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Funnell's young stars dominate



Pippa Funnell steers Billy Beware over the spectacular trakehner on the way to victory in the CC13*

IRISH FIELD CC13*
1st Pippa Funnell on Billy Beware (GBR)
2nd Bill Levett on Improvise (AUS)
3rd Pippa Funnell on Billy Landretti (GBR)

TATTERSALLS RATOATH, COMEATH 30 May-2 June

By Catherine Austen

PIPPA FUNNELL'S reputation as a superb producer of a young horse was further enhanced at Tattersalls, where she dominated the *Irish Field* CC13*, taking first and third places.

She led from start to finish on Billy Beware, a nine-year-old at his first CC13*, with Billy Landretti close behind. Both horses are owned by Jane and Jonathan Clarke.

Billy Beware, a big, handsome bay by Kannan, posted a dressage mark of 40.4, while Billy Landretti was second at that stage with 46.5.

Both horses collected time-faults across country — Pippa said after dressage that she was planning to ride "with the future in mind" — and, while Billy Beware held on to his lead, Billy Landretti dropped to sixth. But two superb showjumping clears cemented

Billy Beware's victory and propelled Landretti back up to third.

"I really thought I'd struggle with the [showjumping] time on Billy Beware — he's so scopey and a bit slow in the air — but it was good for me to ride him up a

tempo and he was better for it," said Pippa with a huge grin. Billy Beware — nicknamed "Gorgeous" as a three-year-old by Bridget Stack, from whom Pippa and her husband William rented and then bought their yard — has now won all three of his CCI starts

(Houghton, Weston Park and Tattersalls). In looks, presence and ability, he resembles Pippa's multiple four-star hero Primmore's Pride.

"It was lovely for him to win without me having to rag him round," said Pippa.



Maria Byrne and the home-bred Ballygrangans Dolly take the junior CCI*

Pictures by Tony Parnes

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David Doel makes his third-star debut with second in the CIC3* on Koyuna Sun Magic



The chestnut 11-year-old Billy Landretti was second after cross-country at Blenheim in 2011, but was found to have suffered a stress fracture and had nearly a year off.

When he was fully fit and a week away from Weston Park, he attempted to put his foot through the window of the lorry on a trip to the gallops and had to be operated on after cutting into a joint. Pippa will have her fingers crossed that the Vechta son's luck has now turned.

Nipping in between Pippa's rides was man of the moment Bill Levett. A week after winning the CC13* at Saumur, he finished second in the CC13* here — and won the CIC3*. His CCI ride Improvise, owned by Ali Butler, Liz Murdoch and Bill and his wife Jenny, just added 4pen for a showjump down to his 48.5 dressage score.

Despite finishing clear inside the time across country, Bill had to work quite hard on the Master Imp nine-year-old.

"I think he got a fright at the first

ditch at fence seven and went a bit green after that," said Bill. "To finish top at Saumur and second here — with young horses — is very exciting."

Sarah Ennis was best of the Irish in fourth on BLM Diamond Delux, with a double clear and just two showjumping time-faults. Italy's Giovanni Ugolotti, second after cross-country on his 48.5 dressage mark with Stilo Kontika, dropped to fifth with a fence down and three time-faults.

Silk Stone's smooth as butter BILL LEVETT'S CIC3* success came courtesy of Francis Birks' Silk Stone. Despite a couple of time-faults across country, the Coovers Diamond Boy 11-year-old couldn't be toppled from the place he had occupied since posting a dressage mark of 49.2.

"He's a horse who always just does what he needs to," said Bill. "He's the grumpiest thing in the stable at home, but different altogether at an event. He went across country like butter."

He will be aimed at the Nations



Ruth Edge wins the CCI* on Blacklaw Thymelord: "When you're on him, he really wants to try"

THE CROSS-COUNTRY COURSES

IAN STARK'S tracks were universally praised — in particular his three-star course.

"It's very refreshing not to be walking courses where you have to yank left or yank right, but that still contain plenty of fences that make you change gears," said Pippa Funnell beforehand.

After her rides, she said: "I thought it was a brilliant track. Yogi [reisner] said it made everyone ride well. It made you attack, but it also close up the stride. I felt both my horses learnt so much from running here."

Ian said: "What pleased me most was that I thought I'd given them a pretty meaty three-star, but the standard of riding was brilliant. Anyone who jumped round there is ready to move up to four-star — or the Europeans — now."

Ruth Edge described the one-star track as educational.

"There were lots of things horses will find later on in their careers in a more difficult form," she said.

The log into the first water (5a) was taken out at the beginning of the senior CCI* after one of the ponies and four of the junior horses fell in the water. Even once the fence was removed and riders just had to canter through to the second element, horses seemed to misjudge the water, which is underneath trees. Ian said it wouldn't be part of the track next year.

The ground at Tattersalls is clay and is often either deep or baked hard. It walked quite firm after sunshine and a drying wind, but actually rode well.

"It was saturated all winter then dried out incredibly quickly," said Ian. "It was a bit rougher than I'd like, but a lot of work went into it and it was still soft underneath, so they jumped and galloped on it well."



Kitty King puts bad luck at Saumur behind her with a CCI2* victory on Persimmon

Cup in Aachen and at Blair CC13*. British young rider David Doel finished second on Koyuna Sun Magic. He was one of seven riders in this section to race around the track inside the time — as was Mark Kyle on both Coolio and Step In Time, third and 10th.

The CIC3* cross-country provided an entertaining hour and a half for Sunday's crowd, breaking up a busy day of showjumping with two rings going

King makes amends AN emotional Kitty King was distinctly relieved to win the

Tattersalls

Eventing

8 number of horses out of the top 10 after dressage in the CC12* who were ridden by Badminton winners

THE RACING CONNECTION

TATTERSALLS is, of course, a bloodstock sales company and site, so it is no surprise that the bar and restaurant were packed at 4pm to watch the Derby. The winner, *Rule Of The World*, was trained by Aidan O'Brien, whose youngest son Donnacha finished second in the pony two-star class at Tattersalls.

Cross-country day was left to mum Anne-Marie, but Aidan was there bright and early on Sunday morning to watch his son and the brilliant Ice Cool Bailey, who has been to nine pony European Championships.

"There's a special stable by the back door of the house reserved for him when he retires," said Anne-Marie of the 17-year-old grey. "He won't be going anywhere."



Ice Cool Bailey takes second in the pony class with Donnacha O'Brien, son of trainer Aidan

very competitive Eventing Ireland CC12* on Jane Murfit and Frank Inns' Persimmon after falling at the last cross-country fence when in the lead on Zidane in Saumur (report, p73).

"Both horses went to their three-days to win them — and to actually do it here makes up for a lot," she said.

Kitty and the eight-year-old Persimmon were another pair to lead from the outset, completing on their excellent dressage score of 37.2. She swapped him from a double bridle to an in-hand showing bit for the dressage to encourage him to stay in front of her leg and expressive. The change of tack paid off.

"He was ready last autumn for a CC12", but Le Lion was cancelled and he's done well in his two advanced runs this spring, so this felt easy for him," she said. "He

was just jumping and galloping within himself."

Oliver Townend rose a place from third to take the runner-up slot on Cooley Master Class, adding nothing to a dressage of 41.2.

"I bought him as a five-year-old from Richard Sheane and he's always been fantastic," said Oliver. "He is by Ramiro B — and is partly the reason we [Harthill Stud] bought Ramiro B."

He sold Cooley Master Class to Angela Hislop, who now has eight horses with Oliver, who also finished fifth on the dun Sandiman II.

Japanese rider Toshiyuki Tanaka rose from 10th after dressage to third on the German-bred Pythagoras mare Pretty Darling CD. Both he and Harry Meade, who jumped from 14th to fourth with Shannondale



Lucy Latta (Nono) gets her nose in front in the pony class, after two years as runner-up

Bill Levett scores his second three-star win in as many weeks, taking the CIC on Silk Stone



Santiago, completed on their dressage scores.

Smart Time's a saint DANI EVANS' victory in the Connolly's Red Mills under-25 CC12* was, she said, special for two reasons. First, this is her first year "solo" after being based with her uncle Tim Warren and then the Funnells.

"I needed to earn a living and it comes to a point where you have to see whether you can do it," said the 21-year-old.

And she won on the lovely Smart Time, who was produced by Polly Williamson, who suffered a career-ending head injury in December 2011.



Japan's Toshiyuki Tanaka rises from 10th after dressage to claim third in the CC12* on Pretty Darling CD

rider European Championships in Jardy in September.

Broadsword connection

RUTH EDGE took a large Land Rover CCI* on Blacklaw Thymelord when leaders William Fox-Pitt and Henton Fox Fun tipped a pole in the showjumping. She was also sixth on The Precious One, whom she is riding while Jayne Doherty is pregnant.

The seven-year-old Blacklaw Thymelord was bought by owners Phil and Maureen Smith as a foal because his mother is by the same sire — Broadsword — as their Luhmühlen CCI4* winner Two Thyme.

"He's a funny guy — he's not good at standing still, but when you're on him he really wants to try," said Ruth.

She survived a sticky moment at the first water.

"He fell on his nose going in, and I ended up in front of the saddle with no stirrups, but he stayed straight," said, "Hang on,

Mum, we're going anyway!" and jumped out."

British riders took the places between Ruth's rides. William dropped to second, Laura Collett and Obos Cooley were third. Pippa Funnell took fourth on Sandyman 7 and Kitty King was fifth on Mo Cuiske.

Home wins for Byrne and Latta

THE only two Irish wins at their premier event were collected by Maria Byrne in the Dubarry CCIJ* and Lucy Latta in the Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa CCNP2*.

Science education student Maria was riding the home-bred thoroughbred Ballygrangans Dolly, with whom she hopes for a first junior team place. Lucy — who has been second in this class for the past two years — was first on the bay Nono and third on the palomino Opan.

Tintin Belsham was the best-placed British junior, third on the eight-year-old Supreme Watts. H&H



Dani Evans tops the under-25 CC12* on Smart Time, who was produced by Polly Williamson

Results

TATTERSALLS

CCI3* — 1. Billy Beware (P Funnell) GBR 40.4, 72.0=47.6; 2. Improvise (B Levett) AUS 48.5, 0.4=52.5; 3. Billy Landretti (P Funnell) 46.5, 6.8=53.3; **CIC3*** — 1. Silk Stone (B Levett) 49.2, 0.2=52.2; 2. Koyuna Sun Magic (D Doel) GBR 52.3, 4.0=56.3; 3. Coolio (M Kyle) IRL 52.9, 4.0=56.9; **CCI2*** — 1. Persimmon (K King) GBR 37.2, 0.0=37.2; 2. Cooley Master Class (O Townend) GBR 41.2, 0.0=41.2; 3. Pretty Darling CD (T Tanaka) JPN 46.0, 0.5=46.5; **CCI2* U25** — 1. Smart Time (D Evans) GBR 43.5, 0.0=43.5; 2. Artistiek

(M Dumas) GBR 43.1, 6.0=49.1; 3. Dill Lupison (H Woodhead) GBR 44.8, 0.0=44.8; **CCI*** — 1. Blacklaw Thymelord (R Edge) GBR 48.0, 2.0=50.0; 2. Henton Fox Fun (W Fox-Pitt) GBR 37.0, 4.4=41.4; 3. Obos Cooley (L Collett) GBR 42.6, 0.0=42.6; **CCIJ*** — 1. Ballygrangans Dolly (M Byrne) IRL 49.8, 0.0=49.8; 2. Miracle (E Heyden) IRL 47.5, 0.4=47.9; 3. Supreme Watts (T Belsham) GBR 49.0, 4.5=53.5; **CCNP2*** — 1. Nono (L Latta) IRL 42.3, 0.4=42.7; 2. Ice Cool Bailey (D O'Brien) IRL 45.4, 2.0=47.4; 3. Opan (L Latta) 43.5, 2.4=45.9.