

Mari selected to represent Team GB

I can announce that I am delighted that Sky and I have been selected to represent GB at Waregem CPEDI3* in Belgium. Preparations are well underway to get ready for our departure - with the added stress of Brexit!

Lessons with Kim Ratcliffe continue with Mr Bear in the Eastern Region (horses have moved). It has been very, very windy and wet, but despite all the elements Bear was a superstar!! It was great to hear Kim's positive comments about Bear and his walk - he has really grown up and has produced some of his best work ever. He stopped holding his breath, relaxed and started to swing through his body, he looked brilliant. We practiced the movements of our tests and managed to nail our centre lines with halt, our 8m circles and 3 loop serpentine. Considering we have always struggled with our 8m circles due to his size this is a pretty good achievement. With lots of tips taken on board I cannot wait to get back into that competition arena. Meanwhile, Sky has upped his game again which is very exciting. I have managed to fit in some test riding sessions at Rob's yard which has given us a chance to work through the competition tests including our music.



Thank you to Abbey Farm Dressage and the great Eastern Para rep for letting us put a late entry in after the late cancellation of another show we were planning on going to recently! Lovely venue with nice friendly people, we will definitely be back. We took Bear out to his first competition since November - I was hoping that my team's hard work had paid off. I am delighted to say it has as Bear and I won the Grade 1 Individual test with 71.1%. Our best ever score and considering that our highest score to date had been 68% a big improvement. Bear did a fantastic test and I was delighted with him; I kept the activity throughout the test, the contact was great and we managed to maintain the suppleness. We now have 6 points in the bag; half qualified for the Gold Semi Finals.

I have had another interview on Wycombe Sound. Here is my link for my radio interview last week. Tuesday 26th March mid morning go to 2:32:54. <https://listenagain.wycombesound.org/.../shows/mid-morning/>

The Anders Foundation is a charity that support me and this year their grant is going to help to make my dream of competing abroad happen. I am immensely grateful for their continued support and look forward to seeing Heather at competitions this year.

I was honoured to be featured in Performance Hertfordshire's feature Friday. It's fantastic to be back at the gym where it all started and to have the chance to work with the same S and C coach that I had when I was younger.

I also welcomed a new sponsor this month, the Royal Veterinary College have joined the team. The RVC have been vets to my horses for over 10 years. I feel completely confident knowing that my horses are in the best possible hands. I am thrilled that RVC Equine is happy to support me and my horses. I look forward to working with them and promoting them.

More exciting news you can now book me as a motivational speaker https://www.douglasbaderfoundation.com/dbf-news/you-can-now-book-mari-as-a-motivational-speaker?fbclid=IwAR3X97ZgrTnY_7gMaqjk8knNnoxcgJt2eeRYtTkOMofGYdKR08psl7QeUJOY; have a look at the link to find out more.

I am delighted to say that I am a 2019 CAF Hero of Sport; I cannot thank them enough for their continued support. Next month looks to be very busy with a trip to Performance Hertfordshire, a trip away to see my sister and her family, the International in Belgium and then when we get back I need to finish qualifying Bear for the Gold Semi Finals and we have filled in our application for the Para Home International; so will keep you all updated.

I have launched my European campaign plan please have a look at the following link https://www.gofundme.com/para-europeans-2019?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_campaigngmt_w&fbclid=IwAR1oHN0RUb0hheguLdAZBrOQhkSBe01wtvBo2N4KrsxyreQMqf5TcVPuRs4. Any help however small would be greatly appreciated.