

# EQUESTRIAN TIMES



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NOV 2016

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IMPORT OF HORSES



  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

It was hectic but it was fun. The exacting exercise has started to throw up good results. It still is a long journey and we are confident that we will scale a new high in our breeding operations and provide the top Indian riders a perfect platform to catapult to fame.

The second Foal Championship is much bigger and better and we are immensely pleased with the response the Foal Championship has garnered in the equestrian circles. The arrival of a top pedigree grey Capo Cassione and the top quality Pony stallion Pilatus has generated big buzz and it will not be long before an Indian bred Sporthorse will be on the high road.

The thunder of hooves we understand provides a lyrical ring to all the horse lovers and we have left no stone unturned in our endeavor to facilitate the equestrian buffs. A new look Equestrian Times magazine with informative and topical National and International editorial content will be released and I'm most pleased with the result.

India has taken a giant step forward in the game and this has been appreciated in the International equestrian circuit. However, stringent policies and the cost factor involved in importing horses from Europe, do pose a few problems but we are prepared to address these issues while making our journey to the top.

The Sporthorse Studbook has provided the window India needed to showcase the breeding operations. The Studbook offers in-depth breeding consultancy, registrations of warmblood foals and issuing of passports for foals born in India. To simply put it, it provides the right pedestal on the international platform.

Well all said and done, the count-down for the show-down at sun-down on Sunday, Nov 27 has begun and we certainly are looking forward to the big day.

Yours,

LARA BECKER

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Design & Production  
**AQUARIUZ**

# EIRS SETS BULLION STANDARD

Ameen Khan.

'Saddling up' is the new exciting and raging hobby, or sport with today's youngsters. With the fast-growing popularity of this sport and kids registering or wanting to register into riding schools in large numbers, there seems to be a rise in the establishment of new riding schools in the country.



Silva Storai, Director EIRS



Chairman and Managing Director Embassy Group, Jitu Virwani

The trend of 'horse love' seems to have set in, however there looms a cloud of apprehension for the many who are interested. Taking riding lessons on school horses is an option or last resort? A learning method that's inferior to owning or leasing your own horse? Something strictly for kids and/or the greenest adult beginners?

Think again. Good school-horse programs, such as offered by the Embassy International Riding School, have much to offer the serious rider in today's world, who's desire to ride may be strong but who's time, energy, and financial resources to do so, maybe limited. School horses provide learning with no strings attached: no board bills, no maintenance hassles, no guilt over missed days at the barn. Moreover, school horses "packers" by definition, allow you to concentrate on yourself. They make it possible for you to nail the basics, such as position and balance, more quickly and solidly than you might on a less cooperative animal.

All things considered, Embassy International riding school horses may in fact be a good option, whether you're a beginner/intermediate rider or you are returning to riding after a break. School horses are also a great way to keep a foot in the stirrup, so to speak, if you are going off to college, starting a family, building a career, or living through any other transitional period when ownership is not possible.

Embassy International Riding School, the largest private equine academy in India, offers you the horses, courses and the infrastructure to learn, develop and ace your interest and talent for riding. Run according to British Horse Society (BHS) standards. EIRS sports a 240-acre campus in Devanahalli, just 27 km north of the city, with immediate proximity to the Bangalore International Airport.

Silva Storai, Director, Embassy International Riding School says, "There is a rise in enquiries and registrations for horse riding lessons

and hence this has resulted in many new riding schools being established in Bangalore. But not many cater to both the queries due to the infrastructure, facility and programs offered for learning and training.

Just like with any sport, you have to learn the fundamentals of horses and riding before you can move on. When you start with beginner riding lessons,

*Good school-horse programs, such as offered by the Embassy International Riding School, have much to offer the serious rider in today's world, who's desire to ride may be strong but who's time, energy, and financial resources to do so, maybe limited.*

you can expect to come out with a basic understanding of the animals and the sport. While horses and riding is a ton of fun, there are things you should know that are important for your safety, the horse's safety, and the safety of others riding with you".

At EIRS we have an answer to all such queries, a beginner or intermediate would have apprehensions about:

- Structured riding lessons for all levels, from beginner to advanced, conducted by highly qualified BHS Instructors
- Pony Club activities for children of all ages

- A range of leisure, entertainment and hospitality activities, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or a weekend on our sprawling campus, or at our outdoor tented guest camps, or dine at Ai Cavalli, one of the city's long-standing Italian restaurants, widely known for its simple, rustic appeal and delicious home-style cooking.

Equestrian sport - promoted at a national and international level

At a national level EIRS promotes the sport through Equestrian Premier League -a tournament, holding Dressage and Show Jumping competitions. It is aimed at raising the Equestrian standards in India,

providing a platform to riders to increase their fitness and confidence levels, with the ultimate aim of making riders internationally competitive in Equestrian Sports. This is the 7th consecutive year of the tournament.

At an International level, EIRS delivers its best to the sport, promoting riders through Equus India, a wing which sponsors potential talent, helping them participate in Equestrian disciplines abroad and preparing them for competitions such as the Olympics and the Asian Games. Ajai Appachu, Fouad Mirza and Nadia Haridas, who represented India at the Asian Games, are a few names that the school has produced with pride and will continue in this endeavour.



# INDIA, NOW SET TO “SPORT” PONIES



Owning a sporthorse is now much more affordable and easy, thanks to the newly established studbook and breeding programs in India. The riding community today can train and level their class, preparing themselves for international circuits, were the need for a quality horse is mandatory.

The breeders promoting the sport in an effort to up the game, have now decided to give the learners the same quality and class of horses so that they hit the ‘perform’ and ‘compete’ button at a young age.

Sporthorse ponies is their formula. A Sport Pony is 14.2 hands or less in height, with the conformation, movement, rideability and type, to excel in the Olympic Equestrian disciplines of dressage, jumping, eventing and combined driving. Originally developed in Germany in the early 1960’s, this Riding Pony, also known as Deutches Reitpony, is graded and tested at inspection tests, for the individual Reitpony registries, much the same as for the different European warmblood and sport horse registries. The German Riding Pony is the admitted model of the new Sport Pony registries that is just going to start in India. Meeting the



breeding goals similar to the standards of the German Riding Pony, the first Sport-horse studbook in India aims to produce a noble and correct pony with dynamic, spacious and elastic movement - well suited for dressage, show jumping and eventing for its temperament, character and rideability. Lara Becker of Sport Horse Studbook said, “Embassy International Riding School will be the first riding school in the country that will be stabling these sport horse ponies,

AMEEN KHAN

being showcased for the first time to the public at the Foal Championship this year, we would be announcing the riding and breeding programs”.

Silva Storai, Director, Embassy International Riding School, “The need was sited post the Foal auction held last year, the success brought us to learn that breeding of sport horses is very appreciated in the country and the want for great quality of horses is become a must as many youngsters are taking a liking towards the sport, resulting in the growing number of young riders and if their companion is a class A bloodline animal, it only helps in crafting their skills, graduating to intermediate and advanced levels of the sport”.

*India has not been alien to fully grown horse ponies, they have been introduced to some of us as Manipuri Pony, a descendant of the Asian wild horse. The pony breeders of Manipur rear this animal in semi-wild system till today. What makes this local Indian breed different from the Sporthorse pony is a unique animal which is an inhabitant of the Indo-Burma region. Mega bio-diversity hot-spot of the world has been in existence since pre-historic era. Used mainly for transportation, polo games, festivals and warfare. Manipuri pony height 11 to 13 hand high (1 hand = 4 inches approx.), short back, good shoulder, deep girth and well developed hind quarters is sure-footed and sturdy.*



## International Horse Agency Stallions 2017



### Unbreakable Z

\*2011 by Untouched x Centauer x Nimmerdor  
International top genes for highest demands



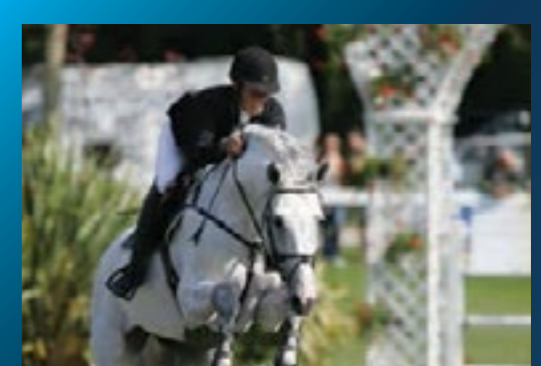
### Comerade

\*2012 by Castino x Calido I x Calypso I  
Premium stallion of the Oldenburg licensing in Vechta 2014



### Cazaan

\*2012 by Casall x Clarimo x Cassini I  
Superior son of the Holstein top progenitor Casall



### Capo Cassione

\*2002 by Cassini I x Lavall II x Raimondo  
Outstanding Holstein showjumping progenitor by the legendary Cassini I



### Casual Z

\*2013 by Cassini II x Chellano Z x Cambridge  
The next generation top performance breeding out of the famous Holstein dam line 18 A2

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TANISHKA KHATAOKAR

## STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

IKRAM KHAN

She has both style and substance. And she is one of the most promising talents on the equestrian circuit. Tanishka Khataokar, in the opinion of most pundits, will scale a new high and the sprightly young lass is aiming high. The Mumbaikar, who has made Bengaluru her base, has set her goals and has taken the big stride ahead, to accomplish her mission.

After her parents, Swati and Sanjay provided her the first saddle to fame, Tanishka has made rapid progress, learning the ropes under the care of Ajai Appachu and Nadia Haridass and is now ready to parade her talent on the big stage.

A good seven summers ago, the Mount Carmel College student got her first leg-up in Malaysia, her mother Swati enrolling the horse lover in a week-long riding stint in Malaysia before the top Dressage lass joined Amateur Rider's Club in Mumbai. After a one year stint she moved to Bengaluru, impressed with the training and riding facilities at the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS).

After joining EIRS, Tanishka with her soft hands and good seat impressed both Nadia and Ajai, who is down in the United Kingdom training and competing



in top international events, before she quickly struck a fine partnership with her horse Silvano and the two produced many heart warming performances, to the delight of the EIRS camp.

In the first week of November, Tanishka reigned supreme in the FEI World Challenge Dressage for South Zone and the sublime effort from the rising star has provided the desired confidence to make her presence felt on the international stage.

"I competed in the United Kingdom in May. Participating in the Western Lawns Show I was adjudged best in the newcomer's category, before I finished second in the Open category. The effort, I must admit, provided a shot in-the-arm. The exposure and the experience I gained parading my skills in the United Kingdom, just put me on a different level and I now

believe that I have the ability to excel in this game," said Tanishka pointing out, that it was Ajai and Nadia who played a stellar role in her successful journey.

Tanishka who to her credit has many golds, dominating the Dressage event in EPL and the junior national event, loves to read and spend time with the horses.

"She loves horses and she has struck a perfect bond with Silvano. We moved to Bengaluru from Mumbai mainly because we found Tanishka very happy with the horses at EIRS and slowly yet surely, she started to ride. Now we realise that she is doing what she loves best, that is riding and spending time with the horses and we are happy that we have helped nurse her dream, said Swati who willingly provides Tanishka the encouragement and support while monitoring her academics.

Spurred by the success in the FEI Dressage event, Tanishka is looking forward to top the zone and gain the ticket to compete in the FEI finals. She is one of the favourites to score and the knowledgeable are of the view that all Tanishka needs to do is keep focus and it will not be long before she will carry India's flag high and proud in the years ahead.

ZEESHAN MALIK

## SUCCESSFULLY DONNING TWO HATS

IKRAM KHAN



One of the most consistent and talented performers on the Indian Equestrian circuit, Zeeshan Malik, now dons two hats, rider and instructor and the 23-year-old Bhopal boy who has made Bengaluru his base, is enjoying his dual role and the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS), who roped him two summers ago, are immensely pleased with the quality the boy has provided to the best riding school in the business, competing successfully while donning the EIRS colours in the major competitions and providing the tips on the finer points of the game to the young hopefuls who are learning the basics under the care of Zeeshan.

Zeeshan started to ride at the age of six in Bhopal, cantering a couple of horses in the Delhi Public School before he struck a bond with the horses and the boy simply fell in love with the horses.

Zeeshan's Grand Pa M H Rehman Malik was a good Polo player and played the sport with the Nawab Of Pataudi and that was how Zeeshan developed a liking and got close to the horses before he decided to make a career in equestrian sport. "I was state medallist in skating and I also

represented my school in Football, but what I really loved to do was ride a horse and I chose that and the journey so far with the horses has been great," said Zeeshan who is nursing a big dream to win a gold for India in the next Asian Games.

"I don't think it is a tough task. The Indian riders are good and all we need is the international exposure and the advanced coaching to get it right on the big international stage and I believe we have it in us to win at the Asian level," said Zeeshan pointing out that the Embassy boss Jitu Virwani is providing all the help, training and coaching at the United Kingdom and Germany and in the year ahead a couple of riders will realise Jitu Virwani's dream.

The biggest plus point, Zeeshan reckons is that the Indian riders are brave and are ready to partner the warmbloods the moment they get an opportunity to hone their skills and that normally doesn't happen in Europe revealed Zeeshan. The winner of the FEI Dressage this year, Zeeshan disclosed that he was lucky to make the trip to EIRS, Bengaluru. "I in many national events was competing with Ajai Appachu and when Ajai was picked to

train in England he asked me if I was willing to shift to Bengaluru and take up the instructor's job at EIRS on offer. I jumped at it and the decision brought me both glory and fame," said Zeeshan who along with the chief coach Normund, enjoys his coaching stint.

When posed with the question: "Will the breeding of Sporthorses help the Indian riders?" Zeeshan who to his credit, has recorded a 1.70M effort in Puissance in the Delhi Horse Show five years back, shot back that breeding pedigree Sporthorses and warmbloods will put India on the international map and with the best of horses to ride and compete, the Indian riders will be on a level playing field.

"A couple of years earlier, we Indian riders didn't have the horses to showcase our skills in international meets. The thoroughbreds we competed on failed to match warmbloods but now with the stock on hand we have a great chance," said Zeeshan Malik before walking off to help a first timer get a leg-up at the school.

BASAVARAJU

# WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, ONLY THE TOUGH GET GOING

AMEEN KHAN



Where there is a will, there is a way. And who said that the Equestrian sport is only for the rich and the low income families cannot afford it. Most talented riders in the cash-rich flat racing have come from poor backgrounds and the 20-year-old Basavaraju Sangappa, son of a retired security employee at the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) is one such in the EIRS camp.

When the going gets tough, it is the tough who get going and it really was tough for Basavaraju who first started to ride ponies in the EIRS yard, at the age of eight.

His parents, Sangappa and Vidyavathi, working as a gardener at the Stonehill International School, needless to say, could not afford the training and riding fees. The Embassy Group encouraged and supported the young boy. The EIRS think-tank spearheaded by Embassy Group chief Jitu Virwani and director Silva Storai, aware that the boy was keen and eager and more importantly loved the horses, decided to sponsor the exercise and Basavaraju has returned handsome dividend to the investment made, winning a bagful of medals in the National equestrian championships. While one applauds the effort of the unassuming Basavaraju, the rising star quickly points out that the two



top EIRS riders, Ajai Appachu and Nadia Haridass, played a big role in his graduation to the top.

"I'm still learning and I know I have a long way to go before I make the big league. I want to get there and with Ajai and Nadia on my side, I hopefully will make the grade in the years ahead," said Basavaraju.

Realising that it will pay to make it a learn and earn exercise, Basavaraju took up the junior instructor's job at EIRS and is now providing riding lessons to the beginners in the morning, before training in the evening. "He understands that he needs to support his parents and when he put

his hand up for the job we readily took him in," said Silva Storai adding that the promising youngster spends more than eight hours each day with the horses, coaching, training and riding.

A final year Arts student at the Yelahanka Govt. College, Basavaraju recorded his first success in the JNEC championship in Delhi, before he won the Dressage and Jumping Golds at Kolkata.

Training under the care of the British instructor Normunds in the absence of Ajai who is training in the United Kingdom, Basavaraju who to his credit, has a 1.35 clearance is all praise for Normunds. "He has the experience and he knows what is needed to make a mark on the international scene. And he makes you comfortable while he guides and provides you the finer points of the game," said Basavaraju.

Basavaraju disclosed that all he has done is thanks to Jitu Virwani and the Embassy Group. At EIRS they are always looking to provide opportunities and I'm glad that I grabbed the opportunity which came my way and hopefully, I will bring laurels to the riding school," signed off Basavaraju.



JIBRAN KHAN

# ON TOP OF HIS GAME

IKRAM KHAN

After his impressive performance in the ECE Challenge championship, with three golds, the talented Jibrán Khan who is now a force to reckon with in the equestrian circles, produced his best, winning the Regional Equestrian League (REL) event with a 1.3M effort in the EPL league, to gain a ticket to compete in the Senior Nationals scheduled to be held in Feb, next year in Meerut.

The most improved star performer on the circuit, Jibrán first started at the Ooty horse show, five summers ago. The exercise gave the new kid on the block the confidence required to start his journey in this rough and tough sport and the promising young rider quickly picked up the ropes to make progress on the desired lines.

After the start at the Blue Mountains, young Jibrán competing in South Indian equestrian and the Embassy Premier League championships produced a se-

ries of medal winning efforts before the young lad enjoyed his maiden success in the Bangalore Junior Nationals, five months after his first leg-up at the Udhagamandalam. From then on, it proved to be a run for the roses for this promising ECE rider, training under the care of the ECE head coach, Nitin Gupta.

A year later, the talented young rider after gaining the exposure and experience required to strut his stuff against the best, made his coach Nitin and his parents Rehan and Sanya Khan proud, winning his first gold in the Junior Nationals and helped his team win a gold and two silvers in the team championships. This superb effort caught the eye of most equestrian pundits, who made it clear that Jibrán is a new star of the horizon.

The youngster maintained his winning streak in the months ahead, climbing up the ladder and consistently knocking at the doors of success which made the

knowledgeable stand up and acknowledge the ability of the youngster who is ready to make the big league. ECE director Sanya Khan and her hubby Rehan, big equestrian buffs, delighted with the progress made by their star son, provided the encouragement and support and Jibrán readily justified their confidence, advancing and making his presence felt against the best of his age on the circuit.

"He loved to ride horses and we are happy with the progress Jibrán has made in the game," said Sanya delighted that her son topped the REL event and earned his passage to Meerut.

After winning more than 50 medals in different championships around the country in his five year stint in the sport, Jibrán has set his eyes on the FEI challenge competition. "This is one big international challenge and I'm eager to make my mark in a FEI event," said Jibrán.

MAHIRA FURNITUREWALA

# READY TO MAKE THE BIG LEAGUE

IKRAM KHAN

She is brave, gutsy and strong. And she is willing to go the distance. The 16-year-old Mahira Furniturewala has set a few targets and she is determined to hit the bulls-eye, in the years ahead.

The braveheart at the age of six held promise cantering a few horses at the Amateur Rider's Club at Mahalaxmi race course in Mumbai and today she is one of the most promising girls on the equestrian circuit, consistently producing top drawer efforts in all the major championships.

Mahira started first with Dressage before she developed a liking to Show Jumping after watching her team-mates parade their skills in the National Junior Equestrian Championship (JNEC) in Kolkata in 2011.

Next competing in the Pune Nationals in the Dressage, Mahira won the bronze before she took the big stride ahead to participate in the Show Jumping events. The shift in time brought the talented rider fame, Mahira competing against the best, winning the bronze in the Bangalore Nationals next year. This proved to be the tonic the sprightly lass needed, and Mahira in the next four years established herself as one of the most promising riders on the Indian equestrian scene.

Training at the Equestrian Centre For Excellence (ECE), Mahira impressed head coach Nitin Gupta and Nitin made no secret of his opinion that this girl from ECE has tremendous scope for improvement and it will not be long before she dons the Indian colours.



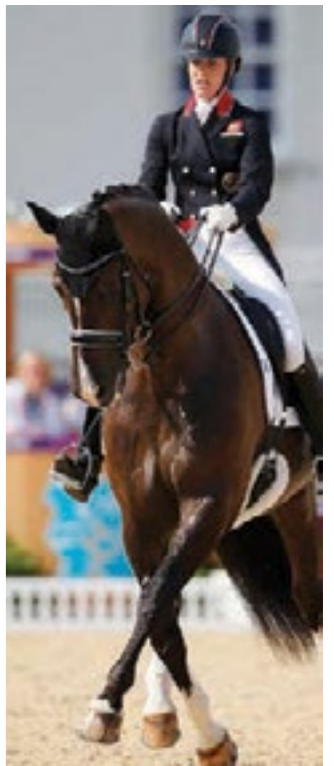
*"Mark my words. The progress Mahira has made and the willingness she projects to achieve her goals separates her from the rest. She is very focussed and a strong rider and on her day she will beat the best,"*

"Mark my words. The progress Mahira has made and the willingness she projects to achieve her goals separates her from the rest. She is very focussed and a strong rider and on her day she will beat the best," said Nitin pointing out that she enjoys the sport and is always giving her 100 percent.

Chosen to compete in the Iranian Equestrian championship in Teheran, Mahira produced a satisfactory effort. "Competing against the best in Teheran boosted my confidence and the exposure and the experience I gained from this trip really helped. I now was more confident and ready to take on the best," said Mahira.

A couple of gold winning efforts at the Embassy Premier League (EPL), followed by her fine showing in the Equestrian Challenge helped Mahira gallop to fame. The top gun who loves Western Music and is always game for a game of basketball now has set her eyes to gain the ticket to Youth Olympics in Argentina. This arts student from Mount Carmel college according to most old hats in the game, is in with a definite chance to make the trip. And for that to happen Mahira needs to keep focus and strive hard to get to the next level. Going by her track record she will do that without really raising a sweat.

"Now that she has set her eyes on making it to Argentina, we know that she will give it a good shot to get there," said her dad Sharif Furniturewala while her mother Mehjabeen, agreed with her husband.



CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN

## A LEGENDARY SHOW-STOPPER

One of the legends in the game, Charlotte Dujardin was on top of the world after she pulled out all stops and placed herself on top of the summit retaining her individual Grand Prix dressage medal at Rio's Olympic Equestrian centre with a stunning round on Valegro. Her winning score of 93.857 was the third highest of all time, beaten only by herself. The best horse woman in the baking Rio sun produced her best which saw the knowledgeable stand up and provide a standing ovation to the best woman of the show. Charlotte indeed was a Show-Stopper.

Dujardin in the 18 competitors Dressage final, performed a secretive new routine seen only once in public shortly before the Games. She produced a stunning display of conjoined, expressive homo-equine balletics, drawing cheers from a packed crowd before coming back in tears from the arena. Charlotte had carved a niche for herself in the annals of the game on Valegro, a horse that has been her constant companion.

After the exemplary winning routine, it was an anxious wait. Her arch rival, the formidable six-times Olympic gold medallist Isabell Werth of Germany was performing last and Isabell was in with a chance to topple Charlotte. Isabell, who has a chequered doping past having served a six-month suspension from the sport in 2009 after a banned substance was found in her horse, had finished with the top score in the team event last week. Here she produced a fine ride of her own but could only manage to finish second behind Charlotte. For Charlotte, the result is the culmination of four years of transformative dressage during which she has raised the bar for the sport and confirmed her status as its great innovator and current all-round superstar.

"I've been riding Valegro since he was five years old. He has remained unbeatable and won everything there is to win. I want people to remember him as the most amazing horse that he is and Valegro will now retire," Charlotte confirmed. There

was an emotional drama after the competition had finished, Charlotte's boy friend and fiance, Dean Wyatt Golding, a former marathon runner and triathlete, unveiled a T-shirt with the slogan "Can we get married now?" Dujardin later confirmed this was not actually a proposal as they are already engaged, simply an expression of mild impatience.

She will now have time for such things after gold in Rio confirmed her own progression from novice champion in 2012 to the sport's outstanding star, the Muhammed Ali of dressage, a game-changing performer.

"It is a great feeling and I really had a great time. I knew that this could be the last with Valegro, so I decided to go out there and enjoy it, never mind the result. I think he knew what I was thinking because he really looked after me and helped me," said Dujardin.





NICK SKELTON

# OLD IS GOLD

Skelton won Britain's first individual show-jumping gold medal in Olympic history following a stunning performance in Deodoro. And the 58-year-old, from Alcester in Warwickshire, also became Britain's oldest Olympic gold medalist in any sport, eclipsing shooter Jerry Millner, who won gold in 1908.

Skelton and Big Star – his London 2012 team gold medal-winning ride – were among six combinations that jumped off against the clock after posting double clear rounds earlier in the day.

Skelton, competing in his seventh Olympics, set a scorching pace of 42.82 seconds, despite being first to go, that no other rider could match. It means that Great Britain's equestrian team finished their Rio campaign with two gold medals – Skelton and dressage star Charlotte Dujardin – plus a silver for the dressage team. "Brilliant," said Skelton. "You always dream about it and then it actually happens it is real life. I have been think-

ing about this and planning it since London four years ago. "I never had a worry this morning, I've not had a worry all week and I really knew this horse would win it. I knew if I kept my cool this horse would do it and he did. I knew if I did not make a mistake, he wouldn't either." When asked about becoming the oldest British gold medalist, Skelton said: "I feel it! It is amazing. To be in the sport all this time and win this caps it."

"But someone else will do it in four years [in Tokyo]. I'll never have another horse as good as Big Star. I'll be too old." Skelton beat Sweden's Peder Fredricson into second place, with Canadian Eric Lamaze – the 2008 Olympic individual champion – finishing third. In the end, Skelton and Big Star triumphed by more than half a second. It represents a career highlight for a rider who has fought back from a broken neck suffered in 2000 that forced him to retire before he returned to the saddle in 2002. He has also suffered a serious back injury and had a hip replace-

ment, but he came back to prominence when he helped Britain win team gold alongside Ben Maher, Scott Brash and Peter Charles in London four years ago.

It was Britain's sixth individual Olympic showjumping medal after silvers for Ann Moore (1972) and Marion Coakes (1968), plus two David Broome bronze medals and a bronze for Peter Robeson. Big Star, himself, has suffered injury troubles since the London Games but he bounced back to claim a remarkable triumph for Skelton and his owners Beverley and Gary Widdowson.

Skelton has now won 16 major championship medals – two Olympic, nine European and five world – but his crowning glory came in the glorious Brazilian sunshine as he battled to hold back the tears on the medal podium.

*Courtesy (Express)*



*Horse Service International B.V.*

[www.horseservice.nl](http://www.horseservice.nl)





# FORMULA ONE OF EQUESTRIANISM - THE LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR

The Longines Global Champions Tour series is a unique, world-class show jumping Championship and a phenomenon in the sport. Taking place in some of the world's most unique and prestigious destinations, Longines Global Champions Tour offers the richest prize money in show jumping, creating some of the most explosive and exciting competition of any equestrian championship. Throughout its history, the Longines Global Champions Tour series has grown from six events to 15 events, including debut shows in 2015 for Miami Beach and Rome as well as introducing Mexico City to the impressive destination line up for 2016.

Longines Global Champions Tour attracts the very best riders and horses in show jumping to its glamorous Championship series. Many of the riders are multiple medal winners at the very top of their game, such as Olympic Gold Medallist, former World Number 1 and two-time LGCT Champion of Champions Scott Brash, 2014 World Champion Jeroen Dubbeldam, 2014 FEI World Cup Final winner Daniel Deusser; 2012 Olympic Gold medalists Steve Guerdat and

Ben Maher; three-time Olympic medalist Beezie Madden, two-time Longines GCT Champion Edwina Tops-Alexander, as well as four-time Olympic Gold medallist Ludger Beerbaum - a true legend of the sport. The incredible equine athletes which compete on the Tour are as popular as their riders, with fan clubs and dedicated supporters at every event. Gerco Schröder's beautiful Olympic Silver medal-winning stallion London, one of the most photographed horses in show jumping, has been a regular on the Tour, as is Scott Brash's Hello Sanctos, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson's Casall ASK and John Whitaker's Argento. The Tour is also the place to catch sight of up-and-coming young equine stars of the future as riders introduce them to top-level sport under the very best conditions.

The beauty and elegance of show jumping and the settings provided by Longines Global Champions Tour appeals to connoisseurs of elite level competition, from fans who follow the shows around the world, or watch the sport live on the website or TV, to high-profile enthusiasts such as H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Mo-

naco, Princess Caroline of Hanover, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and rockstar Bruce Springsteen.

Style icons such as Marion Cotillard, Charlotte Casiraghi, Longines Ambassador of Elegance Jane Richard Philips, actor Guillaume Canet, and 5\* riders Jessica Springsteen, Georgina Bloomberg and Athina Onassis de Miranda also add their own touch of chic to the Tour, creating a truly unique and exclusive feel. But it is undoubtedly the glamorous venues and the wonderful hospitality of the host countries that make the LGCT events feel so unique. The Longines Global Champions Tour is where world-class sport meets relaxed elegance in vibrant destinations around the globe. 2016 sees us kick-off the season at the spectacular ocean-side venue of Miami Beach, last year's groundbreaking addition to the Tour. In this Olympic year, there has never been a better time to witness the world's best horses and riders battle it out as the 2017 Longines Global Champions Tour series gets underway.



## The Longines Global Champions Tour - Top Locations around the World...



# Celebrating Global Superstars Champions Tour



Swedish rider Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and the phenomenal 17 year old stallion Casall ASK claimed both the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Doha win and the prestigious 2016 Champion of Champions title in a magnificent showdown in Qatar

The Longines Global Champions Tour has always attracted the biggest and brightest names in show jumping, and the roll-call of Champions over the last decade is testament to the incredible world-class level of sport the Tour presents. As we forge ahead into another feast of Championship drama in this, the 11th year of the Tour, it seems only fitting to celebrate some of the most successful athletes and horses of the last nine spectacular Longines Global Champions Tour seasons.

As far back as 2006, such illustrious names as Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA), Norman Dello Joio (USA), Nick Skelton (GBR) and Ludger Beerbaum (GER) took part in the first season of what would quickly become one of the most prestigious and lucrative Championship series in the show jumping world. It was Belgian hero, four-time Olympian Ludo Philippaerts, who dominated the very first Champion of Champions title in 2006, winning Gold at two of the five rounds with Parco and taking the season win with an impressive 40 point lead from 2004 Olympic Champion Rodrigo Pessoa.

In 2007, the Tour expanded to seven venues and it was the unstoppable Nick Skelton (GBR) and Arko who took the crown after collecting a Gold and two Silver Grand Prix medals. Skelton has amassed a staggering 16 major international championship medals during

his illustrious career and fittingly added Longines Global Champions Tour Champion to his haul after finishing with a massive 50 point lead from 2001 European Team Gold medallist Jessica Kurten (IRE). In 2008 and 2009, the Championship winner was determined in a separate final and by 2009 the Tour consisted of nine stunning venues around the world. The top 25 riders of the season overall standings were invited to participate in the 2008 final and it was Jessica Kurten (IRE) with Castle Forbes Libertina who went one better to become the first lady winner of the Tour, beating Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER) and the legendary Shutterfly by just 0.76s and taking an unprecedented €300,000 first prize.

World domination by Britain's Scott Brash began in 2013 when the 2012 Olympic Gold medallist produced a record-breaking performance to win both the final Grand Prix of the season and the overall Championship - something never before achieved on the Tour - with his star ride Hello Sanctos. Brash pushed 2003 European Champion Christian Ahlmann (GER) into 2nd place and took home the biggest prize pot of his career, €442,500.

Shortly after his 2013 win, Brash became World No1 for the first time in his career and has held on to the position for over a year - the first rider to do so since Marcus Ehning in 2006. Brash went on

to become Champion of Champions again in 2014 following a nail-biting race for top honours over 14 rounds between himself, Ludger Beerbaum and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson. Agonisingly, once again Bengtsson finished on the same points as the winner, but Brash had broken another record that season by becoming the first rider to win three Grand Prix in the same year. 2015 saw World Number 1 Scott Brash kick off the season with an early Grand Prix win in the stunning new Miami Beach destination. On the sands next to the sparkling Atlantic ocean, Scott and his Olympic Gold winning horse Hello Sanctos laid down the gauntlet to the world-class field who hoped the British rider couldn't make it three Champion of Champions titles in a row. As the season progressed, one leading lady took up the challenge with Portugal's Luciana Diniz taking home a strong win in the packed out venue of Madrid. However, Scott was not to be beaten and took a second Grand Prix win in Monaco, quickly followed by a third in Cascais, Estoril. It looked to be a two horse race, however the brilliant Rolf-Göran Bengtsson proved it could be third time lucky after two Grand Prix wins in London and Rome with the mighty Casall ASK put him in the mix to claim his first title. Another Grand Prix win in Vienna for Luciana, and the battle for the 2015 Champion of Champions was down to the wire, as Scott, Luciana and Rolf made it a three horse race to the final event in Doha, Qatar. As the Grand

Prix played out, viewers around the world were on the edge of their seats, however in the end it was Luciana who took the title, and the Grand Prix of Doha win with her feisty chestnut mare Fit For Fun, calling it a 'dream come true.'

The final in November 2016 held in Doha was a night of dreams and the story of those who never give up, as Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) and the phenomenal 17 year old stallion Casall ASK claimed both the Longines Global Champions Tour

Grand Prix of Doha win and the prestigious 2016 Champion of Champions title in a magnificent showdown in Qatar. Describing the Title win as "a dream come true", Rolf heralded his magnificent horse Casall as "just amazing", with their 11 year partnership one of the most respected in the world.

His powerful season performance propelled him into pole position in the ranking for the final leg in Doha and Rolf's victory saw him take the lion's share of the

€1 million bonus prize money as he takes his place on the list of LGCT Champions. On a Tour that saw the world's top show jumpers visit 15 incredible destinations, kicking off in Miami Beach, and reaching spectacular cities such as Mexico City, Monaco, Shanghai and Rome, it was the culmination of a fantastically consistent season for Rolf and Casall, with the pair taking wins in Valkenswaard and Paris, as well as podium finishes at other stops on the circuit.

Courtesy (LGCT)



## What the Riders Say...

"We are really grateful to have such events and sponsors that bring equestrian sport forward. When I started, we were riding for small money and now we can live off the sport. The Tour is fantastic."

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE)  
Two-time Olympic Silver medallist, 2012 & 2014 Longines Global Champions Tour Runner-Up

"To be part of the Tour is great and the series is great for show jumping. The locations are fantastic - it's really what the sport was needing. It's really raised the sport's profile, it's fantastic to be a part of it."

Scott Brash (GBR)  
2013 & 2014 Longines Global Champions Tour Champion, 2015 Runner-Up, 2012 Olympic Gold medallist

"I try to ride at as many events as possible. It's a great Tour - not only with a lot of prize money, it's in great places, there's great sport."

Christian Ahlmann (GER)  
2011 FEI World Cup Final winner, 2013 Longines Global Champions Tour Runner-Up

"I think Longines Global Champions Tour has the best Grand Prix in the world, in the biggest cities in the world. The classes are broadcast all over the world. The Tour is a prestigious product for our sport. It's the best riders competing against each other at top venues, in the top cities, for top prize money."

Ludger Beerbaum (GER)  
Four-time Olympic Gold medallist



"I think it's very exciting to have a Longines Global Champion Tour event come to the United States. It's even more exciting that it is bringing a brand new event to a brand new venue. I expect both will be top class with top international competitors."

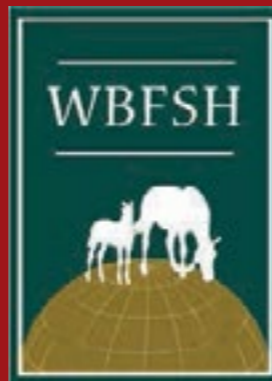
Beezie Madden (USA)  
Two-time Olympic Gold medallist

"The Tour has fantastic shows and fantastic places to go to, and Jan Tops is improving it all the time. It has been a great change for the sport."

Gerco Schroder (NED)  
2014 World Team Gold medallist, 2012 Olympic Individual Silver medallist

"Since GCT's inception, Jan Tops has followed his dream of modernising the sport, bring the sport to new heights."

Kent Farrington (USA)



# HISTORY OF SPORT HORSE BREEDING



On 4th September 1988, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, who was President of the FEI from 1986 to 1994, invited a select group of sport horse breeding experts from across Europe to a meeting in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

This elite group were the pioneers behind the initial committee of the World Breeding Championships for Sport Horses (WBCSH) which, on 19 November 1994, became what is known today as the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH).

Spearheaded by French journalist and publisher Xavier Libbrecht and supported by FEI jumping and dressage Directors, Max Amman and Joep Bartels, the concept of the group was to provide breeding, studbooks and breeders more visibility and recognition.

**Early Years:** World Breeding Championships - before launching a worldwide organization, the committee decided to create a platform which would allow the studbooks already competing with each other, to get to know their peers. Based on an idea which was already operational within Formula 1 and the car industry – they piloted a competition called the World Breeding Championships. The competition was judged based, on performances of



*HRH Princess Benedikte*

horses across the three Olympic disciplines of show jumping, dressage and eventing. The event itself took almost three years of diplomatic efforts and logistical organization to accomplish. The inaugural show for jumping took place in November 1992 in Maastricht, The Netherlands when the Hanoverian studbook won as a team (with six of the best horses of the year) while Leon Melchior who bred Ratina Z (Olympic champion at Barcelona in 1992) was awarded the 'Best Horse of the Year' also became the 'Breeder of the Year'.

Following the success of this inaugural event, the WBCSH committee, chaired by Prof Dr. G.J.W van der Mey (NED), decided to expand the competition into dressage and later, eventing. Despite the success of the Championships, measures still needed to be made to enable a closer relationship with the FEI. This was important in ensuring the new International Horse Passport would include breeding details as well as printed breeding information on shows starting lists and result sheets. The organization also worked closely with the FEI on the development of Young Horse much more proactive. Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Benedikte, its aim was to increase participation and encourage efficient growth.

From the start of the new millennium, Jan Pedersen has been regularly re-elected as President: Verona 2001, Guadalajara 2004, Apeldoorn, 2007, Philadelphia 2010, Warsaw 2013 and supported by the Board who remained unified and motivated.

Sponsors also started to take heed and realized that breeding and breeders were true partners of equestrian sport. Brands also started to realise the value in the Federation - Purina, then MSD-Agvet (which became Merial) and more recently Jaeger LeCoultre.

## Preparing for a Bright Future

In 2010, during the General Assembly held in Pennsylvania in connection with the FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky the key question for the Federations future was "How do we raise the profile of the WBFSH?" It was decided to use the Federation as a springboard to improve and share knowledge regarding breeding and similar industries through technical seminars organized by the WBFSH.

The 2014 FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy was a perfect occasion to host a meeting where equestrian sport and sport horse breeding could meet on an international scale. A seminar was held on genomic selection and the philosopher, Professor Axel Kahn, was one of the key speakers. The Federation also hosted a gala dinner that evening which gathered support from sport and breeding personalities including Ingmar de Vos, now President of the FEI, Breido Graf zu Rantzau, President of the German Federation, and also respected breeders including Germain Levallois (Le Tôt and Diamant de Semilly) and Yves Chauvin, President of the Société Hippique Française (SHF).

On that evening HRH Princess Benedikte declared her support and endorsement for breeders and sport horse breeding, saying, "I am proud of what has been achieved by the Federation and proud to be your Patron".

Courtesy ( WBFSH)

## WESTPHALIAN STUDBOOK

11.06.2017  
„Handorf Extra“ Summer Auction

29.07.2017  
Westphalian Foal Auction

01.10.2017  
Autumn Elite Auction

20.11-22.11.2017  
Main stallion licensing for riding horses

25.11-26.11.2017  
Main stallion licensing for small horses



[www.westfalenpferde.de](http://www.westfalenpferde.de)

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**Service Center**: Survey No. 23-1B, Near Kannur Check Post, NHS 75, Mangalore-Bangalore Road, Mangalore - 575 007.  
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LARA BECKER

## A WARM GERMAN CONNECTION

IKRAM KHAN

The head of the Indian breeding operations Lara Becker from Germany and the chief of Embassy Group Jitu Virwani, the biggest promoter of the equestrian sport have provided a shot in-the-arm for the game and the Indian riders who are looking to make a mark on the international scene, immensely pleased with the effort are gearing to parade their skills on the Indian bred warmbloods and sport horses.

“The Indian riders are fast improving and are ready and it will not be long before a couple make a mark on the international scene,” said Jitu Virwani before the second Foal Championship at the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS).

“It is good to see many new youngsters make rapid progress and all they need is international exposure. We have started providing the talented and promising coaching stints in the United Kingdom and Germany and we are pleased with the results, said Lara pointing out that the stock on offer for the auction sales this year is good and is certain to evoke good response among the buyers. Lara, who

along with Lina Virwani, was instrumental in the historic first-ever foal championship, the auction of four warmbloods at EIRS last year, revealed that the climatic conditions in Bengaluru are perfect for warmblood breeding and most importantly apart from Embassy, a couple of other stud farm owners in South and one owner from Mumbai, are keen to invest in the warmblood breeding exercise.

“Dr Mahendran, a cardiologist from Coimbatore will parade 8-10 foals this year and that’s a good sign,” said Lara. She revealed that the stock of warmbloods has gone up in Europe and that’s largely due to the insemination process and if the Indian government allows the import of frozen semen, India can produce quality warmbloods.” The EIRS has a couple of good stallions including Bianco and we have brought in two more pedigree stallions and that should provide the quality,” said Lara. The 27-year-old Equine Business Management graduate disclosed that a couple of thoroughbred owners from New Delhi are interested to breed sport horses and that idea too is very encouraging

from the Indian riders point of view. They will get to ride better horses and that will provide them the desired experience and exposure before they get to hone their skills, partnering the warmbloods in international meets,” said Lara.

Lauding the effort of Lina Virwani who provides the top Indian civilian riders her horses stationed in Germany to compete in the international championship, Lara said: “The three Indian riders training in the United Kingdom I’m told are performing well and that provides India the hope in the next Asian Games.”

Equus India, Jitu Virwani pointed out, apart from the warmblood breeding operations will conduct advanced riding clinics for top riders. “The idea is to bring down top coaches from Germany and hold advanced riding clinics and that will help the Indian riders to perfect their technique and add to the skills required, to excel in the big league,” said Jitu.

# It is time EFI facilitates the import of horses

IKRAM KHAN



Dr. Mahendran

After the success of the first-ever warm-blood auction sales in India last year, the second edition of the Foal Championship was simply stunning, thanks to the Embassy Group chief, Jitu Virwani, who has provided the saddle to top Indian riders to gallop to fame in the equestrian sport and the petite German lass Lara Becker, who is spearheading the breeding operations.

The pedigree stock on offer confirmed that the breeding exercise in India was a big success. And the buyers pleased with the stock procured, lauded the bold approach of Jitu and Lara who against all odds are chasing a dream, an Asian and Olympic gold in equestrian sport for India.

It is true that the two cannot go at it alone. Big support must come from the Equestrian Federation Of India (EFI) and with

President Lt.Gen Rajeev Vasant Kanitkar and Secretary General Col R K Swain in the ranks, EFI is keen and eager to ring in the changes in their effort to provide, both the talented Army and civilian riders a perfect platform to put India on the international map.

Vice President (Finance) Jitu Virwani understands that it will take a while to change the system in operation at EFI but he is confident and more importantly pleased with the new decision makers of EFI who are open to new ideas, plans and designs which will help the sport take a giant leap.

A good competitive and clean structure with a fine blend of civil and army is the need of the hour. Now that a group of passionate civilians from all across the country have chosen to make big investments

in the game, the EFI must welcome the civilians with administrative skills and expertise on board. More competitions and exposure at the international stage must be provided to the riders. Regular meets and competitions must be held. NEC, JNEC and FEI World challenges should be conducted in two or more zones to encourage more participation. Offering National Championship to the top clubs who have the ability to stage the big shows rather than holding the Nationals in only Army venues will boost the confidence of the clubs and will bring home the desired results. Big promoters and sponsors need to be roped in and since the army rules do not permit sponsor advertising at their venues, the EFI will do well to identify venues which have the required infrastructure and potential to gain money and mileage to the sport.

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The EFI must also look to change and facilitate the quarantine procedures. The quarantine fee has now been increased from Rs 250 to Rs 1,250 per horse, per day and this needs to be examined and reduced. All that EFI needs to do is to approach the Agricultural and Animal Husbandry ministry and they are willing to help. A change or an amendment in the import policy of horses is a must. To compete successfully on the international stage the Indian riders need top pedigree horses and EFI needs to facilitate the import of horses. In addition the quarantine problem should be quickly and rightly addressed. Most knowledgeable are of the view that the quarantine requirement of 30 days after arrival of horses in India is

taxing on the owner. When a horse has gone through the quarantine process in his home country before he travels to India, he should not be asked to undergo the exercise again. It is just not done in any other country but it happens only in India and this must be sorted out.

A couple of leading vets admit that it is not required and all that the horse needs is to pass a couple of mandatory tests on arrival and he can well proceed to the destination after clearing the tests.

It is time that EFI constitute a committee and rope in a few leading vets to tackle this issue quickly taking into account that many individual buyers are shying away from making investments in this game due to the elaborate and taxing quarantine procedures.



# MANY EXCITING SPORTS ON HORSE

The most enjoyable aspect to horse riding is the bond you create with a horse or pony, whilst being outside in the fresh air. Once you have mastered the basics, there are a number of equestrian disciplines and equine sports you could specialise in, as your confidence, skill and knowledge grows.

Competitively, it is one of the very few sports where women and men can compete equally.

Sitting on a horse may not seem like an obvious form of exercise, but it pretty much involves all the muscles in your body, between ensuring posture and balance, and controlling the horse.

Equestrian is a sport that tests horsemanship and there are three disciplines in the sport, Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing.

Most riders when starting out, try each discipline and then specialise based on their abilities and what aspects of the equestrian sport that they enjoy.

This is a partnership between horse and rider and means the horse needs to also have the ability to excel in the chosen sport.

## DRESSAGE

- A French term that describes the training of horse and rider.
- The combination complete a set test in front of judges who score the individual movements based on harmony, rhythm and expression, the impression should be of horse and rider dancing together.
- Tests are set for all levels of rider starting at walk and trot for beginners.
- The Grand Prix is the pinnacle of the sport contested at the Olympics.

- Para-Equestrian Dressage is the Equestrian discipline that is included in the Paralympic Games.
- Competitors ride set dressage tests in exactly the same way as their able-bodied counterparts with the complexity of the test based on the athlete's impairment classification.
- The Grades range from Grade Ia for the most severely impaired, to Grade IV for the least impaired.

## SHOW JUMPING

- Show jumping is where horse and rider jump over coloured fences, obstacles and water jumps.
- The main aim is to get around without a refusal or knocking over a fence for which the horse and rider are given penalty points.
- In the result of everyone jumping a clear round, then a jump off will take place usually against the clock.

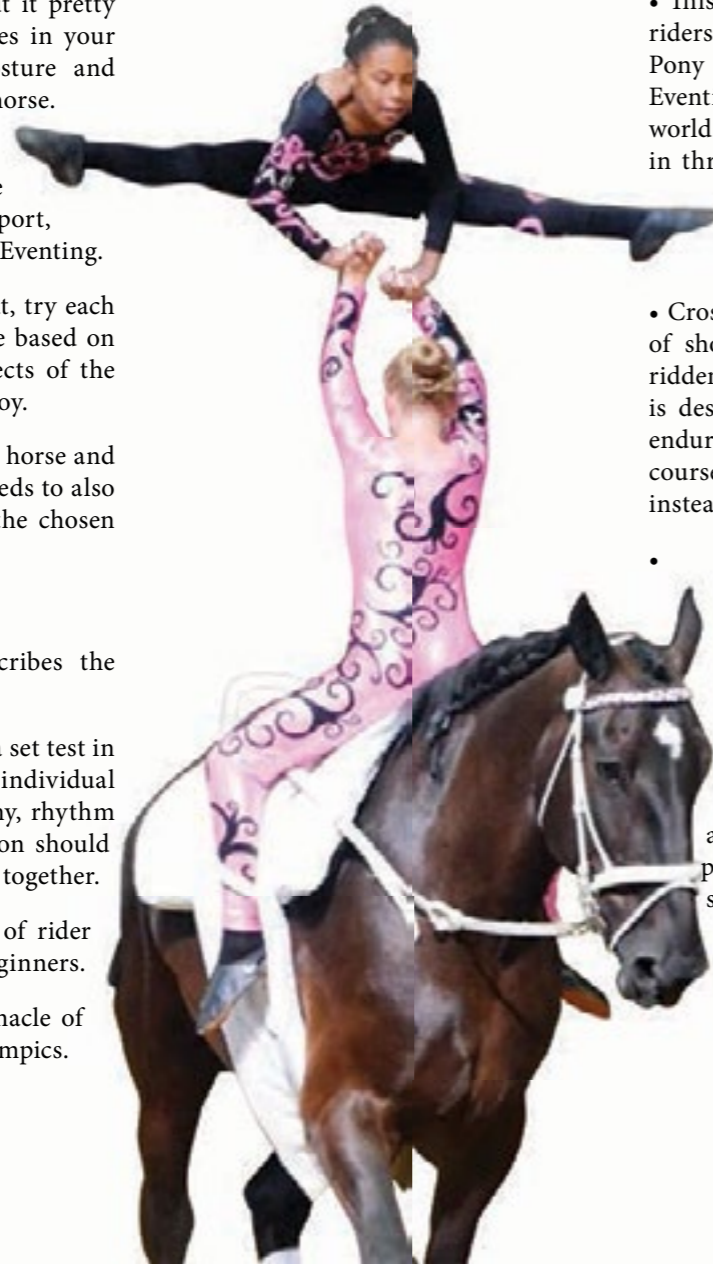
- This sport is something that novice riders can take part in at a grassroots Pony Club or riding club level. Eventing is the triathlon of the horse world where horse and rider compete in three phases, the first is dressage, the second cross country and the third element is Show Jumping.

- Cross Country is the muddy cousin of show jumping, with solid fences ridden over uneven ground, a course is designed to test horse and rider's endurance and skill - typically the course uses rustic wooden jumps instead of brightly coloured fences.

- The aim is to be the horse and rider with the fewest points after completing all elements.

## EVENTING

- Eventing is the triathlon of the horse world where horse and rider compete in three phases, the first is dressage, the second cross country and the third element is showjumping.
- Cross Country is the muddy



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- The aim is to be the horse and rider with the fewest points after completing all elements.

#### HORSE RACING

Flat racing of thoroughbreds is a big sport around the world and hundreds of jockeys and trainers with exemplary skills train and ride the horse to its optimum level in their bid to win a race. Secretariat, Shergar, Frankel to name a few are the legends of the sport.

#### VAULTING

Love horse riding and also keen on gymnastics? If the answer is yes, then



Vaulting is for you. Best described as gymnastics on a cantering horse, this is not your ordinary activity.

The horse is lead by a handler doing the lunging in the middle of the arena, keeping the horse at a steady rhythm allowing the rider to perform elegant and fluid movements, on top of the horse.

#### OTHER HORSE SPORTS

##### Horseboarding

This is just like snowboarding but instead of being on snow, the boarder is tied to a horse! With a world-record speed of 40mph it is a sport fuelled with adrenaline but don't worry you'll be properly padded and protected. There are 36 teams competing in the national championships who take part in races around the country and also teams for juniors. Communication with the rider is key and it is also a good way to understand horses better. Before taking part, all boarders need to get riding lessons.

##### Endurance Riding

Consists of riding across long distances competitively. For this, horse and rider need to have been in training to be as fit as possible. Endurance riding is an activity suitable for beginners, with pleasure rides starting at around 16km and with routes often running through

beautiful countryside. The sport gets more technical as it progresses with competitive rides of 160km - where support crew and veterinary checks ensure the welfare of the horse become integral.

##### Carriage driving

A form of competitive horse driving where one, two or four horses are harnessed to a vehicle and controlled by 'the driver' who sits in the carriage. They are accompanied by at least one groom who supports at obstacles, or when driving on roads. This can be a pleasure activity for all ages and abilities. Reining - is a style of western riding originating from the ranching and warfare traditions brought to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors. The equipment and riding style evolved to meet the working needs of the cowboy in the American West.

Riders complete a precise pattern of circles, spins, and stops designed to showcase the agility and obedience of the horse. It is likened to a Western form of dressage with both disciplines requiring finesse and correctness, demonstrating the unity of horse and rider.

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# HORSE BODY LANGUAGE



The horse can indicate its own feelings in a number of ways and the ears are a good indication of what is going through a horse's mind. Ears Alert and Forward Ears pricked alert and facing forward, indicate the horse is happy and interested. Ears Flat Back - against the neck shows that the horse is unhappy or annoyed. Ears Lowered slightly to the sides, shows that the horse is relaxed, bored or could indicate that it feels unwell. Flickering Ears - indicate the horse is listening and attentive.

## INTELLIGENCE

Horses are intelligent, although some are undoubtedly more intelligent than others. They have the ability to learn and also the ability to work things out for themselves such as opening stable bolts, freeing themselves from accidents in the field, etc. A horse is a fast learner with the right and consistent training. Horses can also learn their daily routine and know when it is feeding time, or when they can expect treats, etc. Horses are easily upset but reward training can overcome many problems. Horses make associations with many things and these associations can cause problems - for example, if a horse is kicked when mounted a few times, it will start to associate being mounted

with being kicked and may become reluctant to be mounted. Often problems can be traced to unpleasant experiences and work done to rectify the association. A task or experience which the horse considers unpleasant can be overcome by feeding treats or using something else to give the horse something nice to associate with the unpleasant experience.

## COMMUNICATION

Horses use different vocal noises to communicate with one another, sounds can include nicker, neigh, snort, blowing and squealing.

- Snorting - Horses will snort when they are excited such as when playing in the field, or when they are uncertain of an object, sound or situation.

- Nicker - This is a friendly, fairly quiet and gentle greeting between horses, such as that observed by mares who will nicker to their foals.

- Neigh And Whinny- This is a friendly call which can be quite high pitched. Horses will often neigh to one another when separated.

- Squealing - Horses can squeal when greeting each other or as a friendly or excitable warning.

- Blowing - This is a friendly and relaxed noise that the horse will make from blowing out through its nostrils. If a horse is making a regular blowing noise while traveling at speed, then it will be due to the air vibrating within the nostril itself.

## FRIGHT AND FLIGHT

Horses are prey animals and have developed quick responses to danger and will run away from the predator or with a domestic horse anything that the horse feels could be danger to them. This can often be seen with:

- Spooking - The horse will leap away from an object or noise that it feels is dangerous.

- Shying - The horse will remain looking at the offending object or sound but will move away from it as far as possible.

- Spinning - The horse will turn and try to run in the opposite direction to the offending object or sound.

- Leaping - A horse will often leap forward if it is alarmed from behind. If a horse is uncertain of the footing or crossing they will often try to leap over rather than go through, for example a ditch filled with water or boggy patch of ground.

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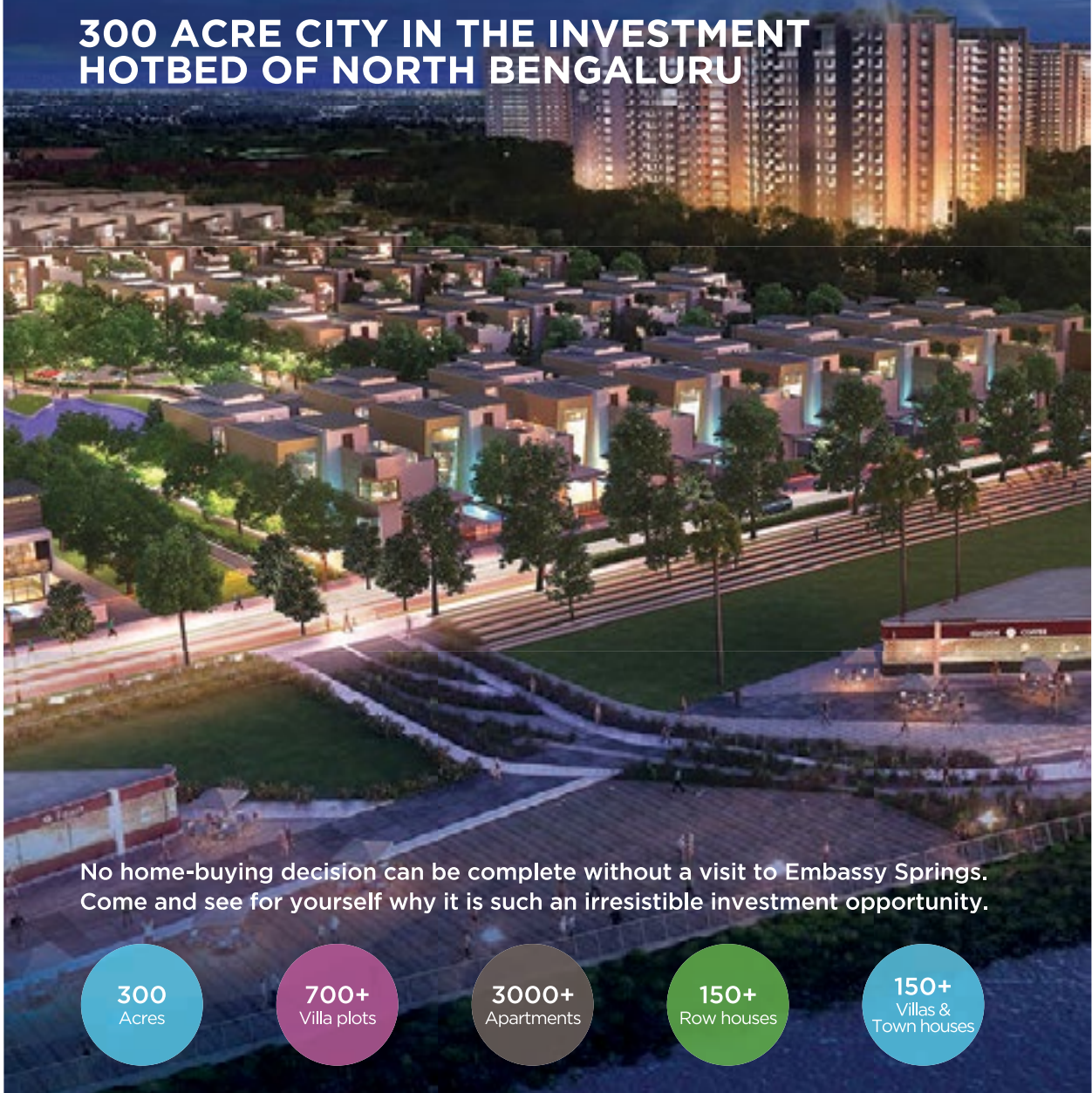
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