

Andrew Gould has a gift of a ride at the first Unex Masters, while Peter Storr takes another win with his 44-changes freestyle.

Ruth Pearce reports

ANDREW Gould finished number one in the intermediaire I freestyle at the inaugural Unex Masters show. The competition was held at the newly refurbished Unex Towerlands Centre in Essex. Dressage to music led the way on the first day of the international show, which featured displays in addition to the show jumping.

Andrew rode the 18.1hh Numero Uno, a German-bred gelding by Wolfgang, and won with a score of 71.31%. He began competing Numero Uno on behalf of owner Craig Rawlins last year. But Craig gave the horse to Andrew and wife Polly as a wedding gift this spring.

"The test today was the same pattern I used for the national championships, where I came second to Carl Hester, so I thought I'd try it again," said Andrew, whose music was taken from the Tom Cruise blockbuster *War of the Worlds* and

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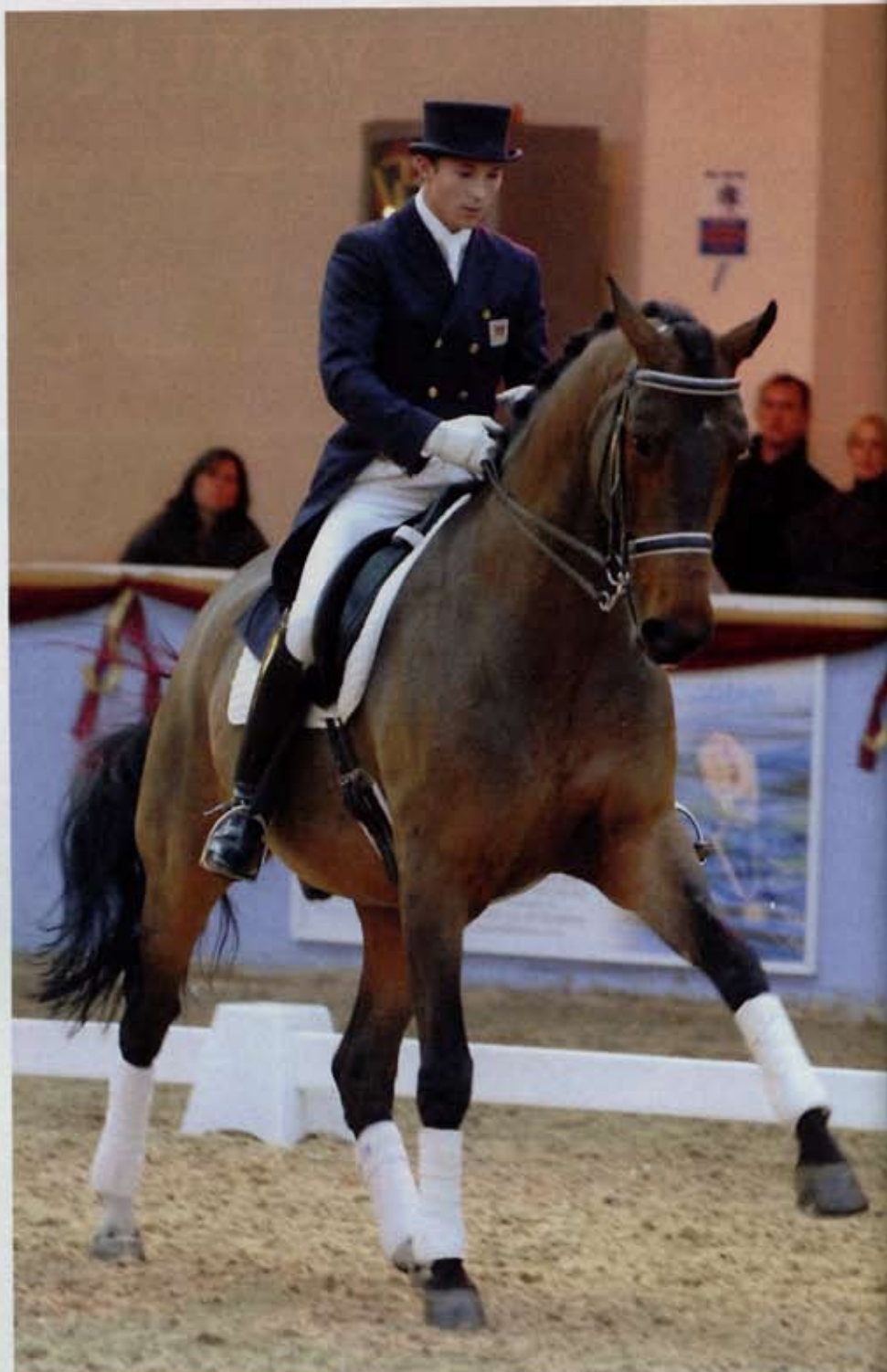
was compiled by Sara Green.

"It's very powerful music and suits the horse well," said Andrew. "We've been working on self-carriage since the nationals and it was a good test to see where we are. I felt there had been a big improvement."

Judge at H Judy Harvey said: "It was a well thought out and easy flowing pattern. For me, the harmony stood out and they looked an established partnership at the level."

Jennie Loriston-Clarke, judging at C, added: "It looked as though the horse had trust in the rider and they were able to produce a really good performance."

Andrew was using the Unex Masters as a



"The harmony stood out": Andrew Gould wins the intermediaire I with his wedding gift, Numero Uno

Gould is Numero Uno

warm-up for Olympia.

"It was a good arena and a good atmosphere and it was nice to be able to sit in the warm with other riders, socialise and pick each other's brains," he said.

Daniel Timson was second with 69.75% on Hoffman's Rubin. By Dimension out of a Rubinstein mare, the 10-year-old is owned by Alison Levett.

The elegant mare, who was ridden to music by Bond compiled by Lady Inchcape, has been stabled with Daniel for two years. The combination won the Hickstead Masters intermediaire I freestyle and small tour championship in the summer.

"There was a small mistake in the first canter pirouette, but apart from that I had a really good feeling from her," said Daniel. "She felt like she

was working for herself and with me.

"Ruby" is still inexperienced at this level, but I was pleased with everything and thought her flying changes and half-passes were good."

Rosie Moreton-Deakin and Nikki Patrick's former ride Nevada AJ finished third. Rosie was giving Nevada an outing on behalf of his new owner Sara Elliott and sat on the horse for the first time only one week before.