website

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6. About

Nicola is an accomplished rider, sport horse producer and equestrian coach. Following the purchase of the seven-year-old gelding “Puissance” from Holland, at the age of just 16 Nicola and he formed an exceptional partnership and successfully progressed through the ranks to the very top level of show jumping on a global scale. Over the next few years the partnership would make four European Championship team appearances for Ireland, win a Senior National Championship title (still being the youngest female every to do so), achieve global success at CSI5\* level and achieve the ultimate Irish rider’s dream of selection for the Irish Team competing in the Aga Khan Trophy at the Dublin Horse Show, where Nicola helped Ireland to finish in runner-up position.

During this period, Nicola was also pursuing her studies in Trinity College Dublin, but upon graduating with a degree in Electronic Engineering in 2010, she chose to pursue her passion of show jumping over an engineering career. This business entailed sourcing, training, competing and selling younger show jumping horses, as well as providing high-quality coaching, from her yard in Co. Kildare.

Nicola would describe her three greatest strengths as being her determination, dedication and integrity. These have helped her to become very successful in her chosen career path. She has spent time training with some of the world’s greatest riders, learning their system and developing her own exclusive system with this knowledge. Nicola has uniquely spent a considerable amount of her own training focusing on her flatwork skills and developing the rideability of the horses she produces, making them very attractive to both professional and high-level amateur riders as well as better competitors for the students she coaches.

Her professional achievements include:

* FEI Bronze Badge of Honour Award in recognition of her appearances on the Senior Irish Team in Sweden, Greece, Canada, Norway, Spain and of course the Aga Khan Trophy in Ireland
* Youngest ever rider to win the Senior National Champion title, at the age of 21
* Gold and silver medallist at the World University Equestrian Championships
* Production of young horses right up to Senior European Championship level
* Production of horses which have been sold to riders from the USA, Canada, Japan, UAE, Switzerland, Malaysia, mainland Europe and Ireland
* Internationally recognised coach (Level 2)

1. Horses
   1. Current Horses [*each of these will need a short blurb giving best results, level, and an embedded video*]
      1. Imaran
      2. Errol
      3. FTS Elliot
      4. FTS Killossery Konfusion
      5. Billy Stirling
      6. Quiraconda
   2. Reference Horses [*each of these will need a short blurb giving best results, level, and an embedded video*]
      1. Calou
      2. Texas M’Aurea
      3. C’Mon Girl
      4. Cessina
      5. Shantonagh
      6. Borindy
      7. Bonheur van de Kapel
      8. Having a Ball
      9. Astilbe B
      10. Penny Lane
      11. Dynastie
      12. D’Haifa
      13. Cote D’Or
      14. Piper
      15. Zin Chin
      16. Wayfer
      17. Baquito
   3. Nicola’s experience in sourcing and producing horses gives her excellent skills and contacts to assess and locate horses for any level of rider, as well as a great network of clients to promote your horse for sale. Whether you are thinking of buying or selling, please get in touch to discuss the options available to you!
2. Sponsors

Nicola and her team are extremely grateful to all of the generous sponsors who have come on board over the last couple of years. Our sport depends on their support, so in return please check out their websites and products.

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

If you would like to come on board as a sponsor, or discuss the opportunity of investing in a horse with the aim to either compete it at a higher level or produce it to sell on, then please contact Nicola in confidence on +353 87 61 65 738 or via [e-mail](mailto:sponsorship@nicolafitzgibbon.com).

[*Want each sponsor’s logo linking to their own websites along with some photographs of me with their products etc*]

1. Facilities and Services
   1. **Facility** [should probably say under construction for the time being]

The facilities at X Stables are top-class. Two American barns contain a total of 15 luxury loose boxes, all with rubber floors, well-ventilated and well-lit. There is also a dry grooming bay, solarium and wash bay with hot water, a secure, insulated tack room, specialised rug washing and drying facilities and a secure purpose-built feed room.

Outside, there is a six-horse walker with a cushioned rubber surface, two extra-safe all-weather turnout paddocks, ample individual grass paddocks, and a 60m x 30m all-weather arena with a super surface for jumping as well as everyday training.

* 1. **Livery**

There are several options available for livery at X Stables.

* + 1. **Competition/Training livery**

Nicola will take your horse to train and compete herself with mutually-agreed goals in mind

* + 1. **Sales/Production Livery**

If you wish to sell your horse

* + 1. **Coaching livery (short- and long-term)**

Nicola will take your horse to train and compete herself with mutually-agreed

* 1. **Coaching**

Nicola is an accomplished coach with the internationally-recognised HSI Level 2 qualification. Having worked with riders from Riding Club to Grand Prix level, under-10s to over 40s, all that’s required to train with Nicola is an enthusiasm for the sport and a desire to learn. Adopting a soft, understanding approach to both horse and rider education, the all-important fundamentals of good riding and established flatwork are a significant focus in Nicola’s coaching and training program. Always having considered herself a “taught” rider as opposed to a natural rider, Nicola appreciates the importance of a good coach and good communications skills. A thorough understanding by both the rider and the horse of what is required from each makes for enjoyable and successful learning and progression, and this is one of the main aims in Nicola’s approach to coaching.

* 1. **Schooling**

In more recent years, riders, owners and producers have begun to recognise the importance and value of correct, professional schooling and production of their horses, both young and old. One of Nicola’s greatest strengths is her understanding of how to improve a horse’s rideability without resorting to strength or force, big bits or draw reins. Dramatic improvements to a horse’s way-of-going, physical appearance and even temperament can take place through correct and empathetic training on the flat, not to mention rendering the horse or pony easier for its owner to ride and more valuable to a potential purchaser. If there is an aspect of your horse’s rideability that you wish for a professional to improve, Nicola would be very happy to advise you on what way to proceed.

* 1. **Sales Agent**

With an established network of contacts within the equestrian industry, Nicola can find a horse or pony to suit any requirement, be it a pleasure horse or grand prix jumper. Likewise, she is well-placed to find a customer for your horse if you are looking to sell. Please get in contact if you are thinking of purchasing or selling to discuss your requirements.

* 1. **Consultancy**

Nicola has completed a variety of consulting work within the equestrian industry, from valuations/appraisals to advice on new build equestrian facilities and arena surfaces. A new challenge is always welcome so if you feel like you could benefit from her experience and expertise, please do not hesitate to get in touch.