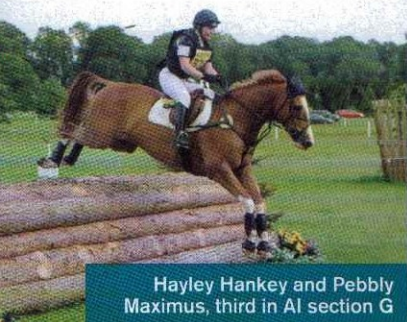


New pilot finds Orlando to be the perfect package

288

intermediate
starters



Hayley Hankey and Pebbly Maximus, third in AI section G

SALPERTON PARK

By Julie Harding

IN what turned out to be a day of emphatic triumphs and unfortunate lows at the Saffery Champness Salperton Horse Trials – Mary King and Francis Whittington both found themselves on the injury list – Izzy Taylor and new ride Orlando experienced the sweet taste of success by winning advanced intermediate section G.

Although the partnership is still in its fledgling stages, the Banbury-based rider believes that she is starting to gel with the 12-year-old gelding who arrived at her yard in the spring having been with his previous pilot, Georgie Dalton, for five years.

"They had a real relationship so it's a big change for him," said Izzy who has been having lessons with Tracie Robinson and Yogi Breisner.

"Orlando is proper and very rideable on the flat. Across country he's genuine and he really tries. On our first couple of outings we didn't get each other in the show jumping but it came together here," added Izzy who recorded a prized clear with the chestnut around David Brockett's show jumping track which turned out to be as influential as Mike Etherington-Smith's 20-fence cross-country course.

Fourteen of the 25 starters completed section G but Sian



The former Georgie Dalton ride Orlando carries new jockey Izzy Taylor to victory in AI section G. 'They had a real relationship so this is a big change for him'

Wynne Morris and Circus's fall at fence 3 prompted a flurry of medical vehicles to this straightforward sawbench. Sian was reportedly unhurt but Francis Whittington, who was contesting open intermediate section E when Fernhill Highlight left a leg at Listers Turtle (fence 16) and catapulted his rider into the ground, sustained a suspected broken collarbone. America's Clark Montgomery and Loughan Glen also parted company here.

More influential, however, were the preceding brush corners at 14, whose myriad victims

included Izzy Taylor with both Little Maestro and Dax Van Ternieuwbeke, Mark Todd aboard Ravenstar and Jock Paget with Chequers Play The Game.

Fence 11, a log drop to a skinny triple brush, claimed a similar number of scalps, not least Carolyn Bates's stallion Philanderer II, the ride of Andrew Nicholson, Tristram Owers and SPS Braveheart and Tom Robinson who was eliminated with Odds Against.

Mary King's crashing fall from Kings Temptress at the penultimate fence left the Olympic medallist unconscious for five minutes and with a trip to the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in the offing, although she was discharged within three hours (see News).

Putting others in the shade

Mary had been contesting OI section F which was headed by Badminton winner Jock Paget riding Shady Grey, another embryonic partnership, the grey son of Beauchamp King sold by the Kiwi's former boss, Andrew

Nicholson, to a syndicate for Jock to ride.

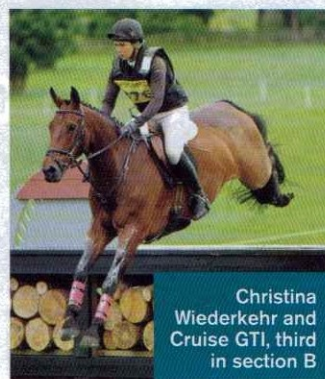
"Andrew has trained him very well but he's a sensitive horse and I'm working on getting him less fragile and making him chill out," said Jock. "He's sharp but he's my favourite type of horse. He's very like Clifton Promise who you ask to do something once but not twice."

Despite the sale of Shady Grey, to Jock, Lucy Allison and Olivia Berry, the Kiwi rider still has gaps in his string.

"I need three more four-star horses for my ultimate team," he said. "I'm just so grateful to Andrew for offering me this horse as he filled one of the gaps I had."

Lucy Jackson and Willy Do claimed OI section E, a form of compensation for the horse missing Badminton – due to him being out of sorts – and then Luhmühlen – because his rider was given an automatic suspension following a mild head injury sustained at Bramham.

"You never come to Salperton expecting to win so I'm pretty chuffed," said the Kiwi who

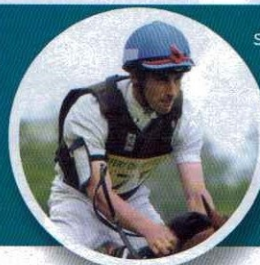


Christina Wiederkehr and Cruise GTI, third in section B

4 IN THE MONEY

REGULAR red rosette collector **Kitty King** found herself at the head of affairs in intermediate section C with the Irish-bred Mo Cuisne despite a blip.

"He had a panic attack in the dressage," said his jockey. "He went up the centre line



shaking, wouldn't move off from the halt and then shot across the arena sideways. He did the rest of his test really nicely, though. His range of marks went from zero to nine." **Astier Nicolas** (left) piloted his top horse, Piau De