

World news

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FEI Balkan Eventing Championships: 24-26 May

Bulgaria's Miroslav Iliev and Lazuren are the new Balkan Champions, claiming the Individual Gold Medal at Sighisoara, Romania. Second after dressage, Iliev took the lead on cross country day. Last year's winner, Ivan Dobrev, had to settle for Silver this time around, with Viorel Babau awarded the Bronze Medal.

Eight riders from three countries contested the title, but no team medals were awarded as only Turkey and Bulgaria could field a team of three. All eight combinations completed.

On the podium for the FEI Balkan Eventing Championships 2013 at Sighisoara, Romania: (left to right) Silver medalist, Ivan Dobrev (BUL), Gold Medalist, Miroslav Iliev (BUL) and Bronze Medalist Viorel Babau (ROM)



Saumur: 23-26 May

An unfortunate fall at the last fence across country for dressage leaders Kitty King and Zidane opened the door for Bill Levett, who leapt through it to win the CCI3* on Shannondale Titan. 'Alfie' added nothing to his first phase score, to finish with a fence in hand over the home side's Nicolas Touzaint riding Lesbos. Arnaud Boiteau and Quoriano ENE HN completed the top three, with Piggy French just behind with Tinkas Time.

Forty-six combinations started the dressage, with 34 completing the competition. Five combinations failed to finish the cross country, including Kitty, Benoit Johner and Lit il Peccau GH suffered a horse fall, both Buck Davidson (*The Apprentice*) and Eric Vigeanel (*Kalin de Burgo*) were eliminated on course and Eduardo Via-Dufresne retired *Quica del Masset* after two refusals.

Below: Saumur winner Bill Levett with Clare Prentice's Shannondale Titan



Tattersalls: 30 May-2 June

Pippa Funnell (pictured) came close to posting a one-two in the CCI3*, leading throughout on Billy Beware but dropping one place from their dressage ranking to third with Billy Landretti after picking up a smattering of cross country time penalties.

Fresh from his success in Saumur, Bill Levett's run of form continued, a fast cross country clear on the relatively inexperienced improvise moving him up to second place. Bill went one better in the CIC3*, winning the class with a fence in hand on Silk Stone. David Doel and Mark Kyle completed the top three.

"The fact that it was both Shannondale Titan (see Saumur) and improvise's first CCI3* makes the results even more pleasing," said a delighted Bill. "They are both young horses with a lot more to come. I was really impressed with their gallop and jump."

