

Le Mondial du Lion Equine Hall of Fame

Banzai du Loir

Banzai du Loir completed the Mondial du Lion as a seven year old in 2018 and just four years later was crowned World Champion winning the individual Gold medal at Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy.

Banzai was ridden at the Mondial du Lion by the Sarthoise rider Axel Coutte and then, after arriving in the United Kingdom, by Yasmin Ingham.

Bred and produced in the Pays de La Loire, France, he was sold into the United Kingdom in 2019. He hit the headlines when finishing second at his very first run at five star in Lexington in May 2022, a performance that led to selection for the World Championships and one that was almost repeated with a third place finish in Kentucky in 2024.

Breeder Pierre Gouyé remembers :

« The story of Banzai is linked to my encounter with Axel (Coutte). In fact Banzai was the first horse we produced together, he introduced me to the wonderful discipline and world of eventing which I took to straightaway, me that came from show jumping for which I'd been breeding for some years without any success or even much hope for the future.

When I bought his dam Gerboise du Cochet (by Livarot with a thoroughbred blood line) from Eric Legrel who was producing my youngsters at the time, I was taken by her paces and her thoroughbred look. I bought her hoping she'd pass on her movement and blood but still with show jumping in mind.

For background, the brother of Gerboise, Trésor du Cochet, had run at the world championships at Pratoni in 1998 with Pierre de Bastard, a few years before Banzai became world champion at the same site !

Coming back to Banzai, as a colt he didn't really look like a foal to inspire your dreams ! But after he was backed by Valter Antognoli, Axel immediately showed interest when he saw Banzai who by the age of three looked much better.

So it was with Banzai and Axel that I then discovered eventing starting with the classes for 4, 5 and 6 year olds and finishing the young horse circuit at the World Championships for seven year olds at Le Lion d'Angers – the Championships of all Hopes !

At last I'd reached the breeder's Holy Grail and a certain recognition for my efforts.

The sale of Banzai as an 8 year old to that extraordinary young person that is Yasmin Ingham, with the kind and straightforward guidance of Laurent Bousquet, crowned my collaboration with Axel who had always believed in his exceptional potential. The rest of the story can be found in the media !

The World Championship title in 2022 at Pratoni del Vivaro forever marked the memory and history of the Du Loir stud and my friendship with Axel Coutte, our destinies having been linked by the entry into this world of Banzai du Loir. »

Name	Banzai du Loir
7yo MdL	26 th in 2018
World Champs	Won Gold at the 2022 World Championships, Pratoni del Vivaro
DoB	2011
Sex	Gelding
Studbook	Selle Français
Origins	By Nouma d'Auzay out of Gerboise du Cochet by Livarot
Breeder	Pierre Gouyé (FRA)
1 st Owner	Pierre Gouyé
1 st Rider	Axel Coutte (FRA)
2 nd Owners	Sue Davis & Janette Chin
2 nd Rider	Yasmin Ingham (GBR)

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