

# Horse power

Georgia Bartlett, 16, a pupil at St Swithun's School, Winchester, became the National Under 18 Champion at the British Eventing Regional Championships in July 2017

## Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live at Greenham and go to school at St Swithun's. I have ridden for as long as I can remember, starting at Pony Club level, culminating in my winning the Pony Club Intermediate Eventing Championships in 2015, and then moving up to contest the FEI Pony Trials with my brilliant pony, Monarch of the Glen. Sadly, after being placed in every trial in 2016 and with high hopes of competing for GB in the FEI Pony Event team in Denmark, Glen injured a tendon and we had to pull out. It was a devastating time but his injury prompted us to look for my first horse. We bought Spano de Nazca from a French rider at the end of last year.

## What are you doing now?

After a successful start to the season I was invited to compete in the National U18 Championships at Frickley Park in Yorkshire in July. I was contesting the CCIJ, a three-day event incorporating dressage, cross country and show-jumping phases, and I was riding both as an individual and for the South East team in the Regional Championships. After an initial vet's inspection and two days of dressage, I was lying in third place individually. I then had a fantastic cross country round, moving us up to second place individually and the South East team into fifth. The show jumping phase was causing a lot of problems on Sunday after heavy overnight rain. Incredibly we jumped a clear round - one of only seven in the class - to complete on our dressage score. Not only did we win the championship individually, but we



ABOVE: Georgia Bartlett also helped our South East team to third place.

A few weeks after Frickley we competed in our first Intermediate U21 event together and came second. I was then invited to join the Junior GBR Development Squad and selected to compete in the Junior GB Nations Cup team in Waregem, Belgium, at the end of September. In my first international I was 10th individually and helped my team to take home the silver. Most recently, the selectors, having reviewed video footage from Waregem, have offered me a place on the Eventing Squad of the BEF England Excel Talent Programme 2017-19.

## What are your ambitions for the future?

I would like to combine a university degree with my riding ambitions. I will definitely take a gap year when I can focus on my riding before starting university. Having just bought a second horse, I will be aiming for Junior teams for the next two years before moving up to Young Rider U21 level.

## Where do you see yourself in five years?

It's hard to look ahead, but I certainly see horses remaining central to whatever I do. To ride at Badminton would be my dream.

## What's the toughest part of a commitment to sport at a national level when you are still at school?

There simply aren't enough hours in the day! I am studying geography, psychology and philosophy and ethics for A-level. Trying to juggle my training, competing and my work is extremely difficult. Thankfully St Swithun's is brilliant at supporting me and encouraging me with my riding. Without that and my incredible back up team, led by my mother, none of this would be possible.

## What's the best thing about studying in Winchester?

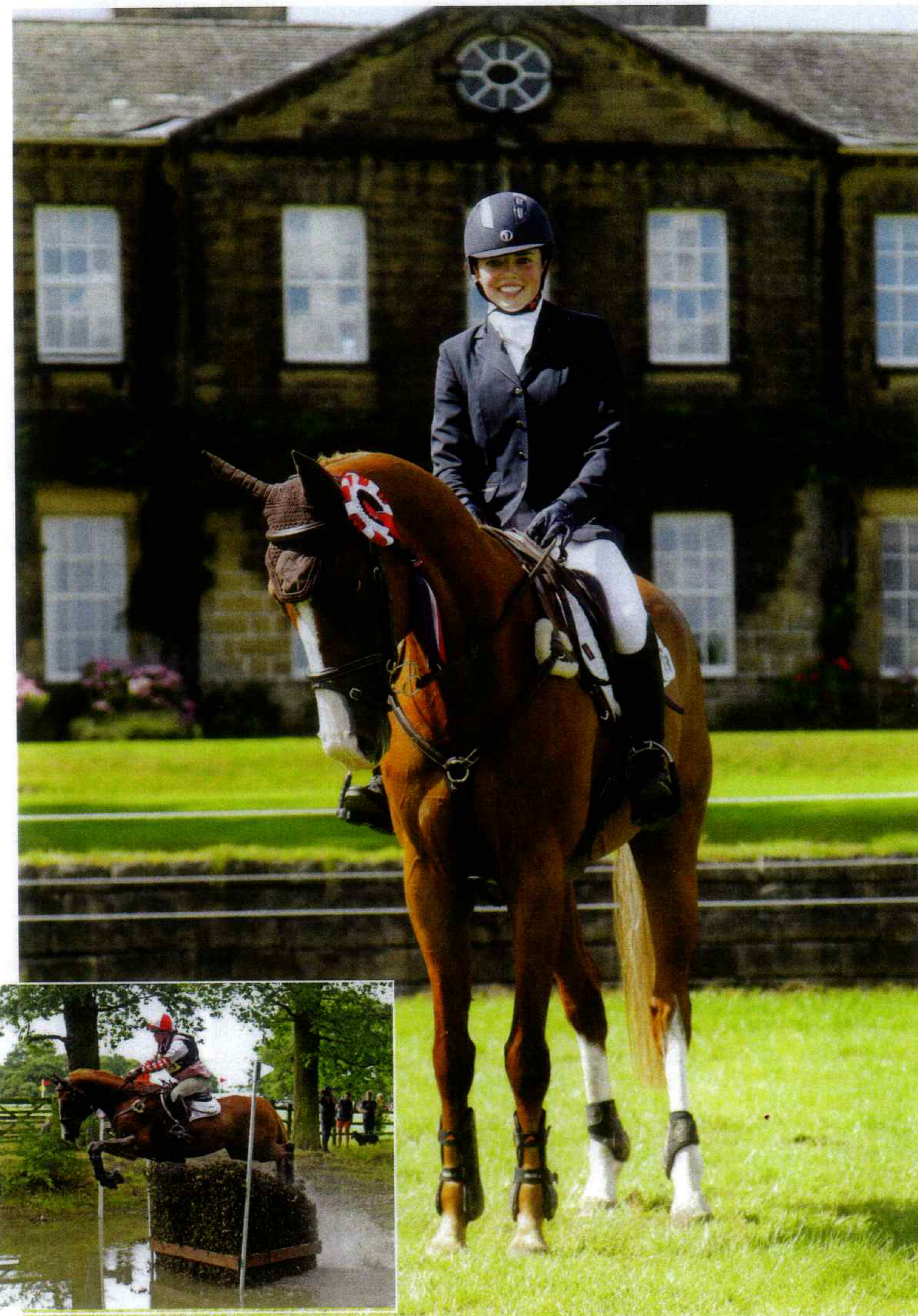
It is well positioned between home and my trainer, who is based in Salisbury. This enables me to maximise my time for riding and studying. The shopping in Winchester is also great - if I ever have time! - and the Cathedral, where we have many of our school services, is beautiful.

## Downtime, what will we find you doing?

It's something I dream of. There is very little time for putting my feet up, but in all honesty, I wouldn't have it any other way.

[stswithuns.com](http://stswithuns.com)

RIGHT: Georgia Bartlett riding Spano de Nazca at Frickley Park, Yorkshire, at the National U18 Championships.



Photos: Julia Shearwood Photography [www.equestrianphotography.co.uk](http://www.equestrianphotography.co.uk)