

By Marcus Armytage

(filed: 23/11/2004)

Never let them tell you it isn't possible. On the day England won the Rugby World Cup Jim Lawless, now known in Lambourn as 'Jockey Jim', was taken to an outdoor riding school to see if he could ride. The emphatic answer, after he had been unable to steer a quiet pony at a walk, was 'no'.

Yesterday at Southwell, exactly a year and several disasters on, including a broken finger which held him back 10 weeks, the 36-year-old motivational speaker finished seventh of 14 on his first official ride, Airgusta in the opener.