

**LESLIE LAW**  
Naunton, Worcestershire



Leslie Law is reigning individual Olympic champion and team silver medallist. In the Athens Three Day Event he performed a personal best in the dressage with a score of 43.2 and following an uncomfortable moment at the water jump went onto complete an almost perfect cross country round with only 1.2 time penalties. In the final phase Leslie and team mate Pippa Funnell rode a clear round each in the team show jumping to secure team silver. Law then went on to jump a second clear round for individual honours; this performance, one of only two double clears elevated Law from fifth place to Olympic Champion.

Known for his consistency, Law has a string of successes including a team silver in Sydney 2000, European team gold in 2001 and 2003 and World team bronze in 2002. Shear L'Eau who he rode into gold medal position in Athens is full brother to Shear H20 who was his Olympic mount in Sydney 2000.

At last year's European Championships in Ireland he was given the pathfinder's role in the team for the first time and responded superbly with a faultless performance across country. His performance set up the British team for a successful defence of the European team title and he clinched the team gold with just one fence down in the final show jumping phase, finishing in fourth place individually.

Having finished 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Badminton in previous years, Leslie was hoping to capture the famous trophy this year but his chances ended with a ducking in the Lake after Shear H20 landed very steeply into the water.

Leslie started riding at the age of 10 to compete with his brother Graham, who is also a successful event rider. He contradicts the popular image that event riders come from wealthy, privileged backgrounds, having grown up in a council house. Leslie has recovered successfully from key-hole surgery in December 2002 to remove torn cartilage from his knee, the legacy of a ski-ing accident ten years ago.

Originally from Hereford, he now has a yard near Upton on Severn in Worcestershire and is engaged to fellow event rider Trina Lightwood, who also grooms for him at the major events.



## RIDER BIOGRAPHY

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| Name   | <b>LESLIE LAW</b>  |
| Date of Birth                                | 5/5/1965   |
| Place of Birth                               | Hereford   |
| School(s) attended                           | Lady Hawkins Kington HFOS  |
| Marital Status                               | Single   |
| Children                                     |  |
| Occupation                                   | Event Rider  |
| Qualifications                               | 4 O Levels, 4 CSEs   |
| Parents' occupations                         | Retired from transport business & farming  |
| When/why first started riding                | Started at age 10, to compete with his brother Graham  |
| Equestrian sporting relatives                | Brother Graham is an event rider   |
| Relatives successful in other careers/sports |  |
| Name of first horse/pony                     | Grey Lace  |
| First competitive riding experience          | Gymkhana classes   |
| First affiliated event                       | Crookham 1982  |
| Trainer(s)                                   | Tracie Robinson, Roland Ferneyhough, Yogi Breisner and Kenneth Clawson   |
| Non-equestrian training                      |  |
| Worst injury                                 | Dislocated shoulder, separated shoulder and broken ankle – all riding accidents                                    |
| Most admired rider(s)                        | William Fox-Pitt: “a thinking rider”   |
| Most admired sportsman/woman                 | Tony McCoy: “focus and attention”  |
| Qualities looked for in an event horse       | Temperament, movement and jump   |
| Least favourite part of a three day event    | Dressage: “because too often there is inconsistency in the marking”  |
| Favourite eventing venue                     | Blarney Castle: “friendly, relaxed, fun & great three day experience for young horses”                             |
| Best advice given                            | “Come home clear & inside the time” from team trainer Yogi Breisner – setting out on the Sydney 2000 cross-country |
| What other career would he/she have chosen   | Footballer   |
| Who would he/she like to have dinner with?   | Bert de Nemethy  |
| Ideal holiday                                | Sun, sea and sand  |

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|------------------------------|---|
| Favourite colour             | Blue  |
| Favourite number             | 1   |
| Favourite item of clothing   | Jeans   |
| Favourite meal               | King Prawns   |
| Favourite drink              | Champagne   |
| Favourite TV programme       | Channel 4's 'attheraces'  |
| Favourite book               | Valley of the Horses  |
| Favourite film               | Saving Private Ryan   |
| Favourite actor(s)           | Dustin Hoffman (and Tony Blair!)  |
| Favourite actress(es)        | Catherine Zeta-Jones  |
| Favourite band/singer        | Robbie Williams & Queen   |
| Favourite TV soap character  | Alfie Moon – Shane Ritchie  |
| Favourite place in the world | Africa on safari  |
| Favourite car                | Jaguar sportscar  |
| Major results                | <p>Individual gold and team silver Olympic Games, Athens, Greece 2004 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Windsor CCI ** 2004 (Artic Fox Too)</p> <p>Team gold and 4<sup>th</sup> individual European Championships, Punchestown, Ireland 2003 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Burghley CCI **** 2003 (Shear H20)</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 2003 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 2003 (Shear H20)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Lulworth Castle CIC *** World Cup Qualifier 2003 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Kilmington CIC ** 2003 (Matt Butler)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Chatsworth CIC *** 2003 (Matt Butler)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Badminton CCI **** 2003 (Shear H20)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Lexington CCI **** 2003 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>Team bronze World Equestrian Games, Jerez, Spain 2002 (Shear H20)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Burghley CCI **** 2002 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Lexington CCI **** 2002 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Badminton CCI **** 2002 (Shear H20)</p> <p>Team gold European Championships, Pau, France 2001 (Shear H20)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Pau CCI *** 2000 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>Team silver Olympic Games, Sydney, Australia 2000 (Shear H20)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Saumur CCI *** 2000 (Shear L'Eau)</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Badminton CCI **** 2000 (Shear H20)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Blenheim CCI *** 1999 (Matt Butler)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Bramham CCI *** 1999 (Shear H20)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Chatsworth CIC *** 1999 (Shear H20)</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Blenheim CCI *** 1998 (Cruise Way)</p> |

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|  | <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Achselschwang CCI *** 1998 (Shear H20)<br/>6<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 1997 (Shear H20)<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Blenheim CCI *** 1997 (Perryfields George)<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Bramham CCI *** 1996 (Cruiseway)<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Badminton CCI **** 1996 (New Flavour)<br/>10<sup>th</sup> Burghley CCI **** 1995 (Capitano)<br/>6<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 1995 (Capitano)<br/>5<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 1994 (Haig)<br/>1<sup>st</sup> Althorp Championships 1994 (Welton Envoy)<br/>8<sup>th</sup> Bramham CCI *** 1993 (Haig)<br/>4<sup>th</sup> British Open Championships, Gatcombe Park 1990<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Bramham CCI *** 1990<br/>8<sup>th</sup> Badminton CCI **** 1989 (Welton Apollo)<br/>26<sup>th</sup> European Championships, Burghley 1989 (Welton Apollo)</p> |
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**Updated 24.8.04**