

FROM ANTHONY DAWSON - RE: HARTPURY'S FESTIVAL OF DRESSAGE

My recent trip to the UK must be considered a success. I went over for three weeks and there were three parts to the trip.

For the first week, I had coaching by Clive Milkins (Trainer of Para rider, Sophie Christiansen, who is the current European, World and Paralympic Gold medallist) on a number of different horses. Our objectives were to gain greater knowledge on the Art of Dressage and how each horse can teach us something / a new technique to add to one's "library". During this time I stayed in a nearby B&B, and at times I was very lonely!

It was wonderful to get to the Andrews who own Middlemarch IV, a horse I had ridden in February when I went over to try out different horses to select as a possible Paralympic horse, should I be selected.

The Andrews live and run Windacres Stables on 91 hectares in Surrey. Sally is a Dressage judge and coach and daughter Rosie is a Grade IV Para Equestrian rider.

A week's training with the Andrews was followed by the main event - Hartpury's Festival of Dressage (CPEDI3*).

My goals were to finish in the top 10 and to achieve scores of 65% or more for each of the three tests.



Anthony training on Middlemarch IV at Windacres Stables

I was thrilled to always attain in excess of 65% and to be placed 9th overall, as there were 14 nations competing and 23 combinations in my grade. In addition, I was awarded the "Best Rider under the Age of 21 Years" Award and "Highest Scoring Foreign Rider on a Borrowed Horse" Award. Both Jane Goldsmith (CPEDI5* Official and Judge) and Chris Porterfield (CPEDI5* Judge) personally came to congratulate me and to commend me on my riding, and they believe that I have been very fortunate to find a super London Paralympic Games horse.

The Andrews have already started to pack Middlemarch's trunk to go to the FEI 3* international event in Breda, Holland (6 - 9 October 2011). I have to find a way to ensure that I too will be packing my suitcase and getting this essential international competition experience on My Road to London Paralympic Games 2012.

Dressage at Royal Leisure Equestrian (GBR) - This event was affiliated to British Dressage

Grade II Team Test (2010)

Horse: Middlemarch (owned by Sally Andrews)
Score: 72.043%
Placing: 1st

Grade II Individual Championship Test (2010)

Horse: Middlemarch (owned by Sally Andrews)
Score: 67.821%
Placing: 1st

Hartpury CPEDI3*

Class Details:

No. of combinations: 23
No. of nations competing: 14

Grade II Team Test (2010)

Horse: Middlemarch (owned by Sally Andrews)
Score: 66.000%
Placing: 9th

Grade II Freestyle to Music (2010)

Horse: Middlemarch (owned by Sally Andrews)
Score: 68.550%
Placing: 7th

Grade II Individual Championship Test (2010)

Horse: Middlemarch (owned by Sally Andrews)
Score: 65.286%
Placing: 10th

Other Awards from Hartpury CPEDI3*

Overall placing: 9th
Received Best rider U21 Award
Highest Scoring Foreign Rider on a borrowed horse