

Apollo's new fifth gear earns victory for Italian raider



Stefano Brecciaroli proves that he can gallop quickly when he nets the CIC*** with his Olympic mount Apollo WD Wendy Kurt Hoeve

BURNHAM MARKET (1)

By Hilary Manners

ITALY'S Stefano Brecciaroli got his Badminton preparation off to a fantastic start with a CIC*** victory at the SPC Holdings Ltd Burnham Market Horse Trials. His dressage record with his winning mount, Apollo WD Wendy Kurt Hoeve, is already impressive – they occupied the runner-up position after this phase at the 2010 World Equestrian Games and the London Olympics – but cross-country time penalties have been their undoing.

"I'm now stabling with the fastest man in the world [Andrew Nicholson] to see if I can go faster," smiled Stefano who became a father to his first child, Filipo, three weeks earlier.

601 horses completed the cross-country during three days of action

His tactic seems to be working as he recorded one of the fastest clear rounds to secure the top spot ahead of Piggy French on Tinkas Time and Jakata respectively (see box, below).



Emilie Chandler on Gino Royale, sixth in the CIC**. She was also third with Coopers Law

Riders praised the going at this Norfolk venue and Alec Lochore's track caused few problems. Six horses picked up 20 penalties at the Double of Corners (16) and the Sunken Road (14), one of two Olympic fences incorporated into the track. Flora Harris was the sole non-completion after parting company from Flash Gordon at the Village Houses (9).

2 IN THE MONEY

PIPPA Funnell and Billy Landretti (top right) were the runaway winners of the open intermediate when they finished on the only sub-30 final score.

Meanwhile, **Piggy French** was all smiles after her cross-country clear with **Jakata** (right), third in the CIC***. "He's 15 now and you never know how they will be when they come back from injury," said Piggy. "He was keen to be out but he was very rideable and not at all strong."

5 MINUTES WITH... Ali Butler & Ali Jones

What brings you to Burnham Market?

Ali Butler: I bought my Fosseyway Equine Ambulance business in 2004. We provide a veterinary and horse ambulance service and attend around 80 competition days each year. Ali [Jones] is my longest serving ambulance driver.

How did you meet?

Ali: We used to be neighbours and we got to know each other through hunting.

How long have you been working together?

AB: I came to every event I attended for the first five years. She keeps trying to retire but the driver I booked for Burnham cancelled and she always steps in when I need help. She's never let me down.

What do you most enjoy about eventing?

AB: I've evented myself and I know a lot of riders. I tell my husband I do this to earn money but it's really for the love of it.

AJ: I'm more into hunting and racing and I would retire if Ali would let me. My true passion is gardening, which is what I do for a living.



Ali Jones (left) and Ali Butler run the Fosseyway Equine Ambulance service

King's mounting trauma
A late entry following Somerley Park's cancellation paid dividends for Kitty King whose eight-year-old Persimmon recorded his fourth CIC** victory on the trot.

"He feels more on side this year although he did stand up and go over when I got on him today which is a new trick," said

Kitty of the son of Salute RP who is being aimed at the Tattersalls CCI** before upgrading to advanced. "He's a good jumper but I've yet to see if he's got the speed for the higher levels."

Caroline Smith piped Par Ti into the runner-up spot. The pair has contested CIC***s together but Caroline,

OWNER OF THE MONTH Valerie Mason



VALERIE Mason, our May Owner of the Month, bought Alex Postolowsky's intermediate section K winner Trevarth as a two-year-old from Tim and Antonia Brown.

"Valerie is a wonderful lady who has been amazing to ride for," said Alex. "Burnham is her home turf so it was even more special to win here as some of her family came to watch."

Valerie stables the horse during his winter break and he lives with Alex during the season.

"Valerie has put a lot of time and money into 'Ben' and she is very loyal and sensible in her approach to things," added Alex. "Valerie always brings Polos for Ben and often has nice treats for my mum and I too."

► **EVENTING** runs its special monthly owner section in conjunction with the Event Horse Owners Association (EHOA). This section is now sponsored by Horses in Sport (www.horsesinsport.co.uk) which is offering a £20 gift voucher to our selected owner to spend on quality riding equipment.

Throughout 2013 the EHOA, which will offer a cash prize to our winning 2013 owner, will support its members with training vouchers, hospitality at events and awards.

A Facebook page provides all the latest news and updates. Visit www.ehoa.org.



Valerie Mason (TOP) has owned Alex Postolowsky's Trevarth for five years



Kitty King and Persimmon net the CIC** their fourth consecutive win at this level. "He's more on side this year"

is collecting his show jumping-bred 17hh Selle Français in the dressage arena.

Andrew Nicholson took second and third on Nereo and Calico Joe, the Kiwi having performed an impressive 'save' when Quimbo stumbled over the first element of a corner combination.

Giovanni Ugolotti and Stilo Kontika posted their best advanced result to date when they filled fourth.

Cross-country errors were few and far between with only three riders failing to complete.

A close shave

Bill Levett survived a sticky moment when Athlet V jumped out of the second water complex on the intermediate track but he still managed to net second place behind Oliver Townsend and Harthill Percy in section J.

Athlet V, an eight-year-old son of Tenerife VDL, found his feet in time to clear a log after a step under his Australian jockey who was celebrating his 50th birthday.

Section K went the way of Alex



Giovanni Ugolotti and Stilo Kontika, fourth in the advanced

Postolowsky and Trevarth who left Andrew Nicholson and Tiikum trailing by four penalties.

"He's perfectly capable – a lovely mover and very brave but also mischievous," said Alex of the son of Catherston Liberator. "His school report would say 'could try harder'."

The same few fences caused the majority of problems and both Georgina Ryan aboard Fernandel and Caroline Bray-Bell riding Dunbeac incurred their third refusals at the logs and water (16).



CIC** runners-up Caroline Smith and Para Ti

plain sailing, however, as she fell from Tullibards Showtime while negotiating the Sunken Road (13). Simon Grieve and Mini Me III also went their separate ways here. The Arrowhead and Brush parallel (4ab) caused problems for Angus Marsh and Hermes IV, as well as Emma Pybus's Fernhill In Action, while the Brush and Corner (15ab) led to the undoing of Southway and Mr Rebel with Ellen Svennerstall and Kate Honey in the plate respectively.

an Al who breaks and produces horses from her Suffolk yard, has stepped down a level in her quest for selection for the European Championships CIC** team.

Emilie Chandler completed the podium line up with Coopers Law and also picked up a rosette for sixth place aboard Gino Royale. Her day was not

France rules
Frenchman Astier Nicolas claimed the advanced aboard Piaf De Bnevile.

"I was prepared to lose the class and go steady across country but my horse is too fit," smiled Astier who confessed that his biggest challenge



Feeling fit: Astier Nicolas lets off the handbrake to secure victory in the advanced aboard Piaf De Bnevile



Amy Hawley and Wira soar over a skippy en route to third in intermediate section J

7 countries, including Italy and Germany, were represented in the advanced top 10