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## TUCKER & STAR QUALITY QUALIFY FOR THE BRITISH RIDING ACADEMY TEAM!



**Marlena Tucker** and her beloved horse **Star Quality (Skye)**, qualified and are now members of the prestigious British Riding Academy team. There were 50 plus riders who all tried out for the Academy. The qualifying criteria consisted of trials and there were 25 riders after the trials to vie for a spot on the Academy team. The second phase of the trials involved riding walk, trot, and canter as well as jumping, with only 12 riders chosen to be on the British Riding Academy team. Per Tucker's mom, Kelly Tucker, *"the judges were very impressed with her and Skye, because it is both the rider and horse that are judged. So this is a great accomplishment by Marlena and Skye, to be chosen from a field this large of British riders."*

Tucker and Skye made the long trip to the U.K. back in September where Tucker is in college studying Equine Science. She attends Warwickshire College, in Warwickshire England. Tucker left Bermuda on September 9th, 2010 bound for Warwickshire College and her induction week was September 13th-17th, with the first day of School on September 20th. In one of her classes of 8 students they had to tack and wrap a model horses' legs blindfolded and the coach was very impressed saying he has never



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seen it done that perfect. Tucker's team won that class assignment.

Skye left Bermuda on September 8th, 2010 and made the long trip courier plane to New Jersey, then flew from JFK New York to Amsterdam, then was trailered on ferry over to Dover, and finally on to meet Tucker at her college in Warwickshire. The elder Ms. Tucker recalls, *"Skye arrived at Marlina's College and when the trailer stopped and the door opened, he heard her voice and he had a story to tell her, I have never heard him talk so much, he must have been telling her off for what she had put him through!"* Skye settled in well however a few weeks later while he was turned out in the fields he was kicked by a horse and had a nasty injury on his hock and Tucker nursed him back to health and was able to take part in the trials for the British Riding Academy.

The Bermuda Equestrian Federation would like to congratulate Marlina and wish her all the best with her riding in the U.K.

*For more information regarding equestrian sports in Bermuda please visit the Bermuda Equestrian Federation website at @ [www.bef.bm](http://www.bef.bm)*