



OFFICIAL RIDER BIOGRAPHY
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Michael Eilberg

Date of birth: 6 October 1986.

Lives: Redditch, Worcestershire.

Major achievements: Michael encountered significant success as a young show jumping rider before focussing on dressage; winning the 138cm championship at the festival of show jumping with Seaborough Tristar and taking a Gold medal for England at the home pony international at Wales & West on Mr Checkmate.

During 2007, Michael's dressage career developed and he won the advanced medium regionals at Addington on Marakov despite this being his 5th dressage test ever. In 2008 and 2009 Michael went one better and took the national advanced medium titles with Janeiro and Woodlander Dornroschen respectively. In 2009 Michael was also placed second in the national prix St George championship on Marakov and earned his place on the World Class Development Squad.

2010 has been a fantastic year so far for Michael. During the Sunshine Tour CDI he won not only several advanced medium classes with Woodlander Dornroschen but also the Intermediate II with Marakov. A successful Spanish tour saw Michael placing 3rd in the grand prix and 4th in the grand prix at Saumur CDI internationals with Monet.

Michael has since moved up to gold status on the World Class Development Squad following successful outings at Hartpury CDI and Hickstead CDI 3* placing 2nd in the grand prix freestyle at Hartpury with Monet and 3rd in the grand prix at both Hartpury and Hickstead on Marakov. Michael currently holds the title for 2010 Small Tour Champion with Torino following a win at the Hartpury Home International.

Current competition horses:

- Monet, a 17.1hh Danish-bred dark bay gelding by Michellino, born 1995 and owned by father Ferdi Eilberg.
- Marakov, a 16.3hh Latvian-bred bay gelding, born in 2000 and owned by Ferdi Eilberg.
- Woodlander Dornroschen, a 16.1hh British-bred bay mare by Dimaggio, born in 2002 and owned by Mrs Crowden at the Woodlander Stud.
- Torino, a 16.2hh Dutch-bred KWPN bay gelding by Corland, born in 2000 and owned by Ferdi Eilberg.
- Woodlander Farouche, a 16.3hh British-bred chestnut mare by Furst Heinrich and out of Michael's other ride Woodlander Dornroschen, born in 2006 and owned by Mrs Crowden.

First competitive experience: "It was at Pony Club, then mostly in the show jumping arena."

Trainer: Father, Ferdi Eilberg

- Superstitions:** "Two magpies mean good luck. Usually, I try to make my own luck. This is something my dad told me and it's stuck with me."
- Most admired riders:** "Ferdi Eilberg and Marcus Ehning,"
- Qualities looked for in a dressage horse:** "I like a horse with good rhythm and good mechanics, as I feel that this determines whether the horse is an athlete or not. I then look at the way he or she can handle those mechanics and whether they will be able to be worked with. Above all I look for temperament and presence."
- Favourite dressage venues:** "Addington or Hartpury."
- What other career would you have chosen:** "I would have loved to have been a pro golfer as my first choice, or second choice would have been an engineer or mechanic."
- Favourite meal:** "Either stir-fry or spaghetti bolognese."
- Favourite drink:** "Ribena, Kopparberg cider and mocha coffees."

Michael started riding at an early age, "I probably sat on my first horse aged three! I had a wonderful Shetland pony called Midnight Cowboy who could jump the whole cross country in a very fast trot. I would park Midnight in our hall and come in to raid the fridge. All the family ponies were either rescued or passed on from friends and ridden by my sister Maria, myself and younger brother Luke in turn."

Never really enjoying school Michael went to work with show jumper Tim Stockdale before finishing his academic education, "I didn't take to school as apparently I have mild dyslexia. I am very lucky to have the support of my family and have undoubtedly benefitted from being part of a professional yard where I work alongside others and directly involved in the training of visiting riders and horses."

