

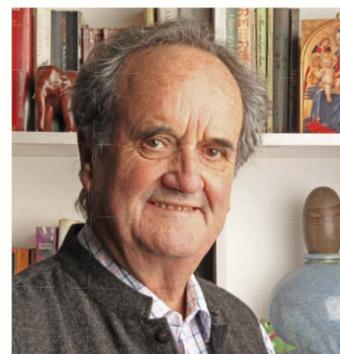
And now... members of the international "chorus" pay their respects



EDWARD JOHN BECKETT, 5TH BARON GRIMTHORPE

conducted business with Major Mehra on behalf of the British Bloodstock Authority (B.B.A). He was racing manager to Prince Khalid Abdulla during the heyday of Frankel, highest-rated thoroughbred ever. Teddy recalls his association with Ameeta and her father.

"Pradeep's no-nonsense approach was passed on to Ameeta. And, of course, a woman in man's world means that bit more in India. When I travelled to India, Usha and Poonawallas were the significant players. Still are. Pradeep was a man who got things done; he knew what broodmares would be suited to his stud, knew how to feed them, and passed on these crafts to Ameeta. She was incredibly bright and followed her parent's example. Those who tried to undermine her quickly came to understand how much more they needed her than she, them. I love talking about my friends and it's a privilege to talk of and with Ameeta."



SIR MARK TULLY KBE

brought India into British homes with his peerless and unique broadcasts for the BBC over twenty years as Bureau Chief in Delhi, where he still resides. Sir Mark was born in Calcutta where, like Ameeta, he was taught to ride at the same time as he learned to walk. He is interested in racing and delights in his visits to Usha though his friendship with Ameeta stems from their time together as fellow members on the Board of Auroville.

"Ameeta achieves her goals in racing, as in spiritual matters, simply by the intensity of her commitment, without dividing her loyalty or attention. She puts everything into her life. People tend to be sniffy about racing in India but almost single-handedly she lifts its profile with her flair with horses, which she obviously loves. Her journey with them is far from over."



CATHY GRASSICK

took on the mantle from her father, the late Brian Grassick whose Kildare Bloodstock Agency formed a great, and personal, partnership first with Pradeep Mehra and then with Ameeta. Brian was responsible for effecting the purchase of Razeen.

"I have been so lucky to work in concert with Ameeta Mehra buying so many successful mares and stallions. Just as my late father and Ameeta's found common ground and a deep relationship, it has been such a special legacy for their daughters to inherit the passion and knowledge of two giants of the bloodstock industry. The fruits of this successful legacy and of our mutual understanding have resulted in the acquisition of stallions such as Multidimensional and Speaking of Which and mares such as Exquisite, dam of Smashing; Khalila, dam of Miracle; and Dhawah, dam of Manifold and Multifaceted. I have many fond memories of times spent when our families met socially, both in Ireland and India, and I wish Ameeta Mehra and Usha Stud nothing but success for generations of champions yet to come."

KIRSTEN RAUSING

is owner-breeder of an array of champions, not least the latest winner of the world's most prestigious race, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, with her home-bred mare Alpinista. Miss Rausing is chairperson of the International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation, which is where she and Ameeta first met. It would be churlish to call her Europe's Ameeta Mehra or vice versa. The fact is both women bestride their sport on different continents but with similar philosophies and unique understanding of the horse.

"Ameeta Mehra and Usha Stud are at the pinnacle of achievement in Indian racing and breeding and I am delighted to congratulate them on yet another record-breaking year. I first met Ameeta at an International Breeders' Meeting, many years ago. We have been friends and kept in contact ever since. Her tremendous achievement as a breeder in India has greatly contributed to the progress of Indian racing in general. I am one of many who admire her fierce ambition, professionalism, and extensive knowledge of thoroughbred breeding, factors which have combined to produce Usha's marvellous success."

As we know, Ameeta's achievements in the thoroughbred industry have been reached in conjunction with her spiritual interests and the establishment of the research centre for the growth of consciousness called The Gnostic Centre and L'avenir; a marvellous accomplishment to combine two seemingly disparate projects. I salute Ameeta and her team at Usha and wish them many more future successes, in India and perhaps also at an international level."



THE HON. HARRY HERBERT

is director of the family Highclere Stud, which has produced Classic winners and is run by his sister Caroline and her husband John Warren, King Charles's racing manager. Harry Herbert conceived the premium ownership syndicate, Highclere Thoroughbred Racing whose latest champion was the 2022 1000 Guineas heroine Cachet. Here, he recalls his own "unforgettable trip" to Usha.

"I have such fond and happy memories of Ameeta's beautiful farm. The invitation by Ameeta Mehra was the highlight of my visit to India for the 2016 Asian Racing Conference in Mumbai. Naturally I compared the organization and atmosphere of Usha with our family stud at Highclere and I concluded that here was a world class operation - we could have been twinned! I started the day with a meditation in the Gnostic Centre - and then my breath was taken away by the stunning parade of stallions, mares, and offspring - transporting me to our own parades back home. Surely some, at least, of these remarkable youngsters would hold their own on an international stage? What a historic stud farm and what a remarkable record of continued breeding success over so many years. I would like to congratulate Ameeta on Usha's Golden Jubilee and wish her ever more success in the years ahead."

