

KP – Yes! Harvey rides once a week at school, and I sometimes sit Princess and Junior on Blaze. I'm thinking of buying them a pony of their own very soon though

HM – How is KP Equestrian going?

KP – It's going really brilliantly and we are having to manufacture more for Christmas. Derby House as it's the best-selling leasurewear they have ever stocked.

HM – What can we expect in the future ranges?

KP – Well, there's lots more colours in the spring, as well as a children's range and maybe some stuff for men. There will also be lots more for the horses.

HM – I am sure I speak for many when I say that we all get grief from our husbands, boyfriends and partners about spending too much time at the yard? Does Pete complain?

KP – Yes, all the time. He can't see why I would want to get up early and go down to the yard come rain or shine. He thinks I'm completely mad.

HM – Have you ever participated in any show jumping or other equine activities?

KP – I did some celebrity polo earlier in the year and loved it. I used to jump when I was younger but now I've got children I like to be a bit more careful.



Andrew Gould Interview

HM – How did you meet Katie?

AG – Through a mutual friend that I train, Chris Heywood, who is ex-army. I have taught them for years. He was training Katie's PR lady Diane Colbert and they all introduced each other! We were meant to meet months before we did and then all of a sudden the phone rang and it was Katie, she asked to meet, I said of course and she turned up in the lorry, horse was on board and that was it. She left the horses here and then we started training.

HM – When did this happen?

AG – Only in April.

HM – Tell me about her horses?

AG – Blaze - Glamour Girl, that you saw at HOYS, she brought here with her, and Dan that she had just bought. He was not really a horse for the future and we weighed it all up and I suggested that as he won't go any further invest your money in something better. We replaced Dan with Andre, he is 4 years old.

HM – She listens to you then?

AG – [laughs] Sometimes!

HM – How does it all work?

AG – She keeps the horses here on full livery, depending on her work commitments she comes four days a week I guess on average. We were in Holland last week looking at horses and now she is travelling, but she is here as much as she can be.

HM – How much riding does she actually do?

AG – She always rides the two advanced horses and maybe the youngster too.

HM – She is riding fit then?

AG – She needs to be fitter! It

I said, "when we go to HOYS you have to do sitting trot, no rising."

So just 2 weeks before we went out every day and practised - she did it, now she doesn't even think about rising, that takes some people months, even years to do.



is still our debate that she needs to be riding fit! I keep telling her – the only way to get it is to do it more!

HM – Explain why?

AG – When you ride and train regularly your balance improves, with the balance you don't use so much energy, if you're trying to find your balance the whole time, it's hard work. She sits very nicely but she has to learn control, but she has natural talent for sure.

HM – Is this what you worked on at HOYS?

AG – I said "when we go to HOYS you have to do sitting trot, no rising." So just 2 weeks before we went out every day and practised - she did it, now she doesn't even think about rising, that takes some people months, even years to do.

HM – Everyone commented on that. You have done a good job! Were you worried?

AG – You have no idea! She had surgery before HOYS, which did not leave us much time to train, she had six weeks off. I did ask

her to have it after HOYS, but like I can tell her what to do! She wanted the surgery, it was important to her and she needed to get back to work also.

She couldn't ride after returning from America and needed lots of physio. At this point I was saying HOYS won't happen – to be honest I was bricking it!! was saying we cant do it!

Lots of people in the press etc. were saying "Andrew wouldn't let her do it if she's not ready" well I was saying that! But she was going to do it!

HM – So how did you prepare?

AG – It was all last minute. I couldn't go through the routine with her riding until one week before she just watched it; four days before she rode through with me, then only met Henry four days before so it was new again!

It was all very, very last minute. Henry didn't know the test or the music 'till the day before!

HM – I can't believe that I just assumed you had all been practising like mad!

AG – Not at all.

HM – Katie said she chose the music. How did that work?

AG – [laughs] She didn't choose the music, I spent ages trying to find the right kind of thing it was a joint effort let's say!

Katie didn't want music that didn't match her character so it was difficult. We needed music the crowd would get behind and that would fit the walk, trot and canter. Things she liked didn't fit the horse etc. so the music wasn't her first choice, but it fitted with what we needed. It was cheesy but the crowd seemed to like it; none of us are great fans of Mysterious Girls [HM & AG laugh]

HM – Who arranged the music?

AG – Sara Green did the music for us. I always work with her – I made the routine up and videoed it, sent it to Sara and then she put the music together.

HM – Why did you bring Henry on board?

AG – My idea was have two of us to help Kate, it would have been too much for her to do it just me and her, it's a tough thing to pull off!

I was supposed to be behind originally, as the trainer, so I could talk to her to tell her

when to push on a little or slow down a bit etc. The day before in rehearsal my horse hated being behind and we had to swap. In some ways it worked, as I made the routine up and knew the music so I could control everything. She did the little bit on her own, which worked well.

I had only changed horse four days before due to lameness! By now I was saying things like "this is bad, we shouldn't be going!"

HM – So on the day?

AG – I found it difficult, Kate was nervous as had never done anything like this before, the whole day I was telling her what we were doing and how to this and that, and then I realised that I hadn't thought about what I was doing once!

When they announced "Dressage riders 2 minutes," it hit me, I haven't thought about my horse or focused on what the hell I am doing! I don't know where I am going, it was really difficult to focus!

continued ▶



Katie Sparkles at HOYS

HM – It certainly didn't look like that. How did you do it under such circumstances?

AG – As I have done so many to music I know my music and it helps you to get back to where you should be. I just got on with it. The first demo on the Thursday the music was spot on but the horse had a few moments, the second one we were six seconds or so behind the music, so I have to quickly decide to improvise that bit.

HM – So, are you looking forward to Olympia?

AG – [He puts his head in his hands] Olympia, NO! Lets quit while we are ahead!

HM – So, what now for Katie? Does she want to compete?

AG – She wants to compete defiantly. What she doesn't understand is how you have to go through a system, like a race driver; just because you have a fast car you might not win.

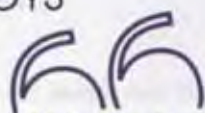
She has to go out and she has to crash and burn, make a tonne of mistakes, like we all did and do! Which she is happy to do! It's hard being chased around with Papparazzi. They really unsettle the horse, no one should know where we are going but its impossible to keep quiet for some reason. But we have to enter! Glamour Girl will be the one that she competes on.

HM – Tell me about you!

AG – I have two young horses now 6 and 7 years old. I haven't competed for about two years as the Grand Prix horse I had wouldn't go further and wouldn't win medals and go International. So I had to make the decision to restart. I needed a breather to remind me why I wanted to do this!

I have won the last six shows out and my bunch are good, one of them I really like and have high hopes for.

They are officially owned by Sara Green, but that is like they are mine! We have a great relationship.



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“what the hell do I do now?”

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HM – What's lined up for you over the winter?

AG – Two more shows coming up. I have three horses qualified in five classes and I want two more and am chasing a Medium qualification. I have not always gone for the winters in the past and the winter, it has always been time to stay home and train.

HM – Who trains you?

AG – David Hunt. He was one of our biggest names in the 70s/80s. He was Chairman of BD and Chairman of the International riders fund. He doesn't ride now but just trains and has trained more Grand Prix riders than anyone else, he comes to me here. He is fantastic.

HM – What's important for you as a trainer and a rider?

AG – It has to be consistent, one off training sessions are all exciting but you walk away and think “what the hell do I do now?” One offs and inconsistent training can be dangerous!

HM – Who sponsors you?

AG – Prestige and Baileys have been great. Baileys are always on hand with a nutritionist, who keeps a watchful eye over all my horses and will say “let's try this and that to make sure they are all performing at their best.”

Prestige, also, are always on hand too. For me that is important, saddles are vital. I was using another make, they approached me, actually. I was just about to buy something and they came down. I rode in it and liked it, but some things weren't quite right so they brought another one along and I loved it! Best thing I ever did, I am very particular about saddles!

Woof have just come on board too and I am looking forward to working with them too.

Andrew is available for training at his West Sussex base. Please contact Polly, Andrews's wife, who very successfully runs his diary!

07747 621025 - Andrew's mobile or e-mail info@andrewgould.com.

You can see why the relationship between Katie and Andrew has worked so well; sharp wit, a deep passion for the sport and the motivation to achieve results and win, is apparent. This will be an exciting story to follow. Good luck to you both, I am sure we will be seeing you very soon!