

# DRESSAGE

Serena Pincus pilots the home-bred Sheepcote Fantasia to inter I glory



## YOUNGHORSE SEASON KICKS OFF

MYERSCOUGH provided the first opportunity to see this year's four-year-old horses, and it was Jo Handman's Ingres (Davino x Balzflug) ridden by Ashley Jenkins, who headed a strong line-up ahead of Inbetweena LH, who moved up from fourth in the final go-round.

Ingres (above) was bought from Henry Boswell a year ago and impressed Becky Moody, who judged the class with Sandy Phillips. "He's a real eye-catcher with a great trot and canter and he's going to be a grand prix horse," said Becky emphatically.

It's a belief echoed by Dan Greenwood, who has the horse at his Gloucestershire yard.

"I think he's going to be awesome," he said. "He's adjustable, naturally engaged and in great balance for such a young horse."

Emma Bundell's Mount St John Stud in Yorkshire had a stranglehold on the five- and six-year-old classes, with the prolific winner Top Secret (by Totilas) heading the older group and Daytona (Detroit x Ehrenwort), the younger.

Both Top Secret and Daytona came to the Premier League fresh from winning their respective regional championships and are expecting foals via embryo transfer. Daytona, a half-sister to champion German mare Deevoice, had an easy year in 2016, having been given time to grow.

"I was very happy with all my girls," said Emma. "The classes overall were a very high standard especially for this time of year and it bodes well for the future."

### TALKING POINT

her new breeches — her old faithfuls died an honourable death at Vale View the previous Sunday — continued a fantastic run of form winning the grand prix freestyle with Mr Hyde. She was quick to dedicate the win to her farrier Danny Bennett.

"He came out two days before his major operation to remove a kidney and tumour, just to make sure Mr H had his dancing shoes on," said Steph.

Locally based DHI Performance Horses provided three winners at small tour level. Nathalie Kayal finished first and second in Friday's PSG with DHI Homerun and DHI Bravo, and then won both the PSG and inter I freestyles on Saturday's gala evening. Melissa Chapman topped Friday's inter I and finished second in the freestyle with What Ever (formerly named DHI Work Of Art). H&H

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DAVID PINCUS ON INTER I WINNER SHEEPCOTE FANTASIA

up to Foxhunter level, competed at both the Pony Club and riding club championships, was a dab hand at mounted games and achieved the ultimate accolade representing Britain at the young rider Europeans for the past two years.

"He's like my little brother," said Robyn, who currently commutes from Loughborough University to Grimsby to ride him each week. "I've grown up with him and one of my first memories is watching mum having a lesson on him as a four-year-old from Spencer Wilton. He has such a huge personality — if he was human he'd be the little boy with one sock up, one down, tie all knotted and mud on his nose!"

### LUCCI'S IN THE GROOVE

FINNISH judge Maria Colliander was the judge at C for the pony team test — won by Anya Kolleth riding the superstar that is SL Lucci — and she was impressed with what she saw.

"There were some really quality ponies and riders and they looked like good partnerships," said Maria. "It was lovely to see Lucci with his new jockey. She rode him well and it will be interesting to see them progress."

Maria was working hard through the week, finishing up with Sunday's grand prix.

"Time is going to be tight to catch the plane," she quipped. "The engine will be running and so will I as soon as I've taken the last salute!"

Eilidh Grant was another of the up-and-coming riders on form here, winning the young rider grand prix with Rock DJ.

Serena Pincus won Thursday's inter I with the home-bred Sheepcote Fantasia. The Farewell x Don Primero mare is out of Sheepcote Dove, a daughter of Sheepcote's foundation mare Calista, who was the dam of the grand prix stallion Wurlitzer.

Fantasia herself stands just 15.2hh, which is the main reason she is still at Sheepcote.

"We offered her for sale as a youngster but no one would touch her as she was too small and quite sharp," said Serena's husband David. "She stayed and hopefully she will do her first grand prix this year."

Steph Croxford was sporting

### RESULTS

**1 March: YDH 4yo (B Moody, S Phillips).**—1, Ingres (A Jenkins) 7.64; 2, Inbetweena LH (D Hicks) 7.36; 3, S.J.L. Iwan (N Brook) 7.54. **6yo.**—1, MSJ Top Secret (J Brown) 8.66; 2, Suspension Giraldo (A Hutton) 8.38; 3, Giselle (B Moody) 8.02. **med 75Q gold (C Halsall, F Lace, L Smith).**—1, Mount St John Furstin Fugger (L Elliott) 70.18; 2, Fyona (J Dunn) 68.96; 3, Francesco 77 (R Smith) 68.33. **adv med 98 gold (A Bennie, H Bradley, A Crane).**—1, Dancer Khan (H Cheetham) 70.92; 2, Cedar Valley (J Dunn) 70.83; 3, Madam's Miss Maria (S Taylor) 69.91. **adv 102 (F Lace, C Porterfield, L Smith).**—1, Madam's Miss Maria 71.37; 2, LG Alicante Valley (J Dunn) 69.71; 3, Rock DJ (E Grant) 68.53. **adv med 92 gold (C Halsall, S Phillips, F Scott).**—1, Francesco 77 (R Smyth) 69.91; 2, Full Fusion BS (H Moody) 67.03; 3, Don Pfefferness (L Garland) 65.36. **adv med 96 gold (C Halsall, D Jones, H**

**Payne).**—1, LG Alicante Valley (J Dunn) 65.88; 2, Spielbanker (S Lindop) 65.09; 3, Hey Mambo (R Baybutt) 63.95. **PSG gold sec A (H Payne, S Phillips, F Scott).**—1, Foidol Uz (R Smyth) 69.87; 2, Jockey Club Connery (J Siu) 69.34; 3, World Exclusive (L Peyton-Gilbert) 67.63. **sec B (M Colliander, S Cooper, G Lewis).**—1, Wiepke II (V Jones) 68.99; 2, Boras (L Bulmer) 68.9; 3, Schattentanzlerin (H Cheetham) 67.81. **inter I gold (T Downes, G Lewis, C Porterfield).**—1, Sheepcote Fantasia (S Pincus) 67.94; 2, What Ever (M Chapman) 67.46; 3, Samba Dancer (K Cowell) 67.28. **3 March: PSG gold (M Colliander, T Downes, F Lace).**—1, DHI Homerun (N Kayal) 70.61; 2, DHI Bravo (N Kayal) 69.69; 3, Contender (L Jarvis) 68.9. **inter I (C Ballantyne, S Cooper, A Smith).**—1, What Ever 69.43; 2, DHI Homerun 69.12; 3, World Exclusive 69.12. **YR GP.**—1, Rock DJ 64.22; 2, Armagnac (D Harvey) 62.79; 3, Don Wenzel (K Rausing) 61.9. **4 March: YDH 5yo (M Colliander, A Smith).**—1, Mount St John Daytona (L Elliott) 8.54; 2, Helga (J Dunn) 8.18;

3, Heavenly Kiss BS (B Moody) 8.22. **inter II gold (C Ballantyne, S Cooper, J Ward).**—1, Romy Del Sol (E Hindle) 68.6; 2, Diesel 8 (E Hindle) 68.33; 3, Sheepcote Fantasia 68.33. **PSG FSM gold (I Auty, M Colliander, A Smith).**—1, DHI Bravo 73.92; 2, Bon Rouge CH (V Maw) 68.42; 3, Eureko (B Moody) 68.33. **inter I FSM (M Colliander, C Halsall, J Ward).**—1, DHI Homerun 73.58; 2, What Ever 71.12; 3, Jockey Club Connery (J Siu) 70.79. **GP FSM (C Halsall, A Smith, J Ward).**—1, Mr Hyde (S Croxford) 71.88; 2, Boheme Af Sufsted (K Robertson) 68.58; 3, Summerhouse Zelham (S Gallop) 67.71. **5 March: FEI pony team (M Colliander, J Robinson, J Ward).**—1, SL Lucci (A Kolleth) 73.08; 2, Madam's Miss Maria 72.95; 3, Valido's Sunshine (I Lickley) 69.83. **FEI pony ind (C Halsall, A Smith).**—1, BKS Grand Design (C McDowall) 65.24; 2, Ella (S Williams) 65.06; 3, Dublin (L Johnson) 61.77. **GP special (M Colliander, C Halsall, A Smith).**—1, Carinsio (B Moody) 69.43; 2, Romy Del Sol 67.13; 3, Mr Hyde 67.03.