

FEI International Vaulting Competition – Ermelo (Holland) – 1–3 May

One of South Africa's handful of B-grade vaulters attended an International Vaulting Competition at Ermelo at the beginning of May.

Chelsey Gertenbach (13) was the only South African (and only African) at the competition, and competed against 33 other female vaulters from seven countries in the CVI*/** event.

Chelsey has competed twice before in international competition, but as part of a mixed team: this was her first individual international competition.



A week before the competition she met the horse she was leasing for the competition: a 17-hand Dutch Warmblood called Mando. Chelsey initially found it extremely difficult to vault on Mando, as his movement was very much bigger than that of the Boerperd on whom she normally vaults.

A week later Chelsey and Mando headed off for the show, and after the first compulsory she lay 14th. As the show progressed Chelsey got more and more accustomed to Mando, and she pulled up to 10th place after the first freestyle.

Things went even better in the second round: Chelsey scored 7.367 (the second-highest score for that round). This pulled her overall score up to 6.831 so that she ended the competition in 5th place out of 34.

She is very grateful for all the support received before during and after the competition.

Statistics:

Individual Females	60
Individual Males	10
Teams	21
Countries	11