

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BASED MATTHEW WRIGHT VYING FOR A PLACE IN EXPRESS EVENTING FINAL AT HOYS

Nottinghamshire-based Matthew Wright is vying for a place in the Express Eventing Final by competing at the Express Eventing Qualifier at The Lincolnshire Show on 22nd June 2011.

Eventer Matthew Wright, who rides for John Peace's Caunton Manor Stud, has wanted to compete in Express Eventing, the Twenty20 of eventing, since this new compact version of the sport launched in 2008.

"I am relishing the opportunity to compete in Express Eventing. I have watched this sport develop over the years and have found it all very exciting and refreshing.

"I have applied to compete at the Express Eventing Qualifier at The Lincolnshire Show. But if the truth be told, I'd love to compete at all four Qualifiers – at Bolesworth, at CLA Game Fair, the Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe as well as The Lincolnshire Show. It's such an exciting concept and I would, of course, love to make it to the Final at Horse of the Year Show in October."

Matthew Wright, 28, who learned to ride at 18 months at his parents' busy dealing

yard in Nottinghamshire, was Young Riders Silver medallist 2002. In 2005 he made his British Senior squad debut (individual) at the 2005 European Championships. Since then he has regularly competed and at Burghley, Badminton, Blair Castle and Ballindenisk.

Commenting on Matthew's application, Stephen Renouard, Equestrian Director of Express Eventing, said: "We are delighted that Matthew has applied to the Express Eventing Qualifier in his home turf. The calibre of applications for all four Qualifiers is extremely high and, as such, speaks volumes for the trust and belief the riders have in this thrill- a-minute version of the sport."

Mark Farmer, Chief Executive of The Lincolnshire Show, said: "We are very pleased to welcome Express Eventing to this year's Lincolnshire Show. It is fantastic for us to be able to host such an exciting high profile equestrian event, which is attracting internationally acclaimed riders.

"The Express Eventing Qualifier will undoubtedly be one of the highlights for our equestrian audience, but I am sure that this fast-paced event will also attract new people to the show."

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MEDIA CONTACTS

For further information, or to arrange interviews with Riders and Officials please contact the Express Eventing Series 2011 Spokesperson Paul White at paul.white@expresseventing.co.uk or phone +44 (0)7866 684531.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Express Eventing Series 2011 rolls out at four Qualifiers – Bolesworth, Lincolnshire, the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim and The Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe - this summer and culminates in the Final at the Horse of the Year Show at Birmingham's LG Arena in October.

Mitubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials winner Mark Todd will be vying for a place at the Express Eventing Final when he competes against the likes of Oliver Townend, winner of the inaugural Express Eventing in 2008, and three times winner of the Hickstead Eventing Grand Prix Gary Parsonage at Bolesworth Showjumping Classic.

The Express Eventing Series 2011 will consist of three arena-based disciplines: 'dressage to music', cross country and showjumping, carefully organised within the schedules of the three Qualifying and Final shows.

The Express Eventing Series will have a total prize pot of £100,000 with approximately £60,000 being allocated to the Qualifiers and £40,000 to the Express Eventing Final at the Horse of the Year Show.

The Express Eventing Series 2011 takes place at

- Bolesworth Showjumping Classic and Country Fair, Bolesworth Castle, 11 June
- The Lincolnshire Show, Lincolnshire Events Centre, on 22 June
- The CLA Game Fair, Blenheim Palace on 24 July
- The Festival of British Eventing, Gatcombe Park, 7 August

The Express Eventing Final takes places at HOYS on 4 October 2011.