



CCI3\* winners Tim Price and Wesko show how to tackle the top water, named for Blair's new title sponsor Barclays

# The Price is right

## BLAIR CASTLE BARCLAYS INTERNATIONAL PERTHSHIRE 22-25 AUGUST

By Pippa Roome

TIM PRICE set up an assault on selection for the New Zealand team for the World Equestrian Games next year with a CCI3\* win on Christina Knudsen's Wesko.

"He's in a different class to the other top horses I've ridden," said Wiltshire-based Tim, 34. "I wouldn't have wanted him much earlier in my career [as I wouldn't have been experienced enough], but he's certainly one of the nicest I've ridden."

The Karandasj 10-year-old, runner-up at Hartpury CCI3\*

earlier this month, was second after dressage on 44.2 and added no further penalties. Tim plans to take him and a couple of other horses to train on the Continent this winter, then aim him at Badminton or Kentucky. Just 0.2 of a penalty separated the top three after cross-country, but all showjumped clear to hold their spots.

Germany's Niklas Bschorer, 18, finished second on his trainer Christopher Bartle's Ballyengland Rebel, recording his first CCI3\* completion. He has ridden this horse for three years, before which Rebel was produced to three-star by Nicola Wilson. The 12-year-old's experience

showed a couple of times when he helped Niklas out with sticky moments across country. He is described as a Jekyll and Hyde character, being lazy in the dressage but loving jumping. Bill Levett led the dressage with Francis Birks' Silk Stone, but finished third after being 2sec over the 10min 6sec optimum time across country.

Although this horse won Tattersalls CCI3\*, he has had some issues, including elimination for refusals at Aachen and Aston-le-Walls. Bill has altered his biting and rode him in a KK mouthpiece with cheekpieces here. "It's a case of having something in his mouth where you can get hold of him, but he doesn't get nervous [through being overbitted]," said Bill.

After a couple of wet years, good ground contributed to

I wouldn't have wanted him much earlier in my career, but he's certainly one of the nicest horses I've ridden

Tim Price on having the experience to make the most of Wesko's talent

Ronald Alexander's hilly cross-country tracks proving less strong than sometimes previously and more horses beating the clock. The CCI3\* had four fault-free rounds and 15 jumping clears from 19 starters.

Three horses stopped at the drop hedge into Malcolm's Lochan (6ab). Wills Oakden fell at the log and hanging hedge at fence 23ab with Greystone Midnight Melody.



Ruth Edge celebrates a CCI3\* victory with Time Machine, their third win from four runs together

**Fast finish for Fredericks** LUCINDA FREDERICKS led throughout to win the 60-star CCI3\* on her own and Richard Ames' Flying Finish. She put her foot down as the final rider in the reverse order cross-country to complete with 5.2 time-faults.

"It's been a hard slog to get here — it takes time to get the confidence to go fast," said Lucinda, who had a serious fall at Tweseldown in March.

Flying Finish, by Candillo, has risen through the ranks quickly, doing the Olympics two years after starting eventing at eight. He now heads to Pau, alongside Vicki Miller's Prada, who finished 19th here and gave Lucinda a useful warm-up ride, showing her where to shave corners.

"It's nice in some ways that Flying Finish has had this [quiet] year to give him time to develop.

He needed to go up the hills for his physical as well as mental growth," said Lucinda, who was tempted to return to Blair after a 10-year hiatus by the good ground and praised all aspects of the event.

Lucy Wiegiersma took second on Huw Lloyd and Christopher and Santa Perkins' Mr Chunky. The eight-year-old is from a similar mould to Andrew Nicholson's 2006 Bramham winner Henry Tankerville, with whom he shares his sire Jumbo.

"He's probably the best horse I've ever had because he doesn't have any weaknesses," said Lucy. Nicola Wilson laid the ghosts of a horrible fall at Luhmühlen to rest with Rosemary Search's star Opposition Buzz by taking third. He has won this class twice. "I was convinced he'd know where he was and he was wild in the showjumping warm-up, but he was a real pro in the arena and a joy to ride across country," said Nicola.

Nicola also finished sixth on her mother Mary Tweddle's Annie Clover — who benefited from wearing two reins on her gag bit for the first time and being largely ridden off the snaffle rein. She showed her mettle to get on these two after a somersault with first ride Belaine Queen.

William Fox-Pitt — who like Lucy (see box, p74) was off to the Europeans straight after Blair — was second, third and fourth after dressage. He then followed a plan to pull Parklane Hawk up halfway round the cross-country, saving him for Burghley.

Mandy Gray's Running Order finished fourth and is aimed at Blenheim, while Gauchó — on his first serious run after time off injured — ran quietly for 22nd. He is bound for Boekelo.

## IN AND OUT AT BLAIR

### Hello new layout...

BLAIR hosts a popular country fair as well as numerous equestrian classes alongside the horse trials. Much work has been done over the past year to improve the layout and traffic flow around the five arenas, as well as to lay down hard tracking, which will be a big benefit in the wet times. This is partly in anticipation of a large crowd for the senior European Championships here from 10-13 September 2015.

### ...bye bye Ronald

THIS year marked Ronald Alexander's final outing as cross-country course-designer here, after a tenure that began with the first international fixture in 1989. During this time, Ronald has designed for one junior and two young rider Europeans and become known for his testing tracks and desire to create fences that complement the landscape. Ian Stark takes over as course-designer next year and for the 2015 Europeans.

Niklas Bschorer, 18, collects second in the CCI3\* for Germany on Ballyengland Rebel



Australia's Kevin McNab dropped from fourth when Brookfield De Bouncer incurred 20 penalties in the Barclays water.

### Back on form

LIZZIE BROWN added another Kiwi win in the CCI2\*, leading from the front with her own and Tessa Grant's 13-year-old Henton Attorney General. He has won four times at three-star in New Zealand, but has not thrived since arriving in Britain last year.

"He lost a lot of weight, but we have a new sponsor in Pure Feed and he's loving the feed and loving life again," said Wiltshire-based Lizzie, 26. "He was relaxed as soon as he arrived in Scotland — I think he thought he was back in New Zealand."

Scottish runner-up Nicky Roncoroni and the USA's Marilyn Little, who took third, were equal 12th after dressage, but both finished on clean sheets.

The runner-up Watts Burn belongs to Lorna McWilliam and Nicky's mother Janey and was bought from a photo five years ago as an unbroken three-year-old

CCI2\* runners-up Nicky Roncoroni and Watts Burn: "To move up from 12th after dressage to be second doesn't really happen these days"



from Shaun and Sally Parkyn. "He has no quirks, but he's an inward worrier," said Nicky. Showjumper-turned-eventer Marilyn has only had the former Ingrid Klimke horse RF Tabasco for nine days.

"He's a character and a competitor and it's a pleasure getting to know him," she said.

Nicola Wilson puts some poor form behind her with third in the CCI3\* on Opposition Buzz: "He felt tremendous in all three phases"



## Perfect warm-up

LUCY WIEGERSMA was hotfooting it to Tom McEwen's Wiltshire base on Saturday night to meet Simon Porloe and head off to Malmø as CCI1\* winner Time Machine showed off his turquoise rug, perfectly suited to his grey coat.

"It's quite difficult to switch from the babies — it's almost like two different disciplines — so riding these two older horses [Mr Chunky and Granntevke Prince] was perfect for getting my eye in for jumping at speed and sharpening me up," she said.



Lucy Wiegiersma picks up CCI3\* second on Jumbo son Mr Chunky

Isabella Innes Ker, 18, took fourth on Rosses Captain. She had also been third after dressage on Carolyn, but she stopped at the House of Bruar drop at fence 17a.

Matthew Wright was fifth on Hugginstown — twice winner and twice runner-up of this class — who added nothing to his 17th-placed dressage score. Leicestershire-based Rosie Skinner, 31, made her mark with Tikikabilla Mill in sixth and Washington 10th.

There were three cross-country falls at fence 20, a rollover on a curving line to a chunky corner. Those on four rather than five strides tended to land steeply, while other problems were caused by horses catching the thresher dressing to the left of the jumpable section.

Louisa Milne Home was airlifted after being briefly knocked out in a fall here with Yorkies Delight, but was released from hospital within hours and riding again on Monday. Earlier in the day, CCI\* competitor Sally Johnson (Fernhill T Scarlett) was also airlifted after breaking her leg at the salire at fence 15.

### Time to win

"I bank with Barclays — do you think they'll do me a deal?" said a delighted Ruth Edge, as CCI1\* winner Time Machine showed off his turquoise rug, perfectly suited to his grey coat.

Ruth added nothing to her customary leading dressage score in this huge section. Joanne Kearns bought the nine-year-old winner, who is by the King Of Diamonds son King Henry, in February and events him at BE100, with Ruth sharing the ride since June.

Hannah Bate finished second with Clive Wright's and her own Watson III, who came from Janine Jansen in late June. "She struggled with the

showjumping and I just got on with him," she said. "I think a lot of him."

Hannah had crossed her tracks at Somerford CCI2\* the previous weekend, throwing her qualification for Weston CCI2\*. Blair could accommodate a late entry — a successful CCI\* would give Hannah the required result — but had no spare stables.

Watson's participation was thanks to the 10-year-old's previous owner — Hannah texted her to say he wasn't coming 90min into their journey and Janine replied that she had withdrawn, freeing up a box. "We turned round and my working pupil's mother brought him up a couple of junctions in a trailer," said Hannah.

Emily Galbraith took third with Catherine Kitchester's Ginga Ninja II, who "bombed round" for the fastest cross-country. H&H



Emily Galbraith takes CCI1\* third on the 'straight and clever' Ginga Ninja II

### Results

BLAIR CASTLE BARCLAYS INTERNATIONAL  
CCI3\* — 1. Wesko (T Price) 44.2.0-0-44.2; 2. Ballyengland Rebel (N Bschorer) 44.4.0-0-44.4.3; 3. Silk Stone (B Levett) 45.6.0.0-0-44.4.4. CCI2\* — 1. Flying Finish (L Fredericks) 38.6.0.5-2-43.8.2; 2. Mr Chunky (L Wiegiersma) 46.2.0.1-0-47.8.3; 3. Opposition Buzz (N Wilson) 45.4.0.3-2-48.6. CCI1\* — 1. Henton Attorney General (L Brown) 43.3.0.0-43.3.2; 2. Watts Burn (N Roncoroni) 51.7.0.0-37.5.2; 3. RF Tabasco (M Little) 51.7.0.0-51.7.1. Time Machine (R Edge) 44.7.0.0-44.7.2; Watson III (H Bate) 48.1.0.0-48.1.3; Ginga Ninja II (E Galbraith) 48.1.0.0-48.1.