

A SHOWJUMPER FOR THE AGES HARVEY SMITH

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HARVEY SMITH, THE YORKSHIREMAN WITH A BROAD ACCENT AND AN EVEN BROADER PERSONALITY, CARVED A UNIQUE PATH THROUGH THE WORLD OF SHOWJUMPING, LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY AS COLORFUL AS HIS PERSONALITY.

BUT BEYOND THE THEATRICALS LIES A STORY OF TALENT, DEDICATION, AND A DEEP LOVE FOR HORSES. LET'S TAKE A RIDE THROUGH HIS REMARKABLE LIFE AND CAREER.



Harvey Smith's impact on showjumping hasn't dimmed with time; even after more than three decades of his retirement, the world of showjumping comes alive with a vibrant energy when Harvey Smith's name is uttered. This isn't just a testament to his extraordinary skill in the arena but also to the electrifying personality that transcended the sport itself, leaving a permanent mark on the equestrian landscape. **Harvey Smith is a man who redefined**

showjumping and left an inerasable mark on its history—a man who refuses to fade, even after more than 30 years since his last competitive leap.

Harvey Smith achieved remarkable milestones in his career during multiple decades. In 1958, he made his mark by clinching his first major show jumping victory with Farmer's Boy, setting the stage for a series of triumphs to follow. Smith

showcased his exceptional skills by winning the prestigious John Player Trophy an impressive seven times. His achievements also included a triumphant victory in the King George V Gold Cup and an outstanding record of four British Jumping Derby wins. Although he fell short of Olympic medals in both the 1968 and 1972 Games, he did, however, secure five medals at the European Championships, including three in the individual event, and attained the honor of being the bronze medalist at the 1970 World Championships.

While it is nearly impossible to discuss Harvey Smith's remarkable achievements in show jumping without acknowledging the incredible partnership he formed with Farmer's Boy. Together, they triumphed in the leading showjumper of the year at Wembley in 1959 and conquered the national championship at Blackpool. Farmer's Boy made history as the first horse that Harvey guided through the inaugural running of the Hickstead Derby in 1961. While the accomplishments achieved alongside Farmer's Boy are undeniably remarkable, they only scratch the surface of Harvey Smith's exceptional career.

Harvey Smith showcased his diverse talents beyond the saddle. He ventured into the realm of literature, authoring several books about equestrian sports, including notable works like **"V is for Victory"** and **"Show Jumping with Harvey Smith."** But his ventures didn't stop there. In the 1970s, Smith briefly embraced a career as a professional wrestler and even explored his musical talents as a professional singer. As time went on, in 1990, Smith retired from competitive riding and joined forces with his wife and former showjumper, Sue Smith, to establish a racing team at their Yorkshire base. Together, they continued their passion for horses, channeling their expertise into the world of horse racing and leaving an indelible mark on the sport yet again.

As we reflect upon the extraordinary career of Harvey Smith and the countless other historical equestrians who have made significant contributions to the equestrian world, it is essential to honor their legacy.

Their talent, passion, and unwavering dedication serve as an inspiration to future generations of riders and enthusiasts.