

Zoe Sleigh, a member of last year's British young rider team, wins with new prospect Fantastic Light



# Sleigh rides to double win

**OLDENCRAIG, SURREY**  
14 March

By Celia Cadwallader

ZOE Sleigh, young rider team member at the 2007 Europeans on Orvieto, rode Fantastic Light to win both elementaries. The Furst Piccolo-sired six-year-old, known as "Fanta", was champion Westphalian in Germany as a three-year-old when produced by Helen Langehananberg. In 2007, he came second at the Badminton Young Dressage Horse finals.

Zoe, 19, said: "I'm lucky to have Orvieto as a schoolmaster, but the only way to get a second quality horse was to buy a youngster. It's also good because you can build a partnership from the beginning."

"I've been based with Nicky and Richard Barrett for the past six months, and plan to do young riders again this

By buying Fantastic Light as a youngster we can build a partnership  
**Zoe Sleigh**

summer before going to university in the autumn."

David Rumsey and his Negro mare Tessa II won the medium 61 on 73.79%.

"It's Tessa's highest medium score to date," he said. "She had a good mark for her walk, which is sometimes spoilt because she anticipates the next movement, and a nine for her extended canter. She really lengthened her frame across the arena. When I collected her with my seat, she sat back on her hocks and gave me a lovely direct transition to trot. She got an eight for the final movement."

"Sadly, we still need to win a second qualifier to get to the nationals."

Horsham-based freelance trainer Lynsey Ryan earned her advanced medium qualification on Northlands Mikado, her nine-year-old, 16.1hh bay Danish gelding by Come Back II.

"Mikado's changes are settling down now, but he spent two years not competing because his canter is very difficult," said Lynsey. "His very active hindlegs propel him forward, but it's hard for him to contain the power and come under himself to collect. He should go on to passage and piaffe like a machine, though, as he has wonderful action in front and behind."

Susanna, who trains with Vale View's owner Julie Hyslop, bought the horse seven years ago and started competing in para shows last year.

"Julie has put in a lot of work with both of us and it really is coming together now," she added.

Julie also trains Alice Franklin, who rode Georgi to win the grade IV restricted. Julie owns the ex-eventer and Alice has ridden him for four months.

"He was great today," said Alice, who missed six months' riding last year following an ankle operation. "He retired from eventing as he had started to lose the sight in one eye."

**STILEBRIDGE BARN, KENT**  
14 March

By Sally Taylor

"AN exciting prospect," was how judge Joyce Wood described her medium qualifier winner, Happy Diamond. The nearly 17hh stallion, owned and ridden by Nicola Ashton, consolidated an earlier win at this level at Blue Barn and bettered his score by some 4%.

"I'm hoping to get him to PSG by the end of the year," said Nicola.

The duo also returned a good score at advanced medium where they were unchallenged. In spite of suffering from flu, Nicola rode six tests, scoring a first in the novice 22 with her young Oldenburg, Ronaldhino, who is by Rubin Royal.

"He's only done three shows and until his second test here he's won each time," Nicola explained.

Jane Lavington (see box p. 51) brought out Karen Loveday's coloured part-Thoroughbred Huddson for the first time since last August to win at medium.

"Stepping up to advanced medium last year seemed to affect him badly — I had to retire from a few classes," she said.

Lee Hudson took both elementaries riding the Holstein Goodnestone Grace. The advanced eventer has had a break from dressage

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First Win

...Elder Klatzko

ELDER Klatzko claims tact and diplomacy coaxed a winning performance from Upperton, who took the novice 26 at Leyland Court on his first affiliated outing.

"He's sharp, you have to ride him lightly and sensitively," said Elder, an equine artist, who is competing the horse known as "Apple" for owner Susan Davies. "It's a matter of asking him nicely."

Elder, who rode for Jennie Loriston-Clarke for 18 months and also for Mette and Michel Assouline, is schooling a handful of horses at her base in Timsbury, Gloucestershire.

Elder and Apple achieved 70.37%, despite a rainstorm.

"I did sit there questioning what I was doing," said Elder, referring to the conditions. "But Apple scored sevens and eights, he only struggled with the rein-back, because we'd taught him that just three days previously!"

competition, as the Hudsons have been busy looking for a new base.

"We hope to develop a yard behind our house near Faversham," said Lee.

Jessica Browning, 20, recorded her first novice qualifier win with Dutch-bred mare Claybrook Lady, turning in their best score to date.

"Training with Sue McMahon for the last six months has really changed us," said Jessica. "She's taught me to ride a test the way I would do at home, and got me to breathe."