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Alan King plans to visit Robert Thornton as his stable jockey continues to recuperate from an operation on his knee.

Thornton suffered serious ligament damage after a fall at Newton Abbot on July 5 and could be out of action for 12 months.

King told his website: "Choc (Thornton) reckons he has never experienced pain like he did on Saturday and Sunday when the pain-killers began to wear off, but on Monday morning he was beginning to feel more comfortable and is coming to terms with the injury and preparing himself for the road to recovery."

He added: "It is going to be a slow process, but I plan to go and visit him on Wednesday and, hopefully, his spirits will continue to improve, and when the injury has healed in around six weeks he will be able to start the physiotherapy."

Thornton's understudy at Barbury Castle, Wayne Hutchinson, is also currently on the sidelines with a broken leg but King is not panicking about the situation just yet.

"Wayne had the plaster cast off last Wednesday, but it will probably be another month before he is back in action as he needs to undergo plenty of physio," King told his website, www.alankingracing.co.uk.

"However, we don't usually get going with our jumpers until the end of October, so there is no immediate need to panic and we always have plenty of jockeys around the place anyway.

"First and foremost, let's get both Choc and Wayne back as soon as possible, and I'll report back when I have been to see Choc."

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