



RAVASTREE (IRE)

5-y-o (29 April 06 b g)

Lord Americo (16.0f) – **Stonehill Princess (IRE)** (**King's Ride** (14.0f))

Trainer **Alan King**

Owner **Friend of Greatwood**

Breeder **John Doyle**

Chris Vine became familiar with Greatwood Charity at the Newbury Race Day some years ago. Having been a keen racing enthusiast for over 30 years, Chris was always aware of the many horses that leave racing every year, and that some can fall upon hard times. For this reason, back in 2009, Chris decided to become a 'Friend' of Greatwood' to support their efforts in racehorse welfare.

He first visited Greatwood at their Friends Open Day in 2010, and was so impressed by what he saw, came away wanting to do more for the charity. Now retired and living in Bristol, having owned a large vehicle rental company, Chris knew that volunteering wasn't going to be a suitable option. The idea then came to him of buying Greatwood their very own racehorse.

When Chris first came to Greatwood with the suggestion, Michael & Helen Yeadon, Founders and Trustees, were absolutely delighted. And so the wheels were put in motion to introduce Chris to a suitable trainer and, of course, find a horse.

As it happened, Alan and Rachel King were holding their annual Owners Day, to which they always ask Michael and Helen. Having gained permission for Chris to go along as well, Michael introduced Chris to Alan King, and the owner of Barbury Castle Estate and Patron of Greatwood, Nigel Bunter.

Chris's original idea was to buy an un-named horse and call it Greatwood. However, Alan King only had a couple of 3 year olds. Chris wanted to buy a horse that was a 'staying chaser' so Alan suggested that they employ the renowned Anthony Bromley, a blood stock agent from High Flyer Bloodstock. Anthony is extremely well known in the industry with an excellent reputation, so Chris left it to Alan and Anthony to find a suitable horse for Greatwood.

At an auction in Cheltenham they narrowed the choice down to three horses. Ravastree was short listed, as he was within budget and an ex-Irish point to point horse, who had won in Ireland. He came up first in the auction so they decided to bid on him.

Ravastree is now being trained by Alan King and had his first race at Newbury on January 19th, ridden by Wayne Hutchinson, where he came in fourth. It was a promising run, behind three very good horses, winning £190 in his first race!



Chris is keen for Ravastree to primarily run at southern racecourses, if possible, in suitable novice hurdles, to help raise the profile for Greatwood. If Ravastree's career is successful Chris has promised Greatwood that all winnings will be divided 50/50 between Greatwood and his training expenses, and if, for any reason, he can't race then Chris will retire him at Greatwood's sanctuary in Marlborough.

Chris said, 'I would absolutely love to see Ravastree win a high-profile race, which would ultimately raise funds and awareness for the work they do at Greatwood. Buying this horse for Greatwood has been a wonderful experience, not because I have wanted to own a racehorse, but doing it for a charity such as Greatwood is incredibly gratifying for me. I hope to be able to buy a second un-named horse at some point in the future, and name it Greatwood. A partnership deal preferably or a syndicate, with all involved like minded and having one goal, to help Greatwood.'



Left to right – Chris Vine, Wayne Hutchinson, Michael & Helen Yeadon

Michael Yeadon, Greatwood's Chairman said, 'We have been absolutely astonished by Chris's generosity and support. He is a good 'Friend' of Greatwood's and has become a great friend to both Helen and myself. He does not expect any acknowledgement for what he is doing and only wants what is best for Ravastree and ultimately Greatwood. We can't thank him enough!'

Ravastree will be spending the summer holidays at Greatwood and will be parading at their Open Day on June 5th.

Ravastree Race History

19.01.11	-	4 th	Newbury	Wayne Hutchinson
13.02.11	-	3 rd	Exeter	Choc Thornton
05.03.11	-	6 th	Newbury	Sam Thomas