

Cedar Crest Farm Equestrian Center

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Paul Lindsay

Paul Lindsay, a native of Dublin, Ireland, began his association with horses as a teenager when a chance opportunity to take up a riding lesson fired him with enthusiasm for the sport. He has continued his involvement with horses from that day onwards, both professionally and privately.



At age 18, in 1972, Paul joined the Irish Army and two years later was commissioned as an officer. He ultimately achieved the rank of Comdt (Major) in the Supply and Transport Corps. During his 19 years in the army, which included a tour of duty as part of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, he honed his administrative, training, personnel, planning and communication skills. It was also where he gained his first important opportunities to act as commentator at military sporting events and public displays as well as continuing his equestrian training through the Irish Army Equitation School.

In conjunction with Paul's army career, he also pursued his equestrian ambitions privately going on to become a trainer at the famous Iris Kellett Riding School, announcer at horse shows and competitor in Show-jumping, Dressage and Eventing. He gained his British Horse Society Intermediate Instructor's certificate (B.H.S.I.I.) and became one of the most popular trainers at the renowned Kellet Riding School in Kildare from 1972 - 1989. He competed successfully in the disciplines of show-jumping, and up to national championship level in both dressage and combined training. He is a former winner of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs' National Equitation Jumping championship at advanced open level and was also a winner at the famous Royal Dublin Society's Dublin Horse Show.

Paul's commitment to equestrianism is apparent from his involvement, both professionally and on a voluntary basis, in innumerable clubs and committees, including the following:

- Committee member for the British Horse Society National Policy and Approvals Committee
- Examiner for the British Horse Society
- National jumper judge for the Show Jumping Association of Ireland
- Announcer for the Dublin International Horse Show
- Announcer for Punchestown 3-Day event

- Examiner for the Irish Pony Club
- Dressage judge for the Irish Horse Trials and Dressage Society
- Chairman of Mespil Riding Club
- Member of the National Executive Committee of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs (A.I.R.C.)
- Chairman of the examinations committee of the A.I.R.C.
- Technical advisor to the disciplinary committee of the A.I.R.C.
- A member of the rules committee of the A.I.R.C.
- A Chief Examiner for the A.I.R.C.
- District Commissioner Dublin County Pony Club, 1982 - 1984

In the spring of 1991, Paul left the army to take up the challenging position of general manager at the world-renowned Gleneagles Mark Phillips Equestrian Centre in Scotland. Here he had the responsibility for all aspects of the day-to-day running and ongoing development of what was then the largest purpose-built equestrian center in western Europe. The facility, which was part of the 5-red-star Gleneagles Hotel, (<http://www.gleneagles.com>) one of the "Leading Hotels in the World" group, offered a multitude of equestrian pursuits in pristine surroundings. Activities included boarding, lessons in dressage, show-jumping, cross-country and carriage driving, British Horse Society student training and examinations, clinics, recognized dressage, jumper driving, showing, horse trials competitions, Pony Club activities, vaulting, corporate demonstrations and riding vacations.

Paul not only managed the business side of this impressive organization, bringing the business into profitability, but also found time to teach clients from all over the world and compete in show-jumping and dressage competitions. In addition, because of the unique relationship between equestrian center and hotel, he broadened his management skills as a result of cross-training with other departmental heads and acting as duty manager to the entire hotel complex on a routine basis.

It was during his time as manager of the Gleneagles Mark Phillips Equestrian Center that Paul first met Karen Lancaster of Cross-County International. Impressed by her professionalism and attention to detail, he recommended that her company be sole U.S. agents for riding vacations at the Gleneagles Hotel.

Through Karen, Paul was introduced to the owners of the Millbrook Equestrian Center in New York State in mid-1994 and within the course of a few months he made the move to the U.S.A. to take up the role of Director at this excellent facility, internationally known for its annual advanced horse trial. For a period of six years, from the fall of 1994 to the Center's subsequent sale in 2000, Paul breathed new life into the Millbrook Equestrian Center by consolidating the existing board and lesson business and expanding into new ventures. His first course of action, with the backing of the British Horse Society for whom he was a member of the Riding Schools Policy and Approvals Committee, was to seek and gain the Center's approval as a B.H.S. training and examination center. Not only did this set a standard for horse care and instruction within the barn, it also attracted students from all corners of the world to visit the center for intensive periods of training to become professional grooms and instructors. This philosophy of aspiring to

produce better "hands on" horse care proved a shrewd business move as well as creating a positive atmosphere for the education of students, staff, clients and horses. Within the course of a few years, the Center expanded from one and a half to three barns and there was a waiting list for stalls to become available. Examinations were run bi-annually, with examiners traveling from Britain to test the candidates, both those who had trained at Millbrook and others who had received their training elsewhere in the United States.

Another major development was to re-establish the relationship with Cross-Country International and Millbrook Equestrian Center quickly became a popular destination for leisure riders seeking a quality instructional riding vacation.

Inevitably, many of the visitors to Millbrook aspired to become horse owners and Paul has now imported 80 horses from Ireland to satisfy this demand. With an expert eye for good conformation and soundness and with the support of an excellent agent near Dublin, the many horses imported have given great satisfaction to their new owners, be it as foxhunters, eventers, show-jumpers or "all-rounders".

During his time at Millbrook Equestrian Center, Paul remained current as a British Horse Society examiner by regularly returning to the British Isles to undertake examining duties. He also retained his links with the Royal Dublin Horse Show where he has been a commentator in the international show jumping arena for many years. He has since expanded this role, commentating at the Millbrook Cup show-jumping competition, the Camino Real Three-Day-Event in Texas and the Sharpton Horse Trials in Florida.

With the experience gained at the Gleneagles Mark Phillips Equestrian Center and then at Millbrook Equestrian Center, Paul has also been in demand as an equestrian business consultant. In 1994 he was employed by Fermanagh District Council in Northern Ireland to prepare a report on their planned equestrian facility at Necarne Castle near Enniskillen. Many of the suggestions and proposals made in the report have since been put to good effect. More recently, Paul worked on a project to help appraise the viability of the equestrian facility at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club just outside New York City as well as advising other business's and proposed equestrian communities here in the United States.

The combination of these many skills and the years of experience gained have been invaluable in the successful establishment and running of Cedar Crest Farm.