

a clear win in the PSG qualifier at Hickstead, Sussex.

After riding his own and Bridget Marshall's 12-year-old Polish Warmblood stallion, Noble Karat, Paul explained: "It's eight years since I wore top hat and tails, and it's only Karat's fifth time in an arena. We stayed overnight with Dane Rawlins because I wanted to ensure the horse had a good experience."

Paul has trained Karat since the horse was four as a part-time project.

"He's very soft and easy in his way of going. Why shouldn't I blow my own trumpet?" laughed Paul. "He's been correctly produced with no short-cuts. With big horses, the crucial thing is to give them time."

Andrew Gould, who won the intermediaire II class with a worthy 67.68% on Sara Vilppula's 13-year-old stallion Cadre Noir, also had a top result in the intermediaire I on Numero Uno.

"Being number one, Numero Uno will be a bit sour about Cadre Noir's win," joked Andrew. "They're both the most straightforward horses you could wish to compete. They don't get tense and they don't get too hot."

In the advanced medium 98, Daniel Timson and Edelstein had to concede to another Ehrentusch son, Ehrendour, with Georgina Stuart, when a recount placed the latter a whisker ahead, with 70.79% to Daniel's 70.53%.

Georgina said: "Win or lose, Ehrendour's always the horse I want to take home with me."

Daniel and Edelstein hung on to victory in the qualifier on 69.39%, with the runner-up, the 17hh 12-year-old Nagano, just behind.

Nagano's rider, Dan Chapman, said: "Even the first test on 60% was a good result for us. He backed off the bridle, but didn't throw in the towel entirely. I'm based with Dane Rawlins and because I'm a quiet rider he thought I might get on with Nagano. I've spent a year building his trust."

KINGSTON MAURWARD

By Annabel Kendal

ANGELA Russell took a successful break from revising for her law exams when her own Nico won his first outing at intermediaire II level, earning more than 68% at Kingston Maurward, Dorset.

"I didn't really know how well he was going, as neither of us had done piaffe or passage in the arena before," said Angela. "It was totally unexpected and I just went with the idea of having a go."

Angela, 27, who keeps the 12-year-old Nico at livery with Matt Hicks while she attends the College of Law in Guildford, added: "It's great to have a bit of back-up in the yard while you're riding."

Trained by Nicola Jourdain, Angela and Nico also gained their intermediaire I regional qualification after finishing behind Julie Deverill



Straightforward: Andrew Gould wins at intermediaire II with Cadre Noir



Daniel Timson hangs on to advanced medium qualifier victory, riding Edelstein

and Half Moon Bertoni.

Hannah Biggs, whose horses returned from intensive training with Emile Faurie a month ago, reaped the rewards when she claimed the PSG on her home-bred Demascus and then finished third with the Hanoverian stallion Weltzin.

"Emile managed to do in two weeks what I'd been trying to do for the past two years," said Hannah. "I'm not sure he wanted to see me out at PSG level, but I was so excited about how they were going that I had to give it a try."

Both horses were competing at PSG for the first time and Hannah said: "It was lovely to get back into top hat and tails. I've been floating around at advanced medium and medium levels for too long."

To this end, Hannah, who recently received sponsorship from Top Spec, has acquired a personal fitness trainer.

"He's been coming for a few

months and I'm really beginning to notice the results. I can manage a whole lesson with Emile without feeling exhausted," she said.

UNEX TOWERLANDS

By Ruth Pearce

KATHRYN Brace and Pompidou had a double win at Unex Towerlands at advanced medium to maintain their 100% success rate at the level. The combination made it three out of three, with Sarah Wrigley's gelding already qualified for the regionals at medium.

"He's still quite green at the level, but his way of going is secure and his changes are coming," said Kathryn. "He's so powerful and up to the contact all the way through. The medium canter felt fantastic."

Sarah added: "He's versatile and also enjoys showing. It's his party time, like dressage with friends. Last

year, he finished fifth at the Horse of the Year Show in the riding horse search for a star with Kerry Allen."

Laura Mansfield and The Philosopher's Stone scored the highest mark of the show with 75% in the prelim qualifier.

Hertfordshire-based insurance company worker Laura bought the five-year-old black and white gelding, by Oberon, last August.

"I'd had a nasty experience with another horse before I got him," she said. "He's never put a foot wrong and helped me regain my confidence."

Jannine Worthy-Lloyd won the novice 21 with Tender Ve, a Dutch-bred gelding by Landadel who was bought as a three-year-old graded and licenced stallion. The pair are in their first affiliated dressage season.

"I had him gelded, backed him myself and then fell pregnant with my daughter," said Jannine who lives in North Benfleet.

"He was the first horse I'd backed, but he was straightforward and chilled. He's almost like a couch potato really. I'm sure he'd live in the house if he had the chance."

German breiter Rena Fraikin, 24, took the top two places in the novice qualifier. She won on Aldborough Rubenhall, a home-bred grey stallion by Rubioso, and finished second with Jubilee Future, a four-year-old black gelding by Flammingold. Paul Hayler, for whom Rena is producing youngsters, owns both horses.

FRENHAM MANOR

By Celia Cadwallader

FRACTIONS counted at Frensham Manor's advanced medium qualifier, with Sue McMahon's Starfighter taking the top spot on 68.82%. Sue also scored 68.24% on Romance, putting them third after collective marks were considered, just behind Eva and Shaun Measures's Rubinstein stallion Rimskij Korsakov, ridden by Sara-Jane Lanning.

Sue recently qualified Starfighter at her and Vanessa Swain's new base, Stilebridge Barn in Kent.

Vanessa said of the "rocking horse dappled grey" Hanoverian, Romance: "I've owned him since he was two. He's now eight, but horses by Royal Diamond seem to take time to mature. He has big paces that he's learning to collect. Today was his highest score and he got eights for his changes."

Restricted rider David Stone had a first and second overall in the mediums on his 16.1hh seven-year-old Dutch-bred Toko.

"He would have done better in the qualifier if it hadn't been tipping it down when we went and I couldn't control his quarters," said David, who runs Bow Lake Equestrian

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