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RIDER: MARK TODD

HORSE:

17 MAJOR MILESTONE, chestnut gelding, 17.3 hh, 1999, s: Young Convinced, d: Milestone Clover, *Breed: ISH, Country of Birth: Ireland Breeder: John Harty*
Owners: Diane Brunsten, Chipping Ongar, Essex Peter Cattell, Chipping Ongar, Essex

Equestrian legend Mark Todd (55) is considered one of the most celebrated New Zealand sports men. He was voted rider of the 20th century by the FEI. In 2000 He retired from the sport after winning bronze at the Sydney Olympics and made a return in 2008 aged 52 after the purchase of the New Zealand sport horse Gandalph. 'Toddy' first competed internationally as a member of the first ever NZ team that contested the World Championships at Lexington in 1978. Soon after he moved to England to pursue eventing and his first visit to Badminton 31 years ago (1980) proved successful winning with Southern Comfort and a young Andrew Nicholson as his groom. He since won on two more occasions and has won Burghley five times. He is credited with pioneering eventing in New Zealand and paved the way for New Zealanders to come over to England to compete.

He is particularly remembered for his partnership with the diminutive Charisma with who he won two Olympic gold medals. In the 1992 Olympic Games Mark competed in show jumping as well as eventing. During retirement in New Zealand he turned to training and breeding racehorses – he describes himself as a horse breeder – and successes include Bramble Rose who won the 2003 New Zealand Oaks and Willy Smith the winner of the Wellington Cup in 2007.

After his return he was selected for the 2008 Olympic Games his sixth Olympic appearance as a competitor – in 2004 he was team trainer for the New Zealand team. Last year with Grass Valley he was a member of the NZ bronze medal team at the WEG in Lexington.

In 1986 Mark married competitor Carolyn Berry and the couple has two children Lauren (22) and James (18). Outside of horses Mark enjoys racing, skiing and boating.

The Irish bred NZB Grass Valley is by the Thoroughbred Legal Pressure out of a mare by the Clover Hill son Connaught Gold. He is owned by New Zealand Bloodstock (NZB) the leading bloodstock company in NZ – and was previously ridden by Eric Smiley and American Julian Stiller from who he was acquired at the end of 2008.

NZB Land Vision is by the British based Danish Warmblood Broadstone Landmark (by Lancier). He was a former intermediate champion ridden by Oli Townend.

Recent Results

2010 – Boekelo CCI*** 2nd Landvision
2010 – WEG Lexington 11th Grass Valley
2010 – Burghley CCI**** 11th Major Milestone
2010 – Blenheim CIC***8/9 1st Landvision
2009 – Boekelo CCI*** 21st NZB Grass Valley
2009 – Blair Castle CCI*** 8th NZB Grass Valley
2009 – Hartpury CCI*** 12th NZB Land Vision
2008 – Olympic Games 17th NZB Gandalph
2008 – Puhinui CCI*** 1st Gandalph
2000 – Olympic Games 3rd (Ind) Eye Spy II; 11th (team) Diamond Hall Red
2000 – Burghley CCI**** 8th Just A Mission
2000 – Lexington CCI**** 8th Just a Mission
1999 – Burghley CCI**** 1st Diamond Hall Red
1999 – Gatcombe CIC*** 1st Word for Word
1999 – Puchestown CCI*** 1st Regal Scot
1998 – New Zealand sportsman of the year
1997 – Burghley CCI**** 1st Broadcast News
1991 – Burghley CCI**** 1st Welton Greylag
1990 – WEG team gold Bahlua
1990 – Burghley 1st Face the Music
1988 – Olympic Games Seoul, gold medal Charisma
1987 – Burghley CCI**** 1st Wilton Fair; 2nd Charisma
1984 – Olympic Games, Los Angeles, gold medal Charisma

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2010 – 18th NZB Grass Valley
2000 – 5th on Eyespy II
1999 – 2nd Word for Word
1998 – 2nd Broadcast News.
1997 – Ret'd Kayem on the steeplechase.
1996 – 1st Bertie Blunt
1995 – W'drew Bertie Blunt before SJ having ridden most of the course with one stirrup
1994 – 1st Horton Point; a last minute ride and No. 1 in the draw.
1989 – 3rd The Irishman - a ride he took over from the injured Rodney Powell
1980 – 1st Southern Comfort on his first visit