



FRANCE

SAUMUR CCI3*, 23-26 MAY

PIGGY FRENCH finished best of the Brits when she piloted Tinkas Time to fourth place in his first CCI3*.

Piggy, 32, lay 13th after the first phase on 50.4, but went clear inside the time across country and had just one showjump down.

The 11-year-old Tinkas Time was produced by Harry Meade, joining Piggy in August last year and winning Osberton CCI2* on their third run together.

"It was an unknown going to Saumur — everything we've done together he's been very good, but I thought it was a really tough cross-country course," said Piggy. "It was way bigger than anything he's done before, but he found it all easy.

"He's a serious horse and it's nice for the owners to have another one coming up after a bad season last year."

Tinkas Time belongs to Michael Underwood, who part-owns Jakata and DHI Topper W, both ruled out of London 2012 due to injury.

"He's tough and feisty, which he needs to be as he's a small one," added Piggy of the 16hh Tinkas Time. "He's spooky and always has the handbrake half on, so I've been working on

getting him to let go. We've got it now with the jumping and can do it in the dressage, but he can still go tight if he's spooking."

Oliver Townend also finished in the prize-money, taking 11th on Karyn Shute's Black Tie, runner-up to stable-mate Cooley Master Class in the CCI2* at Ballindenisk in April.

Fellow Brit **Kitty Boggis** led after dressage on Zidante, but suffered the terrible bad luck of falling when the mare crumpled on landing over the final cross-country fence.

Gloucestershire-based Australian Bill Levett moved up from second after the first phase to achieve his first ever CCI3* victory, riding Clare Prentice's Shannondale Titan.

"It's his first CCI3*, so I didn't really know how he'd cope, although I hoped he'd perform similarly to how he did," said Bill. "He felt so nice he won't do another CCI3* — I don't feel like he'll be fazed by a four-star." **H&H**

Results

CCI3* — 1, Shannondale Titan (B Levett) AUS 42.6,0,0=42.6; 2, Lesbos (N Touzaint) FRA 43.2,0,4=47.2; 3, Quoriano ENE HN (A Boiteau) FRA 53.0,0=53; 4, Tinkas Time (P French) GBR 50.4,0,4=54.4; 11, Black Tie (O Townend) GBR 46.8,0,16=62.8.