



# The Hon James Bethell

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# The Hon James Bethell's History

James was sent off to Harrow School at the age of 13 by his parents Lord and Lady Westbury. He was not particularly happy there and his Father asked him what he wanted to do if he left school, he immediately replied, “be a racehorse trainer!”

His Father did not think this was a very good idea so he thought the only way he could get this thought out of his mind was to send him to one of the strictest disciplinarians in the Training Ranks of the time. He duly arrived at the Palace House Stables, Newmarket of the Legendary Trainer Bruce Hobbs (the youngest man ever to ride a Grand National Winner aged 17 ). Bruce Hobbs reported to James' father after he had been there three months that he was unlikely to be able to change his mind of becoming a racehorse trainer and that's how it all began.

Lord Westbury won a military cross in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and sat in the House of Lords until the Hereditary Peers were kicked out by Tony Blair. James' Elder brother inherited the title Lord Westbury.



# The Hon James Bethell's History

- James started his racing career working for Bruce Hobbs, followed by Arthur Budgett at Whatcombe where he was assistant Trainer when Morston won the Derby in 1973.
- Two years later, he started training, after moving to Whitsbury in Hampshire and Chilton in Oxfordshire, he settled in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales in Middleham in 1992.
- He trained from Manor House Stables, then after a few successful years of training bought Thorngill where he is now based.



# Why is James Unique

- Group success and top class results with inexpensive horses over all distances
- Very good at giving horses time to mature and grow into themselves; allowing them time to show their true potential. example: HUNTERS OF BRORA, MINE and GRANSTON winning top class flat races at the age of 9
- Horses with confidence produces WINNERS!
- Has had winners all over the UK, and at the top UK meetings, such as Royal Ascot, Glorious Goodwood, Newmarket , York and Overseas
- James is very hands on with his training, he knows every horse individually and understands their needs.



# Why is James Unique

- He has a personal relationship with his owners – he goes the extra yard to make sure they are happy with the decisions he is making, and where they would like to run their horse.
- James now knows the UK racing industry back to front, with his 35 years experience puts him miles above any new trainers just starting in Britain or even trainers that have only been training for a few years.
- There is no one that James doesn't know within the Industry.
- James has a huge advantage with his experience as horses can have so many different injuries, he has the knowledge of being able to spot something before having to call a vet.
- With James's experience he knows exactly what to look for in a yearling when buying at the sales after looking through the sales catalogue.
- James has a very good team of dedicated and hard working staff working around the clock to assist him in his success.



# Middleham

The art of training thoroughbreds has survived for more than two centuries in Middleham, thanks mainly to the excellent facilities that have been developed on the local moorland that surround the town.

- Middleham has established itself as one of the best training centres in the country, having had over 400 winners each year for the past 3-4 years, Middleham Trainers produce an average of almost a winner every single day of the year.
- With its extensive grass and all weather gallops; it is one of the most picturesque towns in the North of England with panoramic views of the Dales. Hence the abundance of good quality pubs, restaurants and hotels which all add up to a most enjoyable place to spend a weekend.
- Middleham also has 10 racecourses within an hour's reach
- Middleham has two Training moors which are set in the middle of one of the most picturesque Dales in England and are surrounded by some of the best Grouse and Pheasant shoots in the UK.



# High and Low Moor

The facilities on Low Moor are:

- 7 furlong all weather gallop going up a gradual incline to the top.
- 3 furlong all weather gallop – very good for a warm up before the horses gallop, also very good in training younger horses.
- 7 furlong grass gallop
- 5 furlong grass gallop.

The High moor consists of:

- A wood chip gallop of a mile and a quarter.
- A straight flat grass gallop of 5 furlongs – this is very good in teaching the 2 year olds before they go to the races.
- A mile and a quarter grass gallop.
- An up hill 5 furlong grass gallop.
- Plus it's a great for grouse and pheasant shooting!





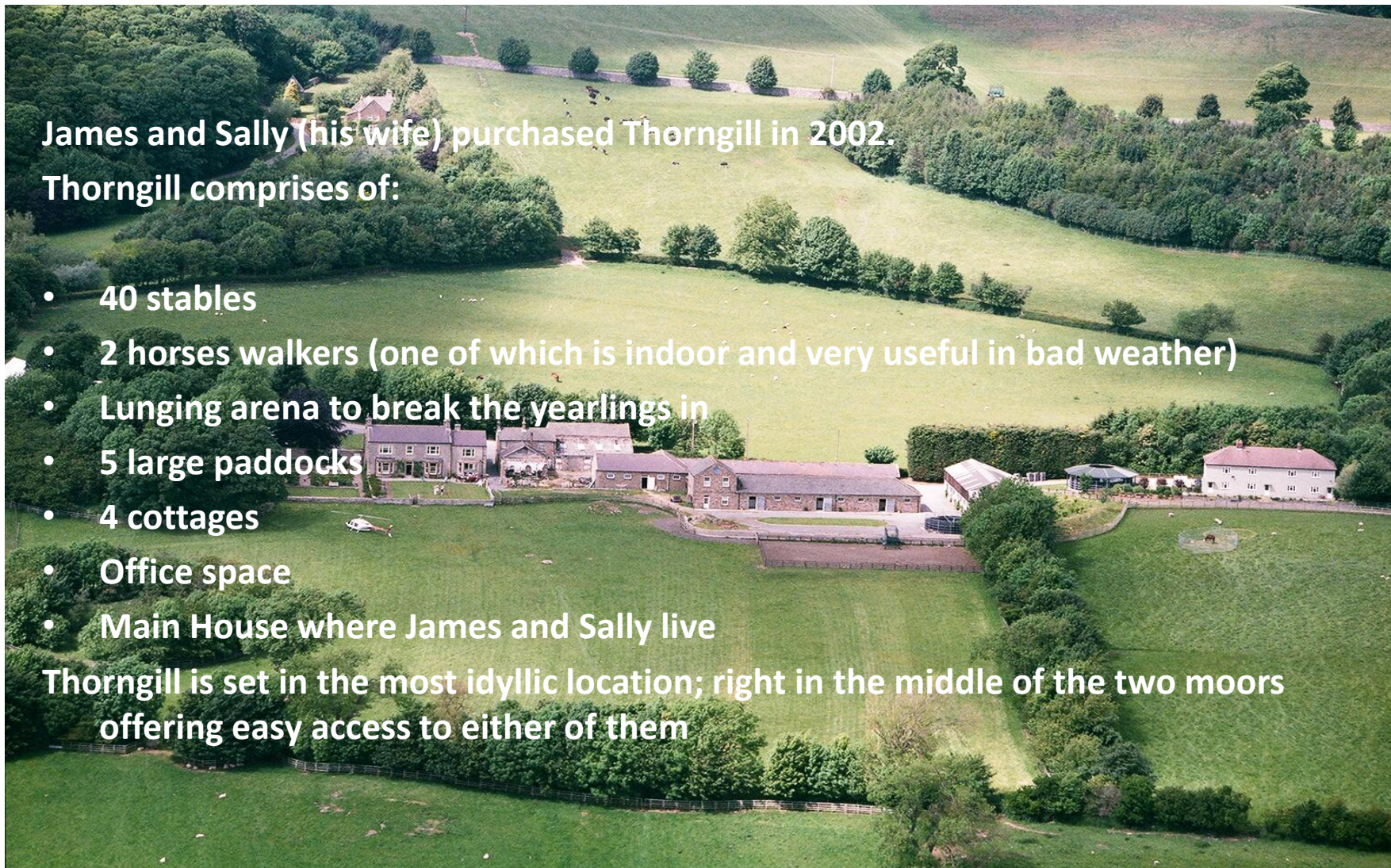
# Thorngill Stables

James and Sally (his wife) purchased Thorngill in 2002.

Thorngill comprises of:

- 40 stables
- 2 horses walkers (one of which is indoor and very useful in bad weather)
- Lunging arena to break the yearlings in
- 5 large paddocks
- 4 cottages
- Office space
- Main House where James and Sally live

Thorngill is set in the most idyllic location; right in the middle of the two moors offering easy access to either of them





# Life at Thorngill



The drive into Thorngill on a Snowy Morning.



Being taught in the stalls



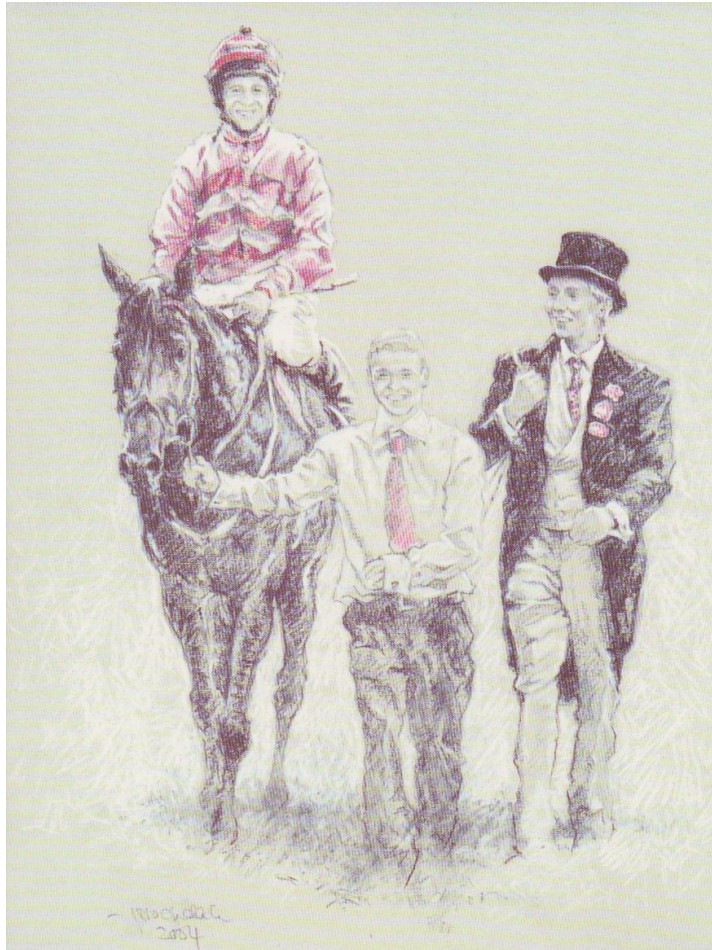
Enjoying a pick of grass in front of the house after winning



Coming home from work



Going to the gallops



Mine winning at Royal Ascot



A view from my window

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A few of the winners!





# Success over the Years!

## In the last five years:

- 70 winners .
- won over half a million in prize money from a very small string of horses.

## The big successes :

- Royal Hunt Cup Royal Ascot
- Victoria Cup Ascot
- Bunbury Cup 3 times in Newmarket
- Middleton Stakes Group 111 York.
- Listed Fillies Doncaster
- Treble 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
- July Cup Group 111 Newmarket
- The Lincoln, Doncaster
- William Hill Trophy York
- Newcastle Gold Cup



Frankie Dettori on Mine in his 4<sup>th</sup> Bunbury cup, having already won it 3 times



# One in a Million

Hartley was bought for 17,000 guineas and then sold to Hong Kong for £350,000 after being beaten a short head by a Group 1 winner.



Hartley winning by 8 Lengths on his 2<sup>nd</sup> outing.



# What we can offer you:

- Expertise in purchasing high class thoroughbreds
- Personal and friendly service tailor made to the horses needs
- Great entertainment at all of England's group 1 racecourses to include owners badges and meeting the industries legends
- Regular yard updates and open days
- 1st class accommodation in the Yorkshire Dales
- Group visits of the racing yard and the surrounding Dales



Thank you very much for your time.

If you have questions or require any further information, do not hesitate to contact James Bethell:

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