

Jazz does battle

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, HAMPSHIRE
18 May

By Helen Triggs

STIRRING battle music from the film *King Arthur* powered Andrew Gould and Ultra Jazz to win the advanced medium freestyle.

"Dramatic music suits him as he's a big horse," said Andrew. "It was the first time we've used the music. There are a few little adjustments I want to make to it before the finals. He's just started at advanced medium so we

thought we'd have a crack at the music."

Andrew's pupil Emily Stanford won the novice freestyle at her first attempt on Korenbloem Vincit Omnia, achieving the highest score of the day with 80.28%.

"Emily bought him from us last year and keeps him in training with us," said Andrew. "He's a very talented six-year-old by Negro and a great horse for her."

UAlteaus HFD, won the novice qualifier on 75% for Ruth Lovell. Ruth trains with former employer Lucy Oppe.

"Alteaus is the first

dressage horse I've had," said Ruth. "He's seven and has come on slowly and still needs more time and mileage to relax."

Jacky Stolper won the elementary music with Steph Ilsley's Rubinia and the medium freestyle with Bridget McCarthy's Winston Jani, using the same jazz music for both.

"Rubinia is a jolly nice mare," said Jacky. "She's a state premium Hanoverian and will probably go to stud next year. Winston did some really expressive trot work and got all eights for his artistic marks."

Andrew Gould triumphs on Ultra Jazz riding to the *King Arthur* soundtrack



and has bred two foals.

"She was a bit tense in the medium but felt better in the advanced medium, although we made a few green mistakes," said the 18-year-old rider. "She's really genuine and fun. You have to play with her or she gets bored. She's learnt so much in a few months."

ABBEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
11 May

By Andrea Oakes

DARLEY'S Las Vagas dazzled in soaring

temperatures to win a 21-strong novice qualifier with owner-rider Sue-zi Armistead.

"He went into the ring fresh and did a sparky test," said Sue-zi, who was relieved to take top spot with 71.72% after a run of second placings. "On our last outing we came second with 73% — we've been knocking on the winner's door for weeks."

Sue-zi has been working with trainer Helena Charlesworth over the winter to build up the 17.3hh Hanoverian gelding's strength.

Carl [Hester] always says Valegro has an old man's brain

Charlotte Dujardin on one of three young horse winners

"He's so big and it's taken time," she said. "He's a genuine horse and he's finding the novice work a lot easier now."

Uzambo stormed the medium 75 qualifier,

scoring 74.86% with owner-rider Jackie Farlow. Jackie explained the eight-year-old has been lightly competed so far, as other aspects of her life have taken precedence.

"I found a man and moved house," she said. "I've just started competing again and it's nice to be back."

Uzambo, a 16.2hh stallion, is based with Ferdi Eilberg and was former Oldenburg stallion champion in Denmark.

"He scored 9.5 for his temperament in his grading, which is one of the reasons I chose him," said Jackie. "His trainability is wonderful. He coped particularly well with the heat here and was very forward."

BURROWS COURT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
8 May

By Andrea Oakes

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN dominated with three talented young horses from Carl Hester's yard. She and Valegro scored two 10s on the way to taking both six-year-old classes. The partnership, together for a year now, is growing in strength and confidence.

"He tries so hard," said Charlotte of Carl's Negro-sired gelding. "He's willing and doesn't behave like a six-year-old — Carl says he has an old man's brain."

"There's a lot to live up to when I ride Valegro, as everyone knows how good he is. But every time I get on, I'm smiling."

Charlotte took the four-year-old class with Zydillac, a 16.1hh chestnut she started riding this year.

"This was his second outing and he coped well," she said. "He's another one who wants to please."

Winston Bond gave Charlotte a fourth win in the five-year-old international. The pair hadn't practised the test as a whole, nor some of the movements it required, before the victory.

"He was a bit green, but he did it," said Charlotte, who was impressed with a cool performance from the

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an Activo-med magno massage rug

JULIE HUGO attributes her intermédiaire I success with Remington at Manor Farm on May 10 (see page 49) to an Activo-med magno massage rug she bought six months ago.

"It does everything but wash the dishes!" she joked. "Remington was always so active behind it would cause problems with the saddle bumping up and making his back sore. It didn't matter what saddle I tried.

"The magno has stopped the bruising and the massage helps warm him up before I get on and cool him down when I get off. Now he relaxes more and doesn't get tight in the back. We still use the same saddle, but he's now softer behind and his back isn't sore.

"He wasn't able to give me his whole lot before because he was uncomfortable, but we're now aiming for grand prix in the near future."

16.2hh gelding. "For his age he has massive paces and a good character. We won't be pushing him too hard, though, as he has a lot of strength to gain."

KINGSTON MAURWARD
10-11 May

By Annabel Kendal

OLIVIA FAITH, who was forced to give up riding for two years at 14 while suffering from a kinked spine, won the advanced medium restricted on Lorenzo Rossi, with