

to Brussels, I've been able to meet so many amazing people; I developed a friendship with John while I was in Spain for the Sunshine Tour. When I listened to him talk about the sport and his experiences, I was inspired. There are so many amazing people in our sport with incredible stories that I wanted to create a platform in order to tell some of those stories.

### **6 What is the funniest story you've been told by a rider?**

Hmm, the really funny ones, I can't really tell those! But that's a hard question as there are so many funny stories. I like the one about Michael and John (Whitaker) switching passes at the Olympics one year because people kept mixing them up. So they decided to be one another for a day as a joke. Really funny thing was no one noticed. Everyone who knew them thought it was really funny, only problem was John lost Michael's pass and the next day he couldn't get back into the Olympic village. John and Michael both have the best sense of humor. They know how to make light of all the intensity surrounding international success. I think that's one of the reasons why they both have had such amazing careers; they don't take themselves too seriously. They know how to have a good laugh, especially at themselves.

### **7 Who would you like to interview but haven't had the chance to yet?**

Steve Guerdat from Switzerland – the 2012 Olympic gold medalist in individual show jumping.

### **8 What upcoming shows are you most excited about?**

WEF in Wellington and Mechelen in Belgium are coming up. Mechelen was started by Eric Wauters and his family. It has an amazing following in Belgium when it starts right after Christmas. It's a lot of fun and the atmosphere is super festive.

### **9 What has been the biggest surprise during your travels?**

I was pleasantly surprised by the city of Oslo in Norway. I wasn't sure what to expect when I went there for the first leg of the Western European World Cup League. It is a very cool city. Also, I was completely blown away by the sheer number of people that showed up for the Dublin Horse show. Thousands and thousands of people came to watch the Nations Cup. I have never seen so many passionate spectators then I did in Dublin.

### **10 What is one thing most people wouldn't know about the international show jumping scene?**

There are many riders that don't come from a lot of money. The Whitaker brothers had to deliver milk bottles as kids to help make ends meet. Scott Brash's father is a builder from Edinburgh. Jaime Guerra comes from very humble beginnings in Mexico. Peter Charles is also another Yorkshireman from simple beginnings. We were laughing a couple weeks ago with Rolf-Goran Bengtsson about the old beat up horse truck he used to have when he was starting out in Sweden. Edwina Tops-Alexander used to get 20 cents a week allowance. She would save up for weeks to get a Horse and Hound magazine from England. There are a lot of riders in the sport who started with very little.

*About the writer: Katie Shultz is a freelance writer and photographer residing in Lexington, Kentucky.*



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