

who has owned the 10-year-old Westphalian gelding since he was backed at four. "I owe so much to my trainer, Ann Nicell, who has mentored me for 20 years."

Charlotte, who works with The Seeds of Change, a company specialising in personal development through equine facilitated learning, added: "I've wanted to ride at PSG for 25 years. We've a lot to consolidate at advanced medium, but I'm starting to think that I might actually get there."

Emily Stanford rode her own Korenbloem Vincit Omnia to victory in the medium open. Emily bought the Dutch-bred mare, now seven, from her trainer Andrew Gould three years ago.

"Her greatest strength is her canterwork," she said of the "straightforward" mare. "She's started flying changes and she'll hopefully be ready for PSG later this year."

Colin Hicks took the medium restricted with his British-bred mare Ballantina on 70.76%.

"She usually lights up in a big environment, so I wasn't sure what I'd get," said Colin, an NHS psychologist who also works in private practice. "But she outperformed herself with a stonking score."

Colin bought Ballantina, now 10, as a four-year-old from an advert in a local paper.

"It's a running joke that she's my free ads bargain," said Colin, who trains with Roland Tong and David Stone. "She didn't cost much, but she's amazing to train."

Lauren Wilson won at elementary with Walter, the Belgian-bred gelding she started riding a year ago.

"Walter was not easy to start with, but Lauren has really turned him around," said Walter's owner



Lucy Pincus, 13, fulfils her ambition of winning a presentation rug on Sandmartin

It's a running joke that she's my free ads bargain. She didn't cost much but she's amazing to train

Colin Hicks on Ballantina, who he bought from an ad in the local paper

Moira Johnston.

According to Lauren, the high point of their test was the medium trot — "Walter's forte".

Lucy Pincus, 13, headed a sizeable novice restricted with Sheepcote Sandmartin.

"I'm so pleased," said Lucy, who is based at Sheepcote Stud in Herefordshire. "It's been my ambition to win a presentation rug!"

Sandmartin, who is by the grand prix stallion Sheepcote Wurlitzer, has been described by Lucy's father David as "quite sharp and goey".

"He's not a mug's ride," he said.

Claire Rollitt and Woodstock II then pipped the pair at the post in the prelim. Claire's Dutch-bred gelding, recently back in action after time off with a tooth problem, scored 70.91%.

"It says a lot about him that he's come here and been so good," said Claire, a veterinary nurse who trains with Sarah Cheetham. **H&H**