

Big breaks

"He's become the reason behind almost every decision I've made in the past five years," says Jock.

For an up-and-coming rider knocking on the door of the big time, having the right horse come along at the right time can make or break their career.

Jeanette Brakewell can testify to this. She teamed up with her great campaigner Over To You ('Jack') when she was just 18.

"No one ever imagined Jack would be a four-star horse – least of all me," admits Jeanette. "He didn't move particularly well and was a bit of an odd shape, but he was a confident and brave jumper and we kept moving up the levels."

Jeanette and Jack competed at their first Badminton in 1998. They finished 16th and were subsequently selected for the European Championships in Rome.

Jeanette was 24 at the time and this was an important turning point in her international career. The duo went on to rack up a medal haul that included three European Team Gold Medals, World Team Bronze and Individual Silver Medals and two Olympic Team Silver Medals.

"I was exceptionally lucky that Jack came to me when he did," says Jeanette. "I was fortunate to be riding for the Lawrence

David Event team at the time, so I was getting plenty of experience, but once I had started riding big tracks on Jack it gave me the confidence that I could go on and do more with other horses. He taught me what you should look for in a four-star horse – bravery, consistency and soundness." Over To You eventually retired at Burghley Horse Trials in 2008.

When Jack's international career wound down after the Blenheim European Championships in 2005, the new rising stars Sharon Hunt and Tankers Town stepped up to the plate.

Like Jeanette, Sharon joined forces with Tankers Town ('Jasper'), the horse with whom she represented Great Britain at the 2006 Aachen World Equestrian Games and the 2008 Beijing Olympics, at the start of her career.

He's [Promise] become the reason behind almost every decision I've made in the past five years

.....

BY HOLLYWOOD



122

BIG BREAKS
Burghley Life

OVER TO YOU
RETIREMENT
WITH JEANETTE
BRAKEWELL, 2008