

# SIR MARK TODD

## Introduction

Sir Mark Todd is a famous New Zealand equestrian. Born into a non-horsey family, Mark grew up to be a very successful eventer. With two Olympic medals and many other accomplishments, Mark has become recognised around the world. He retired in 2000 only to then reveal that he would come back fully to the sport in 2008.

## How is Mark Todd unique to New Zealand?

Voted rider of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Sir Mark Todd is one of the world's most successful equestrians. In 2013 Mark was knighted by Prince Charles for his service to equestrian sport. With Mark on-board, Charisma became the only ever horse to appear in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in 1990. Mark also holds the record for the longest time between Olympic Medals, which is 28 years.

## History Involved:

In 1980, 1994, 1996, Sir Mark Todd won the 4-star event, Badminton. Coming out of retirement he won Badminton again in 2011 becoming the oldest person to win Badminton at the age of 55. Winning Burghley in 1987, 1990, 1991, 1997 and 1999 (another 4-star event), Mark was one win away from the record 6 times, held by William Fox-Pitt. In 1998, Mark won the supreme Halberg award for sportsperson of the year. He has won 5 Olympic Medals including 2 golds and 3 bronzes



Mark Todd and Charisma.



Mark Todd after winning the Badminton Horse Trials, 2011.

## Where has Mark Todd been?

Mark Todd was born and bred in Cambridge, New Zealand. He has competed all over the world including America, England, Los Angeles, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, China and Spain. After he retired, he based himself back in Cambridge. In 2008, when his eventing career took off again, he based himself in England.

## Other well-known people involved

Another New Zealand eventing idol, Andrew Nicholson, has been good mates with Mark Todd since before Mark's first Badminton where Andrew was his groom. Ever since, they have competed against each other. Olympic dressage gold medallist, Charlotte Dujardin, is Mark's dressage trainer.

## Other Fascinating Facts

Mark Todd and Charisma won 2 Olympic gold medals

He has published a few books including *So Far So Good* and all about his return to the sport in his second autobiography, *Second Chance*. He has also had several other books published including *Charisma*, *One Day Eventing*, *Mark Todd's Cross-Country Handbook* and *Novice Eventing with Mark Todd*.



Mark Todd and Campino at the London Olympics.



Mark Todd and Gandalf after their Burghley Dressage test.

## Books

*So Far So Good* –  
Written by Mark Todd

## Websites

[marktoddeventing.com](http://marktoddeventing.com)  
[nzedge.com](http://nzedge.com)  
[nzequestrian.org.nz](http://nzequestrian.org.nz)  
[NZherald.co.nz](http://NZherald.co.nz)  
[olympic.org.nz](http://olympic.org.nz)  
[swindonadviser.co.uk](http://swindonadviser.co.uk)