

I purchased Ballintapper Galahad ('Gally'); a 14.1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hand high bay Connemara Pony, bred by Helen McGorman, mid 2004 from Kersbrook, SA. There were many horses in the large paddock and I was wondering which one we had come to look at. Then we saw him, standing in the corner of the paddock, all by himself, covered in mud, a furry coat and a *big* white star. I couldn't say it was 'love at first sight' but after a ride and a bit of negotiation we took him home. After washing and grooming him we discovered a few hidden secrets, he had a white sock on his off hind and we found his brands.

With the professional help of my dressage instructor and my commitment to succeed, Gally and I have trained up to elementary/medium dressage where Gally shows a lot of enthusiasm and natural ability with his great Connemara confirmation and willingness to learn and please. He certainly is a horse with a lot of personality and after spending a lot of time with him I soon fell in love with his individuality. He became my one in a million pony that all riders wish they owned!

We regularly compete at Southern Vales Dressage Club and have always come home with a blue! But that's not all...this pony can jump! Taking me into six-bar comps up to 1.1m! I always get looks when my pony lines up against the big showjumpers but in the end it's Gally who has the last laugh.

One of Gally's and my passions is cross-country where together we placed 1st at Williamstown, (our first event) 1st at Roskill and 4th at PCASA state champs. In all these events Gally lead the dressage and blitzed the showjumping and cross-country. Gally is entered in the Adelaide Royal Show in both the Helen Junge Memorial Trophy (dressage) and the John McDougall Stuart Prize (rider class). And don't miss us at Dressage Spring Championships and up-coming EFA and PC events.

Though we have had many triumphs and success in competition, it wasn't always smooth sailing. Like most horses, during Gally's training, we went through rough patches but once they were over he became more mature and familiar with the situation at hand.

When I contacted a few people about Gally's history I was excited with the response and I was fortunate enough to be put into contact with his breeder: Helen McGorman, who gave me his full history and sent me some photos of him as a foal/colt. I'd like to thank Gill Beaton, Helen McGorman and Templewood Riding School for assisting me in my research of Gally's past.

I'm so proud of Gally and all that he has given and taught me and only wish that other riders could experience the successes and relationship that I've had with this very special pony.