

## DRESSAGE

### Nicole Smith

Campaign for the 2012 London Olympic Games



Training at Academy Bartels

I am currently based in Mascha Reijs' stables in Apeldoorn. It is a small private yard with five stables and a 60mx20m outdoor arena. Access to indoor arenas is also possible in case of bad weather.

#### My Campaign

This year, I will be traveling through Europe to as many Olympic qualifying shows as possible, starting with the CDI3\* Leudelange in August 2011. I also hope to compete in the Under 25 Grand Prix section of the 2011 European Championships in Rotterdam, also in August. This will be good experience for my horse and I, although this is not a qualifying event. Thereafter, I hope to compete in as many Olympic qualifying events as possible for the rest of the year. I have competed once already, in a smaller show, where I was placed first in the "Future Test" (a shorter version of the Grand Prix test for younger riders), and was placed second in a combined class of Grand Prix and Intermediate II (I rode the Grand Prix for the first time and attained 61.33%, which was the best percentage in the Grand Prix section of that class). I feel confident that I can improve our marks enough in order to attain at least the sufficient qualifying percentages. I am currently on the TID program and have attended assessment and training at the HPC in Pretoria with the rest of the Dressage TID group.

#### Rider's team

Farrier: Gerben Bronkhorst

Trainers: Mascha Reijs, Imke Schellekens-Bartels, Tineke Bartels

Vet: Dr Sjef de Smet

#### Horses

Victoria: Victoria is a thirteen-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare (by Havidoff). She has competed at Grand Prix level with Imke Schellekens-Bartels. Our partnership is still quite new, but I think the scores we attained at our first show after just three weeks training together were very positive. Victoria is a very talented mare, with expressive paces and no real weaknesses in any of the Grand Prix exercises. Her piaffe and passage are very good. All that remains is for her and I to form an even stronger partnership, so that her full potential may be reached.

#### In summary

Although I am relatively young, I feel I have enough passion and determination to attain my goals of representing South Africa at the London Olympic Games, and other international events. I also have an amazing support team, including my parents and sister, my aunt and uncle, Mascha fgReijs and the Bartels.