

# Persimmon's efforts bear fruit

**KBIS WELLINGTON HANTS**  
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By Hannah Lemieux

The persistent rain during the advanced day did sadly result in withdrawals scattered throughout the sections, but it did not appear to dampen spirits. Kitty King's Persimmon coped with the soggy conditions and showed he was back to his best after a shaky start to the season.

The pair topped the advanced eight- and nine-year-old section, with a 29.1 dressage.

"We had a pretty rubbish spring, in fact it was one of his worst ever, but things are definitely picking up again," said Kitty of the Frank and Jane Inns-owned gelding.

"From this win, I can now put all previous issues to bed and move on," she said, referring to a confidence-knocking fall in the water at Bramham GC13.

"He loved the ground and didn't even notice the wet conditions. His cross-country round felt super and I had a smile on my face the whole way round."

Runner-up to Kitty, Somerford Park-based Tyler Cassells, will now "bite the bullet" and step his ride, Grandlam, up to three-star following a solid performance in what was only the gelding's second advanced run. They added two poles in the showjumping to a dressage of 32.1.

"It's all thanks to my boss John Marsden; I took over the ride from him in 2012 when the horse was at intermediate level," said Tyler. "I have worked for John for seven years and he has helped me so much. When I first started working for him I could barely get round a BE100, so I owe him a lot."



Runner-up to Kitty and Persimmon, Grandlam will now step up to three-star with Tyler Cassells



Kitty King and Persimmon are back on top form to take the advanced eight- and nine-year-old section

**Plain sailing for Piggy**  
SECTION T winner Piggy French was impressive across country riding the 13-year-old Westwood Mariner, a ride she took over last year after Polly Stockton gave birth to her second child. They sat just 0.4 of a penalty behind Francis Whittington and Easy Target [27.3] after the dressage, but took the lead when Francis withdrew before the showjumping.

"He's an older, experienced horse, but it has taken a while to get to know him — Polly rode him from when he was a five-year-old so he is very much Polly's horse.

I've really had to adjust my riding to work with him and find an understanding," said Piggy of the Burghley-bound gelding.

Sarah Stretton was closest to Piggy's winning score [45.5], finishing 5.3pens behind her in second on her long-term campaigner Skip On It.

Just making it to the event was a victory for Sarah — her lorry refused to start before she had even left her Warwickshire base, severely delaying her drive down.

"By the time we had arrived I had only 10 minutes to warm up for the dressage, so I was really



"I've had to adjust my riding to work with him" — Piggy French gels with Westwood Mariner to win section T. The pair now head to Burghley



A curtailed warm-up failed to stop Sarah Stretton and Skip On It finishing just behind Piggy French

shocked when I saw my mark of 29.6 on the scoreboard — maybe I should use that tactic more often!" quipped Sarah.

She has ridden the diminutive 15-year-old gelding since he was five, and the pair will now head to Burghley on the back of this successful run.

**Star turn by Pamero**  
KAUTO STAR's owner Clive Smith looked to be enjoying his new-found eventing ownership, albeit in the pouring rain. He watched Pamero 4 claim the top spot in section S, ridden by Laura Collett.

The combination have made an impressive climb up the grades this season — Pamero competed his first novice only in March this year.

The seven-year-old was purchased from Germany by Clive, who went over there to see him with Laura.

"He had done a lot of showjumping with Irish rider Stephan Dubsky — so you could say he is a German horse with an Irish brain!" said Laura.

"He has struggled with the more advanced dressage movements, as he had not done anything like it before, but what he lacks on the flat he makes up for in his jump," she added.

Kent-based rider Georgie Strang enjoyed a successful weekend, picking up three top-10 placings with her three rides. She claimed third and eighth in advanced section U, and also scored an intermediate win riding Cooley Earl in section P.

The cross-country proved to be highly influential. Many riders fell to the first serious question on the course; the Burges Salmon ditch combination at fence six. It became the bogey fence of the day, with some riders losing their line over the ditch and running out at part C, a skinky triple brush — it caught out any signs of greenness or loss in concentration.

Open intermediate winners over the weekend were Pippa Funnell (Sandman 7) and Sara Squires (Sula Blue). The other intermediate sections went to Danielle Dunn (V Zermie 5B), Samantha Brown (Mad About U), Izzy Taylor (Call Me Maggie May) and Becky Woolven (Charlton Down Riverdance). Sweden's Hevly Wik claimed the open intermediate under-21 section with Direct Cruising, H&H



'A German horse with an Irish brain' — Pamero 4 partners Laura Collett to the top spot in section S

## COURSE CHAT

IT was organiser David Sheerin's first year in the role — he was previously assistant to former organiser Guy Prest, managing director of the event's title sponsor, KBIS Insurance. The team had worked hard on the ground, investing in fertilising and ensuring a good grass covering. Next year the direction of all courses will be reversed to vary the terrain. David tested out the going first-hand on the Saturday, riding Malbec to sixth in BE100 section B.

PIGGY FRENCH received the Janet Benney Perpetual Challenge Trophy, in memory of the popular organiser of Highclere Horse Trials — the event from which Wellington stemmed — who died last year. It is awarded each year to the combination with the lowest penalty score in the advanced classes.

## Results

**adv B/9yo** — 1. Persimmon (K King) 29.1, 0.44=43.5; 2. Grandlam (T Cassells) 32.1, 2.12=52.9; 3. Cooley Business Time (G Strang) 34.5, 4.15=53.7; **adv 8** — 1. Pamero 4 (L Collett) 30.7, 0.17=6=48.9; 2. The Deputy (I Price) 27.1, 8.17=2=52.3; 3. Mirage D'Elle (P Funnell) 30.5, 6.17=2=53.7; **sec T** — 1. Westwood Mariner (P French) 27.1, 15.8=45.5; 2. Skip On It (S Stretton) 29.6, 0.21=2=50.8; 3. Wardeno (C Pickman) 30.0, 2.24=5=45.0; **sec M** — 1. Sandman 7 (P Funnell) 28.0, 1.15=30.2; 2. The Court Jester (S Birch) 28.6, 4.32=36.8; 3. Indian Mill (P Taylor) 28.2, 2.0=36.2; **sec O** — 1. Sula Blue (S Squires) 29.6, 0.10=29.6; 2. Salfian (R Long) 27.3, 0.2=29.3; 3. Upeland (N Spratt) 28.2, 0.12=29.4; **int 8** — 1. V Zermie 5B (D Dunn) 24.6, 4.2=3=28.2; 2. Kilar Aidar (H Cole) 25.0, 5.6=3=31.3; 3. Islington (R P) 25.0, 1.5=6=40.6; **sec N** — 1. Mad About U (B Brown) 25.0, 2.8=28.3; 2. Montserrat (D Berkeley) 30.0, 0.4=30.4; 3. Strike Smartly (D Berkeley) 33.2, 0.0=33.2; **sec P** — 1. Cooley Earl (G Strang) 25.0, 4.2=29.2; 2. Princeton II (L Brown) 30.9, 0.12=32.1; 3. Connerie (S Bullmore) 23.8, 2.5=36.3; **sec Q** — 1. Call Me Maggie May (I Taylor) 32.3, 0.16=33.9; 2. Billy The Biz (P Funnell) 25.9, 0.10=35.9; 3. Kings Choice (M King) 30.5, 0.10=31.4; **sec R** — 1. Charlton Down Riverdance (B Woolven) 34.1, 0.0=34.5; 2. Nice N Breezy (A Cooley) 33.0, 0.0=33.0; 3. Imperator (G Howe) 28.8, 4.8=39.6; **0x12** — 1. Direct Cruising (H

Wik) 30.5, 4.12=36.7; 2. Wonder II (S Callard) 30.5, 0.12=42.2; **BE100open sec D** — 1. Step Smartly (D Berkeley) 27.0, 0.27=27.0; 2. Dartmoor (R Hutchins) 29.5, 0.10=29.5; 3. West Lake (P Instone) 30.0, 0.0=30.0; **sec E** — 1. Webster III (S Ewen) 28.0, 0.0=28.0; 2. Hugo! Go! Rio! (M Parn) 32.0, 0.0=32.0; 3. Quilo Dynamic (K Cross) 33.0, 0.0=33.0; **BE100 sec A** — 1. D (S Birch) 27.0, 0.27=27.2; 2. Asis (K King) 28.0, 0.29=28.3; 3. Raintown Lass (B Staples) 29.0, 0.29=29.3; **sec B** — 1. Kincooley (S Birch) 25.5, 0.0=25.5; 2. The Night Traveller (A Bragg) 28.5, 0.0=28.5; 3. Permal Touch Of Sun (D Barnes) 29.0, 0.29=29.3; **sec C** — 1. Jacorde (N Pearce) 25.5, 0.0=25.5; 2. Head The Game (B Staples) 27.5, 0.0=27.5; 3. Kincooley Cruising (S Birch) 27.5, 0.0=27.5; **sec H** — 1. Smooth Emperor (P Price) 24.5, 0.0=24.5; 2. The Question (A Wilson) 31.5, 0.0=31.5; 3. Dario II (R Fox) 27.5, 4.0=31.5; **sec I** — 1. Landsman (K Harris) 30.0, 0.30=30.3; 2. Romm (L) 30.5, 0.0=30.5; 3. Permal Dawson (P Price) 28.5, 0.0=28.5; **sec L** — 1. Blako (R Fox) 27.0, 0.27=27.2; 2. Winter Call (S Hunt) 28.5, 0.0=28.5; 3. Ister Van Ter Royen (N Campbell) 30.0, 0.0=30.0; **BE100plus sec F** — 1. MGH Regents Street (M Durans) 24.5, 0.0=24.5; 2. Waoli (C Saddy) 28.0, 0.0=28.0; 3. Symmetry (G Wood) 31.0, 0.0=31.0; **sec G** — 1. Watch Me (G Howe) 27.4, 0.31=27.4; 2. Vendredi Bata (K King) 32.5, 0.0=32.5; 3. Domingo (S B) (N Watt) 32.0, 0.0=32.0.