



Linnea, a Swedish girl, who works for Coulcones for the yearling season, with two of her charges

get one and then every time you change jobs, you have to start afresh. I decided to move to France, rented a small farm and a very kind American lady sent me two mares via Emmanuel de Seoux.”

In the early days, Drion was prepared to turn up at the sales with an empty trailer just in the hope of picking up a filly for a client, but he has nurtured his international connections well and now the couple can boast of clients from the US, Australia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, England and Sweden. Now well away from that early start, the good levels of prize-money and French premiums are certainly helping to send clients the Drions' way.

“More and more breeders are realising the benefits of producing a horse qualified for French premiums; sending a mare over to foal and getting her back and leaving the youngster here,” explains Drion. “But, also, more are keen to keep them here to race – the prize-money is so good and, if you add on the owners and breeders' premiums, a race win can be worth a lot of money.

“A maiden race at a provincial track can be softer than a similar race in Britain, but you can still be walking away with €15,000 in prize-money.

“And, if you have a good horse such as Le Havre, well he won €1,004,000 in prize-money, €635,000 in owners' premiums and €230,000 in breeders' premiums, in all over €1.8 million! Vivez la France!”

However, the couple do believe that there is some room for improvement with the premium scheme feeling that, at present, it is causing mare owners to be reluctant to invest in new stock as they may have a mare earning a lot of money with a lesser type or an older individual.

“It has led to some stagnation in the mare market and there should be some tweaking to give greater rewards to younger, up-and-coming progressive individuals,” explains Drion.

Without a language barrier, the Drions can purposefully court international mare and yearling owners.

“I do think that clients do like someone who is able to speak English in order to discuss the horses,” he adds. “It is very difficult for clients ringing in the evening or on email if you don't have the same language.”

There are plans to consign at Tattersalls in the future, but not until the farm has “six or seven good types” suitable for Book 1 of the October. However, the couple are more than happy with this year's draft for the Arqana August sale, which includes a King's Best half-sister to Beverly D Stakes (G1) winner Eclair De Lune; a filly from the first crop of Henrythenavigator and out of the Group 3 runner-up Leopoldine; a Peintre Celebre half-sister to the multiple Group winner Boris De Deauville; a grand-daughter of the French champion juvenile filly Miss Tahiti by Galileo; a colt by Shamadal out of Nipping, winner of the Group 3 Prix du Petit Couvert and a Proud Citizen colt from the family of Prix du Jockey-Club winner Hernando and Prix Lupin (G1) winner and Breeders' Cup Mile (G1) runner-up Johann Quatz.

You can be sure that the Drions, with their passion for the horse, their understanding of the international bloodstock industry and their willingness to work hard to achieve results, will ensure that this August will prove once again to be a successful and profitable month for the Coulcones Consignment and its clients.

The new kids on the block, Lucie Lamotte and Gwénaél Monneraye of La Motteraye

LA MOTTERAYE IS OWNED, run and managed by Lucie Lamotte and Gwénaél Monneraye, a partnership which started five years ago in County Kildare and which has been based in Normandy since December 2009.

“We met five years ago when we were both working for James Egan at Corduff Stud in County Kildare,” Monneraye explains. “We decided to form a partnership then and we always had in our mind the idea that we should set up our own consigning business in 2010. It was not easy to find a place to rent

Walking: many hours are spent pounding the turf by the Le Motteraye team through the yearling preparation months





Gwénaél Monneraye and Lucie Lamotte: moved to Normandy when they spotted a good opportunity to set up a consignment operation

in Normandy but we took on La Motteraye at the end of 2009 and presented our first draft at last year's August sale in Deauville."

The Haras de la Motteraye is in deepest Normandy, not far from Trun and close to the Haras de Coulonces and the Haras de la Cauvinière, two of the other prominent new farms in the area. Beforehand it was a small breeding operation best known for having raised Young Tiger. Young Tiger is something of a star in France where he has won or placed in all of his 30 races to date spread over eight seasons. Young Tiger has won ten Listed races so far and about €650,000 in prize-money and premiums.

For the time being La Motteraye is a hands-on operation as there is only one full-time employee to help Lamotte and Monneraye prepare the yearlings for sale. There will be 11 yearlings in August and they have decided to limit their draft for the October yearling sale in Deauville to 15.

"Our profit at the end of year depends upon the commission we receive from the sales," Monneraye says, "and then we are very motivated to do our best and have the determination of newcomers focused to make a place for ourselves in the business. We are both very happy to look after the horses on a daily basis, and Lucie is one with the eye for every detail."

They take in mares to board during the covering season and have been helped in this

respect by Sylvain Vidal, who stands Le Havre and Air Chief Marshall at La Cauvinière.

"We believe that there is an opportunity in France and we wanted to set up a true consigning business like an Irish or American one," adds Monneraye, "and so decided we would not take year-round boarding mares so that we can concentrate on sales preparation."

Monneraye has always been determined

to work with thoroughbreds, in fact this desire is so deep seated that he has trouble remembering how it took root in him in the first place.

"My father was a farmer in Brittany," he says, "and my parents used to take me racing at Questembert which is a very small racecourse near to where we lived, so small that I certainly don't have time to go there these days!"

Lot 432: this Sinndar filly is sister to Windhuk, winner of the Group 2 Premio Regina Elena



“Every year at school they used to ask us what we wanted to do when we grew up and I remember that I said I wanted to work with thoroughbreds and the lady posing the questions was taken aback. She told me that I was the only boy she knew who had given the same reply every year the whole way through.”

On leaving school Monneraye found his first job at the Haras du Mézeray and from there and the contacts he made he spent the next ten years travelling and preparing yearlings.

“While I was at Le Mézeray I met Peter Kavanagh and so I went to Ireland and then began working with James Egan at Corduff.

“I spent one year working with the yearlings at the Haras d’Etreham and then went every winter to New Zealand to work at Windsor Park Stud.

“James has been a big influence on both of us and has helped us set up and sent us a yearling to prepare for our first August draft.”

The pair did initially consider starting their business in Ireland or in England but decided to come back home. “We are both French and we love being here,” he says. “I have probably worked more sales in Newmarket than in Deauville, but with the money in French racing it is here where we felt the opportunity lies. I hope, nevertheless, that we shall start consigning a draft in Newmarket and elsewhere in the future.”

This year’s August draft shows the extent of their international contacts with yearlings coming from England, Ireland and Germany as well as France.

There are two, a Mr. Greeley filly out of Exhibit One and a Medicean colt out of Shebelia who were purchased as foals at Newmarket by a partnership between Tweenhills and Rathmore.

The draft also includes a Galileo filly who is a sister to the promising Aidan O’Brien trained three-year-old Marksmanship and a Rock Of Gibraltar colt from the family of St Nicholas Abbey. Last year the first La Motteraye consignment featured two colts who were sold for €100,000, including a son of Dylan Thomas called Black Minstrel who is in training with Amanda Perrett.

La Motteraye consigned the top lot at this year’s Arqana February sale at Saint-Cloud, a five-year-old barren mare Blowaway who made €67,000. Lamotte and Monneraye will be hoping, and expecting, to exceed these figures in August and make another step towards establishing themselves as major French-based consignors. ■



La Motteraye is in the heart of the Normandy countryside, and like Coulconces is on the “circuit”

Deauville August Sale drafts for the Coulconces Consignment & La Motteraye

Coulconces Consignment

29	f	King’s Best	Elegante
59	c	Peintre Celebre	Khaliyna
66	f	Henrythenavigator	Leopoldine
71	f	Peintre Celebre	Logjam
96	f	Galileo	Miss Hawaii
109	c	Shamardal	Nipping
140	c	Proud Citizen	Scarlett’s Pride
141	c	Rock Of Gibraltar	Se La Vie
152	c	Oasis Dream	Singed
159	f	Raven’s Pass	Soul Mountain
178	f	Teofilo	Tipperary Honor
208	c	Holy Roman Emperor	Ask For The Moon
214	c	Monsun	Be My Lady
218	f	Danehill Dancer	Beyond Belief
271	f	Dylan Thomas	Gabare
305	f	Amadeus Wolf	Kota Kinabalu
362	c	Astronomer Royal	Phone The Diva
382	c	After Market	Rinskia
441	c	Dylan Thomas	Xaara
447	c	Azamour	Zarabaya
460	f	Aussie Rules	Allegro Vivace

La Motteraye

33	f	Mr. Greeley	Exhibit One
79	c	Teofilo	Magical Hawk
84	f	Galileo	Maroochydore
97	c	Rock Of Gibraltar	Missing Link
148	c	Medicean	Shebelia
294	f	Stormy River	Intellectuelle
332	c	Desert Style	Mahyara
432	f	Sinndar	Waconda
436	c	Lawman	Wenge
465	c	Johannesburg	Ardere
475	f	Moss Vale	Best Dancing