



Graham Motion

Born: May 22, 1964 in Cambridge, England.

Graham Motion's record at Keeneland

Total wins: 70

Stakes wins: 13

- Won 2011 Kentucky Derby (G1) with Animal Kingdom.
- Won his first Breeders' Cup race in 2004 when Better Talk Now won the John Deere Turf (G1) and second when Shared Account won the Emirates Airline Filly & Mare Turf (G1) in 2010.
- Won his first career 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.
- Finished in a tie for second at the 2007 Keeneland fall meet; ranked in the Top 10 at the 2009 Keeneland spring and fall meets; and finished third at the 2010 fall meet.

Graham Motion experienced a career milestone that he described as "surreal" when he saddled Team Valor International's Animal Kingdom to win the 2011 Kentucky Derby. Motion trained the colt at Keeneland during the weeks leading up to the Derby.

"To win the Derby is not something I ever expected to do," he told reporters on the day following his Derby victory. "I'm always going to be considered a Kentucky Derby winning trainer and that speaks volumes."

The Derby win capped a successful 1 1/2 year run for Motion, who saddled his second Breeders' Cup winner in 2010 when Shared Account captured the Filly & Mare Turf at odds of 46-1. Other Grade 1 winners included Gypsy's Warning (SAF) in the Matriarch Stakes and Check the Label in the Garden City Stakes. He also won two stakes on Oct. 11 – the Pebbles at Belmont Park with Aruna and the Rosenna at Delaware Park with Million Seller. All told, in 2010 the stable won 97 races and earned \$5.3 million to rank 16th.

Motion won his first Breeders' Cup race with his inaugural attempt at the championship in 2004. 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 (G1) at nearly 28-1, came from last to win by 1 3/4 lengths.

"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 ranking of 18th nationally. Motion saddled the winners of 81 races.

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

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 (G3), while his first Grade 1 victory also came at Keeneland in the 2003 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup won by Film Maker.

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 Prevoyante 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.

In 2006, 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, 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.

During 2007, his stable won 22 stakes at 13 racetracks, topped by the venerable Better Talk Now with yet another Grade 1 win, in the Manhattan Handicap. Graded victories were also posted by Jade's Revenge in the Ben Ali, Bridge Game in the Modesty, Rosinka (IRE) in the Glens Falls, General Jumbo (GB) in the Kentucky Cup Turf and Ballast (IRE) in the Tropical Turf. His stable won 145 races and ranked 18th while earning \$6,562,654 to rank 12th.

"He is the horse of a lifetime," Motion said about Better Talk Now. "To have him stay around this long and continue to compete at the level he's running at is very special."

He continued to race at age 8 in 2008 and placed in two additional Grade 1 races. Motion's stable won graded stakes during the year with Adriano (Lane's End), Rebellion (GB) (the Commonwealth Stakes and the Ack Ack Handicap), Indescribable (Arlington Matron Handicap) and Lady Digby (All Along). All told, his runners won 115 races and earned a career-best \$6,659,959, ranking him 15th in North America.

Better Talk Now was retired in 2009 with career earnings of \$4,356,664. Motion saddled 102 winners that year and the earners of \$5,389,192 to rank 14th. Bullsbay was the star of the stable with wins in the Whitney (G1) and two other stakes. Also winning graded races were Shared Account (the Lake Placid) and Caprice (the Robert G. Dick Memorial).

About his Breeders' Cup wins with Better Talk Now and Shared Account, Motion told *Thoroughbred Times*: "That (2004) was the first year we ran in the Breeders' Cup, and it was all so new to us," he said. "I think since then I've always wanted to get back. A lot of people dream of getting to the Derby every year but, to me, every year has been geared toward hopefully getting to the Breeders' Cup."

"I think Breeders' Cup races, or races like the Breeders' Cup races, are the races that are defining moments and what you're remembered for, so it's a big deal to me."

Raised in the village of Herringswell, Newmarket, his father, Michael Motion, was an internationally recognized representative for Tattersalls and 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, is now 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—Bouncing 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).

Motion's second graded winner was Silent Greeting in the Martha Washington (G3) in 1996.

He 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."