

# Restricted classes Welsh section D shows the way

Rachel Taylor beats the continental warmbloods on a native, while Alex Hardwick proves an interesting warm-up works wonders

RACHEL TAYLOR scored a point for amateurs and native horse and pony riders everywhere, seeing off tough competition from continental-bred horses.

She won the Dodson & Horrell novice restricted on Ella-Louise Mayhead's 15.2hh seven-year-old Welsh section D by Coednewydd Speculator, Tirclyn Sportsman.

"It feels like quite an achievement. I wasn't expecting this at all against these amazing horses," said Rachel, who works in the events office at Merrist Wood. "People tend to stop me in the warm-up and ask about 'Sporty', although most mistake him for a Friesian or dales."

Rachel has got to grips with the gelding, who is a real trier, but can lose rhythm in his trotwork.

"He's so supple and elastic that his trot can vary, but he was consistent today, and halted well, too — sometimes he stands legs out like a typical Welsh," she laughed.



'I wasn't expecting to win against these horses,' says Rachel Taylor

## Nationals debut win

LUCY PINCUS, 13, topped the Centaur Biomechanics prelim at her first national championship riding Sheepcote Sandmartin. Tense at the start, Sandmartin settled quickly and coped well with the distractions of flags and people milling around the arena.

"He's not been to a championship like this before and he's quite forward and sharp, but he's a kind pony," said Lucy. "Dad [rider and trainer David] says he's like his grand prix horse Wurlitzer [his sire] in character."

Lucy is undecided whether she will follow into her parents' profession (mother Serena is also a rider) when she finishes her education, but helps out on the yard when they are short staffed.

Alex Hardwick, 19, now works at her parents' Hallingbury Hall Equestrian Centre in Hertfordshire, riding, training and generally mucking in. She topped the Martin Collins advanced medium restricted with 67.53% on Calvin G, a 16.2hh, seven-year-old German-bred gelding by Contendro.

"I can't believe it," she said. "He felt amazing and I was smiling all the way. Halfway through his extended trot I did wonder if he was going to come back at the end. But he's such a gentleman."

Alex thinks the secret of her success is that she keeps her horses' lives interesting. Two days before the championship, she could be seen galloping around the cross-country course at Hallingbury on Calvin.

"It gets them in front of the leg!" explained Alex. "We jump all our horses. It lets them release energy in a constructive way."

But if they should let loose in a test you're more likely to see Alex laugh and give the horse a pat than get stressed

People tend to stop me and ask about 'Sporty', although most mistake him for a Friesian or dales rather than Welsh

Rachel Taylor on novice restricted winner Tirclyn Sportsman



Alex Hardwick warmed up Calvin G for the advanced medium by going cross-country

## FINAL SCORES: RESTRICTED CLASSES

Final position	Rider	Horse	Score
<b>Martin Collins advanced medium restricted</b>			
1	Alex Hardwick	Calvin G	67.53
2	Nicholas Lawson	Abbey Tiron	67.42
3	Emma Gallagher	Andy Lykkegaard	66.21
<b>Haygain medium restricted</b>			
1	Stuart Walker	Donatello	67.51
2	Jody Haswell	Wolansky	66.65
3	Kim Seaby	Rubin-esque	66.49
<b>Stretch &amp; Flex elementary restricted</b>			
1	Janine Jansen	Velocity IV	70.00
2	Verity Boys	GDH Flashdance	69.06
3	Lorraine Allan	Nouveau	68.28
<b>Dodson &amp; Horrell novice restricted</b>			
1	Rachel Taylor	Tirclyn Sportsman	68.21
2	Rebecca Bell	Valido's Sunshine	68.10
3	Emma Smith	GDH Lancer Evolution	66.90
<b>Centaur Biomechanics prelim</b>			
1	Lucy Pincus	Sheepcote Sandmartin	70.45
2	Jacqueline Cowley	Zingar	69.70
3	Imogen Ablett	River Valley Amadeus	69.55

about the situation.

"It's down to trust, if the rider sits quietly the horse is more likely to know it's all right and go."

Having ridden the horse since he was three, Alex is keen not to push him too far, too fast, so will aim again for advanced medium at the winter finals.

## Eventer turned dressage star

WORKING rider Janine Jansen, a reporter for BBC South-West news, headed the Stretch & Flex elementary restricted on former intermediate eventer Velocity IV. Last to go in the test, Janine controlled the nerves that let her down at the regionals.

"Because I event, I pretended today's test was just the first part of a three-day event, rather than the be all and end all," explained Janine, who turned to dressage because "I've always enjoyed it and Velocity excels at