

ground was good, and the fences are well built and back horses off, so it's a perfect opportunity to get a good run into a fence. I took advantage of that and let the horses have a gallop."

Perpetual runner-up

"I can't believe I came second again! I think that's the fourth time," said Piggy French, when the CIC* results were announced. Despite adding both third and fourth places to her runner-up spot, she could only laugh despairingly: "What do I have to do to win it?"

Piggy undoubtedly has a great string of young horses, with these three all bought as four-year-olds in 2012.

"Morswood [second] and Darcee II [third] came from Donal Barnwell, while Cooley Dream Extreme [fourth] was from

Richard Sheane. The one-star is a great class to do just before you move a horse up to intermediate, and these three all ran as I hoped and expected. I just hadn't bargained for Willa!" she said.

It was Willa Newton who denied Piggy the one-star win. Willa bought Caja 20 as a five-year-old, sourced through Dirk Schrade, with whom she trains every winter.

"I would never normally have bought a chestnut mare, but she's a super jumper and very trainable; it's my dream to get her to Le Lion's seven-year-old championships," she said. "She does, however, live up to her type and is very sharp. She can whip round in a flash."

So it would seem — she had Willa on the ground in the showjumping warm-up ring. [H&H](#)