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RIDER: POLLY STOCKTON

HORSE:

108 WESTWOOD POSER, bay gelding, 16.1 hh, 1999, s: Master Imp, d: Castlehackett Girl, *Breed: ISH, Country of Birth: Ireland Breeder: Mary Nevin Owners: Arthur Comyn, Co. Cork, Ireland & Rider*

A former successful Young Rider, Polly (37) has been a professional event rider for almost 20-years. Polly learnt through her local Pony Club and the JRN programme and it was Young Rider horse Poggio, who gave Polly her first success, when they were part of the gold medal winning team at the 1995 European Young Rider Championships, as well as finishing sixth individually. Poggio also took Polly to Badminton albeit he became infamous for eliminating the pair when he reared and left the arena during the dressage test.

Arthur Comyn, still a loyal owner of Polly, then offered her the rides on Westlord and the former Andrew Nicholson ride All Black. Coupled with her own The Tonka Toy and Jane Starkey's Davy, Polly then started to make her name on the circuit with good results. When Mark Todd retired she was lucky to take over the rides of Eye Spy II and Word For Word as well as Oscar, the former ride of Chris Bartle, all of whom helped to establish her at four-star level. In 1999 she was British National Champion and was selected for the WEG in Jerez (2002) but was eliminated on Eyespy II. In 2003 with Tangleman she came close to winning Lexington CCI*** but was pipped to the post by Pippa Funnell en route to her historic Rolex Grand Slam. She has also finished second at Burghley on three occasions. She is a current member of the UK World Class programme and trains with international dressage trainer David Hunt.

Both her parents competed and are still involved in the sport. Her father, Sir Jonathan Clark, a longstanding Master of the Sir Watkin William-Wynns Hunt, is also a BE Steward, while her mother, Sue, is Chair of the JRN programme and the JRN selection committee and often judges at young horse classes.

Polly is married to former National Hunt jockey and now racing driver Chris Stockton. Last year Polly gave birth to their first child Jake (nine months).

Recent results

2010 – Chatsworth CIC*** 10th Regulus (J Brakewell)

2009 – Burghley CCI**** 2nd Westwood Poser

2009 – Aachen CICO*** 9th Regulus
2008 – Boekelo CCI*** 3rd Regulus
2007 – Blenheim CCI*** 4th Regulus
2007 – Burghley CCI**** 2nd Tom Quigley
2005 – Blenheim EU-CH-CCI*** 20th Tom Quigley
2004 – Burghley CCI**** 6th Tangleman
2003 – Burghley CCI**** 8th Eyespy II
2003 – Lexington CCI**** 2nd Tangleman
2002 – Burghley CCI**** 2nd Word for Word
2001 – Burghley CCI**** 6th Eyespy II
1999 – Burghley CCI**** 6th Westlord
1998 – Blenheim CCI*** 1st Westlord
1994 – Blenheim YRA 6th Poggio (team gold)

Badminton

2009 – 17th Regulus
2008 – 6th Tom Quigley
2007 – Withd'n after dressage Regulus
2006 – 22nd Tangleman
2005 – 9th Tangleman
2004 – Elim'd XC Tangleman
2003 – Ret'd XC Eyespy II
2002 – 7th Eyespy II
1999 – Ret'd XC Westlord
1997 – 40th Poggio
1996 – 27th Poggio (Best U25)
1995 – Elim'd Poggio