

**NORTH:** Belissimo's high-scoring canter work earns Natasha Leak 81% at novice

## NORTH Belissimo hits the target

A string of eights and nines for their canter work gave Natasha Leak and Belissimo a plus-81% score to win a novice at **Parklands EC**, South Yorks (18 March), writes *Helen Scott*.

The five-year-old by Belissimo M was bought untried by Natasha last year after the first horse she chose from Holland was injured getting cast.

"Rhett Bird, one of my trainers, looked at the video and told me he was the one. I was very lucky – he has turned out to be the sweetest, most trainable horse," said Natasha.

"I was sick the week before last, so entered at Parklands to get me out of bed and back on track. He scored 74% in his first test and was just beaten into second, but in the second test it all came together."

Amy Roberts scored her first ever nine for the halt on Furstenbelle FB in a prelim at **Manor Grange Stud**, West Yorks (19 March).

Her 76% score guaranteed her the win, with her other ride Waterloo IV second. The placings were reversed in the next prelim with Waterloo.

"They both event, so were out for a warm up before the first competition of the season," said Amy, who trains with Caroline Saynor.

Amanda Barrett scored a first and second on her first outing with a new ride, four-year-old Happy Tosha, at **Port Royal EC**, East Yorks (16 March).

Amanda was delivering washed rugs to Lindsey McDonald's yard when she saw the mare being led past.

"She caught my eye, but I

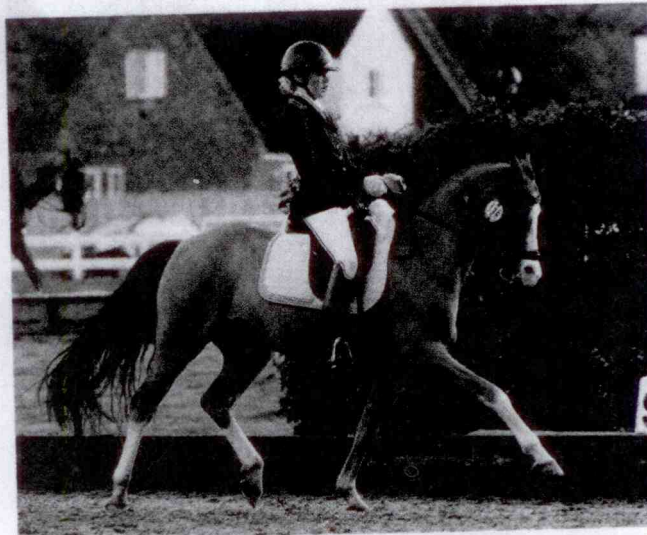
didn't need another horse," said Amanda. "A month later I was still thinking about her, so I went back. Lindsey had chosen the mare for her temperament, and she's been a delight."

The Connaiseur mare scored eight for her paces in the prelims from judges Steph Cooper and Andrea Smith.

## SOUTH-EAST Super Selton is back in the game

ANDERS DAHL and the long-absent, talented Selten HW returned to competition this week, reports *Celia Cadwallader*. The Sandro Hit x Hohenstein gelding, now 12, scored 76.97% at inter II at **Step Aside**, West Sussex (17 March).

The duo were the talk of the Hickstead Premier League in



**WALES & WEST:** Lara Kuropatwa, 15, achieves a medium double with her team pony Mister Snowman, whom she plans to campaign internationally this year

June 2014 when they scored nearly 79% in a prix st georges (PSG). Equally impressive scores were achieved at the Hickstead and Hartpury internationals and they crowned the year by beating Michael Eilberg and Farouche at Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in the inter I freestyle.

Anders said: "Last year Rudolf Zeilinger, the Danish team trainer, came to us. We were 'okayed' to compete at grand prix but two weeks later Selten got himself a little holiday after injuring himself when he bolted from the yard.

We now plan to have him ready to start his grand prix career next month."

Concillio was on high-scoring form with Kerry Mackin, winning the elementary 59 qualifier with 73.28% on their first outing at the level.

Kerry has been riding the 17.2hh Cador x Polytraum six-year-old, owned by Sandra Baxter and Lynne and Graham Clarke, since he came over from Holland last August.

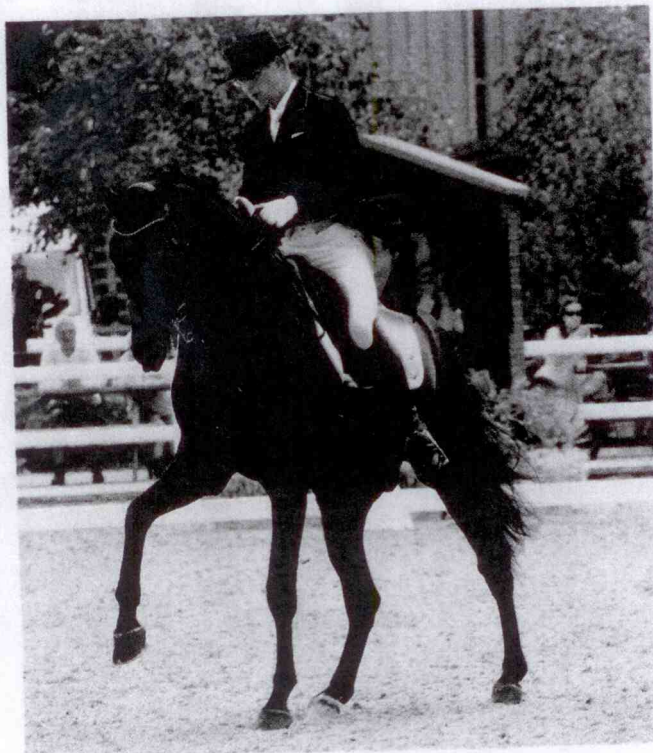
"He's a lot of horse to keep together when you're only 5ft 4in but he's very trainable," said Kerry. "We got seven and 7.5 for the simple changes and he finds going sideways easy, so we got eight and 8.5 for that. All the basics are nearly there and we get relaxation with it."

Laura Corp and her 17-year-old 15.3hh former showjumping mare Stepping Out are turning their hand to dressage. The combination won the novice 39 qualifier with 74.83%.

## WALES & WEST Evans takes a forward leap

A lightbulb moment led to two medium wins for Sam Evans and her Irish sport horse mare Celynnen Fun Time at **Coleg Cambria Northop College**, Flintshire (19 March), writes *Andrea Oakes*.

"I remembered to ride the movements instead of just thinking about which way to go next," laughed Sam, after twice smashing 70% and recording



**SOUTH-EAST:** Anders Dahl and Selten HW return in style with a 76.97% inter II