



My hands were a bit up in the air — my dad wouldn't have been very proud of me!

Richard Hughes on riding Talent to victory in the Oaks **see page 30**

Eventing COVER STORY

Happy birthday Over To You

Jeanette Brakewell's former eventer turned 25 this week

OVER TO YOU, the world's most capped event horse, turned 25 yesterday (5 June), writes **Ellie Hughes**.

But despite his advancing years, "Jack" is showing few signs of slowing down, according to his connections.

"He's still ridden most days," Jeanette Brakewell told *H&H*. "He's allowed to jump with my yard manager, Tara Adams, which he loves. He's not quite as springy as he used to be, but that doesn't bother him."

The 16hh racing reject was gifted to Jeanette by his owner, Mark Johnson, at the time of his retirement. He helped Team GBR to seven team medals and amassed more than 2,170 British Eventing (BE) points during his 16-year career. This puts him third in the all-time BE rankings behind Lenamore (Caroline Powell) and Spring Along (Daisy Berkeley).

Jack contested his final event at Tattersalls in 2008.

"He's played an active role in yard life since," said Jeanette.

"His most important job is acting as nanny to the younger horses. He's as solid as a rock — even a JCB wouldn't shift him — the youngsters just bounce off him."

Jack is still fed on the same diet of Horse & Pony cubes that sustained him in his career.

"He has no extra supplements — he's quite



remarkable," said Jeanette.

When there is space in the lorry, Jack still attends events to be ridden around.

"He went to Lincolnshire earlier in the year just for the fun of it," said Jeanette.

"Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that I couldn't get him out until the end of the day. But he didn't seem to mind."

Mary King, who was a member of British teams with Jeanette and Jack on four occasions, said: "Jack could always be relied on to fulfil his key role as pathfinder."

"It is a testament to his toughness and Jeanette's management of him that he is still going strong at the ripe old age of 25."

Career highlights

1993: finished eighth in his first BE event — a pre-novice at Witton Castle

1998: 16th Badminton; individual member of GB squad at World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Rome

1999: ninth Badminton; European team gold medal, Luhmühlen

2000: team silver medal, Sydney Olympics

2001: European team

gold medal at Pau

2002: world team bronze and individual silver medals, Jerez WEG

2003: third Badminton where he was the only horse to complete on his dressage score; team gold medal, Punchestown Europeans

2004: seventh Badminton; Olympic team silver, Athens

2005: fifth

Badminton; European team gold medal, Blenheim

2006: fourth Badminton, his fourth top 10 placing at the event; fifth Burghley

2007: 14th Badminton

2008: competed in his final event, the CIC3*W at Tattersalls in Ireland, finished 13th



Over To You still jumps at home