

Picture: Fiona Scott-Maxwell



LONDON CALLING: Bill Levett riding One To Many NJ

Levett one-step closer to an Olympic place

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CHIPPING Campden-based Australian eventer Bill Levett has seen his prospects of a place at the 2012 Olympics come a step closer, following the announcement of his home country's elite squad.

Levett, who has been based in the UK since 1994, has been named on the top elite squad with Gerry and Mary Kemp's ten-year-old bay One Too Many NJ and on the elite holding squad with Hippolyte.

"It's very exciting news - it

doesn't in itself mean selection for the Olympics but it does mean we are in contention," said Levett, who lives with his British wife Jenny and their seven-year-old twins Joshua and Ursula.

"It's very good news and it's all to play for now."

Coco, as One Too Many NJ is known at home, gained his Olympic qualification when he finished second to fellow Aussie Clayton Fredericks at the Saumur CCI three-star international in France in 2011.

The horse originally came over from Ireland as a

four-year-old and is described by his rider as "extremely talented and a pleasure to ride."

He will be aiming to shine at his first four-star event in the Spring, when he has a crack at the world famous Mitsubishi Motors Badminton three-day event.

Hippolyte, the 17-year-old Selle Francais chestnut Levett rides for Vera, Sarah and Rodger Leggett, was seventh on his Badminton debut back in 2010 and is again being aimed at the event this time.

Levett said: "Hipp sustained an unusual tendon injury mid-

way through 2010 which put him out for that year and most of the 2011 season.

"He's a top horse so we have taken our time and done everything possible to try to ensure he comes back fit.

"In the past he's finished third at Saumur and the British Championships at Gatcombe and he's a real competitor who always rises to the occasion."

Levett is now preparing for the event season, which begins in March, with both his Olympic prospects and a talented team of up and coming horses.