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Big win for Avery



New Zealander James Avery takes CIC2* section C with Zazu

A 24-year-old Kiwi shares CIC2* honours with Kitty King, while Oliver Townend takes the coveted handmade watch

King West Rockingham, Northants

By CATHERINE AUSTEN

YOUNG New Zealander James Avery scored his most significant win so far on British soil when taking section C of the CIC2* at Rockingham on Zazu.

The nine-year-old Holsteiner by Canto is owned by Joe and Alex Giannamore, who also own the

Surrey yard where James is now based, replacing Jock Paget after the latter's return to New Zealand.

James and Zazu jointly led the dressage with David Doel and Shannondale Quest on 40.2. David withdrew before showjumping, but James added

'I hunted him hard to find out if he had the stamina, and it made him'

IZZY TAYLOR ON THE DRESSAGE-BRED MONKEYING AROUND



Monkeying Around (Izzy Taylor) wins on his intermediate debut

just 1.6 cross-country time-faults to that dressage mark for victory over Piggy French (Jump Jet III) by 5.4 penalties.

"He's a very cool horse who was produced to one-star level by Jock, and it's a privilege to work on from there," said James, who secured his qualification for the CIC2* at Tattersalls here. "He's pretty flash on the flat and has a great brain — you can teach him anything."

Kitty King took the other CIC2* section for the second year running on Diana Brown. Sally Lloyd-Baker, Samantha Wilson and Sally Eyre's Vendredi Biats.

The pair led from start to



Tim Price steers Cekatinka to an AI victory on a clean sheet of 23.3

finish, with only 1.6 cross-country time-penalties to add to a smart dressage mark of 36.8.

Vendredi Biats had a very successful 2016; his only blip occurred at Le Lion d'Angers, where "a miscommunication in steering" meant 20 penalties and a missed qualification at CCI2* level. They are therefore heading for the CIC2* at Tattersalls and this was a prep run.

"The more runs he has, the more he knuckles down — he's better with his mind on the job than too fresh," said Kitty. "He has always performed well in the mud — we call him Froggy at home because he's French, but it rather suits him."

TOWNEND TAKES THE WATCH

AFTER such a dry spring, Rockingham was unexpectedly muddy, but the parkland turf held up well — only on Sunday morning was the ground in the showjumping sticky and holding.

Clear rounds in that phase were therefore influential in the intermediate sections, and Oliver Townend produced two in the open intermediate (OI) to take first and third places on Coldplay III and Ballaghmor Class.

Coldplay III, whom Ludwig Svennerstål bought from Zoe Breen over the winter, completed on his 27.5 dressage score and, by finishing one second under the time across country, won Oliver the valuable Robert Loomes & Co handmade watch for the competitor in the OI or advanced intermediate (AI) who finished closest to the optimum time.

The 10-year-old gelding, whom Oliver describes as "exceptionally talented", is now likely to be for sale.

Oliver led the AI after dressage on Cooley Master Class with 19.9 penalties, but withdrew as the horse is going to Tattersalls CCI3*.

Tim Price won the class with Joanne Pullan's Cekatinka, whom



'Exceptionally talented': Coldplay III finishes on his dressage score of 27.5 to claim the open intermediate under Oliver Townend

he has taken over from his wife Jonelle while she is pregnant.

Winner Holly Woodhead was the only rider to complete on her dressage score, 32.5, in intermediate section M aboard Parkfield Breeding's Findus FF8.

The showjumping-bred seven-year-old, by Saffier, got his name because "he's lucky he's not in a lasagne," according to Parkfield Breeding's Sharon Bishop.

"We bought him as a two-year-old as a project, and he's certainly been that," said Sharon. "He was a lunatic, and tried to climb out of his stable three times. But we always thought he was very talented and, with masses of perseverance, he has come good."

He heads to Tattersalls for the six- and seven-year-old CCI*, and the Bishops hope he will finish the year at Le Lion d'Angers.

Izzy Taylor took section N on her own and her boyfriend Charlie Sands' Monkeying Around. The Bertoli six-year-old's season has, so far, been immaculate — three novice wins, a second at Ballindenisk CCI* and now a first success at intermediate from just five runs.

"He's dressage-bred, which is

against all my beliefs, but he's a phenomenal jumper," Izzy said. "I hunted him really hard as I wanted to find out at this stage whether he's got the stamina, and that's made him."

FIRST FOR MENEUSEKAL

ANDREW NICHOLSON'S CIC* victory on Libby Sellar's As Is was a first international win for breeder Ramon Beca's stallion Meneusekal, a French thoroughbred he bought to replace Fines, sire of Badminton winner Nereo, Armada and others.

"Zacarias [a dual intermediate winner this season] is the oldest at seven, and As Is and Andrea BT4 [10th in the CIC*] are six," said Andrew. "I've got at least 10 of Meneusekal's youngster and they are all brave."

"As Is is good in all three phases, quite thoroughbred in his build and classy."

Piggy French was second on Big Berry, who, like her CIC2* runner-up Jump Jet III, is owned by her fiancé Tom March. Seven-year-old Big Berry is Irish-bred, but Piggy found him in Elmar Lesch's yard in Germany last year. He had come there from the Czech

RESULTS	
CIC2* sec B — 1. Vendredi Biats (K King) 36.8,0.1,6=38.4; 2. Alamo (J Evans) 41.1,0.5,6=46.7; 3. Box Leo (L Svennerstål) 42.7,4.0,4=47.1; sec C — 1. Zazu (J Avery) 40.2,0.1,6=41.8; 2. Jump Jet III (P French) 46.8,0.0,4=47.2; 3. Balla Star By (T Tanaka) 50.2,0.0,8=51.0; sec D — 1. As Is (A Nicholson) 42.4,0.0,0=42.4; 2. Big Berry (P French) 41.0,0.2=45; 3. Capels Hollow Drift (G Strong) 45.1,0.4=47.8; AI — 1. Cekatinka (T Price) 23.3,0.0,0=23.3; 2. Sandman 7 (P Funnell) 26.2,0.2,4=28.6; 3. Colorfast II (A Clark) 23.6,0.5,2=34.3; OI — 1. Coldplay III (O Townend) 27.5,0.0=27.5; 2. Cheeky Calimbo (A Hoy) 27.7,0.0=27.7; 3. Ballaghmor Class (O Townend) 28.0,0.4=28.4; OI2L — 1. Chillout Girl (G Mason) 33.0,0=33; 2. Harry Seven One Seven (N Lawrence) 31.8,0.2,8=34.6; 3. Painted Moon II (L Norton) 33.4,0.5,2=36.6; int sec M — 1. Findus FF8 (H Woodhead) 32.5,0,0=32.5; 2. Miss Be Cool (H Wittchel) 28.4,4=36; 3. Word On The Street (A Pearson) 29.8,4,3,2=37; sec N — 1. Monkeying Around (P Taylor) 33.0,1,6=34.6; 2. BGS Class Affair (T Findall) 30.7,4,6,8=41.5; 3. Royal Roxel (T McEwen) 30.9,0,13,2=44.1; ON — 1. Master Jack III (L Bullas) 30.8,0,4=33.2; 2. River Lark (R Jones) 30.8,0,6=36.8; 3. Reggae Man (T Johnson) 26.8,0,10,4=37.2; now sec I — 1. Eastern Gold II (A Smiles) 31.3,0,2=33.3; 2. Daytona Dreamer (K Barber) 33.3,0,2,8=36.1; 3. Isabelle Mirah (S Parkes) 29.3,0,6,8=36.1;	sec J — 1. Alvescot Magic Jewel (C Chamberlayne) 30.0,0=30; 2. Cooley Monson (P French) 26.8,0,4=30.8; 3. Freestyle II (W Newton) 23.5,0,4=31.9; sec K — 1. Reebridge Cider (I Taylor) 27.0,2,4=29.4; 2. Shes A Million (K Haines) 27.8,0,2=29.8; 3. Quintan Z (F King) 33.1,0,6=38.9; sec R — 1. Shannondale Percy (W Fox-Pitt) 22.8,0,0,8=23.6; 2. Grappa Nera (A Postolowsky) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 3. TJ Blouney Brown (D Cooper) 29.5,0,2=31.5; sec S — 1. Rimeen Silver Rocket (L Shannon) 25.3,0,4=29.7; 2. Onaida A To Z (K Richards) 28.8,0,2=30.8; 3. Lord Fred (K Barber) 27.4,0=27.4; NUL8 — 1. Gentleman George (E Miller) 32.0,0=32; 2. A Sunny Bay (E Miller) 33.5,0,1,2=34.7; 3. Rock A Bye Balladeer (L Behrens) 32.8,0,3,6=36.4; BE100 sec D — 1. Electric Lux (J P Sheffield) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2. Biennaglossino (L Kemping) 29.8,0,1,2=31; 3. The Diamond Gambler (F Harris) 32.0,0=32; sec E — 1. Bountiful Bess (I Macpherson) 15.0,2,4=18.4; 2. Martha Imp (Z Heathcoat) 20.5,0,0,8=21.3; 3. Greyford Boy (L Kemping) 19.8,0,3,6=23.4; sec F — 1. Fernhill G (P French) 25.3,0,3,6=28.9; 2. JJ Malone (A Parker) 25.8,0,4,0=29.8; 3. Outless Apollo (R Dobson) 29.3,0,0,8=30.1; sec G — 1. Swirly Temptress (G Uggott) 26.0,0,4=26.4; 2. Unchained Melody (E Philp) 24.3,0,2,8=27.1; 3. Stay In Touch (S Waite) 28.3,0,0=28.3; sec H — 1. Think Tank Think (S Ick) 32.8,0,0=32.8; 2. Sebastian IV (S Stretton) 33.8,0,0=33.8; 3. Brookpark Momentum (K Robinson) 31.3,4,0=35.3.

Republic, having been bought by the Czech eventing team from Goresbridge's Go For Gold Sale as a three-year-old.

"We'd actually seen him at Go For Gold and liked him — this was just a bit of a roundabout route by which to get him," said

Tom. "He has loads of blood and is a light, balanced horse to ride with a good brain and a correct jumping technique."

Mark Phillips' cross-country track was similar to last year and, allowing horses to bowl on, rode well. **H&H**



'SHE CAN REALLY SHIFT'

GRETA MASON, 19, took the under-21 OI on Sarah Winfrey's Chillout Girl. It was the nine-year-old, 17hh mare's second intermediate run and a first win at the level for either horse or rider.

"She is the most careful horse in the showjumping — she's had one pole down in the three sessions she has been eventing — but we've taken her slowly through the levels to give her confidence," said Greta who, although born and brought up in Australia, has taken British nationality this year to have a crack at the young rider team.

"She showed that she is nearly full thoroughbred on the cross-country today — she can really shift," Greta added.

The pair were the only ones in their section to finish on their dressage score (33).

FIRST WIN

Pictures by Peter Nixon and Julia Shearwood Photography