

The Irish-bred hunter was originally bought at a bargain-basement price as a hack by his owners, John and Kim Harold. "Grants has a great attitude," said Anne. "There's real energy in his paces and he is becoming more balanced and uphill. He's like a little clockwork toy — but with a bit of sparkle."

CENTRAL

By **Matthew Hill**
FREELANCE trainer Michael Garman and his seven-year-old Hanoverian Rippie won both mediums at **Addington Manor EC, Bucks** (17 March), with over 70% in the second test.

"In the first test we were first in and scored 65.4%, but still won," said Michael of the Rubin Royal gelding he has had for three years.

"I don't know what the difference was except that he looked a bit at the letter A which had blown over. He's got a good hindleg, he's an active mover and finds the lateral work easy," he added.

Part-time accountant Maggie Copus won both elementaries on over 70% with Florino, a nine-year-old Friesian gelding. This was Florino's first outing since last summer after he injured himself falling off the lorry ramp.

"We've got no winter turnout so he's been going mad," said Maggie, who trains with Brett Bird and Gareth Hughes. "I got up at four to get there early and he just managed to behave."

Maggie took her "neurotic" horse Caprioso, a 10-year-old gelding by Siles Capos, on his first outing this year to **Moulton College, Northants** (20 March), and won the medium 73.

"We had to retire from the first



SOUTH-EAST: Andrew Gould says PRE stallion Habanero is 'scopier than most'

test as he couldn't cope outside, but he did well in the second one. Then we went to Aston le Walls and won there too, so my efforts paid off. If you have quirky horses they take more time and effort."

Tom Graham won both advanced mediums on **Twings** on 21-year-old Knight gelding, Tom, who runs his own training yard in Oxfordshire, trains with Harry Payne and Serena Percus.

SOUTH-EAST

By **Celia Cadwallader**

SPANISH blood issued a serious challenge to warmblood at **Oldencraig, Surrey** (20 March).

Naomi Vance-Webb's black PRE stallion Habanero XLI headed the prix st georges (PSG) qualifier with 66.47% under Andrew Gould on only their second outing.

Andrew also took the intermediate I with 67.5% riding Mandy Crouch's Donnerschlag mare Wild Angel on her first attempt at the level.

Andrew, who has been riding Habanero since October, said: "I don't train Spanish horses any differently from warmbloods. But, because the work comes naturally to Andalusians, they are often not ridden connected. Habanero is more scopey than most and collection isn't difficult for him, but he still has to get stronger, fitter and sharper."

Warming up for their first full season at grand prix, British Dressage central regional trainer Lindsay Jenkins and Senorita II, by Sugunas, won the intermediate II qualifier on 65.78%.

Lindsay said: "She's a live wire and hasn't been to many shows. She found the outdoor arena here

quite spooky, so the work was nothing like she can do at home."

Daniel Busbridge, 16, made a winning debut at advanced medium 85 restricted. His score of 66.17% was second overall to Andrew Gould on Varisto. Daniel also won the restricted section of the medium 73 qualifier with 70% and was again second overall, this time to Fiona Bigwood, on young horse Raikano's Son (see One to watch, right).

Fiona and her World Equestrian Games (WEG) partner Wie Atlantico began their warm-up for their first date on the international calendar, Saumur at the end of April, in the pick-your-own at **Step by Step, West Sussex** (17 March). Their grand prix test scored a winning 74.89%.

Fiona commented: "Riding Atlantico today was like putting on an old glove. I enjoyed our test and that was reflected in the marks."

EAST

By **Ruth Pearce**
AMY BROOKBANK and the Belgian warmblood **Andy**, by Orlando, took both elementary classes at **Brook Farm, Essex** (20 March), with plus 70% scores.

"It was the third outing at elementary for the pair, who went at novice level and have qualified for their first CIC". Amy is based with Dan Sherriff and had a lesson the evening before the show.

"We worked on gear changes within the pace to help thoroughness from behind with more power and energy," said Amy, a lawyer based in Hatfield. "Because we went and I work full-time, I've only had about six lessons with Dan in 18 months. He

ONE **RAIKANO'S SON**

LAST year's WEG team silver medalist Fiona Bigwood completed medium qualification with her six-year-old Raikano's Son, winning on 72.94% at Oldencraig. Medium qualifier judge Louise Wall commented: "Raikano's Son is a very talented horse with endless potential, but needs a little longer to develop his strength for self carriage. Fiona rode her beautifully and elastic horse very professionally. She focused on maintaining the quality of the paces and way of going within the movements, constantly rebalancing and re-engaging him and giving him confidence. She schooled the horse through the test."

Fiona bought Raikano's Son as a two-year-old colt at a stallion farm in Germany as one of the few offspring of her showjumping bred stallion Raikano (Raimes), who died when he was five.

She said: "Raikano had amazing paces, but sadly he hadn't been wormed as a foal and it damaged his intestines."

"This is only Raikano's Son's fourth show, but he listened to me and produced a much more balanced test. He has an amazing attitude and is willing to learn everything. I'll put money on him going grand prix."



Fiona and Raikano's Son warm up

tells us what to work on and we go away and do it."

Pony rider Gabrielle Lucas and Top Star headed both restricted mediums with 68.62% and 67.09%. Diamond Jubilee had a successful first medium outing with two plus 70% scores under Paul Hayer, the Diamond H&E home-bred having already secured elementary qualification with daughter Bobby Hayer.

Paul and Bobby also took a novice class each on their first outing with Michelle Chipper's So High Society, a German-



CENTRAL: Michael Garman takes two mediums with the Hanoverian Rippie