

IN BRIEF

'I LOVE TALKING ABOUT OUR SPORT'

GRAND PRIX rider Bobby Hayler left the horses at home for a spell in sunny Thailand, where she is playing a behind-the-scenes role in the first-ever FEI Asian Championships.

"I was there commenting with John Kyle, for the Impact Media team, on the small tour and eventing dressage," said Bobby, who has competed at pony, junior and young rider Europeans. "I love being able to talk about our sport and help people learn about dressage. It was a real highlight to see the first medallists here and witness the utter excitement and honour they felt."

With seven medals up for grabs, the championships have attracted riders from 15 countries and around 100 horses.

"It sounded like hard work," said Paul Hayler of his daughter's flourishing career in commentary. "From what we heard, they were up at the crack of dawn and still at it late at night."



Cor Blimey produces a double novice victory with Nicky Butters

Double delight

TWIN sisters Nicky Butters and Kate Appleyard enjoyed a fruitful day at Yorkshire Riding Centre, North Yorks, winning three classes between them.

Nicky headed both novices outright with Cor Blimey, the Irish Sport Horse she bought as an unbacked three-year-old. Now seven, "Chester" still keeps Nicky on her toes.

"I've broken a few bones, including vertebrae and ribs," she admits. "He's so good 99% of the time but sometimes takes you by surprise. But he's finally growing

into himself and this time was forward-going with more swing in his step."

Kate took the elementary 44 with her Irish Sport Horse It's Orrid Enri — another all-rounder, also bought as a three-year-old.

"Enri may not have the beautiful loose shoulder movement of a warmblood, but he puts 100% into it and scores marks with an accurate and reliable test," said freelance instructor Kate, who coaches her sister. "The judge commented that he was 'a professor of the work'."

A SOURCE OF PRIDE

A BUSY career in nuclear medicine kept Jo Weekes away from competition for much of last year. She and Rossetti's Destiny have since built a solid string of good scores — most recently at Field House EC, Staffs, where they added an elementary victory to their tally and made a winning debut at medium.

"I'm so proud of him," said Jo of her "gentlemanly" six-year-old Desperados gelding. "He has amazing paces and the power is coming, but he never uses it against you. My amazing back-up team, Susan

WORKING RIDER

Formula One hits top gear

Jennifer Martell and the powerful Dimaggio stallion Integro ride a 'foot-perfect' test to win at elementary



Manor Grange Stud, West Yorks

MSJ FORMULA ONE raced to the top of the novice 23 with 81.88% — the day's highest score.

"There were a few tense moments, but he maintained his rhythm and showed expression in his paces," said Jennifer Martell, who rides for Amy Woodhead and competes the six-year-old Furst Romancier gelding for Jane and Charlie Gill. "It has been a gradual process — he has spent a long time at home, growing and training. He tends to go inside himself in an arena, so we've worked hard on developing a strong partnership."

Jennifer then headed the elementary 40 with Integro.

"He's a phenomenal horse to ride, with so much power," said

Jennifer, who has notched up 10 consecutive plus-70% scores with the Dimaggio stallion, a son of Valegro's full sister Weidyfleur II. "He did a foot-perfect test."

Paul Hayler scored novice freestyle and elementary wins with home-bred gelding Samurai Jubilee, a horse he describes as "a gentle giant".

"He's super-moving and really well balanced for a big horse," said Paul of six-year-old Sam, who is by Showmaker and out of a Lancet x Rubinstein mare. "He works hard, too, and has the attributes and trainability for grand prix. He's certainly a keeper."

Paul also headed the advanced medium 96 with Lottie Snape's Da Vinci 299, ahead of Lottie and her second ride Camelot III.

RESULTS

30 Nov: prelim 17 silv (C Senior).— 1, Poppy IX (R Hutchinson) 68.97; 2, Wred Blazing Boy I (V Hopkinson) 68.97; 3, Brave And Willow (N Cranham) 68.97; 4, Wred Willow (H Sinden) 67.29; 5, Maico (M Mulder) 63.75. nov 23 gold.— 1, MSJ Formula One (J Martell) 81.88; 2, Wred Willow 67.71. silv.— 1, Ruby Minotais (H Sinden) 70.21; 2, Jazz Concerto (H Sinden) 70.32; 3, Maico (M Mulder) 63.75. nov 39 gold (S Cooper).— 1, Dark Diamond II (J Minion) 70.32; 2, MSJ Formula One 70.32; 3, Burela Battleship (T Buckingham) 65.51; 4, Jazz Concerto (H Sinden) 66.13; 5, Der Diamant (J Dooley) 65.32; 3, Regency George (P Smith) 60.32. elem 40 gold (S Charlton).— 1, Integro (J Martell) 71.45; 2, Classic Jillz Geuzenhof (S Wells) 68.39. silv.— 1, Hej Macca (H Hunter) 64.03; 2, Starline Shadow (S Clark) 62.1. elem 59 gold.— 1, Samurai Jubilee (P Hayler) 71.09; 2, Classic Jillz Geuzenhof 69.06. silv.— 1, Hallowberry Hi Fi 65; 2, Cadeautje (H Lowe) 65.34. silv.— 1, Moonshine II (H Airey) 62.93. med 76 gold.— 1, Everbonnie 65.3. silv.— 1, Moonshine II 64.39; 2, Victoria VII (K Lodge) 63.03. adv med 85 gold.— 1, Zorco (L Newton) 68.53; 2, Dragos Felix (E Bond) 64.12. adv med 96 gold.— 1, Da Vinci 299 (P Hayler) 69.47; 2, Camelot III (C Snape) 69.21; 3, Zorco 66.05. PYO adv gold.— 1, Foxboro Rock DJ (S Snell) 65.88; 2, Spudley (K Heslop) 65.59; 3, Arctic Diva (C Etherington) 61.47. PYO gold.— 1, Da Vinci 299 (C Snape) 62.16. silv.— 1, Fred Zeppelin (T Pilkington) 58.33. PSG gold.— 1, Baracheil (L Hancock) 66.05; 2, Camelot III 62.37. inter 1 gold.— 1, Sam The Man Veldhoek (L Parkes) 67.76. silv.— 1, Spudley 65.13. nov FSM Q gold (S Charlton).— 1, Samurai Jubilee 71.67; 2, The Artful Dodger VII (V Franks) 68.89. silv.— 1, JSR Socks (R Chapman) 67.78; 2, Daquiri's Feeling Groovy (E Wilkinson) 66.94; 3, Regency George (P Smith) 65. elem FSM Q gold.— 1, Daiquiris Jiggery Pokery (V Franks) 72.12; 2, Samurai Jubilee 70.77. silv.— 1, Tyngwindwn Golden Boy (E Roberts) 67.69; 2, Dativ XL (M Brocklesby) 67.5; 3, Cadeautje 67.12. med FSM Q gold (S Cooper).— 1, Lordships Delusion (J Fearn) 67. silv.— 1, Daiquiris