

**'I was proud of him':  
Andrew Gould's  
Varisto excels at  
advanced medium**



Maria. "He's always had a talent for the passage, but the piaffe has taken a while and we did a lot of in-hand work over the winter. His ears were pricked and he was extremely happy to be out today. Hopefully, we'll be able to do a grand prix by the end of the year."

Andrew Gould brought five very different horses to the show. It's a credit to his focus that he achieved wins and placings with nine-year-old Dutch mare Waranda, Sara Green and Ian Gould's 10-year-old Jazz gelding Cortaflex Varisto, Katie Price's

White Summer (by Weltino), Mandy Crouch's 11-year-old Wild Angel (Donnerschlag/Rohdiamant) and Naomi Vance-Webb's Spanish stallion Habanero.

Andrew was especially pleased with Varisto.

"He did a really secure test today — I was proud of him because he has been really tricky," he said. "I've got a lot of time for him, but he can let me down at shows. He's got stronger and he's getting easier to manage — he's got most of the grand prix work now so we are aiming at that." **H&H**

## HEARD IN THE STANDS

**THE** unmounted prize-givings were abandoned after some disagreements on Friday when riders either didn't turn up or were dressed "improperly" in the eyes of the venue management (full competition gear was required).

In one incident, rider Andrew Gould — who was busy warming up to be first in after the break — was asked to dismount and take part in a prize-giving for a class he had won. With 10min until his next test he understandably refused.

Later in the day, organiser Tim Price announced that there would be no more prize-givings except in the grand prix and anyone who didn't turn up would not be granted their place.

**NO** one can say the dressage world is not up to speed with the latest trends in technology as well as fashion.

Roland Tong's team recorded his second ever grand prix on Pompidou on an iPad — a larger screen to play back the test and easier to work than a video camera.

"You can actually watch the test as well," said iPad operator Sandra Kirkpatrick.

And Anna Ross Davies was busy tweeting everything she thought might be interesting and provoke debate — gaining 200 Twitter followers during the show.

"The most responses are to silly things like whether ears should be inside or outside the top hat, or whether bling browbands help," she reported.

