

# HORSE & RIDER

## Freelance cook who turned to dressage

by Polly Kottler

It is not widely realised what the benefits of dressage are, and Serena Morgan's horse Holly serves as a wonderful illustration of how a horse may be improved.

Holly is a 15 hands grey mare, a nine year old home-bred horse out of the pony Serena had as a child.

As a young horse, she was rather ordinary and did not appear at first to be ideally suited to dressage, but with careful and correct training, she has learnt to move really gracefully and energetically and her victories in the three classes for which she was entered at the recent Welsh Dressage Festival proved that she is a force to be reckoned with in very good company.

Serena went to London when she was 18 years old, having enjoyed several years as a keen Pony Club member, but after several years of working in the city, she decided to return to her family in South Wales.

When she did so, she was lent a Welsh Cob, Nerina and while out hacking one day — the only aspect of riding in which she participated at the time — she met the very successful dressage rider and trainer David Pincus, who suggested that Nerina would lend herself well to dressage.

He was right — four years later Nerina is working at home at Grand

Prix level although in rather different circumstances, for Serena has been based at David's yard in Bartestree, Hereford since then, and Nerina is now ridden by David.

The talented horse progressed so well that Serena realised that her own inexperience would prevent the horse from reaching her full potential and so she very generously gave David the ride.

Nerina's owners, Mr and Mrs J. Ladbroke from South Wales have since provided more horses, Dorina and Dalibor, and have some super home-bred youngsters which may eventually be available for Serena and David, and naturally, Serena is extremely appreciative of their support.

Serena does not have time to ride every day for she still works as a freelance cook, and when one considers this and the facts that she had hardly heard of dressage four years ago and has still never had a formal lesson as such, her recent achievements are all the more impressive, and anyone who has met her cannot help but hope to see many more.



• Serena Morgan with her mare Holly.