

Thompson takes two

OLDENCRAIG

By Celia Cadwallader

OLDENCRAIG Jaguar and Vicki Thompson scored 75.58% in the qualifier and won both mediums on the horse's first attempt on 1 November. The five-year-old is known as "Grandpa" in the yard, reflecting his grown-up behaviour.

Vicki said: "He offered me an extended trot recently that made me feel like I was sitting on a grand prix horse — it was totally up, through, in rhythm and perfectly balanced. But for now, I just ask for a nice neat medium," said Vicki.

Judge Marion Goggin said: "Vicki produced a picture of elegance and positivity. It was seamless and full of energy."

Oldencraig has owned the 16.2hh gelding by Dutch jumping stallion Newton since he was three. Jaguar stood between Showmaker (Garry Williams) and Valegro (Charlotte Dujardin)



Georgina Howard takes off the "L" plates and braves competition with Fairfax for a win

at the Hickstead young horse championship semis in July.

"He wasn't really fit then, and he lacks competition experience. But I've never come across a more genuine horse. I don't want



Five-year-old Oldencraig Jaguar (Vicki Thompson) is known as "Grandpa" for his sensible behaviour

to make him sour, and push him too hard, because I think he'll be lovely," said Vicki.

Georgina Howard took her "L" plates off to compete in the open elementaries, scoring 65.51% and 67.5% for a first and second placing.

"We've been doing training classes for some time," said Georgina, of her seven-year-old 17hh liver chestnut Florestan gelding, Fairfax.

The pair train with Helen Anderson, who said: "Georgina's never trained a young horse before. He's taken time to mature and he's not a straightforward ride. It's been a hard road with no shortcuts, and she's had to learn to feel."

Georgina added: "I now know how he's

moving beneath me and when he's blocking. The moment I do something wrong he tells me."

Restricted rider Cheryl Freed and her pre-novice eventer Star Envoy were overall winners of the novice qualifier on 66.07%.

"Dressage is our winter discipline — probably more for me than the horse," said Cheryl, whose 16.2hh nine-year-old is by Welton Emissary.

"He's laid back; an honest boy who tries hard. He's elegant, fluent and supple and that helps his dressage, but he's not a born jumper. Sally Thurloway's been loose schooling him to make him tidier over jumps, while Vicki Thompson, for her sins, teaches us dressage," added Cheryl.