

THE

# DOYLEAN SPORTING TIMES

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

## THE “NEW PINK ’UN”

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## Wessex Cup Set for January 11

At Mysterious Bookshop

### With Doylean Honors

NEW YORK — The ACD Society will host its second Wessex Cup at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop on January 11, 2024. The running will begin right after the Society's annual “Doylean Honors” presentations, starting at 11:15 a.m.

Like the 2023 event, the 2024 Wessex Cup will feature horses owned by Doylean purchasers of “stables” — each consisting of an ACD Society/Wessex Cup bag with:

- One lead horse with a jockey attired in unique, genuine silks (and refined in other distinctively tasteful ways) by equestrian outfitter extraordinaire Peggy MacFarlane. The horse, which is about 4 fingers tall, is made of colorful plastic. It runs on wheels powered by a manually engaged mechanism. (In other words, it is a wind-up toy, customized for the Wessex Cup.)

- A back-up horse and jockey, just in case the lead team suffers some sort of mishap.

- A handful of other nifty Wessex Cup keepsakes.

## The Eight Coursers

The biggest difference between the 2023 Wessex Cup and the 2024 edition will be the size of the field. In 2023 there were 16 competitors. In 2024 there will be 8.

Why the smaller field? Mostly because the organizers felt the 2023 program ran a bit long. If 7 races — that's how many you get with 8 horses and a pairwise, single-elimination competition to select a champion — does not seem sufficient in 2024, then the field may grow in 2025.

## A Few Rules for 2024

The purchase and pick-up of stables are once again governed by a few simple rules:

- In October 2023, the 8 stable owners whose horses didn't win a race in the 2023 Wessex Cup will get first dibs on purchasing stables for 2024.

- Winners in 2023 are disqualified for 2024 — to give others a chance to savor the thrill of victory — but they will be allowed to keep their 2023 horse's name and get a stable next year for the 2025 Wessex Cup. Congrats again to those 8 winners: Derrick Belanger (*Shoscombe Prince*), Peter Blau (*Silver Blaze*), Rachel Davies (*Leah*), Mark Jones (*Violette*), Leslie S. Klinger (*Murray's Pack-Horse*), Ira Brad Matetsky (*The Game Is Ahoof!*), David McCallister (*The Old Horse*), and Greg Ruby (*Bulldog*).

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A crowd in *The Mysterious Bookshop* awaits the running of the Wessex Cup on Jan. 5, 2023. Mark Jones (center, with hands clasped) prepares to record the event for *Doings of Doyle* ([www.doingsofdoyle.com](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com)), while Ashley Polasek (center, with arms crossed), owner of “*Unfortunate Pony*,” surveys the course, and Madeline Quiñones (front, with deerstalker), owner of “*Mavis*,” smiles at us. Photo by Brian Belanger.

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- In November, ACD Society members will get first dibs on purchasing any stables that are still available.
- Each purchaser is permitted to acquire only one stable.
- The purchaser of a stable is its Owner.
- An Owner may designate Trainers (no more than three) as their collaborators by emailing notice of Trainer designations to ACD Society World Headquarters, Wessex Cup Department, at [acdsoc@gmail.com](mailto:acdsoc@gmail.com).
- Each stable must be claimed in person by 11:15 a.m. on race day — January 11 — at *The Mysterious Bookshop* by its Owner or a Trainer.
- A stable not claimed on time will be transferred to some worthy person in the Bookshop — most likely a friendly on-the-spot purchaser — with no refund to the original purchaser. So, it is very much in the interest of every Owner to show up on time, or designate a Trainer to do so!

## The Running of the Races

There will be a total of 7 races, with the final race being for the championship. All will be run on the same course that was used in January 2023 — a flat, 7-foot-long Victorian-era track with a rich, green felt surface and a finish line near its midpoint.

- Round 1: Horses from the 8 stables will compete in pairs — with 4 races, and 4 winners.
- Round 2: The 4 round 1 winners will compete in pairs — 2 races, 2 winners.
- Round 3: The 2 winners of round 2 will compete to determine the champion of the Wessex Cup.

The total time to run all 7 races will probably be about 20 minutes.

The champion will receive a trophy, as well as bragging rights until the next running of the Wessex Cup.

