



Kathryn Robinson, who overcame losing her nerve, wins an intermediate section with Let It Bee

Gemma Hall, for whom there was a double celebration afterwards as it was also her 28th birthday.

Gemma obtained her winning ride, the part warmblood Irish Sports Horse Ballymore Rich Cat, by Ricardo Z, as a four-year-old from Sean and Sally Parkyn in Ireland.

"He's consistent and will always jump a double clear," said Gemma, who pulled off this feat in intermediate section A.

Alberto Giugni beat a field of 36 to take section B with the eight-year-old

chestnut gelding Easy, whom he took over from Vicky Laing in 2008.

Section C winner Kathryn Robinson was recording her first ever intermediate victory, which was something of a miracle as to do so Kathryn has had to overcome a serious loss of nerve.

"I rode the wrong horses and had a crisis," explained the rider who is based with her boyfriend, Giovanni Ugolotti, at Headley Stud. "I had an old horse with whom I did everything and after he broke down I assumed I could just climb on anything but that affected me badly. Giovanni was great, though, and he told me no pressure."

For this reason Kathryn only bought Let It Bee to contest BE100 and novice classes.

"I got him from Germany," she said of the Westphalian/Thoroughbred. "He hadn't evented and he stuck his tongue out – a problem that put others off buying him. He still does it in the jumping phases but we've sorted the problem in the dressage now."

Apart from the final water, competitors found two other fences on Jonathan Clissold's 21-fence intermediate course testing – the skinny brush 'hide' that followed a step up at fence 9 and the Protexin Corners (11), with brush corners as the a and c elements with a skinny sandwiched in between. It was here that both of Daniel Sibley's rides, Royal Connection II and Playtime IV, ran out, as did Andrew Nicholson's Viscount George.

"The cross-country is good because its educational for all horses," said Andrew.

There were two short holds on course while the medics attended to Esther Evans and Deborah Fielding. Neither rider was badly injured and a long day of action concluded more or less on schedule at 7.15pm.

Badminton run during which Partly Pickled refused. The pair is now off to Blair or Burghley.

Birthday girl

Three intermediate sections were won by Kathryn Robinson (Let It Bee), Alberto Giugni and

SNIPPETS

THE RIGHT SHOES

GEMMA Hall partly attributed her speedy cross-country round aboard intermediate winner Ballymore Rich Cat to some special alloy shoes fitted by her farrier, Carl Wain.

"He suggested them at Houghton and the horse now wears them all the time," said Gemma. "I know several leading riders use alloy shoes at three-days and I think they have helped my horse's performance. He's quite big and he's struggled to get the time in the past. I didn't think he would be quick enough here but he definitely was."

SPLASH IT ALL OVER

SALPERTON ran on the hottest weekend in June and a total of 5,000 litres of water was used to cool horses at the end of the cross-country.

GREAT CASH FLOW

HELP for Heroes was Salperton's chosen charity and the event raised £10,000 thanks to takings at the gate, collection buckets, a silent auction, plus a normal auction, where lots included a Katie Price jacket, a Ricky Hatton photograph that had been autographed by the boxer himself, plus a signed Chelsea football shirt donated by Chantelle Souness's famous footballing father Graeme.