

Shannon Owens

Age: 15

Horse: Merlin the Magician

Classification: Grade II

My interest in riding came through my mother who seemed to delight in putting me on stubborn Shetland ponies and watching me get thrown off! I was born with a very rare genetic disorder which we'll call IP short for 2 long words no one can pronounce. Anyway - I have limited use of my left side but full use of my right and both of my Mum's sides.

My riding took off when I joined the Stuartholme Equestrian team and started competing



at Interschool. We bought Merlin and he has helped me participate in dressage, some low show jumping and even cross country! My coaches are Irene Bakels-Noreen, Lesley Brodbeck for jumping and Leasa Stephens at school camps and events.

Mum is training Revelwood Starlite for me to compete one day but I'm having trouble getting her off Starlite at the moment as she says she is so much fun so I will keep enjoying Merlin a bit longer.

I really want to compete at Interschool Nationals but they don't have any para classes yet but I hope they will before I finish school.