



RYAN TODD - WC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In January 2013, Ryan Todd (pictured below) from Ogden, four miles north of Halifax in West Yorkshire, was added to the WC Development programme.

Ryan (20), who left school four years ago aged 16, had originally intended to become a farrier, and to pass time before college, went to Gunthwaite Dressage, run by Hannah and Becky Moody.

"In short, I didn't leave. I never intended to be a dressage rider, but at Gunthwaite I really got into it," says Ryan, who then took a two-year BD apprenticeship and left Gunthwaite Dressage this year to run his own yard at home.

After decent results during 2012 with the Danish-bred Charlex Eskebjerg, a horse acquired through Gunthwaite Dressage, Ryan applied for WC and went through the two-day selection process, including an interview and riding a test, which, he says, "was a bit daunting".

Since then, Ryan has received WC training from Emile Faurie, Erik Theilgaard and Swedish international Tinne Vilhelmson, as well as advice from various specialists, including a dietician.

"I now think about what I am eating," says Ryan, who has forsaken chips and Cola. "And it has definitely made a difference - I now have more energy.

"I have also become aware of bio-mechanics. I was filmed riding in a special jacket with markers, which showed I was going off the left and made me much more aware of my position."

Ryan is now aiming for a place on this year's British young rider team. He says: "In the space of a year, the programme has changed my mindset - I now set goals and my results are improving.

"It has made me a lot more focused about what I am doing and the direction in which I am going, and the help from the support team has made me think about all the other aspects and not just riding."



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If the team
environment at a
championships is negative,
I wave goodbye to any
medals – simple
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Richard Wa
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Dressage,