The Equiery Perpetual Eventing Trophy

2005 Winners: Teresa Ormsby and Bryce Be Quick

by Tracy McKenna

The road to the *Equiery* Bowl is often bumpy, but for 2005 winners Teresa Ormsby and Bryce Be Quick, it was a long time coming – 11 years, to be precise – and it was unplanned!

It was, however, that long journey that made the partnership, and the partnership that made the journey possible.

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Ormsby, 38, had a horse-loving but horseless childhood. It wasn't until the Pennsylvania resident was 23 that she finally started riding. "I saw a show jumping competition on television and decided I wanted to do that," she says. It's a long way from desire to realization, but Ormsby has a knack for setting a goal and achieving success. Once she decided to take up riding, she found herself taking balanced seat lessons at Tranquility Manor in Jarrettsville under the tutelage of Alison Sonder, who offered "a never-ending supply of support and patience as I learned the basics."

It was an offhand remark from her mother about a co-worker who "had horses" that pointed Ormsby towards her future partner. Deeming this "sufficient information to ask for an introduction," Ormsby went to visit Liz Fromme and was invited on a trail ride. She was also shown a skinny little bay that had recently arrived from Penn National.

Although Ormsby wasn't looking to buy a horse, Fromme said the magic words: "He's for sale – and he's cheap." Like a typical goal-setter, Ormsby bought the ex-racehorse the next day. So, to the horror of trainers everywhere, a 5-year-old green horse was now paired with a green rider in the classic "don't try this at home" scenario.

Today, she jokes about the initially undesirable pairing as having "lived to tell about it," but sometimes these less-than-auspicious partnerships manage to work, and in special cases, they are magic. "Everyone thinks their horse is special," Ormsby says. " I KNOW Bryce is. He has a heart of gold and the soul of a saint."

For two years, horse and rider worked on their partnership, and on finding their way. A hunter trainer tried to force Ormsby's hand by telling her to "sell Bryce or take up combined training!" So she took up combined training, and was hooked.

But when Ormsby tried to enter her first event at the Redland Hunt Pony Club Horse Trials, she had no idea *how* to enter. She called the secretary, who helpfully explained about the [then] United States Combined Training Association Omnibus and the official entry forms. Ormsby confesses to having been very scared, but figured she'd paid for her entry, so she was going to go through with it. She and her mount finished third, and Ormsby realized that published jump heights didn't equal difficulty!

One of the keys to Ormsby's success is her ability to seek out the highest quality help available, and absorb the lessons being taught. She's taken clinics with some of the best, including the O'Connors, Denny Emerson, Lucinda Green, Gayle Molander, Stephen Bradley, Bonnie Mosser, Gretchen Butts, and many others. She's also quick to praise local trainers like Debbie Wilson from Olney Farm, "who can set up the most fabulous gymnastic lines you will ever see!"

Now Ormsby works with Laura Lee Beetle-Boyle in dressage. "Prior to working with Laura, I had no *regular* training in either dressage or jumping," she admits. With Beetle-Boyle's guidance, Ormsby feels that Bryce has undergone an incredible transformation, and "I could *almost* be mistaken for someone who knows what they are doing in the dressage ring."

Beetle-Boyle, who also trained last year's winners, Courtney Sendak and Wil'Ya Love Me, concurs that the pair has really improved over the last year, and that Bryce, always good in the jumping phases, has really blossomed with dressage training. For all of Ormsby's modesty, Beetle-Boyle says the pair is "driven," and Ormsby is always working to "do her personal best. Teresa is not out to beat others, only herself."

Often, part of the magic of a special partnership is in the quirkiness of the pairing. On paper, Ormsby and Bryce should never have worked. Aside from the green horse/rider issue, Ormsby is about 5'10" tall, and, according to Beetle-Boyle, "Bryce is lucky to be 15.3." But, she says, Ormsby is "an elegant rider" and Bryce doesn't look small when she rides him. Like most special horses, Bryce has certain qualities that make him memorable. "When he has to work, he grunts," Beetle-Boyle says, laughing. "When he's not grunting, he's faking. You can hear him from across the ring."

Outside of her riding, Ormsby is a Systems Security Analyst for T. Rowe Price Associates who is also attending Villa Julie's Forensic Studies Masters Program. She's glad to have the support of her husband Nelson, who's "a good horse holder and an excellent tack cleaner." Although he would like her to take up "pure dressage," she's "just not there yet," she says.

Unfortunately, work and school don't leave a lot of time for riding, so Ormsby says she has no competition goals this year.

Her aims are simple and heartfelt. "I think Bryce and I will take some time off [from] the competition scene and just enjoy each other's company," she says. However, once bitten by the eventing bug, it's hard to stop competing – and Ormsby jokes that she may reconsider her decision as the event season kicks off.

For her, Bryce has been "the one." As she explains, "Very few other people have ever ridden him, and no one else has ever jumped him. He does everything I ask [of] him."

Ormsby doubts she'll ever buy another horse. "You'll never find the same thing. You would only be disappointed if you tried to look," she says. ■

The "great divide" between recognized and unrecognized horse trials seems to be Training level. Those who want to go "big time," i.e. Preliminary through Advanced, must first cross over that Training level chasm.

Ten years ago, *The Equiery* decided to reward those who successfully negotiated that chasm by offering a Maryland Combined Training Association perpetual trophy. The horse and rider that garner the most points at Training level in Maryland's United States Eventing Association-recognized events (see list below) are the winners. They will receive a "keeper" trophy and have their names engraved on the Orrefors crystal perpetual trophy. Horse and rider will also appear on the cover of *The Equiery*'s April 2007 eventing issue.

What you need to do in order to qualify: You must be a member of MCTA • You must compete in at least six of Maryland's 15 USEA-recognized events on the same horse • You must submit your placings in a timely fashion to MCTA (in other words, you could be qualified to win, but if you don't submit your placings, you can't win) • You may only win it one time.

If you win, you need to attend the MCTA Awards banquet in order to receive your trophy. To be featured on the cover of *The Equiery*, you must have access to a professional quality photograph with good reproductive value for print media.

Previous Winners of The Equiery Perpetual Trophy: '04: Courtney Sendak & Wil'Ya Love Me • '03: Alexandra Curtiss & Pumpernickel • '02: Lizzie Wisner & Top of the Mast • '01: Abigail Gibbon & Forever • '00: Mindy Soethe & Deliparad '99: Laura Pitts & Luna • '98: Curtis Green & Alterman • '97: Stephanie Butts & Sir Maxwell • '96: Michele Buford & As Easy As

2006 Maryland USEA Training Level Events (according to the USEA Area II Website Calendar)

4/9: Weave A Dream-Greenspring PC HT	8/6: Olney HT
4/22-23: Redland Hunt PC HT	8/12-13: Fair Hill Intl. HT
5/5-7: MCTA HT, Inc.	8/19-20: Waredaca HT
5/27-28: Fair Hill Intl. HT	9/3: Weave A Dream HT
6/2-4: Waredaca HT	9/9-10: Seneca Valley PC HT
6/17-18: Seneca Valley PC HT	9/23-24: Marlborough HT
7/15-16: The Maryland HT (new)	10/27-29: Waredaca HT
7/22-23: The Maryland HT (new)	