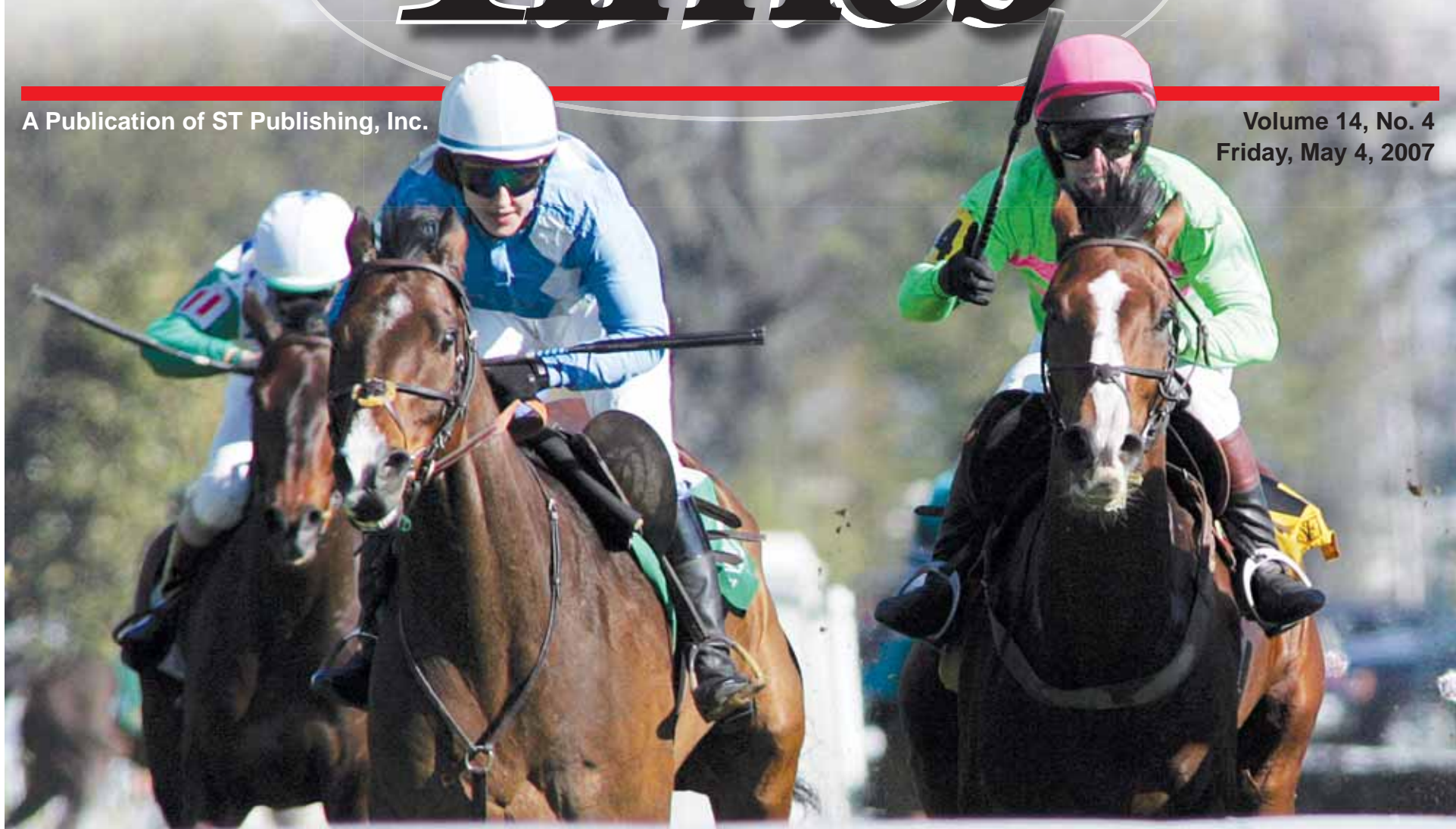


The *Times*

*Steeplechase
& Eventing*

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Friday, May 4, 2007



Mix & Match

*Royal Chase goes to Mixed Up
in three-way photo.*

*Ben Along Time, Australian rider
Clayton Fredericks capture
Rolex Kentucky in a thriller.*



Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Catching up on steeplechase and eventing news from Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and beyond. Mixed Up took advantage of a Grade I without McDynamo and Sur La Tete, and looked super doing it, in the Royal Chase at Keeneland. Australian rider Clayton Fredericks won a wild one at Rolex, getting the four-star victory in the final minutes of a four-day competition. Beyond the biggest names, Gliding and Hip Hop added hurdle victories while gritty New Zealand import The Bruce put on a show at the Maryland Hunt Cup.



PAGE 5

Royal Chase

Mixed Up bests Good Night Shirt and Paradise's Boss in season's first Grade I stakes.



PAGES 6-7

Rolex Kentucky

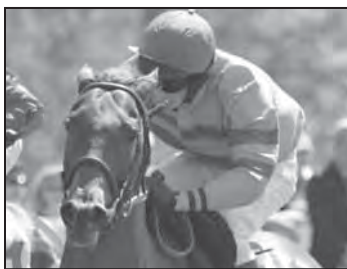
Ben Along Time wins a watch for Australian rider Clayton Fredericks, who edges Americans Phillip Dutton and Karen O'Connor.



PAGES 8-9

Maryland Hunt Cup

The Bruce outlasts Bug River to win historic timber race for owner/jockey Stewart Strawbridge.



PAGES 20-23

Middleburg

Gliding rallies late to win Temple Gwathmey, second leg of the Steeplechase Triple Crown.



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Eventing

Veteran rider Ian Stark takes his career Full Circle with retirement at Rolex Kentucky.



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On the Cover

Mixed Up (left) outruns Paradise's Boss in the stretch of the Royal Chase.

Ben Along Time touches down in the water for Clayton Fredericks at Rolex Kentucky.

Photos:

Photos by Z (Keeneland) and Shannon Brinkman



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The *Steeplechase and Eventing*

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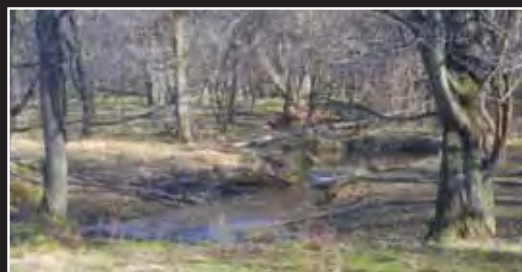
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News and Notes
from around the circuit

FOR STARTERS

Take A Number

7: Black and tan Jack Russell puppies born in the O'Connor Event Team camper Tuesday afternoon at Kentucky. By Busted out of Bourbon, there are six boys and one girl. All major credit cards accepted.

0: Horses to finish on their dressage score at Kentucky, the closest was Full Circle II (Ian Stark) who added just 2.2 penalties to his first day's score.

6: Fantasy steeplechase stable owners who haven't yet earned a dollar.

32: Seconds of silence at the Middleburg Spring Races in honor of those killed at Virginia Tech.

8: Three-time winners of the Maryland Hunt Cup. Legends all, the magnificent seven (and the year of their third victory) are Cancottage (1983), Mountain Dew (1967), Jay Trump (1966), Pine Pep (1952), Winton (1947), Blockade (1940), Garry Owen (1907) and Princeton (1906). Only Blockade won three in a row.

Name of the Day

James Piper: The modern version is Doug Fout's assistant trainer but American steeplechasing knew one much earlier. In 1899, James Piper rode Reveller to victory in the Maryland Hunt Cup. "I'll have to check into it and see if he's a long-lost relative," said Piper the younger.

Worth Repeating (Pony Edition)

"Now I get to go to the press conference because I'm third, not just because I'm riding a pony."

Event rider Karen O'Connor after the Rolex show jumping. She was invited to an earlier press conference due to the attention surrounding her ride, 14.1-hand Theodore O'Connor.

"Ted's finally a little tired, but only a little."

Theodore O'Connor's groom Max Corcoran, Monday morning after Kentucky

"I must be getting old – Karen went faster than me and she was riding a pony."

Notoriously speedy event rider Phillip Dutton, after his first ride on Connaught

Worth Repeating (Horse Edition)

"Do you think there's fish in it?"

Young Maryland Hunt Cup visitor, after hearing there was a water jump

"He's afraid he might miss dinner."

Event rider Heidi White-Carty, on the impatience of the usually docile Northern Spy at Wednesday afternoon's trot-up at Kentucky

"Lucinda told me I took too many half-halts out there. She was right."

Rolex winner Clayton Fredericks relaying a phone conversation with his wife (and 2006 Burghley winner), Lucinda, after a cross-country round with Ben Along Time where he picked up 5.6 time faults. Lucinda was watching in England via Webcast.



Tod Marks

NO TAR ON THEIR HEELS. Chasers take flight at the Queen's Cup in North Carolina.

"It helps when your wife rides Grand Prix dressage."

Fredericks, on how Lucinda contributes to his success

"If you do this long enough you make every mistake in the book at least once."

Karen O'Connor, on Kristin Bachman's error in the show jumping which resulted in Bachman's elimination with Gryffindor

"I hope my brother does better than that."

Trevor McKenna, after sloppily (if successfully) getting over the paddock fence at the Maryland Hunt Cup. His brother Todd rode Ivorgorian in the race.

"A lot of people underestimate these Maryland races and, to me, especially the Grand National. You can't just run any horse. The fences are a little bigger, with no ground lines and there area a bunch you have to jump at an angle. They're just trappy fences. You really need to be paying attention to your horse. The National is faster than the Manor and faster than the Hunt Cup."

Jockey Blair Wyatt, on riding the Butler, Md., course

"It's the one race where if you're fourth you're happy. Any other time, you're not happy with fourth. Every fence, every turn, you never get a break. It just keeps on coming at you. It felt like an eternity. Having an animal try that hard for you is a wonderful experience."

Jockey Blake Curry, on riding Lear Charm in the Maryland Hunt Cup. Curry had more to be happy about than fourth, however, as he finished in a dead-heat for second.

Trainer: "You know where you're going?"

Jockey (while walking Alfred Hunt Course at Middleburg): "It won't make any difference – I'll have my eyes closed most of the time anyway."

Mixed Up Anything But

Pape-Sheppard horse shifts gears, then plans, en route to Grade I win

BY JOE CLANCY

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Early in the Royal Chase, trainer Jonathan Sheppard called on 40 years of experience and wondered about his horse.

“It looks like they’re going a good pace, but it’s not quite as fast as we expected,” he thought. “I’m a little nervous. This is a sensible pace for a race of this distance.”

As if he heard his trainer, Mixed Up moved from ninth to fourth in the next half-mile, launching a bid that took him to victory in the Grade I stakes, Keeneland’s only steeplechase. Owned by Bill Pape, Mixed Up took the lead in mid-stretch and held on to win by a neck

over Good Night Shirt with Paradise’s Boss another neck back in third. Danielle Hodsdon rode the winner, who covered the 2 1/2 miles and 13 fences

in 4:42.95. It was the second Royal Chase win for Pape and Sheppard, who teamed up to take the 2002 running with It’s A Gigue.

“Keeneland is a high-class track anyway, so to win a race here is important,” said Sheppard. “To win a big race like this at Keeneland is very, very special and means a lot to me.”

Even if he did sweat the first 10 furlongs.

Loaded with early speed, the 11-horse race unfolded a little slower than expected. Preemptive Strike took his customary place at the head of the pack, but struggled with his jumping and fell while leading at the eighth fence. Fellow front-runner Riddle moved from stalker to leader and was followed by Good Night Shirt, Paradise’s Boss, Chivite and Mauritania in a tight pack. With a mile to run, Mixed Up was ninth.



ROYAL CHASE

Friday, April 20

“I knew Jonathan was going to worry I was too far back and I was worried maybe a little bit too,” said Hodsdon. “But every time I niggled or changed my hands or asked him he filled the bridle. I knew that as soon as I showed him daylight and uncovered him I would have horse.”

That moment came as the field turned down the backstretch. Like a Porsche moving to the left lane from behind a tour bus, Mixed Up drifted out from behind horses and took aim at the leaders. The 8-year-old son of Carnivalay moved to fifth, then fourth entering the final turn. Third behind Paradise’s Boss and Riddle at the top of the stretch, Mixed Up fanned three-wide and took a brief lead as the pressure increased on his rivals.

An untidy leap at the last fence cost some time and gave Paradise’s Boss another chance, but Mixed Up quickly regained stride and dispatched that rival only to be nearly caught on the wire by a resurgent Good Night Shirt.

Hodsdon was buoyed by her horse’s middle move.

“He did it just by me letting him open his stride,” she said. “Then I knew absolutely he was going to run well.”

Mixed Up landed slowly at the last, tilting forward and losing momentum at a precarious moment.

“When he’s full of run like that he pecks on landing at the last,” said the jockey. “He did it at Saratoga (while winning the Grade I New York Turf Writers in 2006) he did it at the Iroquois (where he took a Grade III stakes last spring). Every time I jump a last fence with him I take hold of his head because I know I’m going to have to pick him up a stride later. For whatever reason, it happens.”



Matt Goins

Mixed Up (left, Danielle Hodsdon) and Paradise’s Boss (Xavier Aizpuru) battle over the last fence in the Royal Chase.

Bred in Pennsylvania by Pape and Sheppard, Mixed Up won for the seventh time in 15 career jump starts and pushed his steeplechase bankroll past \$381,000.

Good enough on the flat to win six races, including a state-bred stakes, Mixed Up thrives at racetrack steeplechases – even if 2 1/2 miles might be his distance limit.

“The longer stretch (at Keeneland) is better for my horse because he has such a great turn of foot,” said Hodsdon.

“He can use it here, he can outkick most horses. If he’s in the right position, he’s faster than the average horse from the last fence to the wire.”

No matter where he is early.

NOTES: Racey Dreamer sustained a broken shoulder and was euthanized after his fall at the 11th. The chestnut won four of five career steeplechase starts for EMO Stable and trainer Doug Fout . . . Handle on the race was \$759,952 with attendance reaching 19,259.

WEDNESDAY IS RACE NIGHT

AT



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MAY 2
FOXFIELD SPRING
MARYLAND CUP
QUEEN’S CUP
MARYLAND JUNIOR
HUNT CUP

MAY 9
VIRGINIA GOLD CUP
WINTERTHUR
MAY 16
IROQUOIS
WILLOWDALE

MAY 23
RADNOR
HIGH HOPE
MAY 30
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Keeneland Results

Friday, April 20. Lexington, Ky. Turf: Firm.

9th. \$159,125. Hurdle handicap. 2 1/2 miles. The Royal Chase (Grade I)

1. MIXED UP	L	150	Hodsdon	9.00	6.00	3.40
2. GOOD NIGHT SHIRT	L	146	Dowling		17.60	9.00
3. PARADISE’S BOSS	L	148	Aizpuru			4.20
Exacta (5-1) \$150.00. Trifecta (5-1-4) \$769.80. Superfecta (5-1-4-11) \$9,457.40.						
4. RIDDLE	L	148	Kingsley			
5. FEELING SO PRETTY	L	139	Walsh			
6. CHIVITE (IRE)	L	142	Young			
7. CLASS VANTAGE	L	140	Boucher			
F. RACEY DREAMER	L	148	McCarron			
F. PREEMPTIVE STRIKE	L	152	C. Miller			
PU. PARTY AIRS	L	146	C. Murphy			
PU. MAURITANIA	L	146	Massey			

Mgn: Neck. Time: 4:42 4/5. O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. g. 8 Carnivalay-Oh Nonsense, Oh Say. Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (PA).

Fredericks right on 'Time'

Australian rider moves up late to win 4-star with Ben Along Time

BY JOANIE MORRIS

LEXINGTON, Ky. – In a finish few anticipated, Australia's Clayton Fredericks and Ben Along Time capitalized on a tremendous show jumping round and an inexplicable error by leader Kristin Bachman aboard Gryffindor to win the 2007 edition of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. Third going into show jumping, Fredericks engineered



a near perfect round, sustaining just one time fault and putting the pressure on overnight leader Bachman aboard Gryffindor.

Bachman entered the ring with one rail in hand, lost that luxury when Gryffindor knocked down the top plank of the gate (fence eight) and then lost it all when turning left and missing fence nine, handing the victory to Fredericks.

Fredericks' former teammate Phillip Dutton, riding for the United States on the world stage for the first time, finished second with Connaught.

Throughout the competition, being the overnight leader did not translate well to the next day. Missy Ranshousen won the first day of dressage with the promising Critical Decision (attempting his first CCI****) only to be bested by Amy Tryon aboard Le Samurai and Great Britain's Polly Stockton on Tangleman the following afternoon.

Peta and Edwin McAuley's Ben Along Time, a 12-year-old Irish-bred Holsteiner cross, oozed class all weekend, starting with a workmanlike, but not extravagant, test to lie third (tied with Becky Holder and Courageous Comet) at the end of dressage.

The dressage judging was consis-

ROLEX KENTUCKY

April 26-29

tent across the board and at the end of the first phase 10 points separated the first 19 horses. Le Samurai's test was very much on the edge, but his movement and expert, accurate handling by Tryon coaxed a strong mark out of the judges.

Saturday morning came quickly and the first horse on course was actually a pony – the first to compete at Rolex Kentucky. The crowd-pleasing 14.1-hand Theodore O'Connor zoomed around the track under Karen O'Connor, picking up 4.4 time penalties in what was the round of the day.

"I'm speechless," said O'Connor. "Our goal has always been to never over-face him and never show him what he can't do. He could have made the time today, no question, but I was very nervous coming into the cross country and as each exercise came he proved to me he's just a one-in-a-million horse. I'm in awe."

The cross country took its toll on some of the most experienced horses in the field. Seventh after dressage, Jenga (Bonnie Mossier) saw his shot go out the front door with Mosser being ejected at the fence before the final water. The pair got to the fence at an awkward distance and Jenga cleverly stayed on his feet. Mosser was up and underway in a moment and completed the course without further incident. Holder and Courageous Comet, who like Mosser jumped handily around Burghley last fall, never found their relentless rhythm and after two refusals, called it a day.

Fredericks and Ben Along Time continued their smooth ways and clocked around the course, picking up 5.6 time



Shannon Brinkman

Ben Along Time (Clayton Fredericks) scales a jump on the competition's final day.

penalties. The individual silver medalists at last year's World Equestrian Games impressed on Saturday though Fredericks' biggest critic – his wife, Lucinda – had some choice words for her husband that evening. At home in England preparing three horses (one of her own and two of Clayton's) for Badminton the following weekend, last year's Burghley winner did some coaching from across the pond.

"Lucinda was watching it on the Webcast. She wanted to know why I took so many half-halts out there. She was right I took 26 too many," said Fredericks.

Saturday's hero was Kristin Bachman, who rode Gryffindor. Contesting only their second four-star, the pair made light work of the course and were one of only eight combinations within the time allowed of 11:26.

"I'm sitting on the best horse in the world," said Bachman of the 13-year-old Thoroughbred. "I made some rookie mistakes here last year. He was amazing."

Heidi White-Carty and 14-year-old Northern Spy were also impressive in their fourth trip around Rolex together. Easily under the time, they put a disappointing dressage mark behind them and galloped home to close the day third.

"He was fantastic," White-Carty said. "He was full of run at the end and came back really well."

Phillip Dutton piloted his two horses

home safely. Bruce Duchossois' Connaught, fourth last year, followed Theodore O'Connor around the track and to Dutton's disappointment later picked up a handful of time faults.

"I went a little conservatively – going early on in the day," said Dutton. "I could have gone a little quicker but I'm very pleased with the way he ran. I underestimated his fitness a little bit. I was worried about him getting tired and I thought all the horses would feel the course at the end but they actually came home very well. If I could have it again I would have set out a bit quicker, but having said that he jumped very well and he's had a very short preparation. He's only run once between the World Championships and here. So I couldn't have asked much more from him."

Dutton learned from his first ride and guided the relatively inexperienced Tru Luck (owned by Ann Jones and Shannon Stimson) under the time at his first CCI****. After cross country, Dutton's horses sat in seventh and eighth respectively.

The low point of the day came with Le Samurai. The 12-year-old Holsteiner/Thoroughbred broke down before the last fence and was vanned off of the cross-country course at the finish line. Full of run throughout most of the course, the horse was transported immediately to Hagyard Equine Medical Institute across the street from the

See **ROLEX** next page ►



Shannon Brinkman

Theodore O'Connor (left) and Northern Spy (right) cracked the top five at Rolex.

■ Continued from previous page

Kentucky Horse Park. At the end of the day, the FEI released a statement reporting that Le Samurai had lost ligament support to the fetlock of his left front leg. Despite the best work of the Hagyard Institute, owners Jerome and Rebecca Broussard announced May 4 that the horse was euthanized (see accompanying article).

Final Day Shuffling

The final day saw more shuffling than a blackjack table, as less than two rails separated the top five horses going into the show jumping.

The exits of Le Samurai (second after cross country) and Antigua (fifth) also helped juggle the top five horses, which read Gryffindor, Northern Spy, Ben Along Time, Gazelle de la Brasserie and Tru Luck.

Lauren O'Brien posted the first double clean of the day with Dunraths Alto. The impressive black Irish Thoroughbred bounded around the track with ease. Much to the crowd's delight, Theodore O'Connor did the same thing four rides later. Dunraths Alto moved into seventh, the pony to third.

"Never in my wildest dreams," said O'Connor after the show jumping. "It's been like a fairytale. I've never had more fun than I had this weekend with this pony. He feels like a giant out there."

Dutton, sitting sixth, guided a careful Connaught around Richard Jeffery's show-jumping course and added just two time faults. Connaught jumped out of order due to Dutton's horses sitting in consecutive places.

"The only times I've had rails down is usually when I've over-ridden him and am too strong with my leg at the jump which is a little bit the opposite of what I work on," said Dutton.

Rails fell and time faults accrued as the day wore on. White-Carty added 11, Karin Donckers and Gazelle de la Brasserie picked up eight, Wendy Schaeffer and Koyuna Sun Magic added seven. Dutton added 13 on his second horse, Tru Luck, so Connaught and Theodore O'Connor looked better and better. Fredericks and Ben Along Time jumped a composed round and added one time fault, pushing them to the top of the leaderboard.

White-Carty came next with Northern Spy and the duo knocked down one rail and accumulated seven time penalties to sit fourth.

It all came down to Bachman and Gryffindor. They had a rail in hand. The scopey gelding jumped accurately around the first few fences, had a rail at the eighth fence and then, unbelievably, turned the wrong way, missing the next jump and getting eliminated in the process.

Bachman wasn't the only one in tears as she left the ring.

The result kept Australia's Fredericks on top, with Dutton and Connaught second and the O'Connors, pony and rider, third.

"After watching the first few riders go, I thought I would be one of the ones that took a couple of rails," said Fredericks, "but he felt brilliant today. I jumped very few fences before I went in. He's got a fantastic temperament, he has that star quality and he tried his guts out."

Ian Stark takes his career Full Circle at Rolex See Page 29



Shannon Briknman

Gryffindor (Kristin Bachman) jumps flawlessly in the cross country.

Le Samurai euthanized after injury in cross country

Le Samurai injured the suspensory ligament in his left front leg when approaching the final fence on the cross-country course Saturday at Rolex Kentucky, and was put down May 4 upon the advice of veterinarians at the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington.

Ridden by Amy Tryon, the horse (nicknamed "Sparky") was leading after the second day of dressage. He completed the course, but was officially disqualified because of the injury. Le Samurai was transferred immediately to the veterinary center after the incident, where he underwent extensive treatment.

"From the outset we have been determined to give this magnificent horse the best veterinary treatment available," owners Jerome and Rebecca Broussard said in a statement, "but only so long as the continuation of that treatment remained consistent with Sparky's best interests. Regrettably, the veterinarians treating him have advised us that a successful outcome is not possible."

Six days after the injury, veterinar-

ians decided further treatment would not achieve a favorable outcome.

"Sparky will be greatly missed by our family, Amy Tryon and everyone who knew and loved him," continued the owners. "We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Robert Hunt and the veterinary staff at the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute for their tireless dedication to Sparky's well-being. We also wish to thank the eventing community around the country for all the kindness and good wishes that have been extended to us and to Sparky."

The on-course incident is being reviewed by the FEI, which will submit the case to the Tribunal (former Judicial Committee) for a final decision. In its statement, the FEI described the incident as "an alleged case of abuse."

The statement concluded with: "The FEI takes these matters very seriously and endeavors to ensure that the welfare of the horse is a priority."

Developed through the three star level by Robyn Fisher, Le Samurai switched to Tryon's barn in June, 2006. They finished fifth at Blenheim CCI***last year and started this season with a win at Red Hills and a sixth at Poplar Place.

2007 Rolex Kentucky

Final Standings (horses which completed the event)

Place	Horse	Rider	Nationality	Final Score
1.	Ben Along Time	Clayton Fredericks	AUS	54.0
2.	Connaught	Phillip Dutton	USA	59.1
3.	Theodore O'Connor	Karen O'Connor	USA	60.1
4.	Northern Spy	Heidi White Carty	USA	63.0
5.	Gazelle de la Brasserie	Karin Donckers	BEL	63.6
6.	Koyuna Sun Magic	Wendy Schaeffer	AUS	64.6
7.	Dunraths Alto	Lauren O'Brien	USA	65.1
8.	Direct Merger	Jonathan Holling	USA	66.2
9.	Apache Sauce	Mary King	GBR	68.7
9.	Tru Luck	Phillip Dutton	USA	68.7
11.	Full Circle II	Ian Stark	GBR	74.1
12.	El Primero	Sara Mittleider	USA	74.4
13.	Tangleman	Polly Stockton	GBR	82.0
14.	Rampant Lion	Carl Bouckaert	BEL	87.7
15.	Upstage	Karen O'Connor	USA	90.8
16.	Critical Decision	Missy Ranshousen	USA	92.8
17.	Just Fun Stuff	Melissa Hunsberger	USA	96.7
18.	Fleeceworks Blackout	Kristen Bond	USA	97.3
19.	No It Tissant	Lynn Symansky	USA	99.8
20.	Napalm	Ian Roberts	CAN	103.2
21.	Cahir	Emilee Libby	USA	104.9
22.	Better I Do It	Darren Chiacchia	USA	108.1
23.	Keep The Faith	Hannah Sue Burnett	USA	116.9
24.	Waterfront	Jan Byyny	USA	117.8
25.	Kiltartan	Molly Bull	USA	119.3
26.	UN	Jane Sleeper	USA	130.1
27.	Buckingham Place	Tara Ziegler	USA	137.9
28.	Jenga	Bonnie Mosser	USA	152.7
29.	All's Fair	Ashley MacVaugh	USA	162.2
30.	Ronaldo	Sharon L. White	USA	179.0
31.	Cavaldi	Kristin Schmolze	USA	200.0

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Little Big Man

The Bruce steps up to take timber classic

BY JOE CLANCY

GLYNDON, Md. – As trainer Sanna Hendriks drove to the Maryland Hunt Cup, she nervously thought about her brother Stewart Strawbridge taking on the historic race's 22 fences and 4 miles aboard diminutive New Zealand import The Bruce.

"I sure hope the little guy can do it," she said. Hendriks' companion Anne Moran had to ask: "Well, how little is he?"

Doesn't matter – he's a giant now.



The Bruce and Strawbridge, both Hunt Cup rookies, fought their way around the demanding course and won by 8 lengths over two-time winner Bug River and fellow first-timer Lear Charm. The Bruce set the pace, scrambled over a few fences, fought back against Bug River's superior jumping late in the race and made up a 2-length deficit after the last fence. Bug River (Blair Wyatt) and Lear Charm (Blake Curry) finished in a dead heat for second with Blackchesters (Jason Griswold) the only other finisher from a starting field of eight. The winner covered the distance in 9:36 4/5.

"He's a tiny horse – he might be 16 hands," Hendriks said of her horse. "But he's a great type, really short back, really springy. And he's just a survivor type of horse."

MARYLAND HUNT CUP

Saturday, April 28

Obviously. The Bruce simply survived for 3 miles – doing little beautifully and everything effectively. The 10-year-old set a slow pace, scrambled over the 4-foot-9-inch third fence and was followed by Blackchesters at first and then Ivorgorian (Todd McKenna) through the opening 2 miles. Bug River and Lear Charm dropped well behind the early leaders. Zaratanie (Patrick Smithwick) fell at the second. Rosbrian lost Billy Meister with a mistake at the ninth. Coal Dust and Woods Winants parted company at the 13th.

"I didn't want to go to the front necessarily but I thought we were going pretty darn slow so I may as well go," said Strawbridge. "He looked at the third and said 'maybe we should go home.' We made it over that and he jumped right back on the bridle. I thought, 'Holy smokes, he's obviously brave and wants to keep on going.'"

As the field passed the 3-mile mark, Bug River struck – lengthening stride and going after the leaders at the 17th. A winner in 2004 and 2006, and beaten just a half-length when second in 2005, he looked young again. The 14-year-old landed in front over the 18th and 19th and seemed to be on his way to a coronation as the race's ninth three-time winner after turning toward Tufton Avenue and soaring over the 20th.

After each fence, however, The Bruce found more energy and drew abreast of the favorite.

"(The Bruce) wasn't as fluid as Bug River, and he outjumped me at every fence by three or four lengths,"



Doug Lees

The Bruce (Stewart Strawbridge) scales a fence in the Maryland Hunt Cup. He went on to win by 8 lengths.

said Strawbridge. "We just got over them and Bug River was flying them. Then I kept on coming back to her – my horse wanted to be there."

Wyatt was impressed with the late-race momentum of both horses.

"He just got beat by a younger, faster horse," she said of Bug River. "Had it depended only on jumping

See **HUNT CUP** next page ►

PERFORMANCE of the Month



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Karen O'Connor

Ben Along Time and Clayton Fredericks may have won the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event, but the O'Connors stole the show. Theodore O'Connor, a pony by definition at less than 14.2 hands, placed third in the most important three-day event in the United States.

Ridden by Karen O'Connor (no relation), the finished with a final score of 60.1 – behind Ben Along Time and Connaught (both full-sized horses). "The Pony" had 4.4 time penalties on cross country and turned in one of two double-clean show jumping rounds.



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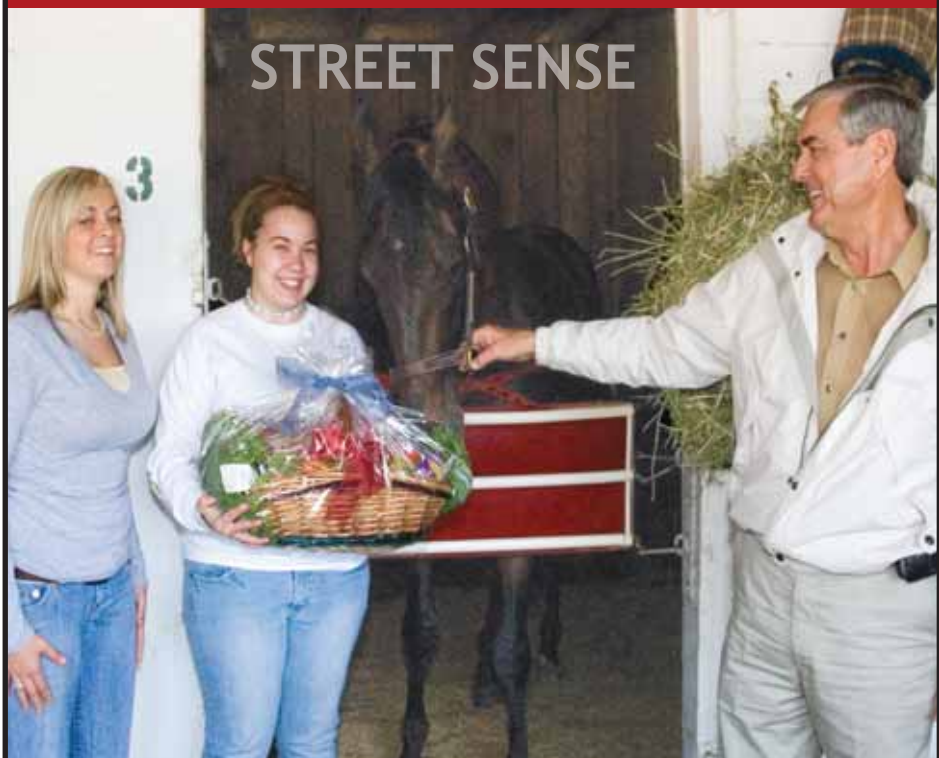


Photo by Elizabeth Lauer



Congratulations to Street Sense, Carl Nafzger, and Mr. James B. Tafel for winning the 2007 Kentucky Derby.

From the 120 students that have received scholarships from The Race For Education, we would like to thank Mr. Tafel for nominating Street Sense to our program.

Pictured are students Emily Weber, who is attending Bellarmine University, and Melissa Scott, attending the University of Kentucky.



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For scholarship or nomination information, visit www.racingscholarships.com



Hunt Cup —

■ Continued from previous page

I would have won by a country mile. I put Stewart away and kept putting him away, I thought, at every fence.”

Clearly in front after the 20th and across the mulch spread on the road, Bug River headed for the 21st – the course’s smallest (and often trickiest) fence. He jumped it like a pro, but The Bruce hurdled it and stayed with the leader.

Summoning one more superb jump at the last, a more vertical board fence, Bug River landed with a 2-length lead . . . which lasted a few seconds. The Bruce challenged again, galloping like a fresh horse and pulling away with the win.

Like most witnesses, Hendriks marveled at her horse’s final half-mile.

“I figured we were going to be second and that was going to be great,” she said. “Then it looked like he almost got back to the front jumping the water (fence 21). It was great to see that (Stewart) had some horse left. At the last it looked like he kind of slowed down and jumped it. Bug River pinged it and I was still going to be happy with second. He made it around and that’s an accomplishment. Then he ran right back past Bug River. I was a little surprised, but I’m also thrilled.”

Strawbridge said the race went according to plan – even if the plan lacked much detail.

“I figured you wouldn’t jump around here perfectly and that we were going to have to take it one fence at a time,” said Strawbridge. “I was thinking survival to the nineteenth, hang on and try to give him the best approach and best presentation I could.”

It worked, and the 31-year-old became another member of his family to win the Hunt Cup.

Often an example of generational steeplechasing, this year’s race took genealogy to another level.

Strawbridge’s great-grandfather Redmond Stewart rode in the first Hunt Cup in 1894 and won the 1904 running aboard Landslide. Grandfather Redmond Stewart Jr. made six starts as a jockey, and won three times as an owner (Haffaday in 1968, Ben Nevis in 1977 and 1978). Strawbridge’s sister Sanna rode Tom Bob to victory in 1991 and Ivory Poacher two years later. In 2002 another sister, Kathy McKenna, trained Young Dubliner to a course-record win.

Beyond that branch of the family tree, various aunts, uncles and cousins with surnames Stewart, Finney, Fenwick and others have been longtime participants and winners. On his sire’s side, Strawbridge’s grandfather George Strawbridge Sr. finished third aboard Rockicy in 1938 and great-grandfather John Strawbridge owned 1941 winner Coq Bruyere. Strawbridges also owned 1951 winner Jester’s Moon and 1955 winner Land’s Corner. And that’s the Cliff’s Notes version.

The connections weren’t lost on this year’s winners.

“My great-grandfather rode in the first one ever, my grandfather rode in it and won it as an owner, my sister Sanna won it twice and my sister Kathy won it as a trainer,” said Stewart Strawbridge. “So I pretty much had to win it. I’m the only one in the family who wants to ride anymore so I had no choice.”



Doug Lees

The Bruce (left) pulls away from Bug River in the stretch of the Maryland Hunt Cup timber stakes at Glyndon, Md.

For Hendriks, the race was about family – and trust.

“To train the horse and have Stewart ride him, and win this race, it doesn’t get any better,” she said. “I was really nervous about the whole thing – sending Stewart out there on a relatively green horse, and then having him do that. It’s overwhelming.”

Little guys can do that sometimes.

NOTES: The Bruce took a meandering path to the Hunt Cup win. He made 30 flat starts (including 16 in one season) in New Zealand and was imported by Doug Fout and owner Eldon Farm in 2003. After two maiden hurdle tries that year, Fout dropped the horse into a maiden claimer at Little Everglades in March 2004 and lost him to Hendriks for \$25,000. She was shopping for a timber prospect and got one – though

nothing came quickly. The Bruce bowed a tendon in his first start for Hendriks, a maiden hurdle at Stoneybrook in April 2004, and so missed the rest of the year. He won three timber starts in the fall of 2005, however, and showed his trainer enough to make future plans – which were derailed by more leg trouble as The Bruce spent all of 2006 on the sidelines. A week before the Hunt Cup, he finished fourth in the Grand National and won at the Cheshire Point-to-Point in late March . . . The race was run in memory of Mikey Smithwick, who won the Hunt Cup a record six times as a jockey . . . The winner is the first New Zealand-bred to win the Hunt Cup, but joins several foreign-bred horses including Irish-breds Young Dubliner, Tom Bob and The Hard Word, English-breds Cancottage, Ben Nevis and Fort Devon, Argentine import Dosdi and Chilean-bred Jacko.

Maryland Hunt Cup Results

Saturday, April 28. Glyndon, Md.

Turf: Good.

1st. \$75,000. Timber stakes. 4 miles.

Amateur jockeys. The Maryland Hunt Cup

1. THE BRUCE (NZ)	L 169	Strawbridge
2. LEAR CHARM	165	Curry
2. BUG RIVER	L 165	Wyatt
4. BLACKCHESTERS (GB)	L 176	Griswold
LR. ZARATANIE (IRE)	L 165	Smithwick
LR. ROSBRIAN (IRE)	L 165	Meister
LR. COAL DUST	L 165	G. Winants
LR. IVORGORIAN	L 166	McKenna

Mgn: 8. Time: 9:36 4/5.

Dead heat for second.

O: Stewart Strawbridge. T: Sanna Hendriks.

B. g. 10 Masterclass-Bobandons (NZ), Le Grand Seigneur. Bred by G.R. Johnston (NZ).

Maryland Hunt Cup can’t be missed

No man alive has seen every Maryland Hunt Cup, which was first run in 1894, but George Doty has seen the last 50 or so.

And he travels from Canada to do it.

Doty and running mate Tom Boyce made the drive from St. Catherine’s, Ontario, took their usual walking tour of the course the day before and then watched the great race. For sentimental reasons, they rooted for Bug River but were not disappointed by The Bruce.

“Be nice to see another three-time winner, but it’s a great day no matter what,” said Doty. “Jay Trump was special, Mountain Dew too. I saw their races. Pine Pep (1952) was the second one I saw, and that really sticks in my mind as a special race.”

Doty first came to Glyndon with Lew Scott, master of the North York Hunt near Toronto. Scott took an interest in steeplechasing and brought a contingent to Maryland. There, the group became acquainted with Janon Fisher Jr., a Hunt Cup participant as far back as 1922 and owner of three-time winner Mountain Dew.

“At one time there were 27 or 28 of us,” recalled Doty. “Janon always had a party and we went there. Most of the group has died or got old or something like that.”

Fisher’s daughter Julia and her husband Dan Colhoun stay in touch with Doty and he makes a point to stop in on his annual visit to the Hunt Cup.

“I remember the whole group of them coming from Canada and walking the course with my father,” said Ju-



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

George Doty (left) and Tom Boyce at the Hunt Cup.

lia. “They would hang on every word my father told them about how to ride a horse into the third fence.”

Doty convinced Boyce, a native of Ireland who used to ride jump races and is a regular at Galway and other courses there, to make the trip a few years ago and they were back in full force – after the 450-mile drive – for 2007.

“I don’t think there are quite as many people up on the slope now as there were,” said Doty as this year’s field circled the paddock. “At one point there were 12,000 people here, or more probably. I was telling Tom that one day one of the girls rolled all the way down the hill after having too much to drink. That one I remember.”

– Joe Clancy

Hip Hop Hooray

Griggs horse continues climb up hurdle ranks

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Hip Hop showed off his class for owner/trainer John Griggs when he powered home to victory in the \$25,000 allowance hurdle feature at the Queen's Cup in Mineral Springs, N.C.

The 6-year-old son of Count The Time improved to 2-for-2 this season in another front-running effort. He tracked Fra Diavolo (Danielle Hodsdon) early, took over after a half-mile and won by 1 3/4 lengths after getting a stiff challenge from Diego Cao (Matt McCarron). Chip Miller picked up his fourth win in five rides aboard Hip Hop.

"I really think Chip was the key," said Griggs. "He was the one who recognized what type of horse he is.



Tod Marks

Hip Hop (right, Chip Miller) and Diego Cao (Matt McCarron) battle over the final fence.

He is the one who changed his style and let him run up front. It was really what made the light go on, so to speak. Before, he used to leave himself with too much to do. Chip analyzed it quickly and realized he needs to be up front in his races."

After getting close (two seconds and three thirds in his first seven starts), Hip Hop met Miller at Aiken Fall 2005. They were fourth there, but haven't lost together since. Hip Hop broke his maiden at the Colonial Cup in 2005 and added an allowance at Little Everglades the following spring. After that, the Kentucky-bred went to the sidelines for most of 2006 but was sixth at Montpelier (when Miller had to travel to Callaway Gardens)

late last fall. Reunited this year, the duo won at Atlanta and added the Queen's Cup race.

With no allowance conditions left, Hip Hop will have to take a tougher road but Griggs is excited about the possibilities.

"He is going to have to step up in a stakes next time out," Griggs said. "It's not going to be easy, and those are some tough spots to find, but I think he will run well. (The Queen's Cup win was) the best he has ever been, so I am looking forward to getting him out there again."

Diego Cao was second with Fra Diavolo third.

See **QUEEN'S CUP** next page ►

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Queen's Cup Results

Saturday, April 28. Mineral Springs, N.C. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$25,000. SOK maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

1. RED LETTER DAY	L	142	Dalton
2. DIVINE FORTUNE	L	142	Hodsdon
3. CLASS DEPUTY	L	142	Boucher
4. BOLD TURN	L	154	Kingsley
5. LOVE PALACE (IRE)	L	149	Zimmerman
6. WESTCLIFFE	L	144	W. Haynes
7. HELLO JERRY	L	154	Aizpuru
PU. VICTORYCELEBRATION		154	C. Miller
PU. PLUM BRUSH	L	143	McCarron

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 4:18 1/5.

O: Gregory Hawkins. T: Janet Elliot.

B. c. 4 Red Ransom-Western Wind, Gone West.
Bred by Dr. John Chandler (KY).

2nd. \$20,000. Maiden claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

\$30,00-\$25,000 claiming price

1. RUM SQUALL	L	140	Aizpuru
2. ELUSIVE GLORY	L	156	McCarron
3. CHIME CHOIR	L	148	Taurig
4. GENERAL ROANOKE	L	148	Boucher
5. PAPER MAN	L	150	McMillan
PU. ASA UN FUEGOS	L	148	Dalton
PU. BIBLOS (ARG)	L	156	Kingsley
PU. HUP TWO		151	Zimmerman

Mgn: 4 3/4. Time: 4:19 1/5.

O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jack Fisher.

Dk. B./Br. g. 4 Anees-Weekend Squall, Summer Squall.
Bred by John and Barbara Smicklas (KY).

3rd. \$20,000. Filly/mare allowance hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

NW1X or NW2.

1. NO PLEASING	L	156	McCarron
2. JELLYBERRY	L	150	C. Miller
3. NORTHERN GALE	L	140	W. Haynes
4. EVIDENTIAL	L	150	Hodsdon
5. SEA CHATTER		150	Dalton
6. TOPAZ CAT		145	Zimmerman
PU. MARY CAT	L	140	Aizpuru

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 4:25 1/5.

O: Landslide Farm. T: Sanna Hendriks.

Dk. B./Br. m. 5 Crowd Pleaser-No Dubbs, Bandwagon.
Bred by Redmond Finney (MD).

4th. \$25,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

NW \$15,000 twice

1. HIP HOP		156	C. Miller
2. DIEGO CAO (NZ)	L	152	McCarron
3. FRA DIAVOLO (ARG)	L	148	Hodsdon
4. REFLECTOR	L	134	W. Haynes
5. TOUGHKENAMON	L	156	Aizpuru
6. SAY WHAT YOU SEE (IRE)	L	156	Boucher
PU. FABI'S LEGACY	L	144	Dalton

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 4:17.

O/T: John Griggs.

B. g. 6 Count the Time-Prominent Dancer, Moscow Ballet.
Bred by Castle Rock Stud & James Hampton (KY).

5th. \$20,000. Allowance timber. 3 1/8 miles. NW2.

1. SHARP FACE	L	160	Aizpuru
2. WOODMONT	L	165	Boucher
3. ERIN GO BRAGH (NZ)	L	160	McCarron
4. NAVESINK VIEW	L	155	W. Haynes
5. MAKE IT EASY (IRE)		165	Taurig
F. JAVA TO GO	L	155	Zimmerman
F. TIMMY R	L	161	Fogarty
PU. MONTE BIANCO (IRE)	L	162	Fisher
PU. FLYING CONTRAPTION (IRE)	L	160	C. Miller

Mgn: 4 1/4. Time: 6:37 4/5.

O: Kingfisher Farm. T: Jack Fisher.

Dk. B./Br. g. 11 Trempolino-Spectacular Face, Spectacular Bid.
Bred by Fares Farm (KY).

6th. Training flat. 1 1/4 miles.

1. KILL DEVIL RUM	L	155	J. Price
2. SWEET SHANI (NZ)	L	150	Hodsdon
3. BABY BERT	L	155	Hanson
4. JUNOOD		156	Washer
5. ORCHID PRINCESS	L	150	Dalton
6. CLASS PROSPECTOR	L	150	McCarron
7. REGAL AGAIN	L	155	McMillan
8. AMERICAN INTENT		145	Boucher
9. SHINES BY THE SEA	L	155	W. Haynes

Mgn: Neck. Time: 2:17 1/5.

O: Carrington Racing Stable. T: Bill Price.

B. g. 5, Devil's Bag-Hill Dance, Danehill.

Queen's Cup —

■ Continued from previous page

• The opener, a \$25,000 maiden hurdle, went to Red Letter Day (Bernie Dalton). The 4-year-old son of Red Ransom was returning after being pulled up a week earlier at Middleburg. Elliot was quick to point out the reason.

“Bad trainer’s judgment,” she matter-of-factly stated. “I told the jockey (Rob Massey) to go off quietly and get a nice feel for him. Well, they ran away from him that day and he found himself far behind while being too green to get back into it. He was confused. But it also benefited me, as this time I told Bernie to get into it early. I think the others didn’t quite expect it, as he was pulled up the week before, so they kind of let him go. It worked out nicely.”

Owned by Greg Hawkins (of Campanile fame), the winner scored by 1 3/4 lengths over Divine Fortune (Hodsdon), with Class Deputy (Richard Boucher) third.

• Arcadia Stable’s Rum Squall took the second, a \$20,000 maiden claiming hurdle, for jockey Xavier Aizpuru and trainer Jack Fisher. The 4-year-old son of Anees was jumping for the fourth time and proved a handy winner, wiring the field by 4 3/4 lengths.

“He’s been unlucky this year – the saddle slipped up his neck at Aiken and something happened at Camden too (when ridden by Willie Dowling),” said the jockey. “Jack dropped him into a maiden claimer to see if he could get a little confidence back. He was in front after

two fences, relaxed and was really good. He’s always been thought of as more than a maiden claimer, so we’ll see.”

Elusive Glory (McCarron) finished second with Chime Choir (Michael Traurig) third.

• Three races later, Aizpuru and Fisher teamed up to complete a double when Kingfisher Farm’s Sharp Face scored in the \$20,000 allowance timber. The 11-year-old took over from Java To Go (Rylee Zimmerman) early, opened a big lead and coasted home by 4 1/4 lengths. Woodmont (Richard Boucher) was second with Erin Go Bragh (McCarron) third.

The win broke Aizuru’s timber maiden in his fourth attempt at the wooden fences.

“I can’t say a bad word about it,” he said. “I never felt like such a passenger in my life. It rode well and he jumped flawlessly. I couldn’t fault him in any department.”

• McCarron would finish with two seconds and a third, but broke through in the third race, a \$20,000 filly/mare allowance hurdle, aboard No Pleasing for trainer Sanna Hendriks. McCarron substituted for the injured Jody Petty and kept the 5-year-old daughter of Crowd Pleaser unbeaten in two lifetime starts. She wasn’t always as talented as her unblemished record may suggest.

“I wouldn’t say she was a brilliant jumper, or a natural from the start,” Hendriks said. “She has been more of project. She was always willing and tried hard, but she has progressed as she has gone along, as opposed to picking it up right from the start. She broke her



Tod Marks

Rum Squall powers over a fence in the maiden claiming hurdle in one of two wins for trainer Jack Fisher and jockey Xavier Aizpuru at Charlotte.

maiden last July at Colonial but then we had to stop on her, she had a tendon problem. She came back strong (at the Queen’s Cup). She has done everything we have asked, so we will look to a stakes at Nashville. I have to believe she can get a piece of that.”

Jellyberry (Miller) closed late for second, three-quarters of a length behind the winner, while front-running Northern Gale (Will Haynes) stayed for third.

• Hometown connections took the finale, a training flat race as Carrington Racing Stable’s Kill Devil Rum scored for the Price family – the Queen’s Cup race founders and hosts. Bill Price did the training and his son Jamey handled the reins.

NOTES: Biblos, owned by High Hope Stable and trained by Arch Kingsley was injured in the second race and euthanized on the course.



Tod Marks

Sharp Face (Xavier Aizpuru) shows off over the water jump at Charlotte.



Tod Marks

Red Letter Day (Bernie Dalton) pulls away from Divine Fortune in the maiden.

WHAT DID HCP SPORTS DO LAST SUMMER? NASCAR



In July, the HCP Sports covered the opening meet of the Milwaukee Mile, the oldest continually operating race track in America, featuring the Nascar Truck and Nascar Bush Races at the Two-Day Weekend Festival. Utilizing camera cranes, lipstick cameras as well as live camera feeds from inside the pits, HCP Sports helped make NASCAR come alive for over 65,000 spectators.

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Kinross takes half the card, but Church Ghost grabs feature

BY REBECCA WALTON

FOXFIELD SPRING RACES

Saturday, April 28

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – Foxfield proved to be a successful meet for trainer Neil Morris, owner Kinross Farm and jockey Chris Read, as they teamed up to win three of the six races (two over hurdles and one on the flat).

Humdinger won the first, a \$15,000 maiden hurdle. Bred by flat-racing powerhouse Phipps Stable, the 4-year-old son of Broad Brush sat off the early pace of Meshwaar and took over late to win by 3 1/2 lengths over Scavenger with Great Gusto third.

Trained on the flat by Hall of Famer Shug McGaughey, Humdinger was making his debut over the hurdles following an NSA training flat race.

“He was great and did everything I asked. I just let him run down the hill because he’s a great jumper and he won easily out-of-hand,” Read said.

Despite the breeding and connections, Humdinger never produced the expected flat form – winning just once. He last raced for his breeder in October at Belmont Park.

• At the start of 2007, trainer Sanna Hendriks said timber racing could be in the future for veteran hurdler Praise The Prince, winner of the 2003 New York Turf Writers Cup and earner of nearly \$600,000.

The 12-year-old New Zealand import started slowly, losing jockey Jody Petty at a point-to-point in March. The new career went much better a few weeks later with a point-to-point victory at Plumstead. And Praise The Prince had little trouble with his new career at Foxfield.

Running in a \$15,000 maiden timber at Foxfield, Praise The Prince let pacesetter N J Devil open a big lead before rallying late and winning by 3 1/4 lengths over Western Fling (James Slater) and Hanko (Molly Forlan).

“He was going to be retired but he foxhunted this spring and did well so they decided to take a chance,” said jockey Paddy Young.



Betsy Parker

Church Ghost (left, Jeff Murphy) pulls away from Kirimbai (center) and One Sea late in the allowance feature at Foxfield.

• Team Kinross got back on the board in the third as recent purchase Thegooddieyoung handled seven others in a \$15,000 allowance hurdle for amateur jockeys.

Part of the Bruce Miller stable for years, the winner carted 176 pounds (under the highweight allowance conditions) but still moved easily from last

to challenge for the lead before the final fence.

Looking Best fell at that one, leaving Thegooddieyoung in the lead. The 9-year-old son of Lear Fan scored by 1 3/4 lengths over Beyond Repare (Teddy Mulligan) with Dyn In Texas (Gregg Ryan) third.

See **FOXFIELD** next page ►

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Foxfield —

Continued from previous page

“It was a quick race, he got a little tired but has a lot of class,” said Read. “He has been running for years and he jumps very nicely – it was nice to have an old-timer like that.”

• Augustin Stable, Hendriks and Young took the fourth, a \$10,000 maiden claiming hurdle with Legend’s Silver. The 6-year-old son of Capote took the lead at the start – battling with various challengers Gently Now, Old Fellow, Miss Batisti and Justabud – but won by a 1 1/4 lengths over Justabud with Miss Batisti third.

Legend’s Silver made five unsuccessful jump starts in 2006, but tuned up for Foxfield with a decent fourth at Middleburg a week earlier.

• When trainer Doug Fout went through his pre-season stable list in March, he paid special attention to Church Ghost.

“If I can win another race with him

it would be great,” Fout said. “We put four screws in his ankle, he’s got an old bow, but he’s been a fun horse. I’d really like to win one more race with him.”

Owned by Margaret White, the 8-year-old gray took the Foxfield feature with a powerful move to the front approaching the last fence.

The gray son of Silver Ghost stayed on through the stretch and won by 2 1/4 lengths over One Sea with Kirimbai third.

Jockey Jeff Murphy, fresh off winning two at Middleburg, was confident going into the race.

“He ran very well and he jumped very well. I just rode confidently and he jumped fence to fence,” Murphy said.

Church Ghost missed all of last season with his various issues but won twice each in 2004 and 2005. A tightener at Strawberry Hill (fifth and last behind Swimming River) proved helpful at Foxfield.

• Kinross closed the day with a training flat win from Gold Mitten. The 2004 filly/mare champion was tuning up for stakes action at the Iroquois.



Tod Marks
Grade I hurdle winner Praise The Prince (right, Paddy Young) touches down over a fence on the way to winning his debut over timber.

Foxfield Results		
Saturday, April 28. Charlottesville, Va. Turf: Firm.		
1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.		
1. HUMDINGER	L 150	Read
2. SCAVENGER	L 144	Slater
3. GREAT GUSTO	L 145	Carter
4. ICE IS NICE	L 154	Nicolls
5. DEJAVUALLOVERAGAIN	L 154	Ryan
6. FANTORINI	L 154	Dowling
7. LIGHT SPEED	L 139	Mackenzie
8. MESHWAAR	L 139	McVicar
9. GLIDE KING	L 144	Young
10. PLANETS ALIGNED	L 154	C. Murphy
11. ENDLESS MOUNTAIN	L 150	Gillam
OC. CUSE	149	R. Haynes
Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:14. O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris. B. c. 4 Broad Brush-Indy Pick, A.P. Indy. Bred by Phipps Stable (KY).		
2nd. \$15,000. Maiden timber. 3 miles.		
1. PRAISE THE PRINCE (NZ)	L 165	Young
2. WESTERN FLING	L 165	Slater
3. HANKO (GER)	L 165	Forlano
4. ACTXPRESSIVE	L 165	C. Murphy
5. WHY NOT BABY	L 165	Dowling
6. GENGHIS	L 160	Gillam
7. N J DEVIL	L 160	Carter
PU. GREYHAME	L 165	Saville
PU. GUERRERO DON (ARG)	L 160	J. Murphy
Mgn: 3 1/4. Time: 5:43 4/5. O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. Dk. B./Br. g. 12 Prince of Praise-Dynataine, Centaine (AUS). Bred by Thoroughbred Investments (NZ).		
3rd. \$15,000. Allowance hurde. 3 miles.		
NW of a stakes; Amateur jockeys.		
1. THEGOODDIEYOUNG	L 176	Read
2. BEYOND REPAIR (IRE)	L 162	Mulligan
3. DYN IN TEXAS	172	Ryan
4. YOKAZONA	L 167	R. Haynes
5. SLATTERY	L 172	Slater
6. INCA COLONY	L 162	Forlano
7. WILD JOURNEY 167 Saville LR. LOOKING BEST L 167 Gillam Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 5:58 3/5. O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris. Dk. B./Br. g. 9 Lear Fan-Good Wishes, Lyphard's Wish (FR). Bred by Estate of Walter Jeffords (KY).		
4th. \$10,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.		
\$10,000-\$5,000 clm. price		
1. LEGEND'S SILVER	L 156	Young
2. JUSTABUD	L 151	J. Murphy
3. MISS BATTISTI	L 148	Dowling
4. COMPANY MAN	L 151	McVicar
5. OLD FELLOW (ARG)	L 156	Ryan
6. GENTLY NOW	L 150	Read
F. HEROS AMONG US	L 151	Carter
PU. CLEVER BROKER	L 147	Mackenzie
PU. BON CADDO	L 152	Slater
Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 4:11 3/5. O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. Dk. B./Br. g 6 Capote-Silver Wire, Distinctive Pro. Bred by George Strawbridge (PA).		
5th. \$20,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.		
NW \$12,500 once OTC		
1. CHURCH GHOST	L 139	J. Murphy
2. ONE SEA	L 139	Mackenzie
3. KIRIMBAI	L 144	Young
4. EXTRA CHECK	L 150	Read
5. LUONGO	L 152	Slater
6. GATHER NO MOSS	L 151	Ryan
7. SUMMERSVILLE	L 142	R. Haynes
Mgn: 2 1/4. Time: 4:04 4/5. O: Margaret White. T: Doug Fout. Gr./Ro. g. 8 Silver Ghost-Bishop's Mate, Lyphard. Bred by Edward Evans (KY).		
6th. Training flat. 2 miles. Amateur jockeys.		
1. GOLD MITTEN	L 160	Read
2. SOCIETY MILLINER (IRE)	L 165	Roberts
Mgn: 10. Time: 3:43. O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris. Gr./Ro. m. 7 Waquoit-Gold Glove, Run the Gantlet. Bred by Kinross Farm (MD).		

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Rolling on a River

Rafter, veteran hurdler coast to win in feature

BY BRIAN NADEAU

On a day that saw two races land in the hands of the stewards, River Bed left little doubt who was best in the \$30,000 Carolina First Block House, soaring home to win by more than 10 lengths under jockey Carl Rafter.

A 10-year-old gelded son of Gulch, trained by Kathy McKenna for Move Up Stable, River Bed won for the second time in three starts this season.

"It seems like the older he gets the more he figures out the running and jumping," McKenna said. "Another primary thing is that he seems to get along with Carl really well."

Rafter, aboard for River Bed's last three wins over the jumps, admitted he was little more than a passenger in the allowance hurdle.

"He was on the rail and moving really well," Rafter said. "I made a move at the top of the hill and he just took off from there. He's

the type of horse that you can put anywhere and he will do anything you want. He is really easy to ride and Kathy has done a great job with him. He and I seem to get along pretty good together."

McKenna plans one more start for River Bed, and then a rest.

"I will put him on the shelf after (the Virginia



BLOCK HOUSE RACES

Saturday, April 21

Gold Cup meet)," McKenna explained. "He will get the spring and summer off and hopefully I will bring him back this fall and find a soft spot for him somewhere."

• While the connections of River Bed enjoyed an easy victory, Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard and jockey James Slater took a more circuitous trip to the winner's circle when two of their charges had their numbers put up via disqualification.

In the opener, a maiden hurdle, Buckeye Wonder made his jump debut a winning one for Sheppard and owner Hudson River Farm when he was elevated to first after Silent Vow and Roderick Mackenzie interfered with them in the lane.

"I don't have any statistics, but I would have to think that has to be a first, having two horses put up on disqualification in one day," Sheppard said. "I've saddled a lot of horses in my day, but have never had anything like that happen."

Slater concurred with Sheppard, but was also quick to point out the judges made the right decision in this instance.

"Boy, what a funny, odd day," Slater said, almost apologetically. "He gave me a nice run out there and when I got a burst of speed out of him the other horse (Silent Vow) crossed over on me. It was enough to where I had to step around him and come out two lanes. We were only beat a nose on the wire, so it cost us. I think the best horse was put up."

See **BLOCK HOUSE** next page ►



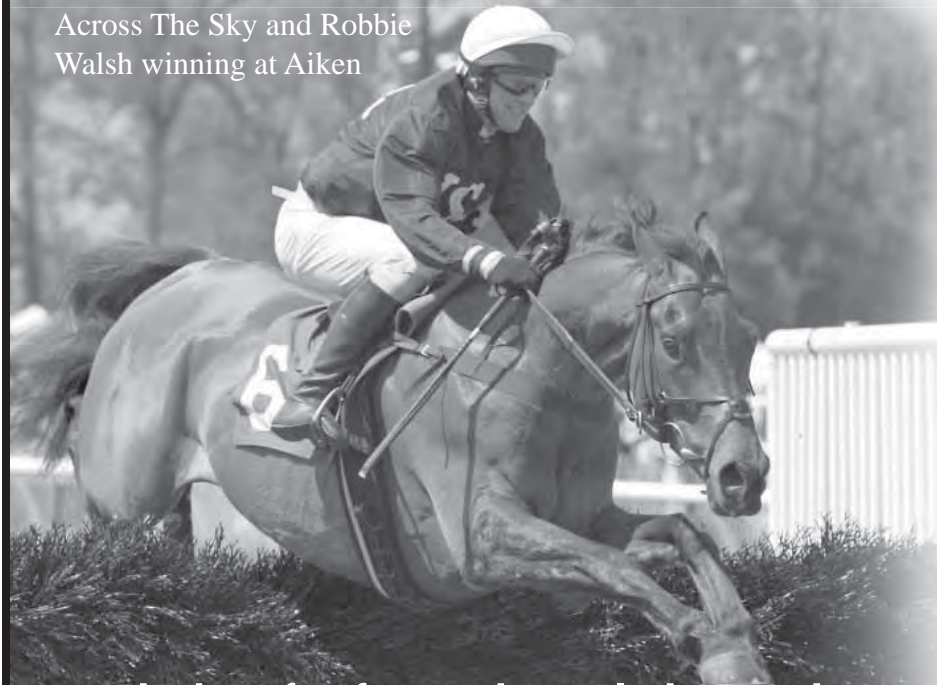
Tod Marks

River Bed and Carl Rafter teamed up for their first win in November at Montpelier (above) and are 2-for-2 together in 2007.

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Block House –

■ Continued from previous page

Silent Vow was ultimately placed second. Won Wild Bird (Will Haynes) finished third.

The victory in the first was the 15th of Slater's career, thus ending his apprenticeship. He got the benefit of a bug for the rest of the card but was a full-blown journeyman when he appeared the next week at Foxfield.

• Fly Past completed the rare double, when he was awarded victory in the second, a \$15,000 maiden claiming hurdle, after Coco's Clown and Rylee Zimmerman interfered with him over the last two jumps. The 4-year-old son of the Sheppard-trained Crowd Pleaser was also making his jump debut, and the victory was especially gratifying.

"This one was nice," Sheppard said, "I trained both his sire and dam (Lofty Endeavor), so it's been a pretty good

family to me. He is quite a speedy horse; he gets over the jumps a bit quicker than most other horses. It's one of the reasons why I thought this course might suit him well. I was very happy."

Slater was impressed with Fly Past's first try over the jumps, and thinks he can be effective when he faces winners next time out.

"He showed me a lot when he took that contact over the final two jumps and kept going," Slater said. "It will certainly be a step up next time (facing winners), but I think both these horses today will represent themselves well."

Gossipmonger (Gregg Ryan) was moved up from third, with Coco's Clown, trained by Karen Gray, being put back to third.

• Pleasant Pick won the third for High Hope Stable, Arch Kingsley and jockey Gregg Ryan, taking the \$15,000 conditioned claimer by three-quarters of a length. Suits and Ties (Michael Traurig) finished second, with Russia (Rafter) third.

Block House Results

Saturday, April 21. Tryon, N.C. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

1. BUCKEY WONDER	L 149	Slater
*2. SILENT VOW	L 137	Mackenzie
3. WON WILD BIRD	L 136	W. Haynes
4. RESTON	L 146	Rafter
5. REIGNING COUNT	154	Traurig
PU. APPALACHIAN	L 150	Ryan

*DQ from first for interference in stretch.

Mgn: Head. Time: 4:34.

O: Hudson River Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. h. 6 Silver Hawk-Ameriflora, Danzig.

Bred by Phillips Racing Partnership (KY).

2nd. \$15,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

\$20,000-\$15,000 clm. price

1. FLY PAST	L 140	Slater
2. GOSSIPMONGER	L 149	Ryan
*3. COCO'S CLOWN	L 143	Zimmerman
4. NOTABLE CONTENDER	L 156	Rafter
5. MALLORY'S SURPRIZE	L 134	Helders
6. JACKSONIAN	L 148	Chalfin
7. CHIME CHOIR	L 148	Traurig
8. SILVER LYRICS	L 138	W. Haynes
PU. SEA CHATTER	140	Dalton

*DQ from first for interference at final 2 fences.

Mgn: 2. Time: 4:32 1/5.

O/T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Dk. B./Br. c. 4 Crowd Pleaser-Lofty Endeavor, Great Above. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (PA).

3rd. \$15,000. Cond. clm. hurdle. 2 3/8 miles.

NW2 for \$20,000-\$15,000

1. PLEASANT PICK	L 154	Ryan
2. SUITS AND TIES	150	Traurig
3. RUSSIA	L 150	Rafter
4. DIG THIS HOSS	L 136	Helders
5. ACROSS THE SKY	L 149	Mackenzie
6. NAVESINK VIEW	L 136	W. Haynes
7. IN PURSUIT OF LOVE	L 149	Slater
PU. CHARACTER WITNESS	137	Zimmerman

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 4:26 1/5.

O: High Hope Stable. T: Arch Kingsley.

Dk. B./Br. g. 8 Piccolino-Copper Colony, Pleasant

Colony. Bred by Stella Thayer (FL).

4th. \$30,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 1/2 miles.

NW \$15,000 twice in 2006-07 OTMCS

1. RIVER BED	L 148	Rafter
2. NIELLO	L 144	Dalton
3. KILBEGGAN LAD (IRE)	L 146	W. Haynes
4. ALGEZIR	139	Zimmerman
F. WATER HUNTER (GB)	L 148	Traurig
LR. FREE ADMISSION	L 140	Slater

Mgn: 10 1/2. Time: 4:51 2/5.

O: Move Up Stable. T: Kathy McKenna.

Dk. B./Br. g. 10 Gulch-Lake Placid (IRE), Royal Academy. Bred by Guy Snowden (KY).

News from the NSF



The National Steeplechase Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of American steeplechasing through programs that promote safety, education, fairness, and the spirit of amateurism.

SUPPORT YOUR NSF

Learning from the Masters II

In December 2006, the National Steeplechase Foundation sent National Steeplechase Association Safety Advisor and Starter, Barry Watson, to England for a six-day trip (organized by Steeplechase Times) designed to glean information on anything from safety standards, to jump design to course maintenance from the British way of jump racing and bring it home to use in the United States.

The group visited Taunton and Cheltenham Racecourses. Watson walked both courses with the respective officials, starters and Jockey Club representatives and spent time at the start during each racing day. In short, the trip proved valuable in many areas – course safety, course maintenance, starting procedures and – perhaps most importantly – the establishment of contacts with various English racing officials.

A summary of Watson's report to the foundation follows, and will appear in the next few Foundation advertising placements.

• • •

The tour of British racing included two days at Cheltenham Racecourse, for the Boylesport.com International meeting.

Cheltenham's vast layout consists of designated "old" and "new" courses, with several intersections to be negotiated along the way. Large directional signs are placed in any area that may cause confusion to the jockeys on any of the British racecourses. A rectangular yellow and black "H" designates the hurdle course, while a circular green and white "C" marks the direction of the chase course. These are standard for every course in Britain so the jockey knows exactly what he's to follow from day to day, course to course. Extensions of directional inside rail, along with fences that have been clearly marked as "out of play" help to simplify the jockey's job.

There is also a cross-country course on the infield that features an array of "weird and wonderful" obstacles, similar to that of the steeplethon courses at Middleburg and Great Meadow.

As expected, the commitment to the safety of horse and rider are of primary concern at any of Britain's tracks, and of course Cheltenham is no exception. Rigorous programs of maintenance and inspection help create a safer environment for racing.

Safety protocols discovered through experience, and tested by time have added to the equation that makes steeplechasing less dangerous to the horses and jockeys, not to mention protecting the interests of the owners as well.

A section entitled "When Horses and riders part company" was included in each of Cheltenham's racing programs, and reads:

Here at Cheltenham nothing matters more to us than the horses and riders that compete in the races that comprise our season. We do everything we can to ensure that we provide a racing surface of the highest quality and take every conceivable step to minimize the chances of horses incurring an injury whilst here. Regrettably as in any highly competitive sport there are occasions when something goes wrong and horse and rider part company. Here today three Veterinary Surgeons are deployed around the course to ensure that should any horse need help a Vet will be on the scene literally within seconds of something happening. Their first priority is to make a diagnosis of any injury that has been sustained. To help them do their jobs without distraction members of the Ground-staff team will erect green screens around any horse that needs attention. The same applies to injured riders who are treated by a panel of Doctors, Great Western Ambulance Service and St. John's Ambulance. As soon as the assessment of the injury is made, one of the three horse ambulances will be called to the scene and will transport the horse back to the stables or the Dragon Veterinary Centre on site where further treatment and assessment can be undertaken. Sometimes it may be that the nature of the injury is such that the horse will not be able to make a full recovery. If the diagnosis is made on the Course the Veterinary team may take the decision to put the horse down straight away. In these circumstances we should remember that the horse's welfare comes first and this option is the kindest for the horse.

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Hello Friend

New team Gillam, Bubble Economy work together for timber stakes win

BY JOE CLANCY

When trainer Jack Fisher called Diana Gillam about riding Bubble Economy this spring, the amateur jockey wasn't really sure who the horse was.

And maybe that's a good thing. Together for the first time, they started 2007 with a second at My Lady's Manor April 14 and backed that up with a win

GRAND NATIONAL

Saturday, April 21

in the \$35,000 Grand National timber stakes at Butler, Md., seven days later.

"Ignorance is bliss sometimes," she said. "I had no idea who he was. I'm not really in the circle. Besides riding for my dad (Maryland-based owner/trainer Jeremy) and knowing what happens on the day, I don't follow the racing results that much. I didn't have any idea what the horse had done."

He's done plenty, including winning the 2004 NSA timber championship, taking two stakes and – on the negative side – gaining some criticism from Fisher for not putting forth his best effort.

"He's got a lot of ability, a ton," said Fisher. "I wish he'd try a little bit harder."

Gillam has no problem with the effort from Arcadia Stable's colorbearer.

"I think he's a star and I think he tries his heart out," said Gillam. "He's pretty fantastic. He's a really cool horse, and I wouldn't have any qualms about riding him anywhere. I've got tons of confidence in him. I never get to ride horses like that."

At the Grand National, Bubble Economy rated comfortably in fourth behind early leader Classic Cal (Billy Meister) for much of the early going before taking the lead with about a half-mile to run. The 8-year-old fought off Ivorgorian (Todd McKenna) and Make Your Own (Charlie Fenwick) before drawing off to score by 3 1/2 lengths. Patriot's Path (Russell Haynes) finished third.

Gillam was impressed with her horse's jumping – and with the stout Butler course.

"He jumped really well the entire way around, other than he hit one really hard but we got blinded into it," she said. "It was a bit of a surprise to both of us how big those fences are. I had never ridden there so didn't know what I was getting myself into until I walked the course. It takes some jumping to get around there, and they go at a pretty good clip too."

Bubble Economy won his third timber stakes and pushed his seasonal earnings past \$20,000 for the fifth consecutive year. Combining hurdle and timber, he's won six steeplechases, finished second another 10 times and third four times, for a career bankroll of better than \$176,000.

Fisher still wonders what could be.

"Put it this way, after the Grand National he got back to the barn and was bucking," said Fisher. "He's done really well when you look at the whole thing, but he could have done more by now. He's having fun this spring – he gets along with Diana well and jumps well for her."

See *GRAND NATIONAL* page 18 ►



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Grand National —

■ Continued from page 16

Even if she didn't know who he was.

- Armata Stable's Coal Dust looked like a timber horse from the moment he stepped on a steeplechase course. Maybe sooner. After a brief flat career, he won two of his first three hurdle starts as a 3-year-old in 2002 but was derailed by soundness issues and shifted to timber with just one start each in 2005 and 2006.

His 2007 started quickly with a win in the \$15,000 allowance timber at the Grand National. Trained by Tom Voss, the 8-year-old took over in the stretch and turned back Private Attack (Billy Santoro) late to win by 2 1/2 lengths with Twill Do (Meister) third.

Blair Wyatt rode the winner, and liked the way he handled the course.

"He went really well and has come a long way," she said. "He's still fairly inexperienced over timber so I wanted to give him a good look at everything and he was great. If I had horse late, I was going to make a run and he really came on when I asked him."

Coal Dust earned a trip to the Maryland Hunt Cup, where he lost jockey Woods Winants at the 13th. Wyatt finished second there on Bug River, but would have ridden Coal Dust without the prior commitment.

"Absolutely, I would have ridden him if Bug River didn't go," she said. "I really like the horse. He'll be all right one day. He's only 8, so he's got time."

- Late in the 2006 season, jockey James Slater spoke of trainer Ann Stewart and her way with horses. Slater had just won the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup with Askim, but talked about a stable-mate.

"I went down there for a hunter pace and rode this horse, Incomplete," said Slater. "He was something else. She does a great job with her horses."

Bob Kinsley's Incomplete made his NSA debut in the high-weight amateur timber at the Grand National and won by 3 3/4 lengths for jockey Blake Curry. The 6-year-old stayed out of trouble early and ran away from Hot Springs (Desmond Fogarty) late to win by 3 3/4 lengths. In Kent's Memory (Santoro) was a well-beaten third.

"I don't even know if I hit him – there was a lot of ignition there and he has a tremendous turn of foot," said Curry. "He was keen at the start, but really good from there. He was all boxed in at the first, and he saw his own spot. I could feel underneath me that I had a lot of horse the whole way."



Doug Lees

Bubble Economy (9, Diana Gillam) leads Patriot's Path and The Bruce in the Grand National.



Doug Lees

Coal Dust (right, Blair Wyatt) flies a fence on the way to an allowance timber win.



Doug Lees

Incomplete (center, Blake Curry) shows the way late in the third at Butler.

Grand National Results

Saturday, April 21. Butler, Md. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$35,000. Timber stakes. 3 1/4 miles. The Grand National.

1. BUBBLE ECONOMY	..... L	165	Gillam
2. MAKE YOUR OWN	..... L	165	Fenwick III
3. PATRIOT'S PATH	..... L	165	R. Haynes
4. THE BRUCE (NZ)	..... L	172	Strawbridge
5. IVORGORIAN	..... L	165	McKenna
6. ZARATANIE (IRE)	..... L	165	Horner
PU. A FINE STORY (GB)	..... L	165	Stierhoff
PU. CLASSIC CAL	..... L	165	Meister
PU. BUG RIVER	..... L	165	Wyatt
PU. BOWMAN'S CROSSING	..... L	165	G. Winants

Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 6:07.

O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jack Fisher. B. g. 8 Rakeen-Buffels, Vaal Reef.
Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Gardner & Mr. and Mrs. Rick Abbott (PA).

2nd. \$15,000. Allowance timber. 3 1/4 miles. NW2. Amateur jockeys.

1. COAL DUST	..... L	162	Wyatt
2. PRIVATE ATTACK	..... L	162	Santoro
3. TWILL DO	..... L	162	Meister
4. LEAR CHARM	..... L	162	Curry
5. BESEENNOTHEARD	..... L	162	Stierhoff
6. TACLOBAN	..... L	162	Fogarty
LR. KING LEAR	..... L	170	Horner
OC. SHADY VALLEY	..... L	170	R. Haynes
OC. EARMARK	..... L	170	G. Winants

Mgn: 2 1/2. Time: 6:20. O: Armata Stable. T: Tom Voss.

B. g. 8 Miner's Mark-Minetonightsfirst, D'Accord. Bred by Dumbarton Farm (MD).

3rd. \$5,000. Allowance hwt. timber. 3 miles. NW \$9,000 once in 2006-07. Amateur jockeys.

1. INCOMPLETE	..... L	165	Curry
2. HOT SPRINGS	..... L	161	Fogarty
3. IN KENT'S MEMORY	..... L	175	Santoro
4. RIDERWOOD	..... L	165	Smithwick
5. LITTLE DEWEY KNOW	..... L	177	Griswold
6. TAKIN INVENTORY	..... L	160	E. Fenwick
7. CHINESE WHISPER	..... L	195	Whitner
8. INCASEYOURAMINER	..... L	161	Swope
F. SENOR MELCHOR	..... L	176	Strawbridge
F. THUNDERING HOME	..... L	165	Horner
LR. MICHELE MARIESCHI (GB)	..... L	164	Hundt
LR. ICE BULLET	..... L	166	Hambleton

Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 6:30 3/5. O: Robert Kinsley. T: Ann Stewart.

B. g. 6 Press Card-Sioux Lady, Poker. Bred by Hugo Procopion (MD).

The Bruce (NZ) wins Maryland Hunt Cup



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Saturday, April 26, 2008

Gliding Along

Brigadoon/Fout horse takes 2nd leg of Triple Crown in Gwathmey win

BY JOE CLANCY

MIDDLEBURG SPRING RACES

Saturday, April 21

MIDDLEBURG, Va. – The novice class of 2007 looked feisty before the season started. Now, the second-year hurdlers look even better.

Especially those in the barn of Doug Fout.

Brigadoon Stable's Gliding joined Orison as a winner in the Steeplechase Triple Crown, rallying through on the inside to take the second leg, the \$75,000 Temple Gwathmey. The New Zealand import finished third in Orison's Carolina Cup victory March 31, but settled for no such near-miss in the Grade II Gwathmey.



Gliding (Jeff Murphy) settled

well back in the field of eight early, moved to fifth across the sprawling Glenwood Park backstretch and sprinted toward the front after the second-last. Virtually even with Rare Bush (Xavier Aizpuru) at the last, Gliding cornered like a motorcycle and won the scrap to the finish by a half-length. Rare Bush settled for second, a repeat

of his Carolina Cup placing, and Best Attack (Chip Miller) took third. Orison bobbled badly at the first fence and was never in contention while finishing fifth. Gliding covered the 2 1/4 miles in 4:34 1/5, but needed considerably longer to be declared the official winner as two foul claims against Murphy were deliberated – and eventually disallowed – by the stewards. Jockey Danielle Hodsdon, who came off Sovereign Duty when he clipped heels with Langburg between the final two fences, and Cyril Murphy, who was aboard Langburg, claimed foul.

"They made us pay for that one, no doubt about that," said Fout after waiting 23 minutes for the decision.

Fout doesn't doubt much when it comes to Gliding, a 7-year-old gelding who made his American debut last fall.

"He has a huge turn of foot," said the trainer. "This is a nice horse and the best thing about him is he turns off and makes a run. That makes him easy to ride and makes him pretty dangerous too."



Tod Marks

Gliding (right, Jeff Murphy) and Rare Bush (Xavier Aizpuru) battle in the stretch of the Temple Gwathmey at Middleburg.

Gliding finished a game third in the Carolina Cup, despite not having a flat race (which Orison had) as a prep. Fout was forced to work from behind schedule when the equine herpes virus closed the Virginia border to horses this winter. Orison and some other Fout horses were already in South Carolina at the time, but Gliding had to stay home.

"We ended up losing a couple works with him and we had to train him off the farm to get to the Carolina Cup and that's really difficult," Fout said. "He needed a race before that. He ran a huge race, but I knew he was going to be short. He came into this race perfect."

Murphy, a 26-year-old transplanted Irishman, picked up his first American stakes win by following orders and simply letting his horse run.

"I had gears, you know?" he said. "That makes things a lot easier out there."

• As good as the Gwathmey was, Middleburg's \$25,000 allowance hurdle – also showcasing some top novices – looked just as good. The field of eight "two-other-than" hurdlers, which included several who would have fit in the Gwathmey, battled throughout the 2 1/8 miles.

Gryffindor (Miller) took the early lead and stayed there for more than a mile. The Next Man (Rob Massey) challenged first, then came Dark Equation (Matt McCarron) and then came Noblest (Aizpuru). Gryffindor out-

See **MIDDLEBURG** page 22 ►

Artist Juli Kirk



Beresfordgallery.com
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Tod Marks

Charlie Whiskey (Cyril Murphy) charges away from the field in his allowance hurdle victory.



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Middleburg —

■ Continued from page 20

jumped them all and led into the stretch – until Charlie Whiskey (Cyril Murphy) launched a bid.

Trained by Tom Voss, Charlie Whiskey charged past in the final stages and won by 3 1/2 lengths for Fox Ridge Farm after spending the majority of the race in seventh or eighth. Gryffindor, another Voss trainee, stuck around for second with Dark Equation third. The winner looked on the verge of big things in 2004, but settled for two seconds in 2005 and missed last season completely.

- With Jody Petty on the sidelines recovering from facial surgery, jockey Paddy Young took the controls on favorite Ghost Valley in the \$20,000 open timber – and promptly tweaked the horse's running style.

"There's only me to blame and I'll probably never ride him back anyway, so I tried something different on him and took him back a bit," said Young. "The first circuit I was really worried



Tod Marks

See MIDDLEBURG next page ► Ghost Valley (Paddy Young) sails over the last en route to a timber victory for trainer Sanna Hendriks.

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■ Continued from previous page

because he was too calm; he really shut off back there.”

Augustin Stable’s Ghost Valley settled well back in the field of five for a mile, moved to second with a circuit remaining and took over on the back. The 8-year-old dispatched pacesetter Salmo (Robbie Walsh) easily and won by 9 lengths. Te Akau Five (Massey) finished a distant third.

“I took a bit of a pull and he filled the bridle, then I took on Salmo earlier than I might have to put his jumping under pressure,” said Young. “I was delighted with how he went over the last two fences.”

• Trainer Alex White took the tack off her horse Irish Embassy, posed for a quick photo, picked up some prizes and then spoke about the past and longtime companion Mikey Smithwick.

“Mikey bred this horse so it means a lot to me,” she said. “I can’t tell you how much I miss him. It’s the first time I’ve been to the races at Middleburg without Mikey. He’d be happy right now because he loved this horse.”

A Hall of Fame trainer and steeplechase legend, Smithwick died last year at 77. He left behind a few horses like Irish Embassy, a 6-year-old son of Trempolino, and White to care for them. She’s doing OK so far. Irish Embassy (Miller) ignored runaway early leader Honolua Storm (Aizpuru), took the lead at the last fence and broke his maiden by 6 1/2 lengths. Fershaw (McCarron) finished second with Big Boo (Young) third.

Owned by L’Escargot, a partnership of Laura Pickett and Lelee McCaffrey, Irish Embassy finished second in his only NSA start last year at Montpelier.

“He’s a little nervous but Chip said he felt this wasn’t his best race – he thinks he’ll get better,” said White. “He’s a nice horse and he ran well last year on the flat.”

• Jeff Murphy made his day a double when Irv Naylor’s Bon Fleur took the finale around the varied Alfred Hunt course. Trained by Joe Davies, Bon Fleur thrived at the jumping and turning and shucked a bid from Northern Thinking (Walsh) in the final stages.



Tod Marks

Irish Embassy (Chip Miller) floats to the finish with an easy maiden hurdle win for trainer Alex White.

“He was great – just jumped for fun,” said Murphy. “I’d like to ride him over chase fences at home (in Ireland).”

Bon Fleur briefly gave up the lead to Northern Thinking, then battled back to win by a half-length. Hidden Key (McCarron) stayed for third.

• Eldon Farm’s Shining Jack (McCarron) waited until the last five seconds or so to make an impact on the \$20,000 maiden claiming hurdle, cutting to the inside to pass a tiring Sheriff Dillon in the stretch and win by 1 1/4 lengths for Fout.

“For 90 percent of the race I was going backward,” said McCarron. “It wasn’t until I started slapping him on the shoulder midway down the back that he started actually doing anything. He was perfectly happy to be a foxhunter back there.”

The race was wildly fast early as I’m Telling (Nick Carter) blazed away on the front before tiring. Sheriff Dillon

(Miller) and Legend’s Silver (Young) easily swarmed past I’m Telling (who went from first to eighth in one call on the Equibase chart), with Sheriff Dillon leaving the last fence seemingly in command. Until he too tired and Shining Jack churned into contention and right past.

“He just started picking off horses and getting confident,” said McCarron. “Chip was looking around. When he finally saw me coming he started riding again, but his horse looked pretty tired. Chip didn’t get to shut the door on me. If I have to go around him I probably get beat.”

Middleburg Results

Saturday, April 21. Middleburg, Va. Turf: Firm.			4th. \$25,000. Allowance hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. NW1X or NW2		
1st. \$25,000. SOK mdn. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.			1. CHARLIE WHISKEY	L 144	C. Murphy
1. IRISH EMBASSY	L 154	C. Miller	2. GRYFFINDOR	L 152	C. Miller
2. FERSHAW	L 144	McCarron	3. DARK EQUATION	L 148	McCarron
3. BIG BOO BOO	L 144	Young	4. NOBLEST	L 144	Aizpuru
4. NEVER FEAR	L 144	Walsh	5. THE NEXT MAN (IRE)	L 144	Massey
5. HOT SKY	L 154	C. Murphy	6. ARUSO (NZ)	L 148	Young
6. PREP SCHOOL	L 154	Hodsdon	7. LETSPULLTHETRIGGER (FR)	L 140	J. Murphy
7. HONOLUA STORM	L 154	Aizpuru	PU. SERMON OF LOVE	L 142	Hodsdon
8. POSTNUPTIAL	L 154	McCormack	Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:02 1/5.		
PU. RED LETTER DAY	L 144	Massey	O: Fox Ridge Farm. T: Tom Voss.		
Mgn: 6 1/2. Time: 4:11 2/5.			Dk. B./Br. g. 7 Cryptoclearance-Flying Minister,		
O: L’Escargot. T: Alex White.			Deputy Minister. Bred by Fox Ridge Farm (KY).		
B. g. 6 Tamayaz-North of Hope, Moment of Hope.					
Bred by Mikey Smithwick (MD).					
2nd. \$20,000. Open timber. 3 1/4 miles.			5th. \$20,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. \$30,000-\$25,000 clm. price		
1. GHOST VALLEY	L 160	Young	1. SHINING JACK (GB)	L 156	McCarron
2. SALMO	L 165	Walsh	2. SHERIFF DILLON	L 151	C. Miller
3. TE AKAU FIVE (NZ)	L 160	Massey	3. ED’S EMPIRE	L 138	C. Murphy
F. ALISON’S TRICK	L 145	J. Murphy	4. LEGEND’S SILVER	L 148	Young
PU. STRAIGHT GIN	L 160	C. Miller	5. FIRE ISLAND JET	L 146	Walsh
Mgn: 9. Time: 6:50 2/5.			6. GENTLY NOW	L 138	Aizpuru
O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks.			7. OLD FELLOW (ARG)	L 156	McCormack
Gr./Ro. g. 8 Valley Crossing-Golden Madam, Shel-			8. I’M TELLING	L 151	Carter
ter Half.			LR. DESERT VIGIL	L 142	Dowling
Bred by Bonita Farm & Joe Cornacchia (MD).			PU. SUSSEX COUNTY	L 151	J. Murphy
			PU. WILD PAL	L 156	Massey
			Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 4:10 2/5.		
3rd. \$75,000. Nov. hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles.			O: Eldon Farm. T: Doug Fout.		
The Temple Gwathmey (Grade II – Novice)			Ch. g. 9 Old Vic (GB)-Always Shining (IRE), Tug		
1. GLIDING (NZ)	L 151	J. Murphy	of War. Bred by Mrs. J.S. Chugg (GB).		
2. RARE BUSH	L 151	Aizpuru			
3. BEST ATTACK	L 151	C. Miller	6th. \$20,000. Allow. timber. 2 5/8 miles. Varied course.		
4. DYNAWAY	L 148	Dowling	1. BON FLEUR	L 155	J. Murphy
5. ORISON	L 154	McCarron	2. NORTHERN THINKING	L 160	Walsh
6. BUNT	L 148	Massey	3. HIDDEN KEY	L 160	McCarron
7. LANGBURG	L 151	C. Murphy	4. BIG IS BEST (NZ)	L 160	Young
LR. SOVEREIGN DUTY	L 151	Hodsdon	Mgn: 1/2. Time: 5:10 1/5.		
Mgn: 1/2. Time: 4:34 1/5.			O: Irv Naylor. T: Joe Davies.		
O: Brigadoon Stable. T: Doug Fout.			B. g. 7 Bon Point (GB)-Forgetmenot, Bering (GB).		
B. g. 7 Lord Ballina (AUS)-Purring (AUS), Gold			Bred by Marablue Farm (FL).		
Carat. Bred by J.N. Wallace (NZ).					

NSA SPRING RACE SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 5..... Virginia Gold Cup Races
P.O. Box 840, Warrenton, VA 20188 • (540) 347-2612 www.vagoldcup.com

Sunday, May 6..... Winterthur Steeplechase
Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE 19735 • (800) 448-3883 www.winterthur.org

Saturday, May 12 Iroquois Steeplechase
360 Vaughn Road, Nashville, TN 37221 • (615) 742-8691 www.iroquoissteeplechase.org

Sunday, May 13 Willowdale Steeplechase
101 East Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348 • (610) 444-1582 www.willowdale.org

Saturday, May 19 Radnor Hunt Races
P.O. Box 141, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 • (610) 388-8324. www.radnorhuntraces.org

Sunday, May 20 High Hope Races
4089 Ironworks Pike, Lexington, KY 40511 • (859) 967-9444 www.highhopesteeplechase.com

Saturday, May 26 Fair Hill Races
P.O. Box 2334, Elkton, MD 21922 • (410) 620-3709 www.fairhillraces.org

See www.nationalsteeplechase.com for updates and summer schedule. For point-to-point schedules: see www.vasteeplechase.com, www.marylandsteeplechasing.com and www.dvapt.com

Walsh recovering from several injuries

Jockey hurt in fall at point-to-point

Jockey Robbie Walsh exited a fall April 22 at the Plumstead Point-to-Point in Unionville, Pa., with multiple broken bones and will miss significant action. The jockey was riding Looking Best when the horse tried to stop and run out at the first fence in the novice timber. Another runner collided with Looking Best, sending Walsh and the horse to the ground.

"He went to duck out at the first and ran across," said Walsh. "The other horse tried to jump me and my horse and flipped over the fence. Basically, his shoulder and withers came down on my head."

The injury list includes a fractured cheekbone and jawbone on the left side of Walsh's face, a broken right shoulder blade, a broken rib and two fractured vertebrae. He remained conscious throughout and did not sustain a concussion.

"He was very lucky considering the fall," said Walsh's wife, Carmel. "There are a lot of things wrong, but everything will heal. He's going to be OK."

Walsh paid credit to the new Charles Owen helmet he wore for minimizing the injuries.

"I'm a testament that those things work," he said. "Anywhere the helmet was there's minimal damage – that helmet did save me and it's good to know though I would have rather not found out."

Surgeons inserted three plates in Walsh's face (just below his left eye and on either side of his nose) and he expected to have his jaw unwired soon. The shoulder and back injuries will heal in time, though he will need to do some therapy on the shoulder. The 31-year-old hopes to be back riding races this summer.

Walsh, an exercise rider at Fair Hill Training Center when he's not riding jump races, will miss significant time at work. A fund-raiser has been organized

to help with living expenses for the family, which includes 1 1/2-year-old Kevin. The event will take place at the Wilfordale Races Sunday, May 13 (see the advertisement on page 14 of this edition of The Times for more.)

"The support we've gotten is unbelievable," said Walsh. "It's been tremendous and it's come from people I didn't even know – overwhelming really and very humbling."

Horner on mend

Jockey Ellen Horner was seriously injured in a fall at the Grand National April 28 and spent time at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland with a head injury. She has since improved and been transferred to Kernan Hospital in Baltimore for rehabilitation and therapy, and could be released soon according to her sister Hillis Whedbee.

Horner and Thundering Home fell in the third race at the Grand National, an amateur-highweight-timber event, when Senor Melchor (Stewart Strawbridge) fell in front of them at the fourth fence. Horner was transported by helicopter to Shock Trauma, where she spent several days in intensive care.

The fall occurred at a portable fence on the Butler, Md., race course, but after extensive video review officials ruled that the fence's malfunction did not cause either fall.

"Senor Melchor hooked the fence and knocked it over, and her fall had nothing to do with the fence falling," said Bill Gallo, NSA's director of racing. "She cleared the fence and fell over the fallen horse. Senor Melchor didn't fall because the fence tipped over either, he fell because he hit the fence so hard, and would have fallen at a permanent fence."

The NSA's stewards advisory committee created a group to study the use of portable timber fences chaired by safety director Barry Watson.

NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH MAY 4

Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Matt McCarron	29	7	7	3	\$151,210	.24
Paddy Young	21	6	5	2	98,124	.29
Xavier Aizpuru	21	4	2	1	114,212	.19
Carl Rafter	18	4	0	7	62,500	.22
Danielle Hodsdon	20	3	4	3	183,400	.15
Chip Miller	17	3	4	2	84,075	.18
Jeff Murphy	11	3	3	0	78,000	.27
Jody Petty	15	3	2	4	64,800	.20
James Slater	14	2	2	1	25,800	.14
Michael Taurig	14	2	1	4	35,550	.14

Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Doug Fout	33	7	6	5	\$195,435	.21
Sanna Hendriks	19	7	1	2	119,300	.37
Jack Fisher	31	5	7	3	184,455	.16
Jonathan Sheppard	32	5	5	4	206,650	.16
Kathy McKenna	21	4	1	5	62,350	.19
Paul Rowland	19	4	1	0	55,450	.21
Arch Kingsley	18	3	3	3	71,006	.17
Neil Morris	12	2	3	1	36,000	.17
Tom Voss	16	2	2	2	48,750	.13
Ricky Hendriks	12	2	0	2	26,600	.17

Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Bill Pape	5	1	2	0	\$104,475	.20
Brigadoon Stable	11	2	3	3	77,325	.18
High Hope Stable	13	3	2	2	65,656	.23
Hudson River Farm	4	2	0	1	59,625	.50
EMO Stable	7	2	0	0	57,900	.29
Ann Stern	4	2	0	1	56,412	.50
Augustin Stable	13	5	0	1	55,250	.38
Stewart Strawbridge	2	1	0	0	46,750	.50
Arcadia Stable	6	2	1	0	38,400	.33
Kinross Farm	12	2	3	1	36,000	.17

Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Mixed Up	1	1	0	0	\$95,475	1.00
Gliding (NZ)	2	1	0	1	50,625	.50
Orison	2	1	0	0	48,000	.50
The Bruce (NZ)	2	1	0	0	46,750	.50
Seafaring Man	1	1	0	0	45,000	1.00
Paradise's Boss	2	1	0	1	39,912	.50
River Bed	3	2	0	1	34,000	.67
Riddle	3	1	0	0	31,956	.33
Hip Hop	2	2	0	0	30,000	1.00
Good Night Shirt	1	0	1	0	28,643	.00



Terrie Hanback

OBITUARY

Theresa "Terrie" S. Hanback, 59, of Warrenton, Va., died May 3 at Fauquier Hospital after a year long fight with cancer.

Terrie Hanback spent a lifetime immersed in the horse community and served in almost every capacity as a race official. Highlights of her extensive service include posts as the executive secretary to the Virginia Gold Cup from 1981-89 and in later years as the secretary of the Virginia Fall Races at Glenwood Park in Middleburg; the Piedmont Point-to-Point races at Great Meadow; and Piedmont Hunt in Upperville, Va.

She was also an active member of the Virginia Steeplechase Association; former member of the National Steeplechase Association and has also lent her talents to the Great Meadow Polo Club.

She is credited with being the first female starter of a sanctioned steeplechase race; carrying on a legacy started by her father Rob Palmer.

Hanback's accolades include two of Virginia steeplechasing's highest honors – she received the Master's Prize given by the Vir-

ginia Point-to-Point Association in 1996 and the Francis Thornton Green Award from the Virginia Steeplechase Association in 2006. Both awards are given to extraordinary volunteers in recognition of their service to the sport.

A lifelong resident of Fauquier County, she was known for her love of animals and a mischievous fox-like spirit that was legendary amongst those who knew her.

Hanback is survived by her husband of over 30 years, Elmer "Cotton" Hanback of Warrenton; her sons Charles "Chap" Shepherd and Tucker Hanback of Warrenton; her daughter Melissa "Missy" Pawlak of Gainesville; two grandsons Max and Aiden; her brother Kevin Palmer of Aldie and an extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. May 10 at the Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton, Va., followed by a reception at Molly's Irish Pub in Warrenton.

Donations in lieu of flowers are requested and may be made to the Equine Rescue League, P.O. Box 4366, Leesburg, VA 20177.



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Eventing 101

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Q: What is the history of eventing?

A (from the Rolex Kentucky Internet site): In Germany, the sport is still called the "Militaire," under which name it was first introduced at the Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1912. The tests of were patterned after the training and testing of military chargers – precision, elegance, and obedience on the parade ground; stamina, versatility and courage on marches and in battle; cross-country jumping ability and endurance in traveling great distances over difficult terrain and formidable obstacles in the relaying of important dispatches; and jumping ability in the arena to prove the horse's fitness to remain in service. Spread over consecutive days, it was a complete test for the Army horse, and in fact only Army officers on active duty were allowed to compete in the first Olympic Three-Day Event, and they had to be mounted on military chargers.

STEEPLECHASE 'Pick Six'

THE HOFFBERGER INSURANCE GROUP FANTASY STABLE GAME

Top 10 stirred, not shaken

Mixed Up was the straw that stirred the drink in the Pick Six.

Thanks to Mixed Up's Royal Chase score at Keeneland – worth almost \$100,000 – and a few grand apiece from Orison and Northern Gale, Winfield Sapp soared from 14th to first, ending the month on top. For taking the April honors, Sapp receives a \$50 gift certificate, good at the ST Publishing store or with any of our advertisers.

Mixed Up was a staple in the Top 10, and was in fact a part of the top 11 contestants. Van Cushny, sitting 12th, was the highest entry not to include Bill Pape's gelding. Cushny made his move onto the leaderboard thanks to the shrewd selection of The Bruce, whose Maryland Hunt Cup score brought in \$45,000.

Meanwhile, Pam Hodsdon, mother of Mixed Up's jockey Danielle, parlayed her daughter's success into the sixth spot.

It was a family affair elsewhere in the Top 10.

It's been awhile since New York City was a steeplechasing hotspot, but one apartment on the Upper East Side is changing that. The precocious Robert Wasserman, not yet a year old, is in fourth place while Pops Wasserman chimes in seventh.

Whither the photogs? ST shutterbugs Tod Marks and Sarah Greenhalgh, 1-2 in the standings when last we looked, fell to 16th and 18th respectively.

The top 40 stables (through May 4) appear below. See www.st-publishing.com for complete standings.



Tod Marks

Bon Fleur picked up \$12,000 at Middleburg, but nobody picked him up.

Holly	Winfield Sapp
Mixed Up	\$95,475
Orison	\$48,000
Imagina	\$12,000
Irish Prince	\$12,000
Northern Gale	\$7,600
McDynamo	\$0
.....	\$175,075

MVP Stable	Ernie Moulos
Mixed Up	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss	\$39,912
Pukka	\$15,000
Imagina	\$12,000
Irish Prince	\$12,000
McDynamo	\$0
.....	\$174,387

Singapore Lions	Bill Hutchinson
Mixed Up	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss	\$39,912
Pukka	\$15,000
Imagina	\$12,000
McDynamo	\$0
Miles Ahead	\$0
.....	\$162,387

Little Farm	Robert Wasserman
Mixed Up	\$95,475
Paradise's Boss	\$39,912
Diego Cao	\$13,500
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Big turnout keeps Fair Hill hopping

With Rolex Kentucky attracting most of the attention, the United States eventing scene looked decidedly one-sided during April.

But the Kentucky Horse Park wasn't the only activity.

Fair Hill, Md. played host to 255 horses as part of the Fair Hill International Horse Trials April 20-22. The event included a CIC two-star competition, a CIC one-star and several other divisions within advanced, intermediate, preliminary, young riders, amateurs and training levels.

Organizers were thrilled with the turnout, especially after dropping a day due to insufficient entries.

"It's back to what it used to be, which is good news for everyone," said Trish Gilbert of Fair Hill International. "Last year a lot of horses stayed south. We added the CICs but we also added the training level. It was great."

Fair Hill does it again May 19 and 20, with 300 more horses coming in to compete.

Based in nearby Pennsylvania, Phillip Dutton won the two-star at Fair Hill with Felix. Dutton opened with a 54 in dressage and stayed there with clean cross-country and show-jumping rounds. Third after the first day, Felix moved to the top as the only horse to go through cross country without a penalty and was one of several to go clean in show jumping.

Magic Carpet (Vanessa Fenwick) took second with

a 66.4 by advancing from 11th after dressage. Law And Order (Darrah Alexander) finished third with a 68.4.

- In the CIC one-star division, Smokin' One prevailed for Kerry Torrey. They led throughout after putting up a 45 in dressage. Smokin' One picked up a slim cross-country time penalty and finished up with a clean show-jumping round and a final score of 46.6. Nestor (Jordynn Sahagian) finished second at 48.9 with Pacific Storm (Nina Ligon) third at 53.6.

Harbison, Tryon win at Ocala

Florida's eventing schedule stayed busy as well with nearly 100 competing in the Florida CCI** and CCI* events in Ocala April 19-22.

Ruthie Harbison rode Dun And Dusty to victory in the one-star, getting home with a final score of 48.9. Roselina (Liz Zerkus) finished second at 52.1 and Magic Drummer (Robin Bass) placed third at 52.4.

- A stellar cast turned out for the two star as Coal Creek (Amy Tryon) recorded a narrow victory over two horses ridden by Karen O'Connor, Mandiba and Hugh Knows.

Coal Creek started quickly with a 41.3 dressage score, and led a pack of five horses at the top who finished on their dressage scores. Mandiba scored a 42.2

and Hugh Knows checked in at 43.7. The top three finished the first round in that order, and stayed that way through cross country and show jumping.

Ballynoecastle RM (Buck Davidson) finished fourth at 51.60, after exiting dressage in a tie for 11th. Rehy Lux (Ann Glaus) turned in a 53.1 in dressage, good for 15th, but rolled through the final two rounds to place fifth.

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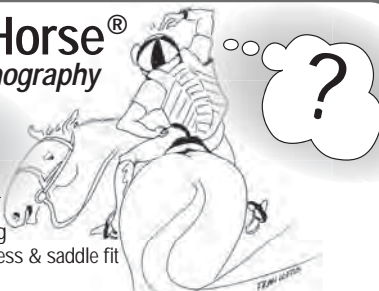
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Riding High into the Sunset

Veteran Ian Stark retires in style

BY SEAN CLANCY

It's just a feeling that creeps into you – part doubt, part dread, part resignation – that changes everything. The desire to prepare wanes, the excitement of competition fades and father time wins. If you're still riding, you don't know the feeling; if you've retired and you're secure with the decision, you know the feeling.

Ian Stark knows.

The four-time Olympic silver medalist and three-time Badminton champion retired after finishing 11th aboard Full Circle at Rolex. The 53-year-old



Scotsman, representing Britain, reveled in clear rounds (a few time faults couldn't spoil this) over the cross-country and show-

jumping courses, departing to a raucous send-off from the Rolex spectators, who knew they had seen the last of something great.

"I couldn't have had a better send-off, when I went around the arena and everybody stood up, I was glad I was cantering because the tears were streaming," Stark said. "I've had a great career and I want to stop when I'm still thriving on it. It's a difficult decision. Is there ever a right time?"

Stark won his first Olympic medal at Los Angeles in 1984 as part of the silver-medal team from Great Britain. Four years later in Seoul, Stark pulled an impressive double, taking home silver in eventing and show jumping. At Sydney in 2000 – his fifth and final Olympics – Stark took another silver medal.

"I'm still enjoying it and I still feel

as though I'm sharp enough to ride a four-star, but the time is going to come when I'm not sharp enough and I want to stop while I'm still OK," Stark said, as he walked out of the ringside party Sunday evening. "What I don't want to do is go out being a complete dipstick and a has-been."

No chance.

Stark displayed his natural horsemanship as he guided the talented but inexperienced Full Circle through three days of competition. If you want to paint an old British hunt scene, you'd start with Stark's deep seat, long hold and natural touch melting a big gray horse (Murphy Himself, perhaps) over a stout hedge. Rolex celebrated Stark's career with a tribute before the show jumping. That's when it hit Stark.

"I suddenly thought, 'Crikey, I'm not going to be doing this again.' It was a bit of a shock to the system, but I'm 53, it's time to stop," Stark said. "You must walk away when you're riding well. I've seen so many of my old friends go on beyond their time; they finished on eliminations and falls and I didn't want that. I knew this horse was a good one, I knew Friday afternoon he wouldn't cope with the atmosphere of the dressage but I knew he could jump. It was the right time."

Stark had to convince the owners of Full Circle that it was, indeed, the right time.

"I said to the owners, I'd like to go to Kentucky with the horse and they said, 'That's fine, we can't come, but you go,'" Stark said. "I said, 'You don't understand, I want to retire on the ride.' They said, 'We're coming.'"

Full Circle finished dressage with a 71.9 for 40th place. By the time Sunday was over, experience and cageyness proved their worth, as Stark jumped 29 places to finish 11th.

Stark won't be looking for a rocking chair. He'll continue to buy and train eventing and point-to-point prospects, teach students, conduct clinics, design cross-country fences, serve as the local steward for the Jockey Club and fly planes and helicopters.

Stark rode Sir Wattie to his first two Badminton titles 1986 and 1988. Stark finished second in 1988 as well (aboard Glenburnie), and he considers that one-two punch his greatest achievement.

"There's been a lot of moments, but finishing first and second at Badminton – it was never done before and hasn't been done since," Stark said. "To know that you've won before you've went in on the final horse is quite a feeling, there's no pressure, just get out and do it and as a kid, I always wanted to ride at Badminton. That was very special."

Of all the horses and achievements, Stark will forever be remembered as the cool and quiet rider bouncing two strides on the great white blur, Murphy Himself.

"He lived on the verge of genius and complete madman," Stark said. "When I first took over the ride on him, I interfered with him at a sunken road – we crashed into it and both fell. I learned



Shannon Brinkman

Ian Stark and Full Circle jog up at Rolex Kentucky 2007. It was the Scotsman's final competition in a career that has included three victories at Badminton.

then, you present him at the fence and it's his problem, I had to go with whatever stride he decided. At Badminton, it was four strides in between two hedges and ditches and he did it in two, and it

felt normal. He taught me a hell of a lot but he was a young man's ride. He was wonderful, I loved him but I wouldn't want to go back."

A perfect sentiment on this day.



Shannon Brinkman

Stark and Full Circle in the dressage ring.

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Time to be a horse trainer

BY GEORGE BAKER

Editor's Note: English horseman George Baker, a regular at the Iroquois Steeplechase among other race courses throughout the world, writes about his decision to become a trainer. His activities will be chronicled through ST's Internet site www.st-publishing.com. This is installment one.

Thursday, March 15. The Cheltenham Festival. The most gorgeous racecourse in the world. The Field of Dreams.

Ever since I was knee high to a book-maker, I have dreamt of leading a horse into that hallowed winner's enclosure. In fact, being the trainer of a horse good enough to canter down to the start with half a chance would be enough.

I will remember that Thursday for the rest of my life. A very fine lunch with friends in the Turf Club tent; the lobster perfect (if obscenely overpriced), the Chablis chilled to perfection.

And then the conversation that will change everything forever. In the owners-and-trainers tent, a happy chat develops into a serious discussion.

"Why don't you and Candida train? You would be brilliant. We will support you. Come on! Follow your dream."

As the wine and beer flowed long into the night, we sat around an old oak dining table in a 15th-century Cotswolds

pub hatching a plan. Five weeks later – and the plan has gone into overdrive. I have tipped the rock over the edge of the hillside, and it is fast gathering momentum. I cannot stop now. We are in too deep. The decision has been made. We WILL train racehorses.

And I would not change one thing. I am insanely excited. I am terrified. I know there will be a whole heap of mis-

ery and worry along the way. There will be a hundred depressing days for every day of glory. But what fun we will have. What a journey it promises to be . . .

Let me fill in a few of the gaps. I am 41 years old, married to Candida, who is the best fun girl at every party. We have a 5 year-old boy called Barney who laughs at all of my jokes and smiles a lot, and Tallulah, a feisty 2-year-old who, just right now, thinks her dad is pretty cool to hang out with.

Once upon a time, in a sensible life, I worked as a stockbroker in the City of London. In fact, I worked for the oldest merchant bank in the world, Barings. A job for life. Silly o'clock out of bed every morning to shout down telephones at people I did not know, and always imagined I would not like. And then Nick Leeson made his famous slip with his calculator in Singapore, and Barings crumbled into the city dust.

G. Baker is no longer tied to a City desk. After two years in Vietnam chasing a fortune which I never found, I came back to England to follow the dream.

A meeting with Banbury trainer Paul Webber. Paul is looking for an assistant trainer. I said I would keep my eyes open. Drove up his drive three days later to tell him I had found the man for the job. He was marginally surprised when I said that it was me!

Four happy seasons together, some big winners, the small ones equally sweet. A wet and windy winner's enclosure on a Monday at Carlisle as alluring as Ascot under a summer sun.

And then last spring the chance to write for a newspaper. The Sportsman is launched as a direct opponent to the industry's trade paper, The Racing Post.

For me, an entree to the press rooms of the land. Paid to go racing every day. Paid to write about whatever or whoever I choose. Am I the boy who landed on his feet or what?

But the numbers are not adding up. Perhaps a swanky Thameside office and 150 staffers on Day One was not the greatest call. Big boardrooms, plasma TVs everywhere, walnut desks . . . the

money went, frustratingly just as the paper was burrowing its way into the psyche of punters up and down the land.

It was a Wednesday evening, I had just interviewed Aussie jockey Kerrin McEvoy, making my way out of Lingfield Racecourse feeling pretty pleased with the article I had just sent through – and then the call came to say that the next day's paper would not hit the newsstands. The Sportsman was no more.

A call from Paul Webber, bless him, and I am back to Cropredy Lawn as his assistant. A bit "Groundhog Day," but at least the alarm clock goes off for a reason in the morning.

But I cannot be an assistant forever. The thought of plowing my own furrow has niggled away at me all winter. That Cheltenham chat tipped me over the edge . . .

So here I am.

This summer will see me back at school. Three one-week courses at the British Racing School in Newmarket. Many criteria to be met before the Licensing Committee will even look at me.

A yard would be good. Some horses, I guess, quite crucial.

We have set our heart on a yard in Northamptonshire. A dangerous thing to do and we must be prepared to be disappointed. It comes on the market next week.

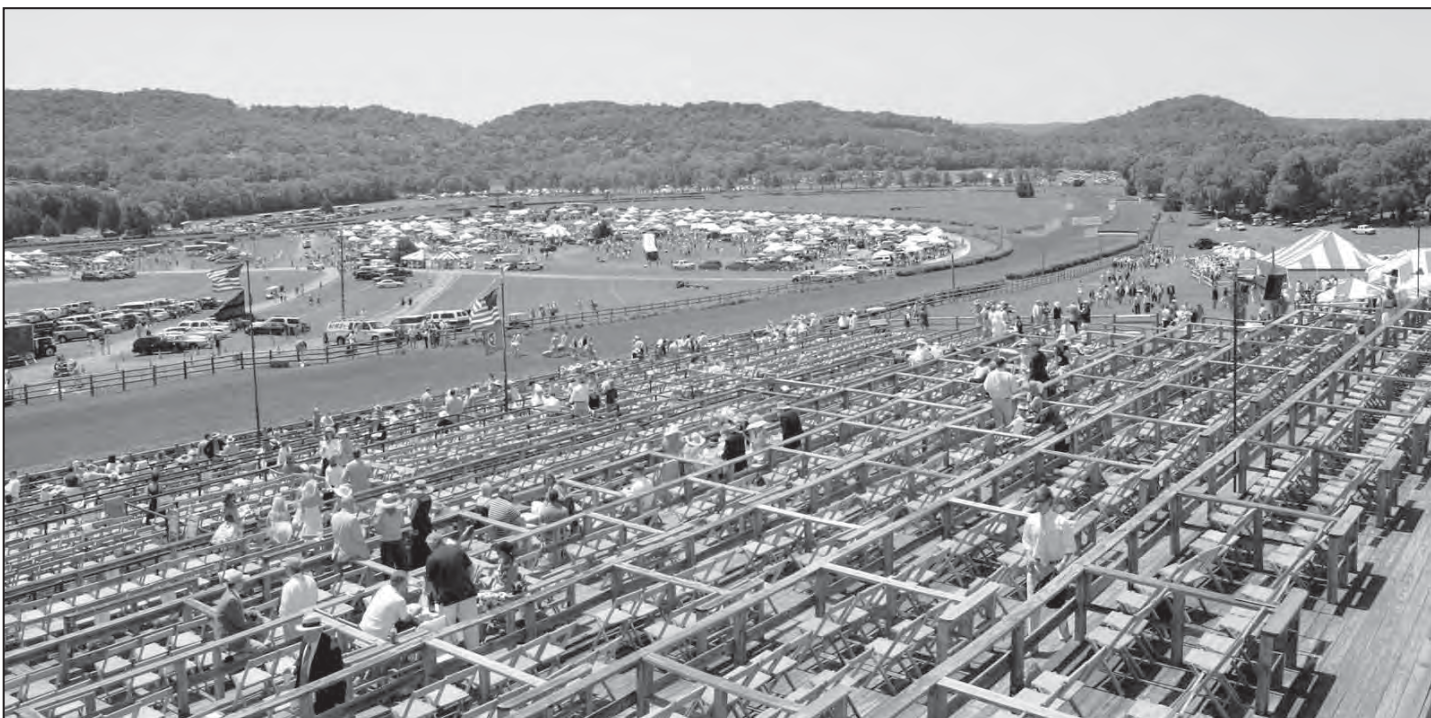
Many have said they will support us with horses. Converting a promise into reality is a different matter. People with mortgages and kids have priorities ahead of buying racehorses for the Bakers.

But we will give it one hell of a crack.

And I hope you might enjoy following our progress in the weeks and months ahead. I am lucky to have the chance to live my dream. I am sure there will be many nightmares before we have our first runner – let alone winner.

But at least we will not fail for want of trying. Wish us luck. We will need it.

P.S.: We will be at the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville. My wife will be the one in the pink Stetson. See you there.



Tod Marks



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Jul - Sept	SARATOGA OPEN HOUSE, Saratoga Springs, NY



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COME SEE US AT FAIR HILL on May 26, 2007



Optimal Cartilage Development

Lateral Trochlear Ridge OCD in Stifle, Weanling ('06)



10/27/06

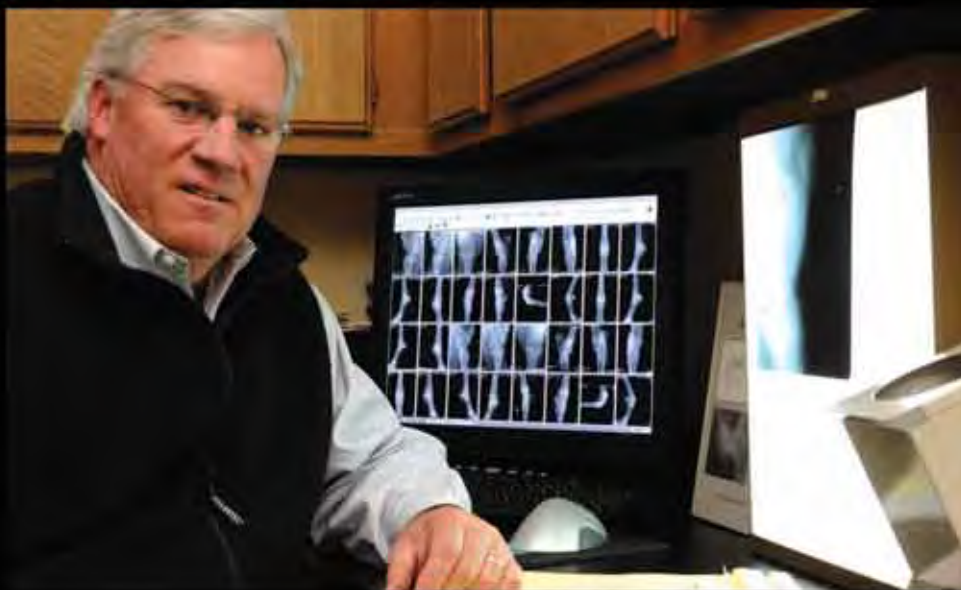
Kodak Film Radiograph



1/24/07

Digital Radiograph

After just 90 days on OCD™ Pellets



Doug Preather

"I have reviewed a lot of OCD cases on x-rays. This case was severe. Based on past experience, I advised that this weanling would probably need surgery with the ancillary treatments, and would not be salable at the time. When this weanling was re-radiographed 2 1/2 months later, I was amazed at the amount of healing. I consulted with my client that surgery would not be needed. I then discovered that she had been feeding OCD™ Pellets during this timeframe. I am now recommending this product for other patients."

— Charles L. Kidder, DVM, Lexington, KY

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