

EVENTING

Stuart Fitzgerald

Campaign for the 2012 London Olympic Games



I started riding at the age of 7, from showing right through to pony club games and gymkhanas. I moved into eventing at an early age and quickly developed a passion for the sport. In South Africa I was fortunate to be instructed by a number of inspirational teachers, from Claire Webb in my Children's years to Paul Hart, Ric Minnet and Charlotte Houston while in Juniors, and while at UCT by Gonda Beatrix, Jane Shephard, Riaan Verster, Inge Hansen and Sue Bass. I represented the following regions while competing in South Africa:

- 1997 Transvaal Childrens Eventing Team (Cossack)
- 2001 Kwa-Zulu Natal Junior Eventing Team (High Wycombe)
- 2006 Western Province Adult Eventing Team (Casual Miss)

After a successful and enjoyable eventing career in South Africa I moved to the United Kingdom in 2007 to learn the sport from the bottom up taking a position at Jane Holderness-Roddam's competition yard as a groom and competition rider, where I learnt all I could about stable management and general horse care – from mucking out to high level competition preparation. I spent a season under Jane's tuition before heading to Ian Stark's yard in Scotland where I spent a winter working for him in exchange for lessons. In 2008 I took residence at Angela Tucker's yard in Gloucestershire, where, as Angela was a member of the British Eventing Team's coaching staff, I was fortunate to receive regular tuition from a number of the British Trainers including Yogi Breisner, Peter Murphy, Angela Tucker, as well as Christian Landolt. In 2009 I setup a small yard of my own and continued to receive tuition from Angela Tucker as well as David Green.

In late 2009 I setup the first of two equine related businesses in the UK with the second coming on line in early 2010. White Horse Bedding and Efeed are now established as the dominant online retail presence in the UK for Equestrian bedding and feed respectively.

I currently have two horses, Classic Diamond charm, a 12yr old Irish draught X, who's notable FEI results are listed below, and the less experienced Wanda II who will hopefully begin competing at FEI events in 2011.

NOTABLE FEI RESULTS:

Venue	Date	Level	Place	Dressage	XC	XC-T	SJ	SJ-T	Total
Barbury Castle	2010	CIC**	30	55.3	0	6.4	0	0	61.7
Barbury Castle	2009	CIC**	9	56.6	0	2	0	0	58.6
Vairano di Vidigulfo	2009	CCI***	2	57.9	0	0.4	0	1	59.3
Cameri Novara	2008	CIC***	14	57.8	0	2.4	0	1	61.2
Burnham Market	2008	CIC***	14	56.9	0	8.8	4	0	69.7
Thirlestane	2007	CIC**	9	60.6	0	7.6	4	0	72.2

2011 EQUESTRIAN PLAN:

HORSES

Classic Diamond Charm (Thomas)

Tom is a 12yr old Irish X who I have successfully competed at 3* level. His best result to date was at the Vairano CCI*** in Italy where he finished 2nd adding only 0.4 xc time and 1 SJ time penalties to his dressage mark of 57.9 to finish on a score of 59.3 penalties.

He is currently fit and entered up with a view to contesting the CCI*** at Bramham and then the CCI*** at Blenheim, or some combination of CCI*** this season.

Wanda II (Wanda)

Wanda is an 8yr old Dutch mare. Precociously talented she is currently running at Novice (CNC*) with a view to upgrade to intermediate (CNC**) or perhaps a CIC** by the end of this season.

Training

I currently train with Angela Tucker, one of the British Team selectors and trainers.

Goals

This year I would like to finish in the top 25% of runners in my summer CCI and would like to place in the top 10 of my autumn CCI. I would like to represent South Africa at the London Olympics next year.