



Bettina Hoy &amp; Woodslides Ashby



Rodney Powell &amp; Colour Coded

Photos By Nick Perry

# Lulworth Castle Horse Trials

By Jane Perry

The spectacular backdrop of Lulworth Castle provided the setting for three days of high-class competition which included a prestigious CIC\*\*\* class. This was the first time a class of this level had been held at Lulworth, the only other courses in the U.K. which are graded to this ODE standard are the championship courses at Gatcombe and Chatsworth, and it attracted an International field which included all the top Irish riders, as this was their final trial for World Equestrian Games team selection.

Gloucestershire based German International Bettina Hoy continued her run of excellent results on her two WEG selected grey horses, "Ringwood Cockatoo" and "Woodslides Ashby", with "Cockatoo" decisively winning the CIC\*\*\* and "Ashby" securing a good placing in one of the three Advanced sections. Bettina now has the difficult choice of which horse she will take to Jerez to ride in the German team. Irish rider Sasha Harrison gave her chance of team selection a huge boost by taking second place on "All Love Du Fenaud" in the CIC\*\*\* with Wiltshire's Rodney Powell riding Jim Stevenson's "Colour Coded" in third.

Australian rider Bill Levett, who also lives in Gloucestershire, riding his wife Jenny's "Thumper Jumper" took victory in the CIC\*\* class by the slimmest of margins over Frome's Katie Parker, now Mrs. Burton, on her one day specialist Fulham Fair. Katie and her new husband Guy had only returned from their honeymoon in Sicily the previous Thursday so she was delighted with the 12 year-old chestnut's performance, who she describes as her "fun horse" and hoped their

result would be a tonic for "Fulham Fair" owner, Mrs. Cunningham, who has recently endured a spell in hospital. Matt Ryan with one of his up and coming young horses, Bonza Katoomba, made up for a show jump down with a fast cross-country round to take third and then went even better by winning an Advanced section of his wonderful veteran partner, Kibah Sandstone. Although now 18 years old "Sandy", Matt's Sydney Olympic Gold medal ride, still looks as fresh as ever and has a good chance of being Matt's ride in the Australian team at Jerez.

Mark Kyle made the long detour on his way home from competing with his show jumpers at Hickstead worthwhile by winning the second Advance section on his partner Tanya Liddle's "Drunken Disorderly". Mark took over the ride after Tanya broke her arm in a fall at Weston Park and has been successful enough to be included on the Irish team short list for WEG. Kilmington Horse Trials organisers Richard and Carolyn Lissack had the pleasure of seeing William Fox-Pitt riding their horse "Midnight Dazzler" into second place.

With all the other feature classes being won by overseas riders it was left to Devon's Lucy Wiegiersma riding Sue Hunt's Friday Morning to keep the British flag flying by winning the third Advanced section. The Wiegiersma family were for many years based near Marazion in Cornwall but in order to cut down on the travelling to events they

moved to Oakhampton earlier this year and Lucy has enjoyed a successful season riding Sue Hunt's home bred horses plus two new rides for Jane Starkey, "In the Purple" and "Davey".

Blessed with one of the few sunny weekends of the summer, Lulworth attracted a large number of spectators who were not only able to enjoy a high standard of competition but also a variety of entertainment including a Falconry Display, Sheepdog Handling and Roman Chariot Racing plus the usual large range of trade stands.



Bill Levett &amp; Thumper Jumper