

MEET THE RIDERS

IT takes a brave person to agree to two days of intensive scrutiny in the knowledge that their strengths and weaknesses will be exposed to the readers of *Horse & Hound*. However, we found three candidates

EVENTER:

Louise Skelton, 31
based in
Herefordshire

Horse: Evamore, a seven-year-old daughter of Rodrigo Pessoa's medal-winning show jumping stallion Baloubet De Rouet
Breeder and owner: William Jones
Regular trainer: David Pincus of Sheepcote Equestrian who trained with Olympic medal-winning German eventer and dressage rider Reiner Klimke, and at the Spanish Riding School of Vienna. David has also show jumped and evented competitively



LOUISE gained the Laurence Rook trophy for best British debut at Badminton this year with her home-bred Partly Pickled, who won Blair Castle in 2005.

For the "winning edge", Louise brought along Evamore, an eventer who is on the BEF equine pathway programme that identifies possible team contenders for London 2012.

Louise has a yard of 12 eventers at home and has a heavy competition schedule.

At seven years old, Evamore has already gone double clear at advanced.

"She is one of the best seven-year-olds in the country, and I believe she will go four-star," says Louise.

Nevertheless, like many talented horses, Evamore has her quirks.

Louise explains: "She panics about what's above her so you have to be very careful mounting and dismounting."

Louise has been working on her dressage with David Pincus for the past four years after realising that if she improved her dressage scores, she would be much more competitive at events.

"David has really improved me and my professionalism. We've worked on getting the horses into a more advanced outline for the test."

Nevertheless, a lack of time and money gets in the way of Louise's dressage training.

"I've only been to David's about five times this year," she says.



Louise Skelton and Evamore under the watchful eye of her regular trainer David Pincus



Louise in the dressage en route to winning the three-star CCI at Blair Castle in 2005

"Evamore is one of the best seven-year-olds in the country — I believe she'll go four-star"

Louise Skelton

David believes more regular training is a necessity if Louise is to improve her dressage marks.

"Riders often don't pace themselves properly, and don't spend enough time developing their skills. They have a tendency to look at the short-term goal, but if they aim for the long-term prize, they'll meet the short-term goals in the process," he says.



Louise and Partly Pickled make their debut at Badminton earlier this year