

NATIONAL 7 & 8 YEAR OLD ROUND UP

The HOYS seven and eight-year-old final is hotting up and promises to be a highly competitive, thrilling class. Several up-and-coming young stars, who have already earned International success, have booked their tickets to the NEC.

Old Lodge took HOYS by storm in 2009 with three national titles, their homebred Sultan V topping both Horse and Hound Foxhunter and grade C championships with Bruce Menzies in the saddle, while Nicky Boulter rode the impressive stallion Super Trooper De Ness to seven and eight-year-old glory.

And the Ashdown Forest stud could repeat the feat as they have trebled their chances of retaining the seven and eight-year-old title, Super Trooper will defend his title, while two of their homebred stars join him to chase the spotlight.

HOYS double winner Sultan V topped an Addington qualifier to ensure a finalist place for Bruce Menzies.

Also a Hickstead B and C finalist, the eight-year-old grey – by Irco Mena and out of a Voltaire mare – was recently marked as “an exciting horse for the future” by Liz Edgar in a ‘Horse and Hound reveals’ feature, and looks to be living up to this commendation with success in two star grands prix in Vilamoura, Portugal.

“The International experience has helped him grow up” said Bruce, whose main aim is the careful production of this exciting prospect, who will move up to three star level at selected continental shows.

Nicole Pavitt rounded off a fabulous week at Towerlands with Old Lodge’s homebred Abeer – this daughter of Concorde achieved HOYS places in both Horse and Hound Foxhunter and seven and eight-year-old finals just days after securing HOYS grade C qualification at Herts County.

Nicole took the ride on this seven-year-old 12 months ago and put in a tremendous amount of flatwork to build up her muscle tone. However, when Nicole broke her shoulder, the mare earned an unexpected break.

“She’s returned to competition matured and fresh” said Nicole.

Current champion Super Trooper De Ness will defend his title after claiming a Wales and West third with Nicky Boulter.

The eight-year-old Vigo d’Arsouilles stallion son, who is proving a much-sought after sire, also defends his Hickstead B and C title.

“He is without doubt the best I’ve ridden, he has a beautiful attitude and scope is never

a problem” said Nicky, who plans to move Trooper up to carefully selected area trials this summer.

Another Vigo D’Arsouilles son and a former HOYS winner headed the second Addington qualifier – 2008 newcomers champion Chauvinist ensuring Dan Neilson makes a return visit to HOYS.

Dan’s commitments with other horses on the International circuit saw this eight-year-old take a back seat last year, but the chestnut has matured and is now a regular on trips abroad, with a third place in Nantes three star grand prix to his credit.

All Wales and West qualifiers were filled by more experienced eight-year-olds. Ciske Van Overis, Mark Williams’s Celano/Darco daughter, was skilfully guided into the top spot by Guy Williams.

This eight-year-old mare has already embarked on her International career and is credited with some useful grand prix placings.

“I’ll keep moving her up and she’ll be travelling to some five star shows” said Guy, who reckons this mare is quick across the ground – “and when you’ve got a good one like her, you can turn back to oxers easily.”

Laura Renwick snatched second on Keith Ladell’s Corland/Goodtimes son Vernon G, the 2008 national six-year-old winner who was a multiple winner on the Spanish Sunshine Tour in the early part of the year.

“It was a tough course, but the going was perfect at Wales and West and Vernon loves jumping on grass” said Laura.

British-bred horses were well represented at the two Addington qualifiers, with the Billy Stud gaining finalist places with two of their homebred youngstock.

Billy Angelo, a seven-year-old owned by Julie Slade and with Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve/Kroongraaf bloodlines and ridden by Pippa Funnell is now NEC-bound with stable-mate Billy Grand, an eight-year-old with Animo/Cavalier bloodlines piloted by Dan Moseley.

Phillip Miller also takes a finalist place with Text Back, a Dutch seven-year-old sired by Michael and out of a Damiro mare, which topped the non-British bred six-year-old final at the British Young Horse Championships at Addington last August.

Another taking a crack at the final is James Billington on Watch Me IV, Tim Gredley’s Kojak/Kroongraaf seven-year-old who is also a Hickstead novice finalist.

Earning their HOYS tickets at Towerlands were two seven-year-olds – Anthony Condon on the Montreux daughter Wild Thing and Peter Lear with Urlanmore Aldi.



Bruce Menzies & Sultan V



Guy Williams & Cisk Van Overies



Dan Neilson & Chauvinist