

Warrenton Hunt Point to Point 3-19-2022

The Warrenton Hunt Point to Point on Saturday, March 19 is perfectly positioned on the calendar to be a prep for upcoming sanctioned meets in the South. The Airlie Race Course is popular with the horsemen and as a result the hurdle races had an overflow of entries.

The first race on the card was the open hurdle race that had a solid field. In the race trainer, Mark Beecher had Holwood Stable and Port Lairge Stables' Decisive Triumph (Jamie Bargary) sitting on go. He led all the way winning by 2 lengths. Neil Morris saddled PathFinder Racings' entry of Knockholt (Parker Hendriks) and Bet the Pot (Gerard Galligan) to place second and third.

The maiden hurdle race was split into three divisions with trainer, Keri Brion winning two divisions and Mark Beecher winning the other. Brion's first win was with Molly & Paul Willis' Parish Delight (Parker Hendriks). Parish Delight ran in the middle of the field, joined the leaders at the last fence and held off Nancy J. Reed & Jay Griswold's Bright Eyed Eagle (Gerard Galligan) by ½ length in a driving finish. Brion's second win was with CFC Stables' Undercover Rowdy (Barry Foley), who led all the way to win handily by 8 lengths. Sycamore Run and Katherine Neilson's Big City Dreams (Gerard Galligan) and Uplands Flats Racing's King Bubble (Parker Hendriks) were second and third without posing any threat to the winner.

Mark Beecher's winner was Happenstance & Achsah O'Donovan's Hero's Return (Brett Owings). Shamrock and Thistle's Make a Stand set the pace with Hero's Return within striking distance. Approaching the last fence Hero's Return went to the front and drew away in the stretch winning easily by 6 lengths over Make a Stand. Upland Flat's Racing LLC's Pleasecallmeback (Parker Hendriks) was third.

The timber races followed with two horses going in the open timber. Barry Foley got his second win riding Adlestrop Hill's Paddy's Crown, who shadowed Fat Chance Farm's Flaming Sword (McLane Hendriks) for most of the race. When they entered the stretch the race was on and these two battled to the finish. Paddy's Crown proved best by ½ length. Emily Hannum was the winning trainer.

Five horses went to the start for the novice timber race. Irvin S. Naylor's O Dionysus (Eric Poretz) led the field until a half mile out. At this stage Beverly R. Steinman's Be Somebody (Brian Cullinane) took control and beat Kinross Farm's Sea Mast (Barry Foley) to the finish by 4 lengths. Doug Fout, Beverly Steinman's long-time trainer got the win. Daniel T. Doane's Theda's Boy (Brett Owings) came in third.

Todd McKenna saddled the first two finishers in the foxhunter timber race. Keystone Thoroughbreds' So Sublime (Teddy Davies) won with a front running trip that left Upland Partners Rhythmia (Colin Smith) in his wake The final margin was 7 lengths.

It took the placing judges a long time to determine the result of the side saddle race. Cherry Blossom Farm LLC's Soul Approval (Devon Zebrovius) and Olivia Sitar's Nova entered the stretch together and neither horse gave an inch in a driving finish. The placing judges declared a dead heat. Julie Nafe's Gun Lobby was third. George Kuk trained Soul Approval and Nova was saddled by her owner.

Two flat races closed the day's racing. The first was an open race that Blythe Miller Davies' Brave Deacon won on the pace. This was Teddy Davies second win. Doug Fout trained Rolling Tide LLC's Dothecantbedone (Barry Foley) and Vivian Warren's Timeistheenemy (Brian Cullinane), who were second and third

Keri Brion added another win saddling Atlantic Friends Racing's Historic Heart (Parker Hendriks) to win the novice rider flat race. Historic Heart rallied from off the pace to take the lead in the last quarter mile and held Frank Bonsal, Jr.'s Cobalt Baron (Colin Smith) safe in the stretch by 1 length Fearnought Farm LLC's Hooroo (Abby Murphy) was third.