

# Dan Thompson, Area 12's leading junior rider



Dan Thompson and his two  
148cm ponies The Cyber  
Spaceman and Moonlight Flight

## Who inspired you to begin to ride and how old were you?

I began to ride twelve years ago at the age of three, as my dad was a jockey.

## Who was your first pony?

My first pony was called Rosie and was a chestnut Shetland mare; she was bought for me to have some fun on.

## Do you remember your first affiliated win?

Yes, when I won my first BSJA class I was delighted, it was at the age of about 11 and I couldn't believe I had won £15 as I was just used to unaffiliated classes and it seemed a lot of money to win then. Every time that I got into a line up I would run into the wagon to see how much I'd won on the schedule.

## Who in show jumping today do you admire?

I admire James Smith's riding as he's a stylish rider and he's on the European teams which I would love to get onto this year or next. I also admire my dad as he used to be a top amateur jockey and also used to show jump when he was a teenager which was a long time ago!

## To date which has been your best pony?

My best pony would have to be Spiders Dance, my 138cm pony as he was my first top pony and I loved him from the moment I jumped a cross pole to the moment I jumped him at HOYS. He was also a real character which made him the perfect pony.

## So far what has been your best result?

My best result would have to be

coming second in the John Whitaker Classic qualifier as I had never jumped anything as big as that in my life. (1m50) I also enjoyed winning at the Royal Highland Show in 2006 and 2007 the first time there was my biggest win to date.

## Who is your dream pony?

My dream pony is VIP Tixylix as she is amazing and appears to have unlimited scope, I also think she would suit the way that I ride.

## Who coaches you currently?

My dad coaches me however I don't ride through the week as much as I should. I was selected by the BSJA to undertake International Training with Alan Fazakerly.

## What do you feel is your strongest point and weakest area?

My strongest points- I always put 100% in to show jumping and I am always in the class to win it. I can also see a natural stride easily. Bad points- as I am concentrating on trying to go clear I sometimes haven't got a good position over the fence and it is something I am working to improve upon.

## If you were not show jumping what would be your passion?

I try to fit in show jumping and football however have to miss the football quite a lot as I am enjoying competing at the big competitions this year.

## What is your ambition for 2008 and beyond?

I would be delighted if I was selected for the European team this year or next as it would be the greatest achievement in my life.



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