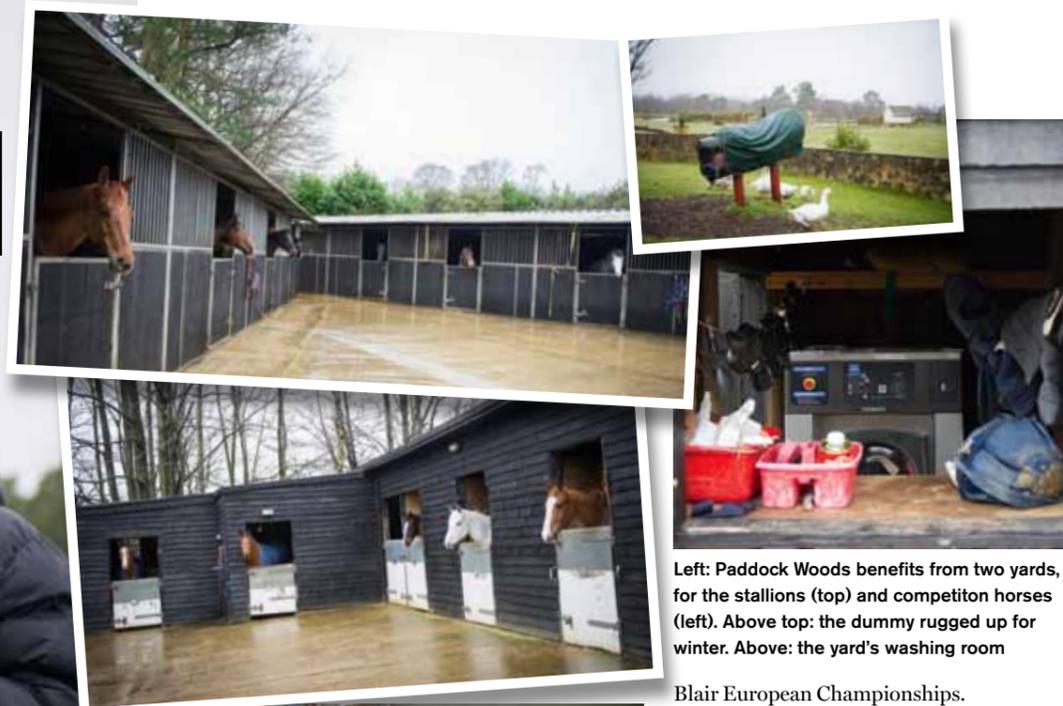




Emily and her boyfriend Max with grand prix showjumper turned breeding stallion Typhoon S, by Calvados

BREEDING SPECIAL



Left: Paddock Woods benefits from two yards, for the stallions (top) and competition horses (left). Above top: the dummy rigged up for winter. Above: the yard's washing room

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The Routledges' kitchen at Paddock Woods

'I'm spoilt at Paddock Woods'

Emily Llewellyn shows *Eventing* round the yard she shares with Max Routledge, where they stand a number of stallions as well as pursuing their competition ambitions

EMILY LLEWELLYN certainly made an impressive start to her eventing career — she collected eight European medals at under-21 championships, and is the only rider to have won the national championships for under-16s, under-18s, under-21s and under-25s.

Now 25, Emily has a wise head on a young person's shoulders.

"In the grand scheme of things, three years is a very short period in life," she says, referring to juggling her final years in youth eventing with studying for a business and management degree at Sussex university, gaining a 2:1 degree.

This should help her and her boyfriend Max Routledge with their stud business.

"There's no doubt eventing has always been

my passion, but it [her degree] is something to fall back on if one day I'm unable to continue my riding career," adds Emily, who has her mother Cindy Llewellyn to thank for keeping the horses in work and looked after while she commuted to and from Brighton.

Cindy trained Emily throughout this time.

"It was awesome to have on-hand training — Mum knows the horses so well, which is undoubtedly a bonus when working together," she says.

Max is a professional polo player in the summer months and grand prix showjumper the rest of the year, and his parents own Paddock Woods stud, where Emily is now based. The two met at a World Class training day in 2009.

She jokes: "I have a lot to thank the World Class scheme for!"

After two years driving between her home at Cindy's and Paddock Woods, Emily finally made the move in 2011 to base her business in Godalming at the Routledges' yard.

The pair have enviable facilities: 26 boxes, summer turnout, a wood chip exercise track, irrigated exercise fields for jumping and dressage arenas, an all-weather manège, a horse walker and the most enchanting hacking on the doorstep.

"The showjumpers and eventers are all stabled together and then the mares for the stud are kept separately, to stop the mares coming into season at the wrong time," says Emily.

The stud has all the services and equipment necessary for collecting semen and a lab on site to check the quality, chill it and prepare it for shipping.



Above: Emily's collection of bits hang in an orderly fashion from the tack room ceiling

The equine and human team

EMILY'S name is most closely associated with the 2008 young rider European champion Pardon Me II and with Society Spice, who gave her her first taste of four-star — the pair were 22nd at Badminton in 2009 and 15th the following year.

"I was so lucky to have two such awesome horses — together we learnt the trade up to the top," she says.

The 19-year-old Society Spice, who was retired in 2010, died peacefully in his sleep in the field on New Year's Eve last year.

Emily has been part of Nations Cup teams for the past two years and she has three horses at the top level for this season. She is particularly excited about the 10-year-old Worldly Du Hans, a new ride for her last year, who was produced by France's Didier Schauly. Worldly Du Hans and Greenlawn Sky High, who Emily has brought up through the ranks for the past six seasons, will be aimed at the

Blair European Championships.

The younger generation comprises two six-year-olds, Emirati Nightsky and Exclusive (see box, right), both of which will be aimed at Le Lion or Osberton young horse championships.

A good back-up team at home helps Emily and Max run their yard efficiently. Emily's head girl, Zoe Brown, has been with her for two years, while James Goodyear is the home groom. Both live on site.

"Zoe is just amazing — she devotes all her attention to the horses and takes such pride in how each of them look," says Emily. "And we know we can go off to any show, be it one day or a week, and rest assured James has everything running like clockwork at home."

While Emily and Max have no immediate plans to move, they will save for a farm of their own in the future through the sale of competition horses and homebreds.

"That's how the business side works; you can't be greedy if an opportunity arises," says Emily. "For now, I know how spoilt I am with the location of Paddock Woods stud, with access to all major routes within a short drive and the fantastic facilities at the base. We can travel pretty much anywhere in the country — lots of fellow event riders have an hour's drive to the nearest main road."

As Emily is sitting in the house, Max's mother is shouting over to her through the window. "Sorry — we've just put mirrors up in the arena, which is very exciting and Max's mum can't contain herself," laughs Emily, who has the relaxed air of taking everything in her stride. **E**



Left: Emily works Junior II on the wood chip exercise track. Right: Max schools Typhoon S



Residents include pet pigs (left) and driving ponies Diva and Choccy (right)



STALLIONS AT PADDOCK WOODS

THE six-year-old KWPN stallion Exclusive (pictured with Emily, below), by Warrant, is known as Kevin at home. A covetable black stallion, he has had some very good British Eventing results to date, including winning his first novice at five years old.

He has five foals due this year.

"I bought him at the Brightwells sales, because he looked like Totilas!" says Emily. "He's so confident within himself, but the best part is how reliable he is on a day-to-day basis. He just comes out and works the same every day."

One of Emily's original stallions, Bueno Uno, was recently sold to Italy.

Max has a handful of showjumping stallions, including Typhoon S. A retired grand prix showjumper, his oldest progeny are now six years old. The most talked about of his offspring is the five-year-old Freezing Rain, who also stands at the stud.

"Ricky" was the first British-bred stallion to be approved by the KWPN studbook, so understandably we are very excited about him at this stage," says Emily.

The latest edition to the stud is Firkov-Du Rouet, a Dutch warmblood by Baloubet Du Rouet.

Emily says: "He is proving to have all the traits we like in a stallion, with a huge athletic jump adding to his gentle nature."

