



## Graham Motion

**Born:** May 22, 1964 in Cambridge, England.

**Resident:** Fair Hill, Md.

**Family:** Anita (wife), Jane (daughter) and Marcus (son).

**Graham Motion's record at Keeneland**

**Total wins: 36**

**Stakes Wins (9)**

- Won his first Breeders' Cup race in 2004 when Better Talk Now won the John Deere Turf (G1) at odds of 27.90-1.
- Won his first Grade 1 race at Keeneland with Film Maker in the 2003 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Stakes.
- Won the 1,000th race of his career on Nov. 16, 2006, at Laurel with Lucky Bachelor.

Graham Motion not only had his first Breeders' Cup starters in 2004 but also his first winner. Not many trainers can say they won a Breeders' Cup race after so few starters.

The first of his three starters at Lone Star Park, Dance Away Capote, ran fifth in the Juvenile Fillies (G1). His second, Film Maker, finished second, beaten just 1 1/2 lengths by Ouija Board (GB) in the Filly & Mare Turf (G1). And then Better Talk Now, the longest shot in the Turf at nearly 28-1, came from last to defeat odds-on Kitten's Joy by 1 3/4 lengths. It was also jockey Ramon Dominguez's first Breeders' Cup victory.

According to the Equibase race chart: "Better Talk Now was unhurried for a mile, angled out on the far turn, rapidly closed the gap on the turn, circled five wide rallying into the stretch, charged to the front while drifting in slightly in midstretch then drew away under steady left hand urging."

"It was way beyond my wildest imagination." Motion said of his Breeders' Cup results. "I would have been happy to have had one of them hit the board, but to win one was unfathomable."

The winner's purse of \$1,040,000 from the Turf victory boosted his stable's earnings for the year to \$4,358,674, good for a national ranking of 18th. Motion saddled the winners of 81 races.

In addition to the stable's Breeders' Cup theatrics, other highlights were provided by Humaita (Ger) in winning three stakes including a division of the Glens Falls Handicap (G3); by Film Maker in her All Along Breeders' Cup (G3) win; by Better Talk Now in his other Grade 1 win—the Sword Dancer Invitational Handicap; and by other stakes winners Dance Away Capote, Fall Fashion, Alternate and Speedy Deedy.

"I'd have to say Better Talk Now and Film Maker are the best horses I've had in training so far because they've won Grade 1 races," he said.

Motion keeps around 60 horses in training and bases his operation year-round at Fair Hills in Maryland. "We have lots of options from there," he said. He shipped horses to Belmont Park, Colonial Downs, Delaware Park, Saratoga and Monmouth Park for stakes wins in 2004. His clients include or have

included Bushwood Racing Partners, Courtlandt Farms, Pandora Farms, Dr. Andreas Jacobs, Pin Oak Stable, Dixiana Stable, Lazy Lane Farms and Robert Evans.

Humaita's victory in the 2004 Rood & Riddle was Motion's eighth stakes victory at Keeneland. The first was provided by Bursting Forth in the 1999 Bewitch Stakes. In 2003, Motion saddled the first Grade 1 winner of his career when Film Maker won the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup.

His stable won 100 races in 2005 and earned \$4,900,801, to rank 13th. Better Talk Now added Grade 1 victories in the United Nations and Man o' War to his resume; Film Maker won two graded stakes, including the La Prevoyance Handicap (G2); Funfair (GB) won the Kelso Breeders' Cup (G2); T.D. Vance the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame (G2); and Olaya the Long Island Handicap (G2). Film Maker also ran third in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf. Other added-money winners in his stable were Dance Away Capote, Battle Chant, Creve Coeur and Summer Rainbow.

Last year, his stable won 90 races to earn \$5,184,390 for a ranking of 16th. Motion won graded races with Better Talk Now, Sweet Talker (bought by Don Adam's Courtlandt Farm for \$1.15 million the previous November), Film Maker, and Ballast (Ire). Better Talk Now ran a bang-up second in the Turf and Film Maker a good second in the Filly & Mare Turf. He also won his 1,000th race.

"I think Graham Motion is one of the fine young trainers, but he's one of the finest young men I know," Adam told *Daily Racing Form*. "He's a great family man, a great father—he has all the traits I look for, and besides that, he's a heckuva horseman."

Raised in the village of Herringswell, Newmarket, his father, Michael Motion, was an internationally recognized representative for Tattersalls and is a semi-retired bloodstock agent, and mother, Jo, was an amateur jockey in England and then worked as an assistant trainer in England and the U.S. She now operates a tack shop in Middleburg, Va. Graham's brother, Alexander, the Thoroughbred manager at Lazy Lane Farms for 10 years, was a partner with his mother in the

Middleburg Tack Exchange and a Thoroughbred consultant.

Graham started out working for Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard from 1985 to 1990 while three-time Eclipse Award-winning steeplechaser Flatterer was in Sheppard's barn. He then worked for Jonathan Pease in France for a brief period, during which time he met his future wife, Anita, who was working for trainer Alain de Royer-Dupre.

He returned to the U.S. in 1990 and began working for trainer Bernie Bond, taking over his stable when Bond retired and subsequently died in 1993.

Motion saddled his first winner—Bounding Daisy—at Laurel in 1993 and his first stakes winner on July 18 that year when Gala Spinaway won the \$35,000 Chase Me Stakes at Laurel. Gala Spinaway also provided him with his first graded stakes victory the following month when he triumphed in the Polynesian Handicap (G3). His second graded winner was Silent Greeting in the Martha Washington (G3) in 1996.

Motion won his third graded race in 1997 when 27-1 shot Power Play won the Delaware Handicap (G3) by three-parts of a length. Power Play was owned by Dr. Robert Leonard, former chief veterinarian for the Maryland Racing Commission. Bernie Bond had been his trainer for 30 years.

"It's a big pleasure to win a race like this for Dr. Leonard, since he got me started," Motion told *The Blood-Horse* after the Delaware Handicap. "Bernie was very good to me and taught me a lot, especially with 2-year-olds. I went from Jonathan Sheppard to Bond. That's quite a transition, but I learned from both of them."

Also among the 68 stakes winners he had trained through mid-January of 2007 were Broken Vow (Philip H. Iselin), Chillito (Flamingo), Bursting Forth (Vinery Matchmaker), Two Smart (Sir Barton, Deputed Testimony and Woodlawn Stakes), Virginia Carnival (Damascus Handicap), Canaveral (William Donald Schaeffer) and Gala Knockout (Star de Naskra).

Chillito, the winner by 3 1/2 lengths of the 1998 Flamingo at 15-1 odds, was Motion's first and only Kentucky Derby starter to date.

"Anita and I did everything in the early days," Motion said. Now she organizes the office and does the book work. "I've been very fortunate," he added. "And it's been a lot of fun."

During a press conference at Lone Star during the week leading up to the 2004 Breeders' Cup races, Motion said: "It's very gratifying to be here. It's what we all strive to do."

Equineline.com credited him with 1,107 wins and earnings of \$36,176,222 through Jan. 9, 2007.

