



OFFICIAL RIDER BIOGRAPHY
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Camilla Sygall

- Date of birth:** 29 August 1974.
- Lives:** Riethoven, The Netherlands.
- Major achievements:** Camilla followed the German professional riders' training programme, becoming a Bereiter in 1998 after a three-year apprenticeship based at the German equestrian headquarters in Warendorf. In 2001, she passed the Meister exam, which is the highest qualification, with honours.
- In 2003 and 2004, Camilla was a member of the British international small tour squad. She had her most successful competition season to date in 2007. Riding DJ One More Time, she gained a fourth place at Maastricht CDI-W with more than 68% in the FEI World Cup qualifier and then seventh place with 71.9% in the same qualifier at Amsterdam CDI-W in 2008.
- Camilla had a break from competing during the summer of 2008, giving birth to son Jack in August and returning to the international competition scene in November.
- Current competition horses:**
- DJ One More Time, a 16.2hh Belgian-bred gelding by D-Day out of an Aktion mare, born 1997 and owned by Camilla and her partner Dries Roef's company, Bloodlines BV.
 - Davina van het Amaryllis, a 16.2hh full-sister to DJ, born 1998 and owned by breeder of DJ and Davina, Dido Uppermont.
- Camilla is also bringing on various youngsters.
- First competitive experience:** "Pony club games in Holland where I grew up. Once I became more serious, I remember going to a dressage competition. I couldn't keep my pony in the arena. The judge told me to go home and practise some more before coming to a show again."
- Trainer:** "My partner Dries Roefs."
- Superstitions:** "I always wear an antique stock pin given to me by my great aunt."
- Most admired riders:** "Isabell Werth and Kyra Kyrklund."
- Qualities looked for in a dressage horse:** "Like all riders, rideability and character, but also something special – I can't describe it, but you have to click with the horse."
- Favourite dressage venues:** "Hickstead because it has such a lovely atmosphere, and Amsterdam, which is just super-organised as well as having a great atmosphere."
- What other career would you have chosen:** "Every time I have an accident, I wish I had chosen a different career, but when I think about it there simply is nothing else I could do with the same passion."
- Favourite meal:** "Any food, especially if it is cooked by someone else."
- Favourite drink:** "Tea."

Camilla was born and raised in Holland by her British mother and Hungarian father. Her brother started riding at a local riding school, so little sister had to have a go too.

"I was six years old and fell off every time I had a lesson. My mum thought I would quit, but I was always horse mad and would ride at any opportunity. I worked at a dressage and show jumping yard after school."

After finishing school, she went for an interview at the German equestrian headquarters at Warendorf for a place as an apprentice rider. She didn't expect to be given a place, so started an honours degree course in equine studies in Britain at Warwickshire Agricultural College, but jumped at the chance to go to Warendorf two months later.

Camilla spent a total of eight years in Germany, working with the world's top trainers, such as Rudolf Zeilinger, becoming a Bereiter and then passing her Meister exam with honours in 2001. She decided to concentrate on dressage after damaging a vertebra while show jumping. More injuries and illness followed including chickenpox in 2003, which laid her up for three months, she broke her back twice, once in 2004 and again in 2006, and she had to write off 2005 because of glandular fever.

Finally in 2007, Camilla was able to make her mark on the international scene, the year she met her partner, Dries Roefs. They now run their company, Bloodlines BV, together, producing horses and teaching, based in The Netherlands. Camilla gave birth to their son Jack in 2008.

