

ADDINGTON MANOR

By Ruth Pearce

WAVENEY Luke and Don Noir won the medium qualifier at Addington on their debut at the level.

Oxford-based List Two judge Waveney bought the German-bred gelding 18 months ago.

"It took us a while to get together because I'd been out of competition for more than a year," she said. "It was beyond my wildest dreams to win. I was pleased with judge Joyce Head's comments on how softly and harmoniously he went."

Eventer Tiggi Bentley and Party Time Too, who are based at the same yard as Waveney, finished runners-up in the novice qualifier behind another eventer, advanced rider Bella Tschakowsky.

Bella qualified for the regionals in one go with two novice wins on her own Valentino X, a seven-year-old by Grannusso who has just upgraded to intermediate event level.

"I bought 'Gossip' three years ago when he came in to be sold. I fell in love with him straight away," said Bella, who runs the Cossack competition yard with dressage trainer Stephen Moore in Herts.

Emile Faurie and the graded sports horse stallion Catherston Springsteen won the advanced medium qualifier, while Trudie Knight and Florentine II headed two elementary classes.

THE COLLEGE

By Ruth Pearce

RHETT Bird won the advanced medium qualifier at The College to secure a regional ticket on Renegade RB in the seven-year-old's first test at the level.

Dutch-bred by Iroko, the 17hh gelding was bought by Rhett and wife Jilly four years ago in partnership with Anna and Paul Harvey. It was only their second outing since competing in young horse classes on the Spanish Sunshine Tour last year.

"I've been taking my time with him. He's only young and is a big mover. He's a special horse," said Rhett, who also won the open qualifier to complete qualification for the medium regionals.

Trisha Polson and Peppershill Oscar finished ahead of Rhett to take the medium qualifier overall.

It was the eventing duo's first dressage outing since finishing sixth in the elementary restricted at the winter championships, where Trisha made an error of course.

"At medium level I found the movements come a lot quicker than I'm used to and I enjoyed the challenge," she said.

Eva Greene and her Holstein/Anglo Arab Losita won both

elementaries overall. The mare was bought 2½ years ago, with Eva knowing she wasn't the easiest of rides. They recently had a "disaster" at the winter semis at Addington.

"Losita performed two vertical rears in the elementary freestyle," explained Eva. "She doesn't normally rear, although she's certainly a challenge, and when she goes right, she's fantastic."

HUNTERS EQUESTRIAN

By Carole Mortimer

GARETH Hughes and last year's winter novice champion, Ramazotti, qualified for the regionals at advanced medium level at their first attempt. The pair headed the qualifier at Hunters Equestrian with more than 71%.

"He's only had a handful of outings this year, but he's not one who needs much match practice," said Gareth of Lynda Baxter's seven-year-old by Welt Hit II.

Gareth's stable jockey, Sarah Turner, won both sections of the medium restricted with the British-bred Dun Fiddlesticks, who is by Clive Halsall's grand prix stallion Roulette.

Gareth and Korenbloem Sandman, the 2004 national novice champion, topped the medium 61 ahead of Emile Faurie and Diaghilev to complete their regional qualification. But the tables were turned in the qualifier, with Emile and Diane Simpson-Price's Donnerhall gelding Diaghilev gaining the judges' approval. It was the first outing for three years for the eight-year-old.

Diane bought Diaghilev as a foal, but after success in young horse classes as a five-year-old he had to undergo surgery.

"He's taken a long time to get right," said Diane. "He's quite feisty but talented. We'd like to see him go all the way."

Pippa Fisher and Jackie Walker's Korenbloem Pinocchio won the advanced 100, while Irish visitor Simone Hession and her grey mare Beezie's Sue, who is by the Irish Draught sire Sea Crest, gained placings in the medium restricted classes before heading the advanced medium 86.

EQUI-SENSE

By Toni Warren

SAM Rahmatalla extended her run of success to win the advanced medium with Abigail Bingley's 11-year-old Pass The Pilot at the Equi Sense Academy, Somerset.

Abigail bought the Hanoverian/Welsh gelding six years ago from a yard in Wales. She hunted him for a few seasons before turning him to

To retain his concentration we had to impose his own personal hunting ban

Abigail Bingley



Andrew Gould and Donnez Moi set the standard in the advanced medium

Donnez Moi a winner

HICKSTEAD

By Celia Cadwallader

ANDREW Gould ran away with the advanced medium at Hickstead on Lucy Oppe's Donnez Moi, who had been with him for just five days. Andrew was first to go and set the rest a formidable task with 75.15%, the highest score of the day.

Judge Marion Goggin said: "Andrew kept Donnez Moi in front of his leg and seat without any 'stop' in the hand. He showed exceptional feel and brought out the very best in his horse."

But this winning combination is not set to last.

"He's given me the best test

sheet I've ever had, but, sadly, he has come to us to be sold," said Andrew, who was also second in this class with his established partner Korenbloem Rebel G.

Andrew is currently leading the Hickstead Dressage Masters League points table with Numero Uno.

The strong prix st georges class was headed by Laura Bechtolsheimer on Mistral Hojris. Just 1% behind was Dr and Mrs Bechtolsheimer's Don Davidoff, ridden by their resident trainer Markus Gribbe. Now eight, Don Davidoff, by Don Gregory out of a Rubinstein mare, was top five-year-old at the German young horse championships.

Both judges put Hojris in first place, but Mark Ruddock

dressage with Sam.

"He's quite a sharp horse anyway and he rides like a Thoroughbred, so to maintain his concentration we had to impose his own personal hunting ban," said Abigail.

The horse has come back into competitive work after a long spell

of lameness enforced an 18-month rest period.

"His problems seemed to be of an arthritic nature and we were faced with the option of extensive surgery or turning him out and letting nature take its course. We decided to give him a really long break to make



commented: "There wasn't much to choose between them, Laura's horse was the more established, while Don Davidoff had more balance issues in the canter."

Hojris, a nine-year-old by the Michelangelo stallion Michellino, came from Hasse Hoffman in Denmark. The combination had a clean sweep in the young rider classes at the CDI Addington in March. Three days before Hickstead, they won the Wellington Prix St Georges Music Freestyle Championship and have set their sights on the young rider European Championships in Barzago, Italy, next month.

Laura went on to win the grand prix with Douglas Dorsey. Once again she finished 1% in front of Markus Gribbe, who was second on Polarion.

Jill Dugmore's seven-year-old black Hanoverian mare Wish Upon A Star, by Walt Disney, continued to make Jill's wishes come true with elementary and medium wins for Mark Ruddock.

"We've just been to a Stephen Clarke clinic at Belmoredean and he was getting us to go from piaffe to medium trot and back. Hickstead was the first time we've had eights for the medium trotwork," said Mark.

sure, and he's come back better than ever," added Abigail.

Sam pushed Frances Turner into second, depriving her of a double victory after she won the medium qualifier on the nine-year-old Moet Chandon, by Wurlitzer.

Earlier in the day, Keren Morris

notched up a double win in the restricted elementary classes, earning qualifying percentages in both on her eight-year-old Dutch gelding Primero.

SHEEPGATE EC

By Barbara Young

LEANNE Bell and Playboy proved unbeatable in the medium restricted sections, winning four out of four over a weekend of competition at Sheepgate Equestrian.

"It was the first time we stayed away at a show but it turned out to be our best ever outing. I've never done so many mediums in one go," said 25-year-old Leanne, who travelled from the Isle of Man as part of her month-long campaign based with her trainer, Sylvia Schorn.

Leanne, a former working pupil with event rider Paddy Muir, took up pure dressage only two years ago, when she bought her eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood by Faust Z.

"Playboy's my first proper dressage horse. It took me six months to get used to his bigger movement," said Leanne.

"There's not a lot of competition on the Isle of Man, so we take the 3½ hr boat journey about every three months and plan as many competitions as we can. 'Ben' is a brilliant traveller and seems to take it all in his stride."

Tor Williams made a 5hr journey from Shropshire worthwhile by winning two elementaries with Broadstone Davinci. Jane Rowan's seven-year-old British Warmblood by Demonstrator was bought through *Horse & Hound* last year.

"Leo can be shy and nervous. He used to be quite naughty in competition and the first two times out we had to retire. But I read a chapter about spooking in Carl Hester's book and some of his tips helped in the arena. This time, we both relaxed and enjoyed ourselves," said Tor, a former member of the junior dressage team who trains with Tracy Foden.

Kay Maxted from Surrey enjoyed

success with her Dutch 10-year-old Harri in the advanced medium, while her Russian-bred Trapani was second in both grands prix.

"If all the horses in the yard tried as hard as Harri, life would be so easy," said Kay, who trains with Richard White.

"We bought him to sell but he's proved such a star that he's now earned a permanent place."

Becky Moody was on top form, winning two prix st georges with High Fashion and both grands prix on her 13-year-old campaigner Kwadraat, in their first season at this level.

"We've spent the past couple of seasons fine-tuning our training and Emile Faurie has helped enormously. Kwadraat's very intelligent but sometimes worries about new things. We took him back to basics and worked on his connection and it's made all the difference," said Becky.

Kate Elliott made a winning debut in the novice open sections with Vicky Golding's six-year-old British Hanoverian mare Garland, who is in training at Ian Woodhead's yard.

"She was fantastic and didn't put a foot wrong — she's so genuine," said Kate, who had just six minutes to warm up after jumping off her advanced horse DHI Nastros, who was third in his first grand prix.

"Nastros has matured into the work and he's coping really well with the step up to this level," said Kate. "We were guinea pigs at last year's British Dressage national convention with Ulla Salzgeber and that was a turning point. Ulla gave us some helpful insights, including suggesting a change of bit, which made a big difference."

RIDINGHILL STUD

By Hilary Mactaggart

AFTER a month back in work following surgery, Ridinghill Elegance took two regional qualifying tickets on home ground at Ridinghill Stud's two-day show.

The mare is ridden by Caroline



In their first season at grand prix Becky Moody and Kwadraat take two wins

HEARD IN THE STANDS

■ THE British junior and young rider dressage teams for the European Championships in Barzago, Italy (15–17 July) have been selected.

Young rider Laura Bechtolsheimer will be riding Mistral Hojris, the Danish horse acquired just six months ago who cleaned up at Addington Manor's young rider international in April. She will be looking to go even better than her fifth place last year on Douglas Dorsey.

Holly Burrough (Orvieto) and Marie Eilberg (Topscore) are back, having made up last year's bronze medal-winning team alongside Laura.

Henry Boswell will make his first young riders appearance with his junior team regular DHI Faederlite.

Competing again for the juniors are Anne-Marie Perry with either World Classic or Forrest Fire and Emily Cousins on Ludo II. Natalie Allen, riding Rapino, and Georgina Somerset with Paris 52. Anne-Marie was best of the British juniors in 2004 with the British-bred Forrest Fire.

Junior and young rider chefs d'equipe Caroline Griffith and Jennie Loriston-Clarke will travel to Italy with the team, as will trainer Henk van Bergen and vet John McEwan.

■ IRISH international dressage rider James Connor's 16-year-old Hanoverian Chapmann has been put down. Ireland will therefore not be sending a team to Moscow for the European Dressage Championships from 27–31 July.

Italian-based Connor was Ireland's main hope, having finished second with Chapmann in the grand prix special at Lisbon CDI3* in May.

Connor's other grand prix ride, Wild Lion, died at the CDI-W Lipica earlier this month, following an attack of colic.

Ireland will be sending Heike Holstein and Welt Adel to Moscow as individuals.

Simmers, daughter of stud owner Nigel Mercer. She impressed judges Jackie Scouler and Viv Graham to win an elementary and a medium.

"Spice" underwent an operation to remove two back teeth at Ardene House Veterinary Hospital in Aberdeen at the end of March.

"I didn't expect her to be back in competition so quickly," explained Caroline, "let alone gaining her regional qualification as well."

Stud manager Jill Cruickshank headed a prelim summer qualifier on another of the stud's progeny, Ridinghill San Donato.

Young Rebecca Stephen won the novice 23 and open novice qualifier