

## Le Mondial du Lion Equine Hall of Fame

### **Nereo**

Sometimes a horses' first championship performance is not always auspicious. When Nereo came to the Mondial du Lion as a seven year old in 2007 he finished in 41<sup>st</sup> place on a score of 194.2 penalty points after what can be best described as an eventful cross country.

Nereo's true ability soon became apparent when he won the individual Bronze medal in 2010 at the Lexington, Kentucky, World Equestrian Games. In 2012 he won the five star competition at Pau, France and in 2017 he won the prestigious Badminton Horse Trials five star.

From the age of four years Nereo was ridden by the New Zealander Andrew Nicholson. Their other notable performances included :

- 4<sup>th</sup>, at the foot of the podium, at the 2012 Olympic Games in London
- 8<sup>th</sup> at the World Equestrian Games in Normandy, 2014
- Finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place on three separate occasions at the Burghley five star, in years 2011, 2013 and 2016. He also finished 8<sup>th</sup> there in 2017.
- Completing Badminton three times; in 11<sup>th</sup> place 2010, 12<sup>th</sup> in 2011 & 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2013

Annabel Gentili groomed for Andrew Nicholson for several years and got to know Nereo as well as anyone. In her words :

*« Un enfant doré. He trembled like a leaf whenever he met somebody new. As timid as he was brave, it wasn't easy to win his confidence but once done he became the most faithful friend you could ever hope for. I spent hours going back and forth to his field offering to bring him in but only he himself would decide when the time was right!*

*He fulfilled the dream of an exceptional rider and a whole team at Badminton in 2017. »*

In 2018 Nereo's retirement was honoured by formal a ceremony held after the prize giving at Badminton. He retired to the home of the Nicholson family and continued to be worked by Andrew's daughter Lily.

Name	<b>Nereo</b>
7yo MdL	2007 finishing 41 <sup>st</sup>
World Champs	Bronze at the Lexington World Equestrian Games 2010
5* winner	Won Pau in 2012 and Badminton 2017
DoB	2000
Sex	Gelding
Studbook	Caballo de Deporte Español (CDE)
Origins	By Fines out of Berganza by Golfi
Breeders	Ramon & Ana Beca, Seville, Spain.
Owner	Deborah Sellar
Rider	Andrew Nicholson (NZL)