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## Charlotte Dujardin

- Date of birth:** 13 July 1986
- Lives:** Based with Carl Hester, Newent, Gloucestershire
- Major achievements:** Charlotte's success on the International circuit has been rapid, in 2010 Charlotte and Valegro went on the Spanish Sunshine Tour, winning both the prix st georges and the intermediaire I in week one.
- 2010 also saw her win the Bates Saddles intermediate I Championship at the Derssage Deluxe National Dressage Championships with a score of 73.37%.
- She took part in her first grand prix in January of this year (2011) again riding Valegro and won with a record debut score of 74%. The partnership went to the Saumur CDI3\* in May where they came second in the grand prix before winning the grand prix special. Charlotte took Fernandez to Hagen CDI3\* in May where she finished seventh in both the grand prix and grand prix special.
- More recently (July) Charlotte has competed at Aachen with her own horse Fernandez – where she finished 11th in all three big tour classes.
- She was selected to join the World Class Development Programme earlier this year – and is currently ranked 13th in the World Individual Dressage Rankings with Valegro (rising from 68th position).
- Current competition horses:** Valegro, 9 year old, owned by Carl Hester and Roly Luard  
Brown gelding from the Netherlands; Sire: Negro, Dam: Maifleur  
Fernandez III, 11 year old, owned by Charlotte and her mother  
Chestnut gelding from the Netherlands; Sire: Florestan I, Dam: Hauptstutbuch
- First competitive experience:** Lead rein for showing, when I was about four or five years old
- Trainer:** Carl Hester
- Superstitions:** I never change anything before a competition – I have the same set of clothes that I wear.
- Most admired riders:** Carl, he's someone that I've always followed and he got me into dressage. Also Isabell Werth – her enthusiasm and drive and how she rides with power and confidence, I love to watch.
- Qualities looked for in a dressage horse:** Good temperament and obviously a good walker. I also like a nice trot, although this can be trained, and a strong canter.
- Favourite dressage venues:** Aachen, I absolutely loved it. It was a packed house on Sunday at 8.30 in the morning, I've not really competed with that kind of crowd before but it was great.

**What other career would you have chosen:** Working with horses is something I've always wanted to do. I always thought, "school's not going to teach me to ride any better" so it was always on the cards.

**Background:**

Charlotte left school at the age of 16 and after achieving much success pony showing – including winning the Horse of the Year Show four times and Hickstead three times – she went to work for Judy Harvey for four years.

She started working for Carl Hester in 2007. Having lessons with him and a short spell of helping him out on the yard quickly turned into a full time position - she's been there ever since.

As well as helping with training at Carl's yard, Charlotte has a growing list of elite clients of her own. After a phone call from Mark Todd asking for help with his flatwork, Charlotte jumped at the opportunity to teach the top event rider, who won Badminton in 2011. She's been training with him for the last three years: "He's great and such a lovely guy but I still shout at him just the same as everyone else!"

"Competing abroad has been amazing this year and really opened my eyes. I've got more experience now under my belt and it's fantastic to see all these international venues and meet all the riders and really feel part of 'the circuit'."

On her rare days off Charlotte admits to enjoying a lot of sleeping plus socializing when she gets a chance.