

Leslee Wilkinson won the medium 75 qualifier at **Manor Grange Stud**, Yorkshire, with her coloured Polish warmblood Painted Picasso — aka Pie — on her first outing this year.

EAST

By Ruth Pearce
HANNAH ESBERGER SHEPHERD and Noblesse had their first success on 27-28 March in the intermediaire I and II at **Sheepgate**, Lincolnshire, after 20 months off.

"Noblesse had time off while I had my baby, Molly, and then he had a foot injury," said Hannah, who returned to premier league action at Myerscough two weeks ago. "He'd been out for so long I didn't know what to expect, and rode him for too long in the warm-up at Myerscough. I took a different tack with him here and worked him in for 25 minutes — and he was brilliant."

Diane Coxon took two novices and two restricted elementaries on Holme Park Kaskade, whom Pat Marlin bought as a foal, while Sarah Fitton, 13, completed novice qualification on new five-year-old stallion Dantae.

Sally Hardwick, who runs Hallingbury Hall in Hertfordshire, stood clear in both mediums with Walden at **Norton Heath**,



Quite the catch: London's Playboy wins his affiliated debut with Kelly Turner at Harolds Park Farm

Essex, on 28 March, while local rider Epernay Kaylor and Quasi Dazy-Ay took both restricted sections after being second in seven of 10 tests at the level.

Henriette Andersen steered Layla to victory in the mare's first intermediaire I at **Patchetts**, Herts, earning eights for the pirouettes.

Southern winter regional advanced medium restricted champions Nicola Mahoney and Bel Ami topped 70% at advanced 100 before securing a winning PSG debut with 68.08% at **Wix**, Essex,

At **Sissons Farm** in Cambridgeshire, Gaby Cooke — a member of last year's junior European event team with

Northcroft Frontier — headed novice and elementary qualifiers.

Kelly Turner won her affiliated debut at novice at **Harolds Park Farm**, Essex, with the home-bred London's Playboy, while Dutch-bred Pronkheer won at medium under IT worker Kathy Marsden.

On their first visit to **Manor Farm**, Cambridgeshire, Jenny Salisbury and Born Fighter Riding scored sevens and eights all the way for a novice music win to a Walt Disney compilation.

SCOTLAND

By Valerie Will
KATIE Barr completed her novice open summer regionals qualification by

winning her class with Wanda II, scoring 70.83% at the **Scottish National Equestrian Centre** (SNEC), West Lothian, on 28 March. Denise Shawns imported Wanda II, who is by Rousseau and is now rising six years old, when the horse was three.

Stuart Walker and Denise Shawns' Donnatello D took the novice restricted qualifier with 71.66%, and Katie's pupils, Joanna Dun and Flummi, took second place with 68.33%.

Joanna's mother, Liz, said: "Flummi was spooky in her first prelim, but she was good in the novice and the judge wrote that she's 'a star for the future.'"

Jackie McKnight and Ty'reos Sir Ken, also taught by Katie Barr, won the elementary restricted non-qualifier with 67.85%.

"Katie really encouraged us to give dressage a try — we've only been doing it for two years," said Jackie.

Adrienne Taylor, who until recently has been busy working with the British Young Riders Dressage Scheme, has been enjoying a return to regular competition and claimed second in elementary 44

"I'm pleased to be competing again," she said. "I'm just back from a trip to New Zealand and Gulliana has only been in work for six weeks."

Gulliana, who is rising eight years old, is a Hanoverian by Gullit. Adrienne bought the

horse in Germany as a just-backed three-year-old: "She's not one to throw in the towel. I don't expect her to be established yet, but I'm hoping for good stuff from her towards the end of the year."

SOUTH-WEST

By Annabel Kendall
CAMILLA BROGAARD and Zilver Prince earned their second plus-80% score in a week in **Kingston Maurward's** (Dorset) novice restricted freestyle class on 29 March.

In their first competitive freestyle outing, Salisbury-based Camilla, 19, and the five-year-old stallion performed to swing music compiled by herself and trainer Pammy Hutton.

Zilver Prince earned 81.4% in a Shearwater young horse qualifier the same week.

Emily Harris headed the advanced medium freestyle on Don Diabolo and heard the pair have been selected for Addington's international in the junior classes. Emily has also been asked to ride Judy Sharrock's Washington at young rider level at Addington.

Frome-based Fiona Foy topped the scoreboard twice with her pure-bred Andalucians. Fiona won the medium 73 on Delia Cunningham's Centauro II, before claiming the elementary 48 qualifier with Fulminante-Cen.

"I'm totally committed to the breed and my ultimate ambition would be to produce one to grand prix," said Fiona.

"You have to be quite thick-skinned to compete them because they have higher knee action and their paces are slightly different."

Colrairie, near Truro, ran its inaugural affiliated dressage show on 28 March where Katherine Lowe (Gew Fella) won the preliminary 12 on her first affiliated outing.

Show organiser Zoe Gwennap said: "We were asked by competitors to run some affiliated shows as the other centres in Cornwall are about an hour's drive away." **H&H**



Sarah Payne (Sheepgate Ushpower)

I owe it to...

Acupuncture and Pilates

SHEEPGATE Ushpower and Sarah Payne headed elementary and medium qualifiers at Sheepgate with 69.66% and 72.95% respectively. Sarah has owned "Ushi" since he was a just-backed three-year-old and the pair train with Emile Faurie.

"We spent the winter training and for no apparent reason we plateaued. There was nothing wrong, but there was something not quite right," said Sarah. "My vet, Stuart Thorne at Fellowes Farm, suggested acupuncture for Ushi. He had his first

session 10 days ago and has just had his second. It's transformed him. He now trusts his own body and is giving me more than he's done before.

"I've done yoga for years, but promised myself I would start Pilates as a New Year resolution and it has given me a major breakthrough with my riding and body awareness," she added.

"The acupuncture and Pilates have given me a new angle on things, and now I feel that it is all coming together."