

# Meet the Riders



## Michael Whitaker (GBR)

Four-time Olympian, Michael Whitaker, is a regular at the Royal Horse Show. He has competed at numerous World Championships and World Cup Finals, on the team and individually. He is currently ranked 42nd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list. Whitaker competed in both the Meydan FEI Nations' Cup Series and the Global Champions Tour this season. In addition, he won several competitions, including classes at CSI 5\* Cannes and CSIO 5\* Rome aboard Portofino 63. Riding Wonami Van Den Aard, he also won at CSI 5\* Maubeuge and CSI 4\* Bremen. At last year's Royal, Whitaker won the Ricoh Big Ben International Challenge aboard Wonami Van Den Aard. The pair also placed second in the Weston Canadian Open.

## Robert Smith (GBR)

Robert Smith represented Great Britain at the 2004 Athens Olympics, placing fourth individually aboard Mr. Springfield. He competed at the 2003 and 2006 World Cup Finals. He won the British Open Show Jumping Championships back-to-back, in 2005 and 2006. And, while he has competed in more than 75 Nations' Cups, in 2008, he was a member of two winning Nations' Cup teams, in Dublin and in Rome. This year, Smith competed in the Meydan FEI Nations' Cup Series. Season highlights include a fifth place finish at CSI 5\* San Patrignano with Talan and two fourths at CSI 4\* Hickstead with Vangelis S, on whom he also placed fifth at CSI 5\* Madrid. He is ranked 57th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.

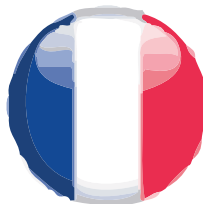


## Ljubov Kochetova (RUS)

Twenty-seven-year-old Ljubov Kochetova represented Russia at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2006 World Cup Final aboard Ilion Kilen. Ranked 184th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, Kochetova's 2009 season highlights include a third place finish at CSI 2\* Wellington with Ilion Kilen, fifth and sixth place finishes at CSI 3\* Vichy and two sixth place finishes at CSI 2\* Lexington with Chambertino.

## Nick Skelton (GBR)

Coming out of a two-year retirement, which was brought about by a devastating neck injury, Nick Skelton shot back to the top of his game in 2003. The six-time Olympian has competed at six World Championships and has been a regular at the World Cup Finals. In 1995, Skelton won the Final riding Dollar Girl, and, the following year, the pair placed third. He won the British Open Show Jumping Championships in 2004. In 2008, Skelton won the CN International Grand Prix at the Spruce Meadows Masters for the fourth time (1985, 1992, 1998), riding Arko III. Currently ranked 81st on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, Skelton competed in the Meydan FEI Nations' Cup Series this year. Season highlights include two second place finishes at CSIO 5\* Hickstead and three second place finishes at CSI 5\* Wellington aboard Nemo 119. Skelton competed at the Royal last year as well, placing fourth in the Ricoh Big Ben International Challenge.



## Marie Hecart (FRA)

Twenty-nine-year-old Marie Hecart of Normandy, France has been showing successfully in North America for the past several years. Hecart, the daughter of famed french rider, Michel Hecart, is currently ranked 120th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list. Her 2009 highlights include a first place finish at CSI 2\* Caledon and a third place finish in the RBC Capital Markets grand prix at the Spruce Meadows National CSI 5\* with Why Not and a third place finish at CSI 3\* Bromont with Tempete van het Lindehof. Hecart is currently based out of Eric Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stables in Schomberg, Ontario.



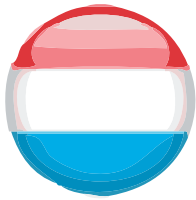
## Dermott Lennon (IRE)

Dermott Lennon first competed for Ireland in 1997, and five years later claimed the World Championship title at the 2002 World Equestrian Games aboard Liscalgot. He became the only Irish rider to do so. In addition, he has competed on numerous winning Nations' Cups teams. This year, Lennon had a win at CSIO 5\* Dublin with Hallmark Elite. The pair also had two wins at CSI 3\* Vilamoura. Lennon is currently ranked 192nd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.



more riders >>>

# Meet the Riders



## *Gerco Schröder (NED)*

Gerco Schröder is a two-time Olympian, has represented the Netherlands at World Championships and World Cup Final competitions. At the 2006 World Equestrian Games, he was on the gold medal winning team and that same year, he placed eighth at the World Cup Final. He was named Dutch Rider of the Year for 2006. Schröder competed in the Global Champions Tour and had some good results this season, including a second place finish at CSI 4\* De Steeg riding New Orleans and a second place finish at CSI 3\* Dortmund as well as a third at CSI-W Las Vegas on Seattle. He is currently ranked 25th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.



## *Andres Rodriguez (VEN)*

Twenty-five-year-old Andres Rodriguez first came onto the scene in 1996 when he won the FEI Children's International Jumping Final. Then, in 2001, he won the South American Junior Championship. He was a member of the silver medal winning team at the 2005 Bolivarian Games, where he placed eighth individually. Ranked 442nd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, Rodriguez travelled to Canada this summer and was successful riding Secret. The pair had a win at CSI 2\*-W Bromont and claimed the World Cup qualifier at CSI 2\*-W Blainville.



## *Margie Engle (USA)*

Margie Engle is another regular at the Royal Horse Show. She was the highest-placed female and highest-placed American in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. In 2003, she was a member of the gold medal winning team at the Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, where she also claimed the individual bronze medal riding Hidden Creek's Perin. She was a member of the silver medal winning team at the 2006 World Equestrian Games, and has ridden in more than a dozen World Cup Finals. In addition, she has earned the American Grand Prix Association (AGA) Rider of the Year title 10 times. Ranked 174th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, Engle's 2009 season highlights include two third place finishes at CSI 2\* Kentucky with Tosca 290. At last year's Royal, she was 10th in the CN FEI World Cup qualifier with Hidden Creek's Quervo Gold.

## *McLain Ward (USA)*

A regular at the Royal Horse Show, two-time Olympian, McLain Ward has competed at one World Championships and a dozen World Cup Finals. He was a member of the gold medal winning team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where he placed fifth individually with Sapphire. He was also a member of the gold medal winning team at the 2004 Athens Games. He and Sapphire were second at the 2006 World Equestrian Games. This season, Ward competed in the Meydan FEI Nations' Cup Series. He and Sapphire came second in the World Cup Final and other notable achievements include two wins at CSI 4\*-W Bridgehampton, a win at CSI-W Las Vegas and he also took the top spot in the CN International Grand Prix at the Spruce Meadows Masters with Sapphire. He is ranked fifth on the FEI Rolex Rankings list. At last year's Royal, Ward won the Weston Canadian Open with Goldika 559.

## *Kent Farrington (USA)*

Twenty-eight-year-old Kent Farrington first rode for the United States in 2006, in the Wellington Nations' Cup. Also that year, he won the U.S. Open Jumper Championship and competed at the World Cup Final aboard Madison. In 2007, he won the Rolex/USEF National Championship with Up Chiqui. In 2008, the pair competed at the World Cup Final as leaders of the East Coast League. Ranked 133rd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, this year he had several wins in the U.S. including those at CSI 3\*-W Wellington, CSI 3\*-W Tampa and CSI 2\* Kentucky with Up Chiqui. He also placed second in the Pengrowth Cup at the Spruce Meadows North American CSI 5\* with Uceko.

## *Laura Kraut (USA)*

Two-time Olympian, Laura Kraut, has competed at several World Cup Finals, her top result a fifth place finish in 2003 aboard Anthem. She was a member of the 2006 silver medal winning team at the World Equestrian Games, and most recently, a member of the gold medal winning 2008 Beijing Olympic team with Cedric. She competed at the 2000 Sydney Games as well. This season, Kraut competed in the Meydan FEI Nations' Cup Series. She had many successes in Europe this year including a second place finish at CDI 5\* Valkenswaard with Cedric, a second place finish at CSI 5\* Valencia with Anthem and a second place finish at CSI 5\* Madrid with St. Laurent. She is currently ranked 26th on the on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.



more riders >>>

# Meet the Riders



## *Ian Millar (CAN)*

Ian Millar has competed at every Olympic Games from 1972 to 2008, including the alternate Olympics in 1980, where the Canadian team won gold. Last summer, at the Beijing Games, he and In Style were on the silver medal winning team. Millar has won several medals at the Pan American Games, including individual bronze and team silver in 1979; team silver in 1983; individual and team gold in 1987; individual gold in 1999; and team silver in 2007. He also placed second in the World Cup Final in 1986 and won it back to back years in 1988 and 1989 with his famous partner, Big Ben. Millar's 2009 highlights include being a member of the winning Nations' Cup team at CSIO 4\* Wellington and taking first place in the ATB Financial Cup at Spruce Meadows National CSI 5\* with In Style. In addition, he won the ATCO Midstream competition with Redefin at the same Spruce tournament. He is currently ranked 32nd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.

## *Keean White (CAN)*

Twenty-six-year-old Keean White rode in five consecutive North American Young Riders' Championships from 1999-2003. In 2002, he began riding at the Grand Prix level and was named HITS Rookie of the Year. That same year, he won the National Talent Squad Championship aboard Arriscraft Rocca at the Royal Horse Show. White made his World Cup Final debut in April with Celena Z. The pair were also members of the winning Wellington Nations' Cup team this year. He was also a member of the second placed Nations' Cup team at CSIO 4\* Barcelona. He is currently ranked 150th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.

## *John Anderson (CAN)*

John Anderson represented Canada at the 1986 World Show Jumping Championships when he was just 19 years old, placing eighth individually and fourth with the team, aboard Goby. In 1988, he was a member of the Seoul Olympic team with Farmer. In 2009, Anderson was a member of the fourth placed Nations' Cup team at the Spruce Meadows Masters with Terrific. The pair also had a grand prix win at the CSI 2\*-W Langley, where they placed second in the World Cup qualifier. He is currently ranked 156th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.

## *Yann Candele (CAN)*

A native of France, Yann Candele, now rides under the Maple Leaf. He began riding internationally as a junior, when he was twice named to the French team for the European Junior Championships. Later, he moved to Japan, and became the first non-Japanese athlete to win the Asian World Cup League, in 1991/92. In 1999, Candele moved to Canada and became a rider/trainer for Eric Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stables. He rode in his first Nations' Cup for France in 2001, at the Spruce Meadows Masters. Currently ranked 72nd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, in 2009, Candele was a member of the winning Canadian Nations' Cup team in Wellington aboard Mustique. Other season highlights include winning the World Cup Qualifier at CSI 2\* Caledon riding Mustique and wins at CSI 2\* Ottawa and CSI 2\*-W Blainville with Pitareusa.

## *Jill Henselwood (CAN)*

Jill Henselwood, who was a member of the 2008 silver medal winning Olympic team with Special Ed, has also ridden successfully at several Pan American Games, taking team bronze in 1999 and individual gold as well as team silver in 2007. In addition, she has represented Canada at multiple World Championship and World Cup Final competitions. In 2009, Henselwood placed second in the Spectra Energy Cup at Spruce Meadows National CSI 5\* with Black Ice. The pair were also second in the GWL Realty Advisors competition at the Spruce Meadows Canada One CSI 4\* and second in the Mercedes Benz grand prix at the Spruce Meadows North American CSI 5\*. Henselwood is currently ranked 98th on the FEI Rolex Rankings list.

## *Beth Underhill (CAN)*

Beth Underhill won individual and team silver medals at the 1991 Pan American Games and was a member of the Canadian team who competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games with Monopoly. In 1999, she and Altair rode on the bronze medal winning Pan American Games team. She also represented Canada at the 1994 and 1998 World Equestrian Games. Currently ranked 123rd on the FEI Rolex Rankings list, Underhill's 2009 highlights include a second place finish in the World Cup qualifier at CSI 2\*-W Caledon aboard Top Gun and another second place finish at the same event in the Welcome Stake with Cantero Z. She had another second place finish with Top Gun at CSI 2\* Caledon.