pontefract's Spindrift Conditions S. over this trip July 3.

In the Robert Papin, he had rolled around when taking command which appeared to cost High Dream Milena (Fr) (Dabirsim {Fr}) at least a place and connections had only just learnt that a subsequent appeal against the winner had been unsuccessful. Despite that official confirmation, there were many who felt that Unfortunately had enjoyed more than a share of luck there and this better race would expose any vulnerabilities.