



Meet the Riders – Show jumping

International Riders	
Michael Whitaker	
	
WHITAKER Michael	
Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Great Britain 
Gender	Male
Born	18 Mar 1960 in Huddersfield, ENG
Height	1.72 m
Weight	69 kg
Further Personal Information	
Family	Partner Melissa and three children, Jack, Molly and Katy
Residence	Whatton, ENG
Occupation	Athlete
Languages	English
Sport Specific Information	
When and where did you begin this sport?	He started riding on his parents' farm as soon as the stirrup leathers would fit.
Why this sport?	His brother John was already riding and his mother was a keen rider.
General Interest	
Hobbies	All sports. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Most influential person in career	His parents and his older brother John because he has always looked up to him and depended on him for help and advice. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Awards and honours	The British Show Jumping Association [BJSA] named him Leading Rider of the Year and Rider's Rider of the Year for 2006. (horseandhound.co.uk, 31 Jan 2007)
Ambitions	To win a major world championship and then after his career to watch his children enjoying their riding and continue training horses. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Other information	YOUNG WINNER In 1980 at the age of 20, he became the youngest winner of the Hickstead Derby. (FEI, 27 Aug 2010, michael-whitaker.com, 06 Dec 2007)

John Whitaker



WHITAKER John

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Great Britain
Gender	Male
Born	05 Aug 1955 in Huddersfield, ENG
Height	1.67 m
Weight	66 kg

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Marital status	Married
Family	Wife Clare and three children, Louise, Robert and Joanne
Residence	Cumberworth, ENG
Occupation	Business Owner
Languages	English

Sport Specific Information

When and where did you begin this sport?	He began riding at the age of six on the family farm and started competing at the age of eight.
Why this sport?	His mother and father let him stay up and watch it on television. His mother Enid was keen on riding and his father Donald had working horses on the farm. He and brother Michael used to deliver milk by horse and cart before they went to school.

General Interest

Hobbies	Spending time on his farm, driving his tractor, relaxing and eating out. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Most influential person in career	British show jumper Harvey Smith, because he was from a normal background and made people like him think he could do it too. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Hero / Idol	His father because he gave him and his brother the chance to do something they were good at. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Injuries	In December 2000, he became ill and collapsed prior to a show in Stockholm, Sweden. He was taken to hospital with a suspected brain haemorrhage and needed emergency surgery to correct the problem. Following treatment, he made a full recovery and returned to competition at an international meet in St Gallen, Switzerland in May 2001. (horsetalk.co.nz 01 December 2000, Daily Mail 30 May 2001, FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Superstitions / Rituals / Beliefs	Before a competition he tries to think positively and likes to stick to winning formulas, even down to the smallest detail. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007, englandsequestrian.co.uk, 08 Feb 2008)
Awards and honours	He is a Member of the British Empire [MBE]. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Ambitions	To try and stay successful as long as he can and continue to enjoy winning. After his career he wants to help his children further their careers. (FEI, 06 Dec 2007)
Other information	FAMILY At the 2007 London International Horse Show his brother Michael spoke about the large number of his family members taking part in

national and international competitions, saying he thought it was only a matter of time before four Whitakers made up a British Olympic team. "By 2012, I'd expect five of us, maybe six, to be pushing hard for the London Olympics team," he said. (dailymail.co.uk, 22 Dec 2007, Guardian Unlimited, 07 Feb 2008)

EQUESTRIAN POPULARITY

He believes the sport's popularity could do with some help from the media and would like to see equestrian events featured on British television more. "That way the sport would attract more sponsors, which would increase the prize money and everyone would benefit," he said. "It would also encourage youngsters to take up the sport either as a hobby or a career." (englandsequestrian.co.uk, 08 Feb 2008)

Gerco Schroder



SCHRÖDER Gerco

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Netherlands 
Gender	Male
Born	28 Jul 1978 in Tubbergen, NED
Height	1.65 m
Weight	63 kg

Further Personal Information

Residence	Tubbergen, NED
Languages	English

General Interest

Famous relatives	His twin brothers Ben and Wim are both also international equestrians. (exportalentsale.nl, 27 Aug 2010)
Other information	STABLE Together with his brother Wim, who also represents the Netherlands in showjumping, he is part of the team running the Eurocommerce stable, which is situated in Lochem, the Netherlands. (KNHS, 18 Jul 2008)

Harrie Smolders

SMOLDERS Harry

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Netherlands 
Gender	Male
Born	10 May 1980



Further Personal Information

Family	Son Pim
Residence	Grobbendonk, BEL


Sport Specific Information

When and where did you begin this sport?	He started riding at age eight.
Why this sport?	His sister had started riding and he wanted to try the sport too.
Name of coach	Axel Verlooy
Coach from which country?	Belgium

Dermott Lennon



LENNON Dermot

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Ireland 
Gender	Male
Born	12 Jun 1969 in Banbridge, NIR

Further Personal Information

Marital status	Married
Family	Wife Sandra, one daughter
Residence	Banbridge, NIR
Occupation	Athlete, Horse Trainer, Coach

Sport Specific Information

When and where did you begin this sport?	He started riding full time at the age of 19 when he went to England to work with horses for two and a half years.
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General Interest

Injuries	In 2002, after falling from his horse, he was forced to take a six week break after he was taken to hospital for two fractures in his shoulder. (Belfast Telegraph, 02 Apr 2003)
Awards and honours	He was the first Irish rider to become show jumping world champion. (equiworld.net, 22 Sep 2002)

Roberto Teran

TERAN Roberto



Equestrian - Jumping

Columbia

Male


A top rider from Columbia, Roberto comes from an equestrian family as both he and his father have been members of the Columbian Jumping team. As a member of the KingRidge team, he has had outstanding success in the show ring with both young horses and seasoned campaigners.

Pablo Barrios



BARRIOS Pablo Jose

Sport Equestrian - Jumping

NOC Venezuela 

Gender Male

Born 14 Jul 1964

Height 1.78 m

Weight 72 kg

Further Personal Information

Residence Wellington, FL, USA


Occupation Athlete

Languages Spanish, English



SWEETNAM Shane

Sport Equestrian - Jumping

NOC Ireland 

Gender Male

Born 19 Jan 1981 in Cork, IRL

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Marital status Married

Family Wife Ali Sweetnam, children, Collin and Olivia.

Residence Wellington, FL, USA

Occupation Horse Trainer, Coach

Higher education University of Limerick: Limerick, IRL


Sport Specific Information

When and where did you begin this sport? He began his Grand Prix career at age 16 and has since participated in classes in both North American and Europe.

General Interest

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Famous relatives</td> <td>His parents Jerry and Marie Sweetnam are horse trainers and riders. (seabreezefarminc.com, 26 Jan 2009; munster-express.ie, 16 May 2009)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other information</td> <td>FROM IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES He moved to the United States in 2004. (hunterjumpernews.com, 02 Apr 2008)</td> </tr> </table>	Famous relatives	His parents Jerry and Marie Sweetnam are horse trainers and riders. (seabreezefarminc.com, 26 Jan 2009; munster-express.ie, 16 May 2009)	Other information	FROM IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES He moved to the United States in 2004. (hunterjumpernews.com, 02 Apr 2008)																						
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Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	United States 
Gender	Female
Born	1983

Sport Specific Information

Why this sport? My mother is English, and she used to have racehorses as a child. My sister started when we were young, too. It was just a hobby for her. By the time I was six years old, I was already competing. My father claims that he used to work in a barn and rake the stalls, but I'm not sure that we really believe him.

General Interest

Famous relatives The youngest daughter of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Susan Brown.

McLain Ward



WARD McLain	
Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	United States 
Gender	Male
Born	17 Oct 1975
Height	1.77 m
Weight	74 kg

Further Personal Information





Marital status Married
Residence Brewster, NY, USA
Occupation Horse Trainer

Sport Specific Information

Why this sport? His father encouraged him to take up the sport.

General Interest

Nicknames The Kid (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)
Hobbies Playing golf and going to the theatre. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)
Awards and honours He was awarded the Longines Elegance Award in August 2010 after winning the Longines International Grand Prix Of Ireland. (teamusa.org, 08 Aug 2010)

		<p>Named the 2003 American Grand Prix Association's Rider of the Year for the second consecutive year and third time overall. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)</p> <p>He was named the 1991 American Grand Prix Association's Rookie of the Year. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)</p>																
	Famous relatives	His father is also an accomplished horseman. He competed on the national stage for many years. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)																
	Other information	<p>EARLY SUCCESS In 1990, at just 14 years of age, he became the youngest rider to win the United States Equestrian Team's [USET] Show Jumping Talent Derby. Ten weeks later he became the youngest rider to win the USET Medal Finals and the first rider to win both titles in the same year. This early success led to him earning the nickname "The Kid". (usoc.org 28, Nov 2007)</p> <p>FAMILY BUSINESS He and his father own and run a horse-dealing business. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007) LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON His father competed in and won the Grand Prix of Devon, exactly 20 years to the day that his son won the same competition. (usoc.org, 28 Nov 2007)</p>																
<p>Margie Engle</p> 	<p>ENGLE Margie</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sport</td> <td>Equestrian - Jumping</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NOC</td> <td>United States </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>Male</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Born</td> <td>31 March 1958</td> </tr> </table>	Sport	Equestrian - Jumping	NOC	United States 	Gender	Male	Born	31 March 1958	<p>Further Personal Information</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Marital status</td> <td>Married to Dr. Steve Engle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residence</td> <td>Wellington, Florida</td> </tr> </table> <p>General Interest</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Awards and honours</td> <td>Engle has over 190 grand prix wins under her belt, has been named AGA Rider of the Year ten times, has been on more than 20 winning Nations Cup teams, and was the 1991 AHSA Equestrian of the Year.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other information</td> <td>Engle has persevered through serious injuries including a crushed leg in 1990, which she followed with five major American Grand Prix Association wins in 1991.</td> </tr> </table>	Marital status	Married to Dr. Steve Engle	Residence	Wellington, Florida	Awards and honours	Engle has over 190 grand prix wins under her belt, has been named AGA Rider of the Year ten times, has been on more than 20 winning Nations Cup teams, and was the 1991 AHSA Equestrian of the Year.	Other information	Engle has persevered through serious injuries including a crushed leg in 1990, which she followed with five major American Grand Prix Association wins in 1991.
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Canadians:



CANDELE Yann

Sport Equestrian - Jumping

NOC Canada 🇨🇦

Gender Male

Born 11 Mar 1971

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Family Partner Jennifer Wallace, sons Alexandre and Tate

Residence Caledon, ON, CAN

Occupation Horse Trainer

Sport Specific Information

When and where did you begin this sport? He began riding at age 10

Why this sport? His parents encouraged him and his older brother to actively pursue sports. Once he tried riding, horses became his main focus and within two years he was competing.

Club / Team Normandy Hills:

General Interest

Hobbies Playing golf and supporting the Toronto Maple Leafs ice hockey team. (startinggate.ca, 04 Aug 2010)

Famous relatives His partner Jennifer Wallace also competes in show jumping. (startinggate.ca, 04 Aug 2010)


Other information CAVALRY
He was forced to return to France to complete his required civilian service where, luckily, his athlete status allowed him to work in the cavalry unit. He served 10 months of service. (startinggate.ca, 04 Aug 2010)

NORMANDY HILLS
In 2007 he opened his own training business in, Normandy Hills, Cheltenham, Ontario and began riding and training a string of top horses. (startinggate.ca, 04 Aug 2010)

FROM FRANCE TO CANADA
He moved to North America in 1999 and after a two-week visit with Canadian rider Eric Lamaze he took up a full-time job coaching, riding and training at Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stables in Ontario. He initially still competed for his native France but took up Canadian citizenship in 2008. (FarmVet.com, 04 Aug 2010)



MILLAR Ian

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Canada 
Gender	Male
Born	06 Jan 1947

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Residence	Perth, ON, CAN
Birthplace	Halifax, NS, CAN

Sport Specific Information

Club / Team	Millar Brooke Farm: Perth, NB, CAN
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General Interest

Awards and honours

Ian Millar has competed in more Olympic Games than any Canadian in history, in any sport. He shares the world record for number of Olympic starts with retired Austrian yachtsman Hubert Raudaschl. Both have competed in nine Olympic Games. Millar's ninth Olympic start, in 2008, brought him his first Olympic medal – a team silver, at age 61. It was the first team show jumping medal that Canada had earned in 40 years. Millar is hoping to represent Canada at the 2012 Olympic Games when he will be 65.

If Millar's Olympic record is impressive for longevity, his Pan American Games record is equally so for his medal count. He has earned 9 medals in 8 Pan American Games, more than any other show jumper. He earned a team silver and narrowly missed an individual bronze in 2007 in Rio de Janeiro. He has twice been the Pan American Games individual gold medalist (1987 and 1999).

In spite of his Olympic and Pan American Games records, it was the World Cup of show jumping where Millar first broke new ground. In 1988 and '89 he and his legendary partner, Big Ben, became the first-ever rider and horse combination to win back-to-back World Cup Finals. He has represented Canada in fourteen World Cup Finals and recorded five top-eight finishes.

Millar has represented Canada at six World Championships, where he has been a member of three top-five-placed teams and has finished in the top-ten individually twice.

He is a ten-time Canadian Champion, having last won the title in 2007. That national championship made Canadian show jumping history, as Millar and his son, Jonathon, logged a 1-2 finish in a close battle for the title.

Millar is the most decorated equestrian in Canadian history. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1986 and was Ontario's Athlete of the Year in 1989. In 1996, he and Big Ben were both inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. Big Ben was only the second horse to receive this honour, the first being Northern Dancer. Millar was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Guelph, Ontario, in 2005.

Millar works closely with his son, Jonathon, and daughter, Amy, who are both successful riders in national and international grand prix.

They operate Millar Brooke Farm together and have been dubbed "Team Millar".



MILLAR Jonathan

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Canada 🇨🇦
Gender	Male
Born	25 Sep 1974 in Ottawa, ON, CAN
Height	1.93 m

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Residence	Perth, ON, CAN
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Sport Specific Information

Club / Team	Millar Brooke Farm: Perth, NB, CAN
Name of coach	Ian Millar
Coach from which country?	Canada

General Interest

Awards and honours	In 2007 he finished second to his legendary father, by mere fractions, in the Canadian Championship. They became the first members of the same family to finish first and second in the national show jumping championship. (millarbrookefarm.com, 02 Sep 2010)
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Famous relatives	His father Ian Millar has competed in show jumping at nine editions of the Olympic Games, the equal most appearances by any athlete in Olympic history. He won a silver medal in the team show jumping at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. (sports-reference.com, 02 Sep 2010) His sister Amy Millar is also a member of the Canadian equestrian team. (millarbrookefarm.com, 02 Sep 2010)
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CUDMORE Karen

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Canada 🇨🇦
Gender	Female
Born	07 Jan 1959

Human Interest

Further Personal Information


Marital status	Married
Family	Husband Blair
Residence	Bennington, VT, USA
Occupation	Farmer
Languages	English

General Interest

Hobbies	Breeding horses. (WEG 2002, 19 Sep 2002)
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HENSELWOOD Jill

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Canada 
Gender	Female
Born	01 Nov 1962 in Ottawa, ON, CAN
Height	1.68 m
Weight	56 kg

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Marital status	Married
Family	Husband Bob
Residence	Oxford Mills, CAN
Occupation	Athlete, Horse Trainer
Higher education	Physical Education - University of Ottawa: Ottawa, ON, CAN

Sport Specific Information


When and where did you begin this sport?	She began riding at the age of five at a summer camp.
Name of coach	Emilie Hendrix
Preferred Discipline / Event(s)	Jumping

General Interest

Awards and honours	In 2007 she became the first woman in 24 years to win the individual gold medal at the Pan American Games and she was also only the fourth woman in history win gold in the event. (FEI, 01 Jun 2008) Named as the Canadian Equestrian Team's Rookie of the Year for 1992. (Jump Canada, 12 Jun 2007)
Other information	COACH She started her coaching career at the age of just 10 when she gave lessons to mentally challenged children on her pony. She is well regarded as an international coach and runs one of Canada's finest show jumping centres. (jillhenselwood.com, 12 Jun 2007)



WHITE Kean

Sport	Equestrian - Jumping
NOC	Canada 
Gender	Male
Born	16 Mar 1983 in Cambridge, ON, CAN
Height	1.83 m

Human Interest

Further Personal Information

Residence	Guelph, ON, CAN
Occupation	Athlete

Sport Specific Information	
When and where did you begin this sport?	He started riding at age 10.
Why this sport?	He was encouraged to take riding lessons despite his own dislike for the idea. A stubborn pony turned jumping into a game for him and helped him to develop a passion for the sport.
Club / Team	Angelstone Farms: Rockwood, ON, CAN
Name of coach	Eric Lamaze
General Interest	
Hobbies	Playing ice hockey, golf and basketball. (startinggate.ca, 02 Sep 2010)
Most influential person in career	Eric Lamaze, David Ballard and his father. (horse-canada.com, 01 Sep 2010)
Hero / Idol	Basketballer Vince Carter. (startinggate.ca, 02 Sep 2010)
Ambitions	To qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. (angelstonefarms.com, 02 Sep 2010)