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RIDER: HARRY MEADE

HORSE:

43 WILD LONE, bay gelding, 16.2 hh, 2001, s: Doranstown Hallo, *Breed: ISH, Country of Birth: Ireland*

Owner: Charlotte Opperman, Andover, Hants.

Harry (27) runs his own yard based at his parent's home just six miles from Badminton. Harry was born and bred in the Beaufort country. His father Richard won three Olympic gold medals in eventing and Badminton twice (1970 & '82). His mother was a Beaufort field master and Harry became a keen follower of hounds and Beaufort Pony Club member. In 2000 he was the Pony Club eventing champion and the following year a member of the British Junior team.

After leaving school he combined horses with university and gained a degree in history of art from nearby Bristol University. Before running his own yard Harry was apprenticed to several riders including William Fox-Pitt from who he took over the ride on Midnight Dazzler, with who he made his four-star debut. Midnight Dazzler and Harry completed Badminton on four occasions and in 2009, when Dazzler was 19, was tenth. His success at Badminton means that in 2009 Harry became the youngest rider ever to receive an Armada dish, presented to riders on their fifth completion. He now has six Badminton completions under his belt and has won the trophy for the 'best local rider' on three occasions.

Last October Harry married Rosie Bradford – having proposed during a Badminton course walk last year.

As opposed to usually riding the oldest horse at Badminton this year Harry will be riding one of the younger ones. Ten-year-old Wild Lone is by the ISH sire and grade B jumper Donranstown Hallo (a grandson of Animo). He was found by Harry as a four year old on behalf of his owner, Charlotte Opperman for who this is the first event horse.

Recent results

2010 – Blenheim CCI*** 13th Wild Lone

2010 – Bramham CCI*** 8th Wild Lone

2010 – Burnham Market CIC*** 22nd Wild Lone

2009 – Burghley CCI**** Elim'd Dunauger & Midnight Dazzler

2009 – Hartpury CCI** 6th Tinkas Time

2009 – Hartpury CCI*** 23rd Dunauger

2009 – Barbury Castle CIC** 5th Wild Lone

2009 – Bramham CCI**** 4th Dunauger

2008 – Burghley CCI**** 20th Birthday Night
2008 – Burnham Market CIC*** 12th Midnight Dazzler
2008 – Gatcombe CIC*** 10th Birthday Night
2007 – Burghley CCI**** 8th Midnight Dazzler
2006 – Burghley CCI**** 20th Midnight Dazzler 'Best U25'
2005 – Burghley CCI**** 13th Best first time, Best U25
2004 – Bramham CCI*** 13th Midnight Dazzler
2002 – Bramham CCI*** 9th Softly Softly III
2001 – Windsor YR** 16th Softly Softly II

Badminton

2009 – 10th Midnight Dazzler
2008 – 13th Midnight Dazzler Best local rider, 31st Birthday Night
2007 – 20th Midnight Dazzler 24th Birthday Night Best U25
2006 – 21st (Midnight Dazzler) Best first timer, Best U25, Best local rider