

## The life and times of Tigger and Jezz [Article printed in Hoofbeat Magazine – December 2004](#)

Eighteen, male and being into horses, riding and all things equestrian is unusual, to say the least. Jeremy, Jezz to those in the know, has been riding for many years. He is currently studying the National Diploma in Equine Management at Merrist Wood Agricultural College in Worplesdon, although he can usually be found on MSN in the evenings and at Argos on Saturdays.

Jezz was starting to win and to be placed on a very regular basis on his second horse Lowri, a 15.3hh dun Welsh Cob mare who he sadly outgrew around a year ago as he is now over 6ft tall – so he had to start again and train with his new steed, 10 year old Tigger – a 16.2hh black (well almost black in the summer and pure black in the winter) Irish Draft crossed Thoroughbred mare who is willing to try most things.

Cross-country, drag hunting and show jumping are all favourites in their own way - although Tigger definitely prefers cross-country and Jezz favours one-day-events with show jumping being the preferred of the three disciplines.

Jezz trains with Mark Corbett and Sarah Ward at the Garth South Pony Club and, of course, with the tutors at Merrist Wood. He is now jumping 3' 6" in training and 3' 3" in competition and is looking forward to becoming affiliated with BE at Christmas – he needs affiliation as local shows do not really cater for jumping at this level and, coincidentally, the possibility of winning cash prizes is attractive to at least one of the pair.

His hopes for the future rest in all things equestrian although he does not have any particular goals at the moment. The training of polo ponies or working with stunt horses seems to be attractive as does working with professional show jumpers.

The pair's most recent outing was at Tweseldown Race Course on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October where he entered the Garth South Hunter Trial. This was their first 3' 6" outing and both rider and mount were suitably apprehensive while tacking up. Our time was 3.27pm so Tigger was loaded into the trusted Lfor Williams trailer at 1.30pm.

Arriving at Tweseldown at 2.00pm we had one and a half hours to tack-up, warm-up and mentally prepare for the task ahead.

All started very well, with the, obviously well versed, commentator noting how well the pair entered and started the course. Speed and accuracy were high and both Jezz and Tigger knew who was in control with the pair performing as one.

Unfortunately it was not our day and at the 12<sup>th</sup> combination fence Tigger was galloping at such a speed that the third part of the combination was missed. Jezz brought Tigger around to the second attempt but Tigger refused. The third attempt was no better and they were eliminated.

The commentator helped the mood by telling all that were listening that this was a horse and rider to keep your eye on in the future.

Our next outing has yet to be arranged as the outdoor season is at an end and the indoor local show jumping events tend to stop at 3' 0". As she was previously a hunt masters horse we have spent a lot of time slowing Tigger down so that control can be more precise. This means that our own drag hunting has been put on a back burner this year.

We will let you know our progress and keep you informed.

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