



'He is a superstar in the making, and if he doesn't make four-star then I've failed him' – Piggy French has high hopes for her intermediate winner, Cooley Top Cat

A French eclipse

Kelsall Hill (2), Cheshire

25-27 September

By Jo Prestwich

THE phrase "Eclipse first, the rest nowhere" was coined for the legendary racehorse who ran his rivals ragged and remained unbeaten in the 1760s.

Fast forward some 250 years and it could just as well have applied to Piggy French, whose Sunday outing to Kelsall Hill had to be seen to be believed. Her four rides picked up two firsts, a second and a third, and the only person to beat her was herself as she won the intermediate and followed up with a one-two-three in the open intermediate (OI).

Fittingly, both her winners – Jayne McGovern's Cooley Top Cat (intermediate) and Racesafe's Belco HRS in the OI – trace back to the famous horse through their dams.

Piggy only started riding Cooley Top Cat in June, and in eight outings the horse has now recorded four wins.

"He was bought by default," said Piggy, who saw the horse while in Ireland for Tattersalls Horse Trials. "Jayne needed another horse like a hole in the head, but having seen him we couldn't leave him behind. He is a superstar in the making and if he doesn't make four-star then I've failed him."

Belco HRS is now heading for Weston Park's CC12*, bypassing Osberton where he has been five-, six- and seven-

year-old champion with Tom How in the saddle.

"Tom did an amazing job on the horse," added Piggy. "He's given up riding full-time for a proper job; eventing is now a hobby and Belco is no hobby horse. He might be nine but he seems to think he's five. That said, he's a lovely boy."

Filling the runner-up position behind Piggy in the intermediate was 18-year-old Aimee Penny riding Hirondele De Fribois B. The mare had competed up to novice level when Aimee bought her but came with a reputation of being a bit of a wild child.

"I took a massive risk buying her and I still ride her five times before I do the dressage, but she's

very consistent across country," said Aimee, who has done her A levels this year and is now concentrating on a career with horses. "I have to remind myself that she did her first intermediate only 12 months ago and is not that experienced."

The Mark Phillips/David Evans cross-country caused its fair share of trouble, with the corner at 7a proving the bogey.

"It was a course that made good use of the terrain," said Piggy. "The going was perfect and although it was a little twisty it was still smooth to ride. Mine were all having final runs before three-days and it couldn't have been better." **H&H**

RESULTS

OI-1, Belco HRS (P French) 24.1,0,2,4=26.5; 2, Quarrycrest Echo (P French) 28.6,0,2,8=31.4; 3, Morswood (P French) 27.5,4,2=33.5.
Int sec V-1, Cooley Top Cat (P French) 24.8,0,2=26.8; 2, Hirondele De Fribois B (A Penny) 32.1,0,0=32.1; 3, Maesmawr Fox (H Waterhouse) 32.3,0,7,6=39.9. ON-1, Stormhill Clover (E Chandler) 33.3,0,1,6=34.9; 2, For The Boys (C Hardie) 28.8,0,8=36.8; 3, Cooley Roller Coaster (E Chandler) 31.4,4,4=39.4. ONu18-1, Akava (S Evans) 35.3,0,0=35.3; 2, Forrests Foxy Lady (H Coy) 25.8,8,4=37.8; 3, Strike A Pose (H Needham) 29.3,4,6=39.3. nov sec M-1, Don Quidam (P Sims) 27.5,0,2=29.5; 2, Cisia (H Booth) 26.3,0,4=30.3; 3, Testa Rossa Express (R Curtis) 33.8,0,0=33.8. sec N-1, Oaklands First Time (A Duffort) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 2, Mini Cooper S (J De Winton) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 3, William XVII (A Hua Tian) 17.0,10=27. sec P-1, Castle View Larry (J Clarke) 28.5,0,2,8=31.3; 2, Killy Puisseance (D Meehan) 36.0,0=36; 3, Thunder VI (M Owen) 33.5,0,3,2=36.7. BE100Open-1, Dunaire Duke Of York (V Hancock) 28.5,0,0=28.5; 2, Farnabys Dream (N Furniss) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 3, Drop The Subject (A Kollith) 30.8,0,0=30.8. BE100Out8-1, Lookout Lollypop (S Wilson) 27.0,1,6=28.6; 2, Noble Rebel (K Taylor) 30.5,0,2=32.5; 3, Killbunny Now Or Never (H Needham) 30.3,4,0=34.3. BE100 sec H-1, Craobh Rua (D Liwellyn) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 2, Future Boy SMH (C Ryan-Bell) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 3, Djanjo III (R Alcorn) 29.0,0,8=29.8. sec L-1, Davinci I (J Brakewell) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 2, Stu N Dumlplings (A Morris) 27.3,0,0=27.3; 3, Global Royal Luxor (E Philip) 29.5,0,0=29.5. sec U-1, Naughty Nala (M

Owen) 21.0,0=21; 2, Thrift Linda May (V Hancock) 25.3,0,0=25.3; 3, Casta Diva (M Thelwell) 25.0,0,8=25.8. BE90Open-1, Timberwolf III (R Long) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 2, Samuraj Elite (F Barry) 32.0,1,2=33.2; 3, Red Jamboree (S Harvey) 33.3,0,0=33.3. BE90 sec A-1, Valentino VII (A Charnley) 31.5,0,2,8=34.3; 2, Handsome II (B Hartley) 34.5; 3, Dreamcatcher VII (R Gray) 34.5,0,0,4=34.9. sec B-1, Harthill Chilliout (O Lofthouse) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 2, Victori Knight (J Hughes-Jones) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Jumbo Jetstream (K Trueman) 31.3,0,0=31.3. sec C-1, Hej Ariel (B Hartley) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 2, Kellys Hill (S Cadwallader) 26.3,0,0=26.3; 3, Carnsdale Beachboy (L Robinson) 26.5,0,0=26.3. sec Q-1, Tea In Marrakech (H Duning) 22.3,4,0=26.3; 2, Daido (L Morton) 25.5,4,0=29.5; 3, Quailin Surreal (A Bradbury) 32.5,0,0=32.5. sec R-1, Out Of The Blue (J Penny) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Lux Like Snow (C Griffiths) 25.8,4,0=29.5; 3, Dstod Boston Lux (J Kirby) 29.4,0=33. sec S-1, Brineton Rupert (K Olivieri) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2, Humamelody (R Gilshan) 31.3,0,0=31.3; 3, Goodshapes Beauty (A Towler) 32.4,36. sec T-1, Under Wraps (A Cornwall) 21.8,0,1,6=23.4; 2, Knights Beau (M Wadeson) 27.8,0,0=27.8; 3, Pictus Durian (S Kranz) 27.8,0,0=27.8. BEBO(T) sec E-1, Llanidoy Joy (N Butterworth) 26.0,0=26; 2, Landis Rocket Man (R Gilshan) 23.3,0,7=30.2; 3, Midhope Diamond (A Herring) 31.5. sec F-1, A Touch Of Brandy (B Lancashire) 28.0,0=28; 2, Ardfield Zena (F White) 29.0,0=29; 3, Larriston Red Bailey (D Titterton) 26.3,4,0=30.3. sec G-1, Lightning Conductor (C Brierley) 26.0,0=26; 2, Carlando (L Walkden) 26.0,0=26; 3, Crabbles Cloudy (G Thomas) 24.3,0,2,4=26.7.