

DRESSAGE SPECIAL

RIDER PROFILE: Andrew Gould

Age: 30

Height: 5'10"

Hobbies: Football

Favourite food: Fillet steak

Pets: Addy my terrier

Favourite TV programme: Spooks and Top Gear

Last film you watched: From Paris with Love (Polly's choice)

Personal highpoint: Birth of my two gorgeous sons

What got you interested in dressage: David Hunt

Tell us about any really memorable horses: *Koffee Break* – a horse I was given when I was 13 and he was 5-years-old having just broken my aunties back. I went through hell and back with him but we built an amazing partnership and competed on five consecutive European Championship teams and won many titles. The other memorable horse in my career was *Numero Uno* who was a wedding present. He was 18.1hh but such a gentle giant and the kindest horse on the planet.

What advice would you give an Absolute Horse reader who is hoping to shine in your discipline this season: Put in the basic training and be disciplined. Turn negative comments into positives.

Which rider has inspired you: When I was younger Ian Stark and as I got older my trainer David Hunt.

Which top horse do you most admire: Moorlands Totilas.

Are there any areas of your riding you would you like to improve: My position and my focus.



HORSE PROFILE: Cortaflex Varisto

Stable name: Billy

Owners: Sara Green and Ian Gould

Colour: Liver Chestnut

Sex: Gelding

Height: 16.2hh

Age: 8

Breed: KWPN

Sire: Jazz

Dam: by Houston



Introduction: He has won numerous Regional Championships from Elementary to Advanced Medium. Highly placed at PSG level in Premiere League shows.

His background: Sadly Billy had a very hard start to life, he was badly looked after and mis-treated. When I got him as a 5-year-old he was so nervous he would bolt blind every time I tried to mount him and I couldn't carry a whip or wear spurs for the first 6 months he was with me. Billy was uncatchable in the stable, so tacking up was a nightmare and he was generally a nervous wreck. Luckily my staff and I have built up a trusting relationship with Billy and he is now the friendliest horse and is re-building his confidence slowly. It goes to show how a little patience and understanding can really help a damaged horse.

His tack: I ride him in a double bridle and a Prestige D1 saddle.

His feed: Billy is fed Bailey's Outshine, Bailey's Stud Balancer and Bailey's Endurance Mix. Added to this is Equine America's Formula1, Tye-Guard and Magnitude.

His strengths: He is a good looking horse, who looks impressive in the arena, is naturally forward thinking and he moves like a dream.

His weaknesses: He is weak in his body especially in his back-end, and this is due to the bad start in life he had, he can also get really nervous.

Future plans: I plan to start him in the International Small Tour next year and I am aiming him for Grand Prix by the end of next year.

Three secrets that our readers should know about him: Cortaflex Varisto was a stallion up until the age of 7; he was bought in an auction as a 3-year-old and lived in Sweden; he refuses to eat tit bits or polos!

See page 16 for Andrew's How To featuring Equine America's Cortaflex Varisto.