



Megan Austin is 14 and last year she rode Welsh B pony stallion Longhalves Renoir for East Sussex breeder Jo Filmer. She took him to the NPSS dressage championships where they won the overall Supreme title. Megan said: "That was a massive achievement because he was only five at the time."

Following advice from her trainer Shellie Beattie on her move up to horses, she now has 10-year-old Irish former show-jumper Kingcarra Carrick Cruise. They won the Silver section Novice 23 with 67.71% and were third overall. Megan said: "I've had 'Bertie' about 10 months and he's been amazing lately. He's my first horse off of ponies and it took me a while to get used to a longer stride. He's quite leggy and was almost babyish when I got him. He moves beautifully but he was a bit false in his outline so we spent a lot of time on the basics and worked him on the lunge long and low. We started to compete at the beginning of this year, taking him to lots of different

venues to get him used to going to shows and he hasn't put a foot wrong."



Emma Delaunay, who competes 17hh-plus grey warmblood Jet Stream O has now realised her ambition to also own a cob. Riding Yogi XL she won the Prelim gold sections with 69% and 66.04%. She said: "I'm only 5ft 4in, so at 15.2hh he's my size of horse. He is the most straight-forward to handle, low-maintenance animal I've ever had. After warmbloods, having an Irish cob is bliss in terms of feeding and care."

"He has some issues. He has his explosive side, but most of the time he's very conservative with his energy and doesn't like to let on that he has an engine, but he has, and he could become quite smart. He used to be very needy about other horses and didn't want to leave them and there's a big nap in him, but he's trusting me more now."

"We've worked hard over the winter. I had a friend take him hunting and he's done a bit of jumping — all in an effort to get him fit and thinking forward and he's starting to enjoy life."

The beauty of a cob is that when he goes hunting, I hear that

he's a 'fantastic hunter', he goes show-jumping and I'm told 'he's got a great jump'. Today was only his second dressage show and he was much more confident than the first time and I'm chuffed with him."

The bronze section Novice 23 was won by first year GCSE student **Bethany Griffiths** riding Fell pony Wellbrow Duke. Bethany said:

"Duke's only 13hh so he finds the long sides of the arena very tiring and needs some encouragement. His best pace is trot because that was what Fells are bred to do but he's learned to canter."

The quote of the week came from Emma Delaunay: "The little victories mean more when you've got a little horse like Yogi. It's nice to go out just to have fun without pressure or expectation."

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