

Victoria Panizzon heads a larger contingent in the short format two-star



Oliver Townend and Measure For Measure on their way to a second placing in the long format CCI*



Louisa Lockwood and Highley Sprung, runners-up in the short format CCI* above Jeanette Brakewell notches up her second three-day win, aboard Romario in the CCI*

Italy's 21-year-old Vittoria Panizzon on her own Rock Model, by Rock King out of Little Model and bred by Sarah Bullen, Vittoria's trainer.

Vittoria, who now lives near Winchester and has just completed a degree in biology, has already built up an impressive record as a Young Rider with this horse and must now stand a strong chance of achieving her ambition of representing Italy at the European Championships at Blenheim.

While not quite the fastest across country, Vittoria jumped clear to finish up ahead of Louisa Lockwood on Highley Sprung. Louisa opened as joint dressage leader with William Fox-Pitt on Mrs Stopford Sackville's Silver Dollar, but the latter ground to a halt at the Cragganmore Cutting Bank and retired. Highley Sprung jumped clear, but incurred 10 cross-country time penalties.

"She was a bit tired," said Louisa of the horse who may be bound for Boekelo in October. "But the going was rather heavy and she hasn't done a lot."

Third-placed Michael Wynne, a former show jumper who took up eventing three years ago because he "got bored with show jumping", was third on Catherine Witt's beguilingly placid eight-year-old Primitive Loch, one of only two horses in this big class to complete the cross-country inside the time.

"Yes, he is very relaxed," said Michael. "He hasn't been out very often, but most times that he has had a run he has won, and he's a nice, comfortable ride."

Primitive Loch was given to Catherine Witt as a 40th birthday present and her aim is for him to contest Bramham.

Close behind in fourth place was Polly Jackson riding Time For T, just ahead of Joy Dawes on Finnisterre, who piped William Fox-Pitt (Macchiato) for fifth.

SNIPPETS

LAI LOW

SALLY O'Connor, who is well known in this country for her dressage commentaries at Badminton and Burghley, and who was on Burgie's CCI** ground jury, was laid low with a tummy upset on the second morning of dressage "due to a mix-up over medication", she explained. However, topped up with fluids and sent to bed to sleep it off, she was back in excellent health by the end of the day. Dressage continued with the other two judges, Lord Carew and Lyndsay Jenkins, and the scorers switched from three-judge to two-judge calculations so that the results were unaffected.

NON-STARTER

CAROLINE Powell failed to make it past the cross-country start box with one of several rides she had at Burgie — thus depleting the long format CCI even further — when Lady Howick's Dilemma II reared up and fell over backwards when being led into the box. Fortunately Caroline was not on board and nobody was hurt, but she decided that Dilemma's frame of mind was not conducive to a good ride so she withdrew the mare. Strangely enough, exactly the same thing happened later to Louise Lyons's First Light II.

LOYAL SERVICE

BRITISH Eventing special awards for volunteers were presented by Burgie organiser Polly Lochore to Jane Bateson (show jumping), Sally and Martin Gibson (tralestands) and Jane Stuart (stable manager), who were all retiring from the committee after many years' service.

LARGE BOX FOR 'SMALL' ANIMAL

A large horsebox was stopped at the gate on the opening morning of Burgie and the driver asked his business. The steward could hardly believe his ears at the reply: "I've brought the guinea pig." "Why on earth do you need a horsebox for a guinea pig?" he asked. All was soon explained, however, and the vehicle admitted on its important mission.

There were a few falls of the cartwheel variety at the Saffrey Champness Bales (fences 21 and 22) — it was here that Oliver Signy broke his pelvis — and these fences were subsequently removed from the course. Knowledgeable onlookers commented that these were due in no small measure to poor riding at a type of obstacle which ought to be 'show jumped'.

Course-designer Hugh Lochore said that "big straw bales have no defining profile, so the horse has no perspective", but he pointed out that the vast majority had cleared this complex perfectly well. His course was as attractive as ever, with a number of new fences on the final upper reaches of the course and modifications to many of the more familiar obstacles. Most were big, bold and inviting, with just enough skinnies to pose the necessary challenge.

Jeanette nets narrow win

The short format CCI*, sponsored by Classic Malts of Scotland, produced a dramatic tied score for the lead, but was eventually won by Jeanette Brakewell, riding Jane Heerbeck's seven-year-old Romario, who finished on her dressage score.

"I've actually won my second three-day event," exclaimed Jeanette gleefully.

The great all-rounder Romario lives with his owner, who backed him and rides him in

pure dressage competitions, while Matthew Lanni show jumps him.

Nigel Taylor had led up to the show jumping, but three time penalties with Mary Williamson's Play The Joker II left him in second place.

"I had to keep him flowing to jump clear and not hurry him," said Nigel, who added: "He gave me a really good cross-country ride."

Wales-based Katie Williams, riding Landor, was initially awarded second prize — until it was discovered that her horse was over-qualified for the class.

Third, fourth and fifth were Matthew Wright (Another Cavalier), Laura Grieve (McCallan) and Jo Aston (Southern Rumour).

The well-filled Easibed novice two-day was won by Suzanne Lumpair on Nicki Galloway's diminutive Dunganon Bay — he is just 15hh — from Louisa Milne Home riding Nanga Parbat by Pamela Ingleby. Both completed with only their dressage penalties. Close behind, with less than one mark between them, came Elna Murphy (Bachus Rose), Craig Anderson (Dunbrody Abbey) and Danny Oakden (Shannoncroft).

Well pleased with her 1 0th rosette was Josephine Carr (Monkey Business), who had driven more than 800 miles from Eastbourne in her ancient J reg horsebox to take part.

Jane Pontifex