

# JUMPING

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Campaign for 2012 London Olympic Games



I wake up in the morning and the first thing I do is pinch myself REALLY hard! I am living my dream. This IS what I want.

I am so fortunate to have been included in the list of equestrian jumpers having the opportunity to try and qualify for the equestrian team to represent my country South Africa in the Equestrian Olympics 2012 to be held in London.

Although South Africa is my home, I am currently in Belgium competing here to participate in the qualifying shows and also further my career and training. I have Bill Clinton and a grey stallion Bolidain Rouet Z on the International level and Wally, Quala and Donnar keep me very busy in the 1.35 - 1.45 level. In South Africa I have a couple of beautiful foals that we have bred from both White Sprit C, Granini and Qualisto de Acier.

The route to Belgium was not easy, Bill Clinton only arrived in Belgium 3 months ago after being in quarantine for 6 months between Cape Town and Mauritius during which time I was competing with the other 3 horses and being placed in various categories one being a 8<sup>th</sup> Place with Wally in the Silver Tour "Groete Jumping" in Belgium. Clinton and I have been working very hard and since returning to Belgium after a couple of hugely successful shows in South Africa Clinton is now 100% on top form and I can say confidently that after our first show I was totally delighted as he is fit and Clinton as I know him.

Currently SANEF advises us on the available shows in Europe that form part of the qualification rounds before the Qatar qualifier and I have entered some of them having the first International show on 23 October in Belgium.

Before returning to Belgium and while competing in South Africa I achieved some of the following results:

- Top four riders Nissan Festival being tie second with Lorette Knowles Taylor and my horse Ballito Bay the only horse giving all 4 riders a clear round;
- Durban Sunshine Tour I achieved a hat trick by winning all 4 of the 1.40m classes with White Spirit C including the Kwa Zulu Natal Grand Prix as well as the 1.50m Speed Class with Ballito Bay, 5 Wins out of the top 8 classes and some other placings.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Riders Champs;
- 3 x 2<sup>nd</sup> Places with Ballito in 1.50 at Riders Champs;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pretoria 1.50 Grand Prix Ballito Bay;
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pretoria World Cup Qualifier White Spirit C;

Other results:

- Placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Midrand World Cup Qualifier (Bill Clinton);
- Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Royal show World Cup Qualifier (Bill Clinton with the only clear in the first round);
- Winner of the Victor Ludorum "Sword of Honor" 1.50m (Bill Clinton)-Royal Show;
- Medium Champs winner (White Spirit);
- Placed 8<sup>th</sup> in Durban World Cup Qualifier (Bill Clinton);
- 4<sup>th</sup> in SA Champs Durban (Bill Clinton);
- Placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Pretoria World Cup Qualifier (Bill Clinton);
- Placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Polokwane World Cup (Bill Clinton);
- Leading Lady Rider at Polokwane World Cup (Bill Clinton);
- Avis Derby Top and 3<sup>rd</sup> top Qualifier in 1.50m (1 Balito Bay, 3 Bill Clinton);
- Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Avis Derby Classic 1.50m (Balito Bay);
- Placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Avis Derby Classic 1.50m (Bill Clinton);
- 11<sup>th</sup> overall on Bill Clinton at SA Derby 2010;
- Winner of the 2010 Micro Derby on White Spirit C;
- Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Avis 1.35m Classic on White Spirit C;
- Victor Ludorum 1.35m Avis Derby 2010 on White Spirit C;
- Leading Lady Rider at Avis Derby First for Woman;
- Winner of the Final Leg of the World Cup Qualifier Cape Town (Bill Clinton);
- Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Fancourt Cape Town World Cup Qualifier (Bill Clinton) with the only clear rounds and 1 time penalty only;
- Placed 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Riders Grand Prix Cape Town Balito Bay and White Spirit C;
- Bill Clinton was number 2 in SANEF Rider Rankings 2010;
- Bill Clinton also ranked number 2 on the SANEF Horse Rankings;
- Also under the top 15 combination of horse and rider with 3 of my horses Bill Clinton, Balito Bay and White Spirit C.

I have no words to explain the feeling of pure happiness and joy. This achievement also humbled me and I thank My Lord for my talent and for helping me realise my dreams and giving me the opportunities to be able to live my dream with Him guiding me every trot, every canter, and each jump.

Here in Belgium I ride every day, I train every day, and can honestly say that when I close my eyes to go to sleep I can't wait for the next day to start all over again everyday getting closer to reaching my dream. This is certainly the hardest thing I ever had to do being so far away from a lovable family and friends but quitting is definitely not an option, Sancho Voerman and his family have been wonderful and extended ultimate hospitality to me and assisting me in my endeavour. I receive quite a lot of emails and people also contact me through my fan page, this helps to keep the longing for South Africa's sunshine, thunderstorms and people in check.

I am very grateful to my sponsor Plantwise, for the encouragement and support I receive from them. I appreciate everything they do for me as well as the words of wisdom and guidance shown by them to me.