





The list below shows how a shift away from dirt racing has been taking place over the last 15-20 years.

Turf Racing in the USA

1991 - 5%

2017 - 17%

2018 - 48% with filter

Source Sid Fernando ~ Thoroughbred Daily News

“If we write a New York maiden on the dirt we may only get 2 entries and the same race on the turf there could be 18”

Source Martin Panza.~ Director of Racing NYRA

Dr. David Richardson, Chairman of the American Graded Stakes Committee

“It’s becoming difficult to keep calling dirt races where you have five horses—and only one of them is a standout—grade 1 races. And, unfortunately, that’s what we’re seeing more and more of in dirt racing . . . There are an awful lot of dirt races with very small fields”

“Today I’m jogging most everyday as opposed to galloping. I’ve found out over the years that when you’re training on off tracks, **they get you eventually**. You get foot problems and lots of other stuff. You get bowed tendons if they slip, or sometimes they get to the bottom of the track and you get condylar fractures. That’s why I worked him on Thursday, trying to beat this.

Bobby Frankel,
Hall of Fame Trainer

Is this movement
pro-turf
or anti-dirt?

What's Wrong With Dirt

1. Just about every dirt track in America has had a rash of breakdowns from time to time.
2. Dirt tracks are like fields laced with landmines.
3. The speed that thrills is the speed that kills.
4. Its deficiencies are all well known.
5. Dirt racing can't function without a shed load of drugs and a lot of fatalities.
"Two things up with which the public will not put"
6. Not all the racetracks subscribe to the Jockey Club Injury Database, therefore it does not tell the whole story as many of the tracks with a high fatality rate are not being reported.
7. When dirt tracks are fast there are more fractures.
8. When a track super makes them slow people complain about the kickback and the slow times.

More Science for Dirt Tracks

1. They have already 100 years - how much longer do they want?
2. This is an insult to the many hard working, conscientious, skillful track superintendents. I know most of them myself and they are a fantastic bunch of people who all worry about their tracks.
3. Sand, silt and clay has been well researched by smarter people than me. Track supers and scientists from outside racing. We all know what there is to know about sand, silt and clay. It is well researched there are no secrets.
4. "With rain the fines, silt and sand can change very quickly and that affects the clay as well. Compaction as well as dilution of the silt and sand are all factors in the overall composition of the soil".... **Dennis Moore**
5. Recently we've had some very bright people come up with some ideas but the fatality rate remains the same.

Moisture in Dirt Tracks

1. We've heard a lot recently about the need to study moisture content which is all well and good, but it still won't eliminate sloppy tracks when it rains.
2. The farmers in dry areas of the midwest have moisture content and irrigation down to a fine art.

Testing Surfaces for the last 40 years

Laboratories:

New York Racing Association

Muesser Rutledge

Soil and Plant Lab

In Place Density

Turf and Soil Diagnostics -
New York and Kansas

Waypoint

People:

Joe King

Don Orlando

Dan Coon

Jerry Porcelli

Sam Ferro

Duane Otto

Tapeta Tracks

Tapeta

Presque Isle Downs: 2007

Golden Gate Fields: 2007

Devonport, Tasmania: 2011

Al Quoz: 2008

Fair Hill: 2006

Tapeta 10

Wolverhampton: 2014

Newcastle: 2016

Woodbine: 2016



All per 1000 starts	Turf	Dirt	Synthetic
2014	1.75	2.02	1.20
2015	1.22	1.78	1.18
2016	1.09	1.70	1.10
2017	1.36	1.74	1.10
2018	1.20	1.86	1.23

Percentage of Injuries at Woodbine

Woodbine:

2016- 0.86

2017- 0.58

2018- 1.06

2019- 1.25

Presque Isle Stats

Summary			
Year	Number of Starts	Number of Fatalities	Number of Fatalities per 1,000 starts
2009	6,166	8	1.30
2010	6,339	5	0.79
2011	6,609	3	0.45
2012	6,416	5	0.78
2013	6,102	5	0.82
2014	5,658	11	1.94
2015	5,975	6	1.00
2016	5,838	6	1.03
2017	5,895	6	1.02
2018	5,829	2	0.34

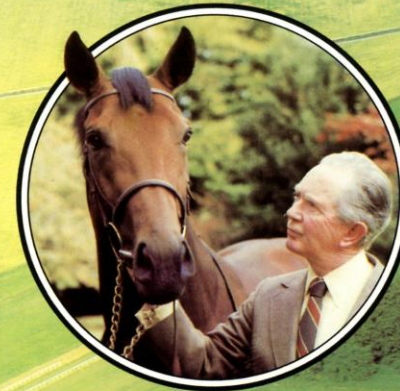
Source: Jockey Club Injury Database

My Mentors

Vincent O'Brien
Geoffrey Davison
and some Brave Horses

The Ballydoyle Connection

Coolmore takes a deep pride in its unique relationship with Vincent O'Brien's racing stables at Ballydoyle. This pride goes beyond the fact that more than a dozen of our stallions earned glory as racehorses while trained at that famous yard just seven miles from Coolmore. There is additional satisfaction in knowing that other great horses – such as Nijinsky, Sir Ivor, Roberto, The Minstrel and Alleged – have moved on from triumphant careers at Ballydoyle to immediate and convincing success as stallions elsewhere in the world. Four of those mentioned stand in Kentucky but a son of Sir Ivor, Sir Tristram, is already having a tremendous impact as a sire in Australia. Vincent O'Brien's ability to bring the best out of great thoroughbreds on the track is legendary. What is equally important is that when their racing days are over the vigour is unimpaired. The Ballydoyle approach to training produces horses that perform as brilliantly at stud as they did on the racecourse.



Among the Champions trained at Ballydoyle have been Kings Lake, Lomond, Caerleon, Thatching, Godswalk and Try My Best – all of whom now stand at Coolmore, as well as dual Arc winner Alleged and Epsom Derby winners Golden Fleece (also at Coolmore), Nijinsky, Sir Ivor, Roberto and The Minstrel.

Geoffrey Davison
Cambridge Soil Services
World Class Turf Consultant



Champion

Wayward

Lad



FENCE: 4'8" High, 2' Wide

DITCH: 5' Wide

BOARD: 2' High

Carrying 168 lbs



Champion Silver Buck



AYR OCT. 1975

“The Chair” at Grand National



FENCE: 5'6" H, 2' W

DITCH: 8' W

BOARD: 2' H

Carrying 144 lbs

RED RUM'S GRAND NATIONAL

★ Signed by *Tommy Stack and Donald McCain*



THE SUPREME CHALLENGE

BECHER'S BROOK

Gay Tulgan

Happy Ranger

Sir Garnet Winter Rain (fallen) Red Rum

Warrior Bar

THE SUPREME CHALLENGE

by Mervyn Jude

Consultants For a New Dirt Track

1. Several Track Superintendents
2. NASA
3. Soil Conservation
4. Dept. of Agriculture
5. Farmers
6. University Chemists
7. Fiber Manufacturers
8. Gear Box Oil Manufacturers
9. British Horse Racing Authority

What's Wrong With Synthetic?

1. Other types of injuries
2. Breakover
3. Synthetic can't handle the heat
4. Breeders
5. Bettors
6. Don't last
7. Southern California trainers don't like them

Injuries on Synthetic



John Gosden



Enable

John ships his best horses 7 hours in a van to Newcastle on the Tapeta 10 just to break their maiden, including Enable (Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe), Stradaverius (Ascot Gold Cup), and Without Parole (Group 1 Royal Ascot).

Injuries on Synthetic



Mark Casse

“Without doubt, fewer horses bleed on synthetic than they do on dirt. It is less stressful. The horses bounce over it, they get over it easier. Every horse we run gets scoped so I have a good idea who bleeds and who doesn't. There is a huge difference”

"I read so many things about there are more hind-end injuries and soft-tissue issues, so I have an answer for that: baloney . . . It's just not true. I feel like if anybody can say it, it's me . . . I have the records to show for it. This year I can tell you that we have twice as many horses that bowed on dirt as on synthetic; so it's just baloney. And it's year after year. Anybody that tells you differently doesn't have enough experience."

“All those detrimental laws of physics that occur on dirt surfaces are greatly diminished on synthetic surfaces There is an energy absorption. Synthetic surfaces are much softer. They absorb energy when that horse hits the ground, whereas on a hard dirt surface, that energy goes right back up the leg”

Bill Casner



Pinatubo, 2-year old European champion, winner at Wolverhampton, On Tapeta



Vertem Futurity, G1, Newcastle

Group 1 Futurity
was originally
Scheduled for
Doncaster with 5
runners.

Re-opened 6 days
later on Tapeta 10
with 11 runners,
plus 4 from
Coolmore.

Mark Johnston



Winning most trainer in the history of British Racing

“Honestly synthetics are better than some of the turf courses, full stop. Some of the turf courses have become so overused that synthetics might be more consistent and safer than some of the course that are so beat up.



Graham Motion

"It's a sounder, safer surface. I personally don't agree with that argument . . . The hind-end issues...I think some of these issues become more noticeable because you have less of the other routine injuries. In my opinion,when the synthetics were installed at the racetracks, they weren't given a fair chance and probably weren't maintained properly”

Injuries on Synthetic

“We have not seen any statistical or scientific information that would support that . . . And we’ve chased after that data . . . We just didn’t see anything that would suggest that horses were leaving here and falling off the grid”

Turfway Park General Manager Chip Bach

Breakover

Some people prefer dirt
because of the
“breakover”. This is a
ludicrous statement.

Breakover

1. What do they mean by “breakover”
2. Is it the speed the horse’s foot comes off the ground?
3. Or is it less slide?
4. What part of breakover do you want to change?
5. How does it change when a horse goes 1/2 in 45 sec. or 1/2 in 49 sec.?
6. Once you have defined breakover do build it to suit a 10K claimer or a G1 winner?
7. Which structure is the one most affected by breakover?
8. The people who are obsessed with breakover are missing the point.
9. Breakover is but a reflection of a moment of which the knee joint releases the energy stored in the elastic tissue of the leg

Tapeta in Heat



Goldolphin at Al Quaz

In late March + April for 2nd lot the temperature can be 90⁰ F but the track is still good.

Source: Brian Powell, Trainer

Tapeta in Heat



Queens Plate 2019, Woodbine

Temp 82^o

10 Furlongs in 2min 2sec

Breeders

"We know Keeneland is run by a small group of powerful people that have stallions . . . That was the reason Keeneland switched. They blamed it on the trainers. I talked to I don't know how many trainers and I asked them if they'd been called in and interviewed. There wasn't one. You couldn't find one trainer - Charlie LoPresti, Nick Zito, Mark Casse- none of them were questioned on it. It was a spin they put on it so they could convert to dirt so that dirt stallions could have the advantage . . . **In short, decisions in our industry never seem to be made in the best interest of the horse.** They're always made for individual agendas. And it's catching up with us now. We're fixing to lose our industry. And unless decisions are made that are in the best interest of the horse, we will lose it."

Source: Bill Casner

Breeders

1. We have sympathy for the breeders who have invested a lot of money in dirt sires and dirt mares.
2. Change happened quickly. We live in a different world. We can't carry on as we were. We have to move with the times or there will be no racing at all.
3. It was tough for the fax machine makers when the email came along.
4. I don't think they have too much to be worried about. A good horse is a good horse. There might be some move up and down the stallion ladder but nothing dramatic.
5. What they lose on the swings they will gain on the roundabouts.
6. The final choice - the decision will not be left up to the people in racing. It will be the choice of the politicians and Animal Rights activists.

Meydan

82% of the turf horses ran to their rating on synthetic.

76% of dirt horses ran to their rating on synthetic.

Source: Melvin Day - UAE Official Handicapper

Synthetics Don't Last

Fair Hill:

Down since 2007,
used everyday
except for
Christmas.

Golden Gate:

Down since 2007,
1300 horses daily[no
training track], 120
races per year.

Al Quoz:

Down since
2007

Southern California Trainers Don't Like Them

These assumptions
are 10 years out of
date, please see the
new Tapeta samples.

Bettors

‘Gamblers were in two minds when synthetic surfaces first came around. They soon realized that synthetic surfaces were more reliable and consistent than even the best turf surfaces. Unlike turf racing, there is no post position draw bias but just like turf racing, the pace of the race is an important factor. The gamblers enjoy betting on synthetic surfaces as they believe it is a level playing field.’

Walter Glynn (Raceform UK)

‘Have no fear betting on Tapeta. It is as reliable and consistent as turf and a lot more practical than dirt. I have no worries having big bets on Tapeta. It is also safer for the horse.’

Barney Curley (Legendary Trainer and Gambler)



TAPETA 10 in the UK

**3 fatalities
for 9935
runners**

**0 fatalities
from 4655
safe runners at
Newcastle**

**3 fatalities
from 5280
runners at
Wolverhampton**

**0.03%
fatalities over
three years**

Last fatality at Newcastle was a heart attack.

Last fatality at Wolverhampton was struck into from behind by another horse.

Sources: British Horse Racing Authority and Arena Racing Company

”To me, anybody who wants to race on a dirt surface has accepted the challenge of achieving a safety rate that is equivalent to a synthetic . . . Otherwise, you do have some explaining to do.”

Dr. Mary Scollay,
Equine Medical Director for the Kentucky Horse Racing
Commission

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

- 1. 4 Days of Championship Racing**
- 2. \$7 million in purses**
- 3. 60/70 thousand sell out crowd all 4 days**
- 4. Bet \$1/2 BILLION**
- 5. 100 pre-Cheltenham race nights in pubs and clubs in England, Ireland and France.**
- 6. The Racing Post and Timeform sell twice as much product on the 4 days at Cheltenham as they do in the 5 days at *Royal Ascot*.**











SAN Moritz 7000 feet Switzerland











CHAMPAGNE
Laurent-Perrier
MAISON FONDÉE
1812
BRUT

CHAMPAGNE
Laurent-Perrier
BRUT

CHAMPAGNE
Laurent-Perrier
BRUT

2019/02/17









2019/02/17





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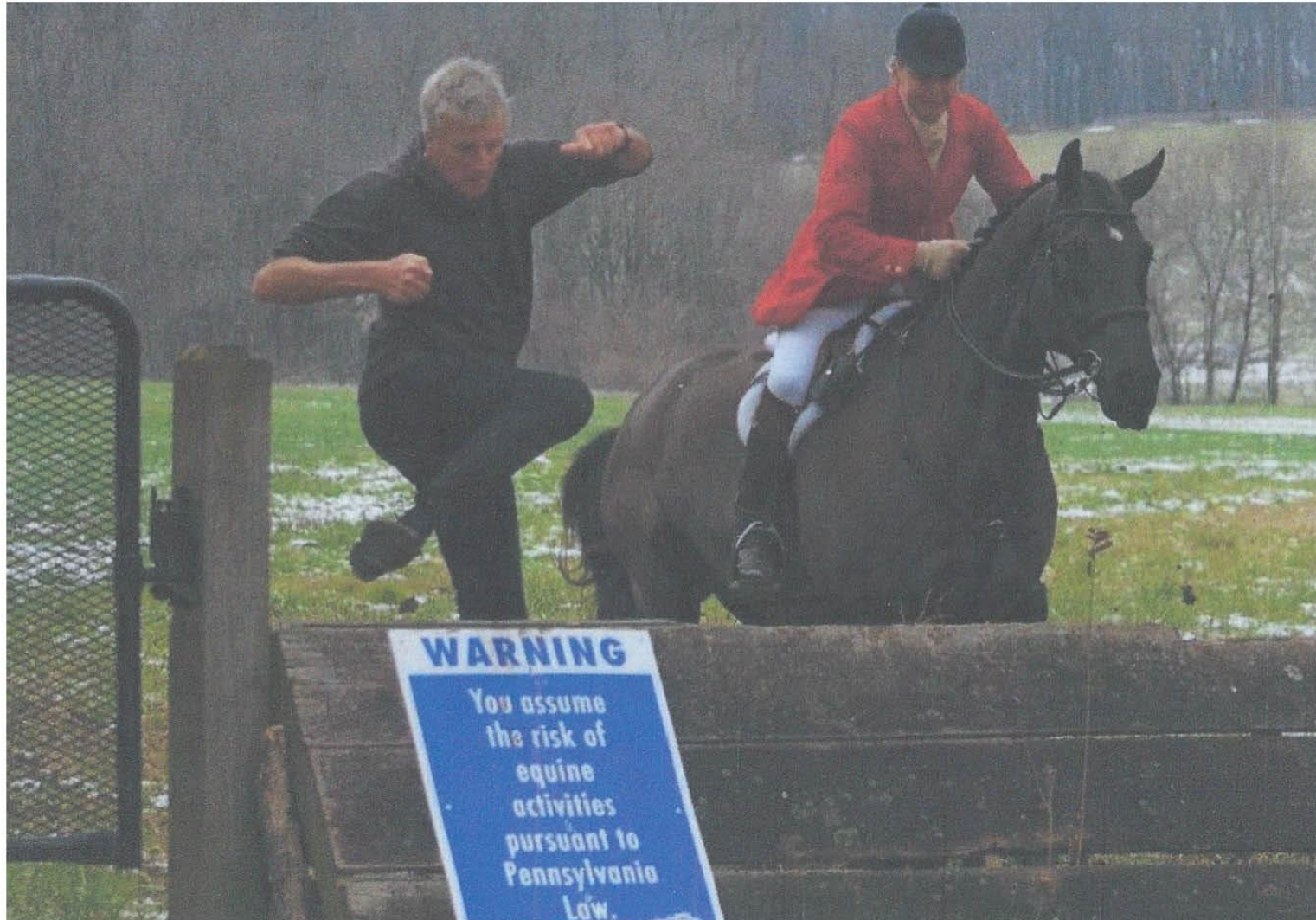


The Cheshire Hunt in Pennsylvania set out with 70 horses and riders and 1 lunatic on his feet.



The lunatic!





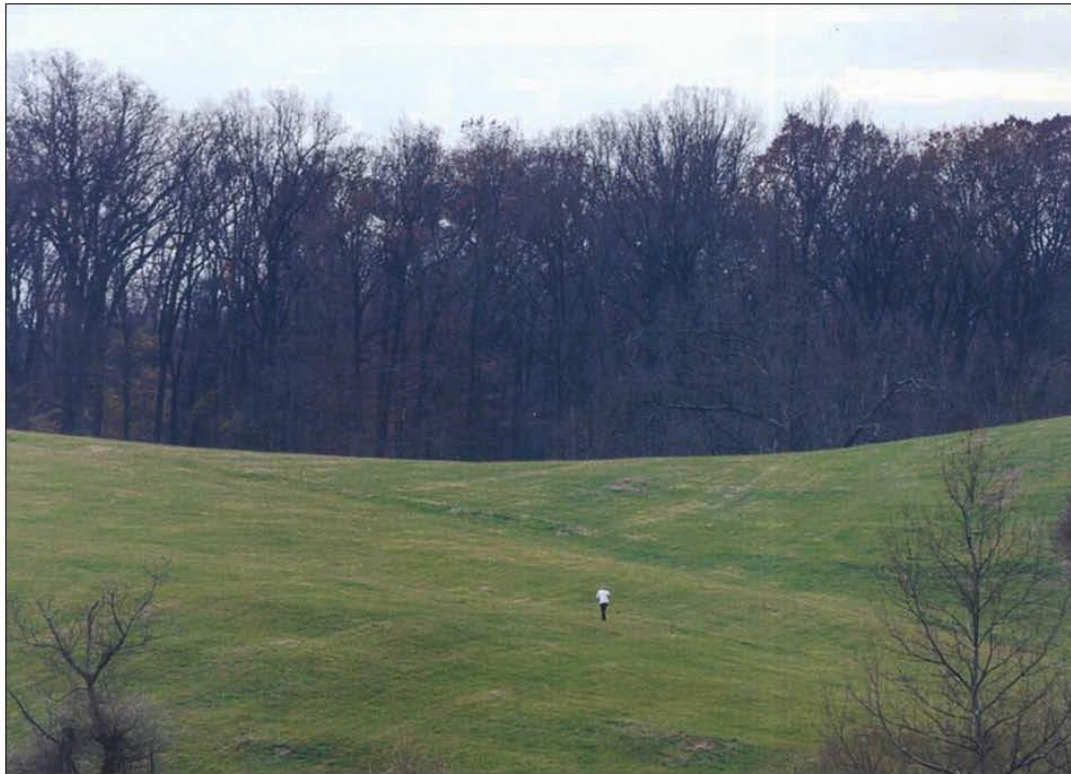
When MVD is on his feet all jumps should carry a warning!



In November the
Cheshire hounds in
Pennsylvania set off
with 112 horses and
riders and 1 lunatic
on his feet at **11am!**

At **11.30am...**
The hounds are
just over the hill...
I hope!





At 3pmWhere
is my compass?!

At the end of the
day there are
only 10 horses
and riders left,
plus 1 lunatic
who ran 14 miles
and 28 jumps!!!

3:30 pm





Does the
hunterman
have a new
hound?



2 Furlongs ahead of the field!



Thankfully I landed on my head but it failed to knock any sense into me!

The Master said, "We must insist our horses and riders are properly schooled".

