

Shining Light is back to brilliance

FIELD HOUSE EC, STAFFS
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By Jo Prestwich

"TEAM Denstone" ruled the roost, with three of the day's winners coming from Jane Critchley's yard in Denstone. Top of these was Shining Light, who won the intermediate I for Jane's mother Felicity Scott.

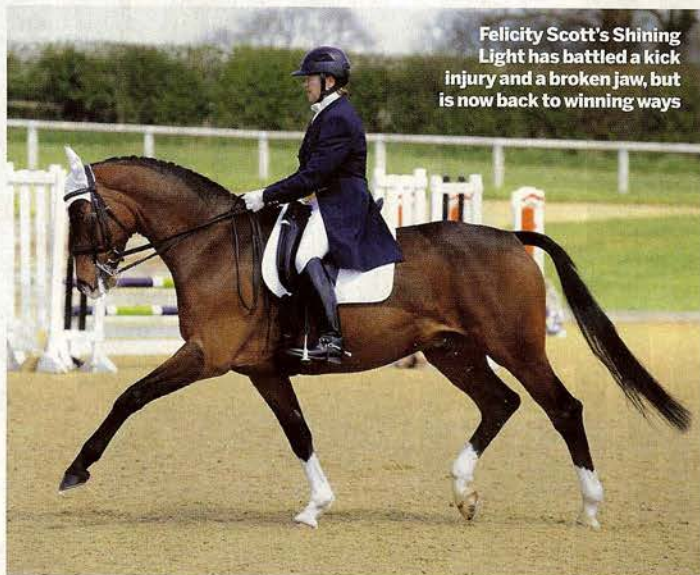
The Shine On/Accentus gelding was sidelined all last year after kicking himself in the field, 14 months ago almost to the day. After the kick, which left him with a damaged hind suspensory, he then managed to break his jaw while on box-rest.

Wired and plated, the jaw mended fairly quickly, but it wasn't until October that Felicity was back in the plate.

"It's great to have him back in action and he was so excited to be out competing," said Felicity. "I'll do another inter I and then hopefully move back up to inter II."

Jane won both the elementary and medium qualifiers with her Negretto/Luciano son, Legro. It was a first outing since last year's summer regionals for the seven-year-old, but the break was by design, as Jane has been concentrating on training with the home-bred.

"His sire was 16.2hh, his dam 16hh on her tiptoes and he is 18hh," said Jane. "Luckily, he is



Felicity Scott's Shining Light has battled a kick injury and a broken jaw, but is now back to winning ways

so lovely you could put your mother on him — so I do!"

The final Denstone winner was Nicolle Begovic with another gentle giant, Federico. Her Florestan gelding headed the restricted section of the elementary 53 (see box, right).

Urban's a Hit

LAURA NEWTON and Urban Hit were narrowly beaten into second in the inter I by Felicity. But she already had one red rosette in the bag, having won the prix st georges (PSG) with Pam Johnston's Diamond Hit gelding.

Pam bought the now 14-year-

old from Holland as a just-backed three-year-old on her third horse hunting trip there.

"It was beginning to feel like I'd seen every horse on the market and then Urban Hit came into the arena. It was a freezing cold day and snowing and I couldn't take my eyes off him," said Pam, who gave the ride to Laura three years ago.

Natalie Allen continued her run of form — which included wins on three of her past four outings with Churchill Retirement's Churchill Casual — this time winning the inter II qualifier with Duke 77.

The Davignon gelding, now 20, has been with Natalie, a former team bronze medalist at the pony Europeans, for five years.

"He belonged to a friend of mine who rode him on their young rider team," said Natalie, who won her first grand prix on the horse two years ago.

In the novices, Sam Morrison was on song, winning both the 22 and the 37 with plus-74% scores riding Balpare, as well as taking second and third with his stable-mate Bonheur. Both are by Breitling and owned by Christina Williams, Sam taking on the rides at the beginning of the year.

The British summer finally came, bathing Field House's outdoor arena in sunshine, providing the long-absent sight of competitors in short sleeves. H&H



Laura Newton scoops a PSG win with Urban Hit, by Diamond Hit



The Davignon gelding Duke 77 is a reliable big tour horse for Natalie Allen

First win at elementary

NICOLLE BEGOVIC'S elementary win

was her first test at the level. Federico, whom she bought in June last year. Nicolle kept at Jane Critchley's and has lessons with Richard Davis — who trains all three of the "Denstone darlings".

American-born Nicolle is married to Stoke City goal Asmir Begovic and is a convert from Western pleasure riding.

"I used to do reining in the States and then, when my husband moved to the UK, I carried on riding as a hobby," she said.

"I spent all the time I could at Contessa Riding Centre watching Tina Layton work dressage horses, got hooked on the discipline and worked in return for lessons," said Nicolle, who found Federico online.

"I watched the video, got the car, rode him and bought him," she said. "I did think when I saw there that the 17.2hh he was advertised as was a little unrealistic, but he doesn't big and I love him."



Nicolle Begovic (Federico) is a convert from Western riding

Results

Prelim 19Q (B Lackner). — 1, D Sign Meru (70.91); 2, Beech Gala (R Hop 3, Paper Girl (A Lewis) 59.55. **nov 22 Lackner.** — 1, Balpare (S Morrison) 2, Westoak Barbie (C Gordon) 69.3; Bonheur (S Morrison) 67.93. **rest.** — 65.52; 2, Schuh Shine (K Harrison) 6; Dietrich II (N Mincher Lockett) 61.72. **(B Lackner).** — 1, Balpare 75.61; 2, B 68.93; 3, Westoak Barbie 66.43. **rest.** Schuh Shine 60. **elem 53Q (C Tupling)** Legro (J Critchley) 70.59. **rest.** — 1, F (N Begovic) 69.12; 2, Miss Cassie (S 59.71. **med 75Q (C Tupling).** — 1, Legro 65.14. **adv med 98Q.** — 1, Picasso (Horswill) 68.16; 2, Don Cavello (N All 66.58. **PSG Q (J Mead, D Jones).** — Urban Hit (L Newton) 67.1; 2, Picasso 62.1; 3, Molligard (S Branch) 61.32. **Q (J Mead, D Jones).** — 1, Shining Light (Felicity Scott) 68.46; 2, Urban Hit 68.42; 3, Ramilo (J Yardley) 68.16. **inter II Q (D Jones).** — 1, Duke 77 (N Allen) 67.3; Summerhouse Bellini (D Steed) 63.1. **(J Mead, D Jones).** — 1, Rolandro (L adv 61.57.