

PIPPA'S HOME-BRED PAIR IMPRESS ON IRISH SOIL



Pippa Funnell nets a CCI*** win with Billy Beware. The rider was also third on Billy Landretti

TATTERSALLS

By Sally Parkyn

PIPPA Funnell landed the Irish Field CCI*** at Tattersalls aboard her three-day specialist Billy Beware. The Sussex-based rider, who also filled third with Billy Landretti, led from pillar to post and completed with a fence in hand despite clocking up 7.2 time penalties in the second phase.

"It was lovely to win and to be placed without having to rush them," said Pippa. "Billy Beware has so much scope and such a lovely brain but he's only just stepped up to this level so I didn't chase the time across country. Ian [Stark]'s course was brilliant. You certainly noticed the rider frighteners – the ditches look big whatever you are sitting on – and it was technical enough, too, with plenty of fences requiring changes of gear.

"Billy Beware has a huge stride so I wanted him to learn how to shorten and close up," continued Pippa. "It was lovely not to have to pull the horses around. Both of them will have come on from the experience."

Pippa had a comfortable lead going into the show jumping, a phase which saw several well

placed riders accrue faults due to a tight optimum time.

"I thought I would struggle with Billy Beware. He's scopey but slow in the air. It was good for me to take him up a gear which made me ride better," added Pippa.

The winning son of Kannan spent his early days at the late Bridget Stack's Forest Green yard.

"Billy Beware was always Bridget's favourite and when he was a three-year-old she said 'you have to keep this one Pip – he's gorgeous'. He's been known as 'Gorgeous' ever since."

Bill Levett continued his run of good form and slotted into the runner-up spot with Improvise.

"He was green at the start of the cross-country and looked at the ditches but then he settled and really galloped on," said Bill.

When Giovanni Ugolotti (Stilo Kontika) and Izzy Taylor (KBIS Starchaser) both rolled a show jump and picked up time penalties for eventual fifth and sixth, Pippa rose through the ranks to fill third with Billy Landretti.

"He missed most of last year due to a stress fracture. He started competing again last autumn but then he injured himself in the lorry," she said.



Giovanni Ugolotti and Stilo Kontika fly a brush en route to fifth in the CCI***

Course-designer Ian Stark described his CCI*** track as "a notch up from last year", while the new Eventing Ireland Sunken Road (17) was the subject of much discussion beforehand. In the end, however, it only caught out five riders.

Irish duos Deirdre Reilly (Stormhill Lad) and Aoife Clark (Fenyas Elegance) fell foul of the following Land Rover water complex, while Jane Riley's Mystic Promise clocked up 60 penalties at the Horse Sport Ireland Water at fence 8. This complex prompted the retirement of Oliver Townend's ODT Ghareeb, while Ireland's Louise Bloomer parted company from Goodwins Reef at the last.

Silky smooth

Bill Levett went one better in the George Mernagh Memorial CIC***, netting the winner's laurels with Francis Birks's Silk Stone.

"He's as smooth as butter," said Bill of the Irish-bred 11-year-old. "He got really up in himself after hearing outside distractions before the dressage but then he settled and was sensible. He's consistent and has a super jump."

David Dool and Koyuna Sun Magic dipped Mark Kyle and Coolio to second place despite dislodging the final show jump.

"I didn't take a pull when I should have," rued David. "The cross-country was made for him and I've had a wicked time."

Kitty King and Persimmon captured the Eventing Ireland CCI*** from Oliver Townend with Cooley Master Class.

"I came here knowing that we were capable of winning and he went well within himself," said Kitty of the Dutch-bred horse who was sourced from Tim Warren.

Japan's Toshiyuki Tanaka finished third aboard Pretty Darling CD.

British girls dominated the CCI*** Under-25 with Dani Evans

RIDER Revealed



Maria Byrne

MARIA Byrne (left) is a science student at the University of Limerick.

The 18-year-old, whose CCU* winning mount Ballygrangans Dolly is home-bred, only rides at weekends and the Tattersalls title was her goal for the year.

Maria's father, Paddy, once evented to three-star level. He stands stallions at the family's base in Co Wexford and is the former owner of the well known eventing sire Power Blade.

Lucy Latta and Open, third in the CCNP**, which Lucy won riding Nono



emerging at the top of the pile riding Smart Time, a nine-year-old imported as a four-year-old by her uncle, Tim Warren.

"Polly Williamson produced Smart Time and I feel privileged to have the ride because I know that he is highly rated," said Dani.

Millie Dumas filled second with Artistiek, while Holly Woodhead and DHI Lupison were third.

The Land Rover CCI*** was also a whitewash for riders flying the Union Flag with Ruth Edge aboard Blacklaw Thymelrod edging ahead of overnight leaders William Fox-Pitt and Henton For Fun in the closing stages. Laura Collett was third riding Obos Cooley.

Maria Byrne and Ballygrangans Dolly scored Ireland's only international victory, in the Dubarry CCU*, while Lucy Latta headed the CCNP** aboard Nono.

ACTION FROM ABROAD

MARBACH

"HE'S a wonderful horse," said Ingrid Klimke of Tabasco TSF (right), who carried her to victory in Marbach's CIC***. Switzerland's Felix Vogt was second with Onfire.



SANDILLON

THE home side proved to be the ones to beat in Sandillon's CIC***, where France's Maxime Livio ran away with the spoils aboard Cathar De Gamel and Denis Mesplon on Olipper Schervil finished second.