

OLYMPIC EVENTING: 26-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT

HORSE & HOUND

140 YEARS

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EVENTING

OLYMPIC TEAM GOLD

Laura Collett, Ros Canter and Tom McEwen thrive under pressure to make history in Paris

PLUS: ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW ● JOHN WHITAKER LEADS TEAM TO NATIONS CUP GLORY ● CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN'S SUSPENSION ● MARK PHILLIPS ON CONTROVERSIAL FLAG DECISIONS IN PARIS



Anya Dewey Clarke and Jim win the fast-and-furious Pro Ponies UK BS winter 128cm championship

ways, and taught me a lot. He really is the horse of a lifetime.”

Sally and her superstar pocket rocket had been the first to jump clear in the first round.

“I think it took the pressure off. When everyone’s jumping well, it’s a hard act to follow but my horse loves that ring,” she said. “Perhaps not over-watching that last line helped, as if I’d seen the problems, I might have ridden it differently.

“Spring Willow has three younger siblings here. One has qualified for Horse of the Year Show, as she did at that age. They’re all a bit quirky but they love their jumping.”

JUMPING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

MAKING history as one of the most successful RIHS ponies of all time was 13-year-old gelding Playboy Van De

Zoetewei, superbly piloted by 12-year-old Amy Capper to win the Coldstream Equestrian British Showjumping (BS) winter 138cm championship by nearly three seconds.

This is the fifth time in six years that the prolific pony has lifted this title – just missing out as runner-up in 2021 – having won previously with Amy’s older sister Lucy Capper, Tilly Bamford and twice with Tabitha Kyle.

“My sister told me just to let him go, because he knows what he’s doing,” said Amy, who lives just outside Glasgow.

It was equally fast and furious in the 128cm equivalent where nine-year-old Anya Dewey Clarke and the “absolutely awesome” flying grey Jim took the Pro Ponies UK winter 128cm championship with a killer inside turn, pushing last year’s champions Annabel

Widdowson and Bunbury Conquest into second.

Anya, making her debut in the International Arena, said she thought it was that turn that clinched it.

“I absolutely love Jim, he’s awesome!” she said. “Jim prefers an arena surface to grass, so I wasn’t quite sure

what he’d think, but I’m so pleased with him.

“He’s quite easy to turn and has a big stride, so he’s good at going fast. That felt amazing.”

“Jim is good at going fast. That felt amazing”

ANYA DEWEY CLARKE

BARGAIN BUY LIFTS THE TITLE

AN unorthodox appaloosa bought in Spain after “nobody else wanted her” landed Wednesday’s Oakley Coachbuilders BS winter JC championship with 15-year-old Emily Irvine.

Runarad Lass, known as Dolly, jumped the sole double clear to beat Emily Gulliver (Lucky Choice) into second.



A CONFIDENCE BOOST RESULTS IN AMATEUR TITLE

NURSE Gillian Anderson made her 10-hour drive from Scotland worth every minute as she took the Hickstead RIHS amateur championship.

Gillian said Linda Anderson’s 14-year-old JJ’s Prince Chacomo had jumped at 1.30m but lost some confidence.

“I gave him time off, did some working hunters, and this is him having a good life and enjoying himself,” she said.

“Nothing happened, I think he just didn’t want to do it as much for a bit.

“I didn’t expect him to come back so confident but he’s obviously feeling great. This will make the journey back much better!”

I OWE IT TO...

