TODD STILL WOWS THE CROWD

Mark Todd showed he can still foot it with the best while wowing the crowds tonight (thurs) at the Kelt Capital Horse of the Year Show in Hastings.

The returning Olympian rode in a fun-filled Battle of the Sports – claiming top dog spot on board the horse Tregonning.

Tregonning is owned by his good mate Merran Hain (Gisborne) who owned Bago, who Todd rode at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Last night's competition involved a light-hearted dressage test followed by a series of small jumps.

Representing dressage were Jody Hartstone (Raglan) and Vanessa Way (New Plymouth), showjumpers had Katie McVean (Mystery Creek) and Hayden Morresey (Auckland), while eventing had Todd and John Twoomey (Waikato).

Todd, last to go, rode whistles, cat calls and cheers, and on his way out jumped a picnic table – much to the delight of the thousand-strong crowd. Described as a 'jockey from another planet' and a 'true legend', Todd showed he is every bit the star his adoring fans believe him to be.

He will ride tomorrow morning (Frid) in a showjumping class, followed by the eventing invitational on Saturday afternoon.