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Warren Hughes
South Australian Jockey
Lindsay Park racing stables

The Toe Stoppers Report

When Adrian came to Lindsay Park racing stables 18 months ago to introduce the Universal trackwork Toe Stoppers, I was adamant that I would quit riding horses before using his product. They were awkward to ride with and made me feel uncomfortable when galloping horses. Then David Hayes made Toe Stoppers compulsory, for all his employees to wear when riding at his stable. I am glad he made that decision. It forced me to get use to riding with them and with in a month or so, I felt I couldn't ride a horse without them.

The Toe Stoppers make me feel safe in all aspects of riding, from babies having their first day on the track, to older horses having their final gallop before a race. They seem to keep your feet secure in the stirrups which then helps keep you balanced. This then gives you a better sense of safety and a good piece of mind in case you are dislodged, knowing you cant get hooked up. I have fallen off a couple of times while wearing Toe Stoppers by horses either whipping or shying, even the odd baby bucking out of the barriers for the first time and not once have I looked like being dragged.

I have been using the race model for 3 months. The other day I had to ride in an exhibition gallop between races and did not have the Toe Stoppers. I felt uncomfortable and unsafe which then in turn effected my balance and just as importantly, my concentration. I adjusted very quickly to using them in races and feel so comfortable riding with Toe Stoppers that I no longer realise that they are attached to my stirrups.

Jockeys are always struggling with making the weight and would need a weight allowance to use them in all races and I have no doubt if they were given a weight allowance most jockeys would use them.

Being dragged would be a frightening experience and on Saturday Jockey Gary Hoobin was hooked up in the irons and dragged for 30 metres in a race and was lucky he was not injured. With in a couple of days, Gary was keen to try a pair of Toe Stoppers but unfortunately was too heavy to ride with them.

A weight allowance would encourage all jockeys to wear this great product and I highly recommend them.

Sincerely,

Warren Hughes