



Vittoria Panizzon and Chequers Play The Game stay on their leading dressage score of 34.5 in the CCI3*, adding just one showjumping time-fault for victory

‘Elvis’ rocks for Italy

Riders from five different nations score in Ireland, where Vittoria Panizzon wins the top class on ‘the best cross-country horse’ she has ridden

Tattersalls, Co Meath

THE winners of Tattersalls’ eight international classes came from five different nations, but the Italian flag was hoisted the highest after Vittoria Panizzon took the *Irish Field* CCI3*.

Gloucestershire-based Vittoria led from start to finish on Amy and Patricia Lambert’s Chequers Play The Game (Elvis), adding just one showjumping time-fault to her outstanding dressage mark of 34.5.

“She admitted that she had not foreseen her victory — which should have earned her a ticket to the European Championships in August.

“Elvis felt jarred up and not himself on Wednesday after travelling, and it took a lot of electrolytes, physio and hard work by my groom Bryony Milton to get him right,” she said. “And although he’s the best cross-country horse I’ve ridden, he doesn’t always find showjumping the easiest. I had one fence in hand and wasn’t sure

By CATHERINE AUSTEN

that would be enough, but the atmosphere today really lifted him — he liked the crowd.” Piggy French continued her run of top form with second on



Menlo Park and Oliver Townend land the CCI* for young horses

Jayne McGivern’s Quarrycrest Echo, completing on her dressage of 39.3.

“I’m very excited — this was his first CCI3* and my main worry was the distance across country,” she said. “But this was the perfect place to start because the terrain

isn’t too tough, and he coped very well.

“He’s getting so much better in his dressage. He has a fantastic brain and takes a great contact, so he does get the marks despite not having the best trot in the world.

“He spent the season with Tina Cook last year while I was pregnant and she did him a lot of good.”

Third was another CCI3* debutant, Willa Newton’s Caja 20. Willa and the nine-year-old mare franked their 2016 Blenheim CCI3* win by finishing on their 43.6 dressage score here.

The two chestnuts — Quarrycrest Echo and Caja 20 — could not be more different in breeding or type. The former is by Clover Echo out of a Cavalier mare and is a stocky, traditionally Irish type, while the finer Caja is German-bred, by Carenzo, but both are exciting prospects for Britain. The same could be said for the grey Ballaghmore Class, a 10-year-old by Courage whom Oliver Townend rode into fourth

on his dressage score of 44.4.

A strong American contingent came to Tattersalls and were second (Kim Severson on Cooley Cross Border), third (Buck Davidson on Carlevo) and fifth (Phillip Dutton on Fernhill Revelation) after dressage. But Kim retired across country after two run-outs and Buck dropped to sixth with cross-country time-faults, while Fernhill Revelation hit two showjumps and ended up seventh. Phillip did finish fifth on his other ride, Z, with just a time-fault to add to his dressage mark of 45.

TOWNEND TAKES BRITS TO SECOND

OLIVER also took second place in the George Mernagh Memorial CICO3* and drove the British team into the runner-up spot in the FEI Nations Cup competition.

Luc Chateaux’s individual victory aboard his home-bred 14-year-old stallion Propriano De L’Ebat gave the French team a comfortable 30-point win over Team GBR, with Ireland a further 30 marks behind in third.

“He’s very cool — great in the dressage, but I need to wake him up for cross-country,” said Luc, who commented that the track was bigger than those in France but less technical.

But Oliver’s warm-up for Luhmühlen CCI4* on Tom Joules’ MHS King Joules was impressive and, once again, he finished on his dressage score — this time 39.7.

“This was only his second run of the year so he was fresh in the

dressage, but he feels better than ever,” said Oliver.

They were one of only two pairs to make the time across country — the others were France’s Sidney Dufresne and Tresor Mail, sixth.

“That was me trying to slow him down — he could have been a minute faster,” said Oliver, whose successful weekend was improved further by backing the winner of the Derby at Epsom at 50-1.

Nicky Roncoroni was the other British team member to shine, finishing fifth with a cross-country round that was just one second over the time on Watts Burn. Both Alexander Bragg (Swang Crackers II) and Kitty King (Vendredi Biats) picked up 20 penalties across country.

Tim Price, who had a superb weekend with CCI2* and CCI* wins, was third in the CCI3* with Aseona M, a nine-year-old mare on whom he has taken over the ride while his wife Jonelle is pregnant. Sam Watson was the first Irish rider home in fourth on Ardagh Highlight.

The CCI3* cross-country caused quite a bit more trouble than the CCI3* had the previous day, with multiple run-outs at the penultimate fence, an angled brush following a table. These included Sarah Ennis and Horseware Stellar Rebound, second after dressage and showjumping. But in general the questions on Ian Stark’s tracks were big but clear to horses and rewarded bold riding. It is not a place to bring a horse who doesn’t



Pictures by Lorraine O’Sullivan and Radaia Prinsler

Piggy French (Quarrycrest Echo) scores 39.3 en route to CCI3* second