

Earle returns to saddle for bumper ride

By **Graham Green** 28 JUNE 2003

TRAINER Simon Earle returns to the saddle today at Worcester where, eight years ago to the month, he got the better of Tony McCoy in a driving finish on his last appearance as a jockey, writes Graham Green.

Now 39, Earle, who partnered 160 winners during his career, is donning silks again to team up with newcomer Cap Classique in the bumper.

Earle revealed that he will probably be in action on several of his other bumper horses during the season.

"I've taken out a licence again because of a request from an owner," he said yesterday.

"Cap Classique is a nice horse but potentially a bit tricky. I've been riding

him every day and, as I've struck up a good bond with him, the owner, Deborah O'Brien, wanted me to ride in the race.

Earle, who is based near Marlborough but is searching for larger premises in the south Midlands which would enable him to increase his string to about 20 horses, has turned out in a couple of charity races since his retirement.

"I'm still pretty fit, so that isn't a problem, and it will be good to fun to be involved as a jockey again," he said.

Racegoers at Worcester are being advised to leave plenty of time for their journey due to roadworks in the town centre.

Cloudy Sky looks one to follow after easy victory

By **Colin Roberts** 17 MAY 2004

SIMON EARLE unleashed a smart looking recruit to the hurdling ranks when Cloudy Sky ran away with the extended two-and-a-half-mile novices' hurdle.

The winner of a maiden on the Flat for Sir Michael Stoute back in 1999, he has been lightly raced in recent years, and Earle said of his winner: "We picked him up at Ascot sales 18 months ago and we knew he was a classy performer. We will be guided by the weather as he needs some cut in the ground, but if we don't get that, we could always go back to the Flat."

The evergreen Earthmover won his 18th race under Rules when landing the hunters' chase.

The marathon trip held no fears for Paul Nicholls' grand campaigner, who cut out much of the running from halfway and stayed on too strongly for the favourite County Derry.

The seller produced the finish of the night with Star Of Germany and the reluctant Silver Dagger sharing the spoils.

Jonjo O'Neill and Tony McCoy, successful at Bangor earlier in the afternoon completed an across-the-card treble when Golden Rambler outclassed his rivals in the novices' chase.

Towcester trainer Frank Jordan, on the mark earlier in the day when Summer Bounty scored at Nottingham, was in double form when Lubinas landed something of a touch having been supported into 7-1 from an opening 10-1.

There was plenty of drama in the maiden hunter chase with only two of the seven starters completing and victory going to the Tom Greenall-ridden Scottish Roots, who was all out to hold on from the game Beauchamp Oracle.

The finale produced a thrilling finish with the well-supported Luxembourg, under the strong driving of Carl Llewellyn, just doing enough to hold on by three-quarters of a length from the fast finishing pensioner Mr Christie, on whom Rodi Greene never had a moments rest, and the favourite Just Beth.

Star performance

Cloudy Sky made a belated hurdling debut at the age of eight but looked the part with an easy win.

Plumpton

By **Reporter: Graham Dench** 01 NOVEMBER 2005

SIMON EARLE'S barefoot policy may have its detractors, but the publicity it has engendered clearly has not done his business any harm as he starts the winter campaign with nearly five times as many horses as he had a year ago.

Saucy Night, who advertised the shoeless regime with two chase wins last season, looks set to be one of the standard bearers again this time, and having taken advantage of a lenient hurdles mark by making all in the conditional riders' handicap he will bid for a quick follow-up without a penalty at Hereford at the weekend.

After Liam Heard had steered the 11-10 chance home an 11-length winner from Coustou, Earle said: "He's massively improved since going barefoot and he'll be better again this season as it was hard to keep condition on him last season and we've now found a feed he likes. There's definitely more to come."

He added: "We've got almost 30 in training this time, having had only six a year ago."

Sam Thomas substituted for the traffic-bound Robert Stephens on the Bob Buckler-trained Five Alley, who was a smooth winner of the novice handicap chase, and then went on to complete a double on Mars Rock for his boss Venetia Williams in the bumper.

Mars Rock held on well by two lengths from River Ripples, to the delight of owner Andrew Nicholls, who was offered the runner-up at the same time as he bought Mars Rock but was persuaded by Williams to go for the younger horse.

Mark Pitman's purple patch continued when Ask The Gatherer, successful in the novice hurdle, was the trainer's seventh winner from his last ten runners.

Ask The Gatherer had won one of the Irish-style schooling hurdles at Cheltenham in the spring.

The opening juvenile hurdle was won by newcomer Flaming Weapon, trained locally by Gary Moore and ridden by his son Jamie.

Epsom trainer Jim Boyle saddled his second jumps winner when Barking Mad ran away with the claiming hurdle under Philip Hide and now joins Conor Dore.

Richard Johnson, out of luck on Kristoffersen in that race, enjoyed a much happier time on Philip Hobbs's Master d'Or in the handicap chase half an hour later.

at a glance Star performance Flaming Weapon might not have had much to beat in the juvenile hurdle, but he absolutely dotted up Anglo domination The emphasis was for once on the 'Anglo' on Plumpton's Anglo-Irish day, with Timmy Murphy the only successful Irish-bred jockey and

Ask The Gatherer and Five Alley the only successful Irish-bred horsesm Results and analysis
start page 53

Simon Earle on painting

By **NEIL CLARK** 24 MARCH 2005

When did you first develop an interest in your hobby?

I've always been interested in art, especially abstract, but I only started painting for the first time a year and a half ago, in the summer before last. I paint abstract expressionism. The paintings are completely abstract in that they are not representing anything that you would see in the world. The expressionism is me expressing myself.

How much time are you able to devote to your hobby?

Not enough! I've got a friend who's opening a gallery and she wants to sell some of my work, so that's a bit of a boost for me to get more paintings done. I've also got a few commissions to do.

What for you is the appeal of your hobby?

The appeal is the escapism. I paint on as big a canvas as possible. When I'm painting I have a real feeling of joy, freedom and letting myself go. There's also being able to see different things in the painting each time one looks at it and letting your imagination run away with you.

What is the greatest single moment of pleasure your hobby has brought you?

My very first painting was a 5ft by 4ft black and white painting. I had it hidden in my house and was quite embarrassed by it. Then one day I had a dinner party and I brought the painting down and just put it in the corner of the hall. A dozen or so people stood there gazing and saying that they were fascinated by it - it provoked discussion and debate. It was brilliant to think that my work had given other people pleasure.

Do you have any ambitions pertaining to your hobby? I would love to progress and to learn more, particularly about colours. My main ambition is for more people to get pleasure from my paintings and for my paintings to provoke discussion.

Do you have any other hobbies? I'm a member of various art galleries in London and get to go to exhibition openings, drink champagne and meet interesting people! I love bullfighting and once ran with the bulls in Pamplona. I particularly like to watch the Spanish matador El Juli - he's on a different level to the others. I would love to learn to fight a bull and be able to say that a bull has passed my thigh! I love the theatre and ballet, though I haven't been too often recently.

Alternative training pays

By [Jo Yarborough](#) 14 MARCH 2005

THE ingenious Simon Earle earned himself the Star Performer of the Month award for February when his shoeless Saucy Night stormed to victory at Fontwell early last month, writes Jo Yarborough. Earle's unique technique of running certain members of his string without racing plates has revitalised the horse who was purchased for just 1,000gns as a guinea pig for the trainer's alternative training regime.

This was Saucy Night's second taste of barefoot success, proving that the first was no fluke and that the radical methods in place at the Wiltshire stable are having a positive effect. The nine-year-old's subsequent short-head second in a televised Wincanton race is further advertisement.

"`God gave horses hooves to absorb the shock of the tendons, joints, shins and shoulders, and running them barefoot means that the ground is immaterial," explains Earle.

The success of this innovation bodes ill for clerks of the course then!

Earle back training after short break

By [Rodney Masters](#) 20 DECEMBER 2007

SIMON EARLE returns to the training ranks today when Etendard Indien runs at Ludlow, saying that he is likely to take a more traditional approach to the job in the future, writes Rodney Masters.

The former jump jockey, when in his previous job at Eamonn Wilmott's Horses First Racing Stables near Warminster in Wiltshire, used holistic methods and also occasionally ran horses without shoes.

While he remains open-minded about methods, he will tailor his training to the needs of individual horses.

In the summer, Earle, 43, quit his job as a salaried trainer with Wilmott. He is now based two miles away at Tytherington in stables owned by Gordon and Jeremy Giddings, with whom he has six horses.

"I always intended to return to training, it was just a question of finding the right place, and this yard is ideal with some excellent gallops," he said.

"I certainly haven't turned my back on alternative methods of training, and may run a couple of horses without shoes if I believe that will suit them, but I will also take the traditional approach."

Earle's team includes the ex-David Elsworth-trained Zaif, a winner at Newmarket and Beverley, and Snark, who won three races for Peter Makin and was bought recently for 18,000gns. Earle

has booked Polly Gundry, the former point-to-point champion jockey, for Etendard Indien in the Tanners Cava Lady Riders' Handicap Hurdle.

"He'll probably need the run, but he'll be a guide as to where I am with the horses in terms of fitness," said the trainer. "He had a problem with stomach ulcers some time ago, but he's fine now."

Rider of 160 winners as a jump jockey, Earle began training in 1995, gaining early big-race success with Dextra Dove, whom he trained to win the 1997 Agfa Diamond Chase after having ridden the horse to 14 wins.

Earle and Tumelty steal show away from Aintree

By [Andrew King](#) 15 APRIL 2007

SIMON EARLE easily netted the training honours for the afternoon when sending out Monticelli fit and well to lift the handicap hurdle after a spell on the sidelines of 548 days.

Owned by Harry Findlay's mother Margaret, the seven-year-old was given a good ride by Gerard Tumelty and responded well from the last hurdle to master Templer.

Earle said: "He came to us last summer with a few problems which we have sorted out. He likes this quicker ground and as long as he is okay after this race we will keep him on the go.

"I must say a big thank you to Harry and Margaret, who is in hospital at the moment, for supporting me with three horses and hopefully we will have more success for them."

Tumelty went on to complete a treble via Chery D'Or under top weight in the extended 2m handicap chase for his boss Alan King and Joris De Vonnas in the 3m handicap chase.

Brendan Powell has set himself a target of 50 jumping winners before the curtain comes down on the season in two weeks, and moved closer when Sunley Shines took him on to 47 in the beginners' chase.

Although the 1-5 favourite gave her supporters a scare with a couple of mistakes in the straight, Sam Jones sat tight and the pair eventually had seven lengths to spare over Magot De Grugy.

Powell said: "I think a half-century of winners is a respectable target as we had 31 successes last season and passed that score some time ago."

Missis Potts made up for a lack-lustre effort when pulled up in the mares' final at Newbury last month with a tough victory in the novices' hurdle.

Miss Rideamight, shrewdly claimed by trainer David Evans after finishing sixth at the course a month ago, repaid the faith when comfortably seeing off Mickey Pearce for the selling handicap hurdle.

Although Evans reckoned he may have been the worse for wear when he made the claim, the easy nature of the win augured well for the mare's future and he was able to retain her at the subsequent auction for 2,800 guineas on this occasion.

Amateur rider Marc Barber, who partnered unplaced La Griffe, was suspended for three days after he weighed in 3lb heavier than he had weighed out.

Star performance

Clerk of the course Tim Long and his staff for getting the ground spot-on only five days after the previous meeting five days ago

What a difference three weeks can make

Missis Potts was pulled up at Newbury but bounced back to winning ways in the novices' hurdle

Red Not Blue rewards owners' faith

By **Tom O'Ryan** 17 MAY 2010

OWNERS Sara and Tony Meehan had a night to remember after Red Not Blue rewarded their admirable patience with a stylish victory under Andrew Thornton.

Trainer Simon Earle was over the moon at the seven-year-old's five-length success over the favourite Rossbrin in the first division of the 2m4f handicap hurdle.

The win was the gelding's second - both on this course - in just five starts in a career interrupted by injuries.

"He was previously with Donald McCain and fractured his pelvis twice," said Earle.

"Donald has been great. When I got him, he told me all about the horse and was very informative. I thought he'd win tonight and I'm thrilled for Tony and Sara, who are lovely people and who have shown such a lot of patience with this horse.

"Results like this are what this game is all about."

The second division of the handicap hurdle went to Peter Bowen and Tom O'Brien, courtesy of Sir Monty, a lightly raced gelding who powered home under top weight for an overdue victory.

It was a night to remember for Peter Toole, who gained his 40th career success with a typically determined effort on Shipboard Romance, trained by Mark Rimell, in the 2m handicap hurdle and thus reduced his claim to 3lb.

Toole, a former amateur who rode one winner in his native Ireland when with Tom Taaffe, joined Charlie Mann about 18 months ago and the conditional ranks at the start of last season.

"It's gone great since I came over. Charlie has done me proud and been very supportive and so has Noel Fehily, who has been a great help to me," Toole said.

"I'd like to thank the two of them and everyone else who has supported me."

Denis O'Regan was seen to great effect aboard Glimmer Of Light, who won the 2m handicap chase for the second successive year and gained his third course victory with a well-executed front-running attack which yielded an eight-length triumph.

"That was a very good ride from Denis," said trainer Dr Richard Newland.

"This horse goes to the sales on Tuesday. He's been a wonderful servant, he's won six handicaps for us but I only ever keep ten horses on the go and, as he's ten years old now, I need to move on."

Trainer Michael Scudamore and his jockey brother Tom joined forces to win the 3m mares' handicap hurdle with Ambrose Princess, who won a thrilling tussle with Money Finder to bag a half-length success for owners The Yes No Wait Sorries.

"She's just so tough, and she's won from seven furlongs on the Flat to three miles over hurdles!" the trainer said.

Donald McCain, with one winner at Bangor's afternoon gathering, followed up with Worth A King's, who justified his odds of 4-5 under Adrian Lane in the 2m4f novices' hurdle.

Despite failing to jump fluently he still had ten lengths to spare over Douglas to win for owner David Price.

On a themed James Bond night Keepitsecret was an aptly named winner of the opening hunter chase, in which the Vicki Dobbin-trained Leading Man, the hat-trick seeking favourite, went lame before the final fence when leading the charge.

Jonjo O'Neill's charge, who had taken a heavy fall on his previous start and was returning from a layoff of more than eight months, took time to get his jumping and momentum together, but prevailed under a strong ride from Alan Berry to win by a neck from Thistlecraft.

Berry was found guilty of using his whip with excessive frequency and without giving his mount time to respond, and suspended for four days. The dates are yet to be determined.

Star performances Peter Toole, who reduced his claim to 3lb with a terrific effort aboard Shipboard Romance, and Denis O'Regan, who showed his class on frontrunning chaser Glimmer Of Light