

Membership “Spotlight On” Kempton Bloodstock

Steve Castagnola



A Passion for Horse Racing

It was 1983 in England, and I will never forget the excitement and pure joy I felt listening to the call of the Grand National. That was it; that was the moment – I was hooked on horse racing. My new interest had a force of its own and like gravity, began pulling me to the different local tracks like Kempton Park and Epsom Downs. As I was 12 at the time, I couldn't exactly get in

a car and drive, so I often ended up taking two trains followed by a bus to get to my destination. Once I arrived, unescorted children weren't exactly welcome at the track so I had to sneak in by asking pleasant-looking strangers if I could please enter with them. Horse racing had quickly become my passion.

My Dad moved to California in the 1980s, and I joined him a few years later, where I finished up high school and attended San Jose State. My passion for horse racing remained strong, to the point I decided I had no other choice in life; I had to pursue my love which then brought me to Kentucky. I joined Taylor Made Farm and Sales Agency in January of 1997, accepting a position in the Equine Intern Program. During my 18-month internship, I was fortunate to have my hands on several, million-dollar sales horses,

Breeders' Cup Champions and classic winners. I was the first person to break to tack the 1999 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Filles winner, Cash Run. One of my favorite horses was Group 2 winner and \$1,000,000 sales yearling, Mull of Kintyre, with whom I spent many mornings grooming while reading the *Thoroughbred Daily News* from his back.

Upon completion of the intern program, I was offered the position of Stallion Nomination Manager for Taylor Made's young, developing stallion operation. One of my main responsibilities during that time was to recruit and review the mares that would be bred to Unbridled's Song. You can imagine the quality and quantity of breeding stock I reviewed during those years.

In 2002, I was asked to become the Director of Client Development at Taylor Made Sales

Agency. One of my main responsibilities was the identification of young, talented fillies and mares with the goal of recruiting these horses to Taylor Made for public or private sale. There I remained until launching Kempton Bloodstock, LLC in August of 2010. Kempton Bloodstock, LLC, www.kemptonbloodstock.com is a full-service agency offering public and private sales representation, portfolio management, mating advice and various partnerships of all levels. I have emceed various events around town in addition to some auctioneering. I am also a regular guest on the international radio show on the Horse Racing Radio Network. I am married to Shannon who plays a very important role on the West Point Thoroughbred team and am fortunate to have two lovely girls in Ava and Caroline who are my pride and joy.