

David Pincus—the masters' choice

THE DEVELOPMENT of David Pincus as a dressage rider and trainer has hinged on his own relentless determination to learn his trade, helpfully lubricated by two remarkable and quite unpredictable pieces of good fortune.

But neither of the two aces dealt him by fate could have occurred to a less skilful horseman.

David was born in Tel Aviv in 1950, to parents of English-speaking South African origin. He often visited England as a child, but began his riding in Israel under an expartner of our good friend Capt. Edy Goldman.

Later on, also in Israel, he was able to learn something of the art of the masters of the last century from Leopold Ushtein, who had been

by Anthony Crossley

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riding in St. Petersburg at the time that the famous English *écuyer*, James Fillis, was in charge of the Imperial Russian Cavalry School. Such teachers gave David an unusually sophisticated introduction to his career.

After a three-year stint as a paratrooper in the Israeli army—why worry about falling off a horse?—David came to England in 1971, determined to become a professional teacher of equitation. He got off the mark quickly by passing his B.H.S.A.I. examination after one month at Crabbet Park and then went to work for a dealer at Windsor, from where he also took lessons from Robert Hall, Pat Manning and others. He took and passed his B.H.S.I. exam in 1973.

A relatively sedentary spell was followed by a month's riding with von Neindorf at Karlsruhe a tough assignment as anyone who has been there will appreciate. And it was while there that an awareness of the weaknesses of the British equestrian teaching standards began to dawn on him. Cancelling his plans to return to England, David got himself a job as instructor in a riding club at Stollenbachhof in southern Austria, whence he could make frequent visits to the Spanish School in Vienna.

While working at the club, his first piece of good luck occurred. A friend on the staff of the Spanish School arrived with two rather ordinary horses and asked David if he would school them for a couple of months for their unnamed owner.

In due course the owner arrived to inspect the result of David's work and was well pleased. He was the director of the Spanish Riding School, Colonel Albrecht, who forthwith offered David a vacancy at the School.

After completing a six-month course in Vienna, David stayed in Austria for a further year, teaching, schooling horses, competing and having occasional lessons from

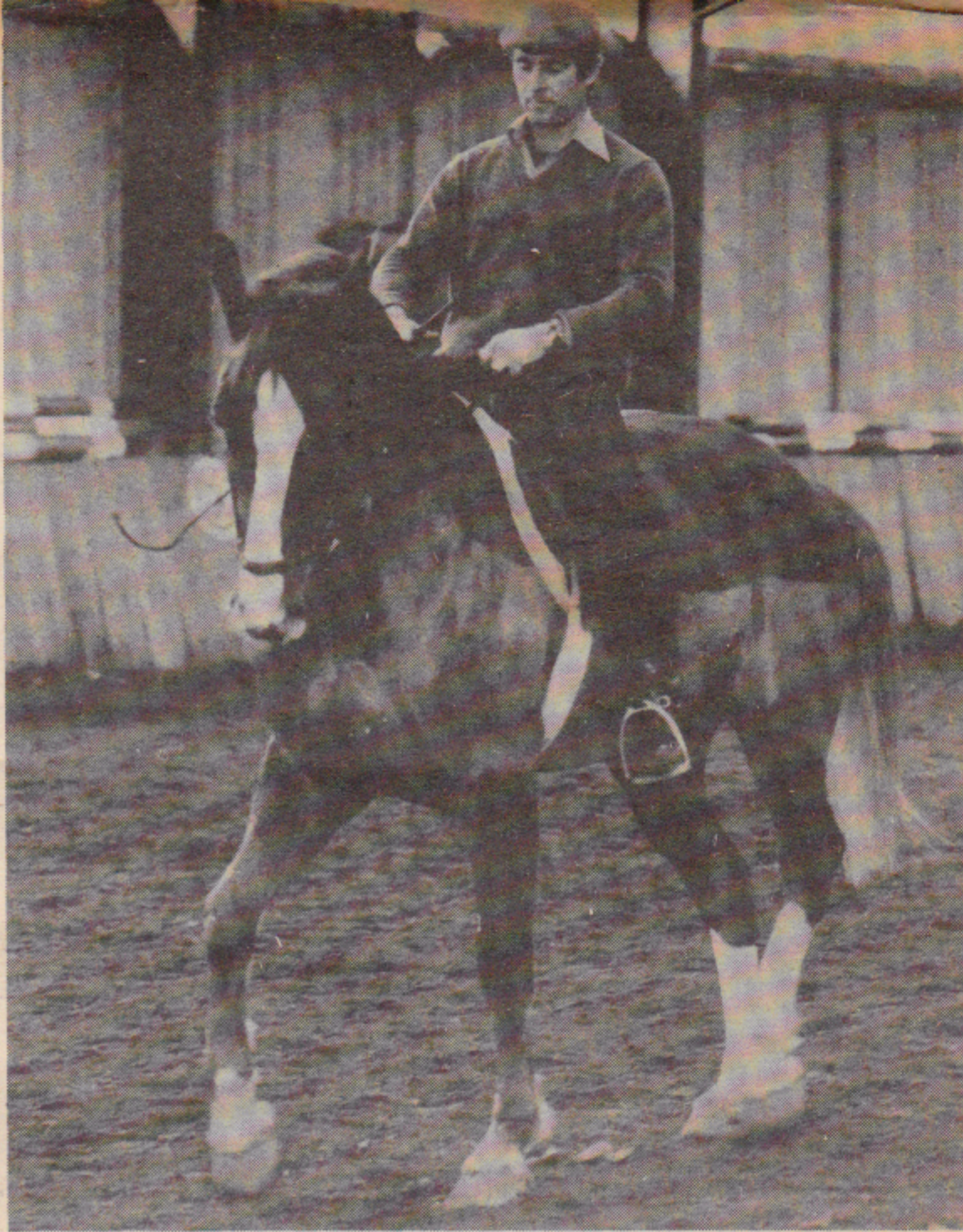
Ernst Bachinger, but fitting in a second visit to von Neindorf and a two-month course at Saumur. Then, after a total of four years in Austria, it was time for a change and a closer look at Germany, where David made a series of short working visits to various establishments, ending up with a six-week course at the Westphalian State Riding and Driving School in Münster under Herr Paul Stecken.

Then, with exquisite timing, David realized his second and seemingly impossible dream.

It so happened that Dr. Reiner Klimke, due to unusual business pressures, was looking for someone to help him work his young horses, a highly improbable situation in itself. On Herr Stecken's recommendation, he invited David to have a ride at his St. Georges Club and promptly offered him the job.

It hardly needs saying that Dr. Klimke's standards are sky-high; that he does not lightly allow anyone to ride his competition horses; and that David Pincus found himself in a situation beyond the dreams of most young riders in Germany and one for which there was no precedent. He stayed with Dr. Klimke for six months, broken only by a five-week instructors course at Warendorf, riding all his mentor's horses apart from the much-cherished Ahleric, and learning directly from one of the greatest dressage riders of our time.

Though invited to stay longer, David decided that it was time to stand on his own feet and returned to England where, after a short venture in Cardiff, he is now established with a large indoor



David Pincus introducing the five-year-old Opotunist to the piaffe.

school and stables at Sheepcote Lodge, Bartestree, near Hereford.

Once again he has taken a bold decision and is devoting the majority of his time to making horses at the expense of some of the more immediately lucrative teaching.

He has 10 young horses in his yard, all but one being British and all with everything to make. Currently, therefore, pupils must take their own mounts but may get an occasional ride to prove or test some point on one of the maestro's.

His style of riding and teaching is confident, knowledgeable, articulate and very lively. His fees are more in line with those on the continent than with the higher rates prevalent in this country.

With all that experience behind him, and having won the single and exceptional honour of Dr. Klimke's personal patronage, it is sad that this obviously talented professional, after nearly two years in England, is still relatively unknown to the majority of our riders.

Reiner Klimke heads Goodwood field

NEXT WEEKEND'S Incheape International Dressage Championships (May 29-31) will, barring unforeseen interventions, provide at least some of the finest dressage riding to be seen in the world this year.

The depth and breadth of the overall standard of the 1978 World Championships and the 1980 Olympic substitute meeting can hardly be reproduced at a C.D.I., but there is no reason for anyone to feel blasé about going again next week. Given a modicum of luck with the weather, the visual effect and unique atmosphere of these big events at Goodwood are themselves sufficient to justify the journey.

The assurance of brilliant dressage on each of the three days is provided by the presence on the starting list of Dr. Reiner Klimke, almost certainly the greatest dressage rider, trainer and competitor of the last 20 years, and of his wife Ruth.

Dr. Klimke is bringing his two best horses, Ahleric and Amantiado. The tall bay gelding, Ahleric, was placed third in the Grand Prix Special

behind Granat and Slibovitz at Goodwood last August and, still only 10, and improving steadily with maturity, must have a great chance for the next Olympic individual gold medal in three years' time. He beat Slibovitz when they met at Dortmund last March. Amantiado (12), is a Canadian-bred mare that was trained by Georg Theodorescu and then bought by the German Federation for Dr. Klimke as his second string for the last Olympics. A severe accident kept her out of circulation for nine months.

Dr. Klimke will ride Amantiado in the two Intermediaire contests on the Friday and Saturday, and Ahleric in the Grand Prix on the Saturday afternoon and also, unless something goes very much amiss, in the Special on the Sunday morning.

Ruth Klimke, herself an excellent rider, ranking among the top 20 in Germany, will ride Feuerball (9) in the Grand Prix.

The Klimkes' team-mates will be Manfred Schmidtke with his very beautiful Holsteiner Romeo and Leon; and Fraulein Schulten-Baumer, trainer and rider of Madras, which she will ride in The Grand Prix.

France and Holland are sending strong teams; Austria's number two,

Regina Moldan is bringing two horses and there will be two representatives from Canada. We will not be seeing the Danish team that did so well here in April and August last year.

In the 1980 C.D.I., we had the satisfaction of watching a British rider, Jennie Loriston-Clarke, with her World bronze medallist, Dutch Courage, beat all the visitors in both the Grand Prix and the Special. Maybe it is too much to expect a repetition of that splendid feat, especially as this year the competition will be somewhat tougher.

On the other hand, our team, to be selected on the ground from at least five possibles, will be strong enough to give any of the visiting teams a real run for their money.

If, for example, Dutch Courage, Special Edition (Diana Mason) and Wily Trout (Chris Bartle) are all fit, well and on form, they would be in with a big chance of taking the jackpot. The afternoon of Saturday, May 30, will be an exciting time.

On the Sunday there will also be various showing classes, and a display by John Lassetter and his team of Lippizaners.

ANTHONY CROSSLEY