

Full Cry



June Special Edition 2011



We have had two separate mailings to our troop to date and the collection box has been returned to the club. As you can see from the excerpt below, our contributions have been greatly appreciated. This excerpt is from a letter written by Lisa Niner:

"I wanted to give something to the EHC for all the support they gave me and the boys. Maybe they can hang this on a wall at the club...!!!

The hardest thing for everyone who deploys is loneliness. We have plenty of support, but they aren't your family and they aren't true friends. There is a lot of soul searching in an environment like this so most leave here changed on the inside, but society doesn't see it ... we just know it."

We should all feel good for what we do. The above plaque will be taken to the club so that it can be part of our history. I know Lisa, her "boys" and her family appreciate all we at Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club do to help.

Right Royal - Vintage Race Poetry for Summer Reading

...In the first time round, this ride's a hunt....

by Andrea Shore

What are you reading this summer? As a librarian I read widely, both for my own enjoyment and to provide readers advisory for folks from all walks of life.

More often than not its popular fiction that draws the most interest, but nonfiction has many rewards, among them poetry. Often overlooked and underread, poetry offers the busy reader real bang for the buck.

“Lack of Appreciation of Poetry Declared to be Due to Absence of a Leisure Class” - *The New York Times* - 1908

Summer is the perfect time to return to the “leisure class” and enjoy select poetry passages from the storied *Right Royal*, paired here with Maryland Hunt Cup photographs by Tony Shore.

Start with an icy glass of **Smyth's Southside Punch** find a shaded hammock or chaise, and thrill to the evocative prose recounting the steeplechase glory of an heroic horse and rider.

British poet laureate, John Masefield (1878-1967), penned *Right Royal* in 1920. This long narrative poem is set at the 'Chasers' Cup (Compton Course) in England - four and a half miles over grass and *plough land*, with twenty-nine jumps over ditch and hurdle, brush, bank, and water.

The story begins with a pair of lovers, not unlike one of our own chasing/racing couples, Joe and Blythe Davies. Blythe most recently won the 2011 Maryland Hunt Cup - one of the most prestigious timber races in the U.S.- on former polo pony and chasing veteran, Private Attack, making the language of *Right Royal* all the more keenly felt and poignant.

Right Royal - by John Masefield

Part 1

*An hour before the race they talked together,
A pair of lovers, in the mild March weather,
Charles Cothill and the golden lady, Em.*

Beautiful England's hands had fashioned them.

*He was from Sleins, that manor up the Lithe.
Riding the Downs had made his body blithe;
Stalwart he was, and springy, and hardened, swift,
Able for perfect speed with perfect thrift,
Man to the core yet moving like a lad.
Dark honest eyes with merry gaze he had,
A fine firm mouth, and wind-tan on his skin.
He was to tide, and ready to begin.*

*He was to ride Right Royal, his own horse,
In the English 'Chasers' Cup on Compton Course.*

*Under the pale coat reaching to his spurs
One saw his colours, which were also hers,
Narrow alternate bars of blue and white,
Blue as the speedwell's eye and silver bright.*



A big bay with a big heart, Right Royal is a promising but bedeviled horse, treated hard and failed at flat racing, and now trained for steeplechasing. One night Charles dreams of the Compton Course and hears Right Royal speak to him.

*His great crest glittered as he looked at me
Criniered with spitting sparks; he stamped the ground
All cock and fire, trembling like a hound,
And glad of me, and eager to declare
His horse's mind.*

*And I was made aware
That, being a horse, his mind could only say
Few things to me. He said, "It is my day,
My day, to-day; I shall not have another."*

Gambling everything on his dream and belief in his horse, Charles chances it all and prepares for the race that will determine everything.

*Sir Button sold him, Charles Cothill bought him,
Rode him to hounds and soothed and taught him.
After two years' care Charles felt assured
That his horse's broken heart was cured,
And the jangled nerves in tune again.*

*And now, as proud as a King of Spain,
He moved in his box with a restless tread,
His eyes like sparks in his lovely head,
Ready to run between the roar
Of the stands that face the Straight once more;
Ready to race, though blown, though beat,
As long as his will could lift his feet;
Ready to burst his heart to pass
Each gasping horse in that street of grass.*

*At buckle and billet their fingers wrought,
Till the sheets were home and the bowlines taut.
As he knotted the reins and took his stand
The horse's soul came into his hand,
And up from the mouth that held the steel
Came an innermost word, half thought, half feel,
"My day to-day, O master, O master;
None shall jump cleaner, none shall go faster,
Call till you kill me, for I'll obey;
It's my day today, it's my day today."*

*And then in a flash, more felt than seen,
The flag shot down and the course showed green,
And the line surged forwards and all that glory
Of speed was sweeping to make a story.*

*One second before, Charles Cothill's mind
Had been filled with fear to be left behind,
But now with a rush, as when hounds leave cover,
The line broke up and his fear was over.*



*The thunder of horses, all fit and foaming,
Made the blood not care whether death were coming.
A glimmer of silks, blue, white, green, red,
Flashed into his eye and went ahead;
Then hoof-casts scattered, then rushing horses
Passed at his side with all their forces.
His blood leapt up, but his mind said, "No,
Steady, my darling, slow, go slow.
In the first time round this ride's a hunt."*

The Turk's Grave Fence made a line in front...

*And smiting the turf to clods that scattered
Was the rush of the race, the thing that mattered,
A tide of horses in fury flowing,
Beauty of speed in glory going...*

*And away and away and away they went,
A visible song of what life meant...*

*The roar of the race-course died behind them,
In front were their Fates, they rode to find them,
With the wills of men, with the strength of horses,
They dared the minute with all their forces.*

End Part One.

Want to know what happens next? Continue Part Two or read the poem in its entirety online at Project Gutenberg * - <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/6452> .

Selected passages from *Right Royal* were borrowed here from the hardcover first edition illustrated copy, published in 1922 and illustrated by Cecil Aldin.

Just finished riding and ready to read more? Visit any public library for more reading suggestions, books and audiovisual materials, or make a virtual visit and download thousands of e-books and e-audio from my library for free - http://bcpl.info/centers/library/library_audiobooks.html

Happy Reading! Happy Riding!



TOM & KATIE'S

BIG YARD SALE

JUNE 18, 2011

9:00 AM

FURNITURE, LAMPS, CHINA &
GLASSWARE, GARDEN TOOLS,
HORSEBLANKETS & MORE!

15335 Old York Road
Monkton, MD

Jousting Tourney to Benefit Club

By Maryanna Skowronski

On July 9th, 2011 The Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland will present a benefit match on the grounds of the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club to raise funds for the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club and the Historical Society of Harford County. The Bob Six Memorial Joust will take place beginning at 11:00 AM in the horse show/polo ring of the hunt club's facility at 3405 Pockock Road at the corner of the Jarrettsville Pike and next to Ladew Gardens. This is a family day and tailgate picnics are encouraged. There is no seating so please bring blankets or lawn chairs. (Please no pets). Admission is \$20 per car and tickets are available at the gate on the day of the tournament. Food will be available for purchase on the grounds.

In August of 1958, it was realized by four very enthusiastic Jousters, that a Club had to be formed to encourage the Amateur Rider. With the fun of Jousting as its major foundation, John Billingslea, Pete Kahl, Bob Six, and Dick Slade, met at the "Big Ol' White House" in Fallston, Maryland to establish the ideas and plans of what was to become the Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland. The late Bob Six had a life-long connection to the Elkridge-Harford Hunt and the AJC has named the tournament in his memory. Bob Six was inducted into the Jousting Hall of Fame in the mid 1970s.

The late Dick Slade was known to many E-H members as the driving force behind the annual Jack Russell Terrier races and agility classes held on the grounds of the Club and at his Hess Road "amusement park for Jack Russels" for many years. Huntsman Geoff Hyde and Earl Wiseman were even drafted to judge the terriers during one memorable show! Dicky is also remembered for the great parties he held in honor of the E-H staff. E-H member Katie Cree and her family also have a connection to the AJC which for many years loaned its tournament wagon to the club for various events.

In the past 53 years of its existence, The Amateur Jousting Club has presented well over 650 Jousting Tournaments and Exhibitions throughout the State of Maryland. Over 600 members have joined the organization.

This is the first new tournament to be held in Harford County in the past 15 years and will be only the second to be held in the county overall today. Members of the AJC will meet with spectators to explain the sport. A class for amateur riders who have never josted before will also be held. If you are interested in helping with the event, entering the novice class or in attending the event please visit (Call Maryanna at the Historical Society at 410-838-7691 for info). Please come out and support this new addition to the Elkridge-Harford calendar of events. If successful the tournament will become an annual fixture.



CHARGE SIR KNIGHT!

Jousting Returns to the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club

The Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland

presents

The Bob Six Memorial Joust

**To Benefit the Historical Society of Harford County
&
The Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club**

Saturday, July 9th, 2011

Tournament begins at 11:00 AM

For more information or tickets visit

www.ehhounds.com

or

www.harfordhistory.org

or call 410-838-7691

SAVE THE DATE!

HUGE

CLUB YARD SALE

JUNE 11, 2011

8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

**CORNER OF POCOCK ROAD &
JARRETTSVILLE PIKE**

**ELKRIDGE-HARFORD
HUNT CLUB**

The Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club's

Full Cry



June Special Issue 2011



Ronny Maher Memorial Polo Match
SAVE THE DATE
07-22-2011



Ronny Maher Memorial Polo Match

Benefits University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center



FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2011

Gates Open at 5:00 pm / Match starts at 6:00 pm

Presented by
RBC Capital Company (Delaware), Inc. and
RBC Wealth Management



Silent auction, cocktails,
dinner by the Manor Tavern,
campagne tivot stomping,
and music by
The Jody West Band.



Advance ticket sales only!
Adult Tickets: \$65
Children 12 & under: \$25
Sponsorship
opportunities available.



UMMS FOUNDATION
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM

CALL 410.328.3637 FOR TICKETS

Or visit WWW.UMMSFOUNDATION.ORG/POLO for more information.

MARYLAND POLO CLUB'S LADEW FIELD / MONKTON, MD [Off Mountain Rd., 1/4 mile from intersection of Mountain Rd. (RL 152) & Jamlettsville Pike (RL 346)]