A photograph of a jockey riding a brown horse during a race. The jockey is wearing a red and black checkered silks, a black helmet, and sunglasses. The horse is wearing a yellow saddle cloth with the number 4. Other horses and jockeys are visible in the background, including one with a yellow and green saddle cloth (number 2) and another with a red saddle cloth (number 3).

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*Michael Mitchell
adds an NSA riding crown
to his impressive resume'*

Photo by Chelsea Durand/NYRA

2020 CAROLINA CUP EDITION

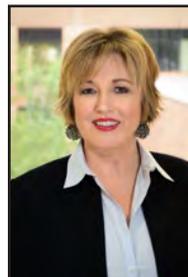
KershawHealth partners with MUSC Health to provide Tele-ICU Services



As part of the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance, Tele-ICU services are now available at KershawHealth through our affiliation with MUSC Health. Along with your local doctors and healthcare providers, the MUSC Health Tele-ICU Operations Center is delivering 24/7, continuous patient monitoring of our hospital ICU patients by MUSC Health and Advanced ICU Care intensivists and nursing staff.

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Above: Dee W. Ford, MD, MUSC Critical Care Outreach Program Medical Director, at the Operations Center in Charleston.



"Tele-ICU is part of our commitment to continually innovate and improve services for our patients and our community. The addition of constant telemonitoring by intensivist physicians, coupled with the quality care already provided by our outstanding ICU team, means our patients will receive the highest level of medical care available today."

Sue Shugart, Chief Executive Officer, KershawHealth

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FEATURES



6 Do the right thing

26 A full Cup

42 Camden Film week put horses in the spotlight

56 Silent Springdale

From the Publisher:

Downtown Horse Stables

Sometimes we Camdenites take for granted just how beautiful our downtown historic district is... sometimes it seems as if those who live elsewhere appreciate the specialness of what we have here more than we do, ourselves. But, that is probably just human nature.



Mike Mischner

Strolling or driving through the tree-lined neighborhoods of our small city, we are surrounded with as unique and lovely *Camden Media Co.* architecture as a person can find anywhere. Many homes date to the early 1800's and have been lovingly restored over the years by those families lucky enough to live in them.

We are also blessed with abundant downtown parks that have been enjoyed by Camden families for generations.

However, one overlooked architectural feature of many of our downtown homes are backyard horse stables which are unique to Camden and other horsey towns like ours. Back in the day many downtown residents owned horses and kept them at their homes...for both transportation as well as recreation.

As time went on, downtown residents who owned horses dwindled. However, many of their stables remained on the property. Many of these still exist and have been repurposed...some as guest cottages, garages, storage sheds or even garden rooms.



So, next time you are in the downtown historic district the small outbuilding you see on someone's property might not be what it seems but rather a structure of Camden's bygone era...a backyard horse stable.

mike mischner



**The Camden Horse™
& Equestrian**
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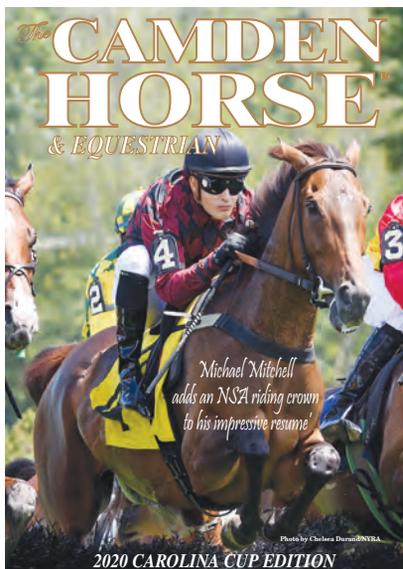
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From the Editor Where have all the horses gone?

It used to be that Camden was top-heavy with horses whose owners and trainers sent them south to freshen up over the winter months before returning to training for the spring and summer racing season.

If you listen to those who were here in the 1950, '60s and '70s, they will tell you stories of when the "big barns" sent their top runners and jumpers to Camden when the temperature dropped and the snow fell up north. Those were the days when winter racing on the East Coast was all but non-existent.

Trainers such as Hall of Fame conditioners Frank Y. Whiteley Jr. and Sidney Watters, among others, set up shop at the Camden Training Center located off Chesnut Street in Camden. Those fabled trainers brought equally acclaimed horses with them. Among those saddled by Whiteley were Forego, Damascus and Ruffian. Watters' barn boasted champions Hoist the Flag and Slew o'Gold.

In more recent years, Camden residents and trainers Frank and Daphne Wooten and the late Bob Witham were instrumental in the development of 2003 Breeders' Cup and 20016 Belmont Stakes champions, Action this Day and Jazil, respectively. From his Kirkwood Stables barn, Kip Elser laid the groundwork for runners such as Soaring Softly, Sharp Cat and 2011 Kentucky Oaks victor, Plum Pretty, owned by Camden's John Fort

You never knew which trainer or which soon-to-be champion Thoroughbred might be lurking at the flat track.

Less than a mile away was the Springdale Training Center, the offseason home to the two- and four-legged legends of the jump racing game. Hall of Fame trainers Jonathan Sheppard and Janet Elliott worked and live among the longtime residents and native Camdenites. You would see them in and around town during the months they were here preparing their jumpers for the upcoming National Steeplechase Association campaign.

As winter racing arrived at tracks such as Aqueduct in New York and Laurel Race Course in Maryland, among others. The money was too good for owners and trainers to pass up. Soon, there was more room to move at the Camden Training Center. Some, like Lane's End and Darby Dan, tried to pick up the slack by sending their babies to Camden. Others such as Shadwell Stable, Custom Care Equine, Mickey Preger Jr., Kirkwood and the Wootens soldiered on in developing young Thoroughbred talent.

On the jump side, the pickings have been slim recently. As some steeplechase operations dwindled in terms of numbers, barns such as those of Elliott and Sheppard showed up later in winter. Trainers such as Arch Kingsley Jr., Kate Dalton and her husband Bernie, and Richard Valentine are the local torch bearers for the sport.

This winter, there were an abundance of empty stalls at Springdale. The reasons, take your pick. One of the mildest winters on record in the northeast and mid-Atlantic allowed trainers to work their horses on a regular basis without weather-related interruptions in training. All-weather tracks such as the one which was installed at seven-time defending NSA champion trainer Jack Fisher's training facility provide a year 'round surface over which to train and be ready when the bell sounds to open the spring season.

While a moderate, if not warm, winter north of Camden hurt the number of barn rentals, there is a bright side to unseasonable climate. It may mean that more horses will to be ready to run in early spring. That could be a boon for the Carolina Cup, the second stop of 15 hunt meets on the NSA schedule.

Full fields usually make for better, more competitive jump races. Let's hope that will be the case for the 86th running of the Camden spring classic at Springdale.



Tom Didato
Editor

Michael Mitchell rode Show Court to victory in the \$150,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. I) at Saratoga in 2018.

Chelsea Durand/NYRA photo





Do the *Right* Thing

*Globetrotting champion jockey
Michael Mitchell's selfless act
brought worldwide attention to
American jump racing*

By TOM DIDATO

*M*ichael Mitchell never sought out publicity. Nor did he think doing the right thing would make him the talk of the steeplechasing world at locales where jump racing occupies a prominent position on the sports landscape.

In a world in which athletes sometimes seek the glory and when they find it, make sure the spotlight stays on them, Mitchell did what the honorable gesture ... something many would say was the right thing to do given the circumstances.

Four years removed from having won the riding title in New Zealand, the 28-year old Mitchell was poised to do the same as he was tied with fellow jockey Jack Doyle atop the 2019 National Steeplechase Association's leading rider standings with 20 wins apiece with the upcoming season-ending meet at Charleston possibly deciding the sport's newest champion.

It was not meant to be however.

Mitchell scored what would be his final win of the season, aboard Storm Team in the \$75,000 Aflac Supreme Hurdle at Georgia's Callaway Gardens, to draw even with Doyle with 19 trips to the winners' circle. One race later, in the day's finale, Doyle was unseated at the last fence by his mount, Zanzi Win. The spill resulted in Doyle's being rushed to a hospital while having his jaw wired shut as the result of an injury which brought an abrupt close to his season.

With his only competition for the crown on the mend and out of the saddle, the leading rider title was Mitchell's for the taking in Charleston. But in a move which England's Racing Post paper compared to that of English jockey John Francome's decision to end his 1982 National Hunt season tied with the injured Peter Scudamore and declining rides after Scudamore's being shut down for the year in April, Mitchell chose to forego trying to pick up a ride in Charleston --- which would have surely come his way --- and watch the proceedings from the sidelines, thus sharing the championship with Doyle.

The magnanimous move was hailed by those in and around the NSA. The news would spread to New Zealand as well as to Mitchell's home in England. When the subject is broached, Mitchell

simply said there was little hesitation on his part to end his 2019 campaign early in deference to his bedridden colleague who was in the early stages of his recuperation.

It was simply the right thing to do and it was an easy decision for Mitchell to have made.

"It was," he said in a phone interview from his winter quarters in Maryland where he works

for trainer Jack Fisher.

"It was something that I discussed with a few people. I didn't expect it to have the reach that it did. I thought it would be just within the steeplechase community in America, but the media coverage it received and the response it got from a lot of people was all positive.

"I felt like I made the right decision and I am very happy that I did, really."

When the starters' flag dropped on that first race in Charleston, Mitchell was on hand to take it all in. It was an almost out-of-body experience for him knowing that he was fully healthy and able to be in the saddle if he wanted.

"I am very happy that I did, really," he said. "It was a weird, very strange, feeling knowing that there was nothing physically stopping me from racing in Charleston at the last meet. It was quite surreal, really, for me to be in good shape and being on the sidelines," he said.

"The end result was the right decision. It was quite a positive thing for steeplechase racing in America. It was good all around."

Having Doyle's name accompanying his on the NSA's leading rider trophy doesn't bother the soft-spoken, easy-going Mitchell who has now won championships on two continents. These are heady times for the Rugby, England native --- and, yes, that is where the sport got its start and the town it is named after ---, who

"I didn't expect it to have the reach that it did. I thought it would be just within the steeplechase community in America, but the media coverage it received and the response it got from a lot of people was all positive."



Michael Mitchell has one of the most sought-after spots in American jump racing with his rides for champion National Steeplechase Association trainer Jack Fisher.

Tom Didato photo

“The end result was the right decision. It was quite a positive thing for steeplechase racing in America.”

was raised having had horses and ponies to ride and whose great-uncle holds the record as being the youngest jockey to hold a license in England when he was riding at the tender age of nine years and six months old. His family also owned a point-to-point horse to further accentuate his ties to the equine world.

“It was lovely, really,” Mitchell said of growing up in Rugby. He rode ponies for a time and then “forgot about it before I picked it up later in my career when I was 17 or 18 when I was leaving school and joined a local racing yard.”

Mitchell was intrigued with flat racing, a sport in which jockeys, with the right mounts and a touch of good luck, could travel around the world and compete in races with seven-figure purses. The thrill and the speed of riding appealed to him, but it was not to be.

Picking up rides in amateur flat racing in England to start, Mitchell found his career not moving as quickly or, in the direction which he wanted. After an 18-month riding hitch in his homeland, Mitchell packed his tack and headed for Australia in order to gain more experience and, in his own words, “get better” in the saddle while exercising Thoroughbreds each morning.



One of Michael Mitchell's 20 wins in 2019 came aboard Amnicalola in a Filly and Mares Hurdle at last year's Cup Runneth Over at the Springdale Race Course.

Tom Didato photo

“It was quite a big jumps racing culture there and she said that there would be opportunities for me to get race rides and develop the skills to be a jump jockey,”

“I was just exercising horses in Australia when my employer at the time, advised me to go to New Zealand. It was quite a big jumps racing culture there and she said that there would be opportunities for me to get race rides and develop the skills to be a jump jockey,” he said of the change of scenery and from racing on the flat to going over hurdles.

“I left Australia quite soon after that and started working in New Zealand as a jumps jockey. I was there for five years, training, racing and getting as much experience as I could.”

Riding in New Zealand was much different than Mitchell's experience in either England or Australia. Given New Zealand's wet climate, the going was softer than the sometimes rock-hardened racing surfaces created by the blazing Australia sun in summer. The softer, heavier ground slowed the horses down while forcing Mitchell to adapt to the conditions.

Not only that, but the fences were different in New Zealand which made for a brand new ballgame for a jump jockey still trying to feel his way through his new sport.

“Their steeplechase jumps are made out of natural bamboo,

so they're more traditional. They're not like moveable fences that you get in other countries. They're quite a lot bigger," he said of racing in New Zealand and the adjustments he was forced to make on the fly. "There is a different way of jumping because bamboo is a little bit more flexible and you can jump through the fence because it is a natural hedge.

"Australia is more like American racing. You're racing on flat tracks where the races are in between flat racing so you can have two jumps races and four flat races in a day. It's fast ground and the dryness makes the ground faster. It's the same type hurdles that you have in America with a bit more speed than what it was in New Zealand."

Mitchell's first ride in New Zealand came aboard Applaud in a maiden hurdle at Te Rapa Racecourse on May 5, 2012. The duo, both making their maiden voyage over fences, came home a respectable fifth in the field of nine starters. Nineteen days later, at Hastings Racecourse, Mitchell scored his first win aboard Zagata in what would be the 11-year-old gelding's final race.

Trekking to America during New Zealand's break from jump racing in 2014 after having ridden 16 winners there, the globe-trotting Englishman managed to find his way to America. With no grand plans or, even a concrete connection, he made his way in and around the NSA and picked up seven rides in the fall. He had a pair of seconds and three third-place finishes to show for his brief stint on this side of the Atlantic.

"I didn't have any 'ins' as such," Mitchell said of getting his feet wet in the United States. "I

got suggested by a few people who had ridden here at the time.

"When I first came, I stayed about three months and rode in a couple races; maybe five or six races with a couple placings. That was just on the way through after the New Zealand season finished. I continued to try and learn. I did that a couple times on my way back to New Zealand. I'd stop in for about a month and I'd learn a bit more."

Returning to the land of the kiwi, Mitchell enjoyed a monster 2015 campaign. He won his first \$75,000 Grand National aboard High Forty at Riccarton in August. It was the highlight of a year in which he was New Zealand's leading rider.

With a national championship under his belt, doors opened for Mitchell. He had broken through and was ready to try his hand in America.

"It was nice. It was a good stepping stone into racing," said the soft-spoken Mitchell of the honor. "It was a valuable, valuable experience racing over there. It gave me something to put by my name. The work I was putting in was rewarded.

"It gives you confidence to be able to ride on other countries and it gives you that experience. After that, I just felt that I wanted to broaden my horizons and get more

"I just felt that I wanted to broaden my horizons and get more experience so when the season ended there, I came to America and started coming in for a month at a time to see how the horses worked ..."

experience so when the season ended there, I came to America and started coming in for a month at a time to see how the horses worked, see different types of horses and the jumping and schooling and see the different types of hurdles here."

Even with a national championship beside his name, rides on the NSA circuit were hard to come by for Mitchell who rode two jumpers which did not hit the board while earning



*Michael Mitchell, shown here on Boss Man in winning the 2018 William Entenmann Hurdle at Belmont Park, has Grade 1 stakes victories in both the United States and New Zealand.
Photo by Chelsea Durand/NYRA*

a combined \$1,000 in 2016. Making a full-time commitment to race in the U.S. in 2017, Mitchell scouted out rides and went from trainer to trainer. In 42 starts in 2017, he rode nine winners with three second and three thirds which his horses earning \$298, 200.

The win which established him in NSA circles came when trainer and former jump jockey Ricky Hendriks gave Mitchell the leg up on Swansea Mile for the 2017 \$150,000 A.P. Smithwick Memorial Steeplechase at Saratoga. Mitchell booted his mount home to the two-length victory; his first Grade I score on the American circuit.

“That helped my career and helped me make a name for myself here to have a Grade 1 winner in my first season,” Mitchell said. “I had a few other nice rides. I rode primarily for Arch Kingsley. He gave me quite a huge start in America. He gave me a couple nice winners and I tried to keep that roll going and try to progress from there.”

Winning a Grade I in his first full season in the NSA gave Mitchell the credibility he sought while earning the trust of owners and trainers showing both parties that their horses could be trusted with him in the irons.

“That’s the thing about moving countries,”

Mitchell said, “you have to establish yourself each time to build up the trust and the communication with trainers and to meet people as well. Starting off in a new country is always quite difficult unless you have the support of other people around you.”

“Coming into a competitive environment where you are not able to talk to every trainer and to every owner, it takes time to develop a relationship and a rapport with those people. It’s not going to come overnight; you have to build it up over time.

“Once you’re getting a couple of rides, you could try and establish yourself that way. For me, it took time. You have to earn that trust and once you do that, it makes things a lot easier.”

In a 2018 season in which Mitchell missed the end of the spring campaign due to an injury sustained in a spill at the Queens Cup Steeplechase in suburban Charlotte, he managed to make his way back to riding in time for the Saratoga meeting, successfully winning the A.P. Smithwick for the second straight year, this time aboard the Kingsley-conditioned Show Court. In spite of his time spent away from riding while recuperating, Mitchell still rode nine winners from 66 starts which was good for fifth place in the NSA’s final standings.

In 2019, Mitchell moved over to the deep barn of seven-time leading trainer Jack Fisher and being the Maryland-based trainer’s rider of first call. You might say that Mitchell now sits in the most coveted seat in American jump racing. He does not take his rise in fortune for granted.

“Jack has been ever so good over the last year. He’s given me opportunities to ride top horses in the biggest races. That’s where you want to be in your career,” he said. “I’m very

grateful to have the opportunity to ride for someone like Jack.”

Fully entrenched in American jump racing, Michael Mitchell said he has leaned on his time and experiences in England --- where he returns to ride over hurdles in the early winter in order to stay in shape before returning to Maryland to work for Fisher and prepare the jumpers for the upcoming year’s schedule ---, Australia and New Zealand to acclimate himself for the different going on the NSA circuit.

“Here in America,” he said of the jump racing landscape, “you have access to hunt meets in the spring and in the fall where you have undulating ground. Then, during the summer, when we move to the race tracks like Saratoga, Belmont, Colonial Downs they’re fast tracks like in Australia where you are racing in between flat racing. You’ve got more of a run in after the last; you’ve got probably two furlongs after the last fence so you have to find your position and make a race of it.”

Mitchell said he uses the off-period between racing in the U.S, England and then, back to America, to hone his craft while also working the jumpers into shape

once the new year rolls around.

Even though he has won championships on two different continents, Mitchell is hardly satisfied. There is always room for improvement, if you ask him.

“There’s still things in my riding that I have to improve on,” he said. “Things like compensation and physical and mental aspects of riding and looking at things you could have done better and try to improve on some of the mistakes that you’ve made in the past and working on things that you can improve on.

“Coming into a competitive environment where you are not able to talk to every trainer and to every owner, it takes time to develop a relationship and a rapport with those people. It’s not going to come overnight; you have to build it up over time.”



*Camden's Arch Kingsley Jr. (left) was one of the first American trainers to have given Michael Mitchell a chance to ride their horses when the English native first came to race in this country.
Tom Didato photo*

There's always something. Horses are very good at keeping you honest and letting you know where you stand so that you don't get ahead of yourself.

"We've got some new horses coming in and every year, that's the challenge. I'm just looking forward to getting back to race riding and seeing what this year brings. It's going to be quite a competitive year. I just have to work hard. I look forward to being back in the saddle in March."

Saying there are more goals which he wants to achieve this year, Mitchell said the main one is to get better as a rider. That is something which, statistically, he has done ever since deciding to set up shop on American soil.

In a sport in which Mitchell knows, from first-hand experience, danger looks around every corner and at every fence, he does not put the fear factor into his head when racing. In a sport

in which some jockeys have ridden into their 50s and have been successful (see Camden's Bernie Dalton), Michael Mitchell is not putting any governors on his career. He is taking it one step, one goal at a time while staying grounded and focused on the task at hand. His future in riding, he figures, will take care of itself.

"I try not to have too much foresight for the next step in racing. I tend to focus on the smaller things that I want to improve on as an individual," he said. "Hopefully, those things outside of racing and those other options, when they become available ...

"I'll know when it's time to move on or, take a different road. For the time being, I'm just looking at the short-term and just concentrating on steeplechase racing and put as much energy as I can into it."

So far, that game plan has worked like a winning ride. ☺



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An Exciting First Year



By TOBY EDWARDS

(Note: Toby Edwards became the executive director of the Carolina Cup Races on July 1, 2019. This will be his first time overseeing the Carolina Cup Races.)

It has been an exciting first year on the job.

We are delighted that Tom and Virginia Ann Mullikin have become the presenting sponsors of the entire race day, now called The Carolina Cup Races presented by Mullikin Law, as well as the Carolina Cup race itself. It is a great partnership.

With both Tom and Virginia Ann being from Camden, it could not have worked out better.

Having such a prestigious firm such as Mullikin Law on board was huge for the Cup. Tom and Virginia Ann also bring many guests to town for the weekend and for the races. A majority of those guests come from out of state so they are exposing Camden to many people who might not have otherwise come to the event or, to Camden. We are honored that Gov. Henry McMaster has also appeared in an advertisement for the races thanks to his association with Tom and Virginia Ann.

Mullikin Law was the first previous sponsor that I went and sat down with in discussing plans for the 2020 Carolina Cup but I must add that almost every sponsor that I met with from last year is involved again this year. Obviously, we are providing the Sponsors with a race day experience that makes them happy to return and we are incredibly grateful for their partnership and trust.

As executive director, attracting sponsors for the Carolina Cup is an integral part of the job and of our

entire event. Without the generosity of those companies and individuals which sponsor various and different parts of the event, it would be impossible for the races to happen.

In a relatively small town such as Camden, attracting local sponsorships and having the support of the entire community plays a vital role in the success of our event. Other race meets close to large cities have more opportunities than we have here to attract large sponsors. We make up for that by having many smaller sponsorships which add up in order to create the pie versus having three or four big companies which step in at the higher-dollar level.

It is definitely a challenge finding sponsors and reaching new patrons, like anything in this day and age. Even your general admission patrons have many other avenues by which to spend their fun money or, entertainment dollars. We are more mobile of a society today than we were even 20 years ago. In order to attract people to your races, you have to be on the cutting edge and provide a great experience.

Not only are the sponsors a key piece of the puzzle, but it goes all the way down to the partnerships that we have within our community; partnerships with the Camden Jaycees, the Camden Junior Welfare League, the Palmetto Pony Club, the City of Camden, the Camden Police Department, the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, Sea Cadets and, please excuse me if I have left out any other groups. These and other groups have all been behind us and our efforts to create what I hope will be one of the best days of racing that we will have seen in a long time.

I can't stress enough what the entire Kershaw County community, including Camden, obviously, means to our event.

That is where a large portion of our guests on race day are from. Although we attract thousands of patrons from across the state and across the nation, without the support of the local community, our event would not be what it has become.

We at the Carolina Cup offices are listening to our patrons and helping drive this back to a family-friendly and fun event. We plan to have more free activities, particularly for children this year. We hope this gives people more value for their ticket without increasing the price of their

I can't stress enough what the entire Kershaw County community ... means to our event.

ticket. These can be found mainly in our expanded Vendor Village in our Infield.

We also have created, for the first time this year, a new concept, The Skyline Club, which is an exclusive area at the top of the grandstand where there will be a complimentary bar and a viewing area with cocktail tables to watch the races from while being underneath a tent. We want to make sure our Grandstand patrons are well-taken care of and have a VIP experience. If you want to watch the races in comfort and at VIP level, that will be the place to be.

The key to events in this day and age is to create an experience for your guests which is unique and if you are not part of that experience this year, then next year you will want to be part of it because your friends talked about it and told you how fun it was.

We want you to be part of that experience. *(Camden resident Toby Edwards became the executive director of the Carolina Cup Races on July 1, 2019. This will be his first time overseeing the Carolina Cup Races. The former owner/trainer/rider is also director for the Tryon Block House Races and the Steeplechase at Charleston events.)* ☺

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86th Carolina Cup



The 86th running of the Carolina Cup presented by Mullikin Law is set for Saturday, March 28 at the Springdale Race Course.

Tickets and reserved parking spaces are available for purchase online at www.carolina-cup.org or by calling the Carolina Cup office at 432-6513. Some areas may have already sold out for the event.

Last year saw several changes being made to the Cup starting with lowered ticket prices along with the advent of The Meadow, in the plot of land was formerly occupied by College Park. In its first year of existence, the area located on the backside of the race course was an instant hit and drew rave reviews. Carolina Cup officials anticipate parking and tailgating areas inside the Meadow to be a highly sought-after in 2020.

Here are the ticket and reserved parking options for the Carolina Cup races.

General Admission Tickets: \$45 per person and will be on sale at all gates on the day of the races.

(Note: Children 12 and under will be admitted to the races free of charge if accompanied by an adult ticket-holder.)

General Parking (race day only): \$10 per vehicle.

Infield Parking: Row A: \$225; Row B: \$200; Row C: \$175; Row D: \$150; Rows E and F: \$125; all packages include one parking credential for the parking space in the infield and two general admission tickets.

Front Row: Spaces 1-30: \$225; Spaces 31-233: \$325 (No tents allowed in this section); Spaces 234-297: \$225; all packages include one parking credential for one parking space on the front row paddock and two general admission tickets.

West and East Rail(s): \$175 per parking space; all packages include a parking credential for one parking space and two general admission tickets.

Restricted Parking: \$250 per space, which is large enough to accommodate one motor coach per space along with two general admission tickets

(Note: No tent larger than 10-feet x 10-feet may be set up in the tailgate spaces unless specified)

Grandstand Box: \$600 per box. The cost for six seats in the box includes premier seating at the finish line and two grandstand parking tags. Individual seats are priced at \$150 each with an adjacent parking pass available for \$50. Complimentary access to the exclusive Skyline Club at the top of the Grandstand. Refreshments, beer and wine will be available during the races. Beginning this year, patrons with seats in the grandstand will also have complimentary access to the Skyline Club, located at the top of the grandstand, at which refreshments, beer and wine will be available during the races.

Turf Club luncheon tent: \$150 per ticket; \$75 per child ticket (12 and under) available for boxholders only

Post and Paddock luncheon tent: \$100 per ticket; \$50 per child ticket (12 and under) available to all race patrons; Limited adjacent parking pass: \$25

The Meadow Packages:

Package A: \$900 (includes a 15-by-15-foot tent, 10 general admission passes, five car parking passes)

Package B: \$1,500 (includes a 15-by-15-foot tent, 25 general admission passes, 10 car parking passes)

Package C: \$2,000 package (includes a 20-by-20-foot tent, 30 general admission passes, 15 car parking passes)

Package D: \$3,000 package (includes a 30-by-30-foot tent, 50 general admission passes, 25 car parking passes)

Call 432-6513 for more information or, for custom packages

(For more information, call the Carolina Cup Racing Association office at (803) 432-6513 or (800) 780-8117 or visit the Carolina Cup website at www.carolina-cup.org)

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*Personal Start and Barry Foley held on to win the 2018 Carolina Cup. The pair hope for a second win in the Camden feature this year.
Lindsay Jennings photo*





Winter? What winter?

*Early list of possible
Carolina Cup starters
features quality and depth*

By TOM DIDATO

A dearth of snow and unseasonably mild weather in the Mid-Atlantic and northeast may provide a windfall when horses take to the track for the 86th running of the \$50,000 Mullikin Law Carolina Cup Steeplechase Race on Saturday, March 28.

No less than eight jumpers were being pointed toward the Sport of Kings Ratings Handicap Hurdle (rating of 130 or lower) in Camden and, more could be on the way given the temperate climate up and down the east coast this winter.

As for the day's feature, dropping the purse to \$50,000 in 2019 and the race going from a novice series chase to a ratings handicap has seen an increase in starters from the days when it was run for \$75,000.

Those atmospheric conditions allowed for few days of missed training and without a jump meet the weekend of April 4; it could mean full fields for all seven races on the Cup card.

As for the day's feature, dropping the purse to \$50,000 in 2019 and the race going from a novice series chase to a ratings handicap has seen an increase in starters from the days when it was run for \$75,000. Last spring, eight jumpers ran in the Camden spring classic and it looks as if that figure may be equaled this time around.

Included in list is the top-heavy three-horse entry conditioned by eight-time defending National Steeplechase Association championship trainer Jack Fisher.

After Fisher's trio, trainer Ricky Hendriks has penciled in pair of Rosbrian Farm-owned jumpers in Stooshie and The Holy One into the feature. Both Irish imports are their first full season in America and, their trainer said, have benefitted from having been in this country for part of last fall and throughout the winter months.

"Both of them have been foxhunting this year at the River Hills (in Pennsylvania)," said Hendriks, who moved part of his stable to Camden in February to train for the upcoming season. "The Holy One has really come around. I don't think that he traveled over too well when he came over here to run at Far Hills. Some of them come over and it doesn't take too much out of them and some other ones, when they come over, it takes a lot out of them."

The Holy One, a 7-year-old gelding who was to have run in a point-to-point race in Warrenton, Va., on March 14 is a two-time winner in 19 career starts in his native Ireland. He made his first start in this country in last October's \$450,000 Grand National Hurdle Stakes for Hendriks who had The Holy One's regular rider Paddy Kennedy, who was brought over from Ireland, in the saddle that day. The Holy One never got closer than sixth in the field of 12 jumpers before being pulled up at the far turn in the 2 5/8-mile race.

Hendriks gave The Holy One a final 2019 start in the \$75,000 Aflac Supreme Hurdle in Callaway Gardens, Ga., on Nov. 9 with Willie McCarthy

easing his mount coming up to the final fence. Before coming to America, The Holy One was trained by Jessica Harrington who Kennedy the leg up for his win in a handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (Ire.) last April. He broke his maiden at 12th asking with a score in a maiden weight for age hurdle at Thurles on Jan. 20, 2019.

Pik Em and jockey Willie McCarthy finished third in the 2018 Carolina Cup feature. Trained by Jack Fisher, the 9-year-old gelding is returning from an injury which sidelined him for the entire 2019 campaign.

Lindsay Jennings photo



“The ground might be a little too quick in Camden for The Holy One, but we’re going to give it a try,” Hendriks said of the jumper who came to his barn highly recommended by a bloodstock agent in Ireland. “Hopefully, he’ll run well. He has been schooling well and he’s coming into the (Carolina Cup) pretty well. I’m happy with him. I don’t think he’s shown us how good he can be, yet. Hopefully, he’s had some time off and he seems like he is doing much better.”

Stooshie, like The Holy One a 7-year-old Irish-bred, was in the barn of champion Irish trainer Gordon Elliott as last as last April when he finished fifth in a handicap steeplechase at Limerick Racecourse (Ire.) Exactly a month later, the Fracas gelding placed second in a \$35,000 handicap hurdle at the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville with Irish jockey Davy Russell up.

On March 7, Hendriks applied blinkers on Stooshie for the first time in a wire-to-wire victory in a point-to-point race in Virginia.

“Knock on wood,” Hendriks said, “they’re both good jumpers. Stooshie’s probably the better jumper over the hurdles than The Holy One. Stooshie is a solid horse who is always right there finishing first, second or third all the time. He’s very fit.”

After having been given the summer off, Stooshie moved up in class and with Russell in the irons came home third in the \$50,000 Appleton Stakes in Far Hills, N.J. Stooshie closed out his seven-race 2019 campaign with a

second in a \$40,000 handicap hurdle at the Montpelier Races in Virginia on Nov. 2.

The Maryland-based Fisher sent out his first Carolina Cup feature winner since Good Night Shirt in 2009 when Dash Stable's Ice It carried Jack Doyle to a six-length victory. This time around, Fisher has the two highest-rated jumpers --- Cracker Factory (130) and New Member (129) --- who could be headed south along with Pik Em and his 127 rating.

Winless in a pair of stakes starts in this country in 2019, Cracker Factory won four times in 13 starts over hurdles in England and Ireland for trainer Alan Davis. Brought to America and owned by Hyggelig Haven LLC, the 5-year-old gelding was sixth in last September's \$75,000 William Entenmann Memorial Hurdle Stakes at Belmont Park in his U.S. debut before being pulled up in the \$75,000 Harry E. Harris Hurdle at Far Hills, N.J., in October.

A four-time winner with a pair of seconds from eight starts in 2018, Cracker Factory broke its maiden that year with a win in a weight for age hurdle at Aintree in June.

New Member is coming off an injury which kept him from racing in 2019. A year earlier, the now-9-year-old Irish-bred gelding was second in the \$150,000 New York Turf Writers Cup in Saratoga; his most recent start. That year, New Member opened with a third in the \$75,000 Carolina Cup feature and won the \$75,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes at Saratoga while earning a career-best \$96,000 from six starts.

Pik Em, a 6-year-old Tapit gelding, scored two wins, two seconds and a pair of thirds from eight starts over fences in 2019 including capturing the \$50,000 Appleton Hurdle Stakes in Far Hills with Michael Mitchell in the irons. In 12 starts over hurdles, Pik Em has made four trips to the winners' enclosure.

On Carolina Cup day 2018, Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard sent Iranistan into the day's opener for its debut over hurdles. The result was an 11 ½-length romp in the \$30,000 allowance chase. The then-4-year-old won its next three starts in winning the NSA's novice championship. Last year, Iranistan made its first start in the \$450,000 Grand National and was eased before closing the year with a fourth in the \$75,000 Aflac Supreme Hurdle in Callaway Gardens.

Unlike the Hendriks-conditioned jumpers who were bought in and brought from Ireland, Noah and the Ark --- an appropriate moniker, by the way, for the past winter in Camden --- could make his U.S. debut at the \$50,000 Carolina Cup feature. The now 6-year-old won its next three starts

Trained by Todd McKenna, the lightly raced, 6-year-old Vinnie Roe gelding has made just 10 starts over hurdles in England, Ireland and Wales with four trips to the winners' enclosure. Noah and the Ark carries a two-race win streak into his new barn after having won a hurdle handicap at Worcester last July which came after capturing the West Wales Properties Handicap Hurdle for trainer Donald

*Trained by Todd
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enclosure.*



Iranistan, which won his first start over jumps in Camden in 2018, will take a crack at the \$50,000 Carolina Cup feature for Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard on March 28.

Tom Didato photo

McCain 12 days earlier at Ffos Las.

In 10 starts over hurdles, Noah and the Ark has hit the board at a 50 percent clip with four wins and a third.

When race fans last saw Personal Start on the race course, it was in Camden in the \$50,000 Carolina Cup in which the Richard Valentine-trained gelding sought to defend its title won in the 2018 Camden spring classic. On that day, with regular rider Barry Foley up, Personal Start came home fifth behind race winner Ice It. An injury put the then-8-year old Jump Start gelding on the shelf for the rest of the year.

Valentine brought Personal Start with him to Camden in January and knocked wood when he said he was being pointed to a start in the Cup feature.

Personal Start's win in the 2018 Carolina Cup came after a steward's inquiry in which no foul was discovered. That was the meat in the sandwich of a three-ran win streak for

the Magelen O. Bryant-owned jumper which followed his Camden victory by romping to an eight-length win in the \$75,000 David Semmes Memorial Steeplechase at Great Meadow (Va.) in May of 2018.

Personal Start has made 18 starts over fences with four wins. He has run in Grade I competition, finishing fourth in the \$150,000 A.P. Smithwick at Saratoga in 2018 and then seventh in the \$150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap at Belmont Park less than a month later.

Trainer Mark Beecher has his sights set on running Invocation, a 7-year-old French-bred gelding into the Cup feature. A two-time winner over fences in 2017 and 2018, Invocation broke its maiden at the 2016 Carolina Cup in a \$30,000 allowance hurdle. Having run in stakes company in his career, Invocation made five starts in 2019 with a best finish of second behind Ice It in the \$50,000 Carolina Cup. U

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Musings from Hope



By: Hope
Cooper

Diplomat: Runnin' and Jumpin'... Again



(Editor's note: The National Steeplechase Museum, located on the grounds of the Springdale Race Course on Knights Hill Rd., in Camden, will present an exhibit spotlighting the career of 2015 Carolina Cup champion-turned hunter-jumper Diplomat. The exhibit opens on Saturday, March 28.)

Diplomat (Kittens Joy-Waki Affair-Miswaki) was bred in Kentucky by Kenneth and Sarah Ramsey and started his racing career in Ireland in 2011, running on both flat tracks and over hurdles; often earning top three finishes.

He returned to the United States in 2015, where under the ownership of Daybreak Stables, Inc., trainer Jimmy Day, and jockey Bernard Dalton, Diplomat won that year's edition of The Carolina Cup in Camden. Following the Carolina Cup, Diplomat would go on to a fifth-place finish in the Grade II David Semmes and a sixth in the Grade I A.P. Smithwick before dropping into an allowance optional claimer. Although victorious in that race, he was claimed for \$40,000 by brothers Adam and Richard Newman for their Flying Elvis Stables.

Making his first start with new connections and jockey Robbie Walsh, Diplomat beat only one horse in the \$150,000 Grade I Lonesome Glory Stakes



Diplomat thunders home with Bernie Dalton aboard in winning the 2015 Carolina Cup.

Tom Didato photo

at Belmont Park. His new owners decided they wanted their old jockey back on board and the best way to ensure this was to send Diplomat to Bernie's wife, Kate, to train. Bernie said "The key to Diplomat was to get him to settle early in a race. He had a very good turn of foot at the end of a race, if he relaxed in the beginning."

Now stabled in Camden at the Dalton's barn, he raced under Flying Elvis Stable's colors, capturing the 2015 Zeke Ferguson Stakes. He missed the 2016 season, and returned in 2017 to place third in the \$150,000 Grade I A.P. Smithwick Memorial Steeplechase at Saratoga and then, four weeks later, win the \$150,000 Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup Handicap.

In 2018, Diplomat was retired from racing. With 21 appearances in the United States, Diplomat earned more than \$250,000, and earned \$351,220 in his 43 lifetime starts. Always wishing the best for their retirees, Kate Dalton and Adam Newman discussed his future. She related, "Adam and I were at Far Hills discussing options for him. I told Adam that I thought Diplomat could and would do whatever he was asked, he's just an all-around pleaser.

"(National Steeplechase Association jockey) Willie McCarthy was at the table with us and said that Sara Katz was looking for her next Retired Racehorse Project candidate. I know Sara and the care she takes of her horses and I told Adam I thought it would be a home run. It was."

Katz was spending the winter in South Carolina where she began preparing Diplomat for a new life. Along with basic schooling, she introduced him to foxhunting in Camden's Hunt Country. She then relocated to Delaplane, Va.; there they hunted with the Orange County Hounds and continued schooling to prepare for competition.

On Oct. 2, 2019, Diplomat was entered into the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium in Lexington, Ky. There, he competed in the Field Hunter Division with Katz as his rider. The pair competed with 20 other horses in both group and individual challenges, as well as mock hunting. Diplomat and Sara went on to win the division in a landslide.

From there, Diplomat competed with the other division winners for the chance to be crowned the overall Makeover Champion. Though the duo came up just short, it was a monumental achievement for the pair and an unforgettable event.

Today, Diplomat continues to foxhunt with Sara Katz and will be entering the show ring in the future. Though he may have retired from racing, Diplomat's legacy continues to grow.

This column was written by Hope Cooper, along with editorial assistance from Wesley Faulkenberry and Kate and Bernie Dalton. Cooper is the retired director of the National Steeplechase Museum and its current interim director.

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*A short film chronicling the career of 2015 Eclipse Award-winning sprinter Runhappy will be shown during the Camden Film Week/EQUUS Film Festival in April.
Photo courtesy of NYRA*



Hollywood treatment for horses

*Camden Film week put horses
and causes in the spotlight at fifth
annual EQUUS Film and Arts Fest
Camden Tour Stop*

The Marley Project, Inc, with support from the City of Camden, The Little Theatre, The Arts Center of Kershaw County and the National Steeplechase Museum, will host the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Camden Tour Stop on April 17-19 during Camden Film Week.

The fifth annual event will feature film screenings at Camden's vintage Little Theatre, student classes and public workshops at The Arts Center of Kershaw County, an EQUUS Authors Hour and Book Signing at Books On Broad and a variety of activities in the Downtown Camden area. Lisa Diersen, Festival

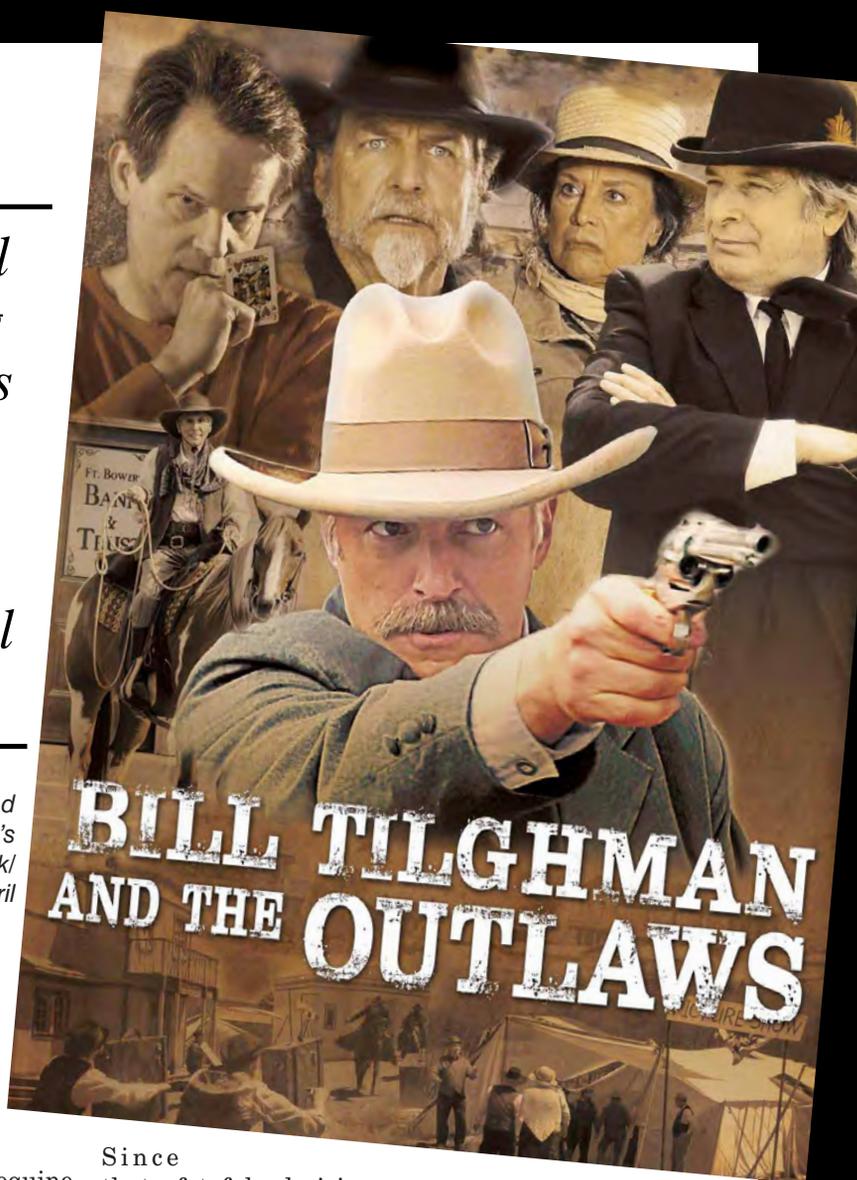
Julianne Neal, will feature the visiting filmmakers, authors and artists before and during the event through interviews and panel discussions.

An old time Western, Bill Tilghman and the Outlaws, will be shown at Camden's Little Theater as part of Camden Film Week/ EQUUS Film Festival in April

Founder and Director, will bring the winning films from the 2019 Kentucky Horse Park International Event, including feature films, documentaries, shorts, videos and commercials.

Diana De Rosa, festival co-organizer and equine journalist, will conduct panel discussions with visiting and local equine experts for broadcast on the EQUUS Film Channel, a partner of the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest. Julianne Neal, the host of the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Podcast and Whinny Tales: Horse Stories, Pony Legends and Unicorn Yarns, will feature the visiting filmmakers, authors and artists before and during the event through interviews and panel discussions.

Friday, April 17th, will kick off the EQUUS Tour Stop with the World Premiere of "Lady Long Rider," a film detailing the travels of Bernice Ende, author of "Lady Long Rider: Alone Across America on Horseback." At the age of 50, Bernice turned south into the unknown and began her first trip on her way to becoming a world-class long rider.



Since that fateful decision she hasn't looked back. Accompanied by her horses and an exceptional dog named Claire, Ende has logged more than 30,000 miles in the saddle, crisscrossing North America and beyond.

The Authors Hour at Books on Broad will feature EQUUS Authors Candace Wade, contributing journalist for Horse Nation and author of "Horse Sluts: The Saga of Two Women on the Trail of Their Yeehaw," Susan Abel, author of "Into the Fire," and Pam Jeffers, author of "Stand Up: A Journal of Finding Strength," as well as former chair of the Virginia Racing Commission and author of "Key to the Quarter Pole," Robin Williams.

Saturday will include activities for the young and the young at heart at the Powder Magazine Park, located beside the Farmer's Market in

Film topics for the Saturday line-up include a Western theme with “*The Black Cowboy Documentary*,” “*Spaghetti Cowboys*,” and “*Cowboys: A Documentary Portrait*,” as well as Thoroughbred Racing favorites, “*Run Happy*” and “*Finne Paddy Merrigan*.”

Camden on Market Street, during Marley’s Round Up. Marley, the great-great-grandson of the equine actor Cass-Ole (*The Black Stallion*) will be on hand with his person, Bruce Anderson, to meet attendees.

Film topics for the Saturday line-up include a Western theme with “*The Black Cowboy Documentary*,” “*Spaghetti Cowboys*,” and “*Cowboys: A Documentary Portrait*,” as well as Thoroughbred Racing favorites, “*Run Happy*” and “*Finne Paddy Merrigan*.” With support from sponsor The Carolina Cup Racing Association, the racing theme is a good fit for the Camden equine community. The panel discussions will take place upstairs at the Little Theatre and will include topics on Therapeutic Riding Programs, Equine Wellness, Working Horses and Thoroughbred Racing.

One of the day’s panels will feature Neta Rhyne, Enrolled Member of the Cherokee Nation, direct descendent of the ‘Trail Of Tears’, and an award-winning filmmaker/producer/director and writer. Rhyne is a tireless advocate for horses through her organization Thundering Hooves, a 501(c)(3).

Another panel will include Bruce Anderson of Nature’s View and Lynn Carnes of Creative Spirits Unleashed discussing their workshop series, *Leading Under Pressure*.

The EQUUS Gala Fundraising event will take place Saturday evening at the National Steeplechase Museum and will feature a benefit silent auction and a meet and greet with the EQUUS guests.

Sunday’s screenings will focus on equine programs for military veterans with such films as “*One Soldier, One Horse*” and “*Mustang Saviors*,” as well as equine therapeutic programs with “*A Place to Heal*” and “*A Pony and His Boy*.” The schedule will include a presentation by the 2020 Camden Film Week featured organization, Camp Cole Therapeutic Riding (CCTR). As a signature program of Camp Cole, CCTR is launching a pilot program this spring to promote the



*Camden's Bruce Anderson introduces a young fan to Marley, at a past Camden Film Week event.
Photo courtesy Camden Film Week*

physical, cognitive, social and emotional wellbeing of children and adults with disabilities and life challenges through their partnership with a therapy horse, PATH certified instructor and trained volunteers.

Therapeutic Riding teaches the basics of good horsemanship while building core strength, confidence, independence and life skills. Riders are encouraged to use their own physical and mental efforts to control, influence and communicate with the horse. The presentation by Amanda Malanuk, MS, the CCTR Therapeutic Riding Director, will introduce this therapeutic resource to the Camden community. Located just 15 miles from the Children's Hospital in

Columbia, CCTR hopes to recruit volunteers from the Camden community to help as side walkers and horse leaders during the lessons. CCTR is all about "Horses Inspiring Humans" and fostering an environment of accessibility, inclusivity and building relationships.

The Camden Tour Stop is presented by The Marley Project, Inc, a local non-profit 501 (c)(3) dedicated to equine awareness, education and advocacy, with support from the City of Camden and Kershaw County Tourism Partnership.

For information on the festival, updated schedules and ticket sales, visit www.equusfilmfestivalcamden.com. For updates, follow EquusFilmFestivalCamden on Facebook. 



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*Jumpers carry their mounts over a brush-covered timber fence at a Carolina Cup race day, circa late 1940s.
Photo courtesy National Steeplechase Museum*

*After a three-year
stoppage for World
War II and fending off
the threat of becoming
an airfield, Camden
never lost its race or,
the Carolina Cup its
popularity*

By TOM DIDATO

Since the first running of the New Year's Races in 1929, patrons have flocked to the Springdale Race Course in droves with most of those attending the annual Carolina Cup held each spring beginning in 1930.

On that last Saturday in March or, on occasion, on a Saturday in early April, the Springdale Race Course transforms into a city unto itself and becomes one of the largest municipalities in the Palmetto State. With crowds in excess of 70,000, at one time, patrons from throughout the region and state have directed their vehicles to

The Carolina Cup and Springdale, itself, has and continues to be on one heck of a ride. It has survived fads such as mini-skirts, long sideburns on men and bell bottoms. It has outlasted disco and streaking.

Camden for a day of jump racing and socializing ... not necessarily in that order.

The grounds and the race course have changed with time. In 1979, a concrete grandstand complete with a press area, stewards' enclosure and a separate box for the race caller was constructed to accommodate the increasing number of patrons and workers attending the Camden spring classic and, until 2016, the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup race meet in the fall.

The Springdale Race Course was christened in 1929 with the New Year's Day Races, sponsored by the Camden Hunt, being the lidlifter and an event which lasted for 10 years. In February of 1929, Carolina Cup founders Harry D. Kirkover and Ernest L. Woodward conceived the Washington's Birthday Races with its feature 2 ½-mile race over timber fences. That event would continue through 1938. From 1930 through '38, it would serve as a warm-up race for jumpers, trainers and riders pointing their mounts toward the inaugural Carolina Cup, run at Springdale on Saturday, March 22, 1930 with owner-trainer-rider Noel Laing partnering with Ballast II for a four-length win in the three-mile, 18-fence timber race which attracted an estimated 3,000 spectators to the Knights Hill Road facility.

At the time, horse racing occupied a prominent role in America's sports landscape. As the years rolled along and the sport of steeplechasing waned on this side of the Atlantic, the Carolina Cup thrived to the point which on April 1, 2000, an estimated gathering of 71,000 jammed inside the gates of the 400-acre facility

on a sun-splashed day for the Camden spring classic. That figure remains an attendance record in the annals of the National Steeplechase Association, which oversees the running of the sport in the United States.

The Carolina Cup and Springdale, itself, has and continues to be on one heck of a ride. It has survived fads such as mini-skirts, long sideburns on men and bell bottoms. It has outlasted disco and streaking. It has welcomed local, state, regional, national and international dignitaries and elected and non-elected officials. Stars of the large and small screen have been in attendance as have those from the sports world who have all come to town to be a part of the spring spectacle.

One event which the Springdale Race Course could not overcome and had no defense for, was the outbreak of World War II.

In his definitive book on the first half-century of the races, "The Carolina Cup; 50 years of steeplechasing and socializing," Columbia-based author Ernie Trubiano noted that in 1942, there were rumblings that it would be the end of the line for the Camden races as rumors were flying that the Springdale Race Course would be turned into a flying field to aid in America's fight against the Axis powers.

In 1942, Trubiano pointed out, "only" 5,000 spectators took in the Carolina Cup. With so many Americans either off to war or concerned about the events taking place in Europe and the South Pacific, attendance at many sporting events --- not just the Carolina Cup --- waned.

In the Friday, March 27, 1942 edition of the Camden Chronicle, published the day before the 13th renewal of the Carolina Cup, a front page article detailed the following day's race meeting which attracted 88 jumpers onto the seven-race program. The main event, the \$1,000 Carolina Cup feature, a three-mile chase over timber fences, was broadcast live on radio to 113 stations affiliated with the National Broadcasting





*Harry Kirkover, accepting a silver trophy after a win by one of his horses, was the co-founder of the Carolina Cup along with Ernest Woodward
Photo courtesy National Steeplechase Museum*

Corporation and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with Chris Wood Jr. calling the action with Sig Smith providing the color commentary.

One reason for the light crowd for the 1942 Carolina Cup was provided in the Friday, April 3, 1942 Camden Chronicle. In the wrap-up story/column, it was noted that the “rubber situation”, in which rubber supply for domestic car tires was limited as rubber-producing nations such as Malaya and the Dutch East Indies concentrated their production on supplying their product to aide in the war effort and the ability to import rubber from South America was reduced.

Another reason which came to light in that day’s edition was that heavy rains north of Camden kept people at home. It did not stop the press, however, from making their way to the races. “News-hounds from all over the mid-south came to the show,” read the article.

With a war going on and time, provisions and money at a premium, Woodward and Kirkover put the Carolina Cup on a three-year hiatus with racing being scratched from 1943 through

1945. Many steeplechase meets throughout the country followed suit and temporarily shut their races down due to the global conflict not to mention the lack of available horses and riders.

“The war cut us when we were sailing wide, high and handsome,” Kirkover said of the temporary stoppage in racing at Springdale.

Camden lost its races for three years. It could have lost much more had the plans of turning Springdale to a flying field come to reality. Instead of a stewards’ box, the facility could have been home to an air traffic tower. Jockeys would be replaced by pilots. Natural horse power with machine-made horse powered engines and the whirring of propellers. The home and front stretches could have been paved and turned into runways while the infield could be housing hangars rather than nattily attired race patrons each spring.

The unfounded stories as to the Springdale Race Course being turned over to the military were squashed when Captain Harry Huglin, Post Commander for the Southern Aviation



A jumper is walked around the Springdale Race Course paddock by its groom prior to a start in the Carolina Cup. Photo courtesy National Steeplechase Museum

Company Aviation School dispelled all such rumors when interviewed by the Camden News Service for the lead story in the April 3, 1942 edition of the Camden Chronicle.

“You can quote me as saying that we do not contemplate the use of the Springdale race track as a landing field at this time. We do not require it for present needs as we have made arrangements to secure an auxiliary field some thirteen miles north,” Huglin said.

In the same story, Huglin did say that serious consideration had been given to using Springdale as a landing field given its many conveniences required for the purpose.

With the threat of the race course being turned into a landing field no longer in the plans, the story went on to say that Carolina Cup and the training center itself had dodged a bullet which could have changed the history of the races if not the city of Camden.

“The threat of losing Springdale has been

uppermost in the minds of all Camden people as well as the thousands who come here for the equestrian events,” it read. “It was realized that if the course was taken over by the army, it would mean the virtual elimination of steeplechase racing in Camden. It would also affect the horse shows, hunter trials, polo and other winter activities.

“The passing of the threat, as indicated in the statement from Captain Huglin today will be greeted with general approval, not only in Camden and South Carolina, but in the vast reaches of horsedom all over the nation.”

The Monday following the 1942 Carolina Cup, which was won by Rustin Romance with Camden’s J.H. Clyburn in the saddle, The State newspaper ran an editorial regarding the rumor that it would be the final Camden spring classic run at the Knights Hill Road facility.

“Camden is a patriotic city,” the editorial penned by Sam Latimer, editor-in-chief of The State newspaper, “its people of the present and the past



An outrider leads the post parade of starters onto the Springdale Race Course to meet the starter's flag for a race on Carolina Cup day.

Photo courtesy National Steeplechase Museum

how to none in devotion to their country , so if it is necessary in the winning of the war to convert Springdale into an aerial training center, none would be quicker to acquiesce that the private owners of the course who have gladly developed it as a civic privilege, and the thousands who benefit in pleasure and in profit from holding there of the famous steeplechase.

“To take the scene of the Carolina Cup,” the editorial went on to read, “would mean taking the Carolina Cup race itself, and Camden, the government should remember is a resort city, making a noble struggle to hold its place against modern transportation, which has turned tourists into nomads rather than long-stayers. Camden needs Springdale and it needs the Kirkwood hotel, which is bound very closely to the race.

“This is not an argument that under no circumstances should Springdale be taken. But it is an expression of hope that another site, if possible, be selected for the air base.”

The Carolina Cup survived its three years of

being dark for its spring race date. When the Cup returned to Springdale in 1946, F. Ambrose Clark’s Lanacastrian won the afternoon’s \$1,000 feature which, due to the lack of timber jumpers, was contested over brush fences for the first time and run at two miles.

An estimated crowd of 18,000 made their way through the Springdale Race Course gates that day as the event re-established itself on the American racing landscape, not to mention being a source of pride to the local community.

“We may not have completely recovered from the affects of the war,” Kirkover said of the return of the Carolina Cup, “but we believe we are headed toward even greater things.”

From an era in which jump racing’s return to Camden was questionable, the Carolina Cup not only survived a war and various fads and switching from timber to packed brush to National Fences, but it thrived. It has weathered the storm and has stood the test of time, which is something not many events can say. U



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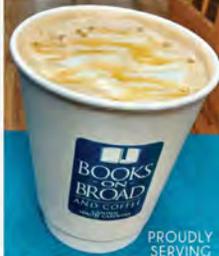


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Camden's Finest

Carolina Cup eve events will be a celebration of town's love of horses and music

By TOM DIDATO

Camden natives Joal Rush (top) and Josh McCaa (bottom right) will bring their bands for the Finally Friday concert series at the Town Green in Camden on Friday, March 27. On that same evening, the life and legacy of Austin Brown (left) and his wife, Sally, will be celebrated with a reception to be held inside the National Steeplechase Museum.

What better way to kick off Camden's biggest day than by ushering in Carolina Cup weekend with a pair of the town's native sons while also honoring the legacy of a couple who were devoted to their adopted hometown in many different ways.

On Friday evening, March 27, in what has become a Carolina Cup-eve tradition, the Arts Center of Kershaw County is leaving its Lyttleton Street campus and heading a few blocks east to the Camden Town Green to kick off its spring-summer Finally Friday free concert series on Friday, March 27. The show will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.

On the same night at the same time, the National Steeplechase Museum (NSM) will host its annual Carolina Cup eve celebration with the opening of the Austin and Sally Brown Collection. The evening will also see the unveiling of the exhibit highlighting the contributions of African-American jockeys to the Sport of Kings.

The cocktails and hors d'oeuvres reception will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each for NSM members and \$50 for non-members. For reservations, please call 432-6513.

Finally Friday: For the past three years, the season's kickoff event has been a local jam of various musicians. This time around, it will be a pair of Camdenites returning home with Josh McCaa and Joal Rush combining for a doubleheader show. McCaa and his band will bat leadoff, hitting the stage at 6 p.m., with Rush and his band to follow in what promises to be a memorable evening of

music and storytelling from the two Camden High graduates who, have sometimes performed onstage as a duo.

McCaa has gained a following both in his hometown as well as along the Grand Strand and other locales with his shows, both solo acoustic as well as with a backing band. Armed with a plethora of original songs and cover tunes, McCaa can take his audience where it wants to go. In a mellow mood, he has you covered. Ready to rock it out, he's good to go there, as well.

A creative guitarist, McCaa will be the front man for a group sure to keep the Town Green hopping.

Rush, like McCaa, was born and raised in Camden. He started his musical journey at a young age by singing, playing the drums, playing guitar and bass while also working on his piano skills. For the better part of the past two decades, he has shared the stage with the likes of the Zac Brown Band, Jason Isbell, Darius Rucker, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Jakob Dylan, Styx and Foreigner. During that time, he released a trio of albums --- Delightful Things, Imagination, Wares --- before moving to Nashville in 2014 to expand his musical horizons while using his time to focus on writing and recording songs for his album, Kaleidoscope Emotions.

Over time, Rush has crafted a style which weaves Americana, pop, rock and soul into the equation which unleashes a unique and entertaining sound.

Austin and Sally Brown Collection: The art and equine collection which belonged to the late Sally and Austin Brown was donated to the National Steeplechase Museum in Camden following their passing. Those mementoes will be on display for the first time inside the facility the night before the Carolina Cup Races.

Nicknamed "Mr. Steeplechasing", Austin Brown passed away in 2016. One of his lasting legacies is the National Steeplechase Museum which Brown helped to get off the ground and saw to its completion in 1998. As the longtime director of the Carolina Cup Racing Association, Brown helped implement many new and innovative ideas to both the Carolina Cup and the former Colonial Cup Races.

Having received his amateur jockey's license at the age of 16 in 1943, Brown rode in 14 Iroquois steeplechase races, winning three times and joining the Iroquois Steeplechase Hall of Fame in 2008. He rode in three Maryland Hunt Cups but more importantly he began a career that included positions as an owner, trainer, steward, course designer and industry leader.

In addition to his efforts in steeplechasing, Brown worked for Delaware Park racetrack from 1965 -1982 as assistant general manager and eventually executive vice president/general manager. At Delaware, he was a member of the executive committee and promoted simulcast and spurred numerous marketing developments, including the Morning Railbird Club (where Brown narrated morning workouts and interviewed trainers and jockeys) and Ladies Day at The Races.

He considered the National Steeplechase Museum one of his best accomplishments, promoting the concept in 1997 and raising the funds for construction. Austin was honored by the industry in 2007 as the 24th recipient of the F. Ambrose Clark Award.

Sally Brown passed away in 2019. Like her husband, she was a staunch supporter of the Carolina Cup and Thoroughbred racing, in general. A former Master of the Camden Hunt, she was also active in the retriever sporting community, as well.

Sally Brown was a major contributor to the arts community in Camden, especially what is now the Arts Center of Camden. During her time here, she took to the stage to perform as a member of the Camden Community Theater. When her acting days were over, she brought that same zest and zeal for the theater to being a supporter of the center and the arts scene and her adopted community, in general.

The exhibit in the NSM's Great Hall will focus on the accomplishments of African-American jockeys who, won 15 of the first 28 runnings of the Kentucky Derby starting with Isaac Burns Murphy who won the Run for the Roses three times with the first of those coming aboard Buchanan in 1884. Jimmy Winkfield was the last African-American rider to win the Kentucky Derby on Alan-a-Dale in 1902.

The exhibit also includes the accomplishments of Deshawn Parker, who has won more than 5,700 races in a career in which his mounts have earned in excess of \$70 million.



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