

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

One that got away was a Derby winner

By Marcus Armytage, 18th February 2008

You might think that the great success of Breeding Capital, a bloodstock investment business set up by former point-to-point rider William Sporborg and bloodstock manager Simon Marsh, was pleasing them as they launch Breeding Capital II and III and look for the second-half of the £4m in new investment they seek.

Three of the original mares that they bought in 2006 for 700,000 gns sold last year for 2.1m gns. But it is the one that got away that is still perplexing Sporborg.

One of their first investments in 2006 was a Yankee Gentleman yearling bought from Fasig Tipton in America for \$17,000, which they attempted to sell at Goffs Kempton Breeze-up Sales, almost two years ago now.

Sporborg still has the text message from Marsh, partly because it is not his normal method of communication. "Breeding Capital has not started well," it read. "Did not receive a bid."

The colt was subsequently bought at Tattersalls, in the May, for 16,500 gns. Named Yankee Bravo and trained by Ann Duffield, he scooted up first time out at Redcar in September. He was then sold to America, where he has won three from three including the California Derby. Next stop is the Santa Anita Derby followed by a possible tilt at the Kentucky Derby.