

Badminton dream for dual champion Kelly



Kelly needs a sponsor to help turn her dreams into reality

An amateur rider celebrating a double victory is seeking sponsorship to help her achieve her goal of completing Badminton in two years' time.

Kelly Turner won the Novice Restricted Area Festivals final at this year's Winter Dressage Championships on Talented Boy. She then went on to head up the BE100 section at the Mitsubishi Motors Grassroots Championship, which was run alongside Badminton Horse Trials just days later.

The aptly named 17.1hh, 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood is a true all-rounder, as Kelly successfully competes him in affiliated showjumping as well as dressage and eventing.

After her taste of the Badminton atmosphere, the single mum from Mill Hill, London, has set her sights on riding 'Amigo' around the famous four-star track.

However, she says she will not be able to realise her dream without financial backing.

"I am desperately seeking sponsorship," Kelly says.

"With sponsorship we can get to Intermediate level by the end of the year, and next year move up to Advanced. I would then aim for Badminton.

"My ultimate goal is riding at the top level alongside the professionals and competing successfully against them, and to represent my country."

Kelly, who is a freelance instructor, is also aiming to compete at Elementary level at September's British Dressage National Championships.

"I didn't expect to do as well as we did at the Area Festivals, competing against riders who do pure dressage day in day out, but we scored over 70 per cent for the first time," Kelly adds.



DERBY STAR TO RETIRE

William Funnell's three-times Hickstead Derby winner Cortaflex Mondriaan will be officially retired before this year's competition – the site of the gelding's greatest victories.

The 17-year-old, owned by Julie Slade and ridden by William, won the world-famous Derby in 2006, 2008 and 2009, as well as coming third in 2003 and fourth in 2007.

Mondriaan's wins put him in a select band of horses who have won the prize three times, alongside Mon Santa (Michael Whitaker) and Corrada (Peter Charles). Only one partnership has won the Derby four times – Eddie Macken and Boomerang.

Mondriaan will parade in the International Arena at Hickstead before the Carpetright Derby, which will be held at 2.30pm on 26 June.

For more information on the Derby meeting and Hickstead's other 2011 shows, visit: www.hickstead.co.uk.

Going for gold on home soil

Fans of endurance riding are celebrating news that the sport's world championships will be held in Great Britain next year.

The event will take place at Euston Park, near Newmarket, Suffolk. A date has not been confirmed but is likely to be 25 August.

"We are delighted to be the host country when the focus of the country will be so firmly fixed on sport in general," says Jo Claridge, chair of governing body Endurance GB.

"We look forward to being able to compete against the best endurance riders in the world on our own turf."



Endurance fans are in for a treat in 2012