

**SAXON GIRL WINS CHANTILLY LISTED RACE STEPPING UP TO 12 FURLONGS
ONCE AGAIN TRAINER TIM DONWORTH'S CREATIVITY SHINES THROUGH
PRIX PAWNEESE IS 4YO FILLY'S FIFTH CONSECUTIVE PIECE OF BLACK-TYPE
FRENCH-BRED FILLY LIKELY TO RACE AT DEAUVILLE IN GROUP 2 POMONE**



Saxon Girl drove to the front between calls, then had enough left to hold off a pair of challenges from Agile (outside) and Chorus to claim her first career black-type victory in the Listed Prix Pawneese at Chantilly.

Chantilly-based racehorse trainer Tim Donworth continued his streak of pulling rabbits out of hats on Sunday, when on his local turf the Irish-born French émigré stepped up his 4-year-old French-bred filly Saxon Girl to 12 furlongs for the first time in what looked to be the most competitive field she has yet faced while racing in France, Italy and Germany. Because the Prix Pawneese was contested on the undercard of the Classic, Group 1 Prix de Diane (French Oaks), owners and trainers wanted their best horses on display. A perfect example was in the Pawneese itself, in which retired French Jockey Club President Baron Edouard de Rothschild entered the race favorite in Mme. Jourdain, dropping her in class from a Group 3 second in the Prix Allez France to Listed level.



Close second choice Chorus raided for high-profile English trainer William Haggas fresh off a Group 3 third at Haydock in the Lester Piggott Fillies' Stakes. Andre Fabre ran a pair of stakes fillies and Francis Graffard, who saddled the 1-2-4-placed finishers earlier in the French Oaks, also has a runner. Saxon Girl needed to find 3 pounds on ratings to be competitive in the Listed race and she raised her game.



Jonathan and Jodi Henseley, trainer Tim Donworth and jockey Aurelian Lemaitre share spoils after stakes score.

In a race run at a dawdling pace that was tactical and position counted for everything, it seemed for the longest time that Saxon Girl's jockey Aurelian Lemaitre was in the wrong place on the expansive course at Chantilly. From a wide draw he was never able to save any ground while racing mostly 4 or 5 wide and every time he attempted to get behind a horse he was stymied.

Lemaitre, riding with a great deal of confidence in his filly, eased her outside once the field landed in the straight. Before the 500-meter mark, the three rivals racing on a line in the front were already off the bridle. Lemaitre waited until inside the 400-meter mark to push once on the reins in order to signal to the Saxon Warrior filly that the time was close at hand for her best lick and to get ready.

In a sensitive and superb bit of reinsmanship by Lemaitre, he waited to the 125-meter mark before going all in on his filly and she responded like the classy filly she is. She grabbed the lead and, although it diminished in size in the final 100 meters, she held sway to triumph by a short neck at odds of 10-1. She beat a 9-1 longshot, with Chorus back in third beaten half a length in a blanket finish.

Trainer Donworth said "You know a mile and a half at Chantilly is raced over a particularly oddly shaped layout, as they start in one direction, then switch to another direction and horses go inadvertently wide, as our filly did. But she handled the dog leg and showed how adaptable she is.

Saxon Girl flew her final three-eighths in :34.14 with a final quarter in :22.34.

Saxon Girl earned \$30,000, plus a French Owners' Bonus of \$13,500. That bonus comes within a few bucks of covering a one-time 15,000 euro bonus that was part of the original deal if the filly won a blacktype race, which she has now done.

Timeform moved up the filly from 96 to 103p on the back of her Prix Pawneese triumph.

The daughter of Saxon Warrior now has earned 5 consecutive instances of black-type, 4 for her present owners, Team Valor International. Her career totals in 15 career outings are 2-5-2 for earnings of \$115,984. Her record for TVI in 5 starts is 1-3-2-1 with 5 instances of black-type.

Says Barry Irwin "The filly's progress has been steady and meaningful. She now has arrived in a position where she can not only start earning some significant income, but increase her overall value to be worth quite a pretty penny."



Saxon Girl
Prix Pawneese Longines - Listed Race
Chantilly, 15 juin 2025

PROPRIETAIRE
Team Valor International

ENTRAINEUR
Tim Donworth

JOCKEY
Aurélien Lemaitre

ELEVEURS
Christophe Mongin
Umberto Saini-Fasanotti

