

DID YOU
KNOW...

LAND ROVER BURGHLEY STATS

74 combinations entered the dressage arena, six of which withdrew before the cross country. Five retired on course, eight were eliminated, with just one horse fall, Michael Jung's Fischerrocana FST. There were five unseated riders. Forty-nine pairs completed

Opposite: Tina Cook and Star Witness impress on the horse's four star debut (eighth)
Below right: Dromgurny Blue finishes the best of Oliver Townend's three rides in 11th

DAYS

Hilary Manners reports on the key autumn Events, including Great Britain's sterling silver medal-winning performance in Scotland

LAND ROVER BURGHLEY

The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials was not a particularly happy hunting ground for British riders. Michael Jung and the evergreen La Biothetique Sam FBW won the famous four star at Michael's first attempt, this feat all the more remarkable because he had suffered a bone chip above his right ankle when parting company with his dressage leader Fischerrocana FST in the first water.

Southern hemisphere riders filled the next five places, Tim and Jonelle Price second and fifth, Christopher Burton third and fourth, and Mark Todd sixth. With Cedric Lyard seventh for France and Sam Griffiths (AUS) ninth, the only Brits to make the top 10 were Tina Cook (Star Witness, eighth) and William Fox-Pitt (Fernhill Pimms, 10th).

There were, however, some notable performances. Lincolnshire's Ros Canter won the prize for the highest-placed British first-timer with Caroline Moore's Allstar B. Lying 10th after a superb dressage performance, the pair made one small mistake at the influential Discovery Valley (fence 24), but left all the coloured poles in place on the final day to finish 37th. Georgie Spence also impressed with Wii Limbo. A personal best for the horse's dressage was followed by a double clear and 12th place; the pair's third CCI4* double clear on the trot.

Oliver Townend was the only rider with three runners and it was the pathfinder, Dromgurny Blue, who placed highest in 11th. Armada dropped down to 23rd after the final phase, while his four star first-timer Samuel Thomas II (32nd) looks to have serious potential for the future.

Also having a first four star run was the smart Coopers Law, ably piloted by Emilie Chandler. She flew round the cross country: "He gave me the ride I had hoped for," she said. One of the fastest rounds of the day was that of Willa Newton and Newmarket Vasco One, who added just 2.8 time penalties to their dressage score. "I didn't realise we were that close to the time - that was something else!" she laughed. Disappointingly, she did not present on the final day.

