



Kitty King and the on form Ceylor Lan fly through the water en route to a win in the five-year-old class



Tom McEwen takes an emphatic victory in the seven-year-old championship, run as a CCI\*, with the Irish-bred Rehy USA



# French finds it is her Time to shine

Piggy French pays tribute to Harry Meade for producing Tinkas Time so well after she nets first place in the CCI\*\* "This horse is so much fun to ride"

## OSBERTON

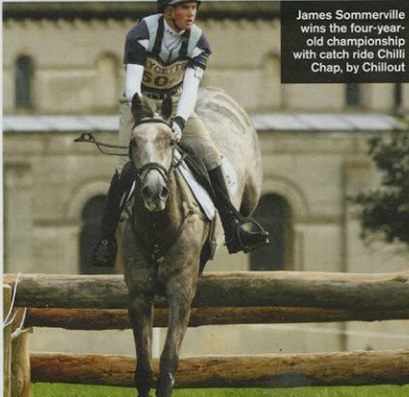
By Sue Poley

ALTHOUGH nothing will ever compensate for missing out on the Olympics, Piggy French did go some way to closing her 2012 season on a positive note with a win in Osberton's CCI\*\* aboard Michael Underwood's Tinkas Time.

In typically humble fashion, Piggy credited Harry Meade, who produced the 10-year-old to three-star level until she took over the reins, for her win.

"This horse is so much fun to ride," she beamed. "I have to thank Harry and Michael Underwood for providing a great end to my 2012 season."

Piggy and Tinkas Time lay second after the first phase to



James Sommerville wins the four-year-old championship with catch ride Chillii Chap, by Chillout

Kelly Aldous and High Garth High Flyer but with the latter pair eliminated on the cross-country, Piggy's dressage score completion earned her the top spot.

Her closest rival turned out to be Gemma Tattersall and Christopher Stone's Chico Bella P, also dressage score finishers like the top six in this class. The eight-year-old mare by Chico's Boy has been on fantastic form.

"She only started evening properly last year after Christopher bought her from Dirk Schrade in Germany where she had competed a bit at novice level," explained Gemma. "However, she had mainly show jumped, which is where 60% of her bloodlines come from. I can honestly say she gave me the most superb ride in all three phases but particularly across country as there were a few good questions on the course."

The toughest ask on the two-star track, which claimed a fair few victims, was a right-handed corner at fence 16 which boasted an angled approach in the woods.

In total 10 of the 104 starters were eliminated on course and nine retired, while 32 managed to complete but notched up cross-country jumping faults in the process.

Emilie Chandler and Richard Goddard's eight-year-old Gino Royale, second in the CCI\* here last year, consolidated their form at two-star level this year with third place.

The show jumping proved influential to the bitter end in the CCI\*\*. Two fences down saw two-phase leaders Amy Young and Master Step drop to third and hand victory to J-P Sheffield with Sally Carson's Windingo.

The horse, who was bought via the Elite Auction in Verden,

Germany as a foal, made nothing of Stuart Buntine's cross-country track.

"Some friends recommended that I go and see him when he was on the market," said Sally. "I did and I loved him but I asked J-P to ride him as he's got such a huge stride and I'm not that big."

Hannah Bate and Harriet Tollafeld's Zippie II finished as runners-up in this class of 105.

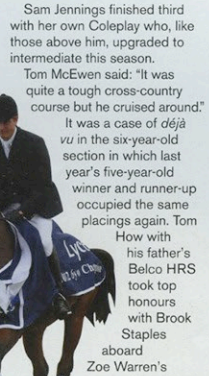
**Amazing American**

Young rider team member Tom McEwen bounced back from disappointment at the European Championships to take the Lycetts British Eventing Young Event Horse Championship seven-year-old class, run as a CCI\*\*, by storm aboard his own and John Burt's American Thoroughbred Rehy USA.

"Woody," by Warcraft, was bred in Ireland by Edna Briscoe and has been produced by Tom.

As was the case last year, this section was lighter on numbers than the six-year-old class, which is run as a CIC, mainly due to its close proximity to the Lion d'Angers, but it still produced a nail-biting contest.

Tom and Woody were produced on their dressage score to keep the challenge of Oliver Townend on another J-P Sheffield-produced horse, Linda and William Bowen's Sandiman II, at bay after the Yorkshireman's mount lowered a show jump.



Leading six-year-old Belco HRS with Tom How in the saddle

Sam Jennings finished third with her own Coleplay who, like those above him, upgraded to intermediate this season.

Tom McEwen said: "It was quite a tough cross-country course but he cruised around!"

It was a case of *déjà vu* in the six-year-old section in which last year's five-year-old winner and runner-up occupied the same placings again. Tom How with his father's Belco HRS took top honours with Brook Staples aboard Zoe Warren's

Doonaveeragh O Six finishing third under a penalty behind.

Third place went the way of Hannah Bate riding Malcolm Moore's 15.2hh mare Bliss III.

"It's been a good few days," said former young rider Tom. "And this win shows what a talented horse he is!"

Tom's original plan had been Osberton but a lack of runs due to cancellations meant that he only entered the son of Hold Up Premier at the eleventh hour.

"I'm glad we decided to come now. We all think a lot of him and we've had some serious offers but people will need to have very deep pockets if they want him. He's still quite green and he showed that on a couple of occasions on the cross-country where he had a look at the ditches but other than that he was amazing. He has the unusual and rare combination of having natural ability and simply loving his job."

## OWNER ZONE

### Sally Carson

SALLY Carson, who owns J-P Sheffield's CCI\* winning ride Windingo (below), is our featured owner this month. She has been involved in the sport for "more years than I care to admit to" both as a rider and an owner. She competed to three-star level in the 1980s but now mainly contests the lower levels, her current partner being the eight-year-old dan Jasel Cynanovic (right).

Based in Leicestershire, Sally and her near neighbour J-P have been friends for years, and she also owns Too Bahru whom J-P competed to three-star level. She currently runs a livery yard to help fund her eventing habit which she describes as "addictive".

J-P said: "Sally is a great friend and she has been a fantastic owner for the last 15 years. She's supported

the sport for a long time, through good times and bad, so it's nice that she's getting some recognition."

Eventing runs its special owner section in conjunction with the Event Horse Owners Association (EHOA) which will offer the overall winner in 2012 a cash prize that will be presented at the association's dinner. The EHOA represents owners of event horses at all levels. Log on to [www.EHOA.org](http://www.EHOA.org).

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Picture by Steve Downes/Real Time Imaging