

Atlee back to big time



Kate Atlee teams up with Ann Willetts's Teutone, who was ridden at grand prix internationally by Ferdi Eilberg

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By Jo Prestwich

KATE Atlee's first competition of 2007 produced a double at advanced medium and advanced on Loch Ness, plus a superb debut at intermediaire II, albeit hors concours, with new ride Teutone. Kate has had Ann Willetts's German-bred gelding, who was formerly ridden by Ferdi Eilberg, for two months.

"Ferdie's decided to concentrate on [his daughter] Maria this year and it seemed the logical move to pass the ride to an up-and-coming young rider," said Ann, who was there to see "her boy" compete. "Kate was the obvious choice, as she lives nearby and I've always liked the way she rides."

For Kate, it is a welcome return to the higher levels.

"It's more than three years since I've ridden at grand prix," she said. "And I couldn't have asked for a better ride. What a privilege to have a horse like this, it's really exciting and I can't wait to get out and do some more with him."

The chestnut Loch Ness is Danish-bred and owned by Sarah Outwin, who has taken over from Islay Auty as chef d'equipe for Britain's pony team. Kate has had the ride on the 11-year-old for more than a year. This was a warm-up before Loch Ness goes to the winter semis, where he is qualified at advanced medium.

Helen Dolisnjy and Andalucian stallion Fly Aways Sevillano had wins at medium and advanced medium.

"I went to a display near Malaga and he was one of the horses in the quadrille," said Helen. "He was piaffing for fun so I asked if he would be for sale. The answer was no, but in the end I persuaded them."