

Owner and rider Daniel Sherriff tells *H&H* about the stallion with big paces and an even bigger heart

# First & Last

## Bayford Hall Dallaglio

### Stable name:

Lawrence

**Age:** 13

**Breed:** Trakehner

**Sire:** Laurentianer

**Dam:** Picabo

**Discipline:** dressage

**Owner:** Daniel Sherriff

**Rider:** Daniel Sherriff

**Groom:** Rose Emberton

**Best recent result:**

1st Hickstead CDI\*\*\*\* 2011



### WHEN did you first... see Lawrence?

At rider and dealer Lisa McAlpine's yard, when he was four. She gave him the lightest tap and the speed of his reaction and way he snapped his legs up made me interested.

### What's the first... word you would use to describe him?

Extravagant.

### Who first... said he could go all the way?

I've never doubted him. He might not be the most technically correct grand prix horse but his heart is among the best.

### What was his first... big win?

The Shearwater international young horse final, when he was six. He scored 89% even though I went wrong in the test.

### What is his first... reaction when scared?

He leans back and straightens his front legs out like a dog stretching.

### What is first... on your shopping list for him?

A new set of royal blue rugs with pale blue trim to match the second-hand lorry I just bought. Fleecy ones with fluffy edges, as he rubs easily.

### What did you think when you first... rode him?

I felt this power that was really controlled over his back. And he has a cheeky side that makes him a happy character. I have other talented horses, but none as happy as him.

### Who is his first... choice of travelling pal?

He had an irritating companion once who kept fidgeting and he nailed him. He likes Let's Be Frank, who is younger and looks to him for reassurance.

### What is first... on your list of ambitions for him?

To be on a team. I don't mind which one. It's unlikely to be this Olympics — I'm up against the best Britain's ever had — but he's only 13 and has always been sound, touch wood, so maybe even Rio [in 2016].

### What is the last... thing he'll let you do?

Pull his mane. Luckily it's thin, so I trim it, cutting upwards so it doesn't look cut.

### When did you last... fall off him?

Never. You hang on with a stallion, you don't want to fall and have them loose because of the damage they could do to another horse.

### What was his last... long-haul trip?

To the Netherlands in January, during the week of the winds. It took 11 hours and was horrid.

### When did he last... sire a foal?

He hasn't, but I plan to use him as a stallion this year, just chilled and frozen semen so he can keep his eye on the job with dressage, too.

### When did he last... disgrace himself?

Out hacking, he got very excited about a coloured pony and a lady had to explain away his "fifth leg" to her young daughter!

### When did he last... surprise you?

Rearing in piaffe at the nationals last September — it's very out of character and cost us a chance at Olympia.

### When was the last... time someone offered to buy him?

At Pompadour CDI last July. He was third and the winner, Leida Collins-Strijk, said she wanted to put him on her lorry. We didn't even discuss money, as I don't have another grand prix horse. I've had him since he was four and when you have one as nice as him, you appreciate their character. *H&H*

### What he couldn't cope without...

Food. He's polite and waits for it, but he's never off his food.



### His party piece...

Throwing his legs around wildly in prize-givings, as though he's waving at the crowd. He's such a showman.

### WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT BAYFORD HALL DALLAGLIO...

**1** Daniel bought him the day England won the Rugby World Cup in 2003, in which Lawrence Dallaglio played.

**2** He can't be tied up — he'll just lean back, break away and run off to the field to see his friends, so Daniel has to hold him for the farrier and he's always tacked up in the stable.

**3** Without carefully balanced feet, his hooves can develop cracks, so Daniel relies on farrier Sam Head.

**4** Daniel sometimes lunges him over trotting poles for variety, but Lawrence just tries to jump the lot.

**5** He's pretty speedy at the gallop out hacking — Daniel believes he might have made a good eventer.

