



James Adams and Pebbly Aga Khan, CCI\*\* runners-up



CCI\*\* winners Piggy French and Up To Date with owner Kate Walls



JRN winners Tom Jackson and Waltham Fiddlers End

# Oloa gives Fox-Pitt milestone win

WESTON PARK (2)

By Sue Polley

HOT off the plane from WEG William Fox-Pitt notched up a milestone victory – his 40th three-day event win – in the Rookery Park Stud-sponsored CCI\*\* at Weston Park (2) with Catherine and Bridget Joice's Oloa.

"This is one for the team. Credit must go to Louise Bloomer and the rest of the girls at the yard for getting Oloa ready for this and for keeping things ticking over while I've been away," said William, who landed back in the UK on Tuesday and arrived here on the Wednesday.

Oloa gave William a smooth ride in all three phases, proving that he is back on track following a fall in the water at Tattersalls which resulted in a nasty cut and two months' box rest.

"It didn't really knock his confidence; it just set him back a bit as ideally we'd have liked him to have had a couple of advanced runs this year," said William. "He was superb in all three



Sam Ercoyd and Catherine Nutsafe take the CCIP\*\*

phases here, though, particularly in the show jumping which is notoriously tricky."

William echoed the sentiments of competitors, though, who praised Janet Plant's organisation and course-designing skills.

"Janet's events run like clockwork and the ground was the best I've ever seen it. The cross-country tracks were educational and inviting but it was a shame the rails had to be taken out of Hadrian's

complex as I thought it was a fair question," added William referring to Janet's decision to remove the a and c elements from the grade as after Adam Morgan and Laura Watson sustained heavy falls here in quick succession. Adam was airlifted to hospital where he was diagnosed with a broken pelvis and a dislocated shoulder, while Laura fortunately suffered no serious injuries.

Although several other combinations had jumped the complex with no problems, Janet admitted that she felt obliged to alter the fence.

"The event is run under FEI rules and ultimately I have an obligation to the sport and to horse welfare, so I needed to take action in response to what had happened," she said.

James Adams and Pebbly Aga Khan sealed a great 2010 season with second place in the CCI\*\*, while two-phase leaders Ruth Edge and Rogersdale dropped to third after lowering two show jumps.

## Noble is Best

Laura Collett rounded off her season with victory in the U21 CCI\*\* aboard Kelly Ward's Noble Bestman. The pair dominated the competition from start to finish and completed on their dressage score of 44.7.

"This time last year he was at HOYS doing working hunters and was three times the size that

he is now," she said. "Kelly called me last winter and asked if I'd try eventing him as she had fallen pregnant. He has amazed us by the way he's flown up the grades."

Laura is looking for new owners for the gelding as Kelly intends to sell him.

"I'd love to take him to Bramham next year," she said.

Second place went to Olivia Craddock with Boherdal Cruise, while Sophie Jenman and Geronimo finished third, both duos competing on their dressage scores.

The CCI\*\* track caused more problems than its CCI\*\* counterpart with the Kidney Pool at 12abc, the Aberswiit Corner at 14 and the Sunken Road at 18abcd claiming a number of scalps. However, none of the obstacles posed problems for the eventual winners Piggy French and Kate Walls' Up To Date, although Piggy did admit that the mare took a dislike to the new bit she was trying out and fought her somewhat, hence their 2.8 time penalties. This blip meant that the pair surrendered their dressage lead to Laura Collett and the Walkers' Minimee after the cross-country, although a clear final show jumping round for Laura – saw them return to the head of affairs.

"Up To Date is a lovely horse in every way and she has the ability to go on further," said Piggy. "I was hoping we'd do well here but I never thought we'd win as I've only had the ride since July."

A clear round on the final day from Emilie Chandler and the seven-year-old Irish-bred Douglas elevated them through the leaderboard to the runner-up spot ahead of Laura and Minimee.

"This is his first three-day and I'm delighted with the way he's coped," said Emilie. "He's got a lot of class and is consistent."

## Which Tom will win?

A brace of Toms fought for the lead in the JRN Championship.

Tom Grant and Cloncolman Lad held the advantage going into the final phase but their three show jumping time faults proved costly, dropping them to second and handing

Victory to Sacha Pemble's 17-year-old working pupil Tom Jackson with Waltham Fiddlers Find.

"I was really nervous as the rest of the south east team [who went on to win the team competition] had already jumped clear," admitted Tom. "Wesley found everything easy, though. I often think he's too good to be true."

Although this was Tom's first three-day he has groomed for Sacha in the past.

"I think that gave me a bit of an advantage as I had a better idea of what to expect," he said.

Sam Ercoyd was the on form rider in the CCIP\*\*, winning with the experienced Catherine Nutsafe and also piloting Three Wells Breeze into fifth. Jodie O'Keefe was Sam's nearest rival, finishing 13 penalties adrift in second with Castlevie Rakish.

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