

## THE GREEN PARTY

THE IRISH were out in force in the CIC3\* and CIC2\*, preparing for three-day runs at Ballindenisk, Tattersalls, Bramham and Badminton and with an eye on this year's European Championships at Blair Castle.

Sarah Ennis was the highest placed, with Elizabeth Power, Camilla Spiers, Joseph Murphy (pictured below, aboard DHI Top Story) and Michael and Patricia Ryan also achieving top-20 placings.



Oliver Townend and the Bramham-bound Skyhills Cavalier take CIC3\* fourth

lovingly describes as "a real princess," led from the outset, affirming Gemma's belief that she is championship horse on account of her presence on the flat coupled with being "an excellent jumper with the most fabulous heart".

The pair added 15.6 cross-country time-penalties to a dressage score of 33.6 to secure the win.

"I just let her go and she found her own rhythm," added Gemma. "Thankfully it was just [fast] enough."

Overnight rain — which continued throughout the first class of the day, the CIC2\* — had made the otherwise perfect going

slightly holding, but all riders attested that they would much rather have this than run on hard ground. Although all David Evans' tracks walked big and posed some challenging questions, they rode extremely well and were much appreciated.

"I cannot praise the courses enough," said Gemma. "The team here have made a huge effort at all levels. The three-star track was particularly good, and I feel we can now go to a three-day well prepared."

Arctic Soul heads to Badminton in May, with Chico Bella P going to either Tattersalls or Bramham.

Ireland's Sarah Ennis split Gemma's rides in the three-star to

finish second on a combined score of 52.4 with her 2014 Chatsworth winner, Horseware Steller Rebound. However, it was a distinctly different Steller Rebound that Sarah found herself sitting on at Burgham, which she admitted was lovely, if slightly unexpected.

"He's usually a total terrorist and we had major braking issues at Chatsworth and WEG last year, but it was like butter wouldn't melt in his mouth today," admitted a bemused Sarah. "He was much calmer and really seems to have grown up."

She was quick to credit the influence of a recent two-day training session with

Christopher Bartle.

"The man is a genius," she stated emphatically. "He helps so many people and I honestly don't know where he gets his energy from."

In particular, he has been encouraging Sarah to sit much taller when approaching fences and lengthen her reins to avoid Horseware Steller Rebound pulling her down into fences.

"This made a huge difference today," she beamed. "We didn't have a single dodgy moment, which is a first for us — I'm thinking I may be sorry that I didn't enter him for Badminton now!"

Oliver Townend was fourth

## Eventing

## THE POWER OF 1

1 — the number of combinations inside the time in the Owen Pugh CIC3\* — Paul Tapner and Indian Mill  
1 — the only showjumping clear round among the completions in the intermediate class — Will Murray and Cause Celebre  
1 — the number of seconds OI winners Angus Smales and A Bit Much were over the cross-country optimum time  
1 — the number of combinations who completed the CIC2\* cross-country with 20 jumping penalties — Jeanette Brakewell and North Astor Rosso

with the Bramham-bound Skyhills Cavalier. He was initially also confirmed on the scoreboard as having finished third with ODT Ghareeb, before being eliminated when the ground jury deemed that the pair had jumped the wrong side of a flag at the final element of the second lake complex.

"The wind was blowing the flags to the element all over the place, which confused him and meant we missed our line slightly to the element," explained Oliver. "From where I was sitting he still jumped the right side, but apparently he had a foot outside. It's frustrating as the horse thinks he's done nothing wrong."

Despite this, Oliver was very positive about the courses as a whole.

"They were all brilliantly designed," he said. "It's a long time

Growing up: usually a 'total terrorist', Horseware Steller Rebound displays a new maturity to place second in the CIC3\* under Sarah Ennis



since I've ridden tracks where everything felt 100% smooth and the distances were spot-on."

## Wilson's super comeback

NICOLA WILSON made a belated but emphatic start to her season, posting double clears with Annie Clover, One Two Many and Watermill Vision in the CIC2\*. The horses finished first, second and sixth respectively, and will run at Burnham Market before scheduled auctions on Kentucky and Badminton.

"It feels fantastic to be back and I cannot thank enough the numerous people who have supported and helped get me here," said Nicola, with her

trademark smile firmly in place. "I ran them all in the two-star as this is our first run out and is the equivalent of our initial OI really," she continued. "They're all well on in their fitness, but there were some good galloping runs on the course so it was a good test for them."

"This was Annie Clover's first run since WEG, which was a big challenge for her so I'm delighted she's come out so well," said Nicola. "I've dropped her down from a gag to a snaffle which she seems really happy in — she was having a lovely time though and I definitely had a double handful towards the end of the track."

Oliver Townend was third with Andrew Cawthray's Note Worthy, a horse back in his yard after being campaigned by Tim Boland last year.

"It was a great result for him against much more experienced horses," said Oliver.

Angus Smales headed the relatively small OI section with Diana Birch's A Bit Much. The fastest cross-country round of the class elevated them up the leaderboard after the pair added four showjumping penalties to a dressage score of 33.4. Julie Lawson and her working stallion Primitive Faerie Tale were second on 43.2, with Paul Tapner and Pioneer Milly third.

Local rider Jessica McKie, daughter of former champion jockey Ian McKie and a point-to-point trainer in her own right, snatched victory in the intermediate section from Willis Oaken by posting a faster

## Results

**OWEN PUGH BURGHAM (1)**  
CIC3\* — 1, Chico Bella P (G Tattersall) 33.6.0.15.4.49.2; 2, Horseware Steller Rebound (S Ennis) 40.8.0.11.6.52.4.3; Arctic Soul (G Tattersall) 44.4.4.6.8 = 55.2. **CIC2\*** — 1, Annie Clover (N Wilson) 35.2.0.2.4.37.6; 2, One Two Many (N Wilson) 37.5.0.4.4.41.9; 3, Note Worthy (O Townend) 36.1.6.4.9.48.3. **OI** — 1, A Bit Much (A Smales) 33.4.4.0.4.37.8; 2, Primitive Faerie Tale (J Lawson) 29.6.0.13.6.43.2; 3, Pioneer Milly (P Tapner) 30.5.4.1.10.45.3. **Int-1**, Ask The Boss (J McKie) 29.6.5.6.4.41; 2, Chiara D (W Oaken) 30.4.7.6.4.46.3; 3, Tullaher Sunrise (S Eynon) 29.3.8.1.0.44.2. **nov sec F** — 1, Shepherds Watch (C Powell) 23.3.0.0.23.3; 2, PCS Roméo (C Powell) 31.0.1.2.33.3; 3, Active Limited Edition (A Gillespie) 29.3.4.0.33.3. **sec O** — 1, The Causeway (J Wood) 32.0.0.0.35.2; Fellside Fancy Free (J Somerville) 27.6.2.2.34.2; 3, Cooley Zest (F Parker) 29.8.4.1.2.35. **ON** — 1, Madras Law (J McKie) 33.8.0.0.4.34.2; 2, Be Touchable (S Doods) 34.8.0.1.2.36.2; 3, Unique II (M MacTaggart) 32.2.4.0.36.8. **ONB** — 1, Faerie Myth (K Dicken) 27.8.0.35.2; Limbo Kaiser (S Straker) 33.5.4.0.37.5; 3, Well Designed (S Straker) 28.7.4.6.39.3. **BE100open** — 1, Ballbreaker SD (W Oaken) 22.3.0.0.22.3; 2, Turbo Toy (L Crawford) 24.3.4.0.28.3; 3, Sunny Days (S Ennis) 22.3.0.0.25.3. **BE100 sec L** — 1, Damsel Day (A McKie) 14.3.0.14.3; 2, Sorano II (Herbage (H Cooper) 18.8.0.3.2.22; 3, Worthing Day (A Singer) 23.0.0.2.3. **sec M** — 1, Knockaround (W Oaken) 17.8.4.0.21.8; 2, Rely Volunteer (D Eward) 23.0.0.0.25.3; 3, SSS Ewert (L Ritchie-Blair) 24.8.0.0.24.8. **BE20 sec H** — 1, Coosh (K Bamford) 21.3.0.0.21.3; 2, Wine Vision (C McKie) 25.0.0.0.25.3; 3, Crystal Vll (R Valls) 26.3.4.0.30.3. **sec L** — 1, Get Set (G Engleme) 25.0.0.25.3; 2, Apollo (H Gerratt) 26.8.0.0.26.3; 3, Trent Long Strike (Z Dawson) 22.8.4.0.26.8. **sec J** — 1, Cornelia's Courtesy (S Whithead) 25.5.0.0.25.5; 2, Frodo Baggins (A Forster-Bienkowski) 24.4.0.26.3; 3, Petite Pois (M Green) 27.3.4.0.30.3. **sec K** — 1, Don't Die (R Chilton) 30.0.0.30.2; 2, Our Man Flint (J McKenna) 30.0.0.30.5; 3, Pallas Vanik Wash (J PH) 31.0.0.30.3.



Local rider Jessica McKie, who is also a point-to-point trainer, pilots Ask The Boss to the top of the intermediate scoreboard with a speedy cross-country round