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COVER STORY

Badminton

Done it!

THE relief on the face of Australian eventer Paul Tapner is clear as he realises he has achieved his big dream — to win Badminton.


Paul entered the showjumping arena on Monday with one fence in hand, after Mary King and Imperial Cavalier, in second coming into the final phase, caught the last fence of the treble to drop to fourth.

The 34-year-old rider, who has been based in the UK since 1999, has ridden 14-year-old Inonothing since the gelding's novice debut in 2003.

Their biggest win to date was the three-star at Belton in 2008. But now that's all changed for Paul and owner Jenny Waalers.

"Ever since I started eventing, Badminton has been my aim. It doesn't get much better than this," said Paul.

➤ *Badminton report starts on page 22.*



On his fifth visit to Badminton Paul Tapner realises he's clinched the big prize. His previous best placing was 13th on Inonothing in 2007

Pictures by Trevor Meeks

Inonothing knows it all now



Paul Tapner carries his run of spring form through to claim the £60,000 first prize on the experienced Inonothing, while Daisy Berkeley (née Dick) is best of the British with the popular 17-year-old Spring Along. Catherine Austen reports on a brilliant Badminton

"AUSSIE, Aussie, Aussie, oy oy oy!" shouted Paul Tapner's supporters after he rode out of the ring on his 2010 Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials winner Inonothing.

Barring acts of God, this well-deserved victory should give the 34-year-old from Sydney his first opportunity to represent his country at the World Equestrian Games this autumn — and no one should bet against him winning a medal there.

Paul's confidence and assurance stood out all weekend. He never let his focus lapse — even the pressure of being in pole position going into the showjumping didn't cause him to break out in a sweat.

"There were never any nerves — I knew I could go in and go clear," he said.

This was a classic Badminton performance. The pair did well in the dressage — equal 11th place on a mark of 44.5 is more than respectable — but they won it on the jumping. Inonothing wasn't foot-perfect across country, but

he was clear and very fast. And he was immaculate on the final day — Monday, for the first time here.

Tall, dark and handsome, Paul burst on to the British eventing scene with a Bramham win in 2000, a year after he arrived in this country. But although his results have been increasingly consistent, placing him firmly in the "top rider" camp, he hasn't done anything like this before.

"This means everything. Every second of this year has been focused on this moment," he said.

Inonothing, a 14-year-old English thoroughbred by Basildon Bond, hasn't always been the shining star he was at Badminton. His owner, Jenny Waaler, bought him from her brother-in-law as a six-month-old foal for her husband Claus to hunt.

"He had other ideas about that," said Paul. "He's very well-known in the Old Berks for being the mad horse."

Jenny said: "Paul hunted him and he burst out of the box, stood up on his hindlegs and stayed like that for the rest of the day."

Paul's wife Georgina — who was competing here in the new Grassroots Championships — broke in Inonothing, stable-name "Mannie" (and nickname "Spinhead" because when he's worried he spins in very tight circles). Her sister Hannah (Mace) started competing him when he was six and he won at pre-novice at Portman that autumn.

"After that he threw his toys out of the pram and we started having severe behavioural problems with him," said Jenny. "Paul was teaching Hannah and she suggested he took him on."



Paul Tapner and Inonothing show off the beautiful Mitsubishi Motors trophy

Paul takes up the story: "I remember taking him to Urchinwood novice and had such a dire day that I was about to say I didn't want to ride him any more. But when I got on the phone to Jenny, something stopped me saying it and after that we clicked."

Paul and Inonothing had a fence in hand after Mary King, second overnight on Imperial Cavalier, hit the 11th fence and dropped two places to fourth. This allowed Germany's Andreas Dibowski to rise into the runner-up spot — not that he could conceal his frustration at his third consecutive second place at a four-star on Euroridings Butts Leon.

"Before each of the competitions [Luhmühlen, Pau and now Badminton] I would have been happy with second, but afterwards... no," said Andreas.

Much happier was Daisy Berkeley, who pulled off her best four-star placing in third on the 17-year-old Spring Along and delighted his many fans.

"I'm so in love with you," she told the horse after their clear showjumping round.

"Like a fine wine, he's getting better," she said later.

With forgiving going throughout the event, and the cross-country proving more testing than many had predicted, experience proved valuable, with three 17-year-old horses in the top six.

Fifth wasn't quite Lenamore's best Badminton placing — he was fourth in 2008 — but Lexi and Janey Mackinnon's son of Sea Crest, also 17, demonstrated his enormous wellbeing and strength of character by jumping a beautiful clear before bolting out of the ring with Caroline Powell.

The third of those 17-year-olds, Comanche, gave his best four-star performance, recording his best ever score, if not his best ever place, finishing sixth (he was fourth in 2004 and fifth in 2006, but with not such good scores). James Robinson had to showjump him in driving rain,

I was getting really 'hooky' at the last [showjump], thinking, 'Oh my God...!' The whole dream was to get into the top 12 and get a silver horse

Carolyne Ryan-Bell lives her dream by finishing ninth on Rathmoyle King



This means everything. Every second of this year has been focused on this moment

Paul Tapner's concentration pays off as he continues his run of good form to claim eventing's most prestigious prize



Paul Tapner and Inonothing scorch round the cross-country to finish just one second over the optimum time and rise from 11th equal after dressage to lead overnight. The next day, they showjumped clear to win



FINAL PLACINGS

1st Paul Tapner on Inonothing (AUS)

2nd Andreas Dibowski on Euroridings Butts Leon (GER)

3rd Daisy Berkeley on Spring Along (GB)

Eventing Mitsubishi Motors Badminton

and this phase has been a weakness in the past, but "he likes jumping in the rain, so I thought it was a good sign!" laughed James.

The chestnut selle Français 15-year-old Hippolyte gave Australia's Bill Levett a best result at this level in seventh, while Nicola Wilson and Opposition Buzz were the only combination to finish on their dressage score in eighth.

That should have secured them their British team berth for Kentucky — he is the out-and-out jumper no team should be without and, although Spring Along is a similar sort in that their jumping is brilliant but they are unlikely to score much below 50 in the dressage on the big occasion, Opposition Buzz is four years younger than "Pod".

Carolyne Ryan-Bell, famous for the seemingly immortal Hooray Henry II, did a double clear on the grey Rathmoyle King for ninth.

"I was getting really 'hooky' at the last [showjump], thinking, 'Oh my God...!'" she confessed. "The whole dream was to get into the top 12 and get a silver horse."

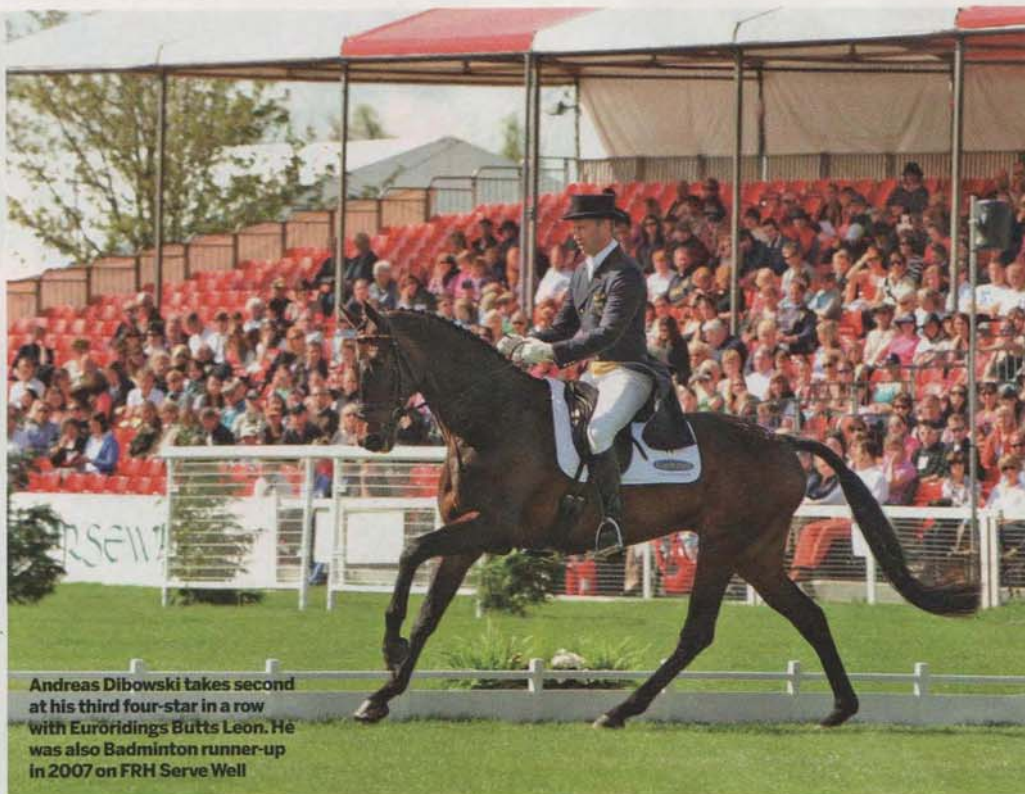
And Paul Tapner jumped another ice-cool clear on Stormhill Michael for 10th.

After an exciting cross-country day in which dreams were shattered (or drowned) for the likes of Tina Cook, who tipped up into The Lake with Miners Frolic, Ruth Edge and Piggy French — both of whom flew out of the saddle as if fired from a cannon when their mounts blundered — the showjumping was a relative sea of calm. None of the top 10 on Sunday night dropped further than 13th, and no one rose into it from higher than 12th (Stormhill Michael), but the large crowd enjoyed the spectacle of these superb horses jumping so well.

The first Friday-Monday Badminton was hailed a success — crowd figures on Friday were an astonishing 20% up on any previous dressage day, and the other days were about the same as usual. Next year the event runs over the Easter weekend — lunch with your granny or Badminton cross-country day?

He had other ideas about hunting. He's very well known in the Old Berks for being the mad horse

Paul Tapner on the fact Inonnothing was originally bought as a hunter for his owner Jenny Waaler's husband, Claus



Andreas Dibowski takes second at his third four-star in a row with Euroridings Butts Leon. He was also Badminton runner-up in 2007 on FRH Serve Well

Mary King and Imperial Cavalier, fourth, before the hold on course which she admitted affected her concentration



THE TOP SIX IN STATISTICS

HORSE	AGE	PREVIOUS BADMINTON STARTS	PREVIOUS FOUR-STAR STARTS	BREEDING
Inonnothing	14	2	6	English thoroughbred by Basildon Bond
Euroridings Butts Leon	13	0	2	Hanoverian by Heraldik XX
Spring Along	17	6	9	Irish-bred by Pallas Digion
Imperial Cavalier	13	1	3	Irish part-thoroughbred by Cavalier Royale
Lenamore	17	5	10	Irish-bred by Seacrest
Comanche	17	7	11	Irish Sport Horse by I'm A Star

“

Before each of the competitions [Luhmühlen, Pau and now Badminton] I would have been happy with second, but afterwards... no

Andreas Dibowski on the frustration of being forever the bridesmaid



Daisy Berkeley, third and best Brit on Spring Along, clears the second angled hedge at the Colt Pond, which rode better than riders predicted



Dressage German takes control

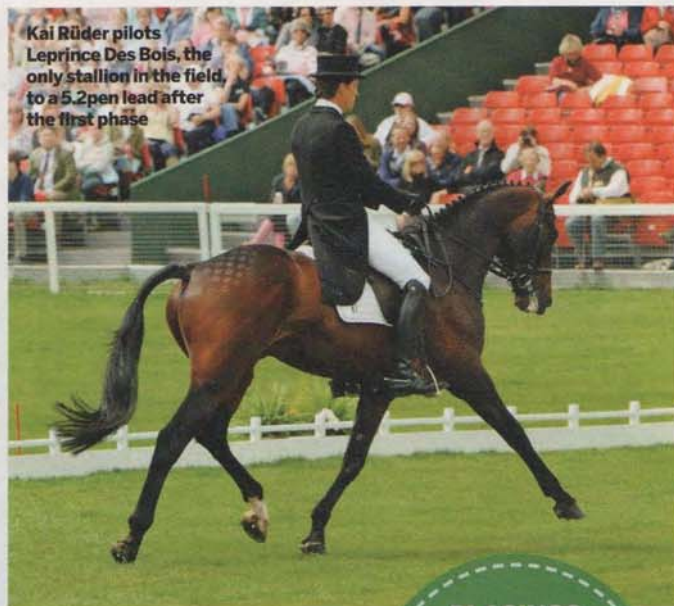
Just two riders score in the 30s, with Germany's Kai Rüder establishing a clear lead over Britain's Ruth Edge. European champion Tina Cook is also in the hunt in third on Miners Frolic

WE'RE used to Germans leading after the dressage phase and Kai Rüder perhaps didn't get the plaudits he deserved for his fluid, elegant test. A Badminton first-timer, 38-year-old Kai comes from the island of Fehmarn off the north coast of Germany in the Baltic Sea.

The tall, thick-lipped German and Leprince Des Bois, the only stallion in the field, were a picture of ease and harmony as they danced around the arena. Kai was unable to keep the grin off his face in the final movements, even sneaking a look at the scoreboard with its flurry of eights and nines. He was the only rider to be awarded three nines for his riding.

"He's in the best condition and best form ever," said Kai. "He looked up when I saluted at the beginning and said to the crowds, 'You're here for me!'"

The pair had spent the month



Kai Rüder pilots Leprince Des Bois, the only stallion in the field, to a 5.2pen lead after the first phase

preceding Badminton in Yorkshire with the German team trainer and former Badminton winner Christopher Bartle.

"Chris rode him so I could see him from the ground," said Kai, who was 10th at Burghley on Leprince Des Bois last autumn.

Their mark of 33.8 was well ahead of Britain's best, Ruth Edge on the dual British open winner Two Thyme. They collected the only other sub-40 score of 39.

"He got a little tense in the walk,

He looked up when I saluted at the beginning and said to the crowds, 'You're here for me!'

Kai Rüder on stallion Leprince Des Bois

PLACINGS AFTER DRESSAGE

- 1st Kai Rüder on Leprince Des Bois (GER)
- 2nd Ruth Edge on Two Thyme (GB)
- 3rd Tina Cook on Miners Frolic (GB)

but there was a lot to like," said Ruth.

Much was expected of Britain's European champions, Tina Cook and Miners Frolic. For the most part they lived up to it, with 41.7pen and third place, although Tina expressed disappointment after her test.

"I'm a little frustrated with myself. He has a fabulous brain and he wants to please me, I just have to press the right buttons," she said.

Neil Spratt and Upleadon were a new entry into the top echelons in fourth, just 0.1pen behind Tina, and Francis Whittington, lucky to be here after being hospitalised with meningitis recently, was fifth on Sir Percival III on 42.2. Half a mark behind were William Fox-Pitt and the German-bred and produced Seacookie.

There were crowds of riders tightly packed into the 40s — Clea Philipps and Lead The Way scored a perfectly respectable 50, but were way down in 32nd place.

Top partnerships such as pre-event favourites Andrew Nicholson on Avebury, Piggy French and Some Day Soon, William Fox-Pitt (Seacookie and Macchiato), Mary King (Imperial Cavalier) and Daisy Berkeley (née Dick) with Spring Along were all looming ready to pounce if the leaders faltered.



Ruth Edge on Nick Of Thyme, who finished 19th despite being the youngest horse. She was second after dressage on Two Thyme, but fell across country

Comment

Carl Hester



Why only pirouette one way?

THE standard of dressage this year was good, with 20 horses scoring under 50 penalties — which, in dressage terms, means over 66%. The test is fair, though ought to have a pirouette to the right as well as the one to the left. There are two shoulder-ins to prove the horse is supple in both directions, so why not two walk pirouettes?

I've never seen so many pirouettes the size of a sandpit. The horses are supple and obedient — their riders just seem to lack a knowledge of steering.

When flying changes were first introduced into the tests it was a disaster and now they've got the hang of those, so I'm sure pirouettes will improve.

The nicest thing was seeing old boys like Comanche, Spring Along and Boondoggle in the top lot. You never know how many more Badminton these older horses will do and it's so frustrating when they know the game, but don't do well in the dressage.

The Germans — three of whom finished with 70% or more — showed great displays of classical horsemanship. The way Kai Rüder allowed his horse to carry out the movements with a long neck was exemplary.

Some tests suffered from tension, but most were at the bottom because of strangulation of their horse's front end — throttling the horses.

Of the Brits, Ruth Edge never lets us down in this phase; she rode a bold, forward test with balance and swing. Francis Whittington's Sir Percival III is a good mover and showed activity in the lateral work.

William Fox-Pitt's Seacookie has the quality to go all the way in this phase when he stops losing rhythm in the canter.

Of the younger riders, Emily Llewellyn, Kitty King (née Boggis), Alex Hua Tian and Piggy French all showed a beautiful, effective way of riding.

How refreshing to see marks being awarded from ones to nines. Sure, you want to hang yourself when you get ones, but at least if you're brave there's the opportunity to score nines.

Finally, what a relief to see so many more horses standing still for their salute since a rule change which allows men to salute without having to doff their hats. So they are no longer at a disadvantage to the girls, who have always been able to do speedy halts. H&H

Cross-country

Inonnothing knows best way round

The track holds up well in the rain and proves influential for a vintage day's sport. Australia's Paul Tapner forges a path to the top by finishing just a second over the elusive optimum time on the seasoned Inonnothing

RARELY has a leader board changed so dramatically as it did on cross-country day. Zara Phillips had wryly hoped, after a resistant Glenbuck had left her in 61st place on Saturday night, that it wasn't going to be a dressage competition. It certainly wasn't. None of the top six held on to their places, and Paul Tapner, 11th equal after dressage on the in-form Inonnothing, leapt up to first with a fiercely determined cross-country round. He was one second over the time for a total of 44.9pen.

It wasn't perfect — their jump over the brush out of the Lake was awkward and they took out both red flags on the corners in the HS1 Farmyard at 15, but there was no doubting Paul's focus and the inevitability of their clear round.

"I've been placed plenty of times — I'm not here to be placed

any more," said Paul, whose confidence in his and his horse's abilities was palpable.

The most notable thing about Mary King's ride on Imperial Cavalier, which propelled her from 14th equal to second, was her stickability. She was held while 15a, the first corner in the Farmyard, was repaired after Alex Hua Tian and Jeans fell and broke the frangible pin, and admitted that it took her a few fences to get going again.

"I was chatting to the crowd, asking them whether they'd got a gin and tonic, and when I got going again, I could tell I wasn't really on the ball," she admitted.

A couple of hairy jumps at the corners, the Colt Pond and the HSBC Hexagon Hedge, shook her back to reality and "we got back in the groove", she said, finishing with just 2.4 time-faults. »



Nicola Wilson takes on the Colt Pond with Opposition Buzz, eighth and the only horse to finish on his dressage score

PLACINGS AFTER CROSS-COUNTRY

- 1st Paul Tapner on Inonnothing (AUS)
- 2nd Mary King on Imperial Cavalier (GB)
- 3rd Simone Deitermann on Free Easy NRW (GER)



James Robinson in determined mode at the top of the Alterian Staircase. He and Comanche were sixth on their eighth consecutive Badminton start

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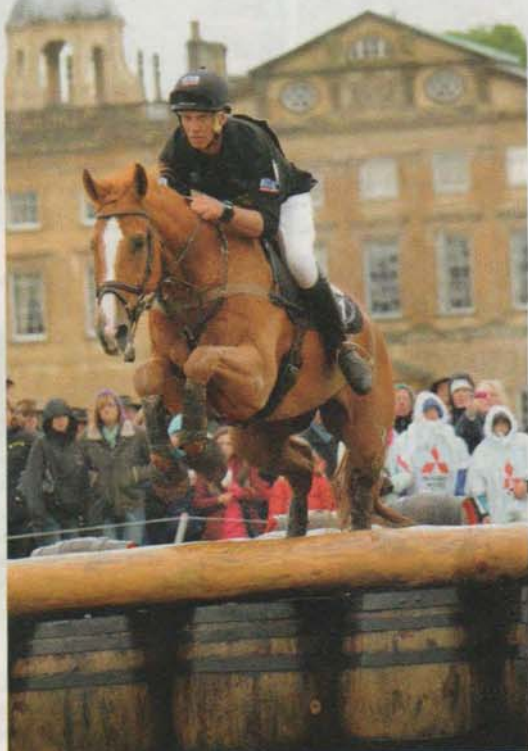
I'm lucky I'm on a horse that can judge a few things for himself — I've just got to sit there, sit back and keep my leg on

Sam Watson is modest about his clear in the time on Horseware Bushman



”

Andrew Nicholson was hotly tipped to win, but his two 10-year-olds proved a little too green for the top spots. Nereo, pictured, finished 11th



Thirty years on from his first ride here, Mark Todd shows how it should be done, guiding Grass Valley into 18th place



BADMINTON BANTER

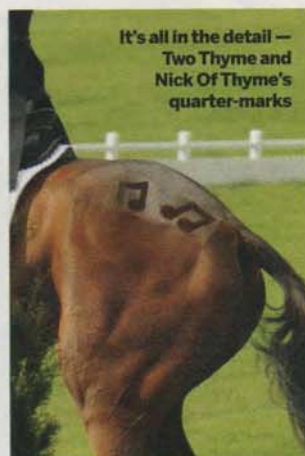
H&H doesn't encourage too much "bling" in eventing, but we loved Sarah Bullimore's seahorse stock pin and the quarter-marks on Ruth Edge's horses. Two Thyme sported two musical notes — "two-time" — and Nick Of Thyme had a clockface with a few seconds shaded in.

EVER wanted to know what top riders do between rides on cross-country day? Here's Paul Tapner: "I was pretty pumped after my first horse so I stayed in the riders' tent and watched the carnage, then went and had a roast dinner and a sleep with my children." A roast dinner? We'd barely be able to keep our Lucozade down.

QUOTE of the week: Daisy Berkeley, on being asked whether she pronounced her new surname Bark-ley or Berk-ley: "Don't be silly, I wouldn't have given up being a Dick to become a Berk!"

AMID the youth of Gloucestershire at the Sunday night party, the Mane Event, hosted by London nightclub Crazy Larry's in the Outside Chance marquee, we spotted Beaufort kennel-huntsman Tony Holdsworth. Still super-skinny after losing three stone to ride in a charity race at Ascot, Tony was boogying hard, still wearing his green hunting coat, breeches and boots.

THE BBC's *The Politics Show* was broadcast from Badminton on Sunday morning. Press officer Julian Seaman was just in time to spot an elderly



It's all in the detail — Two Thyme and Nick Of Thyme's quarter-marks



gentleman, unaware of anything going on, about to walk slap bang through the middle of the live filming, and virtually rugby-tackled him to one side. His name? The 11th Duke of Beaufort.

EMILY Llewellyn couldn't complain after finishing 15th (Society Spice) and 24th (Pardon Me II) at her second Badminton, but she must have rued her time-faults on Pardon Me II — she had to circle after overshooting her turn to the last fence. Luckily, she was deemed not to have presented and didn't get any jumping faults.

GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

JACK DAY won the inaugural BE100 Mitsubishi Motors Grassroots Championship with his family's hunter, Smoke And Mirrors.

Jack, 21, who is studying veterinary science at Cambridge University, finished on his dressage score of 27.8.

He said: "The whole experience has been terrific. I hope that the grassroots event can be an integral part of Badminton for years to come."

Elaine Wilson and Weston

Moonshine finished second, while Kylie Roddy and Laurentian Lad took third.

In the BE90 championship, medical rep Amy Dixon took top honours with Maid In Holland.

"This is a million times better than my expectations," said Amy.

Karen Baugh was runner-up with Spark Of Talent, while Beth Sutcliffe and Wodka Lime finished third.

► FULL REPORT IN STARTING BOX, NEXT WEEK



When it all goes wrong

Piggy French takes a fall from European individual silver medallist Some Day Soon at the Countryside Complex



Italian first-timer Gianluca Gardini comes off when Lion Dancer jumps awkwardly and lands steeply at the HSBC Hexagon Hedge. Several others had similar falls here — and Mary King had to sit tight



European champion Miners Frolic leaves a leg at the skinny wave into The Lake (fence 12), throwing himself and Tina Cook into the water. Tina shows her sporting side by bowing to the large crowd

German first-timer, 28-year-old Simone Deitermann, had a double handful early on with the appropriately-named Free Easy NRW, but this long-striding bay flew round to rise 13 places to third on 48.2.

This was James Robinson and Comanche's eighth Badminton, and the 17-year-old son of I'm A Star rose to the occasion. After a best-ever dressage test for 43.5 and seventh place equally with Andreas Dibowski and Euroridings Butts Leon, James gave Comanche absolutely no option of repeating his 2008 ducking in the Lake, and the positivity lasted all the way to the

line for 4.8 time-faults and fourth place overnight.

Andreas was only a few seconds slower in fifth on 49.5, while Daisy Berkeley and the ultra-experienced Spring Along were foot-perfect to rise from 25th — after their best four-star test to date — to sixth on 50.4.

Both Spring Along and seventh-placed Lenamore are 17 years old, but neither showed any sign of creeping into their twilight years, with their fast and accurate rounds. Lenamore behaved like an angel in torrential rain during his dressage test the day before to score 48, and he kept the halo to finish the cross-

country with 1.2 time-faults.

There were four clear rounds inside the time allowed and young Irishman Sam Watson posted one of them.

"I'm lucky I'm on a horse that can judge a few things for himself — I've just got to sit there, sit back and keep my leg on," said Sam modestly. "Last year, I came out very nervous and got after him a bit. This time I took a deep breath, let the rhythm happen and it was awesome."

They moved up from 33rd to eighth after cross-country, half a mark ahead of Carolyne Ryan-Bell, who had a fantastic round on Rathmoyle King.

Bill Levett and Hippolyte only moved one place up from 11th equal to 10th, with perhaps a few more time-faults than the Australian would have liked (8.8).

Nicola Wilson put up the performance of the day for 11th on Opposition Buzz. He jumps like a stag — off all four feet — but this proper four-star track, which caused many more problems than at first glance we thought it would, looked almost too easy for

him now. At 15sec under the optimum time, they were comfortably the fastest of the day.

Paul Tapner squeezed his first ride, Stormhill Michael, into the top 12, 0.2pen ahead of 20-year-old Irish first-timer Camilla Speirs, who was squeaking with delight after her round on the 15.1hh Portersize Just A Jiff, a half-Connemara pony who "grew". The wet conditions suited him a treat, and Camilla set off with the confidence of youth, belting round for 9.2 time-faults. Her knitting came a bit unravelled in the Lake, but she kept kicking and rode with tremendous verve.

The third clear inside the time came courtesy of Frenchman Benjamin Massie, who wouldn't have won any style prizes on Haston D'Elpegere (or any dressage ones — they scored 69.2 and catapulted up from 75th to 27th) but it was certainly effective.

And Sian Wynne Morris was rightly elated after adding nothing to a dressage of 73.5 on Just Appeal. It was the North Wales rider's first Badminton attempt and she underlined what a capable jockey she is, riding particularly well through the troublesome corners at fence 15 (see box). It was a shame she had to withdraw before the final day.

Nick Gauntlett was the first home clear on the mare Chapel Amble, pumping the air

New Zealand's Joe Meyer and the 18-year-old Snip, the oldest horse to take part, on the way to 17th



I've been placed plenty of times — I'm not here to be placed any more

Paul Tapner had big aims this year



Bill Levett records his best Badminton result, taking seventh with Hippolyte

in ecstasy after crossing the line. He also got Rocket Science round fault-free for 29th and 42nd places respectively after this phase.

We have become used to Rosie Thomas and Barry's Best bringing home the bacon across

I was chatting to the crowd, asking them whether they'd got a gin and tonic, and when I got going again I could tell I wasn't really on the ball

Mary King admits she lost concentration after being held on the course



British first-timer Sian Wynne Morris (Just Appeal) records the first cross-country clear in the time

country at this level. They have done six four-stars, all without cross-country faults, and 3.2 time-faults elevated them from 62nd to 19th overnight. But we should acknowledge what a feat it is — they got into a rhythm immediately and never missed a beat.

Middle-aged hearts were fluttering as Mark Todd set off, jaw set and grim determination written on his face. Riding a horse who had only completed one CCI*** before, let alone a CCI****, Mark Todd looked for the first time in this country in his "reincarnation" like the genius we know him to be. Grass Valley grew in confidence during this masterclass in cross-country jumping from Toddy and finished looking far more like a serious horse for the future

Double of corners proves most influential fence

Rosie Thomas shows how the corners should be jumped en route to 22nd with Barry's Best



China's Alex Hua Tian becomes the first victim of the corners with Jeans, although he had a happier time on his second ride Magenta, finishing 26th

TWO obstacles caused the vast majority of cross-country problems — the very skinny brush corner in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Huntsmans Close (fence nine), which caught out 10 riders, and fence 15, the HS1 Farmyard.

The direct route at the latter consisted of two "open" corners on a straight line and 11 riders faulted there, with falls for Alex Hua Tian (Jeans) and Anna Warnecke (Twinkle Bee).

Three senior riders picked up 20pen early on in the day — Dan Jocelyn (Special Attorney), Joe Meyer (Clifton Lush) and William Fox-Pitt (Macchiato). Their horses swerved left of the white flag at the second of the two corners, jumping the considerably longer front arm after losing their line, instead of over the apex.

The later riders learned from their mistakes and held their focus harder. It is easy to say that perhaps people have got blasé about jumping corners because the filled-in ones, popular in the last decade, have made the need to be pin-point accurate less important, but at this level that is less likely. Horses had to approach the corners off a 90° angle, which made many lose impulsion and rhythm at the crucial moment.

They hadn't been marked out as a potential problem fence beforehand — Pippa Funnell must be blushing after describing them as an "intermediate fence" in her H&H course walk. But it just shows that walking a course and jumping round it are two very different things.

Accountant Simone Deitermann clears the Lancer Village on Free Easy NRW for third overnight. Penalties the next day left her 12th



than he had at the start.

It was like a flashback to the 1980s — Mark crouching low over the 10-year-old Irish sport horse's neck, his pedals shorter than is fashionable now (good thing — we don't have the balance and strength to copy him), the angles in his riding position sharper and a joy to watch.

Mark Kyle was, like Paul Tapner, one second over the time on Step In Time — if only this talented grey was easier in the dressage.

That was the good — now for the bad.

Poor Tina Cook manfully smiled and bowed to the crowd after becoming the only faller of the day

in The Lake on Miners Frolic, who shuffled in an extra step before the willow-wave skinny that formed the first element, but she must have suffered a severe blow to her pride. The European champions hadn't had great shots into a couple of fences before that — but I'm sure Tina will get fed up with people telling her she can't win everything.

Ruth Edge was desperately unlucky to get fired out of the saddle when Two Thyme tripped up the lip of the ditch at the Hexagon Hedge after landing only slightly short. She gave the nine-year-old Nick Of Thyme — the youngest horse — a lovely

Ireland's Sam Watson flies the corner at the Shogun Hollow during his penalty-free round on Horseware Bushman, 13th



My first Badminton

Alexander Peternell and Duarte Seabra

Four British first-timers started, but none managed to complete. Foreigners fared better, with nine of the 12 finishing. Here, two tell their stories



Despite an injured knee — note the brace — Alexander records a clear round

South Africa's Alexander Peternell, 38th

THE British press have been fantastic in sending my story back to South Africa, but unless you've been to Badminton, it's hard to comprehend how massive and prestigious it is.

Walking the course was terrifying and I was worried about Huntsmans Close, but Jane [Holderness-Roddam, owner] told me it was perfectly possible if I just pointed and kicked. It was a good wake-up call. I really enjoyed the cross-country because I was under no pressure and the horse [Tiger's Eye II] made it feel easy.

We didn't get a good stride out of the Countryside Complex so I had to take the long route, and he jumped so boldly into the Shogun Hollow that he didn't have a leg to stand on. But even the winner will think of things they could have done better.

I ache all over — I damaged a knee ligament three weeks ago — but it's more than lived up to expectations.

Portugal's Duarte Seabra, 32nd

IT'S been a great experience and I feel lucky to be here. I'm now based in England [after three years in Ireland] and Pammy Hutton helped me with my dressage. She's definitely improved me already and I hope she will take me on.

I was worried about the Lake because it was in the water at Fontainebleau [European Championships last year] that I had a problem with Brave Heart. Here was another drop into water and a skinny, which I was dreading, but I had a text from a friend who said, "Just trust your horse and enjoy it".

It was good advice, because I've been riding Brave Heart for five years and we know each other well. We took all the direct routes and he was great.

I was determined to enjoy my first Badminton and, in the end, I think that was the key to doing all right. I loved every jump.



Duarte Seabra overcomes his fears about the drop into The Lake

Eventing Mitsubishi Motors Badminton

introduction to this level with a clear round later in the day, but her first round was gutting. At 16 — and fairly fragile — Two Thyme's state occasions are few and far between and this was perhaps their last shot at winning this.

Piggy French also got ejected at speed when Some Day Soon left a leg over the first flower box at the Countryside Complex.

Kai Rüder, the dressage leader, was the only person to stop on top of the Outlander Bank, dropping him and Leprince Des Bois to 39th overnight. Neil Spratt and Upleadon slid past the brush corner in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Huntsmans Close early on and retired and William Fox-Pitt withdrew Seacookie (sixth) because he didn't feel quite right.

Francis Whittington and Sir Percival III completed the demolition of the top six when they tripped up the first step at the Alterian Staircase and Francis fell off, just a few fences from home. Francis and Sir Percival had looked magnificent until then and their time was good — life can be very unfair.

Kitty King (née Boggis), ninth equal after a lovely test on Boondoggle, ran out in Huntsmans Close, and Avebury threw in a cheeky stop at the first corner in the Farmyard and earned himself a smacked bottom from Andrew Nicholson. This dropped them from equal ninth to 34th.

The Colt Pond, which the riders thought was a real monster beforehand — two hedges across the water, both to be jumped at acute angles — caused no more trouble than any combination at this level might be expected to do. Its victims included Louise Skelton (Bit Of A Barney), Zara Phillips (Glenbuck) and Dan Jocelyn (Special Attorney), but it rode surprisingly well overall.

Technical delegate Giuseppe Della Chiesa made the call to make two small alterations to the course before the start in deference to the wet conditions, and course-designer Hugh Thomas must have been a happy man on Sunday night. His track had held up in the inclement conditions very well, provided the spectators with plenty of excitement and shaken up the leader board — just as the Badminton course should.

The only sad note was that Louisa Lockwood's Desert Island had to be put down after falling and breaking a leg in Huntsmans Close.



Lenamore may be retired from team selection, but he's not feeling his 17 years. He finishes fifth for Caroline Powell, his sixth consecutive completion

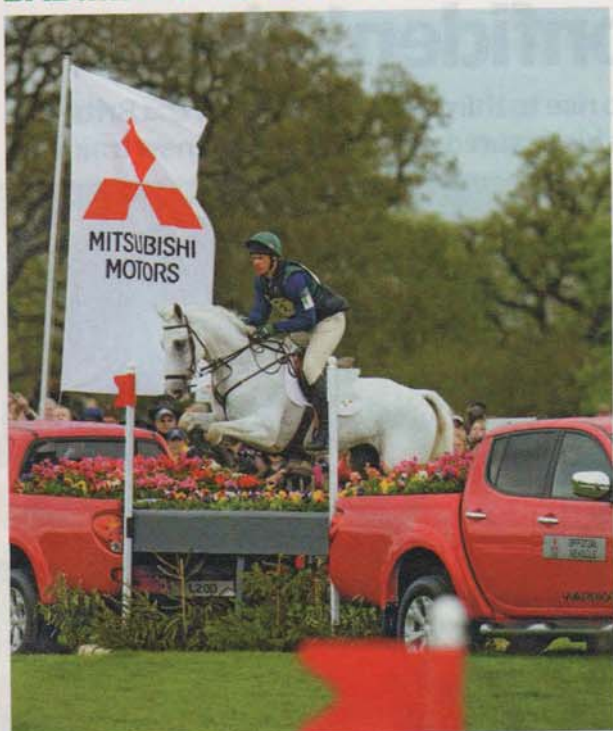


Camilla Speirs makes a superb debut for Ireland, storming round for 14th place with Portersize Just A Jiff



Emily Llewellyn, 20, rides with a polish that belies her age for 15th with Society Spice

BADMINTON BANTER



Glentool Trophy winner Mark Kyle rises 55 places on Step In Time (20th)

IRISHMAN Mark Kyle won the Glentool Trophy — awarded for the greatest rise after the dressage — on his family's home-bred Step In Time. They ascended from 75th after dressage to 20th, with a double clear and just 0.4 of a cross-country time-fault.

SIX Armada dishes — for riders with five Badminton completions under their belts, always awarded a year after the riders rack up the fifth completion — were awarded to Jeanette Brakewell,

Oliver Townend, Clayton Fredericks, Paul Tapner, Matt Ryan and Bruno Bouvier. Dishes were also given to Carol Alexander, who was retiring as manager of the Badminton box office, and Brian Higham, who was also presented with the BEF medal of honour in recognition of his 50 years as stud groom at Badminton.

CAMILLA SPEIRS won the HSBC FEI Classics training bursary for the highest placed rider not to have previously completed a four-star after finishing 14th for Ireland on Portersize Just A Jiff. Emily Galbraith won the saddle, presented by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, for the best British rider under-25 who is not entitled to wear the senior flag. She was 36th on Crown Alliance, with whom she also completed in 2008.

THE highest-placed British domiciled mare, now in possession of a £500 stud voucher for a visit to the hunk of her choice, was Chapel Amble, owned by the Arscott family and rider Nick Gauntlett. She finished 21st with a double clear round and set the standard across country as the first horse home on Sunday without jumping penalties.



Chapel Amble, 21st, wins the mares' prize under Nick Gauntlett



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PERFORMANCE INNOVATION



Taking all the direct routes: Germany's Simone Deitermann

Accountant is the best first-timer

WHAT is it with the Germans and their amateur event riders? First Hinrich Romeike wins an Olympic gold medal on Marius and then Simone Deitermann finishes 12th and is the best first-timer at Badminton on Free Easy NRW.

The 28-year-old is a part-time accountant — she says she works until 2pm, then rides. She has just two horses — Free Easy NRW and Flambeau H 3, with whom she was placed at Luhmühlen CCI**** in 2008. Simone, who comes from Munster, has no desire to change the status quo.

"I love riding, but it is a hobby — I love accounting too!" she said.

She started eventing as an 11-year-old and progressed through ponies, juniors and young riders, winning a gold team medal at the 2002 young rider European Championships with Flambeau H 3.

Simone, who was wonderfully laid-back and matter-of-fact during the whole weekend, has been riding the hot Free Easy NRW since he was a three-year-old and hopes for a spot on the German team at the World Equestrian Games this autumn.

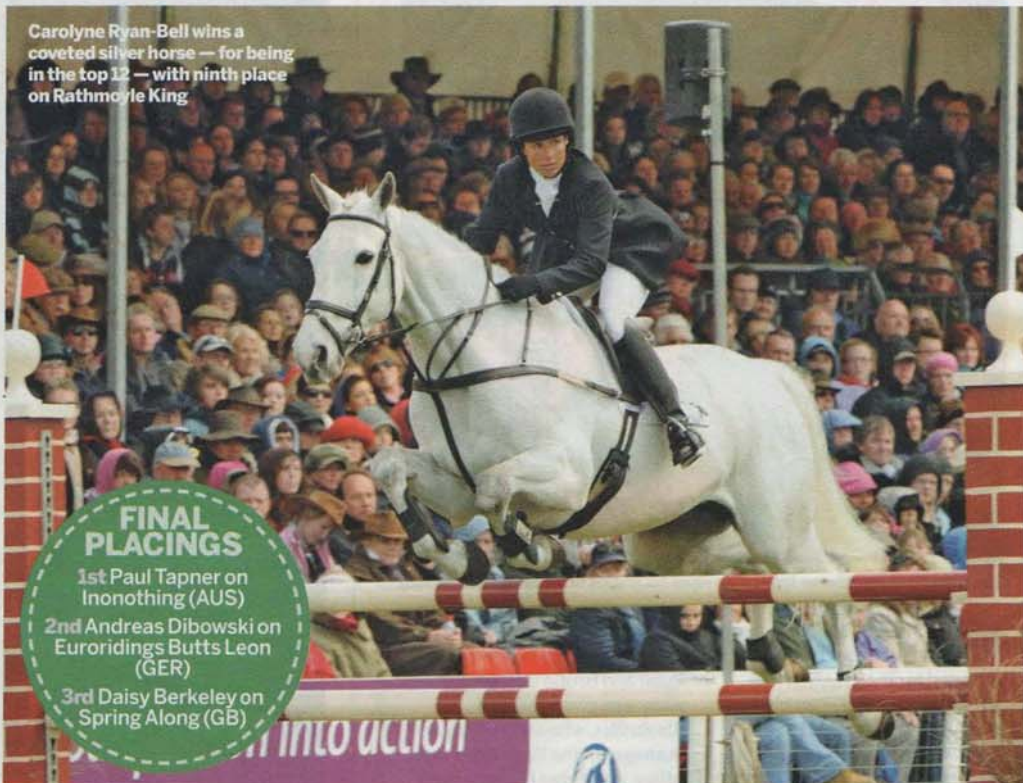
"He was fantastic across country. For the first 10 fences he was fighting with me, but, after that, he settled and I could ride all the direct routes," she said.

Showjumping

Tapner's confident clear

Daisy Berkeley is faultless to rise to third — and the best of the Brits — while Paul Tapner attributes his assured performance to a new trainer

Carolyn Ryan-Bell wins a coveted silver horse — for being in the top 12 — with ninth place on Rathmoyle King



FINAL PLACINGS

1st Paul Tapner on Inonothing (AUS)

2nd Andreas Dibowski on Euroridings Butts Leon (GER)

3rd Daisy Berkeley on Spring Along (GB)

FIFTY horses got as far as the final phase — Sian Wynne Morris (Just Appeal), Selina Elliott (Bodidly), Sacha Pemble (I've Been Dun) and Geoff Curran (Balladeer Alfred) withdrew overnight, and three — first-timer Nicola Malcolm and Mcfly, Sara Burdett and Shiver St George and Annabel Wigley and Black Drum — withdrew from the holding box at the final trot-up.

Jon Doney's track proved fairly easy, with 16 horses jumping clear and a further 15 having just one fence down. The first clear of the day came from Matthew Wright

and the flea-bitten grey Well Spotted, but it only moved them nine places north to 40th.

Phoebe Buckley says she hates showjumping Little Tiger because she never knows what the tiny mare is going to do. Last year they collected 34 faults. This time she jumped clear with two time-faults.

Tony Warr and everybody's favourite four-star "hunter" Coolgrange Merger completed a double clear, as did Emily Galbraith and the mealy-nosed Crown Alliance.

The three notably disastrous

rounds in the morning came from Zara Phillips, who didn't look to be having a fun time on Glenbuck for 24 jumping faults and seven time-penalties, Clayton Fredericks (five down on The Frog) and Austin O'Connor, who had 24 jumping penalties and two time-faults.

Mark Todd had one down on Grass Valley for eventual 18th.

"He got a bit long and flat and tired today, but hopefully he'll learn from the whole experience and come back better," he said. "He's my only hope of getting to the World Equestrian Games

DID THE TOP SIX JUMP TO FORM?

Show jumping faults	Previous three completed three-day events					
	Badminton	Most recent				
Inonothing	0	Burghley	0	Luhmühlen09	13	Burghley09 8
Euroridings Butts Leon	0	Pau09	0	Luhmühlen09	4	Olympics08 0
Spring Along	0	Blenheim09	4	Badminton09	4	Olympics08 11
Imperial Cavalier	4	Burghley08	4	Badminton08	0	Pau07 0
Lenamore	0	Burghley09	8	Badminton09	0	Olympics08 4
Comanche	4	Badminton09	20	Burghley08	16	Badminton06 0

ALTHOUGH Inonothing did also jump clear at Burghley last year, before this he had had some poor scores — looking further back, at Badminton 2008 he had 18 faults. Paul Tapner says the improvement is due to new trainer Ros Morgan (see right). James Robinson's Comanche also jumped above recent form, although he did jump clear at Badminton 2006, when he finished fifth.



He's my only hope of getting to the World Equestrian Games, so if we had stuffed up that would have been it

Mark Todd on finishing 18th with Grass Valley



[which he first rode in 32 years ago, in 1978], so if we had stuffed up that would have been it."

Bill Levett was first to go in the afternoon session, but Matt Prior's Political Trump couldn't keep up his irresistible rise from 38th after dressage and 20th after cross-country, hitting four fences and dropping to 28th. He more than made up for it with his clear on Hippolyte for seventh place, hugging everyone in sight, including Clayton Fredericks.

Simone Deitermann and Free Easy NRW had three down and plummeted from third to 12th. The only other one of the top 20 to really suffer was Sam Watson, whose three fences down dropped him from eighth to 13th.

Nereo and Andrew Nicholson benefitted from their very classy clear, rising to 11th from 15th, but Andrew must have been ruing his eight cross-country time-penalties. Without those, they would have been fourth.

Andreas Dibowski and Daisy Berkeley rose to second and third with clears, while Mary King's one down dropped her to fourth, giving Paul Tapner a fence in hand.

In nothing has had a rather shaky showjumping record, but Paul had absolute confidence this time, largely due to new trainer Ros Morgan (née Bevan). Yes, the same Bevan who owned Horton Point, winner 16 years ago as a catch ride for Mark Todd. And, as Ros couldn't make it to Badminton, she sent sister Lynne, which Paul said was slightly eerie — the family resemblance is such that it felt as if she had a double.

In nothing never faltered, and so the Bevans were involved in a second Badminton victory, as Paul Tapner sealed his spot among the world's elite event riders.



Daisy Berkeley showjumps clear to move up from 25th after dressage to eventual third on Spring Along

Comment

Thumbs up for Grassroots Championship



BADMINTON felt anything but a spring event as near-Arctic conditions swept Britain and people wondered if it would ever stop raining.

Yet crowds on Friday were up 20% on any previous dressage day and comparable to other years at the weekend, as spectators flocked in and bravely tackled a sea of mud on cross-country day. Nothing was going to deter them.

I'm still struggling to get my head around the cross-country on Sunday and showjumping on Monday. I spent all weekend getting it wrong! That is probably a sign of my age though.

Grassroots success

HAVING grown up in the Beaufort branch of the Pony Club, Badminton, and all it stands for, has always been a special part of my life. It's hardly surprising then that I was somewhat sceptical about the introduction of the Grassroots Championship.

Half of me winced at the sight of all these little fences at Badminton. The trouble is, the other half of me was tempted by them to have a go at riding there again.

The nice thing was the event had a real old-fashioned feel. How I remember my first Burghley, when all the competitors ate together at the Haycock Hotel the first evening and Irish rider Norman van der Vater held court, keeping us all creased up with laughter with his stories.

I didn't get there, but I'm told the atmosphere in the stable area at the Grassroots Championships was far more in line with those amateur days rather than the intensity of today.

I had to have a little chuckle though, as I can remember such stalwarts as Hugh Thomas and Mike Tucker once shaking their heads in disapproval as British Eventing affiliated lower and lower-level courses and, going as far as to say that before we knew it, there would be championships at these levels.

Then, lo and behold, last weekend we saw Hugh Thomas hosting the championships and Mike Tucker commentating with his customary enthusiasm. How times change.

Whether the sport at the upper levels is any safer today because of the introduction of the lower levels is

much-debated. I believe not as we increasingly qualify riders to levels above their ability.

But that is a subject for another time. The Grassroots Championship was a great success and much enjoyed by all those lucky enough to ride in the unique atmosphere that is Badminton at horse trials time.

How frangible can you be?

SAFETY continues to concern the sport. Many of us had been in Lexington the weekend before when William Fox-Pitt put up an imperious performance to lead from start to finish on the young Cool Mountain, and Oliver Townend's hopes of the Rolex Grand Slam faded as he left the course in the air ambulance, with several cracked bones after his fall on Ashdale Cruise Master. His was one of five rotational falls where the pins did not give way.

Technology, though, is moving on and the latest report from Martin

for breaking a frangible device, but I'm not sure that is the answer either.

Clever flagging

AT Badminton we had six horse falls and six rider dismounts. Is this acceptable? In Britain, possibly; in Europe and America no, it's not.

Having said that, we took some huge steps forward at Badminton. The "open" corners at the HS1 Farmyard caused unbelievable trouble early on. Nor was it a very difficult fence. I jumped the same question years ago.

Similarly, the brush corner in Huntsmans Close has been there for years and caused very little trouble when jumped in either direction. This time, nine ran by the open corners and the same number glanced off in Huntsmans Close. In neither case can you blame the cumulative effect of a four-star course tiring competitors — both came quite early on.

Hugh Thomas was clever to reduce

“Half of me winced at the sight of all these little fences at Badminton. The trouble is, the other half of me was tempted by them to have a go at riding at Badminton again”

Herbert's Competitive Measure — the sports engineering consultancy looking into scientific solutions to fence design — is now being evaluated by the Transport Research Laboratory. This could easily result in a recommendation for pins that break more easily.

In that vein, I was interested to see the reverse pinning mechanism for the first time at Badminton at fences such as the open corners at the HS1 Farmyard. At £90 a pair, this system is expensive, but the cost may well come down. It certainly looks as though this system would give way more easily than the traditional pinning.

But the whole process worries me. We have moved to bigger and bigger timber and groundlines until we can't make these big enough to make the sport safer. Are we now going to make fences more frangible until that doesn't work either? I'm convinced we will soon see penalties introduced

the size of the target at these skinny fences by bringing in the flag furthest from the apex, making the question more difficult. To me this sort of lateral thinking — looking at the questions we ask and how we ask them, rather than new technology — is a better road to go down.

Also, I believe designers need to think more about the picture they are creating. To me, the 13 efforts in the loop around the Vicarage Ditch is still the scariest two minutes in eventing and I applaud Hugh's bravery in providing such an ordeal. It is, after all, what makes Badminton Badminton.

With so many good horses in the field, I wonder though if Hugh will be totally happy with the picture presented, which showed so many horses struggling. We had a similar situation with the coffin in Lexington.

Thinking about this has to be part of the road to a safer sport. H&H



What's so funny? Portersize Just A Jiff wants to join in Camilla Speirs's joke



Radio Badminton's Rachel Ferguson interviews Alexander Peterzell



Three-times Badminton winner Pippa Funnell and selector Mandy Stibbe



Fox-Pitt and Tapner neck and neck in HSBC FEI Classics™

NO riders picked up points at both Kentucky and Badminton this year, so the top five riders at each event currently occupy the leading positions in this big prize-money series, which links five of the world's four-stars. Each pair are on equal points (so Kentucky winner William Fox-Pitt and Badminton winner Paul Tapner both have 15 points), so the rider with the lower finishing score holds the higher position.

LEADER BOARD (after 2 of 5 events)

1	William Fox-Pitt (GB)	15
2	Paul Tapner (AUS)	15
3	Phillip Dutton (USA)	12
4	Andreas Dibowski (GER)	12
5	Becky Holder (USA)	10
6	Daisy Berkeley (GB)	10
7	Mary King (GB)	8
8	Boyd Martin (USA)	8
9	Caroline Powell (NZL)	6
10	Stephanie Rhodes-Bosch (CAN)	6

Overall: final scoreboard

MITSUBISHI MOTORS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2010

Final position	Horse and Rider	Dressage	Cross-country Jumps	Time	Showjumping Jumps	Time	Total
1	Inonothing (Paul Tapner, AUS)	44.5	-	0.4	-	-	44.9
2	Euroridings Butts Leon (Andreas Dibowski, GER)	43.5	-	6	-	-	49.5
3	Spring Along (Daisy Berkeley, GB)	48	-	2.4	-	-	50.4
4	Imperial Cavalier (Mary King, GB)	44.8	-	2.4	4	-	51.2
5	Lenamore (Caroline Powell, NZL)	50.2	-	1.2	-	-	51.4
6	Comanche (James Robinson, GB)	43.5	-	4.8	4	-	52.3
7	Hippolyte (Bill Levett, AUS)	44.5	-	8.8	-	-	53.3
8	Opposition Buzz (Nicola Wilson, GB)	55.3	-	-	-	-	55.3
9	Rathmoyle King (Carolyne Ryan-Bell, GB)	47	-	6	-	3	56
10	Stormhill Michael (Paul Tapner, AUS)	47.7	-	9.6	-	-	57.3
11	Nereo (Andrew Nicholson, NZL)	51	-	8	-	-	59
12	Free Easy NRW (Simone Deitermann, GER)	45	-	3.2	12	-	60.2
13	Horseware Bushman (Sam Watson, IRL)	52.5	-	-	8	-	60.5
14	Portersize Just A Jiff (Camilla Speirs, IRL)	48.3	-	9.2	4	-	61.5
15	Society Spice (Emily Llewellyn, GB)	45.5	-	14.4	8	-	67.9
16	Gazelle De La Brasserie (Karin Donckers, BEL)	44.7	-	19.2	4	-	67.9
17	Snip (Joe Meyer, NZL)	47.7	-	12.4	8	-	68.1
18	Grass Valley (Mark Todd, NZL)	55.8	-	8.8	4	-	68.6
19	Nick Of Thyme (Ruth Edge, GB)	49.5	-	15.2	4	-	68.7
20	Step In Time (Mark Kyle, IRL)	69.2	-	0.4	-	-	69.6
21	Chapel Amble (Nick Gauntlett, GB)	56.8	-	13.6	-	-	70.4
22	Barry's Best (Rosie Thomas, GB)	60	-	3.2	8	-	71.2
23	Iman Du Golfe (Juan Carlos Garcia, ITA)	50.2	-	17.2	4	-	71.4
24	Pardon Me II (Emily Llewellyn, GB)	57.2	-	11.6	4	-	72.8
25	Minos De Petra (Pascal Leroy, FRA)	53.3	-	4.4	16	-	73.7
26	Magenta (Alex Hua Tian, CHN)	51.7	-	19.2	4	-	74.9
27	Avebury (Andrew Nicholson, NZL)	44.3	20	12	-	-	76.3
28	Political Trump (Bill Levett, AUS)	51.7	-	11.6	16	-	79.3
29	Chill Out Bob (Jeanette Brakewell, GB)	60.7	-	7.6	12	-	80.3
30	Haston D'Elpege (Benjamin Massie, FRA)	69.2	-	-	12	-	81.2
31	Kilpatrick River (Elizabeth Power, IRL)	53.8	-	23.6	4	-	81.4
32	Brave Heart (Duarte Seabra, POR)	52	-	24	8	-	84
33	Rocket Science (Nick Gauntlett, GB)	55	-	26.8	4	-	85.8
34	Macchiato (William Fox-Pitt, GB)	45.8	20	13.6	8	-	87.4
35	Trebetherick (Sarah Cohen, GB)	62.8	-	16	12	-	90.8
36	Crown Alliance (Emily Galbraith, GB)	73.2	-	19.2	-	-	92.4
37	Coolgrange Merger (Tony Warr, GB)	65.5	-	29.2	-	-	94.7
38	Tiger's Eye II (Alexander Peterzell, RSA)	64.3	-	17.2	12	3	96.5
39	Le Prince Des Bois (Kai Ruder, GER)	33.8	20	27.2	16	1	98
40	Well Spotted (Matthew Wright, GB)	50.8	20	29.6	-	-	100.4
41	Partly Pickled (Louise Skelton, GB)	58.7	20	18	4	-	100.7
42	Pocket Rocket (Austin O'Connor, IRL)	65.3	-	11.2	24	2	102.5
43	Old Road (Michael Ryan, IRL)	61.5	20	22	4	-	107.5
44	Salerno (Sarah Bullimore, GB)	49.3	20	33.6	4	1	107.9
45	The Frog (Clayton Fredericks, AUS)	46.5	20	32.4	20	1	119.9
46	Little Tiger (Phoebe Buckley, GB)	73.2	20	24.8	-	2	120
47	Major Buck (Jeanette Brakewell, GB)	53.8	40	31.6	4	-	129.4
48	Glenbuck (Zara Phillips, GB)	59.5	20	24.4	24	7	134.9
49	Looks Like Fun (Vicky Brake, GB)	64.7	20	43.2	12	-	139.9
50	Kiwi Smog (Bruce Haskell, NZL)	63.2	40	48	4	-	155.2

Withdrawn before cross-country — Fernhill Clover Mist (Patricia Ryan, IRL) 62; Seacookie (William Fox-Pitt, GB) 42.7

Retired on cross-country — SS Jett (Karin Donckers, BEL) 47.7; Tankers Town (Sharon Hunt, GB) 48.2; Cast Away II (Chloe Newton, GB) 50.5; Instant Reaction (Ginnie Turnbull, GB) 63.3; Boondoggle (Kitty King, GB) 44.3; Valentina II (Richard Jones, GB); Woodfalls Inigo Jones (Lucy Wiegiersma, GB) 46.3; Upleadon (Neil Spratt, NZL) 41.8; Kings Temptress (Mary King, GB) 49.5

Eliminated on cross-country — Special Attorney (Dan Jocelyn, NZL) 57.5; Jeans (Alex Hua Tian, CHN) 53.5; Clifton Lush (Joe Meyer, NZL) 49.5; Two Thyme (Ruth Edge, GB) 39; Twinkle Bee (Anna Warnecke, GER) 53.5; National Wish (Marco Savoini, ITA) 79.5; Bow House Mandalin (Rachel Gough, GB) 75; Lead The Way (Clea Phillips, GB) 50; Desert Island (Louisa Lockwood, GB) 53.2; Lion Dancer (Gianluca Gardini, ITA) 55.5; Tarmac Adam (Daniel Sibley, GB) 59; Some Day Soon (Piggy French, GB) 44.8; Sir Percival III (Francis Whittington, GB) 42.2; Miners Frolic (Kristina Cook, GB) 41.7; Bit Of A Barney (Louise Skelton, GB) 68.2

Withdrawn after cross-country — Just Appeal (Sian Wynne Morris, GB) 73.5.0.0; Bodidily (Selina Elliott, GB) 54.8.20.176; I've Been Dun (Sacha Pemble, IRL) 69.3.0.6; Balladeer Alfred (Geoff Curran, IRL) 59.3.22.4

Withdrawn at final horse inspection — McFly (Nicola Malcolm, GB) 71.8.20.32.4; Shiver St George (Sara Burdess, GB) 61.0.27.2; Black Drum (Annabel Wigley, NZL) 51.8.0.10



Best Brit under-25 and snappy dresser Emily Galbraith