

nine horses in total finished with cross-country penalties added to their tally, including Tina Cook's De Novo News, who said no on his first approach to the Stonar School Cabins at fence 3, and Louisa Lockwood's Ballyferis Flight, who did the same a few fences later at the Smith & Williamson Offset.

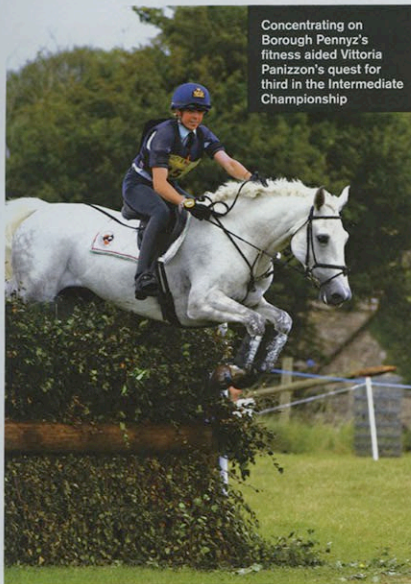
#### A winning Brucester

Oliver Townend made sure that at least one Gatcombe Trophy went to his Ellesmere home, Brucester Rooster giving him a Novice Championship victory after he finished on his competitive dressage score of 29.6.

This left Andrew Nicholson and the mare Omeya, who only commenced her eventing career this season, trailing in second and China's Alex Hua Tian, who was shadowed by a TV crew throughout Gatcombe, in third with Furst Love.

The Irish-bred Brucester came via Vaw Philipps.

"I saw him looking over the stable door and said to Vere: 'I



Concentrating on Borough Pennyz's fitness aided Vittoria Panizzon's quest for third in the Intermediate Championship

wouldn't bother with that one!' He told me I was making a mistake," said Oliver, recalling his first meeting with the gelding who had then only been broken and lightly jumped. "He was definitely right. I realised that as soon as I sat on him. He's one of the nicest horses I've ever ridden, with a really trainable brain."

Ruth Edge, previously a queen of Gatcombe, suffered a disastrous Novice Championships. Having occupied first and second place following the dressage with Mister Maccondy and Bojack JX, she withdrew the former after rolling three show jumps, while the latter was eliminated for a horse fall at the very last cross-country fence.

Third-placed Sarah Bullimore withdrew Reve Du Rouet after another hefty show jumping score, while Kitty King and Zidane, fourth after the dressage, pulled up at fence 11 following two refusals.

The Kiwi benefit theme had begun on Saturday when Andrew Nicholson scooped both advanced sections, with Calico Joe and Quimbo. The latter is owned, like Andrew's British Open winner Nereo, by Libby Sellar and he was notching up his third victory of the season.

"He's won a lot for an eight-year-old," said the jockey who felt that his other winner, Calico Joe, had turned a corner over the coloured poles.

"He's a good dressage horse and he's very fast across country but the show jumping used to be his weak link. This season, though, he's been jumping so much better. I think he could be a class horse."



Oliver Townend found his Novice Championship winner Brucester Rooster unappealing at first glance but he was soon persuaded otherwise when trying the eight-year-old



New Intermediate Champions Angus Smales and Clover Hero in action over the Smith & Williamson Offset

Photograph by David Miller

## BRIEFLY

### RECORD MAKERS

ANDREW Nicholson isn't the first rider to notch up a one-two in the British Open. Mary King achieved the same feat in 1996 on King William and King Solomon III, as did William Fox-Pitt in 2003 on Stunning and Moon Man.

### BRILLIANT BACKER

CHARLOTTE Straker has owned horses with Angus Smales since he left school. She purchased Clover Hero after the son of Cult Hero was discovered in a field by Peter Mellor.

"After I took on the ride I rang Charlotte and told her that we had to buy this horse," said Angus. "I hope he's a long-term prospect!"

### UNKNOWN CELEBRITY

AFTER Emily Baldwin fell in the British Open her mount Drivetime galloped off and was eventually caught by a fence judge. A good samaritan rider came along and offered to take the horse to his connections. "But who are you?" queried the fence judge. It was Zara Phillips.

## RESULTS

### BRITISH OPEN

**(Sec E) – 1,** Nereo (Andrew Nicholson), 29.9, 0, 0 = 29.9; **2,** Avebury (Andrew Nicholson), 28, 4, 0 = 32; **3,** Clifton Lush (Jonathan Page), 30.1, 4, 0 = 34.1.

### INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Smith & Williamson (Sec D) – 1,** Clover Hero (Angus Smales), 32.5, 0, 0 = 32.5; **2,** Arctic Moon (Oliver Townend), 29.6, 4, 2 = 35.6; **3,** Borough Pennyz (Vittoria Panizzon), 36.7, 0, 0 = 36.7.

### NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Dodson & Horrell (Sec C) – 1,** Brucester Rooster (Oliver Townend), 29.6, 0, 0 = 29.6; **2,** Omeya (Andrew Nicholson), 32.3, 0, 0 = 32.3; **3,** Furst Love (Alex Hua Tian), 31.2, 0, 2 = 33.2.

### ADVANCED

**(Sec A) – 1,** Calico Joe (Andrew Nicholson), 27.9, 0, 4 = 31.9; **2,** Jaybee Calypso (Christopher Burton), 27.9, 12, 0 = 39.9; **3,** Dry Old Party (Tom McEwen), 32, 0, 8 = 40. **(Sec B) – 1,** Quimbo (Andrew Nicholson), 27.5, 1, 9.2 = 37.7; **2,** Macchiato (William Fox-Pitt), 32.3, 4, 7.2 = 43.5; **3,** Gaucho (William Fox-Pitt), 35.2, 0, 8.8 = 44.



Michael Jackson and The Masters Apprentice finish on their first-phase score to secure fourth spot in the Novice Championship