



CHRISTINE WEAL

POETRY IN MOTION...

WORDS: TANYA ROBINSON PHOTO (THIS PAGE) - KERRY MARSHALL

After a busy and successful season of competition, Christine takes time from her busy schedule of riding and training to chat with Show Circuit.

Show Circuit: When did you start riding? Can you remember your first pony?

Christine Weal: I started riding when I was about ten years old. Up until that time I really had no interest in horses – I really wanted to be a tennis player - but my family were really into racing and eventing, so we always had horses. The Timms family asked mum if I wanted to have their show pony “CORNELIOUS” and that was the start.

SC: Do you have any mentors or other help (either with your horses or instruction)?

CW: It is very important to me to be surrounded by good, honest and

“I would do everything and anything for anyone at the risk of not leaving time for myself and my riding. This has been the hardest thing for me to learn.”

genuine people who don't just tell me what I want to hear, but who keep me focused. Even if I sometimes think that they are too tough on me, I know it's what I need. I am really lucky. With my riding I am still guided by Bianca Kasselmann and Ulf Moller in Germany, from P.S.I Stable. On the mental side of the sport, Dr Ricky Mcmillian from Australia has been a huge help this year in giving me some direction, and more understanding on how to achieve results. On the business side, Justine Kidd has been a huge help, as I would do everything and anything for anyone at the risk of not leaving time for myself and my riding. This has been the hardest thing for me to learn.

SC: What has been the highlight of your dressage career so far?

CW: Being able to ride and train at some of the best stables in the world, and amazingly enough, to be asked to come back! Also,



PHOTO: Mendip Farm Photography

Christine riding Shona Duncan's CHAMPAGNE ON ICE, HOY 2010

winning the Bates Advanced NZ Championships, and the Vetpro and Zilco leaderboards with LANDRO L. This was huge as we didn't get the best out of him last year, with me spending so much time eventing and not enough time riding him - big learning curve.

SC: What is the best tip you can offer our riders when competing?

CW: To make sure you have made the time during the week to be able to train and focus. Always work on the basics and remember every horse is different.

SC: Best and worst things about dressage?

CW: I love the training in dressage, working to create greater quality and understanding. The worst thing is people trying to take short cuts. Also, dressage in New Zealand isn't made as exciting as it could be, to bring to bring more owners and money into the sport.

SC: You have also competed in the show ring lately – can you outline the similarities and differences for any riders thinking of getting more mileage out of their horses?

CW: I think that showing is great for your riding, and it does make me laugh when dressage riders think its easy. It is a art in itself to get a good workout of these horses. Its good to get your horses into the ring, make them go forward, perform and look good no matter what. A lot of good riders, both here and in Australia, have started in showing before choosing which discipline to go into. I think it is very important to know how to get the best out of a horse and make it look good.

SC: What tips can you offer other riders?

Stick to correct training and trying to achieve better quality. It may take more time, and be harder road at times – and often it gets harder just before you make a break through.

SC: Tell us about the horses you currently have in your stable?

CW: LANDRO L – German stallion. Winner of the Bates New Zealand Championship, Zilco and Vetpro Advanced Series, and the Vetpro final. ABOVE ZERO - reserve champion Elementary at HOY and second in the Elementary Zilco series. JAN VERMEER (owned by Craig and Hayley

Richardson) - a young horse by Voltare who had a win and placings at NZ Champs. FIS UNDERDISCUSSION - this was my dressage horse, but has just left to go to Australia to do eventing with Chris Burton.

SC: Which have been your favourite horses of all time and why?

CW: FARBENFROH of Nadine Cappelman's - he had the most amazing, if somewhat out of control, movement. He always looked like he was having the best fun! Another favourite is FIS UNDERDISCUSSION. I loved riding and dealing with him, he is so “special” in the brain department. I love watching him jump, especially when he is 'somewhat random', and I like watching Chris getting a buzz out of doing an extended trot on him. It's nice to see someone having fun with him like I do.

SC: Do you have a sponsor? What does this mean to you?

CW: I have Bates sponsoring me for about 10 years now. They are amazing and have seen me through many highs and lows. They are always at the front of technology, that makes riding for myself, and for my clients so much easier. I also have Platinum Performance – supplement products from America that keep the horses looking and working well. Along with my owners I couldn't achieve the results I do without having their support, and the enjoyment that I get from achieving results for them.

SC: What achievements and goals are left, that you would like to achieve?

CW: I am always looking for young horses, and I love competing horses on behalf for owners, so that will continue. Up until recently I have been helping Donna Smith in producing event horses and had a lot of success. This year I have gone out on my own to produce dressage horses, and have spent the time on my dressage riding. A change in type of horse is needed for me, as I move in the direction of competing at Rome. LANDRO L is still in Australia, and I intend to go back and forth to compete over there through the winter. I would also like to do some showing classes in Australia in the next couple of years to keep me sharper - I do enjoy the showing!

Presenting an exciting opportunity to tender a stud fee to the stallion:

Kashani

...and help raise funds to send

DOROTHY LENNARD & GLEN TULLOCK

to the Australian Showhorse and Rider Championships.

Kashani continues to be one of the best-value sires available to breeders at stud in New Zealand and he is well known for siring champion race horses, show jumpers, eventers and sporthorses.

RRP Stud fee is \$3000+gst.



Tenders close 5pm Aug 31st 2010 - Contact Leanne Cooke
0274 527550 | 07 8536633 a/h | showringarlands@clear.net.nz

