

THE

DOYLEAN SPORTING TIMES

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

THE “NEW PINK ’UN”

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A Horse ...

... of a Different Color ...

... and Material!

TORONTO — We at the Wessex Cup will always have a soft spot for the bright plastic ponies that carried us through the first two races. With their dayglow colors and the jolly thumbs-up pose of the jockey, they were “cheap and cheerful” personified. Unfortunately, they also had their problems. No need to fear foul play with those fragile ponies — they hobbled themselves! Some barely made it through their practice race.

The good news is that we have sourced New and Improved steeds for the 2025 Wessex Cup. These sleek wooden ponies provide the ideal surface for personalized ornamentation. More importantly, they need no winding. Trainers can just set them rolling on the new specially-designed track and they’re off!

Decorating the ponies for the first two years of Wessex Cup races was a joyous exercise in putting lipstick on a pig. Whether it was a plasticine kangaroo, a jellyfish hat, a wine-toting jockey, or tiny tchotchke babies, nothing I did could offer an insult to that cheap plastic with its lurid colors.

The new ponies, on the other hand, look like classic wooden toys. It would have been a shame to cover up all that nice wood finish, so I opted for some bright pattern play limited to the back, forehead, wheels, and eyes. Each pony gets a signature color and personalized motifs that appear across these areas.

Once against I had a blast with this weird and wonderful challenge. I hope the owners like the results.

— Peggy MacFarlane



Curtis Armstrong and Ashley Polasek’s “Unfortunate Pony” — shown here in its third incarnation — will be ready to roll, resplendent in its new signature color scheme, on January 16.

A Duckling Among Swans

vs.

Duke of Wellington

vs.

Imperturbable

vs.

Isle of Wight

vs.

Spider

vs.

The Doctor

vs.

Ticket to Ryde

vs.

Unfortunate Pony

Champion



Owners and trainers: *A Duckling Among Swans* (Marsha Pollak), *Duke of Wellington* (Matt Hall), *Imperturbable* (Johanna Draper Carlson), *Isle of Wight* (Greg Ruby), *Spider* (Monica Schmidt and Victoria Wood), *The Doctor* (Bruce Harris and Julius Spada), *Ticket to Ryde* (Ira Brad Matetsky), *Unfortunate Pony* (Curtis Armstrong and Ashley Polasek).

The Wessex Cup

Doylean Honors

NEW YORK — On January 16, 2025, at 11:15 a.m., the ACD Society will host its annual Doylean Honors awards ceremony and Wessex Cup races here, at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop (58 Warren Street).

As they were last year, the competitors have been paired in alphabetical order by steed name (see the bracket above). Also like last year, a recording of the event (produced by Mark Jones) will be on the *Doings of Doyle* YouTube channel shortly after the event. We expect at least one past Wessex Cup winner — Derrick Belanger — to be in attendance and ready to cheer the racers and celebrate a new champion.



Reminder to Society Members

The November 2024 issue of *A Common Newsletter* included this advice:

If you attend ... the Wessex Cup ... you might bring this issue of *A Common Newsletter* with you. The first few ACD Society members who present their copy to the editor then and there will get a toy with a bit of Doylean content.

If you remember to bring (and present) your copy of that issue of *A Common Newsletter*, but forget to bring an instrument with which to record the results of the Wessex Cup races in the bracket in this issue of *The New Pink 'Un*, here's hoping you bring a very blunt knife.