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[October 2015](#)

## Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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## Attwood Equestrian Surfaces Invests in the Future of Eventing

*Attwood Joins Caitlin Silliman's Vagabon de Champdoux Syndicate*



Middleburg, VA – Nick Attwood, of Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, is pleased to announce his joining the syndication of Silliman Eventing's Vagabon de Champdoux (James), a six-year-old French off the track thoroughbred. "I could not be more pleased and proud to be a member of Caitlin's team", said Attwood. "And we are really looking forward to seeing what the future holds for them both." James was originally imported from France by Olympian Will Coleman in May of 2014 and quickly made his mark on the United States event world by winning the 5-Year-Old Young Event Horse Champion at the Fair Hill International Young Event Horse Championships in 2014 with Will in the tack. The horse proved to be a bit small for Coleman, but Silliman saw the young horse as the perfect prospect for her budding international career and the match was made.

"We've been working with the best riders and trainers for years, developing the perfect footing to them to train on, so I have been very lucky to meet a great deal of talented riders and horses," said Attwood. "I guess I have been waiting for the right combination to come along at the right time to step into the role of owner. We first met Caitlin at Boyd Martin's farm when she was just a working student. We were spending a lot of time at Windurra helping develop the facilities. Being there every day, I was really impressed with Caitlin's dedication, her hard work and natural talent." Attwood added, "Face it, our young riders need our help if they are going to make it at the upper levels. No matter how driven, how gifted they may be. With Caitlin officially going out on her own, the timing was spot on."



Silliman Eventing announced at the beginning of September the move to Tivoli Farm, the same facility Coleman calls home. "Things have really come full circle with this horse as we get him ready to go up the levels," remarked Silliman. The pair just completed their first CIC\* at Plantation Horse Trials, finishing an impressive sixth place.

"It is impossible to put into words what an important role owners play in eventing," said Silliman. "I'm so very excited to have Nick on my team. I have been training on his footing for years and feel honored that he is supporting his first event horse with a younger rider like myself. This life, my dreams to be successful at the very top of the sport, would be impossible without owners like Nick and I am very grateful for their involvement."

For a short video on Caitlin, and other interesting videos, do visit our [YouTube page](#)

We will constantly be adding more videos, so keep watching this space.

## Belgium wins Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015

The Belgian team clinched the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 title in the finest of style tonight with a fantastic performance in the final round at Real Club de Polo in Barcelona (ESP).

They threw down the gauntlet when topping Thursday's opener in which they pinned Germany and Sweden into joint-second place. But it was the British who emerged to fill runner-up spot this evening, pinning the rampant Dutch back to third when the clock decided the final placings. USA, Ireland and Germany were next in line, also separated only by time when they also finished on an equal scoreline, while Sweden lined up seventh ahead of Switzerland in eighth.

The final standings are below -



Result		Total
1	BELGIUM	4
2	GREAT BRITAIN	8
3	NETHERLANDS	8
4	UNITED STATES	12
5	IRELAND	12
6	GERMANY	12
7	SWEDEN	16
8	SWITZERLAND	20

For the entire story, head over to the [FEI website](#).

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## *Attwood Equestrian Surfaces at the StableView September Horse Trials*



Last month we reported that we were going to be present at StableView for the September Horse Trials. And what an event it turned out to be!

The first official weekend of fall in Aiken was packed with equestrian events: polo, horse shows, eventing, dressage – there was a little something for everyone. Heavy rains on Thursday and Friday had threatened to spoil the good time, but the sun came out on Friday evening, allowing organizers, riders and spectators alike to heave a sigh of relief. The forecast still predicted overcast skies and drizzle, but it would not be a total washout.

On Saturday morning Stable View Farm kicked off the season with a recognized horse trials. One hundred and thirty horse and rider teams competed in 12 divisions ranging from Junior/Young Rider Beginner Novice up through Open Preliminary. Stable View, Aiken's newest eventing showplace, is getting even bigger and better this year. The owners, Cyndy and Barry Olliff, recently purchased an additional 800 acres surrounding the 200 acres they have already developed.

***They are putting in new dressage arenas (both grass and with professional synthetic footing installed by Attwood Equestrian Surfaces), a gallop and a derby field. Most important, they are creating an Advanced cross country course and already have the dates for the very first Advanced event in Aiken: it will be held at this time next year.***



In this photo, Nick Attwood and Stable View owner Barry Olliff get ready to hand out ribbons and to congratulate winners at the trials. Stable View certainly pulled out all the stops to make it the destination venue for the eventers. Perfect footing, fun competitors party and prize money for all the divisions. See you in February!

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Footing Facts

### Measuring the Properties and Characteristics of Equestrian Surfaces

When you buy an expensive item, such as a car, some measurement of the performance of the car for instance in the form of top speed, mileage per gallon, or emissions has been carried out.

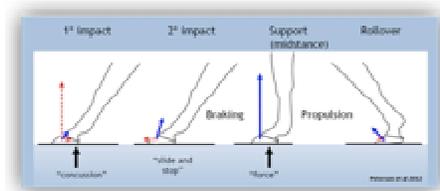
In some cases a particular measurement might be a regulated measurement, such that the property it measures can be said to perform to a particular standard.

Why is it then that with such an expensive product as equestrian footing, there are no accepted standards covering the performance of equestrian surfaces. Worse still, the majority of surface suppliers offer no standards or measurements on their products. In our experience neither do they use measurements when they install surfaces to ensure the footing has been manufactured correctly and installed correctly.



Indeed even at the highest competition levels there are no accepted standards, and the surface at one event can be very different from the next. The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the governing body for Equestrian Sport has recognised this problem and has initiated research aimed at defining what the standards should be and reproducible ways of measuring surface properties.

A white paper partly funded by the FEI was published in April 2014 (downloadable [here](#)), which provides background knowledge on the interaction between horse and surface, with a view to subsequently devising standards for equestrian surfaces. In it, 5 parameters were identified as important measures of a surface, around which standards could be developed. The parameters Impact Firmness, Cushioning, Responsiveness, Grip and Uniformity together describe the important features of a surface in relation to horse and rider engaged in equestrian sport.



For instance the first three parameters relate to the impact of the hoof on the surface and its subsequent lifting ready for the next stride. Most riders will have noticed the difference in impact between a very firm surface such as a tarmac road, and a very soft surface such as loose sand. The response of the hoof to each of these is quite different.

Clearly the fourth parameter, grip, will relate to cornering, stopping and accelerating. The final parameter, Uniformity, speaks for itself. Ultimately these parameters will need to be measured and will have to fall within certain values in order for a surface to be considered FEI acceptable.

Here at Attwood we have always recognised that objective measurements of the properties of equestrian surfaces are required rather than simply relying on the subjective 'feel' of the surface. Because no equipment is commercially available to measure these parameters, we have developed tests and equipment to measure key properties, such as those listed in the white paper. The methods and equipment used to measure these properties are so valuable to us that we don't share them externally as we feel they give us a significant edge over our competitors. We use these measurements both in quality control when we manufacture our surfaces, and when developing new and improved surfaces.

Of course there are, what can be described as 'second level' parameters that are not direct measures of the final surface, but measurements of the properties of the *components* that make up an equestrian surface. Such a second level measurement might be the grain size distribution of the sand. This parameter is usually measured by a sieve analysis where the sand is shaken through a stack of sieves of gradually decreasing size and weighing the amount of sand retained by each sieve.



The largest grains are retained on the sieve with the largest holes whilst the smaller grains can fall through these to be retained on the sieves below with smaller holes. This grain size distribution is very important in partly defining the final properties of the surface. Another is the amount of additive such as fibre or fabric/felt incorporated into the sand, and this can be measured by separating the sand from the additive and weighing the two fractions.

*How many of the suppliers you have dealings with measure even these basic parameters let alone the complicated parameters such as Impact Firmness and Cushioning? We routinely meet customers with failed surfaces who tell us the supplier used no measurements at all, either during manufacture or post installation.*

## [Other News](#)

### Welcome to the World, Nox!

Silva and Boyd Martin are very excited to introduce their son, Nox Christoph Martin on the 23rd of September. The operation was quick and successful and Nox was delivered after about 20 minutes, weighing in at 8 pounds and measuring 22" tall.



Head over to their [blog](#) for more.

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## Our Social Media Channels



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You can also contact us at [info@equestriansurfaces.com](mailto:info@equestriansurfaces.com), [info@attwood.in](mailto:info@attwood.in) and [enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk).

Download our previous newsletters from our [archives](#).

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*Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides  
meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit  
both the horse and the rider*



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