

# The horse that made me

Jeanette Brakewell on the effortlessly impressive and workmanlike Over To You, the best horse she's ever had


**T**HE best horse I've ever had is Over To You; I've never found anything else like him, with the same easy outlook on life. It took some work — I first rode him when he was a sharp four-year-old. Then when he was five, Richard Holdsworth bought him for me to ride. He was a weedy young thoroughbred, with a very high neck (which he still has), and he holds his tail high. He's a bit like a teapot.

But he was very workmanlike. He trotted like a sewing machine in the early days, but that all improved with work and training.

We did Bramham when he was eight and I realised he might be the team horse I had dreamt of — he found it all so easy, everything I asked him, he just did it effortlessly. This scope appeared from nowhere. I knew I was on a really, really good horse. At 10 he did his first Badminton and went on to be a fantastic team horse.

It was a special partnership; someone else might have tried to change his way of going, but I went with the flow. He retired at 18 and he's 28 now and still working. He's so good to do, so sensible; he's solid as a rock and anyone can ride him these days. I dread the day he is no longer here — I just don't think about it. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** former showjumper Malcolm Pyrah

A photograph of a woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a blue quilted vest over a white shirt. She is looking up at a brown horse with a white blaze on its face. The horse is wearing a black halter. They are standing in front of green foliage.

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