

# Cast Away enjoys a French triumph



*Piggy French crowns a superb year with the Irish gelding Cast Away II by taking the world seven-year-old title.*

*Emmanuelle de Monléon reports from France*

**I** asked Vere Phillipps to find me a special horse, and he did," explained Lavinia Wells, proudly holding Cast Away II after he had won the seven-year-old World Breeding Trophy at Le Lion d'Angers (18-21 October).

Bred in Ireland by Noel Cawley, Cast Away II has had a brilliant season with Piggy French. The gelding — by Clover Brigade out of Sailing In Rain, by the show jumper Cruising — has won two open intermediates, at Aske and Burnham Market, as well as the CIC\*\* at Aston-le-Walls. The pair were also second in the CIC\*\* at Burnham Market in April and in two other open intermediates.

At Le Lion d'Angers, the ground jury unanimously placed Cast Away II first after dressage, on a mark of 39.8, and the pair added nothing to this score.

Because of the impressive crowd, many horses took some time to adjust to the atmosphere and riders found them greener than usual across country. Otherwise, the track rode well and was praised as being educational, with perfect ground. Twenty-five of the 56 starters completed with no penalties.

The show jumping was nail-biting, with seven riders within one pole and a top-class line-up. European Champion and six-times Le Lion winner Nicolas Touzaint was only 0.4 of a penalty behind Piggy on Barlovento, a Spanish horse who was 2.7th here last year with Alberto Hermoso Farra.

Germany's Michael Jung was 0.2pen further back, with last year's six-year-old runner-up, La Biosthetique Sam. The leading trio were tailed by Andrew Nicholson, Lucinda Fredericks, Aurelien Kahn, Andreas Dibowski, Dan Jocelyn and Karin Donckers.

Mary King lay 1.3th with Derek Baden's Kings Tempress, who is by Primitive Rising. This pair made the most spectacular improvement in their

**Piggy French and Cast Away II retain their dressage lead to win the seven-year-old CCI\*\***