

70% every horse in the open novice scored over this mark in the dressage

Hoy's a sombre winner

**SOMERFORD PARK (2)
CHESHIRE
16-18 August**

By Jo Prestwich

BETTINA HOY'S spectacular pillar-to-post victory with Seigneur Medcott in the Rookery Park Stud CIC2* was overshadowed by New Zealand rising star Tom Gadsby's fatal accident later in the day (see news, p4).

This led to the abandonment of the CIC* just a handful of horses into the 130-strong class. It cast a huge shadow over the popular Cheshire event as the news filtered back to the lorry park.

"Much as I was excited by 'Micky's' win, Tom's tragic accident puts it into perspective and my heart goes out to his family and friends," said Bettina.

Bettina was the only one to break into the 30s in the dressage. Ground jury Les Smith and Val Smythe were in complete agreement over the test, which put Bettina six marks ahead. Les awarded a 10 for the final halt and Val declared it the best eventing test she had ever judged.

"It did feel smart," said Bettina. They had one hairy moment round David Evans' superb track when the gelding pulled a shoe off coming to the skinny brush before the second water. He veered left and jumped the high point of the fence, but just to the



Bettina Hoy and Seigneur Medcott take the CIC2* their fourth consecutive win

correct side of the flag.

"He is a very exciting horse and what an event," added Bettina. "It is a decent trip up from Marlborough to here, but I would have travelled from Germany to compete, such is the standard."

Both Bill Levett and Andy Heffernan moved up with fast

accurate clears. Bill one place to second and Andy two to third. Irish junior Jodie Keefe dropped from overnight second to eighth, but put in an impressive performance, adding just time-penalties to her dressage with Kachemir Le Beau.

Bill's ride Alexander NJ is owned in partnership by Tony and Janice Fuller. Veronica Wootton and Catherine Witt, of sponsor Rookery Park Stud. The horse was bought after the Burghley young

event horse (BYEH) final in 2009.

"I was sat on a horse in the four-year-old line-up and saw him gallop and thought, 'Wow,' said Bill. "Piggy French was beside me and thought the same — best galloper of the class — although the judge did not agree."

Andy was thrilled with Boleynawn Ace, who now heads for Blenheim's eight- and nine-year-old CIC3*.

"David Evans always builds good tracks," he said. "He



Dee Kennedy has a good pre-Burghley run with Chequers Playboy, winning OI section E

encourages forward riding, which has been lost sight of at some events."

Off to Burghley
THE first day's open intermediate (OI) section E ended in a fairly comfortable win for Dee Kennedy and the Burghley-bound Chequers Playboy. They had almost three marks in hand over Paul Tapner and Yogi Bear VIII.

The Kennedy gelding has long been coveted by many pro riders. "I made a decision early on it would have to be a life-changing amount for me to sell him," said Dee, who bought him as a four-year-old, thinking he would be a prospective BYEH candidate to bring on and sell.

"It was a brilliant track, as the questions made you think, so even on an experienced horse like him it was a challenge. The going could not have been more perfect."

The second OI section was a triumph for Austin O'Connor and Kilpatrick Knight, recently sixth in the British Novice Championships. All the top eight from this class who have competed since have franked their form.

Austin bought the Master Imp gelding from his brother as a sat-on-four-year-old.

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First wins Urma BK and Jet Set IV

ANDREW NICHOLSON piloted two of his five rides

here to their first intermediate victories. Paul Ridgeon's Urma BK's win was all the more impressive as she was debuting at the level over what was a strong, albeit beautifully built, track.

"I took them all the direct routes as it was a very fair course," said Andrew, who hotfooted it from Somerford in order to catch a couple of days' holiday with the rest of his family.

"A stop or a run-out is all part of the learning curve for a youngster — they need those mistakes to learn."

Andrew's second winner, Deborah Sellar's six-year-old Jet Set IV, made his eventing debut in March and, after 11 outings, is now nearly advanced. Andrew spotted the Nordic gelding in Spain where he was bred by Luis Alvarez Cervera.

"Luis didn't feel he was going to make it as a top showjumper, but I think he is a four-star horse in the making," said Andrew.



Intermediate debutante Urma BK forms half of a Nicholson double

sign in horse and a course."

Intermediate section C winner Kylie Roddy, like Austin, was one of a number of long-distance travellers returning to the event.

"I came last year and loved it," said Kylie. "It is a brilliant event and it was so sad that it should end like that — they had done everything right and I will look forward to coming again."

Her ride Shearwater Billy is owned by Shearwater Insurance and Kylie has had the ride since he was five.

"He's never going to be a dressage queen, but he is so trainable," said Kylie of the horse who was on Britain's silver medal-winning European CIC2* Championship team three weeks ago. H&H

Results

SOMERFORD PARK (2)
CIC2* — 1, Seigneur Medcott (B Hoy) 34.7.0.4-4-26.1.2, Alexander NJ (B Levett) 34.4.0.0-4-1.4.3, Boleynawn Ace (A Heffernan) 42.5.0.2-4-4.9. OI sec E — 1, Chequers Playboy (D Hanley) 26.4.0.0-2-24.2, Yogi Bear VIII (P Tapner) 26.4.0.0-2-24.3, Aldono (T Robinson) 26.4.0.0-2-24.2, sec D — 1, Kilpatrick Knight (A O'Connor) 30.5.0.2-2-28.3.3, 2, Bargrange Bronn (A Smalke) 27.7.0.0-2-28.3.5, Macaroni (C Powell) 33.2.0.1-2-34.4. OI sec D — 1, Ricoshea (D Doel) 48.3.0.0-48.3.2, Zocaria BLH (D Dunn) 47.5.0.1-48.5.3, DHL Lupton (H Woodhead) 49.7.0.0-49.7, int sec C — 1, Shearwater Billy (K Roddy) 30.5.0.2-4-32.9, 2, Xaver Faer (E Power) 32.7.0-2-34.3, Aloha (J Richards) 33.5.0.4-38. sec D — 1, Jet Set IV (A Nicholson) 26.4.0.0-2-26.4, 2, SBT Prospector (M Vee) 29.6.0.0-2-26.3, 3, Colanisi (J Watts) 26.8.0.2-2-26.6, sec F — 1, Urma BK (A Nicholson) 27.7.0.1-2-28.9.2, David Jack (R Rocher) 25.0.5.6-30.6.3, Odds Against (T Robinson) 28.2.4.0-2-30.3, ON — 1, Shadowstone (B Hoodby) 24.5.0.1-2-28.7.2, Vague (J Glover) 26.0.0-2-26.3, Columbo III (A Ludde) 24.0.2-26, nov sec H — 1, Amaretti ZIG (L Newman) 30.1.0.2-4-32.2, Nothing Gained (M Winter) 29.0.5.6-34.6.3, Last Secret (P Sims) 29.0.5.6-35, sec I — 1, Time Machine (R Edge) 27.0.0-35.2, Lawless Li (A Heffernan) 29.0.6.4-35.4, 3, Cooley Q (O Towern) 37.5.0.0-37.5, sec O — 1, Red Heron Fairies (C Towern) 28.4.1.2-33.2.2, High Light III (M Reid) 28.5.4.2-35.5.3, Bangles HRS (S How) 28.0.1.3-2-41.2, sec R — 1, Wilunga (M Roncoroni) 27.5.0.2-28-30.3.2, Loulou (O Paro) 32.0.0-32.3, Royale Sam (O Towern) 36.0.0-36.3, BE10 Open — 1, Buzzards Chief (E Poole) 26.0.0-2-26.2, Uptons Who (A Uwhin) 27.0.0-27.3, Afterlives Masquarade (C Atterborough) 31.0.0-31, BE10 sec L — 1, Max Miller (P Sims) 18.5.0.0-18.5.2, Arfield Blackberry (A Lennon) 23.5.1.2-25.3.3, Godsmount Socks (H Bate) 25.0.4.0-29.9, sec M — 1, Dream On V.A. Duffell 24.5.0.0-24.2, Templebrook Boy (B Howells) 26.4.0-30.3, Loughmattosa Pete (A Downes) 32.0.0-32, sec N — 1, Tulshur Sunrise (P Sims) 24.5.0.0-24.5.2, Glenonny Carragh (T Clapham) 24.5.0.1-2-25.7.3, William Wickresley (M Owen) 26.0.0-26, sec P — 1, Time Lord II (K Woodward) 31.0.0-31.2, Shadow Royal Patriot (R Carter) 33.5.0.0-33.5.3, Aristick II (A Crawford) 30.4.0-34.

Doel heads young riders

SOMERFORD was a final trial for the young rider European squad and the following six were picked for the championships in Jardy, France (12-15 September): David Doel (Ricoshea), Danielle Dunn (Zocaria BLH), Dani Evans (Raphael II or Smart Time), Tom Jackson (Waltham Fiddlers Find), Alex Liddle (Romeo Z) and Holly Woodhead (DHL Lupton).

David Doel headed the section with the Irish-bred Ricoshea. Gillian Jones' son of Ricardo Z was bought for Georgie Spence to ride but, having proved to be more of a man's ride, was sent to David.

"He was 'Mr Perfect' all day, apart from one canter strike-off," said David.

David Doel secures his place with Ricoshea



Lauren Shannon and Kilcannon Wallings Crunch tackle the influential CIC2* fences six and 7a. A corner followed four strides later by a double of skinny brushes on two sides saw some unusual approaches and stops and runouts at all three fences, alongside a few unseated riders.

Pictures by Jo Prestwich