



Bill Levett and One To Many NJ en-route to winning the CIC3\* at Hartpury Horse Trials

PICTURE: FIONA SCOTT-MAXWELL

# Bill's unexpected Hartpury double keeps up the Antipodean domination

BY AIMI CLARK

For the second weekend running Antipodeans dominated at a major horse trials, with Aussie Bill Levett claiming the £1,800 first prize in the Hartpury CIC3\* aboard One Two Many NJ.

It was a particularly successful weekend for the Chipping Campden-based jockey, who also headed the CCI2\* aboard new ride Baggrave Summertime.

"I knew the three-star horse would be competitive, as he has been his whole career, but I've only been riding Summertime for eight weeks so that win was unexpected," said Bill, who is aiming the nine-year-old One Two Many NJ at Blenheim. "He came to Hartpury last year for his first attempt at this level and was in the lead after the dressage and showjumping but I took him slowly across country because he was inexperienced. This time he was ready for it."

The winning pair recorded the only sub-40 dressage mark and added just 0.8 of a time penalty across the country to finish a convincing eight penalties clear of runners-up Sarah

Cohen and Treason. Chippenham's Kitty King piloted High Havoc into third.

A fall for Gillingham-based Aussie Christopher Burton and Underdiscussion at the influential double of corners paved the way for joint-leader Andrew Nicholson to continue his winning streak after his Festival of British Eventing whitewash last weekend. The on-form Kiwi claimed CIC\*\*\* section C for the second successive year aboard Mr Cruise Control.

"He's a good horse who is consistent in all three phases," said Marlborough-based Andrew. "He does get overlooked with all of my other good horses, so this result is pleasing."

Sarah Cohen picked up another rosette for second place, this time aboard Irish Jester, while Francis Whittington and Sir Percival III filled third.

Last year's CCI\* champion, Newton Abbot-based Helen West, was on target for a top two placing in the two-star aboard Mon Chapelle, but one rolled show jump and 7.2 cross-country time penalties dropped them to 11th. Bill Levett's dressage leader Baggrave Summertime was never in

any danger of being caught, however, the gelding kicking out one fence in an influential final phase but staying more than two penalties ahead of runner-up Francis Whittington aboard Cougar.

"The owners rang me eight weeks ago and asked me to see how I got on with him," explained Bill, who had previously completed one open intermediate run with the 11-year-old

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gelding. "He's a man's ride because he's big striding and takes a fair bit of organising on the cross-country but I seem to be able to get a tune out of him. He needs riding in a particular way but he's willing on the flat and a decent jumper."

There are no plans to compete the son of Yarlands Summersong again this season.

"He's staying with me so I'll work on his flatwork and get to know him a bit better. Then he'll come out for a three-star in the spring," added Bill.

A foot-perfect clear round from Outward Bound saw Wiltshire's Laura Collett emerge as the winner in a hotly contested CCI\* section, where the reverse-order show jumping saw two-phase leaders Charlotte Agnew and Pavonita TS drop to second with one fence down.

"He was a bit green in the show jumping but he really came up with the goods when he needed to," said Laura of the six-year-old son of Fleetwater Opposition. "He's been very consistent all year and we don't want to rush him so he's going to have a holiday now."

A lack of rain in the lead-up to the event meant firm ground greeted riders which caused a high number of withdrawals. "The going was a concern but the organisers aggravated and watered the course in the last few days," commented Bill Levett. "The bottom line was the ground was acceptable but running was still a big decision. My horses needed the run and were competitive but many felt it wouldn't suit their rides."