

MOLLY PIKE

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It is no wonder that six year old Molly Pike from Cambridge has been well and truly bitten by the horse riding bug. She comes from a star studded background of top show jumping riders and racehorse trainers. Molly sat down with Show Circuit to talk ponies, Horse of the Year and her favourite equestrian discipline.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: How has this season gone? What result have you been most proud of?

MOLLY PIKE: I've really enjoyed this season. The 2011 Horse of the Year Show was one of the best bits. I loved winning the Best on Parade sash in the First Ridden Pony of the Year class. We also placed ninth in the First Ridden Rider of the Year and sixth in First Ridden Pony of the Year. I was very proud of my pony. Mum told me I did well to qualify and with the strong competition down there, not to expect a ribbon. If I did it would be a bonus. So we were all very happy with the results! I also had a few placings in 60-70cm show hunter events which I only started doing halfway through the summer.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: You rode at your first Horse of the Year in March didn't you? Did you enjoy it?

MOLLY PIKE: I had such a fantastic time; it was a lot of fun. We were there for the whole week so I got to see a lot of the competitions and events. I'd really like to go back again next year. It was great getting to meet lots of people and the rosettes and sashes were brilliant. The Charleston family also gave all the First Ridden riders a big bar of chocolate which I loved! I also enjoyed looking around all the horse shops and spending some of the prize money I had won over the season.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: Do you come from a horsey family?

MOLLY PIKE: I got my first pony when I was one year old - Nimrod, who was one of dad's old show jumping ponies. I can't remember not being around horses, I sat on my first horse at my parents' wedding. My dad Tony trains racehorses and used to jump Grand Prix ponies when he was younger. Mum has always ridden but has stopped doing shows for the time being, while I'm



SHOW/CIRCUIT:
What are your aims and goals for next season?

MOLLY PIKE:
I really want to win another black sash at the Horse of the Year Show! I would also like to try to qualify for the show hunter classes at HOY!

riding. Mum finds homes for the slow racehorses that come out of the stables and likes to do all the 'pretty' stuff. My grandparents have a breeding stud where I like to go to stay and help. One of my favourite things is going to the Karaka Yearling Sales and watching our horses get sold, as well as helping out up there. On top of that Katie McVean is my cousin so loving horses definitely runs in the family.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: You must be proud of Katie. What do you think of all the success she has had overseas?

MOLLY PIKE: Katie is my role model. I have a big canvas print of me with Katie and Delphi when they won Horse of the Year 2010 on the wall in my bedroom. She's just fantastic and I'm lucky to have her to look up to. It was great to see her competing at Horse of the Year when I was down there. We have also been very excited watching her jump in Europe at the World Cup Finals where she was placed 6th overall.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: What disciplines do you compete in? Which is your favourite?

MOLLY PIKE: I compete in lots of different disciplines, showing, show jumping, dressage; ribbon days, show hunter....My mum likes to keep things varied so riding stays fun for me and my pony. I think show jumping and show hunter are my favourites. They're a bit more exciting than everything else.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: What do you like to do when you're not out at competitions?

MOLLY PIKE: I love to ride my pony on the beach and around the farm helping granddad move the cows. I also like to help out when I can with the racehorses and I like to go with mum and dad to the races and the trials. I do swimming lessons and love dancing to music as well. At the weekends, when I'm not at an event, I will sometimes go out to my grandparents' farm and help them feed the horses.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: Tell us a little bit about your pony.

MOLLY PIKE: At the moment I have my chestnut first ridden pony, Uptown Isaac. He's nearly 20 years old but doesn't look it! We bought him sight unseen but as soon as I rode him I knew that he was the one for me. I remember when we first got him. I jumped on him bareback, cantered him to the end of the paddock and back and said 'yep mum he's a bombproof pony.' We do everything together. He'll jump, show, go out and do dressage, round up the cows or work with the racehorses. He's the perfect pony and I'm very lucky to have him. My little brother Oliver who's two can ride him as well.

SHOW/CIRCUIT: Do you have any plans for the winter?

MOLLY PIKE: We may have some winter dressage and jumping days coming up. I'm also looking forward to having some more lessons and improving my riding. We will try to get down to the beach a few times over the winter while it's not so busy as Isaac adores the beach!

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