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The Toe Stoppers Report

To Whom It May Concern

On Saturday 10th of February 2007 I was dislodged from the horse Been Laughing at Morphetville when it knuckled over on pulling up. I got my foot stuck in the stirrup iron and was dragged 30 metres it was quite a dangerous and terrifying experience. At Strathalbyn on the morning of Tuesday the 13th of February 2007 track rider Chris Nash was dislodged and dragged during track work.

On Wednesday 14th of February at Murray Bridge Warren Hughes a jockey who also uses Toe Stoppers gave me a race pair to use but unfortunately due to my weight I was unable to use them and make the 54kgs my mounts had. I rode a green horse which shied badly causing my foot to slip all the way into the stirrup iron I was not dislodged but after my experience the previous Saturday I really wished I had Toe Stoppers on.

On Saturday the 17th of February I used the universal track work Toe Stoppers and was very happy with the product, the only trouble I had was with the stirrup sizes on some of the trainers saddles not suiting the Toe Stoppers. I think they should be made compulsory for track work.

I used the race Toe Stoppers on the 17th and 18th of February at the races at Cheltenham and Port Lincoln and found them comfortable and they gave great support and security also about every 5 or so rides I hit my feet jumping away from the barriers which causes small breaks and cuts also damages to expensive race boots the Toe Stoppers soft rubber prevented this.

I would like to see a weight allowance so I can use toe stoppers on all my rides. I never want to be put in the situation of being dragged again nor do I want to see any of my fellow riders dragged. I am sure given a weight allowance to those who choose to use them will get a lot more riders using them which from a health and safety perspective reduces the risk to all jockeys.

Yours Sincerely

Garry Hoobin