



Time Test

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European Bloodstock News

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TODAY'S HEADLINES

RACING NEWS

SANDS OF MALI COLT EXCITES POMPEY VENTURES

By **SAM WESTERSIDE**



Ned Sangster was active at Tattersalls on Wednesday, buying the three-year-old **Advertise** colt **Mulciber** for his fledgling syndicate Pompey Ventures, and the grandson of the late Robert, so integral to the breeding world, was in buoyant mood after riding out one of Pompey's brightest juvenile prospects yesterday morning.

"I have just finished riding out the **Sands Of Mali** colt **Bob Mali**," Sangster immediately informed, "who will hopefully be an early type for Ollie Sangster. He was a €16,000 purchase from Fairyhouse and all of the lads in the yard love him. He should be out in the first few weeks in April and his work has been very good. He should be competitive on debut."

Through the unraced colt, the syndicate has aspirations of a first ever Royal Ascot runner. "Royal Ascot is the goal and there has been a lot of talk about it, but we are taking things one step at a time. Ollie is my first cousin and we grew up together; he is very dedicated to the game and is on an upward trajectory as a trainer."

Text

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Sangster, who builds software as his main profession, has not long returned from Australia, where he rode out for Chris Waller, which he described as a "great experience." He runs Pompey Ventures alongside four friends and the five partners vote on any big decision and work as a team.

"Zach is our accountant, or the diligent bean counter, as we call him!" Sangster informed. "He does all our books, which is useful. Then we have a guy called Owen, who is a great salesman and does all our social media, keeping everyone updated. We also have another partner, who watches all the videos and is very good at form. Our final partner is an Irish breeder, David Byrne, who owns Rochestown Lodge Stud and is very handy at the sales; working out who we should buy off, especially at the Breeze-Up sales. It really helps to have people that are well-connected and who have ridden horses, as they can make a judgement. Overall, we have a balanced set of partners."

It is fair to say that the syndicate is very forward-facing and you can expect to see Sangster at upcoming sales. "We have big plans for the future," he explained. "We aim to have up to 15 horses by the end of the year and will be buying two or three Breeze-Up horses to go to Ollie Sangster, Dylan Cunha and George Boughey. We also want to grow our base and improve the quality of our horses."

Explaining a bit more about the workings of the syndicate, Sangster continued: "We will take anyone of any age. We just want to divide a horse into two and a half, five and ten per cent shares and we don't want to be charging big management fees. A lot of the big syndicates charge extortionate management fees and our aim is to make it as affordable as possible."



Ned Sangster, pictured at Tattersalls on Wednesday.

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Perhaps the biggest goal of the syndicate is to make racing an enjoyable hobby for its members. "We want to make it really good fun and put on fixtures [for Pompey Ventures members]," explained Sangster. "We might take six clients out to a football match and get some dinner afterwards. Our goal is just to make things really fun. We also record footage on the gallops and members will get regular video communication of their horses. We just want to give people an out, if people have a stressful job then we want to make their hobby as fun and interactive as possible. That really is our mantra here at Pompey Ventures."

Pompey Ventures is also unequivocal in its belief that more young people need to become immersed into racing. "The demographic of the sport is dying and there is a lack of young people coming through," Sangster began. "You can see that at the racecourses and I was speaking to a jockey at the Lincoln meeting, who said the old buzz just wasn't there. It is important to get young going racing and loving it, as they are the next generation. If they own two and a half per cent of a horse, who happens to win a race, then they are more than likely to get their friends to come in too. This can only be good for our sport and, if you read any of the tabloids, our sport is sadly shrinking, as others are just better marketed."

Being a part of the famous Sangster dynasty, Ned had a firm footing in the game from a young age. "My earliest racing memory would be John Gosden training at Manton," Sangster began. "I was lucky to go to the races and walk the track with him quite a bit. We had a good horse named **Percussionist**, out of a good mare **Magnificent Style** [**Silver Hawk**], whose daughter **Playful Act** [**Sadler's Wells**] was sold at Keeneland for a lot of money. **Percussionist** won a Derby trial by ten lengths at Lingfield, I remember it well; he beat a horse in red colours named **Hazyview** [**Cape Cross**]. As a 12 and 13-year-old, Manton was amazing. I was surrounded by great horses, like **Oasis Dream** [**Green Desert**], who used to be ridden by a lad named Sean Mulvey, and I just remember driving them all mad in the stables!"

Syndicates have always been a form of interest for Sangster. "I had a crack at setting up racing syndicates when I was around 20/21, with my uncle Max Sangster," he explained. "We were pretty young and naive and Ilka Gansera-Leveque, who trains in Newmarket, told us that **Mull Of Killough** [**Mull Of Kintyre**], a half-brother to **Excelebration** [**Exceed And Excel**] with Richard Fahey, could be

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bought. We got the cash and purchased the horse in a private deal for £50,000- we didn't have a penny! We had managed to sell 30 per cent, before Michel de Carvalho, who owned Heineken, came in and took the last half of the horse. He ended up winning the Gr.3 Earl of Sefton Stakes twice, was second in the Cambridgeshire under Joseph O'Brien, second in the Gr.2 Summer Mile at Ascot under William Buick, beaten a nose in the Lincoln and went to Singapore twice, as well as Dubai. He was a real legend of a horse and we got very lucky with him. He loved the Rowley Mile and could bowl out in front; Jane [Chapple-Hyam] really sweetened him up and he had a huge heart.

"Overall we had about eight or nine horses," Sangster continued. "One was a runner in the [Listed] Windsor Castle Stakes, **Smoothtalkinrascal [Kodiac]**, who was eventually sold to Cheveley Park. To be honest, I was incredibly clueless and we were just completely winging it! We ran the syndicate for about three years before wrapping it up."

Returning back to Pompey, the venture mainly operates on the Flat, however, there are potential plans to expand into the National Hunt game in the future. "We had a fun horse with Harry Derham and his communication was exquisite," Sangster informed. "We would definitely in the future like to have another horse with Harry, as he is very ambitious. He gave us a video update every week and it was a really wonderful experience. The horse was named **A Dublin Job [Ask]** and we bought him from Ireland. He could have been competitive, but unfortunately the British handicapper raised him to a mark he just would not be able to win off, so we had to sell him on."

Nevertheless, the syndicate currently boasts a number of talented Flat performers, not least the Karl Burke-trained **Media Shooter (Advertise)**, who will lineup in today's valuable 6f All-Weather Three-Year-Old Championships Handicap at Newcastle, worth £77,310 to the winner.

"**Media Shooter** has his toughest task to-date at Newcastle," Sangster began. "He is in really good form, tries his heart out and is a very straightforward, good-looking horse. If he finishes in the first three we will be delighted and, if he can win, it would be our biggest victory so far. He was impressive last time off a moderate pace."

"We have three horses by **Advertise** in the syndicate, including **Serendipitous Lady**. Everyone seems to be off the sire and maybe we are trying to be a bit contrarian, but the industry should give him more time. His stock will be better three-year-olds and, even though **Advertise** was a sprinter, his progeny might be better over further than the market thinks."

Then there is the George Boughey-trained **Oliver Show**, a four-year-old gelded son of **No Nay Never** who was a winner at Newcastle last month. "He is a nice horse and won a feature race on a Sunday about a month ago," said Sangster. "We then made the mistake of running him back too soon, but we turned him out for three weeks [after the race] and he has now returned the best he has ever looked. We are looking forward to running him in the coming weeks and have targeted a few races on the all-weather. When the ground gets a bit better, we will also run him on the turf and we think he is very much suited to a straight track. He likes to be dropped in and we feel like there is a lot of upside in this horse. We will be delighted if he can turn into a high 80s/low 90-rated horse and he is out of an American-bred mare. George [Boughey] thinks this is the best he has ever looked, so we have a lot of confidence in him: he could potentially be our flagbearer this summer."

Pompey Ventures has recruited some of Britain's brightest young trainers to nurture its stock and another was added to that list earlier in the week when Dylan Cunha was announced as the

new trainer of the Tattersalls March Sale purchase **Mulciber**. "All of our trainers are ambitious and set themselves pretty strong goals, and that is the type of people we want to work with," Sangster stated. "We want to work with up and coming trainers and we have a great communication with them all; we are delighted with those have chosen. We certainly feel like we have a Gr.1 lineup of trainers."



Pompey Ventures' latest purchase, the 17,000gns buy **Mulciber (Advertise)**, who will be trained by Dylan Cunha.

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