

Q & A WITH GRAHAM MOTION FROM NTRA'S THOROUGHBRED NOTEBOOK

Graham Motion continues to be a prominent figure across all sorts of media platforms, from his monthly column in Thoroughbred Times [here](#) or this lighthearted feature from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's weekly notebook:

Two-minute lick

H. Graham Motion (born May 22, 1964 in Cambridge, England) is a Thoroughbred trainer who conditioned 2011 Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom. He also has saddled two Breeders' Cup winners, taking the 2004 Turf with Better Talk Now and last year's Filly & Mare Turf with Shared Account. Motion began training—and winning—with his own horses at age 29, and his first career victory was with Bounding Daisy in March 1993 at Laurel Park. Motion then worked for Jonathan Sheppard as an assistant trainer from 1985 through 1990 before beginning work as an assistant under veteran Maryland trainer Bernie Bond in 1991. When Bond retired at the end of 1992, Motion took over the stable and has been a trainer in his own right ever since. Motion now lives in Fair Hill, Maryland with his wife Anita and their children.

Most influential person in my career: my parents, Jonathan Sheppard, Bernie Bond

My out-of-the-box idea for Thoroughbred racing: Come up with a racetrack with all three surfaces

My favorite racetrack: Keeneland

My fantasy job: What I'm doing

What I like most about my job: Horses

Other sports/teams I follow: Local teams; I'll follow the Eagles more since I met Andy Reid

My heroes: Probably the armed services, past and present

What about myself that would surprise those who know me: I do get nervous and excited, even if I don't show it

My favorite athletes of all time: Probably jockeys Lester Piggott and Steve Cauthen to name two

Most treasured possession/memento:
The Kentucky Derby trophy

A pet peeve: Littering, rudeness

What books I am reading or have recently read: I haven't read one in a while

Favorite magazine: People Magazine, any travel magazine



Graham Motion shows off his favorite collectible, the trainer's trophy from the Kentucky Derby.

Favorite websites I visit daily/weekly: *BloodHorse, Daily Racing Form*

Gadget I cannot live without: Probably cell phone

Hobbies away from Thoroughbred racing: Traveling

Last concert I attended: Glee, with my wife and daughter

Favorite food: I love risotto and a really good steak

What I drive: Volvo T60

If I could be a guest on any TV talk show, it would be: Probably Ellen DeGeneres—my daughter would be upset if I said anything else!

If I could appear on any television show it would be: Wipeout – my son's favorite show.

If I could be on any talk radio show it would be: Not sure—seems like I was on most of them over the Triple Crown!

If I could be on stage with a musical group I would play what instrument: Piano

Favorite musician/band: Coldplay

Favorite actor: Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, Michael Caine, Robert Duvall

Newspaper I read daily: *New York Post*

I'd like to have dinner with: My wife

Best racetrack food can be found at: Saratoga

Accomplishment I am most proud of: Winning the Kentucky Derby

My philosophy on life: Enjoy it, work hard and treat people well

Favorite quote or motto: The harder you work, the luckier you get

Things I collect: Trophies

Favorite animal other than a horse: Dogs; we have three Labradors

What actor would play me in a movie: I've been told Hugh Grant!

Favorite non-Thoroughbred racing sports event I have attended: Any soccer or rugby match

What historical figure do you most identify with: Winston Churchill—he saved the world we live in

Number one bucket list item: Travel across the US in an RV with my wife. (She would never go for it!)



Motion and family coming soon to an RV park near you?