CHELTENHAM

A Jockey Club Racecourse

RUSSELL BRINGS UP 3,926/1 TREBLE ON FESTIVAL'S FINAL DAY

An unforgettable day for jockey Davy Russell was finished in grand style when he took the closing Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Chase on Savello.

Earlier wins on Tiger Roll (JCB Triumph Hurdle) and Lord Windermere (Betfred Cheltenham Gold Cup) completed a stunning treble that paid odds of 3,926/1. The final leg winner, Savello, who is trained by Tony Martin, started at 16/1 and completed a four-timer on the day for his owner, Michael O'Leary of Gigginstown House Stud.

Ironically, at the end of December, Russell lost his job as first jockey to Gigginstown in favour of Bryan Cooper. When Cooper broke his leg on Tuesday at The Festival, Russell was called up to renew his association in the familiar purple and white colours.

Russell said of Savello: "When you've got the machinery it makes the job a lot easier, and obviously Tony is a marvellous trainer, but there's nothing easy about this horse and as you can see, he wears a hood.

"He can get quite lit up and we've spent so long trying to get him to settle. All credit to Tony, because he's very much a spooky horse and anything can set him off.

"It went well in the race and I didn't want him to jump any better because I was in the position I wanted to be and was always happy I was going to get there. I had to sit and suffer at the top of the hill, but as he stays a bit further he was going to get home."

SAVELLO BRINGS UP INCREDIBLE FOUR-TIMER FOR GIGGINSTOWN HOUSE STUD

Savello pounced late to record a one and a quarter length victory in the final race of the 2014 Cheltenham Festival, the Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Challenge Cup, at odds of 16/1.

The eight-year-old capped off an extraordinary day for owners Gigginstown House Stud, who were celebrating an 82,653/1 four-timer after Tiger Roll (JCB Triumph Hurdle), Very Wood (Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle) and Don Poli (Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle) had all won earlier in the afternoon.

The Tony Martin-trained gelding was given a fantastic ride by Davy Russell, who himself was landing a 3,926/1 treble following his successes on Very Wood and Lord Windermere (Betfred Cheltenham Gold Cup).

"I'll never forget this day - it's been incredible," said Michael O'Leary, owner of Gigginstown House Stud.

"You wait two years for a winner at The Festival and then four come along in one day. We've got a couple of guests in our box and a couple of them have done a £2 accumulator on our horses - they've won over £150,000!"

"I'm delighted for Tony (Martin, the trainer) as well as his horses haven't had the best of luck this week. To be honest, I thought this one had no chance but it's all come together. It goes to show you what confidence can do. Davy (Russell, the jockey) has given him another great ride but he's on a high after his double earlier on.

“I really feel sorry for Bryan Cooper though after his horrible injury (Cooper broke his leg after a fall on Clarcam in the Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle on Tuesday). Our thoughts are with him and all the injured jockeys this week.”

Trainer Tony Martin was relieved to have got off the mark for this year’s Festival in the very last race.

“It’s not been the easiest week but we thought he had a squeak coming into this race,” said the trainer.

“It’s great for Davy who has not had the easiest few months but when you’re riding like he is now, your horses always have a chance. It was probably the ride of the week. The horse missed the fourth last and the second last but when you’ve got the balls to sit and wait like Davy did, there’s always a chance.”

DARYL JACOB BREAKS HIS KNEE

Daryl Jacob suffered a broken knee at today’s Cheltenham Festival when cantering to post in the Albert Bartlett Novices’ Hurdle.

Jacob, who had ridden Lac Fontana to victory in the previous race, the Vincent O’Brien County Hurdle, was riding Port Melon when the horse jinked and tried to jump over a plastic running rail, throwing the jockey to the ground.

Paul Nicholls, who trains Port Melon, said of Jacob: “I’ve just spoken to him by phone - he’s broken his knee and will be operated on tomorrow. It’s not great news.

“The incident looked horrific, but I haven’t spoken to him about it yet.

“Thank goodness he rode that winner on Lac Fontana, otherwise he would have been suicidal. He’s ridden a winner and is generally in good spirits despite having a terrible injury like that.”

5.15pm Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Chase Challenge Cup (Grade 3)

£90,000 total prize fund. For 5yo+, 2m 110y. Minimum weight 10st. Penalties after February 23rd, a winner of a chase 5lb (No penalty to increase a horse's weight above 11st 12lb). Penalty value 1st £51,255.00 2nd £19,233.00 3rd £9,630.00 4th £4,797.00 5th £2,412.00 6th £1,206.00

1) SAVELLO (IRE) (Gigginstown House Stud) Tony Martin IRE 8-11-05 Davy Russell 16/1
2) NED BUNTLINE (J P McManus) Noel Meade IRE 6-10-10 Paul Carberry 6/1jf
3) CLARET CLOAK (IRE) (Hawksmoor Partnership) Emma Lavelle 7-11-00 Noel Fehily 6/1jf
4) NEXT SENSATION (IRE) (Mark Blandford) Michael Scudamore 7-11-00 Richard Johnson 7/1
5) FRENCH OPERA (Judy Wilson & Martin Landau) Nicky Henderson 11-11-07 Nico de Boinville (5)
6) EASTLAKE (IRE) (J P McManus) Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-00 Maurice Linehan (5)
7) DARE ME (IRE) (Shire Birds) Venetia Williams 10-11-00 Aidan Coleman
8) LUCKY LANDING (IRE) (Gary Dewhurst & Tony Coyle) Tony Coyle 8-10-08 Dougie Costello
9) TANKS FOR THAT (IRE) (Bridget Hanbury) Nicky Henderson 11-11-02 Barry Geraghty
10) ANQUETTA (IRE) (Robert Waley-Cohen) Nicky Henderson 10-10-08 Mr Sam Waley-Cohen (3)
11) VIVA COLONIA (IRE) (Bolingbroke Racing, Mersey Racing) Brian Ellison 9-11-02 Nick Scholfield
12) CHANGING THE GUARD (Jim Stewart) Dr Richard Newland 8-10-09 Wayne Hutchinson
13) DRUMSHAMBO (USA) (The Grouse Partnership) Miss V Williams 8-11-2 Liam Treadwell
14) HIS EXCELLENCY (IRE) (Jo Tracey) David Pipe 6-11-00 Tom Scudamore
15) LANCETTO (FR) (R Gambarini) Evan Williams 9-10-06 Conor Ring (7)
16) SHOOTERS WOOD (IRE) (Bill Harrison-Allan) Paul Nicholls 10-10-06 Harry Derham (3)
PU) ASTRACAD (FR) (Raymond Mould) Nigel Twiston-Davies 8-11-01 Sam Twiston-Davies
F) COMPETITIVE EDGE (IRE) (J P McManus) Conor O'Dwyer IRE 7-10-12 Mark Walsh
BD) EASTER METEOR (Mr & Mrs S Willes) Emma Lavelle 8-10-6 Richard O'Dea (10)
F) MR MOLE (IRE) (J P McManus) Paul Nicholls 6-11-05 A P McCoy
F) OISEAU DE NUIT (FR) (Terry Warner) Colin Tizzard 12-11-11 Brendan Powell
F) PASSAGE VENDOME (FR) (F Doyle) Willie Mullins IRE 8-10-10 David Casey
F) RAYA STAR (IRE) (Simon Munir) Alan King 8-11-07 Robert Thornton

24 ran
Distances: 1¼, nk, nk, 3, 9, 3¾, 1¾, 2½, ½, nk, 3¾, 5, nse, 2½, 13
Breeder: Anthony Walsh Breeding: Anshan — Fontaine Frances (IRE) (Lafontaine (USA))
Tote Win £21.10 Place £4.40 £2.20 £2.30 £2.40 Exacta £165.00

Winning Trainer: TONY MARTIN **Background:** Famed for his raids across the Irish Sea from his Arodstown stables at Moynalvey, Co Meath, Tony Martin has made his mark on the Flat as well as over jumps. Martin, 41, started in racing under the old school regime of Clem Magnier, the dual purpose trainer. There followed stints with Michael Cunningham, Ted Curtin, Ted Walsh and Lambourn-based Oliver Sherwood, with whom he spent a year. He also had a spell in America before taking up training point-to-pointers. During his days with Magnier, the nickname 'Harvey' stuck with Martin. That was in the golden era of the showjumper Harvey Smith and, because there were plenty of big tough horses around, Martin had to be as strong as Harvey Smith to ride them. Martin, an accomplished amateur rider, trained and rode the 1999 John Smith's Novices' Hunters' Chase winner Extra Stout. His biggest successes on the Flat have come with She's Our Mare (1999) in the Cambridgeshire and Leg Spinner (2007) in the Cesarewitch, the "Autumn Double" at Newmarket and two of the most competitive Flat handicaps in the UK, while he has also record an Ascot Stakes double at the Royal Ascot with Barba Papa (2000) and Leg Spinner (2005) **Cheltenham Festival Wins (5):** Coral Cup (2003 Xenophon), JLT Specialty Handicap Chase (2006 Dun Doire), JLT Novices' Chase (2013 Benefficeint), Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle (2013 Ted Veale), Johnny Henderson Grand Annual (2014 Savello) **Number of Winners in Britain (2001/02-2012/13):** 1; 2; 0; 1; 5; 3; 11; 0; 1; 2; 2; 2; **Wins in Britain this Season:** 5

Winning Jockey: Davy Russell **Born:** June 27, 1979 **Background:** David Niall Russell hails - like fellow National jockey Denis O'Regan - from Youghal in Co. Cork and progressed from pony racing to become one of Ireland's leading point-to-point riders in recent years winning the championship in 2001 and 2002, when sharing the title with J T McNamara. The retirement of another one-time Irish point-to-point star, Adrian Maguire, saw him travel over to Britain in 2002 as stable jockey to Ferdy Murphy and he turned professional on November 12. He enjoyed his first big success when Truckers Tavern won the 2003 Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock and went on to be second to Best Mate in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Russell lost his job after 14 months as number one jockey to Murphy in January, 2004, as he also wanted to continue riding in Ireland at weekends. Irish champion Jump jockey in 2011/12 and 2012/13. Retained jockey to Gigginstown House Stud up until the start of this year. **Cheltenham Festival Wins (13):** RSA Chase (2010 Weapon's Amnesty, 2013 Lord Windermere), Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle (2009 Weapon's Amnesty), Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Chase (2008 Tiger Cry, 2014 Savello), Coral Cup (2008 Naiad Du Misselot, 2011 Carlito Brigante), Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Chase (2006 Native Jack), Baylis & Harding Affordable Luxury Handicap Chase (2007 Joe's Edge), Neptune Investment Management Novices' Hurdle (2011 First Lieutenant), JLT Novices' Chase (2012 Sir Des Champs), JCB Triumph Hurdle (2014 Tiger Roll), Betfred Cheltenham Gold Cup (2014 Lord Windermere) **First Cheltenham Festival Ride:** Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir, Toni's Tip (6th), March 14, 2000 **Wins in Britain This Season:** 3