

the brush on at the Maltings complex (18b) for Neil Spratt and Upleadon, who hit the ground with a sickening smack, and the USA's Meghan O'Donoghue and Pirate. Neil was taken to hospital and was found to have a compression fracture of his L1 vertebrae.

Gina Ruck broke her ankle when falling with Rehy Too at the Picnic Table, fence 23, and the fifth horse fall of the day occurred when Australia's Natalie Blundell and Algebra tipped up at seven, the planet fence so familiar from the Olympics that formed the first part of the Classics Leaf Pit.

Andrew Nicholson later said that the Leaf Pit complex — this year missing the giant step into space — rode surprisingly big. "It took a lot of effort out of horses and I came away from there feeling I'd jumped some big jumps," he said.

Overnight leader's 16.4 faults

ALL eyes were on the leader, Jock Paget, as he set off with gritted teeth on Clifton Promise. They were held on course last year, and it would be interesting to see how they coped without a "breather".

They wasted a bit of time at the Trout Hatchery — "I had to change my plan after jumping into the water," Jock explained — and took the long route at the Land Rover Dairy Farm at fence 20, and collected 16.4 time-faults, but it was a good, gutsy display of galloping and jumping.

Most people chose to take the long route at the Dairy Farm, jumping two steps down instead of a second skinny brush on a half circle, but the few who did go straight made it look easy. They included the first to go that route, Angus Smales on Ballyvooney, Allison Springer on Arthur, Andrew Hoy on Rutherglen — who



Tom Crisp and Cools Luxury (11th) leap into the Land Rover Trout Hatchery

Westwood Mariner, eighth after dressage, and Jakata, 21st. Both horses ended on the same score, 75, collecting 29.2 and 24 time-faults apiece.

Jakata hasn't competed at a four-star since he was second at Badminton in 2011, and Piggy's delight in him was evident.

"It's like putting on an old pair of slippers which I've missed for the past couple of years," she said. "I ummed and aahed about whether to start on him. But he felt like an aeroplane; we think the same way."

Sadly, despite passing the showjumping on Sunday,

Jonelle Price (The Deputy) and Gemma Tattersall rode fantastic

rounds. The latter said: "What an amazing horse! My arms and hands are killing me — he got so strong — but he tried his heart out. I went tight to the fence along Winners' Avenue to get the best ground, under the trees, which scared the crap out of the spectators!"

She finished the day in eighth place with 11.2 time-faults, rising from 27th.

The USA's Hannah Sue Burnett (Harbour Pilot, up from 14th to seventh), Bill Levett (15th to ninth), Izzy Taylor, (12th to fifth), and Murray Lamperd, who rose from 17th to 10th, were also new arrivals in the top 10 after something of a head-scratching day's sport.



Harry Dzenis completes his first Burghley with both his rides, jumping clear on Xam for 26th



The USA's Allison Springer tackles Discovery Valley on Arthur — but a stop further round marred her good dressage score



Bill Levett pilots Improve to sixth, the 10-year-old Master Imp son's second top-10 four-star finish of the year

bodes well for this 11-year-old Cult Hero gelding's future.

Gemma Tattersall must be well on her way to a British senior squad place at the Blair European Championships next year after her fifth place on The Soul Syndicate's 11-year-old Arctic Soul. She more than made amends for jumping the wrong side of a flag at the end of an excellent Badminton cross-country round with a strong double clear here. They rose up 22 places after dressage.

And Bill Levett will be thrilled by Improve's clear showjumping round — the phase was their downfall at the horse's first four-star in Luhmühlen this year — for sixth place. Owned by Elisabeth Murdoch, Ali Butler and Bill's wife Jenny, there is more to come from this Master Imp 10-year-old, who

is the picture of an event horse. Izzy Taylor will have been disappointed to drop from fifth to seventh with two showjumps down on KBIS Briarlands Matilda, but Guy Avis' feisty, tenacious little mare was the fourth quickest of the day across country and gave Izzy a repeat of their placing two years ago. It is partly the experience Matilda has given Izzy at the very top level that has made her one of the best cross-country riders on the circuit.

Paul Ridgeon's Armada is as much of a heart-breaker as he is the horse of Oliver Townend's dreams, and there was nothing Oliver could have done to stop the quirky chestnut hitting four showjumps to drop from third after cross-country to eighth.

Jonelle Price, fresh from fourth at WEG, was again impressive in

Overall: final scoreboard

LAND ROVER BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS: 4-7 SEPTEMBER 2014

Final position	Horse and Rider	Dressage	Cross-country		Showjumping		Total
			Jumps	Time	Jumps	Time	
1	Avebury (Andrew Nicholson, NZL)	40.5	-	5.6	-	2	48.1
2	Clifton Promise (Jock Paget, NZL)	38.8	-	16.4	-	-	55.2
3	Happy Times (Sam Griffiths, AUS)	40.2	-	9.6	8	-	57.8
4	Bay My Hero (William Fox-Pitt, GBR)	39.5	-	20.8	-	-	60.3
5	Arctic Soul (Gemma Tattersall, GBR)	53	-	11.2	-	-	64.2
6	Improve (Bill Levett, AUS)	48.7	-	17.2	-	-	65.9
7	KBIS Briarlands Matilda (Izzy Taylor, GBR)	48.3	-	11.2	8	-	67.5
8	Armada (Oliver Townend, GBR)	48.3	-	6.8	16	-	71.1
9	Discovery Valley (Harry Dzenis, NZL)	50.5	-	12.0	-	-	72.5