

CERDIN BESS AND WELSH LOO LOO KIDDIE FAMILY AND HORSES

Early days

The research for this article has been long and hard since 2005. In the early issues of the Welsh Stud Book of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society in the UK it is reported that two Welsh Cob mares were exported to a Mr Andrew Heiddie of Table Farm, District Boshoff, OFS. There did not appear to be any information on this gentleman and the Library and authorities in the Boshoff district, as per usual, failed to respond to any requests for information.

4791 CERDIN BESS	<i>Owner.</i> ANDREW HEIDDIE, Table Farm, District Boshoff, O. F. S.				
	Dark chestnut, star and white socks. Foaled 1908. Height 15-2.				
	<i>Breeder,</i> William Thomas, Faerdrefach, Llandyssul, Cardiganshire.				
	<i>Sire,</i> Flying Fox, chestnut, 16-0.				
	<i>Dam,</i> Cerdin Beauty, bay, 15-1, by Cerdin Briton (338).				
	<i>G-dam,</i> Blodwen, chestnut, 15-0, by Caradog, chestnut, 14-3.				
	<i>G-g-dam,</i> Bess.				
	PRIZES.				
	First, Gorsgoch. Second, Llandyssul.				
	Flying Fox's dam won Firsts at Newcastle, Llanon, Talgarry, Crybiro Ystrad Meurig; Second at Gorsgoch.				
Prod. in.	Colour and Markings.	Sex.	Breeder.	Name of Produce.	Sire's Name and Breeding.
1918	Bay	Colt	William Thomas		Earl's Portrait

It was by chance that I stumbled upon a schedule of the Department of Agriculture on the internet which recorded that a Mr Andrew Hiddie or 52 Jones Street, Kimberley, had imported a purebred Hackney on 6 September 1912. Enquiries to the MacGregor Museum in Kimberley returned information that a Mr Andrew Kiddie had a business as Baker, Confectioner and Grocer at 52 Jones Street during that period and so the direction of the research took a completely different tack. Information from the MacGregor Museum staff as well as the Sol Plaatjes Library in Kimberley was instrumental in the research

for this article. The Museum had the records of the Will and the Administration of his Estate while the Library had a portfolio which also had many photographs of the imported horses. I acknowledge with great pleasure the invaluable assistance which the staff of these two institutions gave me without which, this article would not have been possible. It is rather a pity that the staff at other similar institutions even fail to respond to e-mails and telephone calls requesting any information which they may have; but that appears to be the situation with the current government institutions.

4824 WELSH LOO LOO

ANDREW HEIDDIE,

Table Farm, District Boshoff, O.F.S.

Chestnut, star, two white hind fetlocks. Foaled 1907.

Height 15-2.

Breeder, Timothy Davies, Penlannoeth, Gorogoch, Llanybyther, Cards.

Sire, Old Cribon Flyer, bay, 15-0.

Dam, Penlan Bess, chestnut, 15-3, by Flying Fox, chestnut, 16-0.

G-dam, Polly, chestnut, 15-2, by Welsh Flyer III., chestnut.

G-g-dam, Fly.

PRIZES.

1912 Two Firsts, Cross Inn.

1913 First, Llandyssul.

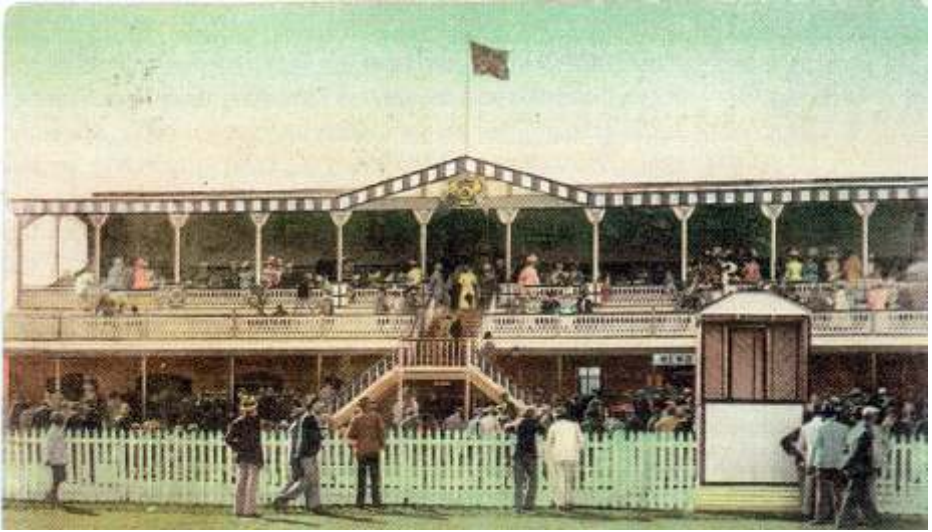
1913 Second, Llanddewibrefi.

Flying Fox won First, Gorsgoch, Llandyssul. His dam won First, Newcastle Elmyn, Llanon, First, Talgarreg, Crybin, Ystrad Meurig.

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Horse racing

In the early days of Kimberley, a race course for horses was set out on the main square of the town. As this was becoming 'inconvenient', a new track was laid out South-West of the township of Beaconsfield. In the Kimberley Directory for 1902 an advertisement for the Kimberley Turf Club (changed from the Kimberley Sporting Club in 1901) it states 'The race course is situated some two miles outside of Kimberley on the road to Alexandersfontein. The buildings, belonging to the Club, consist of a substantial Grand Stand, capable of seating 500 people, Weighing and Office Rooms, and a Paddock with a row of Stable Boxes for the convenience of the race horses competing at the various meetings. The Club Executive has undergone considerable change during the past year'. It is noticed that Cecil John Rhodes as Chairman of De Beer Consolidated Mines had been elected



The Kimberley Racecourse Pavilion 1902

Patron of the Club, replacing the Cape Governor Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson. However, Rhodes died a few months later in 1902. The position of the race



Jockey Weighing Chair

course could be the reason that residents who came from Cape Town called the suburb overlooking this facility, Green Point. In the early days of Cape Town, the racecourse was on the Green Point Common before Kenilworth racecourse was established in 1881 and that at Milnerton in 1908. Residents of the area later named Green Point thought they were home from home, hence the name of the Kimberley suburb. The racecourse was situated where the industrial township of Fabricia and the business, Distell, is now. In the current aerial map of the area, the original outlay of the racecourse is clearly visible. As with the now discontinued Flamingo Park racecourse, it was a right-hand track running clockwise with the straight being 800 metres and the maximum race being about 2 300 metres.

Andrew Kiddie was a member of the Kimberley Turf Club and must have participated in the local races although I cannot find any races at which he entered runners.

Breeding

It should be realized that in those days most local transport was by horse drawn carriage and the bakery had a number of horse-drawn delivery vehicles to service the requirements of its customers. He was well known as a breeder of carriage horses as well as a judge at the local agricultural shows. The horses which he imported would most probably have been to breed replacement horses for his business, and possibly for others also. The records of the animals bred by him appear unfortunately to have been buried in the past, never to be recovered. Even the Show results of the Kimberley Agricultural Society cannot be found; how unfortunate because in one of the articles I have, mention is made of the Kimberley Show held from 8 – 10 April, 1913, at which Andrew Kiddie was the judge.

Table Farm

As mentioned at the start of this article, the address of Andrew Kiddie was given as Table Farm. From the topographical maps, I have been able to determine the full extent of this farm which straddled the Cape Colony and Orange River Colony border. It was a large area mostly grassland. I had the opportunity of visiting the farm just after the devastating fires mid 2021



through which half the farm was burnt and both areas are shown. It is still only used for livestock grazing with the only development shown on the Google map not visible from the R64 which passes through the farm. The map accompanying this article shows the full extent of Table Farm in relation to the current Kimberley City area, also identifying the Big Hole, the old Race

Course at Green Point and the now discontinued Flamingo Park Racecourse.



Andrew Kiddie must have sold this farm before he died because it is not mentioned in his Will; however, two other farms to the West of Kimberley were left to his youngest son, who, at the time of his death, was still a minor; these farms were Rooidam and Ghoukraal. The reason for this is that Norman Kiddie had a hearing problem and could not serve customers in the family business. However, Table farm must have been acquired again by the family because in a recent Facebook posting, Penny Allen, the great-granddaughter of Andrew Kiddie mentions that her grandparents Sid and Vera Kiddie ‘had a farm called Table Farm which was so wonderful for us children. Going to the Kiddies was an adventure’.

Imports

Andrew Kiddie went on a buying spree for horses just before the First World War. It appears that these were imported specifically for his breeding of carriage horses, primarily for his business. The two Welsh Cob mares would have formed a well-matched pair in harness. And not small at 15.2hh.

First was the Thoroughbred Amorelle, a Chestnut Mare, foaled in 1902 and imported in 1912. Amorelle had foaled two mares while in New Zealand; Seatonella by Seaton Delaval 2 in 1907 and Monella by Monoform in 1909.

Also in 1912 he imported a Hackney Stallion, Hopwood Royal Duke 11805, foaled in 1910 bred by Frank I Batchelor of the Hopwood Stud in Alvechurch, Worcestershire, England. His sire was Admiral Crichton 9578 whilst his dam was Anne Boleyn 13229. As a yearling he won the first prize at the Alvechurch Show.



Amorelle, the Thoroughbred from New Zealand



Hopwood Royal Duke, the Hackney Stallion



Cerdin Bess, the Welsh Cob mare



Welsh Loo Loo, the Welsh Cob mare

It would be noticed from the pedigrees shown earlier that Flying Fox reflects in both pedigrees. He won Firsts at Gorscoch and Llandyssul while his dam

won Firsts at Newcastle, Llanon, Talgarry, Crybin, Ystred Neurig and second at Gorsgoch.

Looking at the accompanying photographs found in the Kiddie records, it appears that they were imported as a pair because of their height, colour and markings, but I cannot be sure.

Polo

Andrew Kiddie must have inculcated the equine interest in his sons and specifically that of Polo. His elder sons were involved in the Griqualand West Polo Club, Cam being its Chairman. The polo club had a lease in-perpetuity for 1/- a year adjacent to the Kimberley airport from De Beers. In order to extend the airport, the municipality offered suitable ground for two polo fields to the East of the Johannesburg road for £1 a year and would loan the club £5000 to build stables, for them to move. I have correspondence, including the interesting history of swopping these areas. Incidentally, the current airport is the original home of the first Flying school in South Africa established before the First World War. Cam served on the South African Polo Association in 1945 representing the Griqualand West, OFS and Basutoland Polo Club which had been affiliated to SAPA in 1926.

Again, my appreciation to Bernice Nagel of the Africana Research and Sol Plaatjes Library, Kimberley, and Yvonne Everson and Robert Hart from the McGregor Museum, Kimberley for their invaluable assistance. The history of Kimberley is a fascinating one and well worth reading.

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