

Patience pays off for French

OWEN PUGH BURGHAM (2)
NORTHUMBERLAND

25-27 July

By Sue Polley

PIGGY FRENCH'S patience in taking her time to build up Westwood Mariner's trust in her, and in making subtle changes in the way he goes on the flat, paid off when they won the hotly-contested and inaugural CIC3*.

The pair lay third after the dressage on 38.1. They then took advantage of Oliver Townend choosing not to jump first-phase leader Armada and left the coloured poles untouched, before completing Paul Ellis's cross-country track bang on the optimum time of 6min 13sec. This snatched the lead from Nicola Wilson and One Two Many.

"I'm genuinely excited for the horse and the syndicate [Kate French, Susie Wood, Susan Wrighton and James Midgley] who bought him for me," said Piggy. "He has his own style of going and I was never going to be able to change that overnight, but it definitely feels like we now have a good partnership."

On the strength of the son of Cault Hero's performance here, Piggy made the decision to enter him for Burghley in addition to his planned run at Gatcombe.

She echoed the positive comments made by other riders concerning the efforts organisers had made to ensure fast but safe ground. An excellent covering of grass combined with a good overall layout ensured the event had a "buzz" and atmosphere worthy of an international event.

"I've not been here before, but it's stunning and I'll definitely be back. The tracks were not the hardest, but were beautifully presented and a fair test," said Piggy, who also rode the huge Irish sport horse Seapatrick Dark Cruise into seventh place in his first run at three-star level.

Wilson's good day at the office
RUNNER-up Nicola Wilson was most pleased with her One Two Many's dressage test, which she described as "just beautiful and a test unlike anything I've ever ridden before."

Overall, it was a very good day at the office for the Yorkshire-based rider, who also achieved her objective of getting Ngong Hills'

'He has his own style,' says Piggy French of CIC3* victor Westwood Mariner



CIC3* qualification, and finished 11th with Kiltealy Brief in what was only their third outing together.

Oliver Townend was off the pace with Sandiman II after finishing the first phase on 42.9. However,

like Paul Tapner aboard Vanir Kamira (fourth) who followed him across country, Oliver definitely had his "game face" on as he hustled the striking dun around the track to come home 5 sec

inside the time for third.

The course, generally deemed not to be a top-end CIC3* track, caused few problems but included two good questions into water at fences 13 and 14.

The most influential fence was a pair of open corners at 10ab. This was the site of 20 penalties apiece for Frog Rock (Annabel Wigley), Skyhills Cavalier (Oliver Townend) and Papillon (Polly Jackson).

Victory on first visit

BLYTH TAIT made his first visit to Burgham a winning one with owner Ronnie Bartlett's ex-hunter Bear Necessity V. Blyth pipped Oliver Townend (who had re-routed Harthill Percy from Cholmondeley Castle in search of what he felt would be better ground) to second in the Howard Russell Construction CIC2*.

Blyth said of his winner: "He's a doddle to ride, but is not built like a classic event horse. He's not a flashy mover but he's very trainable and I've spent a lot of



Oliver Townend's decision to reroute Harthill Percy to Burgham pays off

time getting him more supple and softer on the flat, which is starting to pay off."

Blyth toyed with switching his entry to the CIC3* after walking the course but, in hindsight, was glad he didn't.

"He didn't have a great time in the CIC3* at Tattersalls, where he was retired after a run-out, so it was really nice for him to come out here and enjoy an easier run before going back up to three-star level," said Blyth.

Another horse back on track following confidence problems was Balladeur Durban Hills, who finished third on 47 under Sarah Parkes.

"He had lost his confidence in water when I took him over about 18 months ago," said Sarah. "I've spent the time since then slowly building it up by making sure he gets his feet wet on virtually a weekly basis. Luckily I'm based near Aston-le-Walls so I'm able to make the most of the facilities there."

Andrew Hoy and Caroline Powell dominated the small open intermediate section, filling the top four places between them. Andrew took top spot with the Gatcombe-bound Cheeky Calimbo, owned by his rider and Christiane Classen. The pair completed on their excellent dressage score of 22.6, with Caroline taking second and third with Carneron Crawford's duo Onwards And Upwards and Up Up And Away.

"Cheeky is very consistent in the dressage, but it's an ongoing job trying to find the right formula with him across country," admitted Andrew. "He's quite little and he tries very hard. When horses try that hard you really have to get the balance right between riding positively and sensitively."

Saturday's two intermediate sections were won by Nicola Wilson with Hero Motivator and Aoife Clark with Rienroe Lucky Ranger. H&H

A DAY OF FIRSTS



Nicola Wilson (One Two Many) scored her first 10 in a dressage test before going on to finish second in the CIC3*

BURGHAM proved to be an event to remember for a wide variety of reasons.

It was Northumberland's first FEI international horse trial. A delighted and "very proud" Nicola Wilson scored her first ever 10 in a dressage test (en route to scoring 38.4 with One Two Many).

Blyth Tait achieved his first CIC win since coming out of retirement. This was Sarah Parkes' (third in the CIC2*) first competition at this level.

Andrew Hoy had his first competitive outing with Lanfranco, the horse previously ridden to four-star level by ex-wife Bettina. The pair finished fourth in the OI.

Aoife Clark's Rienroe Lucky Ranger notched up his first win at intermediate level.

Balladeur Durban Hills is back on track following water training with Sarah Parkes



Results

OWEN PUGH BURGHAM (2)

CIC3* - 1. Westwood Mariner (F French) 38.1, 0.0-38.1; 2. One Two Many (N Wilson) 38.0, 0.0-39.0; 3. Sandiman II (O Townend) 42.9, 0.0-42.9; **CIC2*** - 1. Bear Necessity V (B Tait) 42.1, 0.0-42.1; 2. Harthill Percy (O Townend) 45.0, 0.0-45.0; 3. Balladeur Durban Hills (S Parkes) 43.0, 0.0-47.0; **OI** - 1. Cheeky Calimbo (A Hoy) 23.6, 0.0-23.6; 2. Onwards And Upwards (C Powell) 25.0, 0.0-25.0; 3. Up Up And Away (C Powell) 28.2, 0.0-43.2; **int sec** - 1. Rienroe Lucky Ranger (A Clark) 37.0, 0.0-39.0; 2. Balladeur (A Trew) 33.6, 4.5-44.4; 3. Wee Max (J Sommerville) 34.1, 3.2-44.4; **sec D** - 1. Hero Motivator (N Wilson) 34.6, 4.4-44.4; 2. Take Of Two Shivers (S Burdick) 37.7, 0.0-24.9; 3. Dunbog Gypsy Rose (M Pringle) 34.6, 3.2-47.7; **ON** - 1. Devanor SH (C Wishart) 27.5, 0.0-29.5; 2. Faerie Myth (K Dicker) 28.5, 0.0-30.3; 3. Gollie Gosh (L Birley) 33.5, 0.0-35.9; **nov sec F** - 1. Victor B (W Murray) 29.0, 0.0-29.8; 2. Mission Man II (J Sommerville) 32.0, 0.0-32.3; 3. B So Milly (E Harvey) 24.5, 0.0-32.5; **sec P** - 1. Dizzem S (S Bowle) 25.0, 0.0-25.8; 2. Black Eyed Pea III (J Luton) 29.0, 0.0-29.3; 3. Nordic Diamond Dan (W Olden) 27.5, 0.0-43.1; **BEI/O** - 1. Sunny Times (D Rutherford) 22.5, 0.0-22.5; 2. Writer Call (S Hunt) 27.0, 0.0-27.3; 3. Persian Con (H Harker) 25.0, 0.0-29.0; **BEIO** - 1. Cassendilly Autumn Converter (E Carmichael) 27.0, 0.0-27.2; 2. Zolka (E Galbraith) 29.5, 0.0-29.5; 3. Ricardo Breez (S Rowe) 25.5, 0.0-30.5; **sec M** - 1. Foxwood Brown Sugar (A Lumley) 22.0, 0.0-22.2; 2. Flagmount (O Morrison) 25.0, 0.0-25.0; 3. Cowley Zest (E Parker) 25.5, 0.0-26.3; **sec N** - 1. Attache Heights (J Somerville) 24.0, 0.0-24.2; 2. Edouard Van Her Cabernet (S Rankin) 26.5, 0.0-26.5; 3. Shamrockdale Fight (W Olden) 30.0, 0.0-30.0; **BE9** - 1. Laughin'naacal Edward (L Forty) 21.0, 0.0-25.0; 2. Easy Tiger V (J Somerville) 28.0, 0.0-28.3; 3. Holly (R Henderson) 34.5, 0.0-34.5; **BE9** - 1. 1. Pica (L Baker-Crosswell) 30.0, 0.0-30.5; 2. Mr Incredible II (M O'Mara) 27.0, 0.0-31.3; 3. Faerie Myth (K Dicker) 28.5, 0.0-30.3; 4. Gollie Gosh (L Birley) 33.5, 0.0-35.9; 5. Revett (E McDonnell) 25.0, 0.0-25.5; 3. Lily Of The Valley III (K Redfern) 21.5, 0.0-25.5; **sec K** - 1. Coopycat (E Harvey) 24.0, 0.0-24.2; 2. Goldrook Outlander (K Sanderson) 25.5, 0.0-25.5; 3. Wait For It (K Herd) 25.5, 0.0-25.5.