FESTIVAL THRILLS AND SPILLS

Embers hot stuff

By CHRIS JUDGE

CRIMSON EMBERS, so unlucky not to be awarded the Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle last year, put the record straight yesterday without the help of the stewards.

The 11-year-old, hampered by stablemate Rose Ravine 12 months ago, stormed home by fifteen lengths this time.

Crimson Embers has run in this race for the last five years and won it back in 1982 at the first attempt.

Trainer Fulke Walwyn was at home with 'flu and wife Cath said: "He just loves this race and this time ran much better than we'd even hoped for."

CHAMPION! See You Then joins the greats

By CHARLES FAWCUS

STEVE Smith Eccles "rowed" See You Then to his second Champion Hurdle triumph yesterday as the horse put himself among the hurdling greats.

Both horse and jockey had trouble keeping fit during the freeze and got to Cheltenham with a bit of help from a rowing machine and a tractor!

"I had to get a few pounds off when racing restarted, so I bought a rowing machine, which exercises just the right muscles. I've lived on it recently," smiled Steve.

And a relieved Nick Henderson said: "The last month has been a nightmare, with us desperately trying to keep the horses on the move. It was difficult and boring and I was even driving a tractor at 3.00 in the morning to keep the gallops usable.

"The horse didn't get the credit he deserved last year, but has proved himself now."

The only anxious moment came with three to jump. "I was behind a wall of horses and not really going. But when I shook him up he just threaded his way through," said Smith Eccles.

Former Champion Gaye Brief was the only danger at the last, but See You Then left him for dead up the final hill.

Mercy Rimell was convinced that Gaye Brief was back to his old self and she was proved right, even if See You Then was just too strong.

"See You Then could be even better next year because he will be more mature," added Steve, who had earlier teamed up with Henderson to land a shock 40-1 win on River Ceiriog.

This result was greeted by stunned silence as heavily-backed Irish raiders flundered behind him and the pattern was set for the rest of the day as Lambourn-trained horses went on to win the next four races as well.

CHELTENHAM BBC-1 & 2

NEWSBOY
2.15—PIKE'S PEAK
2.50—BOBSLINE
3.30—MOTIVATOR
4.05—BOLANDS CROSS (NAP)
4.40—BUNDLE BOY
5.15—CLASSIFIED

BOUVERIE
2.15—PIKES PEAK
2.50—BOBSLINE
3.30—CROFTON VIEW (NAP)
4.05—BOLANDS CROSS
4.40—OMERTA
5.15—NEWLIFE CONNECTION

NEWSBOY'S DOUBLE: BOLANDS CROSS and CLASSIFIED.
BOUVERIE'S DOUBLE: CROFTON VIEW and NEWLIFE CONNECTION.
TONY SWEENEY: 2.15 BARROW LINE, 2.50 BOBSLINE (NAP), 4.05 SOUND JUDGEMENT, 4.40 OMERTA.
NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT: 3.30 ABANDONED WARRIOR (NAP), 4.05 STRANDS OF GOLD, 5.15 DURHAM EDITION.
TOPSPOT: 3.30 DAWN FLIGHT.
SPEED-HORSE: 2.50 BOBSLINE.

2.15 —SUN ALLIANCE NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 1). 2 miles 4 furlongs. Winner £25,080. (30 run). BBC-1

101		01	AHERLOW (P Fahey) Christian 6-11-7 (D)	R Beggan 42
104		111243	ALKEPA (C Smith) J Kavanagh (Ire) 6-11-7 (D)	Maria Cullen 47
105		1221	BARROW LINE (J Foley) P Hughes (Ire) 9-11-7	F Berry 45
108		031127	COMEDY LANE (A Stoddart) Kennard 7-11-7	B Powell 27
110		0121	DEEP IDOL (H Stanley) P Osborne (Ire) 6-11-7	N Madden 47
114		112	FIELD CONQUEROR (BL) (Miss A O'Connell) J Scott (Ire) 5-11-7	L Wyer 40
119		12302	GRANVILLE PARK (C Murphy) Mrs M Dickinson 5-11-7	G Bradley 30
121		03-021	HARRY'S DOUBLE (N Sherwood) Sherwood 6-11-7 (D)	S Sherwood 32
124		1120	KILDIMO (Lady Harris) A Jarvis 6-11-7 (D)	K Burke 33
126		201421	KITTO (Mrs W Speakman) F Winter 6-11-7 (D)	J Bosley 30
127		1	KNOCKELLY CASTLE (Mrs J Magnier) P Prendergast (Ire) 6-11-7 (SF)	42
130		01	MR GODDARD (W Durkan) W Durkan (Ire) 8-11-7	N Madden 49●
131		4-021	OBSERVER CORPS (G Clay) Mrs W Sykes 5-11-7	P Warner 26
132		221410	OCEANUS (R Mitchell) Denys Smith 5-11-7	A Stringer 30
133		22	OUTSIDE EDGE (B Kilpatrick) M-Smith 5-11-7 (BF)	R Dunwoody 27
135		32-011	PIKE'S PEAK (Lord Soames) Henderson 5-11-7 (CD)	S Smith Eccles 40
137		003414	REGULAR TIME (S Kirk) S Kirk (Ire) 5-11-7	T Taaffe 36
138		02131	RINUS (A Proos) McCain 5-11-7	J J O'Neill 28
140		01114	RULE OF THE SEA (USA) (R Jeffreys) A Scott 5-11-7	C Hawkins 32
144		420-111	TEN PLUS (L Tinwaites) F Walwyn 6-11-7 (CD, F)	K Mooney 48
145		03-1131	TICKITE BOO (W O'Gorman) Nicholson 6-11-7 (D)	P Scudamore 41
147		112433	TOPHAMS TAVERNS (R Topham) G M Moore 5-11-7 (D)	M Hammond 43
150		021	AUNTIE DOT (J Webber) Webber 5-11-2	G Mernagh 28
151		3-11343	BOLT HOLE (W Harrison-Allan) Doidge 7-11-2	A Gorman 31
152		3220	CORBITT COINS (Mrs J Corbett) F Walwyn 5-11-2 (BF)	S Shilston 26
153		121213	VIND FESTA (J Dews) R Perkins 7-11-2 (D)	Dai Williams 34
154		203430	CHRISTO (Can) (T Stafford) R Simpson 4-10-12	H Davies 32
156		133040	HAWSER (D Willis) Madgwick 4-10-12	A Madgwick 30
157		F111	IBN MAJED (P O'Donnell) Spares 4-10-12 (D, EW)	J McLaughlin 44
160		21	SPORTING MARINER (Craydale Ltd) Pipe 4-10-12	P Leach 38

Forecast.—6 Ten Plus, 7 Barrow Line, Tickete Boo, 8 Knockelly Castle, Deep Idol, Pike's Peak, 10 Ibn Majed, 12 Sporting Mariner, Granville Park, Field Conqueror, 14 harry's Double.
1985: ASIR, 5-11-7, R Beggan, 9-1 (Kelleway) 27 ran. Favourites: 2-2-0-0-3

Mirror TV SPOTFORM: MR GODDARD (12-0; 5-1) recovered from slight mistake last to score 20l victory over Charlie Lucky (11-6; 9-2) Leopardstown (Dec 26; lrE1,380; sft). Landed gamble and could be very useful. TEN PLUS, a decent 6th in this race last year, is much improved. (11-8, 2-5f) stayed on strongly to beat Saint Acton (10-10; 33-1) 10l here (Jan 1: £2,089; 2m 4f nov hdle; sft). BARROW LINE (11-6; 8-1) comfortably accounted for DEEP IDOL (11-9; 1-2f) and ALKEPA (11-9; 10-1) by 2½l and same Gowran Park (Feb 13; lrE3,450; 2m 1f hdle; yield). ALKEPA better at this trip and should reverse running with BARROW LINE. DEEP IDOL showed that performance to be wrong next time. KNOCKELLY CASTLE, a 4½l 3rd, and that pair renewed rivalry in the opener here yesterday. IBN MAJED is a leading juvenile. (11st 7lb; 11-8f) showed stamina to be his strong point with 11 victory over Troy Fair (11st; 10-1) Ascot (Jan 10; £2,225; 2m 4f hdle; gd/sft). TOPHAMS TAVERNS (11-11; 5-1) looked in need of longer trip when 7l 3rd to Shean Lad (11st; 50-1) Doncaster (Jan 24; £4,921; 2m 150y nov hdle; gd). AHERLOW (11-0; 9-4f) ridden out to bt KILDIMO (10-10; 9-1) 12l at Kempton (Jan 18; £2,316; 2m 4f nov hdle; gd). PIKE'S PEAK (11-12; 8-11f) led near finish to bt CORBITT COINS (10-9; 7-1) 9l here (Jan 1; £2,131; 2m 4f nov hdle; sft). Highly rated by connections. TICKITE BOO (11-8; 5-2f) led last strides Ascot (Jan 11; £2,376; 2m 4f nov hdle; gd/sft), beating Singlecote (11-5, 6-1) a hd, with CORBITT COINS (10-9; 5-2f) 7th. FIELD CONQUEROR (11-3; 1-2f) below par when 2½l runner-up to Caddy (10-7; 16-1) Leopardstown (Feb 17; lrE1,380; 2m 6f nov hdle; gd). SPORTING MARINER (10-7; 15-8) bt Celtic Fleet (11-5; 20-1) 7l at Wolverhampton (Jan 22; £1,083; 2m 6f cond nov hdle, sft).

2.50 —QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1). 2 miles. Winner £24,260. (11 ran). BBC-1

201		111/121-	BADSWORTH BOY (D Armitage) Mrs M Dickinson 11-12-0 (CD)	R Earnshaw 71●
202		1F-4411	BOBSLINE (R Kelsey) F Flood (IRE) 10-12-0 (D, SF)	F Berry 67
203		1-U2121	BUCK HOUSE (Mrs S Purcell) M Morris (IRE) 8-12-0 (D, F)	T Carmody 66
205		11D2/01	FEARLESS IMP (J Truman) R Shepherd 11-12-0 (D)	R Stronge 40
207		11-1F33	KATHIES LAD (J Clayton) A Jarvis 9-12-0 (CD, BF, EW)	S Smith Eccles 62
208		222-F04	LITTLE BAY (Mrs S Catherwood) G Richards 11-12-0 (CD)	G Bradley 66
209		310214	OUR FUN (M Tabor) Gifford 9-12-0	R Rowe 52
210		3102B1-	PAN ARCTIC (Mrs R Bill) Bill 7-12-0 (D)	Philip Hobbs 42
212		41131F	SOMERLED (R McDonald) R McDonald 7-12-0 (D, BF)	C Hawkins 58
214		F0-U412	ST WILLIAM (W Morecombe) Hodges 9-12-0 (D)	B Powell 47
215		33-1110	VERY PROMISING (Mrs J Maunders) Nicholson 8-12-0	P Scudamore 69

Forecast.—8-4 Bobsline, 3 Badsworth Boy, 7-2 Buck House, 9-2 Very Promising, 12 Kathies Lad.
1985: BADSWORTH BOY 10-12-0, R Earnshaw 11-8 (Mrs M Dickinson), 5 ran. Favourites: 0-2-2-1-2.

Mirror TV SPOTFORM: BADSWORTH BOY attempting to land race for third time and make it four wins off reel. (12-0; 11-8) left with a simple task when BOBSLINE (12-0; 4-6f) fell 10th here (Mar 13; £22,340; 2m 'ch; gd), where he had 10l to spare over Far Bridge (12-0; 66-1). Has met with training problems this term. VERY PROMISING (11-7; 6-1) much improved this season and beat BUCK HOUSE (11-10; 9-4jf) 8l at Ascot (Nov 16; £18,161; 2m 4f h'cap 'ch; fm). Broke blood vessel last time. BOBSLINE (11-6; 1-5f) went clear on the run-in with the minimum of fuss when 8l clear of Drumlargan (11-6; 5-1) at Down Royal (Feb 20; lrE2,070; 2m 4f 'ch; gd/sft). BUCK HOUSE (11-9, 1-2f) kept on under pressure to sh'hd Rainbow Warrior (12-0; 3-1) Thurles (Feb 20; lrE9,902; 2m 4f 'ch; yield). This is probably his best trip. Enigmatic LITTLE BAY (11-7; 9-1) continued this season's disappointing efforts with 33l 4th to Ryeman (10-4; 5-1) Ascot (Jan 11; £7,164; 2m 4f h'cap 'ch; gd/sft). KATHIES LAD (11-7; 6-4f), winner in handicap company here last year, failed to quicken flat when 10l 3rd to Ryeman (10-4; 2-1) over two and a half mile here (Jan 1; £4,900; 2m 4f h'cap 'ch; sft). SOMERLED (10-7; 33-1) made a nonsense of handicap mark with 20l success from Itsgottabealright (10-7; 4-1) Doncaster (Dec 14; £10,016; 2m 150y h'cap 'ch; gd/fm). Led until falling eighth last time. OUR FUN (11-10; 16-1) on retreat when blundering last when 30l 4th to VERY PROMISING (11-10; 5-4f) Ascot (Jan 11; £17,755; 2m 4f 'ch; gd/sft). ST WILLIAM (10-2; 3-1), ran on, beaten 6l by Letrak City (10-1,2-1f) Sandown (Nov 3; £5,686; 2m 18y h'cap 'ch; gd). PAN ARCTIC and FEARLESS IMP are outclassed.

Flood in full flow

By NEWSBOY (David Phillips).

THE Irish can dominate the Queen Mother Champion Chase (2.50) at Cheltenham today with Bobsline and Buck House.

Bobsline was confidently expected to pay the vast Irish contingent's expenses last year, only to come to grief three fences out.

Francis Flood has patiently brought Bobsline back to his best this season and recent wins at Naas and Down Royal convince me that Bobsline can do the trick this time.

Motivator, Mick Ryan's only runner at the meeting, can win the Coral Golden Hurdle Final (3.30). After an impressive win at Kempton, Motivator has been kept in good heart with visits to the Norfolk sands. Emo Forever and Whiskey Eyes are the dangers.

Bolands Cross has already justified his inclusion in my ten to follow and Nick Gaselee's chaser is napped to win the Sun Alliance Chase (4.05).

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ABC

C-CHELTENHAM		Barton Boy	2.00 N	Brundean Breeze	3.10 N	Cowal Shore	4.20 N
N-NEWTON ABBOT		Battle Master	3.10 N	Buck House	2.50 C	Crofton View	3.30 C
Abandoned Warrior	3.30 C	Bay Forest	3.45 N	Bundle Boy	4.40 C	Cross Master	4.05 C
Aherlow	2.15 C	Beau Ranger	5.15 C	Burannpour	4.05 C	Deep Idol	2.15 C
Alkepa	2.15 C	Bellekino	3.10 N	Carado	5.25 N	Deep Impression	2.35 N
Another Brownie	5.15 C	Bessie Mary	2.00 N	Cassio Lil	5.25 N	Diaphantina	4.20 N
Another City	5.15 C	Bickleigh Bridge	5.15 C	Celtic Time	3.30 C	Dictive	4.05 C
Another Dragon	4.40 C	Bishops Bell	4.40 C	Charlies Cottage	5.25 N	Double Jack	3.45 N
April Gem	3.10 N	Bluelimit	3.30 C	Cheadle Green	3.45 N	Doubleuagain	5.15 C
Arctic Stream	4.05 C	Boardmans Crown	4.05 C	Chief Ironside	4.05 C	Down Flight	3.30 C
Ardexit	5.25 N	Bobsline	2.50 C	Christo (CAN)	2.15 C	Dr Cornelius	3.10 N
Auntie Dot	2.15 C	Boherash	3.30 C	Church Warden	4.05 C	Dreamcoat (USA)	4.20 N
Autumn Show	4.40 C	Bolands Cross	4.05 C	Classified	5.15 C	Drive Easy	4.40 C
Badsworth Boy	2.50 C	Bolt Hole	2.15 C	Comedy Lane	2.15 C	Dunno Then	2.35 N
Balas	4.40 C	Boyneside	4.05 C	Connaught River	5.15 C	Durham Edition	5.15 C
Bandelero	5.25 N	Brass Change	4.05 C	Copernico	3.10 N	Eamon's Owen	3.30 C
Bannock Prince	2.35 N	Bright Dream	3.45 N	Cop Yourself On	4.55 N	Easter Carnival	3.45 N
Barbican Aire	2.00 N	Broadheath	3.45 N	Coral Delight	3.30 C	Eastern Laughter	3.10 N
Barrow Line	2.15 C	Brother In Arms	4.20 N	Corbitt Coins	2.15 C	Edensprings	4.40 C
				Cottage Leas	4.05 C		

Ema Forever	3.30 C	Golden Hornet	3.45 N
En Gounasi Theon	4.20 N	Golden Rapier (NZ)	2.00 N
Fearless Imp	2.50 C	Golden Reign	2.00 N
Field Conqueror	2.15 C	Gold Tycoon	3.30 C
Fifty Dollars More	5.15 C	Granville Park	2.15 C
Fire Drill	3.45 N	Grey Tornado	3.10 N
Fitzgayle	4.55 N	Gwillim Enterprise	2.00 N
Fluid	4.40 C	Handymouse	2.00 N
Flying Oats (USA)	3.30 C	Harry's Double	2.15 C
For Auction	5.15 C	Harvest Fortune	4.05 C
Fortold (USA)	5.25 N	Harvest Hymn	3.45 N
Fudge Delight	4.05 C	Hawser	2.15 C
Galesburg	4.05 C	Highland Chatter	4.40 C
Gallvinia	2.00 N	Highland Gold	3.30 C
Gathabawn	5.25 N	Homeley	4.20 N
Gillogue Bridge	4.40 C	Hope Gap	4.55 N
Giollaretta	4.55 N	Ibn Majed	2.15 C
Glen Common	2.00 N	Imperial Master	4.05 C

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