

Whistle mimics Wurlitzer

**TATTON DRESSAGE,
SOMERFORD PARK,
CHESHIRE
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By Jo Prestwich

SHEEPCOTE WHISTLE followed in his father's footsteps to win the grand prix at Tatton Dressage. Owned and bred by David Pincus, the gelding is by Wurlitzer — who won here three years ago — out of a jumping-bred mare who was injured as a youngster and kept as a broodmare.

"You can see both of them in him," said David. "All the mare's offspring have plenty of character, and he certainly has that, and being by Wurlitzer he has plenty of energy."

And an abundance of energy was displayed to anyone watching the working-in as the big bay squealed his way round with exuberance before producing some flamboyant piaffe and

Not long after he recovered from injury he bucked me off

Libby Williams on the injuries that put her and Twister out of action

A champagne moment: Lyndsey Scott wins at PSG on G-West Nibby Bright



passage in the test.

Asked for his future plans, David, tongue in cheek, said: "I don't have any — just getting from one show to the next is an achievement, there's never enough time."

It was a good day for British-breds with Jane Howell's home-bred stallion MJ Fine Art winning the intermediaire II qualifier. It was only their second outing at the level so Jane, who trains with Stephen Clarke, was particularly pleased.

"This was so much better than the first attempt," she said. "Apart from anything else, I rode it a lot better — I overrode him big time before. We blew one of the pirouettes today, which normally he is very good at, but he really nailed the one-times."

The 14-year-old, like Whistle, is a third generation home-bred.

"I would love to get out and do a grand prix with him, but if I do, it will stop me being able to compete at novice level and I'm hoping to bring out the first of his offspring this year," said Jane, who has his full-brother to start.

Brenda Shone's TwisterX, ridden by Libby Williams, returned to the scene of his greatest triumph to date



An abundance of energy helps Sheepcote Whistle head the grand prix with David Pincus



— he won the regionals at Somerford Park two years ago — to score a double in the mediums with 76.5% and 72.9%. It has been a catalogue of accidents since his 2006 win.

"First he was injured and then, not long after, he was back in work when he bucked me off and I damaged my back and hip," explained Libby. "Between the two of us we had nearly two years out of competition, so it makes a



day like this really special."

The son of Mooiman came to Libby as a four-year-old to be sold.

"He feels so much braver now," said Libby, who trains with Stephen Clarke and Damian Hallam. "I overcooked him for the second test, but he still came out and did his best."

Despite clashing with Sheepgate's Premier League, there were good entries at small tour level in particular, with nearly three

hours of dressage in the former — possibly as it is the only chance affiliated competitors get to ride in Somerford's fantastic arenas, bar regionals and Premier Leagues.

"This is a champagne moment," said Lyndsey Scott after riding G-West Nibby Bright to win the prix st georges (PSG) qualifier.

The Swedish-bred gelding was one of the top potential young event horses in his native land before being imported.

"He came to me the following year," said Lyndsey. "I couldn't bear to send him back. I'm so proud, I could cry, and he did everything today in just a happy mouth snaffle." Lyndsey trains with Stephen Clarke, although she was quick to credit her "eyes on the ground" Hilary Wells. **H&H**

Results

Elem 43Q (F Lace). — 1, Bacardi III (R Wolfenden) 71; 2, Van Damme (K Cunningham) 70.6; 3, Sander (J Stoyell) 67.9. **rest.** — 1, Macgillycuddy Gold (N Claxton) 65.8; 2, Turando (C Smith) 64.8; 3, Trigger III (J Bailey) 64.1. **med 73Q (A Smith).** — 1, Twister X (L Williams) 72.9; 2, Wees Van Orti (E Van Mourik) 62.6; 3, Mattise (E Scott) 62. **rest.** — 1, Bacardi III 65.5; 2, NBF Limonata (R Gibson) 64.4; 3, Rotary (J Harkness) 63.5. **med 61 (J Aitchison).** — 1, Twister X 76.5; 2, Hiscoc Aliano (G

Davison) 73.1; 3, Palladio (E Van Mourik) 66.8. **rest.** — 1, Rotary 71; 2, Turando 62.4; 3, Worleston Billy (J Hassan) 62. **adv med Q (S Rodger).** — 1, Hiscoc Aliano 67.6; 2, Donnatella III (J Yardley) 62.3; 3, Stormtrooper (S Williams) 61.3. **rest.** — 1, Two Mills Playboy (M Jones) 62.6; 2eq, Ashdale Cruise Master (E Gilruth) & Wees Van Orti 60.5. **adv 100 (I Wessels).** — 1, Vanity Fair V (D Hogg) 65; 2, Paplo III (A Topham) 60.9; 3eq, Stanhopes Odwig (T Tomlinson) & Wish Of

Sheepcote (C Ballantyne) 60.9. **PSG Q (S Lidsey, J Aitchison).** — 1, G-West Nibby Bright (L Scott) 67.1; 2, THD Ramilo (J Yardley) 65.7; 3, Don Adamus (J Horswill) 65.1. **inter IQ (I Wessels, S Jelks).** — 1, Saphira (L Marriott) 66.7; 2, THD Ramilo 65.9; 3, MJ Fine Art (J Howells) 65.7. **inter IIQ (I Wessels, S Jelks).** — 1, MJ Fine Art 62.6; 2, Leon IV (S Dunlop) 60.9; 3, Milestones (F Rudge) 57.5. **gp (S Lidsey).** — 1, Sheepcote Whistle (D Pincus) 66.1; 2, Hiscoc Komanchi (G Davison) 61.2.