

FUNNELL REDESIGNS THE ROLE OF H

Pippa Funnell storms back into the spotlight with her first major victory in five years, while a new face, Donatien Schauly, scores a double on his first visit to Bramham in the Under-25 Championship and the CIC***. **AIMI CLARK** reports

CIC* winners Pippa Funnell and Redesigned celebrate with a lap of honour**



Piggy French steers Lemington Lets Dance clear through the double of hedges en route to second place

RESULTS

CIC***

1, Redesigned (Pippa Funnell, GBR), 42.3, 3.2, 0 = 45.5; 2, Lemington Lets Dance (Piggy French, GBR), 49, 0.4, 0 = 49.4; 3, Jakata (Piggy French, GBR), 51, 5.2, 0 = 56.2.

UNDER-25 CHAMPIONSHIP

1, Seculaire (Donatien Schauly, FRA), 49.4, 1.2, 0 = 50.6; 2, Kings Gem (Gemma Tattersall, GBR), 51.7, 0, 0 = 51.7; 3, Jaipur II (Maxime Livio, FRA), 45.8, 10, 0 = 55.8.

CIC***

1, Ocarina Du Chanais (Donatien Schauly, FRA), 46.9, 0, 0 = 46.9; 2, Kifinnie II (Paul Tapner, AUS), 50.6, 0, 2.8 = 53.4; 3, Drivetime (Emily Baldwin, GBR), 44.6, 0, 10.8 = 55.4.

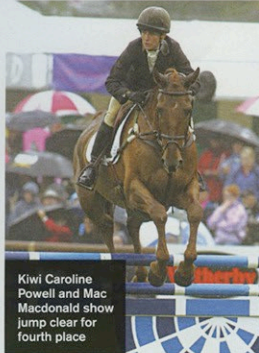
when the leading duo entered the arena for the final phase after Piggy French's classy clear aboard Lemington Lets Dance had secured, at worst, second spot by a narrow margin of 3.9 penalties.

"Piggy certainly put the pressure on but I've been busy all morning show jumping in the other arena so I didn't have that awful hanging around feeling," said Pippa. "In the

past Redesigned has lit up in the show jumping so I gave him a lot more work. He's a big horse who is physically still quite weak and I felt he jumped the first six or seven fences better than the last few."

Piggy's runner-up had crossed the finish line the day before with just one time penalty to add, a feat that elevated him three places, despite the horse pulling off a front shoe early on.

Picture by David Miller



Kiwi Caroline Powell and Mac Macdonald show jump clear for fourth place



Belgium's Joris Vanspringel aboard Lully Des Aulnes, sixth



The Only One, ninth, leaps into the first water with Ireland's Jayne Doherty

"I felt him slip in places and when we were going down hill he didn't always feel the most confident on the take-off stride," said Piggy.

This came back to haunt the European silver medalist at Sunday morning's final horse inspection when Lemington Lets Dance was sent to the holding box but passed on re-inspection.

"He's wearing a new sort of shoe this year because he has had problems with his feet," explained Piggy. "He was a bit sore but the shoe pulled a lot of foot off and I think it was obvious that that was the problem."

Piggy also piloted her relatively new ride Jakata effortlessly around Di Boddy's show

jumping track to leave all 12 fences intact and when Andrew Nicholson's Shady Grey and William Fox-Pitt's Neuf Des Coeurs, lying third and fourth at this point, made mistakes, their loss was Jakata's gain as he climbed two places to occupy third spot.

"I didn't know what to expect from him because we're still a new partnership and he's an older horse who took me a while to figure out," said Piggy.

"The aim wasn't to come here but I double entered him just in case. He had six weeks off early in the season because of a thorn in his leg so he missed out on some of the preparation work."



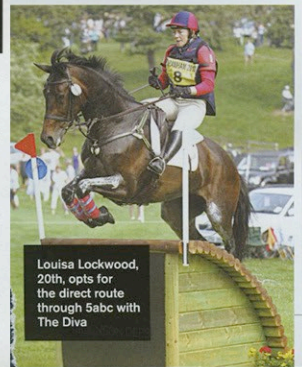
"I wanted to build an old fashioned Frank Weldon-type track. The course was attacking and riders had to sit down and be positive," he said. "I will make changes [for next year] but I wouldn't want it to be much softer."

Some no-shows

Only three of those who completed the cross-country were not presented to the ground jury at the final horse inspection, where Kate Honey's Mr Rebel, lying 11th, disappeared from the line-up after he was withdrawn from the holding box.

And so 31 combinations came forward for the final show jumping phase with 10 recording clear rounds. So tightly bunched were those at the business end that rolled poles were expensive, but Pippa Funnell and Piggy French were both class acts from the second the bell rang.

"Redesigned has a lot of potential but I also appreciate that he won't come into his own until he's 11," said Pippa. "I'm always looking at the bigger picture and Bramham is a part of that experience. Winning it is a bonus."



Louisa Lockwood, 20th, opts for the direct route through 5abc with The Diva