



Non-Fiction • Coffee Table Style

EQUESTRIAN LEGENDS

THE CONCEPT

The difference between great and greatness in any sport is always a fine margin, a split second, a fraction. But the equestrian discipline is something different, two athletes, two hearts and two souls working as one. **The “Equestrian Legends” series focuses on the horses that re-wrote history and defined their sport, setting them apart from the rest.**

From the green turf of the racetrack to the golden dreams of an Olympic stadium, they have given us goose bumps, heart-stopping moments and created some of the most iconic and dramatic stories that epitomise the true greatness of equestrianism.

There is no blueprint to creating a champion. These athletes are living, breathing creatures each with their own personality and a complex mind.

I believe these elites are born with that something a little extra special. Unlocked by the humans who are devoted to them, and it is that tiny spark, a desire to be great, that makes them a legend.



Tiger Roll - Dual Grand National Winner

The "Equestrian Legends" book focuses on what makes each of these horses so individual, with over 70 legends featured. From working horses to stand-out sires and Olympic Medallists – this series draws together all corners of the equestrian world.

With unique access to a whole generation of stars, there is no other compilation of names like it.

Whilst most of the horses featured have competed across the UK and Ireland, many of them have also competed to the highest international level, so therefore appeal to a global audience.



Bobs Worth - Cheltenham Gold Cup Winner



Valegro - Holder of all Dressage World Records, Triple Olympic Gold Medallist
Also pictured, his sire, Negro, who is also a legend in his own right as a key sport horse stallion.



THE EQUESTRIAN INDUSTRY

- In the UK, racing is the best attended sport after football. [1]British horse racing alone generated £3.5bn in direct, indirect and induced expenditure, in 2018. [2]
- There are 374,000 horse-owning households in Britain [3]. An estimated 1.5m people in Britain ride and many were inspired to take up horse sport by the 2012 London Olympic Games medal tally.[4]
- Globally, the equestrian industry is worth \$300bn, of which it has a value of \$133bn in Europe and \$6.2bn in the UK. In the USA, the equine industry has a greater economic impact than motion pictures.[5]

[1]The British Horse Society, The Equine Industry [2]The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, 2018 [3]Beta National Equine Survey, 2019

[4]Equine Sector Manifesto of the Horse, 2015 [5] Steve Elliot, Alltech



Honeysuckle - Champion Hurdle winning mare, unbeaten on 19 starts

NOTABLE NAMES INCLUDED



1

Valegro – Holder of all dressage world records, triple Olympic Gold medallist, ridden by Charlotte Dujardin.

2

Sprinter Sacre – over £1 million in prize money, dual Queen Mother Champion Chase winner, with many other Grade 1 wins. Famously came back from a heart condition to win.

3

Duke – the last known surviving pit pony, representing a whole era of horses from a time when the mining industry shaped communities and much more.

4

Tiger Roll – The first horse since Red Rum to win back-to-back Grand Nationals, also has multiple Cheltenham Festival victories.

5

Yeats – record holder of Ascot Gold Cup wins, and subsequent Champion Sire.

6

Istabraq – three-time Champion Hurdle winner, cementing himself as one of the all-time greatest hurdlers. (Pictured left, aged 30)

With these horses competing over a specific time frame, the stories of each of them are further brought to life by the cross-over of many of these horses being rivals to one another.



SEA THE STARS

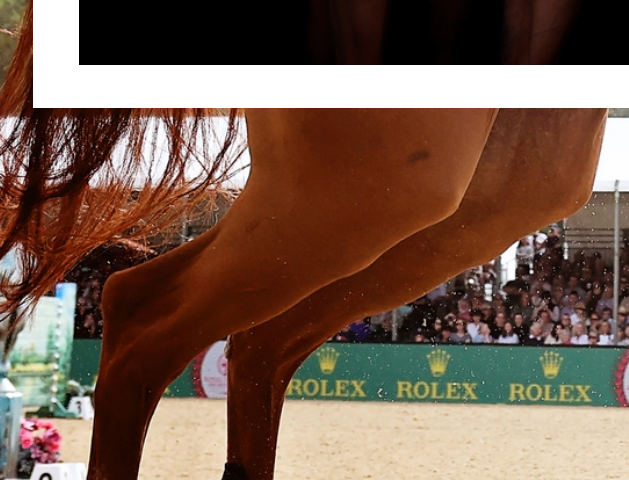
Regarded as one of the greatest racehorses of all time, he won the 2000 Guineas, The Derby, and Eclipse Stakes, in addition to the International Stakes, Irish Champion Stakes and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The Champion 3yo now has a successful career at stud.



LENAMORE

Charismatic event horse with multiple Olympig and WEG championships under his belt. Competed at 5* level with Caroline Powell to win Burghley, and 7 consecutive Badminton completions to his name. He holds the record for having the most British Eventing Points of any individual horse.

Explosion W - Multiple 5* Grand Prix Wins, European Silver Medalist and Tokyo 2021 Gold Medalist





VISCOUNT

The longest-serving military horse, Viscount retired to The Horse Trust with other service horses.



DREAM ALLIANCE

An unlikely winner of the Welsh National, Dream Alliance inspired the motion picture, Dream Horse, starring Damien Lewis.

"Dreamer" was bred on an allotment in the Welsh Valleys and owned by a syndicate of local owners. Winning the Welsh National was a real fairy-tale.



The "Legends" series has had great support from a variety of industry professionals, from owners to riders, and including the team at The Irish National Stud.

Pre-Pandemic, The Irish National Stud had 138,000 visitors annually. One of the biggest attractions at the stud is the paddock of "Living Legends."

The "Living Legends" spend their days together as a herd; it would be hard to find another field in the world where you could get up close to horses who collectively hold as many Grade 1 wins as those at The Irish National Stud. Notable names include Hurricane Fly, who holds the records of the most Grade 1 wins of any jumps horse, and Faugheen, the best 2 miler of the 21st century.

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One of the most unique aspects of the whole series is how the horses from all different disciplines link back together as you delve into their past.

First run in 1839, The Grand National is the most valuable jump race in Europe.
In 2019, the Grand National was watched by an audience of 10 million.

Grand National Winners Featured:

**TIGER ROLL ● MINELLA TIMES ● MON MOME ● MONTY'S PASS
BINDAREE ● PINEAU DE RE ● NOBLE YEATS ● BALLABRIGGS ● HEDGEHUNTER**

Mon Mome - 2009

Longest-priced winner in 42 years to win,
at odds of 100/1.



Monty's Pass - 2003

The oldest living winner of the race.
Passed away aged 30.



Minella Times - 2021

Ridden by Rachel Blackmore, the first woman to
win the Grand National.





The list of legends included does not just focus on those who have sporting success; a number of working horses feature too.

Every equine has their own story to tell, and alongside each portrait, is an **accompanying write-up**, exploring the horse's career and individuality, including quotes and stories from those who know the legends the best.

Above is mother and daughter, Cloud and Claudia, who worked alongside each other at The Royal Mews on all major State Occasions, including Royal Weddings and Trooping the Colour.



ABOUT ROSE:

Growing up in a family home filled with a variety of pets, it was inevitable I would develop a love of all animals. There were dogs, rats, rabbits, guinea pigs and rescue feral pigeons – and yes, that is all at once! But my biggest love is always horses – anything to do with horses – the thrill of national hunt racing to the grace of dressage. It is everything about them. As soon as I was old enough to stand I was led around the paddock on the family Welsh pony Fred, before joining the local riding stables. After years of nagging, my parents finally agreed I was allowed a pony of my own. And along came another little grey Welsh pony, Dolly, who would be part of my life for nearly a decade.

Work sees me travelling the length and breadth of the country photographing for private clients, capturing the relationship between horse and owner. I love telling a story with my photographs. The rest of my work involves attending national and international shows as a press photographer at events such as Horse of the Year Show, Royal Windsor and Olympia, and CHIO Aachen.

Highlights:

- Images of the holder of all three world records, Valegro, widely published after his retirement including in Charlotte Dujardin's "Girl on the Dancing Horse" autobiography. (Published by Penguin Random House)
- Photographing at The Royal Mews for various events, including HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III. Through the Master Saddler at the Royal Mews I was commissioned to photograph the "Master of the Horse," Lord Vestey, at Buckingham Palace as a retirement gift
- Photographer for 'Equestrian Management Agency' who manages many top riders across the UK and abroad including Olympians Charlotte Dujardin and Carl Hester. Photographing for their clients and brands they represent, as well as the masterclass events they run with some of the most notable names in equestrian sport, including the current Olympic Champion Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and Danish-World Champion and Daniel Bachmann Andersen.



Shishkin - Grade 1 Hurdler, unbeaten on 10 starts