

International success prompts Andrew's move

Andrew Gould has been competing in dressage since the age of 13. As a young rider Andrew successfully competed internationally on Koffee Break, competing on five consecutive GB European Championship Teams including winning a team bronze medal in 2000. Andrew has since enjoyed success on many other horses, winning 11 regional championships, 3 national championship classes and has won and been placed in many classes both nationally and internationally. As a highly regarded dressage trainer Andrew works with some of the equestrian world's leading riders and celebrities. In the last month Andrew, his wife Polly and sons Louis and Oliver have moved yards to Ebbisham Farm in Walton-on-the-Hill. Giving Absolute Horse his first interview since moving to the area, we find out about Andrew's plans for his new place and we learn a little more about our new local dressage celebrity.

You've just moved to Ebbisham Farm. What's it like?

Ebbisham Farm is a fantastic yard to be based at. We have access to 44 stables, 3 outdoor arenas, 50 acres of grazing, a 1 mile grass canter track, lunge ring and horse walker. It really is like the Ritz for the horses and I am lucky to be there.

Why move to Ebbisham, what does this now enable you to do?

I moved to Ebbisham Farm as I needed more stables. I have got some great owners now and my string of competition horses are growing which is obviously what I want, and Ebbisham Farm can cater for this.

How are you planning to expand your work at Ebbisham?

I get a lot of clients wanting to come in for short-term intensive training. At Ebbisham Farm I am able to offer this as I have spare stables to offer for 3 to 4 day training courses. I will also be able to teach lots more from home, which I really enjoy.

Have you explored the local area yet; been to any shows?

It's only 40 minutes from my previous yard so I will still be attending the same shows as before. My two boys have joined the local Pony Club - Mid Surrey, and their Pony Club field is just next to the farm so we have been hacking up there to do Mini Camp and Rallies this summer.



Andrew and Mitchell's Santorini Hit

You do a lot of teaching, clinics and riding, how do you fit it all in?

I try and structure my day so I train the horses at my yard in the morning. This is a mixture of me riding and teaching my resident clients - I usually have around 10 - 12 to do. I then either teach from my yard in the afternoons where people come to me or I go and teach at other yards nearby. I am trying to build up so most of my teaching is at home as this will give me more time to concentrate on my competition horses.

Who are your most exciting horses at the moment?

I am really lucky at the moment to have a good string of horses. I have had a great season this year at Small Tour level on Mitchell's Santorini Hit and Wild Angel. Both have also won or been well placed at International level. This is the first season for both of them at Small Tour level so what they have achieved has been brilliant. I have great hopes for them next year. Cortaflex Varisto is now back in full work after an injury and I have some exciting young



Andrew and Cortaflex Varisto



Andrew and Habanero XLI

horses coming through. I also have three PRE stallions that belong to the Meadowbrook PRE Stud. Two are advanced and one is a young horse and I am really enjoying training them and will campaign them next season.

What do you look for in a horse?

For me I like a horse with lots of natural energy; that wants to go forward and is supple and loose in its paces and body. I have my favoured breeding lines that have worked for me in the past but I don't get hung up on bloodlines. If I like the horse and it gives me a good feeling then I don't really mind how its bred. You can get good and bad from the same breeding lines and each horse is an individual.

How do you find horses and match them to riders?

Part of my business at Priory Dressage is selling dressage horses. It's something my wife Polly and I have done for the last 10 years. We have sold some really good horses that have gone onto great success with their new owners and riders like Shadowfax ridden by Ruth Edge (winner of many National Titles), Pinnocchio ridden by Sophie Wells (WEG Para Gold Medal and two Young Rider European Championships) and Top Score ridden by Gabby Lucas (Pony European Team 2011). I always try and get a full brief of what the person is looking for and I have excellent contacts on the continent, which allows me to show really



Andrew and Wild Angel

good horses that suit what the person is looking for. I have some horses and ponies in my yard for sale plus I take people to Holland for buying trips, which are usually very successful and great fun.

What is your favourite thing about dressage?

I love the discipline and challenge the sport offers. If you can train a horse through the grades and compete at a high level it gives you immense satisfaction.

Continued overleaf.

