

French validates her

PREMIER CIC***
 1st Piggy French on Jakata (GB)
 2nd Andrew Nicholson on Avebury (NZL)
 3rd Emily Llewellyn on Pardon Me II (GB)



Piggy French proves she's got what it takes to represent Britain in Kentucky when winning a Mitsubishi car in the premier CIC*** on Jakata

HARTPURY, GLOS 12-15 August

By Jane Perry

PIGGY FRENCH scored the most lucrative win of her career so far by taking the top spot in CIC*** section C at the Mitsubishi Motors-sponsored Hartpury riding her father Wally and Michael Underwood's Jakata. Not only did she take home the £1,500 prize-money, but also a new Mitsubishi ASX3 Crossover car. Piggy was delighted with her win, not just because of her wonderful prize, but more because she felt it went some way to justifying Jakata's inclusion in the Great Britain squad for the World Equestrian Games (WEG). "Because we've not done anything since finishing third at Bramham, I know there have been a lot of people who felt selecting us was a wrong decision, but I

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Piggy French vindicates her WEG selection on Jakata with a big win

hope our performance this weekend has shown what a class horse he is," she said. Piggy admitted that the pressure has been getting to her bit in the build-up to Hartpury: "I've been a bit 'twitzy' as we've only been together a short time [since December] and I'm still getting to know him. But I was so proud of him today on the cross-country, it's the first time I've really put the pressure on and he was very classy." After the dressage and showjumping the pair had been lying third, just 0.8pen behind

joint-leaders Bill Levett, riding One Two Many NJ, and Laura Collett, with Ginger May Killinghurst. But when they dropped out of contention, a fast round, finishing just over the optimum time, secured the victory. However the class was not without incident as although Piggy was declared the winner when the section finished early on Sunday afternoon, it was almost 7pm before it was finally confirmed, due to an investigation into her cross-country time following an objection lodged by runner-up Andrew Nicholson.

Piggy had been held after fence 18 for a short time while several cows, which had strayed on to the course from an adjacent farm, were removed and Andrew felt there was a discrepancy in her adjusted time, which left her with 3.2 time-penalties. The stewards checked and rechecked the stopwatch readings provided by the fence judges and it was decided Piggy's time was correct. Andrew was magnanimous in defeat and said: "I felt that some of the timings had been a bit haphazard, so I needed to say something and fully accept the stewards' decision. It's just a pity that it took so long." In fact, Andrew, with Rosemary Barlow's Avebury, was the only rider in the section to complete under the optimum, moving up from seventh to second. Emily Llewellyn, fresh from winning team gold at the young rider European Championship (report,

Picture by Nick Perry

WEG slot



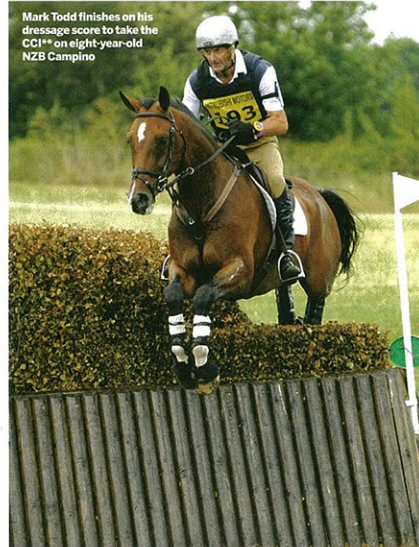
Andrew Nicholson wins CIC*** section D on Mr Cruise Control, who is entered for the eight- and nine-year-old championship CIC*** at Blenheim

12 August), took third place with Pardon Me II. After a long day, Piggy was at last presented with the keys to her new vehicle and she couldn't have been more delighted. "This is not just for me," she said. "It's for my whole team who work so hard."

Nicholson's compensation WITH a large number of riders wishing to run in the CIC*** — over 150 horses were entered — it was decided to run a second section, with the same prize-money, but unfortunately no car, to accommodate them. It was in this class that Andrew

COURSE-DESIGNER'S CORNER

CROSS-country course-designer Eric Winter had every reason to be pleased with the way all three of his courses rode, but was a little surprised at how easy the CCI** riders made it look. "I'd slightly forgotten just how good the horses are at this level," he said. "Some of them were making it look like a Pony Club track, but it was a good experience for them." The fence that caused the most problems on the three-star track was the double of corners at 13. Eric commented: "I always intended it should be influential, so I provided a longer option and thought that more riders would have taken it when they obviously didn't have a good line after the first one." Access to a new field after the second water fence also made for a more flowing course than previously.



Mark Todd finishes on his dressage score to take the CCI** on eight-year-old NZB Campino



Emily Llewellyn's great season continues with third in the premier CIC*** on Pardon Me II

Eliza's not able to ride him at the moment so he's come to me," Kitty said. "I wasn't sure he was up to three-star yet but, having scored well in the dressage, we set out all guns blazing and, apart from being a bit green over the first couple of fences, he loved every minute of it." George Davies finished third riding Orlando, just ahead of Andrew again, this time on Nereo. As well as Piggy, three other WEG British team members gave their horses a run at Hartpury. After a good dressage test and clear showjumping, Tina Cook took Miners Frolic fairly steadily across-country to finish 12th in section C. Pippa Funnell and Redesigned also scored well in the dressage, but had two rails down in the showjumping, although a quick cross-country round saw them take 13th in section D, finishing one place above William Fox-Pitt and Cool Mountain. **Toddy gives a demo** MARK TODD demonstrated the perfect way to finish a three-day event by jumping a matchless clear showjumping round on NZB Campino, moving them up from second after cross-country to the top of the CCI** leader board. Swedish young rider Ludwig Svermerstal, on his own Shamwari 4, had headed