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I found this the other day
Peter, 11 October 2007.

MALTON MEMORIES

AND

I'ANSON TRIUMPHS

Being the Sporting History of Malton
from Earliest Times to the Present Day

TOGETHER WITH

The Lives and Times of the Scotts, I'Ansons,
and other Trainers, Jockeys,
and Gentlemen Riders

BY

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"Sporting Days and Stories," etc.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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"Audax" of "Horse and Hound."

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MALTON MEMORIES

hand-in-hand together. If one reads contemporary history aright, as much, or more, money was won and lost over the game-birds as over the horses earlier in the day. It will be seen that even if the full racing programme could not be carried out (as often seems to have been the case), there was still sufficient "going on" at Malton to make it worth the while of those who flocked to the old town. Cocking, by the way, came to an end in 1840 as an adjunct to racing, and illegal in 1849.

For long after, however, the old-time Yorkshire sportsmen never lost an opportunity of dining and wine-ing. They adjourned from the hunting field to the table, they proceeded from the luncheon board (early in the day) to the race-course, and they returned to dine and wine after racing. Moreover, these old Nimrods and Turfites—and hunting men were the founders of the Turf and its main supporters—formed themselves into "Friendly Societies," foremost amongst the rules of which was that there should be frequent meetings and dinners. They never missed a chance of feasting, with the bottle and song as an essential aftermath. Malton had race dinners almost to the end of the chapter of its race-meeting, even if they didn't always conclude with "order and decorum," that held on September 7th, 1769, seems to have done so, according to the *York Courant*, which reported the event thus:—

"Last Thursday the gentlemen of Malton, as well as others in the neighbourhood, were elegantly entertained at Mr. Powell's, the Talbot, out of a fine buck sent by Lord Downe, one of their worthy representatives in Parliament. The day was spent in much mirth and jollity, with ringing of bells, drinking constitutional toasts, and every other demonstration of the greatest loyalty to His Majesty, as well as fervent wishes for the peace, happiness, and quiet of the nation. The evening

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MARY TARTAR'S HISTORY

concluded with the greatest order, decorum, and festivity."

Just what the show of "fat horses" was I am at a loss to understand, though it seems to have been advertised as one of the attractions of the 1751 race week.

In the preceding year (1750), at Malton Fair, a Mr. Barker, of near Helmsley, bought for £3 8s. 6d. (with 5s. back "for luck") a mare destined to play a part in the breed of the Thoroughbred. Now Mr. Barker was a bit suspicious about his bargain, and Orton records for us that he "was fearful she had been stolen," and so reported his purchase, and gave a description of the mare to safeguard himself from legal proceedings for aiding and abetting horse theft. This was evidently done to his satisfaction, though Barker does not appear to have got a pedigree with her. He thought her good enough, however, to send to Tartar, then standing at Oulston, near Easingwold, and the result was Mary Tartar, which he sold to Mr. Robinson, the early Malton owner previously mentioned. Pick tells us that she was first called Moorpoot,* later Magic, and then Mary Tartar. "Her dam," he says, "was from the Highland-Laddie kind." In 1755, she was sent as far away as Alnwick to beat eight others for a £50 prize, and it was after this Mr. Robinson bought her, and entered her for the great race of the North at that period—the King's Plate of 100 guineas at Hambleton. Here she had to meet some of the best horses in Yorkshire, and won a fine race "with difficulty." Evidently this was sufficient for Mr. Weatherby to justify him including her dam in the Stud Book, despite the uncertainty as to her pedigree. The following year Mary Tartar won the King's Plate for mares at Newmarket, and Mr. Robinson then sold her to the Marquis of Rockingham, who won a 500 guineas

* A Yorkshire dialect word both for grouse and those living in moorland districts.

MALTON'S SPORTING INNS

meeting was held in April—a revival of Spring racing, and some very famous sportsmen ran horses. There were no less than four races on the opening day (Tuesday, April 25th), and the opening event (the Craven Stakes of 10 guineas each) fell to Col. Childers with a chestnut colt by Waxy out of Remnant. The winner was a two-year-old, and carried 6st. Lord Milton's Easton—a three-year-old, carrying 8st.—was made favourite, as was his Cervantes (by Don Quixote) in the Produce Stakes of 50 guineas each. This Cervantes won, beating one of, if not the first, horses the first Sir Tatton (then Mr.) Sykes ever ran (Stamfordia). Lord Milton's horse won the final race on this opening day, beating Sir M. M. Sykes' Comus (which later had a great career at stud), and others. Lord Scarborough,* Sir Thomas Gascoigne, Mr. Bower, Squire Garforth, and Lord Hawke also ran horses. A Mr. Simpson won two races. Mr. Allan—later most popular as "Squire" Allan—ran a horse at this meeting, as did others whose names are now forgotten—Messrs. Gorwood, Blythe, Nalton, Dunsley, Tanton, Creaser, Phillips, and Clarke. Despite the great success which attended the Spring meeting in 1809, there does not seem to have been an October fixture, for some reason now probably forgotten.

It was about this time that the famous Talbot Hotel came into being, originally as the "New Talbot," for there was already a Talbot in the Market Place. So many chapters of Malton's sporting history have had their origin and development at the Talbot that we must pause for a moment to record its birth.

The Talbot Hotel—or the New Talbot, as it was originally called—is inseparable from the early sporting history of Malton. It was here owners stayed when

* So spelled in *The Calendar*; sic, Scarbrough.

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they came to see their horses, it was here trainers and others foregathered to revive and carry on the Malton Race fixture, it was here the sporting fraternity drew, knowing they would find congenial company. Many important sales of bloodstock have been arranged in the commodious Talbot, many Turf secrets told, many *coups* arranged, and many a bottle cracked to celebrate them. The Talbot was once the

* hunting box of Sir William Strickland, and was purchased by the Earl Fitzwilliam, who saw the need for a good hotel for the Nimrods who congregated at Malton for hunting, racing, and coursing. Not that Malton a century and a quarter ago was lacking in licensed houses, but none of them were quite what Earl Fitzwilliam had in his mind's eye. There were the Angel (Saville Street), Black Bull (Market Place), Black Horse (Yorkersgate), Blacksmith's Arms (Wheelgate), Black Swan (Market Place), Blue Ball (Newbiggin), Cross Keys (Wheelgate), Crown and Anchor (Low Street), Fleece (Market Place), Golden Lion (Market Place), Green Man (Market Place), King's Head (Market Place), New Globe (Yorkersgate), Old Globe (Market Place), Old Talbot (Market Place), Royal Oak (Market Place), Ship Inn (Wheelgate), Shoulder of Mutton (Low Street), Sun Inn (Wheelgate), White Horse Inn (Yorkersgate), and White Swan (Old Maltongate).

The New Talbot had as its first landlord Mr. Powell, who was succeeded by Mr. Benjamin Harker, whose brother, I fancy, later gave his name to the famous old hotel at York, which had previously been known as the York Tavern, and which is shortly to disappear. By 1823 Edward Barton was mine host of the Talbot, and from his house the York mail coach left every evening at five, whilst the Scarborough and Whitby coaches each set

* A 'hunting box' - A small country-house for hunting - see Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd Ed., 1950. Fairfax-Scarborough calls it a 'box', not a 'lodge'. This is perhaps significant.

LOCAL COUNTRY HOUSE FOLK IN 1800

out from them three days a week at the uncomfortable hour of 3 a.m. It will be shown later how the Talbot was the place chosen by the late William I'Anson to call a meeting of local sportsmen to propound a scheme which, had it been accepted, would have saved Langton Wold, and the old race-course from desecration and the plough.

At this time there were living in the country houses around Malton a collection of as fine sportsmen as could have been found anywhere in England within a similar radius. Most of them ran horses at Malton meetings, hunted, bred bloodstock, kept greyhounds, and generally played the game all round. At Wiganthorpe was Mr. William Garforth, at Castle Howard the Earl of Carlisle, at Hildenley Mr. G. Strickland, at Easthorp Park Mr. E. Clough-Taylor, at Hutton Lodge Mr. J. Staniforth, at Welham Mr. Robert Bower, and at Langton Mrs. Norecliffe, whilst the St. Quintins were at Scampston Hall. Mr. H. Masterman was located at Settrington Hall, Mr. J. R. Foulis was at West Heslerton, Sir George and Mr. John Cayley respectively at the High and Low Hall, Brompton, the Hon. M. Langley was at Wykeham, Squire Geo. Osbaldeston spent a certain amount of time when hunting had finished at Ebberstone, where he had some of his racehorses trained before taking Hambleton and sending his trainer, Stebbings, there. Mr. Charles Duncombe was at Duncombe Park, Colonel Croft at Stillington, Mr. F. Cholmeley at Bransby, Mr. Edward Worsley at Hovingham, and the Legards at Ganton. A few details regarding these sporting stalwarts will be timely here.

Of Squire Garforth we have already heard something. The Earl of Carlisle, who was born in 1748, and succeeded to the title when ten years old, was a member

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Pyrrhus the First. Determined to save him from himself, Sir Tatton and Tom Bowman took charge of Bill some days before the Leger and never left him day or night. This was all the more necessary as a barrel of the famous and strong Sledmere ale had been sent a short time before to Scott at Malton, and Bill had not only "tapped" it, but begun to sample it pretty freely. Scott won on Sir Tatton, this being the last of his nine St. Leger victories, the first of which was in 1821. Sir Tatton, as he had promised, led in the winner, which had been named after him.

In 1849, William I'Anson, Sen., came from Gullane, Scotland, to Spring Cottage, Malton, and very shortly after his arrival was instrumental in having a meeting called at the Talbot Hotel. The local estate owners and trainers were invited to discuss a scheme I'Anson had of taking the whole of Langton Wold on a 99 years' lease. I'Anson saw the possibility of trouble ahead with regard to training facilities, and also saw opportunities for making a golf course on the Wold, such as there was (and is) at Gullane. In those days golf was unknown in Yorkshire, though Mr. I'Anson played in his paddock at Spring Cottage. The local gentlemen laughed at the idea of introducing golf into those parts; the Scotts were losing interest, and the other trainers did not see far enough ahead to grasp what might, and did, happen in the future. So the meeting resulted in no action being taken—a fact of which was bitterly regretted a few years after and has been by successive trainers at Malton ever since. Of this more later.

"The Druid" tells of a Malton incident in 1853 when speaking of "Jockeys wasting." He says:—

"Stephenson and Dockeray made themselves into walking skeletons, till increasing weight obliged them to leave the saddle, and so did Hesselstine, Holmes and

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the Tyne Selling Plate carrying 9st. 2lb. and ridden by Fagan. The Confederacy backed her well and she started at evens and was bought in for 95 guineas. At the same meeting she was placed in the Grandstand Selling. Pontefract found her running again and then in August at the now defunct Halifax fixture she was beaten a neck by Blue Bonnet for the Park Farm Handicap. The twain were joint favourites—"evens" each. Second in the Warrenby Welter Selling at Redcar with 10st. 1lb. to carry she gave Itta Duffa 8lb. and the winner (Reflex) 9lb. Good Thing was favourite. After this she journeyed to Scotland in September and at Lanark beat Teasdale a head for the Wishaw Handicap Plate. Going on to Perth she won a selling race there and Capt. Inge bought her for 100 guineas. She afterwards ran again at Perth and came on to Kelso, Northallerton and Halifax without scoring—a fair season's work!

But the most interesting part of her career was yet to come. Mr. I'Anson offered her for 100 guineas to the veteran Mr. James Adams, who then lived at Nunnington, and always had a useful horse or two which his sons trained and rode. He only died in 1923 at the age of 98.

"You buy her and break her in to harness and then match her to beat any pony in the world," suggested I'Anson to Adams, but this was not to be yet. The mare was sold to Mr. John Hammond Peart, whose father had kept the Talbot Hotel at Malton. The latter had managed the horses Jim Perrin had in training at Malton for the late Mr. Bowes, of Streatlam, who was never seen on a racecourse for many years before his death and whose jockey (Fordham) didn't know him and wasn't very civil to him when he ven-