

Oh Bruver, what a double!

WILTON

By Louise Calverley

AFTER flooding caused its cancellation in 2012, a sunny Whitehead-Vizard-sponsored Wilton offered a very different picture in 2013. With a string of top names heading to this popular fixture, the intermediate sections were hotly contested.

Italy's Giovanni Ugolotti headed the leaderboard in intermediate sections F and G, taking the top spot in the former aboard the ex-Mark Todd horse Bruver, leaving Dominic Ruane and French Denim in the bridesmaid's slot.

Giovanni was passed the ride on Bruver, who is jointly-owned by Varena Allen and Mary Bathurst, after Mark's Olympic commitments left him too busy.

"Bruver is an odd horse. At Aston-le-Walls, for example, he had so many show jumps down that he wasn't allowed to go across country. He's not easy but he's starting to come good now," said Giovanni of the gelding by Meadowbrook who was only broken at six.

Lucienne Elms's Mistralou kept a clean jumping sheet in section G to give Giovanni victory ahead of Carolyne Ryan-Bell aboard Dunbeau.

"Lucienne gave me the ride this season as she's injured," said Giovanni whose mount, an 11-year-old ex-racer, is for sale.

Jonelle Richards dominated the open intermediate sections, winning K on The Deputy and taking second slot in section L with Mere Oak.

Jonelle bought the 11-year-old Cult Hero-sired The Deputy, who is Burghley bound, as a novice out of Ireland.

"He's co-owned by Lucy Sangster and some friends in New Zealand," she explained. "He's a beautiful horse and I have a real soft spot for him. He's not the most reliable show jumper but when he's on song it's easy."

Mere Oak added to a successful weekend for the Sangster family as the horse was previously campaigned by Eliza Sangster.

"I sold Mere Oak to the Sangsters as a five-year-old and always slightly regretted it," said Jonelle. "Eliza is at university so I've got the ride back for now. We had an unfortunate fall in the water at Bramham so this is his first run back."

Aaron Millar took the spoils in intermediate section H with the 10-year-old mare Isle Valley.

"The cross-country course was lovely, asking just the right amount of questions," he said. "Some intermediate tracks can be too forgiving but I thought this was a true test."

Horrific hounds

Questions were spread around Anthony Fooks's track which runs over the old turf of the Wilton estate and is built by Willis Brothers.

The first combination, the Chesterton Humberst Hunt Kennels at 4ab caught out a number of riders as horses spooked at the cut-out hounds. Fence 8ab could be jumped as a corner to a spread or a spread to a corner but both options caused problems with Danielle Dunn, Katey Cuthbertson, Laura Scott and Holly Kemp just a few to fall foul of this fence. Camille Combes and Glenburny Du Leou suffered a horse fall here but after a brief hold both horse and rider were given the all-clear.

The Westover Toyota Strawberries (14ab), with its wide a element to a skinny strawberry on a curving four strides, invited run outs. Scaples here included Toby Vernon and Family Law, Aaron Millar riding Allercombe Ellie, Alexandra Marsh (Bound For Freedom) and Annie Forsyth (Casanova V). Mark Todd retired Fernhill T Scarlett at this fence following a glance off.

Both water complexes needed accurate riding with the Turtles

(16) catching out a number, as did the Brush Palisade/Boat/Willow rail at the second water (18). Victims at the bright blue boat at 18b included Tim Rogers (Victor VI), Tina Cook riding Calvino II, Rose Carnegie (Master Rory), Helen Wilson (Megane) and Charlie Pickman's Molakai. Megan Heath parted company from NZB Port Royal and the horse subsequently headed for the lorry park.

Organiser Anthony Fooks explained that a great deal of man hours had gone into Wilton's ground, including aerovating all areas.

"Driving that machine at 0.7mph is more boring than watching paint dry," he laughed. "The rain we had gave us fantastic going. There were rumours on social media that we'd done nothing so we tweeted a picture of the aerovator in use. You can tell from our very few withdrawals that riders were happy with the ground."



Giovanni Ugolotti and Bruver head intermediate section F

Anthony sheepishly admitted that he had raised a few eyebrows at his local supermarket after going in to buy a bikini top for the wooden mermaid that was sited at the first water complex.

RIDER Revealed



Jodie Loveday

JODIE Loveday, 18, winner of the OIU21 on Zamor II, revealed that she is mainly self-taught.

"Recently I've been to Kate Gibson for a flatwork lesson and Davina Maslin for some show jumping instruction but other than that I do it myself," she said.

Jodie, who recently completed her A levels, is a working pupil to Aaron Millar. Although she has evented since the age of 12, this was her first ever victory aboard the nine-year-old son of Corland.

"I've had him since he was a five-year-old but I've taken him slowly. He can be hot in the dressage so I've worked to build his confidence," explained Dorchester-based Jodie.

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IZZY Taylor (right) captured intermediate section J with Its Chico who was once in Georgie Dalton's yard.

"I got the ride at the end of May and I'm pleased with his progress."

Sam Griffiths (left) piloted Real Dancer to victory in OI section L and said: "I thought the course walked more like an advanced."

Brazilian Marcio Carneiro (top) was left celebrating a runner-up slot in intermediate section J. Marcio (left) is based with Mark Todd but he divides his time between Mark's Swindon yard and his home in Brazil.

