

The Royal Borough Observer

Friday 25th September 2009

Double sporting joy for school's talented pupils



ONE high-flying student from a Widsot school has galloped all the way into the finals of a prestigious national competition.

Francesca Bent, from Brigidine School, will be going head-to-head with competitors at the NBC in Birmingham as she competes in the Horse of the Year Show with her horse Ralph next month.

The 13-year-old has been riding since she was two and has competed at many shows across the country including Winesor, Kest, Newbury and Hickstead.

Another young sporting star making great progress at the King's Road school is Geanna Madden. The 16-year-old plays softball for Twickenham-based club, Beagons, as well as playing on the under-19s and under-16s Great Britain team.

She said: "I've been playing softball since I was four and have played internationally in the Czech Republic, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

"I enjoy playing softball because it is a team sport. There is nothing like the bond formed between people who travel together, play together, win, lose, laugh and cry together. And it is one of the sports that is an international sport for women."

Joining the high-achievers at the school in Kings Road is Natasha Custis, who wowed judges with her snaps taking away trophies in the junior and adult photography categories at the recent Chalfont St Giles Fair.



■ **RISING STARS:** Softball player Geanna Madden, left, horse rider Francesca Bent, above, have excelled in their different fields. PICS: PAUL JOHNS 036244