



"The high scores were a massive bonus": Gareth Hughes clocks up 78.11% at elementary



"Ultra Jazz has grown up a lot and his balance is better," says Andrew Gould of the music winner

chestnut, who is full-brother to Gareth Hughes's national champion Sandman, for two years.

"I took over the ride while Jackie was pregnant and, now she's had the baby, she's back riding again," said Andrew, who scored 77.77%. "He's grown up a lot and his balance is better."

Roland Tong and Lord Of The Rings took the Equissage Elementary Music and finished second in the medium music.

Roland has been riding the horse for the past month because owner Jo Swain has other commitments during the winter championships.

"Bilbo' is a feel-good horse. He just needs to gain a bit of strength, but I've got until April to do that. I'll be giving them a run for their money," said Roland.

The established partnership of Katie Bailey and Adrian Alfarnad produced a harmonious test

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Roland Tong

to take the Nupafeed Advanced Medium Music and received nines for their extended walk.

Katie is in her first year of young riders, as is NAF Prix St Georges Music winner Lara Griffiths, 18, on Warlock. Both riders adapted last year's junior freestyles for the occasion.

The Blue Chip Feed Balancer Novice Restricted went to Daniel Henson and Land Vision. The pair, who combine dressage with eventing, received a nine for the free walk. Molly Johnstone and Trident Hazy Daze were the

HEARD IN THE STANDS

■ **ALBION** Medium Music winners Charlotte Dujardin and Fernandez are now based with Carl Hester. Charlotte said: "We went for 10 days' training at the start of the year and have decided to stay."

■ **ZOE** Sleight, 18, contested the PSG music with her new horse, Orvieto, whom she has had for only four weeks, despite never having ridden a test at that level, nor any music class.

"I did feel a bit thrown in at the deep end, but it was good experience and I enjoyed myself," said Zoe.

■ **DANIEL** Greenwood and John Dimopoulos's Wustensand finished in the ribbons at medium and advanced medium.

"I'm pleased for John that 'Sandy' went so well. He's recently had a disappointment with Baltazar, who had a hock operation that hasn't worked," said Daniel.

■ A bleary-eyed Harry Payne blamed his lack of sleep on — his cat!

"He set the burglar alarm off three times during the night. It was a miracle that I could remember where I was going," lamented Harry.

unanimous winners of the Horsense Saddlers Preliminary, while Katerina Cox and Maserati 12 stood clear of the field in the Equine Herbals Elementary Restricted. **H&H**

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