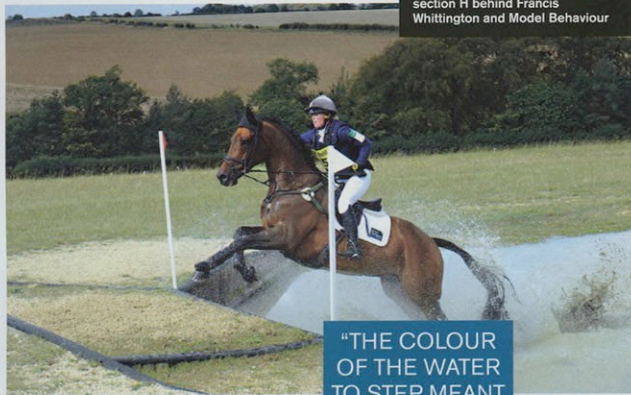


Cariba nets two wins on the trot

Kelly Aldous and High Garth High Flyer finish fifth in intermediate section H behind Francis Whittington and Model Behaviour



"THE COLOUR OF THE WATER TO STEP MEANT THAT SOME HORSES DIDN'T READ IT"

BURNHAM MARKET (2)

By Hilary Manners



PIGGY French drew some consolation from Cariba 15 having been balloted out of the CIC*** at Blenheim when the mare posted her second open intermediate win on the trot, at the SPC Holdings-sponsored Burnham Market (2).

"I hoped she'd go well," said Piggy (above). "Being balloted was so disappointing and has totally messed up our autumn plans. I'd intended to take 'Carrie' to Boekelo. She's a really exciting horse – super talented and a very good jumper.

"Joanne Pullan [Cariba's owner] has been very patient and let me improve the flatwork before going faster across country," added Piggy who admitted that it took her the first half of the year to get to know the mare and "find the right buttons".

"She's opinionated and you have to ask her nicely but if you do she will try her best. She's ready to move up a level."

"SHE'S AN EXCITING HORSE – SUPER TALENTED"

Piggy had put up one of the fastest cross-country rounds for 3.2 penalties to keep J-P Sheffield and Riverside James in second place.

"He's very good at this level," said J-P of his 16-year-old campaigner. "I've had the ride on him since he was seven and he's done two three-days every year since then."

Jo Chipperfield made up the top three after surviving a sticky moment when King Joules fell up the step on the way out of the second water.

"I don't think I was the only one," said Jo. "I can only guess that the colour of the water to the step to the log behind meant that some horses didn't read the step. Luckily he's a hardy little thing: he was right on his knees and was very honest to pick up and jump the log."

King Joules was another to suffer the Blenheim CIC ballot

but Jo plans to bring the French-bred nine-year-old out at three-star level next season.

"We've managed to get the mileage now. Initially we struggled with the flatwork, especially the canter

and changes, but as he's got stronger that has definitely come together."

Model performance

Francis Whittington made his 2am start from Sussex worthwhile with a win in intermediate section H riding Catherine Witt's Model Behaviour.

"He's a lovely horse," said Francis. "He's a typical Freddie's Star late developer so we've given him plenty of time to grow into his body."

5 Things you didn't know about ...

Matthew Heath



1 He grew up surrounded by racing – his father was a jockey

2 He only started eventing when he went to work for Nigel Taylor at the age of 18

3 John Francome was his childhood hero

4 Oasis is his favourite band

5 His dream car is a Bentley

Tom March and Nadal, fourth in intermediate section G

