

Sheriff shoots to grand prix glory

ADDINGTON PREMIER LEAGUE, BUCKS
13-15 May

By Madeleine Hill

DANIEL SHERIFF and Bayford Hall Dallaglio firmly established themselves as top-flight grand prix contenders by winning their second at a Premier League show in just over a month.

Of the 30 starters, Daniel's was the only score over 70% — a 2% improvement on his score at The College EC in April.

"He actually walked it today," said Daniel. "And that's what clinched the 70%."

Daniel has had the 12-year-old Laurentian stallion since the horse was four. This is their second season at the level and Dallaglio is settling now; he's impressive and powerful, with a huge trot, and looks every inch an international horse.

"In the first he really takes me, I just let him do the job," Daniel explained. "I rode tentatively, but I was ready for him because he can just drop you. I've been working on building his confidence. He's very expressive, but he needs to relax and today it felt like he did."

Second place in the grand prix went to relative newcomers on the British dressage scene, American Marie Martin Tucker and her 14-year-old German-bred gelding Escobar by Chrentouch.

Maria came to Britain last September and based herself in Warwickshire with Natalie Allen. She also trains with Fred Eilberg. "I work full-time and travel a bit," explained Maria, who is a chief financial officer for an international company. She has had Escobar for five years and the pair won the



grand prix at Merind Wood in April. "Natalie keeps him fit for me; he's hot and needs a good ride. He has a super talent for piaffe but it's been about making the paces more expressive in the training."

Third-placed Lizzy Murray and Catherine Springsteen made a welcome return to competition. This was the pair's first outing since the nationals in September. Lizzy has been busy — her second child George is just three months old and she has only been

back riding for six weeks. "The felt lively and grey and the test felt quite flowing and easy," she said. "Mum [Janice Lorston-Clarke] has been keeping him ticking over for me."

Their 68.79% was the 14-year-old breeding stallion's best mark to date and the French judge Anne Prain had him down to win.

"He was the most consistent in his paces," said Anne. "His impulsion and engagement was very good and he was the only one to do a true zigzag."

Lisa Hopkins and Lindsey Roberts Walkman BC won their second intermediate I in less than a month. Walkman BC, a Hanoverian by Emma Hande's Olympic stallion Wie Weltmeyer, has only recently come back into work after time off last year.

"He still feels a little underpowered," said Lisa. "But it was a clear round and there is so much more of him. I've spent this week working on the two-time changes so they were more secure, and the piroettes felt good. This level is a big step up, so I'm pleased he's coping well."



It was a fantastic show for 18-year-old Samantha Thurman Baker. She impressed with her cool demeanor in her first ever grand prix on Spring Precat, a horse she has produced herself with help from her mother and trainer Diane. The pair came eighth, making an impression with international judge Anne Prain.

"He's an amazing horse," she said. "Samantha is a very good rider, but the center was tense; without the tension she could have won. They are a lovely combination working in very good harmony."

Sam won the FEI junior team test on her other horse Highcliffe Apollo

Half Moon Delphi, who has found onto the British dressage scene in the past fortnight. She is one of two mares that Michael Eilberg began riding for the Half Moon Stud six months ago.

This nine-year-old Dimaggio mare came out for the first time two weeks ago to win at Hartpury. Here she was a double winner, also taking one section of Friday's split PSG class on 71.18%, relegating Andrew Gould and another big-moving grey, Santorini Hit, into second.

"It was our first outdoor show and she was super," said Michael of the big grey. "She's long, but

has such a good hindleg and a soft back. She's still weak but when she strengthens she'll be fantastic."

In Friday's other PSG section, Nicky Patrick and Uglesias relegated Andrew into second once more — this time with Wild Angel — a placing Andrew and the talented mare repeated in one section of the following day's PSG, which saw Alice Oppenheimer and Headmore Delegate triumph.

Andrew finally clinched a win at the level in Saturday's other section with Santorini Hit.

"It's early days for him at PSG," said Andrew. "When he finds his balance, he's awesome." H&H



GOODBYE AND A HAPPY RETIREMENT TO...

Half Moon Barlow and Julie Dewar made their last grand prix together. "He's 18 now, and he deserves a rest," said Julie, of her stud's foundation stallion. The pair has qualified for the Nationals every year since 1996. He was one of two Half Moon Stud horses at the show.

There was the last show at Addington for show organizer Jennifer Watson, who has been at the Bucks venue for over 20 years. "I suppose I'm sort of retiring," she said, after one of the biggest shows there yet. There were over 250 entries for this Premier League show, with many classes including more than 30 combinations.



YOUNG HORSE CLASSES

There were no fewer than seven young horse classes over the three days and no combinations dominated in any age group. The highest scores were in the Hickstead national young horse qualifiers. Sara Gallop and Summerhouse Bandini headed the five-year-old section with 83.8%, and Daniel Greenwood and Angelo V won the six-year-old class with 83.6%.

Results

FRIDAY 13 MAY
PSG (I Auby, L Whetstone).— 1. Half Moon Delphi (M Eilberg) 71.18; 2. Mitchell's Santorini Hit (A Gould) 68.94; 3. Keystone Rhondeo (S Lavandra) 68.81. Inter I (D Wardle, D Trott).— 1. Corbore II (K Attlee) 70.92; 2. Torino (M Eilberg) 70.78; 3. Di Spirito (H Andersen) 69.60. FEI Inter II (J Peberdy, R Herbert, D Mason).— 1. Walkman BC (L Hopkins) 66.14; 2. Aristo (A Perry) 65.61; 3. Forest Gump (M Assouline) 64.29. FEI psg (A Prain FRA, C Gardiner).— 1. Uglesias (N Patrick) 69.34; 2. Wild Angel (A Gould) 68.28; 3. Bohigus W (R Barrett) 68.15. byh int 6yo Q (N Goodman, P Hayler).— 1. Farhill Bolinger (R Barrett) 84; 2. Royal Coeur 2 (M Martin-Tucker) 77.6; 3. Don Angelo (M Ott) 74.2. byh int 5yo Q.— 1. Bequila (Z Sleigh) 78.6; 2. Ber St (N Lickley) 76.4; 3. Don Diablo (D Watson) 73. byh nat 6yo Q (S Piggley, J Harvey).— 1. Angelo VI (D Greenwood) 83.6; 2eq. Royal Coeur 2 & Don Carissimo (C Keen) 81.8. byh nat 5yo Q (C Porterfield, P Storr).— 1. Summerhouse Bandini (S Gallop) 83.8; 2. Sternelle (G Williams) 82.4; 3. Bravour (C Sparks) 80.2.

SATURDAY 14 MAY
FEI gp (D Trott, A Prain FRA, P Storr).— 1. Bayford Hall Dallaglio (D Sheriff) 70.78; 2. Escobar (M Martin-Tucker) 69.43; 3. Catherine Springsteen (L Murray) 68.79. FEI inter I (P Lang, C Porterfield).— 1. Half Moon Delphi 68.02; 2. First Way (V Thompson-Winfield) 67.36; 3. Lou Wega (J Harvey) 67.27. FEI psg (J McGarril-Groves, R Herbert).— 1. Mitchell's Santorini Hit 69.07; 2. Showbiz (S Munson) 67.76; 3. Feine Dame (A Perry) 67.63. FEI psg (D Wardle, M Newall).— 1. Headmore Delegate (A Oppenheimer) 71.31; 2. Wild Angel 70.39; 3. Day-Ja-Vous (A Stovold) 69.86. Badminton yH Q (F Scott).— 1. Fatal Attraction (K Mackin) 80.4; 2. Don Dante (D Cooper) 79.2; 3. Bandit II (N Lickley) 77.8. FEI jr team (A Nicell, C Landolt).— 1. Highcliffe Apollo (S Thurman-Baker) 68.78; 2. Duella (P Hutton) 65.94; 3. Seigneur (C Stockland) 65.94. FEI pony team (L Whetstone, S McMahon).— 1. Langard 4 (K Imm) 70.41; 2. Tymo (C Vell) 68.19; 3. Little Jasper (L Rogers) 65.13. FEI yr team (J Ward, L Mackie).— 1. Pablo (A Barr) 67.36; 2. Washington 103 (E Harris) 66.31; 3. Half Moon Bartolino (R Drane) 66.52.

SUNDAY 15 MAY
Wellington psg fm (J Firmston-Williams, D Mason).— 1. Twingo (T Graham) 66.25; 2. Feiner Pino (L Clark) 63.25; 3. Korenbloem Vincitorama (E Stanford) 63. Wellington adv med fm (J Head, A Prain FRA).— 1. Jefferson (C Payne) 71.25; 2. Nik Nak (H Brown) 70.83; 3. Calbalou (K Head) 68.5. Int 5yo (D Hunt).— 1. Breezer (G Harrison) 80.2; 2. Sapphire II (M Bates) 77; 3. Sternelle (G Williams) 78.2. Int 4yo (D Hunt).— 1. Summerhouse Santano (T Buckland) 82; 2. Fatal Attraction (K Mackin) 78; 3. Furst Edition (H Boswell) 76.6. FEI gp special (A Prain FRA, J Firmston-Williams, D Mason).— 1. Marakov (M Eilberg) 66.73; 2. Bayford Hall Dallaglio (D Sheriff) 66.52; 3. Weltzin (H Biggs) 66.45. yr indiv (M Newall).— 1. Washington 103 (E Harris) 69.21; 2. Lantrus (D Woffendale) 65.52; 3. U Rockstar (C Anderson) 65.26. jr indiv (M Newall).— 1. The Smoke Jumper (G Weedon) 63.94; 2. Seigneur (C Stockland) 63.68; 3. Nik Nak 60.26. FEI pony indiv (L Mackie).— 1. Tymo (C Vell) 67.63; 2. Brer Fox II (C Granger-Savage) 64.21; 3. Scoundrel's Knight (P Todd) 63.94.