



Jumping at Hickstead for four days did him the world of good. He is a totally professional horse to ride

Julie Andrews on the impressive Arkol, by Argentinus



Difficult decision for judges

THE four-year-old championship judged on style and performance went to an extra round, because Arkol (Julie Andrews) and Millioninmind (Caroline Barnes) finished on equal marks after round two.

Judges Sandra Low-Mitchell, Tom O'Dwyer and Sam Roche requested them to jump an additional five fences. This resulted in Arkol winning by two marks.

The son of Argentinus was bought as a two-year-old in Germany and was first competed by owner Neil Robinson before Julie took the ride in June.

"We jumped at Hickstead for four days and that did him the world of good," said Julie. "He is a totally professional horse to ride and he has got on with his job here."

The six-year-old championship, which offered 18 tickets to the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) final was won by Simon Buckley and HFS Valentino.

Having already bought HFS Valentino's half-brother, Simon snapped up this son of Heartbreaker as a week-old foal.

This classy stallion has an impressive record: he won at



Five-year-old victor Bintang is unfazed by his first foray indoors under Tom Heame

Addington as a four-year-old, finished runner-up here last year and jumped clear here every day at the show before heading a high-class field in the championship.

"He is so careful and consistent except when a fence down in the final round at Addington cost us our [HOYS] ticket and bonus money, but we've more than made up for that today," said Simon.

Lord above! It's Whitaker again

WITH four more HOYS tickets on offer in the seven- and eight-year-old qualifier, competition was keen and it was John Whitaker who claimed the top spot riding Old Lodge's Lord Of Arabia.

John first rode the Cassini II seven-year-old at Hickstead in 1.10m open competitions

before progressing to the age classes at Rotterdam.

"He's quick and careful and he's come on in leaps and bounds. He just wants to do the job," said John.

Taking the remaining tickets were Alex Thompson (Dignity III), Nicole Pavitt (Abeer) and Laura Robinson (Jonti), H&H

Results

Autostop National four-year-old championship.—1, Arkol (J Andrews); 2, Million In Mind (C Barnes); 3, Curra River (A Barr) **prelim.**—1, Arkol; 2, Titan Des Chenes (J Kirk); 3, Campari (J Whitaker). **prelim.**—1, Beech Leys (D Morton); 2, Caravara Z (J Wingrove); 3, Chopin (O Dales). **consolation.**—1eq, 5 tied. **Equiport five-year-old Milton championship.**—1, Bintang II (T Hearne); 2, One Two Watch II (J Shore); 3, Bart VI (E Stoker) **prelim.**—1, 24 tied. **prelim.**—1, 30 tied. **consolation.**—1, Babs Du Rouet (C Al-Redha); 2, Back In Action (M Watson); 3, Grange Marko (S Gunn). **Marsh National six-year-old championship.**—1, HFS Valentino (S Buckley); 2, Simply Be II (A Condon); 3, Lupicos (L Pavitt) **prelim.**—1, 11 tied. **prelim.**—1, 9 tied. **Springs Equestrian Partnership national 7&8-year-old ch.**—1, Hello Boyo (T Fletcher); 2, Erasmus Vt Heffinck (D Jolliffe); 3, Zagahorn (M Armstrong). **prelim.**—1, Don VHP Z (L Pavitt); 2, Lord Of Arabia (J Whitaker); 3, Waradette S (T Hearne); **7 & 8yo.**—1, Lord Of Arabia; 2, Dignity III (A Thompson); 3, Abeer (N Pavitt). **consolation.**—1, Zeppeling (N Pavitt); 2, Whin Whin II (M Williams); 3, Belle Fleur (A Measor).

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