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**PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS**

**COUNTRY BOY 123 dominates Picov Maturity Trials**

**AJAX DOWNS, JUNE 4 2017-** In a stunning display of speed, Ajax Downs' reigning Horse of the Year Country Boy 123 made a jaw-dropping return to the races on Sunday June 4, winning his Trial for the upcoming Picov Maturity in near- track record time.

After a bit of an anxious moment when the powerful 4-year-old became antsy in the gate, Country Boy 123 was all business once the 300-yard dash started. In mere seconds, the dark bay and his rider Cory Spataro were quickly in front of his seven rivals and by the finish, in front by almost two lengths, stopping the clock in :15.27, just 3/100 of a second off the seven-year-old track record.

"It's scary to say, but he's got more in there," said Spataro, who hails from Innisfil, ON. "He is a supremely intelligent horse."

Owned by Ruth Barbour and trained by Bryn Robertson, both of Hillsburgh, ON, Country Boy 123's speed index of 107 establishes him as the firm favourite for the June 18 Maturity final, worth \$50,000.

Trainer Robertson also won the first Maturity Trial with the venerable 7-year-old One Famous Glass, owned by his wife Carol, daughter-in-law Jaime and Dr. Charles Hall.

One Famous Glass, the 2014 Horse of the Year at Ajax, was ridden to a nose victory over a fast closing Fast Man Vic in the fast time of :15.40.

The top 10 horses, by time, from the two Trials will contest the final on Ajax's popular **Father's Day Event day on June 18.**

For more information, please visit <https://ajaxdowns.com/>

*Photo of Country Boy 123 winning on Sunday June 4 by New Image Media.*

