

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rodney Masters catches up with jump jockey-turned-carpenter **Gino Carenza**

Building solid foundations for the future

AT 6ft 3in, Gino Carenza has the ideal build for his second career rather than his first. Now a self-employed carpenter subcontracted to house building projects, he can reach those lofty places where former colleagues would require a ladder.

Carenza's time as a jockey became a daily torture as he strived to shed weight. He has settled at a comfortable 14st 7lb, which is more or less right for his height.

"My final ride was at Towcester on Bishop's Bridge who had 11st 9lb and I was on a 1lb saddle," he remembers. "As a teenager I'd ridden on the Flat at 9st 3lb. Back then I looked like a hat-rack stand. I see some of the tall lads riding and I know what punishment they're experiencing, or are likely to before long. Believe me, you have to go through it to truly appreciate what it's like because it's not just about being hungry."

Realising he was on borrowed time as a jockey, Carenza – his grandfather is Italian – signed up with Jets, the



Name Gino Carenza **Age** 30
Winners 50
When at large 1999-2006
Greatest achievement A treble at Catterick in 2003

Jockeys' Employment and Training Scheme, with the brief that his first choice would be to serve an apprenticeship as a carpenter.

"Lisa Delany and her team were brilliant and got everything organised for me," he says. "I was always aware my second career was going to last a good deal longer than my first and I think that applies to all jump jockeys, no matter how successful they are. "It's imperative to plan ahead and

Jets gave me that bridge."

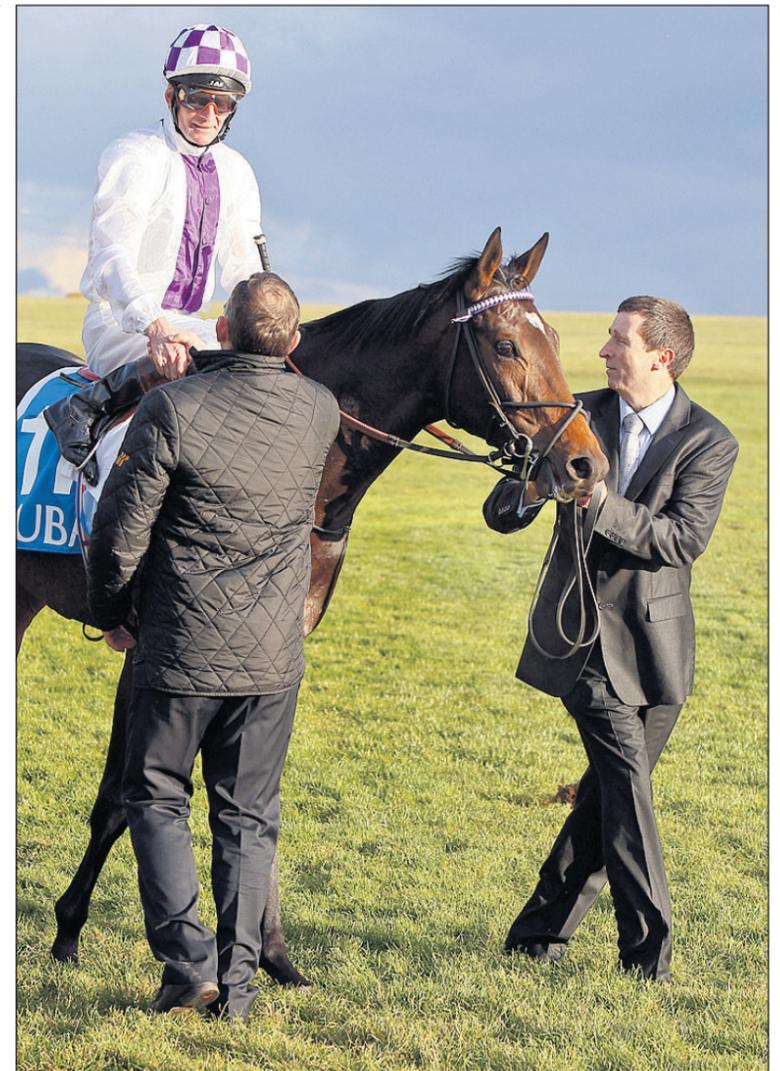
In doing so he was putting down the foundations of a childhood ambition. "I've always wanted to build my own house, from start to finish, and I was keen to learn a trade that would help fulfil that.

"Although I'm still some way short of the necessary finance to buy a plot of land on which to construct my own place, I've plenty of experience in all the woodwork that's required, from joists, roof timbers, doors, window frames and banisters. There's lots of woodwork involved in a house."

He served a two-year apprenticeship and has been busy ever since. Next on his books is a large-scale renovation project at Snowhill in Gloucestershire. "Most of my work is around the Cotswolds and Worcestershire. I get tremendous job satisfaction at the end of a project, knowing it's going to be there for many decades to come."

Having moved from Swindon, he lives in Broadway in the Cotswolds. He remains in touch with several former colleagues, including Gerard Tumelty, Dominic Elsworth and Wayne Hutchinson.

With rules more flexible than they once were, under some circumstances former professional jockeys can regain amateur status. The thought has not crossed his mind. "If someone offered me £10,000 to ride at 12 stone in a point-to-point the answer would be no. I've had my fill of wasting."



Trading Leather: has potential to make an impact at Group 1 level

I GOTTA HORSE

Rodney Masters speaks to Devon permit-holder **Sarah Kerswell**

Mare's return marked key turning point

Horse Romance Dance **Wins** 2

Owner Sarah Kerswell

Best moment Returning with a win after a 20-month injury layoff

MOTHER-OF-THREE Sarah Kerswell reveals that accepting an offer from out of the blue to take on the ownership of Romance Dance changed her life. And the mare may continue to bring about further changes as a win in a handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot last month drew attention from afar to the skills of the Devon owner/permit-holder.

Backed into 12-1 (from 20), Romance Dance made much of the running and held off her nearest challenger to win by a head. It was the mare's first run since damaging a tendon at Wincanton in January 2011, when trained by Sophie Leech.

Kerswell's life is a busy one. Apart from bringing up Aidan (eight), Liah (six) and Rian (five), she has four horses in training on her family's 300-acre sheep and cattle farm near Kingsbridge in Devon. Romance Dance was her second runner since taking out a permit. Her first, Magical Legend, won at 25-1 at Stratford in July.

"With the children and the horses my life is full-on and things take a bit



Sarah Kerswell (left) with Romance Dance at Newton Abbot

of juggling, but Mum and Dad [Harry and Jill] are brilliant," says Kerswell, adding that she was not surprised by the Newton Abbot result.

"I've a very stiff four-furlong woodchip gallop and she'd been tanking up there with me."

That success led to three phone calls from owners asking if she would be willing to upgrade from a permit to a public licence to take on their horses. Her reply was no, at least for the time being, because this is a solo training operation.

"I'm happy with my life as it is. I've only myself to answer to. The horses thrive here because they spend lots of time turned out and they can roam about the yard as it's totally enclosed. They seem wonderfully relaxed."

Kerswell says that Romance Dance brought her back into racing at a time when she was undecided about her future. She had worked for David Barons as a teenager, then Jonjo O'Neill and Paul Nicholls before five

years travelling horses for Mark Pitman during the Monsignor days.

She was married to Pitman's conditional jockey Liam Corcoran and they set up their own training operation at the farm, where the team included Romance Dance. When they divorced, Corcoran moved to Somerset, she reverted to her maiden name and Romance Dance moved to Philip Hobbs.

"Some time later, the owner offered the mare to me and I couldn't resist having her back," she adds. "I'm so glad I did. It was an important turning point for me. Sophie Leech trained on the farm for a couple of seasons before moving back to Gloucestershire and our mare won a maiden hurdle for Sophie at Southwell in the spring of 2010."

Romance Dance will shortly be schooled over fences. "She's game and willing and I think she'll do well as a chaser. She came out of the Newton Abbot race in excellent order."

SCOUTING REPORT

Racing Post Ratings two-year-old expert Simon Turner picks four to keep on side from Future Champions Day

AS THE best horse since Racing Post Ratings began exits the stage, so the search for a new star begins. Frankel ended his two-year-old career winning the Dewhurst Stakes and, while it's unlikely we'll see anything of his like again in the next decade, there were colts with genuine Classic potential on show at this year's edition of Future Champions Day at Newmarket last Saturday. Here, I've highlighted the claims of four of them.

Dawn Approach

The obvious starting point is this season's leading juvenile on RPRs, Dawn Approach (123). It may not earn marks for originality, but this horse stands clear of his peers and either of his last two solid efforts would put him bang there in an average renewal of the 2,000 Guineas. His odds for Newmarket – a course at which he is already proven – have understandably tightened to 4-1 in recent days, but he still represents fair value. It's not hard to envisage Dawn Approach winning at Newmarket and becoming a major player for all the big 1m and 1m2f Group 1s.

Trading Leather

Jim Bolger has another top prospect on his hands in the shape of Autumn Stakes winner Trading Leather. This year's edition of the 1m Group 3 prize was packed full of high-potential types with the scope to go on and do well next year and the winner looks a horse to take seriously when upped in trip. His two runs in Ireland highlighted the son of Teofilo as a

Galileo has star potential upped in trip

future star, and he took another step forward when battling on well to see off a host of interesting rivals. An RPR of 107 is highly unlikely to be the limit of his talent and if making the anticipated progress, Trading Leather has the potential to make an impact at Group 1 level.

Eye Of The Storm

In behind Trading Leather there were several interesting and exciting prospects in a race likely to provide a selection of important three-year-old winners. Eye Of The Storm (99) has yet to warrant a three-figure RPR, but it's surely just a matter of time. Aidan O'Brien's heavy-ground Galway maiden winner shaped really well from the rear and finished with something left in the closing stages in third.

Galileo Rock

Further back in fifth place was Galileo Rock (95), making minor progress in terms of racecourse attainment from his hugely impressive maiden success at Leopardstown. David Wachman's colt is a half-brother to Doncaster Cup winner Saddler's Rock and is likely to do considerably better as his stamina is tested.