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**RIDER: BEN HOBDAY**

**HORSE:**

**54 UPTONS WHO**, bay gelding, 16.1 hh, 1995, s: Uptons Deli Circus, d: Whoopi, *Country of Birth*: United Kingdom *Breeder*: Ray Pemberton  
*Owner*: **Rider**

Twenty-two year old Ben from Rossendale in Lancashire will be one of the younger riders at this year's Badminton. Ben began riding aged four progressed to local shows and was a winner of 'first ridden' at Ponies UK. With Lancashire's Holcombe Hunt Pony Club Ben qualified for the Pony Club championships in all three phases; the first to do so in his pony club for 25 years. Keen to become an event rider he went as a working pupil to Cheshire based Hannah Bate, then went to work for show jumper William Funnell.

In 2006 he won the U21 National Championships and was selected for the lottery funded World Class Start Programme, followed with selection for Britain's young rider squad. In 2007 he and Uptons Who represented GB at the Young Rider European Championships, finishing on their dressage score in 6<sup>th</sup> place and in 2008 the pair won European team gold & individual bronze at Kreuth. In 2008 Ben came 7<sup>th</sup> in the CIC\*\*\* at Chatsworth International and later in the year secured his place on the young rider team after a successful run of events. Ben won individual bronze and team gold at Young Rider European championship in Kreuth Germany.

Last year Ben competed in his first four-star at Pau with Gunna Be Good, a horse formerly ridden by Samatha Seaton, where he was 11<sup>th</sup> and won the four-year-old section of the Burghley Young Event horse final with Shadow Boxer.

Uptons Who, bought from an advert in the Farmers Guardian nine years ago and owned by his rider, is by the advanced eventer Uptons Deli Circus who was by the Thoroughbred Shaab. Uptons Who and his father Uptons Deli Circus are the only father/son combination to both win team gold at Young Riders.

**Recent results**

2010 – Pau CCI\*\*\*\* 25<sup>th</sup> Gunna Be Good 2010  
2009 – Burnham Market CIC\*\*\* 14<sup>th</sup> Uptons Who  
2009 – Bramham CCI\*\*\*U25 4<sup>th</sup> Uptons Who  
2009 – Kreuth CH-EU-YR CCI\*\* 3<sup>rd</sup> Uptons Who

2007 – Blair Castle CH-EU-YRCCI\*\* 6<sup>th</sup> Uptons Who  
2006 – Weston Park CCIY\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Uptons Who

**Badminton**

2011 – First time