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RIDER: PIPPA FUNNELL

HORSE:

19 MIRAGE D'ELLE, bay gelding, 16.1 hh, 2000, s: Sheriff d'Elle, d: Frigate d'Elle, *Breed:* Selle Francais, *Country of Birth:* France *Breeder:* Monsieur Pignolet
Owners: **Carol Toliver**, Pulborough, W. Sussex & **Rider**

Three times Badminton winner Pippa Funnell (42) etched her name into the eventing history books when in 2003 when she became the first and, so far, only winner of the Rolex Grand Slam (for consecutive wins at Kentucky, Badminton and Burghley) aboard the great Primmore's Pride and Supreme Rock.

Aged 16, Pippa persuaded her parents to allow her to leave school, after which she based herself with trainer Ruth McMullen, with who she still trains. In 1987 she became European Young Rider Champion with Sir Barnaby who the following year gave Pippa her first ride at Badminton. Since then she has become one of the sports leading riders. She has won team Olympic silver medals in Athens and Sydney and was crowned European Champion in 1999 and 2001. As a result of her achievements she was voted the 2003 Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year and was in the top five of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. In 2005 Pippa was made an MBE.

After a few years out of the limelight, during which Pippa helped establish the Billy Stud with husband and show jumper William Funnell and breeder Donal Barnwell, in 2009 Pippa returned to the top winning Bramham three-star and selection for the WEG in Kentucky with Redesigned where they gained fifth place running as individuals.

Pippa is also a renowned producer of young horses, having won a record number of Burghley Young Event Horses classes and now helps to produce young show jumpers for the Billy Stud.

In 1993 Pippa married show jumper William Funnell also her trainer for this phase and the pair is based in Surrey. In her spare time Pippa has published a series of children's story books called "Tilly's Pony Tails" and has helped develop a range of computer games.

Redesigned is by the Olympic show jumper Carnute. He was a winner of the BE six-year-old young horse championships.

Ostensibly show jumping bred Mirage D'Elle is by the international show jumper Sherif d' Elle out of a Frigate d'Elle by the famous Quidam de Revel and is one of 12 offspring for his dam. He completed his first four-star at Burghley last year.

Recent results

2010 – WEG 5th Redesigned
2010 – Burghley CCI**** 15th Mirage D'Elle
2010 – Aachen CICO*** 28th Mirage D'Elle
2010 – Bramham CCI*** 1st Redesigned
2010 – Saumur CCI*** 7th
2010 – Bramham CCI*** 1st (Redesigned)
2010 – Saumur CCI*** 7th (Mirage D'Elle)
2009 – Blenheim CIC*** 8/9yo 4th (Mirage D'Elle)
2007 – Pau CCI**** 3rd (Ensign)
2007 – Bramham CCI*** 5th (Ensign)
2006 – Blenheim CCI*** 2nd (Ensign)
2005 – Windsor CCI** 1st (Blue Horizon)
2004 – Blenheim CCI*** 1st (Viceroy III)
2004 – Athens Olympics 3rd (Primmores Pride)
2003 – Punchestown European Championship 3rd (Walk On Star)
2003 – Blenheim CCI*** 3rd (Viceroy III)
2003 – Burghley CCI**** 1st (Primmores Pride)
2003 – Saumur CCI*** 1st (Walk On Star)
2003 – Kentucky 1st (Primmores Pride)
2002 – Pau CCI** 1st (Cornerman)
2002 – Jerez WEG 13th (Supreme Rock)
2002 – Bramham CCI*** 1st (Walk On Star)
2002 – Punchestown CCI*** 3rd (Supreme Rock)
2002 – Saumur CCI*** 1st (Jurassic Rising)
2001 – Pau European Championship 1st (Supreme Rock), team gold
1999 – Fontainebleau European Chmpionship 1st (Supreme Rock), team gold

Badminton

2005 – 1st Primmores Pride
2003 – 1st Supreme Rock
2002 – 1st Supreme Rock
1999 – 6th Supreme Rock
1998 – Ret'd XC Bits and Pieces
1997 – 9th Bits and Pieces
1993 – Ret'd XC Metronome
1992 – 14th Sir Barnaby
1990 – 5th Sir Barnaby
1989 – Ret'd XC Sir Barnaby
1988 – 27th Sir Barnaby