

Lady Audrey Townley FBHS

1918 - 30th September 2014

From BHS



We were sorry to hear of the death of Lady Audrey Townley FBHS, who passed away aged 96 on Tuesday 30 September 2014.

A stalwart of high standards in everything she did, Lady Townley was a popular figure who left a legacy of dedication and enthusiasm among her students.

One of the BHS's earliest members, the published author gained her FBHS in 1954, being one of only 20 Fellows at the time.

After passing on her own hugely successful Borwick Riding School, and training with acclaimed figures such as Captain Eddie Goldman, the eventing and dressage enthusiast based herself in the north of

Scotland but travelled widely through Scotland and northern England to train and coach others, never letting her students lose sight of the need for everything to be done correctly.

Lady Townley retired in her late 60s, when she moved to Dalbeattie in Scotland. She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Mr Danny Pevsner FBHS

1941 - June 2014

From BHS



The British Horse Society is sad to announce the death of Daniel (Danny) Pevsner FBHS, who has passed away in Israel aged 73.

Having suffered from cancer for the last few months, Danny had returned to his native Israel to be with his daughter.

He will be acutely missed and remembered across the globe for his great skill and knowledge, which was developed as a Fellow of the BHS and as a former pupil of The Spanish Riding School of Vienna.

William Micklem offered these words in memory of Danny: "For the last forty-five years I have been privileged to have had an occasional but regular conversation with Danny about equestrian matters.

"Ironically his huge depth of knowledge, intelligence and seriousness was probably a barrier to many and often removed him from the mainstream training conversation.

"But he was an incisive, precise thinker and a man who cared deeply about both doing things well and doing things humanely.

"Sometimes treasure slips through our collective hands... but I always travel with these words from him:

"A well-schooled horse: The horse's head rotates forward and up at a point just behind the ears, while the lower jaw softens. Its neck, too, stretches forward and up, into a slight arch, as the back lengthens and widens. The horse's limb action appears to originate in its back, which indeed is the centre of motion. Breathing is regular, and the back is smoothly pulsating all the time, imparting grace and elasticity to the movement. The expression on the face of the horse is that of great contentment."

Mr John Hall FBHS

- 15th Dec 2013

From BHS



The British Horse Society is sorry to report that John Hall FBHS passed away in Spain on 15 December after a short illness.

John led a full life and his ambition and drive took him to many corners of the world. As a trainer, he had great patience and an uncanny ability to recognise not only how to improve his riders but also to give them confidence and self-belief. Along with this, he had a memorable sense of humour.

After a spell in the Army, John taught at Suzanne's Riding School in Harrow before a move to Waterstock led him to work with Lars Sederholm.

Mentored by Pat Smallwood FBHS, John set out with determination to become a Fellow of the BHS, with many long evenings spent honing skills and knowledge alongside friends such as Gill Watson FBHS.

Time spent with Iris Kellett in Ireland brought out the true horseman in John where he succeeded to the top of the show jumping tree, his favourite venue being Hickstead. He followed this with great success as a commentator for Irish TV.

Trips to Zimbabwe and Greece followed, where John was still able to share his knowledge and wisdom before retiring to Spain with his wife, Jane, to relax and enjoy playing golf.

In May 2013, John attended a special lunch at Royal Windsor Horse Show for lifetime Fellows, which he much enjoyed despite not being in the best of health.

Very sadly, John's planned retirement was cut short, but Jane was with him to the end.

A private cremation is to be held in Spain.

Mrs Molly Sivewright FBHS

1924 - August 28th 2013



It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of Mrs Mollie Sivewright earlier today. As past Chairperson of the Fellows Association Mrs Sivewright contributed hugely to the Fellowship. As founder of the Talland School of Equitation, past Chair person of various BHS committees, and as a trainer of international repute who contributed in so many ways to the development of the BHS and to horsemanship throughout the world Mrs Sivewright will be remembered by many people.

August 29th 2013

From British Dressage:

In Memoriam: Molly Sivewright, 1924 -2013 In Memoriam: Molly Sivewright, 1924 -2013 British Dressage is very sad to learn of the passing of Molly Sivewright who died peacefully yesterday (28 August) aged 89 after a long illness. A Fellow of the British Horse Society, Molly was a list one dressage judge, an international showing judge and a respected expert witness on all things equestrian. Molly founded the internationally renowned Talland School of Equitation in 1958 and was still teaching right up until her death. Students from all disciplines have passed through Talland and come out richer having been taught by Molly. Her expertise as a horsewoman has become legend and the equestrian world has lost a real character, let alone her knowledge and great repertoire of stories. Many equestrians will have had a copy of her 'Thinking Riding' books in their bookshelves as her wisdom and insight was second to none. She leaves behind daughters Pammy (Hutton), Mandy and Sarah and their families and our thoughts are with all of them at this difficult time. Her funeral will be a family only occasion but Talland will hold a memorial day to celebrate her life on a future date to be announced. BD members have been leaving lovely tributes on our forum – if you're registered, log on to read them and leave a message of your own if you had the honour to train or know Molly.

British Horse Society deeply saddened by the passing of Molly Sivewright FBHS

Molly Sivewright, a Fellow of The British Horse Society and founder of The Talland School of Equitation, passed away yesterday (Wednesday 28 August) aged 89. Mrs Sivewright was one of the greatest equestrian instructors this country has seen. She became a Fellow of The British Horse Society in 1961, was a Fellow of the Institute of the Horse (FIH) and a Fellow of the Association of British Riding Schools. In 1975, as Chair of the Exams Sub-Committee, Mrs Sivewright introduced the BHS Horse Knowledge and Riding (HK&R) Stage Exams and the BHS Intermediate Teaching Exam into the BHS examination structure. She was also instrumental in developing the use of anatomy and physiology into the training of horses and wrote two widely acclaimed books in the Thinking Riding series, as well as Lessons on the Lunge for Horse and Rider. Mrs Sivewright was a List 1 dressage judge and an international judge for show hacks and Arabs. She also held official authorisation to run courses for judges, riders and horses at national and international standard and enjoyed sharing her knowledge and expertise through a variety of lectures and demonstrations. Lynn Petersen, Chief Executive of The British Horse Society said: "Molly has left a beautiful legacy for all of us. She will be missed by her family and friends and The British Horse Society. Most of all, she will be remembered forever."

Mr Kenneth Clawson FBHS 1949 - 2012

Farewell to renowned eventing trainer Kenneth Clawson



Renowned eventing trainer Kenneth Clawson has died. He was 63.

Kenneth died yesterday (Tuesday 11 December 2012) in hospital. He had been suffering from leukaemia for five years. Kenneth was based in Leicestershire and famously trained many top riders including JP Sheffield and Oliver Townend as well helping Zara Phillips, Rodney Powell, Pippa Funnell and Piggy French. "Kenneth has been instrumental in my career for the past 10 years, not least because he found me Drivetime," Emily Baldwin told H&H. "He had an uncanny knack of not only getting horses jumping well, but putting riders in the right frame of mind to produce clear rounds when it really mattered." He was showjumping team trainer to the British Eventing squad and World Class Programme in 1998, continuing to help through the Beijing Olympics. Kenneth was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2007 and, following treatment, was told in 2011 that he was in full remission. But in early 2012 this was found not to be the case and he had a bone marrow transplant in August. "Kenneth was so much more than a talented and successful coach to the British eventing team and worldclass programme," said British equestrian performance director Will Connell. "He epitomised the accolade 'team player' – he was epicentral to creating the winning and positive environment that has stood the eventing team in such good stead; but was equally as happy, motivated and effective when working with amateur riders who just enjoyed the thrill of riding. He has helped GBR win many medals but he will be most missed as a friend to the equestrian world." Yesterday tributes poured from riders on Twitter: Ben Hobday: "So, so sad. RIP eventing legend Kenneth Clawson, you will be greatly missed." Warren Lamperd: "Really sad news about Kenneth Clawson. A great support to me and I'm sure many others. He was an inspiration." Kitty King: "Incredibly sad news about Kenneth Clawson, a great trainer

who helped so many of us."Emily King: "RIP Kenneth Clawson, you were a true legend who created many legends and will be hugely missed."

British Eventing

It is with deepest regret that we learn of the passing of Kenneth Clawson who lost his battle with leukaemia on the afternoon of the 11th December 2012.

Kenneth became showjumping team trainer to the British Senior Eventing squad and World Class Programme in 1998, a role he remained in until the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He played an integral part in helping the British team win 21 gold medals four team golds, three individual European, one Olympic, one World gold and several more silver and bronze medals at World, Olympic and European Championships.

In early 2007 Kenneth was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and began treatment with Chemotherapy immediately afterwards. Following this treatment, Kenneth returned to full strength and after discussions with Eventing World Class Programme Performance Manager Yogi Breisner and Will Connell took the decision to concentrate on the BEF's Development squad and Equine Pathway. In summer 2011, Kenneth was told that he was in full remission but sadly in early 2012 this was found not to be the case. In August 2012, a successful bone marrow match was found for Kenneth and following this transplant he had been continuing his recovery in the confines of his home in Leire, South Leicestershire. During his recovery from the transplant, Kenneth had commented: "In my heart, I'm sure that being able to watch the best equestrian Olympics [London 2012] ever gave me the adrenaline buzz I needed to help the transplant to engraft successfully."

British Equestrian Performance Director Will Connell remembers his former colleague fondly:

"It feels as if a bright sparkling Christmas light has gone out: Kenneth was so much more than a talented and successful coach to the GBR Eventing Team and World Class Programme. He epitomised the accolade "Team Player" - he was epicentral to creating the winning and positive environment that has stood the Eventing Team in such good stead; but was equally as happy, motivated and effective when working with amateur riders who just enjoyed the thrill of riding. He has helped GBR win many medals but he will be most missed as a friend to the Equestrian world."

Our thoughts are with Kenneth's partner Paul, his family and close friends.

The funeral will take place on the 3rd January, at 11:30 at St Peter's Church in Leire.

Donations in Kenneth Clawson's memory are being made to the Bone Marrow trust Unit at Leicester Hospital. Cheques to be made payable to: 'Leicester Hospital Charities, BMTU (Bone Marrow Trust Unit)'

Mrs Jane Goldsmith FBHS 1941 - 2012

Jane Goldsmith, a member of the FEI Para-Equestrian Committee and one of the pioneers of Para-Dressage in Great Britain, passed away peacefully on 2 June after a long illness. Jane was born into a non-horsey family, but during her school years, she worked at a local riding school at weekends and in the evenings in return for being taught to ride. She would borrow the butcher's delivery cart pony and go show jumping at weekends. On leaving school, she entered the horse industry as a trainee groom, which allowed her to continue her competition training. She had great success in her competitive and training careers in Dressage, Jumping, Eventing and Racing. During her Jumping career, she won the All-England Championship, and was runner-up to Harvey Smith as Show Jumper of the Year. In Dressage she competed and trained to Prix St Georg standard and above and became a British Dressage List 1 Judge. She was a successful event rider and trainer, and was widely acknowledged as a brilliant producer of Young Riders to international status. As an FEI Judge and Technical Delegate, she officiated at some of the world's highest level events, including Badminton and Kentucky. A Fellow of the British Horse Society, Mrs Goldsmith was involved in education and also published two books, *Coaching the Rider* and *Teaching Jumping*. She also gave herself tirelessly to the sport of Para-Dressage, coaching some of the world's best riders, including Lee Pearson. She was coach of arguably Britain's most successful Paralympics team since the year 2000, and founded the Para Dressage Training Trust, a charity which trains young riders and provides horses for those who cannot afford international competition standard horses. As well as her role as a member of the FEI Para-Equestrian Committee, she was also a five-star Para-Dressage judge, and taught all over the world in training schemes for FEI Development, the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee and the Christopher Reeve Spinal Cord and Paralysis Foundation. Last year, she was presented with the Queen's Award for Equestrianism for her outstanding service to the sport and was due to be a member of the Appeal Committee at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. "Jane was so well loved by so many and her passing will leave a huge hole in the Para Dressage world," Ulf Wilken, Chair of the FEI Para-Equestrian Committee said. "She has worked tirelessly for Para-Dressage over the years, and her huge support, drive and initiative have helped to take the discipline to where it is today. This is a tremendous loss to the horse world and to her family and many friends." British Dressage Chief Executive Amanda Bond commented: "Jane's contribution to our sport, both in Great Britain and throughout the world, has been phenomenal. As one of the pioneers of Para Dressage sport, we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her dedication. She will be fondly remembered by so many for her wisdom, her generosity and her strength of character. We have lost a great coach and a dear friend." The FEI expresses its sincere condolences to Jane Goldsmith's husband John, her sons Martin and Paul, and her many friends in the equestrian world. The funeral will be held at Gaydon Parish Church on Monday 11 June at 11.00, and the family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Para Dressage Training Trust, c/o R. Locke



Tributes to para dressage pioneer Jane Goldsmith

Charlotte White, H&H deputy news editor 4 June, 2012

One of the pioneers of para dressage and a former British Horse Society (BHS) chief examiner, Jane Goldsmith, died on Friday (1 June).

The 71-year-old was a highly respected trainer in all disciplines, a fellow of the BHS and an FEI para steward, who acted in many cases as an expert witness. But it was her work in the development of para dressage that set Jane apart. She has coached riders, including Lee Pearson, to paralympic standard and was a five-star para judge. Last year, she was presented with the Queen's Award for Equestrianism for her outstanding service. British Dressage chief executive Amanda Bond said: "Jane's contribution to our sport, both here in Great Britain and throughout the world has been phenomenal. "As one of the pioneers of Para Dressage sport, we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her dedication. She will be fondly remembered by so many for her wisdom, her generosity and her strength of character. "We have lost a great coach and a dear friend. Our prayers are with [her husband] John and her family." On hearing the news of her death, para riders paid tribute to Jane on Facebook. "This weekend's competition will be for Jane Goldsmith, one of the founders of Para Dressage, without whom I would not be where I am today," wrote Sophie Christiansen. And Sophie Wells added: "Very sad to hear Jane Goldsmith passed away last night. A sad loss to the world of para dressage, thank you for all you did and the opportunities you gave Jane xxx."

Mrs Diana Martin-Bird FBHS 1920 - 2011

One of the founding members of the Pony Club has died



2 May, 2011

Diana Martin-Bird, one of the founding members of the Pony Club, has died aged 91.

Mrs Martin-Bird devoted her life to equestrianism. She was the first chair of the Pony Club's national committee and was Pony Club [dressage](#) chairman for many years. Always keen to lead by example, she took her riding and road safety test when a septuagenarian, passing with flying colours. Outside of the Pony Club, Mrs Martin-Bird was a passionate supporter of the British Horse Society, earning her long-service award in 2007. A service of remembrance to celebrate her life was held last month.



Telegraph announcements

Diana, widow of Nigel, much loved mum, granny and great-granny. Peacefully on 3rd April 2011 having reached her 91st birthday. Private cremation. A Celebration of her Life will be held at St Mary the Virgin, Shipley, West Sussex, RH13 8PH on Tuesday 12th April at 2.30 p.m. At her request no flowers, but donations, if desired, to St Catherine's Hospice, Malthouse Road, Crawley, - W. Sussex RH10 6BH. Please wear bright clothing.

Miss Pat Manning FBHS 1932 - 2009

From BE

18th November 2009

Tribute to Pat Manning FBHS

For many Pat Manning was a unique and gifted teacher of horses and riders at all levels. She died in March aged 77. You are invited to a day especially to remember her; tributes, photographs and more in a charming informal setting on Sunday 28th February 2010 at Fosse Manor Hotel, Stow on the Wold.

The service will run from 11:00 - 4:00 and will include a hot buffet lunch, for

£25-00 per head on the day. Please contact below as numbers for the lunch are needed.

Bequests to her favourite charity:

The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

61 Smithbrook Kilns,

Cranleigh Surrey GU6 8JJ

Miss Marie Stokes FBHS - 2008

.....Obituary for Marie Stokes, Our Clubs President

Marie Stokes FBHS, former Vice Chairman of The British Horse Society And Chairman of Riding Clubs for a number of years when living in our Area died on Friday 18 April.

Marie was a very active member of Battle & District Riding Club, taking part in many things and sponsored our clubs Quadrille when unable to ride in it herself due to taking a major role in its organisation. For 3 years running Battle qualified for the quadrille and won it with Marie's sponsorship in 1994. Her facilities at Guestling were always used free of any charge for club activities. She remained an honorary member greatly interested in our various activities even after she moved to Wales some years ago. Marie was also a stalwart of Area 10 for a great number of years even before moving to Guestling

Marie's Funeral was held at Aberystwyth on Friday 25th April, she was then buried in the churchyard next to her home with a wonderful view over her fields and home. Our club has sent a donation to the Hospice of Hope in Marie's memory, and I attended in recognition of the enormous amount Marie gave to The Club, Area 10 and to me personally, Marie meant so much to so many people, we were very privileged to be part of her life.

Diane Baker

Below is the obituary presented by the BHS:

BHS Chairman Patrick Print FBHS said: "Marie's half century of service to the BHS and to the wider equestrian community ensured that she will be remembered with affection and gratitude by literally thousands of people. "Whether in her work on Training, Welfare or Access, Marie's commitment was total and her enthusiasm had a way of galvanising others. "Perhaps most of all, Marie will be remembered for her encouragement of those involved in the Riding Club movement, work which was only curtailed by a stroke in 2002. "But even this life-changing event was not able to dampen her enthusiasm or reduce her commitment as she continued to contribute as a most knowledgeable and wise Trustee for a further two years

Mrs Yvonne (Peggy) Lucas FBHS 1918 – 2008

Yvonne 'Peggy' Lucas, The British Horse Society's first Fellow and a former Spitfire pilot, has died, aged 90. Pictured: Yvonne 'Peggy' Lucas during the Second World War

Mr Lockie Richards FBHS 1937 - 2004

Dressage coach Lockie Richards died earlier this month at his home in Reikorangi on the Kapiti Coast after a long illness. He was aged 67.

Lockie's equestrian career started out riding horses on the beach and breaking in horses for Winifred Lysner in Gisborne, who recognised Lockie's potential. He rode in Pony Club Champs for Gisborne Area in 1958 after which he headed for England and taught at the famous riding schools Silver Hound, Porlock Vale and the Fulmer School of Equitation where he passed all British Horse Society (BHS) exams to become a Fellow of the British Horse Society (FBHS) in 1963 (the only Kiwi and youngest at the time).

In 1964 Lockie went to America to teach at Potomac Horse Center - the biggest residential school in the States. He rode and trained Royal Imperial to be National Champion Event horse, who was then donated to the USA 3 Day Team. Lockie trained 5 riders to selection on that 3DE Team.

In 1969 he competed and trained two Advanced Level Event Horses, Star Task and Hull, to win Event Rider of the Year in the US and competed at the US National Dressage Finals. Also that year he started training with Franz Rochowansky (ex Spanish Riding School) at the American Dressage Institute.

In 1970 he visited New Zealand and did some teaching for the first time since gaining his overseas qualifications. In 1970-72 Lockie was resident Instructor for the American Dressage Institute and was selected to train at Spanish Riding School in Vienna.

From 1975 to 1979 Lockie was the National Instructor for the New Zealand Horse Society at Wills National Equestrian Centre in Taupo. During that time Paul Harris with Exile travelled to the Sydney Royal and qualified for nomination for the Montreal Olympic games. He was turned down by the NZ Olympic selection committee on the grounds of not having had sufficient overseas experience. So that was that. Lockie however refused to accept defeat on behalf of eventing; nor would some of the horse trials committee, nor would chairman Boy Caro.

These plugged on regardless with, as their goal, the Kentucky World Championships in 1978. Council finally gave its permission for them to go with Lockie as trainer, Peter Herrick as Manager, and team members Carol Harrison with Topic, Joanne Bridgeman with Bandolier, Nicolii Fife with Never Dwell, Mary Hamilton with Arronshar and Vladivostock and Mark Todd with Top Hunter. But they had to pass a severe veterinary test in NZ and guess what. Only one passed. So they all went anyway with the mixed blessing of the society. They were all youngsters and against the rest of the world they performed astonishingly well. In their lead up competition at Chesterland two-day selection Trials Mark Todd and Top Hunter finished in 3rd place ahead of all but one of the USA Team. Come the grand final, Carol Harrison and Topic finished 6th the top lady rider of the World.

In 1983 he made a documentary video at Equus, Spanish Riding School and Lexington 3 Day. This was shown on the Discovery Channel in Australia and US many times.

1984 saw a move to Waikanae where he bought land in Reikorangi to set up the Ngatiawa Stud breeding Sport horses. He spent the next 9 years freelance teaching in USA with occasional trips to NZ. In 1986 Lockie trained the NZ 3 Day Team for Gawler World Champs. In 1993 he moved back to NZ.

In Lockie's own words "My success teaching and training is hopefully because I care about my students and have some students that have been with me for 30 years.

This little extract from "Dressage in America" tells it all: "To develop a harmonious relationship is one of the most beautiful experiences one could ever wish to have. The unity between human and animal is a precious quality that sinks into the soul, making life more meaningful."

Under Lockie's tutelage Allison Graham with her horse Lochiel was the first horse in NZ to perform piaff. Lockie was excellent at teaching in hand and was often seen using the Equestrian Centre stable wall for his inhand training. And so began the advancement of Dressage in NZ.

Lockie also coached Margaret Journeaux and Surrey and Sue Alleyne and Johann Strauss who both competed in Australia in the Australian Dressage Championships in 1987.

Marcia Bayley attributes getting her two horses Kentucky and Rubicon to Grand Prix level to Lockie and knew Lockie from his time in England; a friendship lasting 40 years.

The wonderful mare Bitteschon owned and competed by Sharron Hatton was bred by Lockie. Sharon Field is currently competing on a horse bred by Uraeus and the stallion himself is a star in the Lord of the Rings movies, ridden by Viggo Mortensen.

Lockie wrote the book "Dressage - begin the right way" which has helped many riders who have worked alone, to understand the basics of dressage. His knowledge, his love of horses and his dedication to horse and rider will never be replaced. No other trainer has ever demonstrated the intuition that Lockie showed in his teaching both for horse and for rider; indeed Lockie was already practicing equine massage and manipulation long before it was even thought of in NZ I believe that the American Dressage fraternity held Lockie in a much higher esteem than he was ever held in NZ and that Lockie achieved far more than he was ever given credit for in this country. NZ is a much poorer place now that Lockie has passed on.

He said nothing as I legged him up and he rode away into the mist. Moments later, you guessed it, the sound of galloping hooves, the arrival of a horse and no Lockie. Moments passed, I called out, no reply. Then he hobbled into sight. No words passed his lips as I legged him up again and once again he rode off into the fog. After a short time both Lockie and Horse returned to the gate together in one piece. Lockie dismounted and handed me the horse. No words were spoken but the air was as thick as the fog.

Next I saddled up the Bay called Womble and legged Lockie up at the gate. He rode into the fog. The sound of galloping hooves, The arrival of a horse and much later the arrival of Lockie. No words spoken. I legged Lockie up and back he rode into the fog. Twenty minutes later Horse and rider appeared. Lockie dismounted, handed me the horse and hobbled back to his house. Not a word was spoken and I, the nervous working pupil, wondered what the next six months was to bring. You see Lockie was a God; and he had fallen off; and the God had not spoken.

Lockie and Chocolate

Those of you who really know Lockie will know of his great love for chocolate. It manifested itself in many ways. The cheeky grin when he was offered some. The late night trips to the stables at the Equestrian Centre where he took chocolate treats to his horses and the saga of the chocolate Peanut brownies.

We working pupils had a ritual that we thought Lockie did not know about. The first one in from cleaning stables in the morning put on a batch of peanut brownies in the working pupils' cottage. Whoever was going past was supposed to check them and take them out of the oven. Then during the morning the brownies gradually disappeared as we all ate them on our way past.

One morning during our riding lesson Lockie pulled a very black looking peanut brownie out of his pocket and said. "You burnt the Brownies this morning. That's how I like them" and without catching a breath told us all to half pass left.

School riding lessons and taking him literally

Part of our training for sitting the NZHSII was to take a drill ride. One morning Lockie was demonstrating how this should be done and we working pupils were the guinea pigs. After a few fancy twists and turns and being told to "watch our Dressing". The lead rider was told to turn down the centre line at C and we were all to follow. Lockie did not ask the lead rider to turn left or right at A so imagine his surprise when in single file we all left the arena in a dead straight line and headed back to the stables. Lockie was very dry as usual and we were wondering if he was just going to let us go when his voice boomed out HALT. We all did and Lockie just walked on past us heading for his cottage and left us all in the middle of the paddock.

Some personal memories of Lockie:

First day at Wills National Equestrian Centre

His long awaited arrival back at the Wills National Equestrian Centre. He had been away in America teaching for several months. Early on the first morning he asked for two of his horses to be saddled for him to ride. The first was an upstanding grey that was on the market for sale to Japanese buyers.

It was a particularly foggy morning in Taupo when I legged Lockie up and he went off into the mist in the large oval paddock that now houses the practice sand arena. I waited at the gate and could see absolutely nothing. Moments later the sound of galloping hooves. Sometime later the horse appears without Lockie. The fog was so thick you could only see a couple of feet in front of you. Shortly later Lockie appeared. He always had that sort of lame gait so I had no idea whether or not he was hurt but he did have a face like thunder.

Horse trainer. Died aged 67.

Mark Todd might not have achieved his international success without the support and knowledge of Lockie Richards. Todd was part of the first three-day event team that competed outside Australasia when Richards took the team to the United States in preparation for the Lexington world championships in 1978. Richards, 67, has died at his home in Reikorangi on the Kapiti Coast after a long illness. He began his career with horses in his early 20s, breaking them in and teaching at Winifred Lysnar's "riding holidays" in Gisborne, where he was born. The riding holidays were set up so that children who otherwise would have no chance to learn about horses or riding could do so in a relaxed environment. Richards moved to England and taught at riding schools, including Silver Hound and Porlock Vale, and became a Fellow of the British Horse Society in 1963. At that time, he was the youngest person and only New Zealander to receive the honour, according to his life partner Don DeMacedo. In 1964, Richards moved to the United States to teach at the Potomac Horse Centre, the largest residential school in America. He trained riders and horses, and in the early 70s was appointed resident instructor for the American Dressage Institute. Richards coached the New Zealand Olympic team for the Montreal games and the New Zealand dressage team for a 1978 Australian tour. In 1993, Richards and his partner moved to Reikorangi, running Ngatiawa Warmblood Stud, which breeds, trains and sells horses. One of its horses is Uraeus, which was actor Viggo Mortensen's mount in second and third Lord of the Rings movies.

Major John Birtwhistle FBHS 1920 - 2004

Major John N.D. T.D., F.B.H.S. On December 1st 2004, aged 84 years of Burnbridge, Harrogate and Clitheroe, Lancashire and well known and respected within the equestrian community. Loved father of Tim, Gay, Dawn and Drew. Funeral arrangements, contact Brian Price & Son, Funeral Directors, 01200 441297.



Telegraphannouncements

William Richard "Dick" Hern, FBHS CVO CBE, 1921 - 2002)

was an [English Thoroughbred racehorse trainer](#) and winner of sixteen [British Classic Races](#) between 1962 and 1995, and was [Champion Trainer](#) on four occasions.

Following his early career in the Army (Major), he became a riding instructor, including a spell as instructor to the Olympic gold medal winning team in 1952. His first training license was as private trainer to Major Lionel Holliday at La Grange Stables in [Newmarket](#), before moving to West Ilsley three years later.

Hern became a [St. Leger Stakes](#) specialist, winning the event six times. He produced three [Epsom Derby](#) winners in [Troy](#) (1979), [Henbit](#) (1980) and [Nashwan](#) (1989), who also won the [2,000 Guineas](#) and the [King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes](#). Hern trained [Brigadier Gerard](#) who was only beaten once in eighteen races. Other major winners include [Sun Princess](#), [Dayjur](#), [Hethersett](#), [Bireme](#), [Bustino](#), [Longboat](#), [Little Wolf](#), [Petoski](#), [Highclere](#), [Provoke](#), [Prince of Dance](#), [Minster Son](#), [Unfuwain](#), [Dunfermline](#) and [Cut Above](#).

In December 1984 Hern was seriously injured in a hunting accident, after which time he used a wheelchair.

In 1988 he was controversially sacked from his position as trainer for [Queen Elizabeth II](#) at [West Ilsley](#) by her racing manager [7th Earl of Carnarvon](#) - Hern was recovering from heart surgery at the time. Later a compromise was reached whereby Hern shared the stable with the new incumbent - [William Hastings-Bass](#) (later [Earl of Huntingdon](#)) for a year before moving to [Hamdan Al Maktoum's](#) Kingwood House Stables in [Lambourn](#).

Dick Hern died in 2002 at [Oxford, England](#) at age 81.

Telegraphannouncements

Major Dick Hern, who has died aged 81, was one of the outstandingly successful trainers of racehorses in the second half of the 20th century.

During a career that spanned 40 years he won both the Derby and the Oaks three times; the St Leger six times; and the 2,000 Guineas and the 1,000 Guineas twice apiece. He was champion trainer four times.

But his professional life was marked by controversy in 1988, when he was sacked from his position as the Queen's principal trainer by her racing manager, the 7th Earl of Carnarvon. Many in the racing world were appalled, as Hern - already paralysed following an accident on the hunting field - was recovering in hospital after heart surgery at the time of his dismissal.

Subsequently, he was given a short reprieve, to give him time to find another training establishment.

Carnarvon, who died last year, was widely seen as the villain of the piece, although he maintained that, at the time, he had had no option but to relieve Hern of his duties: "I was responsible entirely for one thing, and that was the management of the stable by someone who was fit and capable of running it properly."

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Hern, for his part, remained silent - until October 2000, when he revealed through his authorised biographer, Peter Willett: "What really riled me is that when he [Carnarvon] wanted to tell me I was finished, instead of coming to see me in hospital and looking me in the eye, he summoned my poor wife."

William Richard Hern was born on January 20 1921 at Holford, near Bridgwater in Somerset, the eldest of the three sons of Captain Roy Hern, who farmed some 300 acres. Educated at Monmouth School before spending a year at Millfield, Dick had been winning prizes at horse shows since early boyhood, and hunted with the West Somerset foxhounds.

In 1939, he was commissioned into the North Irish Horse before seeing active service in North Africa and Italy. Together with a fellow officer, Major Michael Pope, he organised an impromptu race meeting on the trotting course at Ravenna.

On demobilisation Hern obtained an instructor's certificate at the Porlock Vale Riding School in Somerset, before becoming chief instructor and coach to the British team that won a gold medal at the 1952 Olympic Games.

In the same year he became assistant to Major Pope, who trained horses for the Flat as well as jumpers at Streatley in Berkshire. While there Hern rode in both point-to-points and steeplechases under rules.

When the Yorkshire industrialist Major L B Holliday advertised for a private trainer for the 50 horses in his Lagrange Stable at Newmarket in 1957, Hern successfully applied for the post. At the end of 1958 he was fifth in the trainers' list, with 40 races to his credit.

In 1962 Hern had his first classic success, when Hethersett won the St Leger; that year he was leading trainer for the first time, and took over the West Ilsley stables near Newbury, then owned by the Astor family. He won a second St Leger with Provoke and the Irish St Leger with Craighouse in 1965.

But Hern took his place at the top of his profession with Brigadier Gerard, a big handsome bay and one of the greatest milers of all time, in 1971.

Owned and bred by John Hislop and his wife Jean, Brigadier Gerard beat Mill Reef in the 2,000 Guineas, then built up a huge public following by maintaining his unbeaten record in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot, the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, the Goodwood Mile, the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes and the Champion Stakes.

Brigadier Gerard's sheer class enabled him to win over the mile and a half of the King George VI and the Queen Elizabeth Stakes as a four-year-old, before he sustained his only defeat, by that year's Derby winner Roberto, in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup at York. That year Hern was leading trainer for the second time.

In 1974 Hern won more classics. For the Queen, who had had horses at West Ilsley since 1966, he won both the 1,000 Guineas and the French Oaks with Highclere, and for Lady Beaverbrook he took the St Leger with Bustino.

In 1977 Willie Carson replaced Joe Mercer as first jockey at West Ilsley; this was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, to which Hern and Carson made their contribution by winning both the Oaks and the St Leger for her with Dunfermline.

In 1979 Hern won his first Derby, with Sir Michael Sobell's Troy, who beat Dickens Hill by a spectacular seven lengths. The following year he regained the trainers' championship after bringing off the Epsom classic double, winning the Derby with Mrs Arpad Plesch's Henbit, and the Oaks with R D Hollingsworth's Bireme.

Among the horses trained by Hern in 1982 was the Queen's three-year-old Height of Fashion, a fine big bay filly by Bustino. In early July she made all the running in the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket.

Shortly afterwards the Queen sold Height of Fashion to Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum for a sum reputedly in excess of £1 million, and with the proceeds bought the West Ilsley establishment.

Hern was leading trainer for the fourth time in 1983. While still a maiden, Sir Michael Sobell's Sun Princess won the Oaks by a record 12 lengths; then, in the autumn, she triumphed in the St Leger.

It was in December 1984 that Hern broke his neck in a fall while hunting with the Quorn. He was confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. But he showed that his ability to run a large stable of high class horses was unimpaired when, in July the following year, he won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes with Lady Beaverbrook's Petoski.

In 1988, during Royal Ascot, Hern suffered a heart attack.

That August, while he was still in hospital after undergoing two operations, he learned that his occupancy of West Ilsley was at an end. Later, however, he was granted a reprieve; there had been an outcry after the announcement, in March 1989, that the Queen had appointed William Hastings-Bass (now the Earl of Huntingdon) to take over at West Ilsley when Hern's lease expired at the end of the season.

Hern's problems were still to be resolved when he won the 2,000 Guineas two months later with Sheikh Hamdan's Nashwan, to the delight of a crowd deeply sympathetic with him in his predicament.

As the Major, in his wheelchair, swept off his panama to welcome Nashwan into Newmarket's winners' enclosure the gesture was greeted by loud and sustained applause.

By the time Nashwan won the Derby in June, a compromise had been reached whereby Hern would share West Ilsley with Hastings-Bass in 1990. A few weeks later came the news that Hern would afterwards train at a new stable, being built by the Maktoum family on Farncombe Down above Lambourn.

Meanwhile, the Queen would allow him to continue living in the rectory that had been his home since 1962. He finally retired at the end of the season of 1997.

By temperament Hern was the traditionalist his well-cut clothes proclaimed him. On the racecourse he had little time for small talk, being absorbed with his responsibilities to the horses in his charge and their owners, thereby giving the impression that he was of formal, not to say severe, disposition.

That impression was highly misleading. When his work was done he relaxed easily, and was a generous host with a large circle of friends, and readily displayed a rather boyish sense of humour.

Hern was appointed CVO in 1980, and CBE in 1998.

He married, in 1956, Sheila Joan Davis, who was to play a valuable, if unobtrusive, part in the running of the stable. She died in 1998.

Pat Smallwood FBHS - 1988

Gill Watson FBHS writes: She ran The Radnage House Riding School until about 1977 when she retired. It was a school where you could learn to ride age 5 or train for your Fellowship! Her training was for life, and much of what I learnt from her will always be with me.
