

All-conquering Attlee scores with new partner

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By Ruth Pearce

THE new partnership of Kate Attlee and Ruxton Conquistador were clear winners in the Stretch & Flex elementary open, taking their first regional title with the highest score of the show — 74.05%.

"I've had the ride for a few months and he's turning out to be a real competition horse," said Kate of Patricia Andrews' six-year-old Oldenburger by Conteur.

"He felt really confident and grown up in the arena. His leg-yielding was super. He really took me in the medium trot and he's learning to balance himself in the canter now, so I was quite pleased with the simple changes.

"He's very talented and I'm looking forward to working with him in the future. Trish Gardner has helped me and I'm aiming to qualify him for elementary and medium level for the winters."

Linda Whetstone, co-judge, said: "There was so much to like in the balance, contact, impulsion and expression."

Another pair landing their first regional title were Kate Smith and Keystone Darling, who headed the Martin Collins advanced medium open with 71.3%. Kate has had the 16hh nine-year-old by Dimaggio since she was six months old.

"She's always been quite feisty. I backed her and have brought her on myself and it's just all coming good this year," said Southampton-based Kate.

"Today was a bit of a rush. I left home at 10am and it's a three-hour journey, but I didn't get to the show until 2.30pm. I just had enough time to tack up and warm up before going in."

Carol Bennett is on a roll with Candini, the combination taking the Bates Saddles intermediaire I in their first season at the level.

The Hertfordshire rider took a prix st georges (PSG) at Addington and Sheepgate Premier Leagues with the show jumping-bred eight-year-old.

"It was my aim just to keep him confident and relaxed and go for a clear round without asking for too much power from him. Everything was easy and he went through it beautifully," she said.

After finishing second twice at The College's Premier League, Roland Tong was thrilled with his Jeffries Saddlery PSG win on Ultimo Hit. The pair earned eights from all judges for the changes and a nine from Jennie Loriston-Clarke for an extended trot.

"I didn't think I had him quite fit enough. I'm going to canter round the fields and get him fitter now for the nationals," said Roland, who has been riding Richard Heley's eight-year-old for four years.

Charlotte Andrews led the Beta



Ulrik Molgaard and Herman TG continue their winter form to claim the medium open