

Buyer Beware - Part 2

On **October 11 2004** "*Treasure was paid in full into Ms. Betteridge account*" but commented on **January 4 2005** - *collard just quoted £8.000 for a mare ????? it makes me so cross when just because people are new they get ripped off.* I just paid \$7500 pounds for a mare that wasn't ride nor drive.

As she was pregnant we were not able to import her until she had foaled down in the UK sometime in March/April 2005. New Zealand bio security laws are very strict and will not let a pregnant mare into the country unless the mare and stallion were cleared of CEM prior to mating. I made the decision to allow Treasure to foal in the UK, sell her foal and then put her back into foal with CEM measures taken.


October 7 2004 - "*so at the end of the day it will be quicker to let Treasure foal over there, go through with the swabbing procedure to get her back into foal before shipping.*"

We were also looking for a 3-4 year old stallion but again received no photos except of two weanling colts and decided to travel to the UK expecting to be shown all the herds of gypsy horses that Andrea has told us about. We arrived in the UK on **March 7 2005** and Andrea took us first to visit the herds of Bill King and Joe Buckley out at the marshes near Cliffe and Grain where Treasure was kept. It was plain to see that she was due to foal very soon and there were only mares in both of these paddocks with no signs of any stallions or young foals, which would have been separated out months before.

During this period Ms. Betteridge was still living at 10 Bower Lane in Maidstone and we stayed in our camper van close to her house, waiting to go and visit other herds throughout the UK. We made a few trips back and forth to the two paddocks that we were initially taken to. A week went by and the only colt we saw was a 12 hand 2-year-old that kicked me good and hard in the thigh. I was adamant that I wanted a stallion that was between 14.2-14.3 hands high as any smaller would seriously hinder my potential to market him for stud fees which proved to be correct in the beginning.

On **March 16th** we finally viewed The Chocolate Palomino, aka The Business, aka The Boss out in the marsh paddock near Cliffe. **NOTE:** *For ease of clarity this document herein will referred to this*

UNVERIFIED BREEDING IDENTITY	
PASSPORT	
BRITISH SKEWBALD AND PIEBALD ASSOCIATION	
Unique Equine Life Number UELN	826013PS0050980
Horse Name	GYPSY STALLION
Sex	Stallion
Colour	Piebald
DOB	01/01/2002
Height at Maturity	14.3hh
Type / Breed	Gypsy Cob
Freezemark / ID	
First Registered Owner	Andrea Betteridge, 10 Bower Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8BJ
Date Registered	10/05/2005



stallion as "The Business" and any italics quoted will have that name changed to prevent any confusion." Also in the truck Bill King and his father had brought with them a 3 year old stallion. This was the first meeting with Mr. Beau Jangles and Joe Buckley had told me that they had just picked him up from the Vines that morning and brought him to show me. He was suppose to be from The Lottery Horse and went back to The Lob and other great horses. He was lovely, but that night I mentioned to Andrea that I thought he was too small, however she assured me that these horses do not stop growing until they are 7 and it is very common for these horses at 5 to grow another hand.

"She listed his EMH on his passport as 14.3 hands" and even told someone in Australia that he would mature to 15 hands. You will find his original name on the passport photo below as The Gypsy Stallion, but later changed it to Mr. Beau Jangles.

As a rising 3 year old he was only 13.1. Remember, I had no past experiences with horses and Andrea and knew this full well. I was learning back then, had no tuition and a runaway horse that I jumped off at a full

gallop with some serious injuries that followed.

September 14 2006 - "*I am the novice here, hence my confusion, you are the expert, so I hope you can clarify some points for me.*"

April 9 2005 - "*I will not give up and will become a dam good rider that even you will be proud of. If only I can stay on the horse!*"

Today he only measures 13.3 1/2 hands, which is a far more realistic EMH measurement for a 13.1 hand, rising 3 year old. Ms. Betteridge has a long history with gypsy horses. She would have known that the chances of him hitting 14.3 were rather slim and far fetched.

October 1 2004 - *“As a long term admirer for to many years to mention and also having this breed as part of my family for a few generations, I will attempt to give you some helpful guidelines”.*

The asking price was excessive but Andrea insured me that they could get 20,000 pounds for him at Appleby. In the end we settled for less, but still a pretty price considering that our dollar was only worth “1/3” of the British pound at that time, plus I had the \$23,000 freight/quarantine to add on top. Based on the lack of stallions that we were shown, which was none in the 3 weeks, I was lead to believe by Ms. Betteridge that they were far and few between, so we purchased him before we left the UK a few days later.

During our visit, Ms. Betteridge was frantically trying to sell her house and other properties so we decided to go looking on our own as it was plain to see she was overwhelmed with the selling and buying of properties. We asked for addresses and directions to other gypsy herds but every time were met with reasons why we could or should not go. We were now told that there was nothing up north as she had just come back from seeing their herds a few months ago. We were given the distinct impression that there was very few of these horses around and you had to know the gypsies to deal with them. I was becoming more and more frustrated as the days went by, yet we were told that she dealt with many of the gypsies themselves prior to our travel.

October 20 2004 - *“I have a chap up north I have got some fantastic mares from who have produced outstanding foals”.*

October 31 2004 - *“this is my mare Melody I brought back from Appleby I already new the breeder so he took her there for me and I brought her home”*



November 1 2004 – *“ another gypsy chap up north that I am friends with.”*

November 4 2004 – *“I think I can get a good colt for about £2000 of this chap as I have brought his stock in the past so will try to incorporate another couple of foals to get the deal cheaper.”*

Talking about this stallion who was the sire to Daisy out of Teasel from Harkway Gypsy Vanners



When we inquired about Clononeen prior to our trip we were told

December 28 2004 – *“stay out of it, considering where they get the horses from”.*

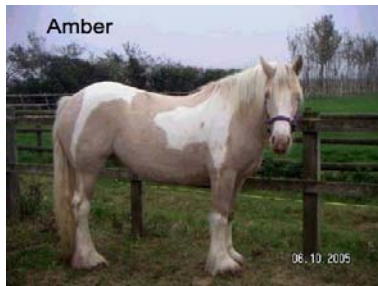
In a previous email we were also told that **October 1 2004** - *“the Irish cobs were not really gypsy cobs, they all had big ugly heads and long backs”.*

She also said that Tom Price apparently had nothing available when in the UK. We booked in a \$10,000 3 week horse hunting trip and ended up twiddling our thumbs in the Kent area wondering what to do as we were only taken to two herds, a 900 acre field called the Marsh near Cliffe and a 5-7 acre paddock near Graine. Twice we had passed by the Tonka herd, approximately 10 minutes drive from Ms. Betteridge’s home and we were told that he would not sell any horses to us at all. Yet she was dealing with him already as **Valentino** was sold to Fran Scott of Remme Park through Ms. Betteridge in 2004.



Even after the trip there were still comments that she was dealing with many of the gypsy breeders.

October 30 2005 - *'this mare came from Neil up north not Bill, got another coming soon off him as well I do like his horses. as well, the greats like Tansy came from him also got a very rare champagne mare 15hh as well'*



She was well aware of Jack who owned Tonka even before 2005 as “her” photo on the left was hanging in her office when we arrived early in 2005 and the photo to the right was emailed to me on October 19 2006.



and the following year she purchased lots of foals from him.

October 9 2006 - *“TONKA FILLY, I brought, she is 2yrs, check out her mane washed out,!!!!!!”*

MacKenzie of Castle Knoll Gypsy Cobs, formerly Savannah, who was in foal to Tonka (**October 19 2006**) when Ms. Betteridge purchased her. She then on sold MacKenzie to Castleknoll Farms in the US in 2007 in foal to Django.



October 3 2006 - *“Tonka filly at 3 months,”* (below left photo)

October 9 2006 - *“tonka (Marley) son yearling, pictures at 8 months”* (below centre photo)

October 19 2006 - *“i HAVE THE OPTION ON another black Tonka colt”* (below right photo)



Fran from Australia buys a colt from Ms. Betteridge called Mani of Athelwyne.

November 2 2006 – *“she has brought a colt, I found it for her, TONKA SON !!!!!!!!!!!”*



November 2 2006 – *“BFS TRIED TO BUY ALL FOALS FROM TONKA THIS YEAR !!!*

gave me first option, so I brought 2 x 2yr olds a 6 month old filly, this colt above and another tonka colt black like dad and a black filly, actually all he had for sale. !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! could have brought a new house cheaper !!! and still owe him money on them, but no way was BFS getting them”



In hindsight I believe that she purposely kept us from all the other herds except who she was dealing with at the time, which was Bill King and Joe Buckley. We were a captive audience looking to buy some horses with very little knowledge about the horse world, let alone the gypsy horse world. I once asked what her cut was selling other peoples horses and she replied they sometimes give me horses and foals cheaper, but she does not make much out of it. However, she was also using their stallions in stud services, ie The Business (Silver Dollar), Lenny’s and Nobby (D’Jango) to name a few and received some fairly handsome prices for horse sold out of these sires that she would have never have gotten otherwise.

December 10 2006 - *“we have Lenny foals due to be born early March”*

May 19 2007 - *if I was to consider keeping one of the boys it will be Django, I like everything about him, his movement he is reproducing, his height he reproduces, his temp as well. already his foals are gaining big money and I have bookings on 4 fillies by him, but one thing for sure Django sells everything he mates . can not get enough mares for him to mate !!”*

And posted on her website - *“We have the first Lenny stallion foals due on the ground within the next couple of weeks. So please contact us for a list of what is available”*



October 22 2005 – Ms. Betteridge sold a mare of hers called Mysterious/aka Kirby to Dotti Sharpe in the US. The mare was pregnant and gave birth to a filly called Mysterious Jingles Jangles. Ms. Betteridge

was using my stallion for her own stud purposes without my knowledge or permission while he was waiting to enter quarantine in 2005. I was completely unaware of this until I received an email from Dotti Sharpe (US) who bought Mysterious/aka Kirby in foal to my boy. She was able to command a higher price for this mare due to her being in foal.

Email to Dotti Sharpe re sale of Kirby

October 22 2005 – *“she was running with a stallion this spring so could be in foal, I am known for my honesty so wanted to make sure you understood. I can have her scanned to see if she is, this is the stallion she has been running with, he has now gone as foundation stallion to NEW ZEALAND”*

AND from Dotti Sharpe in the US

October 22 2005 – *“LOOK KATHY...This is one that Andrea has suggested for me...What do you think? Is that your boy she was running with?? If so, would that make us RELATED???:-)”*

Photo below is of the resulting filly from this mating called Mysterious Jingles Jangles a daughter of Mr. Beau Jangles.



Loss of Foal

While in the UK, Treasure, our mare, foaled a filly on **March 25 2005** but we were told it died the same day. The very next day Bill King, at his and Ms. Betteridge insistence, took us to view the dead filly, to clear their names from any foul play. However we did not go to the paddock where Treasure had foaled, but to the marsh paddock, approximately 45-minute drive away. I found this odd as why would they go to the effort and trouble to move a dead foal to a different paddock. Letting the carcass decompose in the ground where it died was much akin to how our farmers leave dead sheep where they drop. Many of the gypsies just deal and trade in horses and there is very little emotional attachment to them. This filly was left there to rot as I found her scattered bones in the same spot in 2009.

Below are pictures of a few horses that were running in a gypsy's herd. I will not mention where the paddock is to protect the identity of the owner, as this is how some have raised their horses for generations and we have no right to dictate otherwise. I realise that many of you will disagree, but that is an entirely different subject. Note not all herds are kept like this, as I was impressed by how well some were looked after.



Anyway, we were shown a dead jet black and white filly (never checked the sex) and remember thinking wow that was huge for a newborn, but I shrugged it off at the time due to my trusting nature. Bill King said it was an amazing filly worth at least €4000 right then and there. We were devastated and to this day I still wonder if Treasure's foal was taken and another less valuable foal was put in its place to clear their names. She is propotent and consistently throws heavy, solid colt foals with great feather. Being bred to The Business who was known to throw lots of chocolate foals, there was every chance that she threw a solid silver dapple colt that was just too good to pass up on. This has been known to happen before even amongst the gypsies themselves. The Business had just been sold to

Aristocratic Horses in the US, so they just lost their prize stallion. However this is all speculation and I will never know the truth, but to this day remain skeptical.

We were promised another filly foal of the same value of €4000 and I inquired many times through Ms. Betteridge if they had found one, but all I got back was no and she quickly forgot it in time.

April 6 2005 *"Has Bill found a filly yet?"* no reply forwarded and resent again on

April 8 2005 *"I. has Bill found a filly yet"* still no reply forwarded and resent again on

April 12 2005 *"Have you heard anything back from Bill or Equine Transport yet."* Reply this time on

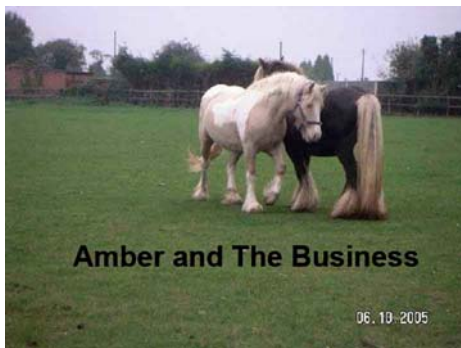
April 13 2005 *"saw bill yesterday he has still had no luck finding a christmas foal as of yet. so waiting on that."*

May 3 2005 – *"Bill still owes me a filly for the lost of Treasure's foal, to which he said she was worth €4000."*

Later I asked many times over the phone, but gave up in the excitement of my two gypsy horses that were soon to arrive in New Zealand. In hindsight I should have been reimbursed 4000 pounds for the loss of her foal. Any fair dealer would have seen to that right away and I was far too naïve and trusting thinking they would find me one in the future.

As Treasure had just lost her foal we arranged with Ms. Betteridge to put her back into foal with The Business before she was exported to New Zealand. This incurred an additional \$2500 to perform CEM clearance testing on both the stallion and my mare before they could mate to satisfy New Zealand Bio Security laws. They needed to remain in isolation from all other horses during this procedure, which took another 3-4 weeks. Once the mating was completed she was to be exported with my stallion, Mr Beau Jangles **who was waiting in the same yard to travel to New Market quarantine with her** and at the same time was also serving her mare Kirby whom she sold to the US in foal. Remember these words in **bold red** as it is important later on. I still retain a copy of the vet report with *The Chocolate Palomino, aka The Business and Treasure's CEM swabbing test dates*

The Business was then kept in Ms. Betteridge yard for a few months waiting to be exported to the US for Aristocratic horses. See the below dates on the pictures that were sent to me of The Business on her property with Amber.



She let him run with some of her mares resulting in two foals from this sire born in early August 2006, a colt (Silver Dollar) and a filly (Surri).

August 2 2006 - *"had a couple of chocolate stallions foals born, one chocolate colt out of our huge black mare and one from sassy a stunning filly"*





On our second to last day in the UK we stopped and admired a beautiful gypsy filly that was parading around on the sidewalk in the West Kingsdown area of Kent. The man was Fred Luke and the filly was Clara, aka Fenella now owned by Desert Jewel in the US. <http://djwwgypsyhorses.homestead.com/Fenella.html> I was literally taken back by her and Fred was kind enough to drive us around the corner to show us Fenella's sire, the famous Lenny's Stallion, who was absolutely breath taking. We were given a photo of him (at left) that I still have today, as my camera had died a few weeks ago. It has been scanned and placed on the paper that Fred and Josie Luke gave to us when we first met them. Lovely people they are. On that day I promised myself that I would have progeny out of Lenny and on: **August 21 2006**, I even sent an email to Jennifer Gilson of Desert Jewel Gypsy Horses, telling her of my promise. *"I had made a promise to have a mare in foal to Lenny's Stallion."*

We headed back to Ms. Betteridge's place and relayed our excited and unexpected find to her and my pledge to one day have progeny out of Lenny. We caught a plane home the next day and it did cross my mind why Ms. Betteridge had never taken us to these horses when they were only a 15-20 minute drive from her place.

On my recent trip in 2009 I became very aware of the numerous breeders within an hours drive from Maidstone, Kent and how we were kept from them all back in 2005, except Bill King's and Joe Buckley's herd whom she was dealing with at that particular time. Ms. Betteridge was well aware and able to deal with many of the gypsy breeders and neglected to take us to them even though we were given the impression that she would take us to them all. We flew home and in **July 2005** Treasure and Mr. Beau Jangles arrived in New Zealand and I kept email contact with Ms. Betteridge for the next couple of years.

.....Continue on "Buyer Beware Part 3"