



5 MINUTES WITH... *Andrew Gould*

The dressage rider and trainer of Katie Price reveals the worst moment for a horse to relieve himself and looks forward to getting back to top-level competition

YOU ARE PLANNING TO RUN THE LONDON MARATHON THIS YEAR – HOW IS YOUR TRAINING GOING?

I am now running up to six miles. Only another 20 to go!

WHAT CHARITY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR, AND WHY?

It's Spinal Research, which aims one day to find a cure for paralysis through its research and strongly supports the equestrian community.

To sponsor me, visit: www.justgiving.com/andrewpgould.

DOES BEING RIDING FIT HAVE ANY BENEFITS WHEN IT COMES TO RUNNING?

I think it helps but running fit is different to riding fit. I have good stamina but my leg muscles need to develop to cope with the marathon distance.

IN DRESSAGE, WHAT ARE YOUR AIMS FOR 2010?

I have three exciting Advanced horses that I've had since they were youngsters. I have been competing them lightly to get experience. This season should be exciting as I haven't had an Advanced ride for a few years.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS YEAR?

Being back competing at the bigger shows and watching my horses develop into future Grand Prix horses. I've trained most of them since they were five-year-olds so I have a good relationship with them and it's a great sense of achievement.

WHICH OF YOUR HORSES SHOULD WE BE LOOKING OUT FOR, AND WHAT MAKES THEM SO SPECIAL?

Korenbloem Varisto is one for the future. He came to me two years ago as a nervous wreck

and he now really trusts me. I think he is the one I have the most special relationship with.

IS IT TRUE YOU ALSO ENJOY COMPETING IN EVENTING? AND IF SO DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCH PLANS FOR 2010?

I evented one of my client's horses last season. I really enjoyed and learnt from it. However, this year I will be too busy with my dressage horses.

HAVE YOU MADE ANY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

No – I am not very good at keeping them, so it's best not to make any!

WHAT ONE RULE CHANGE WOULD IMPROVE DRESSAGE FOR YOU?

Judges don't tend to use the whole range of marks at national level and I can't see why this happens.

YOU HAVE TWO YOUNG SONS – ARE THEY INTERESTED IN PONIES AND RIDING?

They ride a 12hh pony called Carrotts who is 32 years old! We are very lucky that the pony's owner lets them ride whenever they want. My oldest son Oliver, who is five, did his first show last summer and won the lead-rein class – maybe he is a rider in the making!

WHAT THREE THINGS COULDN'T YOU LIVE WITHOUT?

My wife, Polly, my horses and my car.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST PIECE OF HORSEY ADVICE?

Work hard but have patience and keep an open mind.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS?

I missed out on a lot of my childhood due to competing



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and training. I left school at 15 and went to work for my trainer for three years, moving away from home and leaving a lot of friends behind.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

Koffee Break, my young rider horse, was competing in a Prix St Georges music class. I halted at X and he started to wee! My music carried on and obviously I was well behind it. He also jumped the puddle every time he went over it. Everyone was laughing except me!

ARE YOU ADDICTED TO ANY TV PROGRAMMES?

I'm a fan of *Spooks*.

WHAT SOUNDTRACK WILL YOU BE USING FOR YOUR DRESSAGE TO MUSIC ROUTINES THIS YEAR?

Something with power. I love dramatic music that gets my hairs standing up.

IF YOU COULD DO A PAS DE DEUX WITH ANYONE, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

It would need to be someone who can have fun but is also a showman as I like to add a bit of character to a performance.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD TO APOLOGISE?

I can't think of anything specific, but it would probably have been to my wife, Polly!

ALL ABOUT ANDREW

Trainer to celebrity Katie Price, Andrew Gould is a top dressage rider and respected as a producer of young horses. Career highlights include fifth place in the 2007 Small Tour rankings and winning two titles at the 2006 Winter Championships. As a young rider, he was on five consecutive European teams and won a bronze medal in 2000.