

# MARYLAND HUNT CUP

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 19, 2020

### **Acquisition of New Challenge Cup Announced for the 124<sup>th</sup> Running of the Maryland Hunt Cup**

GLYNDON, Maryland — The Maryland Hunt Cup Association has announced the acquisition of a new Challenge Cup for the 124<sup>th</sup> running of The Maryland Hunt Cup – the renowned four-mile, twenty-two fence timber race founded in 1894.

Following his retirement as the first Secretary of the Maryland Hunt Cup, Ross Winans Whistler donated the inaugural Challenge Cup to be presented to the owner who could win the race three times (not necessarily with the same horse). It was 1913, nearly three decades before Mrs. E. Read Beard took home the celebrated Cup with wins in 1938, 1939, and 1940 with her horse Blockade, ridden by J. Fred Colwill and trained by Janon Fisher Jr.

In the years between 1940 and 1983 five more owners met the Challenge Cup requirements: Stuart S. Janney Jr. (Winton); Mrs. W. J. Clothier (Pine Pep); Mrs. M.C. Stephenson (Jay Trump); Redmond C. Stewart Jr. (Haffaday & Ben Nevis II); and Mrs. Miles Valentine (Cancottage).

Another 36 years passed before Skip and Vicki Crawford's superb horse Senior Senator retired the Challenge Cup on the Maryland Hunt Cup's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, April 27, 2019, with victories in 2016, 2018, and 2019. Only seven owners can make that claim in 125 years.

The new Challenge cup is currently being restored and prepared – including a new base – by Maryland's esteemed century-old Smyth Jewelers. Co-president Bob Smyth explained, "While my team of silversmiths could not identify the silver stamp on the new Challenge Cup, the trophy is sterling silver and beautifully made with Maryland traditional *repousse*. It was most likely made by an east coast silversmith in the mid-1930s."

Coming into the 2019 renewal there were six owners with two legs on the Challenge Cup hoping to strike a third: Move Up Stable, Northwoods Stable, Lucy Goelet, Irvin S. Naylor, Stewart Strawbridge, and Irvin L. Crawford II. Their legs – as tradition requires – were wiped clean, and a new era begins on April 25, 2020.

The Maryland Hunt Cup is one of the most respected timber races in North America. Founded in 1894, the race covers four miles and twenty-two of the most challenging fences in steeplechase. Originally a match race between the Elkridge Hunt Club and the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club this race has been run by amateur only riders for nearly 125 continuous years – the only exception being a three-year hiatus during World War II.

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