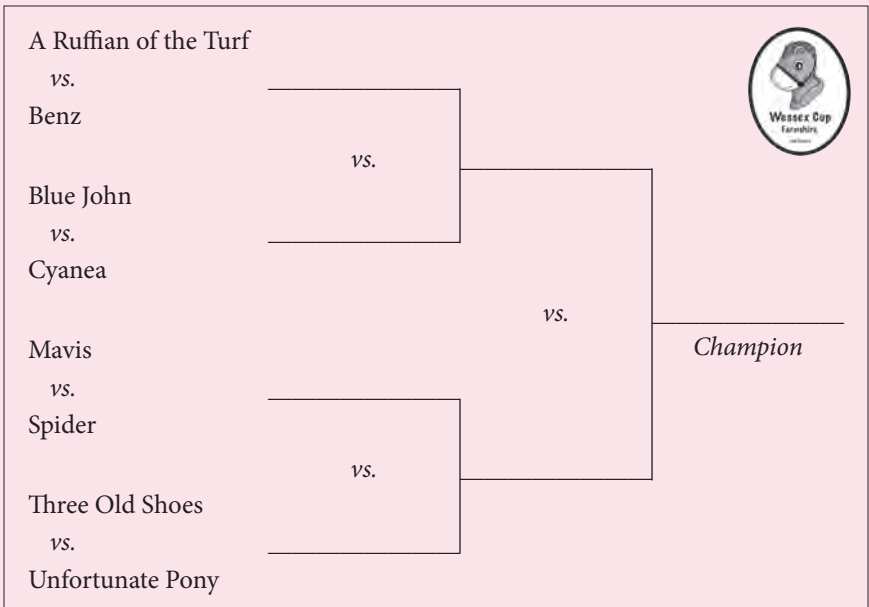## The Wessex Cup

————

Who Will Win?

NEW YORK — Later today, the ACD Society will host its second annual Wessex Cup contest of equestrian acceleration at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop. The running of the Wessex Cup races will take place immediately after the Society's third "Doylean Honors" awards ceremony, which is scheduled to begin at 11:15 a.m. sharp.

Discussion of the relative merits of the horses that will be racing has been vigorous in recent weeks, with most of the comparisons focusing on the splendid and evocative outfits and ornaments created by equestrian outfitter extraordinaire Peggy MacFarlane.

The prospects for consensus about who is the coolest, cleverest horse or jockey are dim. But the question of which horse-and

A Ruffian of the Turf

vs.

Benz

vs.

Blue John

vs.

Cyanea

vs.

Mavis

vs.

Spider

vs.

Three Old Shoes

vs.

Unfortunate Pony

vs.

Champion

Horses (and Owners), clockwise from upper left: A Ruffian of the Turf (Joe Eckrich), Benz (Bruce Harris), Blue John (Team Terror – Margie Deck and Nancy Holder), Cyanea (Jacquelynn Morris), Mavis (Madeline Quiñones), Spider (Monica Schmidt), Three Old Shoes (Matt Hall), Unfortunate Pony (Curtis Armstrong and Ashley Polasek).

continued from page 1

jockey team is the quickest will be settled definitively today. The competitors have been paired in alphabetical order by steed name (see the bracket on page 1) for the first round (the quarter-final races). The four winners will meet in the two semi-final races, and the two winners will compete in the final race, for the Wessex Cup trophy and bragging rights in 2024. All eight racers are pictured above. Five are from returning stables (some under new names). Three are newcomers. A recording of the event (produced by Mark Jones) will be on the *Doings of Doyle* YouTube channel by January 21.

The Exhibition

To elevate the excitement this year, the organizers have added a pre-Cup exhibition race between lucky new stable owner Rudy Altergott (whose horse "Moonstone" is pictured below left) and a mysterious celebrity owner who will be fielding "The Woman in White" (below right).