



Louise loves fashion and says this summer she'll be wearing 'chic, casual' and 'chic, especially the lazzily stuff'

# A FINE FILLY!

MICHAEL OWEN'S STRIKING OTHER HALF **LOUISE OWEN** REVEALS WHY SHE KEEPS OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT AND HER TIPS FOR PICKING A WINNER...

Above and facing page: Louise Owen adores horses and says she enjoys a day at the races because it means 'putting on a nice dress and having a really good day out with your friends'



**When you think of footballers' wives, Louise Owen is probably the one you've seen the least of. As Michael Owen's other half, Louise, 29, has rarely been in the spotlight but now she's speaking out about a cause very close to her heart. Despite her busy schedule being a mum-of-three to Gemma, six, James, three, and 19-month-old Emily, Louise is raising awareness for the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre by supporting the Coral-Eclipse Racing Day at Sandown Park on July 4. Here, she also spills the beans on why she's desperately trying not to be a pushy mum and the nightmare accident that nearly left her paralysed...**

**You're a keen horse rider and Katie Price has launched a new equestrian clothing line - do you own any of her collection?**  
I've seen a few pieces but I haven't bought anything. I'm sure when my daughter gets a bit older it'll be the sort of thing she'll get into because it's very pink. Gemma has riding lessons and has a pony at home and Emily is already wanting to get on the horses when she sees the others riding. I'm really trying not to be a pushy mum and force them into it but I'd really love it if they were.

**Unlike Katie and Peter, you and Michael have always stayed out of the spotlight... I personally wouldn't like having my dirty washing hanging in public, but if you are in the spotlight I suppose you'd take the rough with the smooth.**

**It's your wedding anniversary very soon, are you tempted to renew your vows?**  
The wedding really was the perfect day. However, by the evening I was exhausted as I was three months pregnant at the time, but we have brilliant memories of the day - it was really perfect and I wouldn't have changed a thing.

**You look great in these pictures - who are your favourite fashion designers?**  
I absolutely love Roland Mouret dresses, they are gorgeous and look so amazing on. I loved the Lucilla purple dress I wore for the photo-shoot - I actually bought it because I loved it so much!

**How do you juggle fashion and the credit crunch?**  
My everyday wear is usually from the High Street. I wear Zara and Topshop clothes and if I get spaghetti hoops down any of that it's not a tragedy!

**You were badly injured when you fell off your horse in 2004 - how are you now?**  
I was very lucky because, despite the fact I broke my back in two places, my hip and my pelvis in five places, there wasn't any lasting damage.

**You're supporting the Coral-Eclipse Racing Day at Sandown Park on July 4 - how did you get involved?**  
I was honoured to be asked but I really wanted to raise awareness for the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre, for whom I'm the patron. It's a really important cause and Michael and I do a similar thing with horses after they've finished racing and find new homes for them.

**Do you have any tips on how to pick a winner?**  
I do but occasionally but I definitely don't have any skill at all. I just get down to the parade ring and pick the horse I like the look of!

CLOTHING BY BERNARD OF ESHER (WWW.BERNARDESHER.CO.UK) HATS BY GINA FOSTER (WWW.GINAFOSTER.CO.UK) SHOT AT SANDOWN PARK, ESSEX. TO BOOK TICKETS TO THE CORAL-ECLIPSE DAY AT SANDOWN PARK ON JULY 4 VISIT WWW.SANDOWN.CO.UK OR CALL 0207 475 047



Louise has three young kids and says: 'Michael's the hero - I'm just the nagger!' I'm the one who'll tell them what to do and then Michael comes home and the children are so excited to see him'