



## **FOOTING AT THE FOREFRONT:**

Written by Barry Olliff

**One of the reasons Stable View was able to deliver a relatively well-irrigated, aerated, and verti Drained Advanced course for the US Olympic Team was the close working relationship established over many years between Mark Phillips and the Stable View Grounds Team.**

**As a result of designing the Out track and the In track close together for the recent US Eventing Teams Mandatory outing it was possible to manage Stable View's resources more efficiently.**

**As an example, a Big Gun on a five-hour cycle distributing water over both In AND Out tracks effectively saves five hours.**

**The effect of this cumulatively is that by working the machines 24/7, the entire track was watered in three days rather than six.**

**Three days is how long grass can survive in 95-degree temperatures - six days and it's effectively dead - back in dormancy.**

**Using the Verti Drain and Aerator is a not dissimilar process. At 2MPH you need all of the land that you intend to cover to be as**

**close and accessible as possible. Adjacent tracks save a lot of time.**

**For Oktoberfest, Helen West and Mark Phillips will be reversing the A track that's just been used for the Mandatory Outing.**

**They'll start across the road from Day Parking and they'll finish around the Hunt Boxes. The track will obviously have significant variations from the June Event, but its proximity will allow the Stable View Grounds Crew to plan for Oktoberfest all summer.**

**For the next month, Stable View, along with most of the East Coast, has forecast temperatures that are in the upper 80s and well into the 90s. Some days the temperature will be in the 100's.**

**Stable View's job is to link the relationship between the Course Builder and its Grounds Crew in such a way that we use data, technology, manpower, equipment, and water efficiently for the benefit of horse and rider.**

**By the time that Oktoberfest comes around, let's hope that it will be significantly cooler. It will however be the work that's going on over the next few weeks that will maintain the footing in good condition for the Fall.**

**I believe that this level of collaboration is unusual. It's however important to find ways to consistently try to improve the product offered to riders and owners. This type of collaboration is what, I believe, will continue to separate Stable View from many other facilities.**