

New Beginnings finishes



Sophie Hatswell, 16, is "over the moon" to claim the supreme championship aboard new ride New Beginnings at their first show together, also securing their RIHS ticket

Fresh partnerships score tickets to the Royal International as well as the top spots in the overall supreme showdown

British Skewbald and Piebald Association (BSPA) World Championships of Colour Spring, Vale View EC, Leics

A TEENAGER went through the card to lift the supreme championship just two weeks into a partnership with her aptly named new ride. When

By GILL KAPADIA

16-year-old Sophie Hatswell from Ashbourne in Derbyshire was asked to sit on nine-year-old New Beginnings (Billy) for producers Danni Radford and Lewis Caddick, she fell in love.

"Billy came to us three weeks

ago to be sold as a worker," said Danni. "Neither Lewis or I really jump, so we asked Sophie if she would pop a pole for us and that was that. The chemistry was obvious from the start."

Sophie then begged her mother, Martha, to purchase Billy, and the deal was done.

"Billy has mainly done showjumping and can be quite hot over a fence, so we decided to do some flat classes first to chill him a bit and improve his flatwork," said Sophie. "This was our first show, and I am over the moon."

The duo booked their place at the Royal International Horse Show (RIHS) in the non-native coloured pony class and stood section champions earlier in the day. They produced a flawless supreme display for judges Colin Peopall and Lee Clarke, who were unanimous in their selection.

"Our champion was a really

nice type," said Colin. "He had a lovely way of going with a leg at each corner and he really stood out in the supreme."

Sophie, who is home-schooled, helps Danni and Lewis at their yard, and the team has certainly hit a purple patch.

Hot on the heels of triple championship success at the British Show Pony Society (BSPS) winter championships, the home-bred Ladies Man (George) booked his place at Hickstead here, winning the small hacks and the section championship ridden by owner and breeder Danni, who was making her hack debut.

"He did a couple of shows last year but this will be his first proper season," said Danni. "He has exceeded our expectations and we have high hopes for him."

The six-year-old, who is by the multi-garlanded stallion Tiger Attack out of Looking Glass Real Image, had a stellar BSPS winter championships, winning novice, restricted and RIHS intermediate section championships, ridden by Poppy Carter.

The team also scored at Vale View with the lightweight coloured cob Miss Monroe



Reylem Super Trooper (Alice Lloyd) is reserve supreme and overall pony champion

strong

(Destiny) owned by Rebecca McColl, who took two RIHS tickets in both the coloured and cob sections, partnered by Danni.

“HE’S COME ON LEAPS AND BOUNDS”

STANDING reserve supreme was the overall pony champion Reylem Super Trooper, who is produced from home by rider Alice Lloyd, 20, and her mother Kathryn. The duo, who are in

“I have been training with Paralympic dressage coach Lou Robson and she has made such a difference to my riding,” said Alice. “She’s taught me how to hold the reins in a way which works. I need a well-mannered pony and Trooper really looks after me. We will go to the RIHS and do some Horse of the Year Show [HOYS] qualifiers. HOYS would be a dream come true.”

First reserve supreme went

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ALICE LLOYD ON REYLEM SUPER TROOPER

their first season together, scored two RIHS tickets in the coloured sections and claimed the overall ridden pony championship before standing reserve champion to New Beginnings in the RIHS championship.

Alice, who comes from Rugby and is taking a year out from university, has owned the six-year-old gelding for two-and-a-half years, but this is their first season.

“Trooper was really immature when we bought him, so we turned him out on good grazing, and he has come on in leaps and bounds,” said Alice. “We don’t have a manège at home, so we do all our schooling in a bumpy field. Mum and I broke Trooper in and we have done all the work ourselves. I am thrilled as this is our biggest win so far.”

Alice suffers from fibromyalgia, which means she has no feeling in her hands and can struggle to hold the reins correctly.

to another home-produced team, Sarah Welfare and her 22-year-old gelding Ritz and Pieces. Ritz defied his years to take the ridden home-produced and amateur titles and a Hickstead ticket, before heading to the supreme.

“I originally bought Ritz as a four-year-old but sold him when he was seven and he has had a successful career as a working hunter pony,” said Sarah. “He came back to me before Covid, but hadn’t been ridden for a couple of years. I needed something sensible to hack out alongside my youngsters. He looked so well when he came back into work that I took him to the BSPA show at the Northern Racing College, where we qualified for this show. I didn’t expect to do so well.”

Sarah plans to take Ritz to Hickstead where he will retire after a final gallop up the hill. Nantwich-based Sarah combines



“THE PAIR HAVE AN EXCITING FUTURE”

A FELL pony stallion purchased when he was just six months old is already exceeding his owners’ expectations, winning two major championships in two days at two separate shows.

Greenholme Knight, six, is in his first full season under saddle. He headed the RIHS young rider intermediates and the section championship here at Vale View ridden by 16-year-old Scarlett Marshall (pictured), and followed that up a day later at British Show Pony Society (BSPS) Area 4B winning the open RIHS championship ridden by Terry Clynes. Terry co-owns the son of Greenholme Warrior with Ciaran Kelly.

“We thought he was going to be special when we spotted him at the Fell pony sales and he has turned into all that and more

besides,” said a delighted Terry. “We have known Scarlett since she was a baby and promised her the ride on Knight last year. Scarlett is in her first affiliated showing season too and we think the pair have an exciting future.”

ONES TO WATCH

her full-time job as a health and safety consultant with looking after five other horses. She also suffers from fibromyalgia and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and is in constant pain.

“I think my illness makes me more determined,” she said. “No one else in my family is interested in horses so I have to do everything myself. I get by on a lack of food and sleep, but it’s worth it.”

“SHE MAKES THINGS EASY FOR ME”

SHOWING newbie Julie Coupland and her striking

two-year-old sport horse Longacres Weronika (Lilka) took the supreme in-hand title after collecting a raft of awards throughout the day, including sport horse, amateur and home-produced championships.

Julie has owned the daughter of First Impression since she was a weanling.

“I am a dressage rider and have only done a handful of shows, so it’s been a very steep learning curve for me,” said Julie, who comes from Clitheroe. “I have four horses at home, and they are my passion. As a child, I would jump onto my dad’s horse from the gate and ride off round the field without any tack.”

“I plan to do dressage with Lilka eventually, but I’m really enjoying showing at the moment. She has such an incredible temperament that she makes things easy for me.”

Reserve in-hand supreme was Hopparden Hanky Panky, the prolific coloured stallion who has chalked up many wins during his career. The 13-year-old, now owned by Alice Burnett and her mother Clare Highnam, continued his winning ways collecting a tally of awards including the open in-hand title, reserve sports pony and reserve amateur champion.

He has been with Alice since 2019 and finished third at HOYS under saddle last season. **H&H**



Two-year-old Longacres Weronika (by First Impression) clinches the supreme in-hand title for Julie Coupland

Pictures by Fenwick Photography