

## TRIBUTE TO **Jean Ray**



Jean Ray was one of the most beloved and foundational figures in the history of equestrian sport in Barbados. Her unmistakable personality encapsulated hard work, pragmatism, positivity and sportsmanship. Her expansive knowledge of show-jumping and stable management helped to produce some of the top equestrians the island has seen, including her daughters Susie and Julie. Jean also produced some incredible show jumping horses such as Trompa, Ebony, Foxfire and Rocky. Her legacy continues to live on today in the riders who learned from her and who continue to enjoy equestrian sport.

Jean always prioritized the well-being of the equine athletes in her care, and nurtured their development to bring out the best. She possessed unwavering dedication and while she was known for her no-nonsense approach, her students never doubted how much she cared. She was greatly loved and appreciated in the annals of equestrian sport, and her dedication extended to the wider equestrian community as well. She was instrumental in the founding the Barbados Equestrian Association, and worked tirelessly for the sport for a large part of her life. She was very proud to see how this organisation grew from strength to strength over the years.

Jean did not believe in short cuts and her training methodology always focused on building the magical rapport that exists between horse and rider. For many years, Jean's stables at Trevena Gardens acted as a main location for show-jumping events in the island. Local, regional, and international riders came to these events, which Jean hosted with her customary graciousness. These events were much more than competitions; they served as learning experiences for horses and riders, and were keenly anticipated by all in our sport.

Jean was a consummate horsewoman who exemplified the highest levels of integrity, and constantly gave of her time, knowledge, and expertise. She played a pivotal role in developing the island's show jumping from humble beginnings into a stage that has seen Bajan riders representing our small but mighty nation regionally and internationally with pride, grit, and resilience. Indeed, Jean herself carried these qualities, which were laced with humility and honour. Rather than to any particular stable, including her own, Jean's highest loyalty was always to horsemanship, equine welfare, and inclusive rider development.

The Barbados Equestrian Association is deeply humbled and privileged to stand on the shoulders of the incredible legacy that Jean leaves behind, and will always be grateful for her magnificent contributions to the sport.

Jean, we will miss you.