

Katie Mc Entee (IRE) Athlete



Introducing 17 year old Katie Mc Entee from Ireland. Katie was born in a small town called Dromore in Northern Ireland.

She started riding aged 3 and competed in her first show when she was 5 years old.

Her highest ranking class is 1.45m

Her greatest achievements is either being selected for the Pony European Team in 2021 or winning the Pony Nations Cup Final in Peelbergen, Holland.



This is Katie's first visit to South Africa

Current horses are Kinmar Bespoke and Roundthorn Hercules.

Her horses are all special to her as well as a mare called Hip Girl who won a lot of speed classes.

Her Coach is also her Dad – Dermott Lennon

Katie loves her horses and also has 6 dogs at home .

Katie has no show jumping idol in particular at the moment, she looks up to the riders have jumped in 5* level shows as they show dedication and commitment to the sport.



Coen Williams (IRE) Athlete



Introducing 17 year old Coen Williams.

Coen was born Ireland and started riding at the age of 7. His highest level has been competing in the 1.50m 48 Grand Prix in Spain.

He has had a hugely successful pony career winning the National leading rider in U14 and U16 at the RDS Dublin.

He was also 3rd in the World Cup Qualifiers and won the U16 Team Gold at the pony Europeans alongside the individual Bronze in Poland 2022.

Coen progressed into horses, anchor man for his team at Europeans in Italy 2023 and secured Gold for the u18 Junior Team

His current horses are Conthanja and J Diago.

His top horse was his pony Saxton's Freedom who won European Gold and 3 Nations Cups.

His coach is his dad Adrian Williams.

This is Coen's first visit to South Africa.

He has a Jack Russel called Bubbles.

'His idol is Irelands Michael Pender and Dutch Rider Jeroen Dubbeldam.



Katie Nallon (IRE) Athlete



Introducing 16 year old Katie Nallon from Ireland.

Katie was born in Co, Mayo which is on the west coast of Ireland. She started riding when she was 5 years old and has enjoyed every moment since.

She has been lucky enough to have represented Ireland in many Nations cup teams and was individual 6th in the European championships in Children on horses on one of her favorite horses Javas True Colors.

This is Katies first visit to South Africa and she is delighted to be given the wonderful opportunity to compete here.

Her Coach and trainer is her Dad Richie and her brother Ciaran also gives her good advice.

Her many Grand Prix wins have included some lovely horses including Ecklands Helado, Claires Delight, Aganis Summer Tokyo Drift, MVS Amoura, Javas True Colour, Caras Candy Girl and she hopes to qualify these for the prestigious RDS Dublin horse show in 2024.

Her Rider she looks up to is Laura Kraut as a incredible jockey and certainly one that she always admires the talent and enjoys watching her success.



Eoin Brennan (IRE) Athlete



Introducing 17 year old Eoin Brennan.

Eoin was born in Kilkenny, Ireland

He started riding at the age of 4. His highest level he has competed at is 1.45/1.50m International level.

His greatest achievements are winning the Pony Team Gold Medal at the European Championships and also winning the Junior Team Gold Medal at the European Championships.

His current horses are Eskola and Diadema Della Caccia.

His top horse is Eskola.

When not riding Coen also enjoys playing Golf.

His dad Tim Williams coaches him as well as Denis Flannelly and Ger O'Neill.

This is Coen's first visit to South Africa.

He has 2 dogs at home.

Mikay Pender an Irish Show Jumper is his idol a top class rider.



James Kernan (IRE)



TEAM MANAGER—IRELAND

James Kernan was born in Crossmaglen, County Armagh, Ireland. He is a son of Frank Kernan, the famous trainer and breeder of international show jumpers. James has a wealth of experience of international competition, having competed at the highest level.

James rode a family bred horse “Touchdown” when he represented Ireland in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 finishing as the highest placed Irish rider and also the same duo were part of the winning Aga Khan team at Dublin Horse Show in 1992.

The Kernan family have long ties to the famous British rider David Broome and sold Countryman to David Broome who rode to 4th place for Ireland at the 1988 Seoul Olympic.

James is recognized both nationally and internationally as one of the best trainers of show jumpers in Ireland.

He has competed at the highest international level on an individual basis and as part of the famous 3 in a row Irish Show jumping team of 1977,1978,1979 which won the Agha Khan cup at the RDS in Dublin for 3 consecutive years. This famous team consisted of: Captain Con Power, Paul Darragh, Eddie Macken



James Kernan (IRE)



James Kernan took over the reins at the family equestrian centre – Kernan Equestrian Centre and is the principal director of the business.

James has a wealth of experience of international competition, having competed at the highest level.

He has been the Team Manager of the Children, Junior and Young Riders Irish Teams for 43 years and recently the winning Irish Junior Team double Gold at the 2023 FEI European Show Jumping Championships in Gorla Minore, Italy.



Alice Rocha Laruca (POR) Athlete



Introducing 16 year old Alice from Portugal.

Alice was born in Portimao in Portugal.
She started riding aged 3.

Alice has competed in 1.40m classes.
Her greatest achievements has been competing in 2 European championships.

Her current horses are Karim and Goodstock.
Her top horse is Canouan Island.
This is also Alice's first visit to South Africa.

Her coach is Luca Rosado.
Katie loves animals and also has 2 dogs.
Her show jumping idol is Henrik von Eckerman.



Ana Marta de Silva Abreu (POR) Athlete



Introducing 19 year old Ana from Portugal.

Ana was born in Coimbra, Portugal.

She started riding at age 4 years old.

Ana has competed at a few 1.40m classes.

Her favorite result is a win in a 1.35m International Grand Prix.
Her current horses are Onstar de Gandarinha and Fungaf da Gandarinha.
Her top horse is K Libra da Gandarinha.

Her coach is Carlos Abreu.
Katie loves all animals and has 5 dogs.

Her show jumping idol is Teresa Blazquez



Camila Nunes Pereira (POR) Athlete



Introducing 17 year old Camila from Portugal.

Camila was born in Porto in Portugal.
She started riding at the age of 9.

Her best horse has been Letje.
She came 3rd in the Portuguese Cup in 2022 and 2023 as well as placed 4th in the 2022 Championship with Letje.

This is Camila's first visit to South Africa
Her Coach is Duarte Canavaro.

Camila loves her horses and also has 2 Jack Russels called Spotty and Meco.
She also competes in Dancing competitions and took part in the National Competition in April.
Camila admires Penelope Leprovost as one of the current top show jumpers.



Daniela Pereira Rodrigues (POR) Athlete



Introducing 19 year old Daniela from Portugal.

Daniela was born in Lisbon, Portugal.
She started riding at age 5.

She has competed in 1.45m Grand Prix's.
Her best achievements are National Champion and vice champion, being part of the Portugal National team in the 2018 European Championships.

Her current horses are Folds Lord Lux, Diamant Wetts, Gamir Wetts and Ashton.

Her coach is Silvia Correia.
This is also Daniela's first visit to South Africa.
Her show jumping idols are Marcus Ehning and Scott Brash.



Luis Negrao (POR)



LUIS MANUEL DE SAMPAIO SOTO-MAYOR NEGRÃO TEAM MANAGER—PORTUGAL

Louis was born in Coimbra, Portugal and is married with 4 children and grandfather to 4 grand children.

In January 1978 assumed the leadership of the Center for Horse Horse training of the Portuguese Association of Horse Breeders based in Coruche - in the farm of Agolada de Baixo, Portugal.

In 1979 he was invited to work as chief rider for the National Stud where the state stallions were selected and trained. In 1980 he was invited to join the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art. In 1984 he was awarded a prize, in Paris, in the Dressage Competition for Spanish and Lusitanian horses, which took place during the World Championship - Salon du Cheval—Palais des Expositions. In 1986 he sold to a multinational entity a Lusitanian horse he had trained, that was offered as a present to His Royal Highness the King Hassan II of Morocco, on the occasion of his silver anniversary. It was then his responsibility to deliver and show this horse ridden by him. Luis has competed at international level in Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping. At present he devotes most of his time to the training and competition of young horses. He has some victories and got classified in national Grand Prix Show Jumping Competitions of all categories, and participated in Championships in Portugal, as well as in international events (CSI and CSIO) and in 1999 in the Championship for Young Horses, in Lanaken in Belgium. He practiced the discipline of dressage up to the level St. George, with a variety of classifications. In Eventing he was pre-selected to participate in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Regarding his personal training he has the qualification of Equestrian Master assigned by the Portuguese Equestrian Federation and recognized by the International Group for Equestrian Qualifications. He has a diploma for coaching the Olympic disciplines of Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing



Luis Negrao (POR)



He is a member of the Higher Pedagogical Council of the National School of Horsemanship, a certified organization which is responsible for the training of trainers in Portugal. Luis also has a Certificate of Professional Aptitude (C.A.P.) in June 2006.

Followed closely the formation of the "International Group for Qualifications in Training Horse and Rider", an international entity that supervises the training of riding teachers, of which Portugal is a member country.

He has formed and contributed for the formation of innumerable professional and amateur riders in the above mentioned disciplines.

He is in charge of the management of the Hippodrome of Bairrada, an equestrian center dedicated to the training of horses and riders as well as of professionals (riding teachers and grooms), having already contributed to the training of hundreds of accredited professionals.

Championship. He has participated as a coach in several CSIO-Y and European Championships for more than 10 years, having taken on the role of national youth coach around 3 years old.



Ashlee Taylor (RSA) Athlete



Introducing 19 year old Ashlee Taylor.

Ashlee was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ashlee comes from a renowned SA Equestrian Family with both her parents having represented South Africa.

She was 2 years old when she sat on her first pony. Ashlee has competed at 1.45m level. She won the bronze medal for SA Junior Championships and was selected as one of the top final 4 Athletes for the 2022 FEI Youth Equestrian Games.

Her current horses are Hope van Orshof and 334 Callaho Lariboo. Ashlee played sports at school but all her time now is devoted to riding.

Her coach's are her parents Barry and Lorette Taylor. She loves animals and has a few dogs and cats, a mini pony and a mini donkey. Her showjumping idol is Nick Skelton.



Giorgia Scribante (RSA) Athlete



Introducing 17 year old Giorgia Scribante. Giorgia is currently a Grade 11 pupil at St Mary's CSG in Kloof. She was born in Durban and started riding aged 5. Her highest competition level is 1.40m and she currently competes as a Junior in the 1.35m classes. Her greatest achievement is without a doubt being selected to represent RSA as part of the SASJ 2024 Tri-Nations Youth Team. She also finished 3rd and 4th at the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup and then following that up with a 3rd and 4th finish at the 2024 Junior SA Outdoor Grand Prix. Her current horses are Capital Crawford, Ultime D'Eliapi & Callaho Casey. Her favourite horse is Capital Crawford who she competes for her sister who is studying at university. Giorgia's sole focus is her riding but she used to play Hockey, Tennis and swimming. She adores animals and currently has 6 pets. 4 dogs and 2 miniature ponies. Her Coach is Grant Langley. Her idols are Grant Langley, Henrik Von Eckermann, Steve Guerdat, Edwina Tops Alexander and Jessica Springsteen.



Thomas van Rijckevorsel (RSA) Athlete



Introducing 19 year old Thomas van Rijckevorsel.

Thomas was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and started riding when he was 11. Thomas has competed at 1,50m and been round the SA Derby twice on his now retired mare Gledsmuir's Red Ivory, as well as the SA Adult Championships. Thomas well know in South Africa for representing South Africa at the 2022 FEI Youth Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. He won individual gold and a team bronze medal for Team Africa. He currently has Capital My Lady, Gulliver, Pippa Dáxmar, Callaho Sha Rukh Khan, Font Arum and Capital Raelyn. His top horse is definitely Capital My Lady, she is his heart horse. Thomas is coached by Dominey Alexander who also accompanied him to Aachen in 2022. He loves animals and also has 4 dogs at home. His idol is definitely "oom" Dom (Dominey Alexander) his coach and Steve Guerdat.



The 2024 Toyota Easter Festival
23 March - 1 April 2024



Hamza Minty (RSA) Athlete



Introducing 16 year old Hamza Minty from South Africa.

Hamza was born in Durban, KwaZulu Natal in South Africa and he started riding when he was 8 years old. Hamza has competed at 1.40m and his greatest achievements so far was winning the RSA FEI Childrens Classics Gold Tour in 2022 on Callaho Que Cassa and recently riding in the 2024 Phillip Smith Memorial and coming 2nd. His current horses are Callaho Conray, Callaho Qui Cassa, Callaho Corida De Rebelle and Continental Drift.

His top horse at the moment is Callaho Conray who is currently on form and winning the 2024 Junior Presidents Cup and coming 2nd in the Toyota Junior SA Outdoor Grand Prix. His coach is Chad Cunningham and Jenna Odell. Hamza has 5 dogs and 2 cats at home. His showjumping icons are Bronwyn Meredith Dos Santos and Thomas van Rijckevorsel.



Janine Coetzee (RSA) Res Athlete



Introducing 16 year old Janine Coetzee.

Janine was born in Springs, South Africa. Janine started riding at age 2 when she had a little Shetland pony classed Patches. Janine has competed at 1.40m with Rotoflo Capital Harrison and Rotoflo Caracas. Having won multiple titles in Childrens classes on Quiletta who also at barely 15hh jumped the 1.35m selection classes for the ULC Aachen top 16 athletes. Its hard for her to chose a favourite horse, but she has a strong bond with Caracas. She is coached by Charley Crockart. Janine loves animals, and has a sweet golden cocker spaniel names splash. There are so many talented south African riders but she looks up to Nicole Horwood, Nicola Sime Riley and Charley Crockart. Her international rider idol would be Jessica Springsteen.



Brendan McNevin (RSA)



TEAM MANAGER—SOUTH AFRICA

Brendan is originally from KwaZulu Natal but have been in JHB for 20 years now...

I am officially 42 years old in my passport, but I still don't believe it!

Horses are not only my sport and business, but they are my entire life, I have been fortunate enough to have be trained by some of the best riders in the country, and have competed at various levels, but have definitely found a passion in training horses and riders to be prepared for our dynamic sport...

A highlight of my life was in 2019, taking Team South Africa to China for a Nations Cup. It's hard to beat championship day, a full grand stand, with all the flags out on display, truly inspiring, and such valuable team experience for our young riders.

