



Beth Barnett missed the nationals because her horse damaged a suspensory ligament, but won the junior talent spotting after David Pincus lent her Role

Barnett's one to watch

Three first-time finalists triumph at the dressage talent spotting finals, writes *Ruth Pearce*

FORTY-two riders contested the Kilbees Farm British Dressage Talent Spotting final supported by the British Dressage Supporters Club at Addington Manor, Buckinghamshire (20-21 October), after qualifying at regional heats.

The competition, which focuses on rider ability and not the quality of the horse, is held in three categories — pony riders (8-16 years), juniors (13-18 years on horses) and young riders (19-25 years).

Jennie Loriston-Clarke, Islay Auty, Chris Porterfield, Helen Webber and Ulf Wilken were on the judges' panel for the two days, assessing candidates through three stages — test riding, theory and swapping mounts — while Paul Fielder and Hannah Moody acted as trainers.

"The quality of horses is improving and riders must learn to ride them with feel," said Islay. "The second day, when they swap mounts, is the most valuable. Riders have to be aware of what they're on and adapt accordingly in a short period of time."

Beth Barnett made up for missing out on the nationals last month by taking the junior title on Sheepcote Rolex in their first competition.

The 16-year-old British Dressage (BD) apprentice from Tillington, Hereford, trains

FINAL RESULTS

Ponies	2, Charlotte Ward
1, Claire Gallimore	3, Jenna Capel
2, Samantha Brown	
3, Genevieve Walters	Young riders
Juniors	1, Rebecca Morris
1, Beth Barnett	2, Abbie Hughes

with David and Serena Pincus, who lent her the nine-year-old gelding four weeks ago after Beth's horse, Astro Medinox, was sidelined.

Beth backed and produced Medinox, qualifying him for the novice open nationals, but they did not get there because the six-year-old pulled a suspensory ligament the night before.

"I was really disappointed to miss the nationals and thought I wouldn't be able to go to the talent spotting as well, but David offered me the ride on Rolex," said Beth, a Talented Athletes Scholarship Scheme (TASS) recipient who has been riding for 10 years.

"It was Rolex's first competition for six months, so he was a bit lit up at first because he was

happy to be out again, but it was nice to be given the opportunity to ride other horses," she adds.

Second place went to Charlotte Ward and Weronella, an 11-year-old Oldenburger mare bought through Christian Heinrich a year ago.

Charlotte's mother started training her from the age of 15 months and she now trains with Conr Schumacher, Claire Moir and Chris Dannan.

The family runs a showing yard in Exeter and Charlotte has qualified more than 20 ponies for the Horse of the Year Show.

The 14-year-old caught the dressage bug two years ago and at 5ft 10in is now on horses.

"I thought 'I've got nothing to lose so let's go for it'," said Charlotte. "Swapping horses comes naturally. It was the naughty ponies that taught me to ride. Weronella's hot-headed, like a typical chestnut mare, but is phenomenal to ride. She's amazing and I always feel outclassed whenever I ride her. She's like a dragon and flies in the arena but at home our six-year-old lead-rein jockeys are led bareback on her."

Jenna Capel took third place on her Welsh section D gelding Maesmynach Captan, whom she has backed and produced.

The rider from Ponty Clun, Wales, recently