



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE
CSIO*** SAMSUNG SUPER LEAGUE – FEI**
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THAT'S LIFE AND MICHEL HÉCART WIN THE LAST DERBY DES
PAYS DE LA LOIRE

« This horse is like a human person. If we could put a bedding in our house, he would simply live with us » says with enthusiasm Alexandrine Hécart, Michel's wife. *“Michel rang me one day and told me: I bought a cheap horse, but he doesn't pass the medical agreement. I thought what does it mean? It is a joke. Three weeks later, I did love him and, despite many offers approaching a thousand times his buying cost, we never sold him. We love him too much. Indeed his feet are painful and because of that, he can make one or two faults, in such case we stop him and we give him a rest. From the minute he's putting a foot on the track, he wants to win. He hasn't got a huge capacity, but he jumps with both his heart and his mind.”*

Second in 2004 and in 2005, That's life was extremely motivated on the Derby des Pays de la Loire *“However, he was not at the top of his shape, contrary to last year. This is why I have started the course with a fast rythm but I have slowed down on the end in order to not tire him too much.”*

That's life is an Irish horse, bought five years ago but Michel Hécart is not sure about his age : *“he is between 11 and 12 years old. When I bought him to the Belgian merchant François Mathy, I had two documents : his pedigree where it is said that he was 6 and his passport where it is said that he is 7...”*

“He is probably one of the best horses in the world in the speed classes” said the Irish Cian O'Connor, third placing on Casper with one fault.

Indeed, Michel Hécart and the sparkling That's Life out-distance the Irish and the Belgian Ludo Philippaerts, 2nd with Tauber van Het Kapelhof : *“I have already done the Derby last year with him. I thought the course was a bit big for him but he jumped very well”*. A doubt that his groom, who was sure about his foal's Vladimir, didn't have in mind.

La Baule's press office
Nathalie Fey



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines