



Major Richard Waygood, M.B.E

Ever since I first met Richard Waygood in the eighties, I realised he was a man who was not only a born leader in the making but someone who was determined to succeed.

Having joined the Household Cavalry (The Life Guards) at 16, his sheer hard work took him to the prestigious post of 'Riding Master'. His military credentials set a very good example but the fact he was the first serving officer in the British Army for 23 years to ride round Badminton, which he did on four occasions in all, certainly helped.

During his time as Riding Master he maintained the world famous traditions of the Household Cavalry in all ceremonial and state duties to the very highest standard. He also broke with years of tradition to give the famous 'Musical Ride' a new modern look that has won universal appeal. The fact that many say the standard of riding throughout the troop has never been higher than under Major Waygood is a huge compliment, particularly when you look at the extremely high standard set by his predecessors.

He, too is proving an excellent communicator having featured strongly in the popular television series on the daily routine and busy schedule of the cavalry as well as speaking to numerous conferences including being guest speaker at the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Pony Club. That ability combined with the discipline of his army training has provided the excellent background for his role of Chef d'Equipe of the British Team in the European 2 Star Championship in recent years. The success of that role has taken him on to be assistant chef for Britain's successful Dressage team at the 2009 European Championships at Windsor and with the World's in Kentucky next year and with the London 2012 Olympics two years after that, who'd bet against his involvement growing there. His skills and background will find him in great demand in years to come.

Mike Tucker

BBC Commentator