



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE

CSIO***** SUPER LEAGUE

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ROBERT BREUL'S ACCOMPLISHED CAREER

Robert Breul has been in top-level competition since 1984 when he was short listed for the Los Angeles Olympics three-day event team with Javelot de l'Île. At 44 years old, he has now won his place for the first time in the French show jumping first-team in La Baule.

A brief retrospective on a very busy career.

Robert Breul was born on 17/09/63. His parents run a riding center in Marcoussis in the Essonne part of France. "I was born on horseback" he likes to tell. Between 1978 and 1984, he show jumped and evented with great success, notably completing the Badminton three-day event in 1984.

Javelot de l'Île was sold for a good price, allowing him to buy a new horsebox: he then moved on to national show jumping competitions. He competed in his first Nations Cup in Sopot, 1987 (Yugoslavia) with Nicobar. "The context was interesting, it was a real adventure! It was the first time that a French team went to this country, right in the middle of the cold war. We went through the customs points with their Kalashnikovs. We set off in a train with the horses from the Gare de L'Est - a 36-hour journey..." His fellow team members were Jean-Charles Gayat, Adeline Wirth and Jean-Maurice Bonneau.

He then went on to ride with Quiriou, Royal Taia and Vergonne.

"When Vergonne ended his career, she had 12 or 13 products, including Marpi, a wonderful 7-year-old that I'm riding here and whose father is Papillon Rouge, like lasco Mouche. It's everyone's dream: having a foal out of a good competition mare and by the stallion of a fellow team member (Xavier Leredde) and then riding this product at top level."

Then came Caprice d'Elle, Etoile du château, Fidji and Flushing.

He has already competed in the World Cup, on the Super League circuit but not yet in the first-team.

His "Little Girl" died of colic: "It was really difficult. She was a wonderful mare that I really bonded with, when I called her from 300 meters away she neighed to me and talked to me."

Then Robert Breul found lasco Mouche at his breeder and rider, Julien Bellet. "He was 8 years old, had been well schooled and over two years we really went from strength to strength. Right from the first weeks, we were already in the rankings, but it was irregular. He kept performing



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well but alternated clear rounds with 8 faults. It took me a year to get his performance regular."

In 2001, he moved away from his parents' stables and set himself up in the Eure region of France in Auteuil Authoui, Yves Montand's village, in an old racing stables "very pretty, with wooden stables".

lasco Mouche lives there happily with Marpi and Oxford "a small bay horse (1.62m), built like a bull, who won the CSI** Grand Prix in Auvers and I'm going to enter him in the La Baule Derby". Like all of the stable's horses, he spends 40 minutes on the walker every morning before being ridden then turned out in the paddock.

Technically, Robert Breul is self-taught and has learnt "by watching other people. I have been to various people for advice including Hervé Godignon and Eric Navet. In this business you always have to question what you do. People who say they know how to do things are dead. In the past three years I've been lucky enough to train with Nelson Pessoa. That's really someone who has helped me to progress, and improved my technique."

Winner of the Grand Prix de la Ville in Bordeaux (CSIW) and winner of the Grand Prix in Arezzo (Italy) last April where he kept a completely clean sheet over the three French team-selection weeks, lasco Mouche was again clear in the Fontainebleau Grand Prix du CSI** before coming to La Baule. The French are counting on him to repeat this form in the Samsung Super League de France - FEI.

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