

Paul Tapner

TAPS ON BADMINTON




Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.



Left: Early days - Paul Tapner and wife Georgina with Stormhill Michael (L) and Inonothing (R). Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton



Right: Paul and second ride, Stormhill Michael in the dressage phase. This typey young horse finished a sensational 10th at the 2010 Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.



Above: Clean and safe, Paul and Inonothing in the final showjumping phase, that saw them come home triumphant. Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.

Australian eventing sensation **Paul Tapner** riding Inonothing, has claimed the prestigious Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials for 2010. Paul who is based in Europe, rode the event of his life to stamp his authority on England's premier horse trials, claiming victory with 44.9 penalties, over Germany's, **Andreas Dibowski** on *Euroridings Butts Leon* on 49.5 penalties and UK's **Daisy Berkeley** on the evergreen *Spring Along* to claim 3rd on 50.4 penalties. In a sign of great things to come, Paul and his second ride *Stormhill Michael* finished in 10th position with fellow Aussie rider, **Bill Levett** and *Hippolyte* finishing a credible 7th.

Horse Deals spoke to parents of Paul, **Jean and George Tapner** of Rouse Hill, NSW, who were overwhelmed with Paul's success. "We are overjoyed with Paul's success, we watched Badminton on streaming which was around 2am in the morning. We had friends around and when we realised Paul had won, our friends wanted to open champagne, I didn't have any, but thankfully they came prepared and here we were in the early hours celebrating Paul's success with the phone running hot". "We have been to Badminton on several occasions but this year we decided we would travel to Kentucky for WEG later in the year instead. When **Paul and Georgina** and the children were home at Christmas, we said to Paul "we are going to WEG even if you're not" he responded "don't worry, I am going to do my best to get there".

He has certainly done that, all the years of hard work have certainly paid off, we are so proud of his achievement'.

Left: Paul, Inonothing and Georgina with the much acclaimed Mitsubishi Motors winning trophy. Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.



Their winning actions, Paul and Inonothing, mastering the technical and difficult Badminton Cross Country Course. Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.

Left: Managing Director of Mitsubishi Motors, Lance Bradley (centre) presents the Mitsubishi Motors trophy to Inonothing's owner, Jenny Waaler and rider and co-owner, Paul Tapner. Photo Mitsubishi Motors - Kit Houghton.