

Blue Ridge Hunt Point to Point 4-17-2022

A good crowd was on hand April 17 to celebrate Easter and to see a day of steeplechase and flat racing at Woodley Farm near Berryville, Virginia. Horses, beagles, foxhounds and a few Easter bunnies were on hand.

The day started with two hurdle races, one for maidens and the second for amateur and novice riders. In the maiden race Flying Pheasant Farm LLC's Felix Leiter (Brett Owings) was well prepared by Mark Beecher to win at first asking. Felix Leiper raced near the pace and went to the front with a mile to run. White Oaks Stables LLC's Shendam (Paul Cawley) responded to the challenge and had the lead with a furlong remaining. Felix Leiter came again and won going away by 2 lengths.

The amateur/novice hurdle race went to Mary P. Voss and Peter Webb's Bella Coola (Colin Smith) by the slimmest of margins over Blythe Miller Davies' Brave Deacon (Teddy Davies). Brave Deacon set the pace with the field close behind. At the head of the stretch Bella Coola engaged Brave Deacon and nearly matched strides for the rest of the race. Bella Coola won on the nod for trainer, Elizabeth Voss.

The three flat races attracted light fields. The first was a match race for young adults. There were only two starters, EHB Racing's Huyana with Colin Smith riding for trainer, Casey Pinkard and Camille deStanley on Camille & Olivia deStanley's Big Dave. Huyana went to the front immediately with Big Dave within striking distance. That didn't last long as Huyana widened and won by at least 30 lengths. Casey Pinkard trained the winner.

Mark Beecher saddled his second winner when Merriebelle LLC and Jeffrey Amling's Real Story (Brett Owings) won in the novice rider flat race. Real Story sprinted to a comfortable lead and held the lead when Grey Giant (Teddy Davies) made a bold move in the stretch and just missed by ½ length. This was also Brett Owing's second race.

Gordon C. Keys' Keys Discount (Emme Fullilove) came from off the pace to win the Virginia bred flat race over Nicki Valvo's Mountain Express (Bryan Cullinane). Nicole Brown's Mygrandmaisrachel (Barry Foley went off course and was disqualified).

Casey Pinkard had her second win when Frank Bonsal, Jr.'s Profiteer (Paul Cawley) won the novice timber race. Profiteer trailed the field but was always within striking distance. Larry Levy's Easy Exit (Gerard Galligan) led in the early going but Crooked Run Racings' Love of the Bay (Barry Foley) went to the front when Easy Exit tired. It was Mo's in the House's turn to lead next. Mo's in the House (Gerard Galligan) replaced Love of the Bay in the last three quarters of a mile. Profiteer made. He made his run when it was most important and won going away by 3 lengths.

