



OFFICIAL RIDER BIOGRAPHY
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Nicola Buchanan

Date of birth:	4 May 1970.
Lives:	Verwood, Dorset.
Major achievements:	<p>Nicola represented Great Britain between 2002-2009 and won the Grand Prix at Hickstead CDI *** in 2008 on Sancere II.</p> <p>Since retiring her grand prix horses Nicola has focused on producing her up and coming youngsters.</p>
Current competition horses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Corleone VH Scheefkasteel, a 16.3hh Belgian-bred bay gelding by Turbo Van't Gestelhof, born in 2003 and owned by Nicola• El Paso Van Overis, a 16.1hh Belgian-bred bay gelding, born in 2004 and owned by Olivia Tosunlar
First competitive experience:	"It was at gymkhana."
Trainer:	Emile Faurie
Superstitions:	"I have none!"
Most admired riders:	"Hubertus Schmidt, Isabell Werth, Edward Gal and Adelinde Cornelissen."
Qualities looked for in a dressage horse:	"Movement and temperament."
What other career would you have chosen:	"If I had not found dressage I would have looked for another career based in sports."
Favourite meal:	"Sushi."
Favourite drink:	"Champagne."

Nicola learnt to ride while growing up in Indonesia on the native ponies, "mother had always been a keen horse woman and it was her influence that got me started. I was sent to school in England at 11 and my riding took a back seat until the holidays. These were then spent in Singapore where I spent all my free time at the Saddle club riding and competing. One of my highlights while on holiday was competing on the pony club team. We were sent to Hong Kong (where I was born) to compete against Malaysia , Thailand , the Philippines, Indonesia and most of South East Asia. It was an excellent experience and I won individual silver."

At 14 Nicola attended Stonar School where she was able to take her own horse, "this was a good excuse to go riding! Along with GCSE's and A-levels I continued to ride and dreamed of being a fabulous eventer, riding around Badminton was one of my ambitions. Dressage at this stage I found very tedious, although I did realise how important it was. After finishing my A-levels I had the opportunity of spending a year in Holland at a private dressage yard as my next door neighbour in Indonesia knew them well and he secured the job for me. I thought I would go and learn the basics of dressage then come back to England and carry on eventing. However, I discovered a passion for dressage and the rest is history. I spent 4 years there and learnt so much."

Nicola then went on to compete in America for six years, "at the yard where I was based we imported Dutch horses into Florida. Whilst at this yard I gained great experience bringing on young horses. After 6 years in America I was given the opportunity to train in Germany with Jonny Hilberath. I spent 2 years at his yard gaining an invaluable amount of knowledge. I competed in Germany on the first horse that I trained up to grand prix level.

In April 2000 Nicola came back to England after being away for almost 12 years and began building a career for herself in the UK, "I now train with Emile Faurie and continue to better my knowledge and riding ability in dressage. I am fortunate enough to have the support and sponsorship from Frogpool Manor Saddlery."

In 2008 and 2009 Nicola was asked to demonstrate grand prix dressage at Gatcombe Park during a three day event, "More than 10,000 people were watching, making the performance all that more special. I continue to share my passion for dressage wherever possible, be it training novice riders new to the sport or working with more experienced riders at grand prix. My recently retired grand prix Horses St Swithens & Sancerre II's highlights include competing internationally at Lingen, Oldenburg, Saumur, Olympia, Hickstead and Hartpury. I am now concentrating on producing my younger horses for the future."

