

Celeb news



Pantomime piaffe

The best dressage riders must be used to being emulated, but not normally by a pantomime horse! This was the challenge facing Andrew Gould when he performed at the inaugural Pantomime Horse Derby at Royal Windsor Racecourse recently.

Andrew rode Jordan's Glamour Girl to demonstrate the finer points of dressage, performing various movements before the pantomime horses attempted to copy them!

Andrew and his wife Polly were then invited to judge the pantomime dressage horse competition, before the costumed equines battled it out in a 100m race (right). The event raised over £17,000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.



Star of the small screen

Tim Stockdale was pretty devastated by his 16-fault round in the individual final of the Olympic show jumping.

He might be a little cheered by the fact he'll be dominating every pony-mad teenager's spare time over the coming months, with new computer game 'Tim Stockdale's Riding Star'.

He follows several other illustrious riders to be immortalised in pixels, including Pippa Funnell, Mary King and Lucinda Green.

Getting into the habit

This week's Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials (11-14 September) is always an entertaining part of the eventing calendar. There's even a special treat in store for those heading to watch the dressage on the Friday, when event rider Oli Townend is due to get his leg over in the main arena! Oli is trying out side-saddle under the expertise of the interestingly-named Leg over Ladies.



Off with Choc's locks!

As the National Hunt season really gets going, one jockey might find he's suddenly a bit more aerodynamic!

Robert 'Choc' Thornton sacrificed his famous mane of long curly blonde hair to raise money for the Injured Jockeys Fund. A crowd of spectators gathered at The Plough Inn in Gloucestershire to watch the shearing, with one fan even bidding to own a lock of his hair.



Lucinda's whistle test

Lucinda Fredericks may have startled the dressage judge at an event at Martinvast in France. She managed to leave her mobile phone turned on in her pocket during the dressage phase, and unfortunately someone rang her mid-test!

Onlookers were treated to her interesting choice of ringtone – a wolf whistle – which continued for some time until the caller rang off. Luckily it didn't do Lucinda's chances any harm – she finished third on Mike Todd's R Lilibet in the CIC one-star competition.