

COUNTY SHOWS PICTURE SPECIAL
Cornwall, Norfolk and Yorkshire

BRITAIN'S
Lifestyle Magazine

the Equestrian

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

WIN
GREAT
PRIZES

**A WINNING
WINK**

*Top tips from event
rider Paul Tapner*

**GOULD
GOES FOR GOLD**

*Andrew sets his sights
on international success*

**THIRST
BREAKER**

*Keeping your horse
healthy and hydrated*

GRAB A GILET!

*Funky and fashionable
must-haves for autumn*

**STAR-STUDED
STABLES**

*Hollywood comes
to Hyde Park*

AUGUST 2011 £3.50



WWW.THEEQUESTRIANMAG.CO.UK

PLUS: News, Hickstead Derby, Grooming Advice, National Horseracing Museum, Cookery, What's On

Having finally scored his first senior international win this summer, five-times European Young Rider team member and three-times national dressage champion Andrew Gould talks to ANNA BRUCE.

in it for the LONG RUN



Andrew Gould is probably the likeliest of all equestrians to become a household name. Good-looking and straight-talking, he's approachable and quotable – a media dream.

Long gone are the days when show jumpers hit the headlines for jumping traffic lights instead of fences or eventers sold newspapers on the basis of drug abuse. The exploits of equestrians just wasn't deemed interesting – until Andrew.

He has hit headlines with allegations of involvement in model Katie Price's divorce – which both firmly denied. But surely it won't take long for those same papers to ditch the sordid stories and herald Andrew as a sportsman.

A clue is already there – Andrew has coached Katie to be an accomplished rider and, scratch a little deeper, and you discover Andrew, at only 31, is the coach behind the likes of event riders such as New Zealand Olympic hopeful Jonathan Paget and international event rider Gemma Tattersall. Andrew is also trainer for the successful British Dressage Scottish Region Rider Development Group. Andrew has an ability to help others achieve.

"As my parents will tell you, I've been competitive since the day I was born," says Andrew. "If the card comes up, I'll beat my kids playing snap." He adds: "And that's why horses don't really suit me." That's a surprising statement for one who dedicated himself so much to the sport that he left school at 15, before his exams, to make horses his career.

He explains: "If I make a mistake, it's my problem – you train harder, you get better. But, with the horses, you can train seven days a week, but you are still only as good as the horse you've got."

Indeed, Andrew showed promise as an athlete, taking part in trials for England schoolboys rugby and athletics at a young age. "I had the same time over hurdles as Colin Jackson did at the same age," he reveals.

But there seems no sense of regret "I'd probably have been creamed on the rugby pitch, looking at the size of some of the players these days, as I'm quite small," says Andrew. "I'm 5ft 10in and a bit weedy for rugby, but maybe it's riding so many horses a day that has made me like that."

Andrew doesn't fit the dressage stereotype – male or female – either, and I wonder if he had to make any adjustments as a teenager entering the sport. "That's where people get dressage wrong," he says. "For a straight man, it is the best sport on the planet – I was the only straight guy to every 20 girls!"

It didn't take long for Andrew to be snaffled up. "Polly remembers meeting me at 12," he says. At 17, Polly made contact again, asking Andrew to help train her and her show ponies. "We've hardly been apart since," he says.

For a straight man, it is the best sport on the planet – I was the only straight guy to every 20 girls!



'IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, IT'S MY PROBLEM – YOU TRAIN HARDER, YOU GET BETTER. BUT YOU ARE STILL ONLY AS GOOD AS THE HORSE YOU'VE GOT.'

People *Andrew Gould*

The couple were married in 2005 and now have two sons, Oliver, seven, and Louis, four. Although the boys have a 12.2hh Welsh pony, Chubby, to ride should they so wish, they are certainly not being pushed into horses.

"My father is virtually bankrupt because of me and I don't want them doing that!" he explains. "I'd rather they had something that I could show an interest in, rather than spending my day off taking them to a Pony Club show."

Andrew himself had a less conventional start. Growing up in Twickenham, Middlesex, there wasn't a great deal of access to green spaces or horses but, when an aunt moved to Surrey, his family made the transition there.

"We had a black Shetland pony named Miss Ellie to share between about eight of us – my brother, cousins, and various friends – doing a day each," he recalls. But this wasn't quite the idyllic start. "I went to see her about three years ago and she bit me," he says. "I thought, you haven't changed – she was awful."

For a short time, things did improve, with Andrew's parents finding ponies for him on loan.



Andrew and Polly are joined by Baileys Horse Feeds marketing manager Jane Buchan at leading equestrian trade show BETA International.



Andrew runs the 2010 London Marathon, raising money for Spinal Research, for which he is an ambassador.

"They were nothing outstanding," he says, although, by the age of 12, he did find a pony he was truly fond of. "As a kid, everybody's dream was to ride at Badminton and I had Hughie, a 14.2hh roan, and a real eventing type," he recalls.

To try to pay for Hughie, Andrew took a job mucking out for a vet, Russell Christie, for whom he was already being asked to ride other ponies and horses. It was through Russell that Andrew and Hughie went to have a lesson with Russell's then partner, David Hunt.

"When I first went to the yard with Russell and watched David riding, I had no idea that stuff existed – changes,

piaffe, half-pass – and it completely threw me," says Andrew. "I was amazed by what horses could do."

Even though Andrew knew nothing of David's background as a trainer, rider and judge, he says: "After our first meeting, I was petrified. It wasn't until working for him for six months that I began to relax and be able to talk to him."

When Andrew's mother, Jacque, and David decided to give Hughie away – without warning – he barely said a word, although it clearly still hurts.

"They decided Hughie wasn't good enough and that I had to ride my aunt's horse, Koffee Break, but Koffee Break wasn't the easiest horse to ride or train."



ANDREW'S TWO YOUNG BOYS – SIX-YEAR-OLD OLIVER AND THREE-YEAR-OLD LOUIS – WIN A RAINBOW OF ROSETTES AT A LOCAL SHOW ON THEIR PONY, CHUBBY BROWN.



Andrew and Polly celebrate his 30th birthday with a party at Hickstead All England Jumping Course.



Polly and Andrew enjoy Olympia.

That's putting it mildly. With a penchant for waving his front legs in the air and bolting, the five-year-old was not the most suitable partner for a 13-year-old boy whose legs barely reached beyond the saddle flaps.

"David had this beautiful, white fence around the arena and Koffee Break reared up, over the top of it and pulled it down as he came back," says Andrew. "David's head girl rode over to see if I was OK – I'd just broken God's Fence – when I heard David shout, 'Kick it forward.' All I thought was, 'I don't want to kick it. I want to get off it.'"

Remaining unpredictable, Koffee Break was put up for sale through lack of funding to keep him, with some good competition results under his belt. "But he went straight back to being unrideable as soon as anyone else sat on him", says Andrew, so he was perhaps forced to persevere. "It was a fairy tale in the end," adds Andrew. The pair were on five consecutive GB European teams, winning a team bronze medal in 2000.

"Winning a medal was something the young rider team had not achieved for many years and was the result of a massive team effort and something everybody would treasure," Andrew recalls. With Koffee Break, he went on to compete at International Grand Prix level, winning the prestigious Spillers Scholarship Rider of the Year in 1997 and 1999, and the Equest Rider Championship in 1998.

The results were testament to the training partnership between Andrew and David. "David is very much a coach, as well as a trainer," says Andrew, "and it is not so much what goes on in the lesson, but the discussions before and after, and even

It's a real joint effort between me and Polly. She is a wizard on the computer, doing the PR, running the yard and dealing with owners and sponsors.

advice with running the yard that makes the difference. Plus, he knows my riding and character inside out."

Indeed, it is performing a *pas de deux* with David at Stoneleigh that Andrew still ranks as one of his standout performances. "I really didn't want to mess up and so to win, alongside my mentor, was a huge achievement and something I feel really proud of," he says.

But, just as David put his faith in Andrew, so Andrew did in David, leaving home – and school – at 15 to work for him. "Stupidly no one at school told me that you need computer and business skills – that advice would have really helped," says Andrew, who left David's at 18 to set up his first yard with Polly.

"It's a real joint effort", he says. "It's partly why it's such a success between me and Polly. She is a wizard on the computer, doing the PR, running the yard and dealing with owners and sponsors."

However, the couple have had their fair share of grief – particularly



In 2006 Andrew had numerous wins and placings at small tour level, both nationally and internationally, riding Numero Uno and Cadre Noir.

with the allegations surrounding Katie Price, from whom they rent their yard at Priory Dressage, in West Sussex.

"Katie is just like everyone else at the yard," says Andrew. "We all get on really well. What happened in the press is just one of those things. We have just all carried on as normal and we continue to socialise and be friends with all of the owners and clients. I don't think the allegations really caused us any problems, as everyone saw very quickly that the stories were all untrue and simply made up to sell newspapers."

It's a very pragmatic view and one that extends to other elements in his life. "Up until recently, I've not had the horsepower to make my dreams be anything other than dreams," says Andrew.

But, with Santorini Hit, on whom he won the International Kur at Compiègne CDI 3*** and three Premier League shows earlier in the year, Andrew is able to set his sights on higher success. "I'd

love to be consistently successful at international level and have a good string of young horses coming through," he says.

Indeed, Santorini Hit's owner, Natasha Mitchell, is also behind an ambitious plan to breed horses for the future, having bought five broodmares. "But we all know how the sport works and how heartbreaking it is," says Andrew. "Even one of the foals born this year died from having the cord around its neck – but the important thing is to keep learning."

Andrew's real goal is to own his own yard. "There's a definite satisfaction in us owning our own house and it feels a real achievement that we've done that," he says, "but I do feel that, when you rent a yard, you can never be really settled – and I do miss being on site."

So, again, I question that he's not suited to horses – for he clearly cares about them. "Horses have kept my feet on the ground and allowed me to be a family man and probably made me a better person," says Andrew.

And, despite his athletic potential, probably a better sportsman, too.

'I'D LOVE TO BE CONSISTENTLY SUCCESSFUL AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND HAVE A GOOD STRING OF HORSES COMING THROUGH.'



Wounded service personnel and their support crew give their all in an effort to raise money for services charities.

Horses help our wounded heroes

EIGHT wounded servicemen and their support crew raised money for other wounded services personnel through the Horses Help Heroes charity by driving a horse-drawn, replica, First World War ambulance non-stop from Land's End to John O'Groats in nine days.

The journey was testing for the 22 horses, as well as the individuals taking part, but the team received heart-warming support from regiments and members of the public, who turned up to cheer them on in towns and villages, and at roadsides and schools.

Horses Help Heroes has raised more than £300,000 so far and, with donations still flooding in, hopes to hit its £1 million target by Christmas.

New online shopping

LOOK out for www.hossequine.co.uk, a new, online equestrian retailer unveiled at the end of July. Founder Laura McDouall has introduced a range of unique services such as "Find me a...", which helps shoppers to track down just what they are looking for, and "New for Old", a scheme where people can exchange their good-quality, unwanted items quickly and easily and, in return, get vouchers to spend in-store.

horsetalk

The Princess Royal is a welcome visitor to the charity's Rescue and Rehoming Centre, in Norfolk.



A royal seal of approval

WORLD Horse Welfare's Rehome a Horse Month in July received a royal seal of approval when the Princess Royal visited the charity's Hall Farm Rescue and Rehoming Centre, in Snetterton, Norfolk, to launch the initiative.

The princess, who is president of the charity, took time to meet the horses and ponies and speak with members of staff.

"Matching the rehoming with the animals we have here is a skill and I think World Horse Welfare really does have that skill to help the potential rehoming and the individual animals to find the right combination, and I hope more people will take up that opportunity," she said.

World Horse Welfare chief executive Roly Owens added: "Rehome a Horse

Month is all about the core work that we do here at the charity – giving horses a second chance in life when they have suffered cruelty and neglect.

"We want to grow the focus on what World Horse Welfare can offer people, because we believe the biggest reason people do not come to us to take a horse out on loan is because they do not know about our rehoming scheme."

To view the wide selection of horses ready for rehoming, log on to www.worldhorsewelfare.org/rehoming

Hoss. 
Equine
hossequine.co.uk