

Novice pair shine for supreme honours

Brooke Came-Boyce and
“feisty” Springwater Alina
outshine the competition
to stand supreme



A Dartmoor mare and her young jockey are foot-perfect to come out on top, while a self-confessed “OAP” and a data analyst are also among the winners

By GILL KAPADIA

UKPH Spring Classic, Onley Grounds EC, Warks

A NOVICE working hunter combination taking part in their first evening performance outshone their larger rivals to take the strongly contested overall supreme championship at this well-attended show.

Ten-year-old Brooke Came-Boyce and her six-year-old Dartmoor mare, Springwater Alina, produced a foot-perfect performance with a blistering gallop to clinch the accolade under judge Julie Cook.

“My champion was outstanding,” said Julie. “The pony had her ears pricked throughout and appeared as though she could have turned her hoof to any job. She looked

after her young rider, and I would love to take her home for my grandchildren.”

The former stud mare came to Cheshire-based Brooke last autumn, having been broken for just four weeks. The duo are both new to working hunter ranks but are already making their mark, posting some good results in only a handful of outings last year. At Onley they finished second in both the novice and open mountain and moorland workers but won the championship, which put them into the supreme.

“She is very feisty, and you have to work with her, but she has a huge heart and we are learning the jumping job together,” said Brooke.

The pair now plan to contest some Royal International Horse Show (RIHS) qualifiers.

Another rider making a



Jessica Everill picks up two Royal International tickets en route to the amateur supreme title with Brackenbank Flicka

Pictures by Jordan Brooking Photography



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Rachel Turner and Ernie Big earn the highest jump mark and one of just three clears over Stephen Craddock's testing track

supreme debut was Jessica Everill. She enjoyed an outstanding day, taking RIHS tickets in the British Show Pony Society (BSPS) Pretty Polly mixed breeds and UK Ponies and Horses (UKPH) amateur ranks as well as winning the concours d'élégance, with her 10-year-old Fell Brackenbank Flicka.

After a quick change, impressive as Jessica was attending the show alone, she contested the amateur supreme, which she duly won.

"I'm totally speechless," said Jessica. "I never expected this. I've owned Flicka for two years but we've only done a few shows as I had a baby last year. I own Miniature Shetland Therapy Ponies and I work full-time taking them to hospitals and nursing homes, so my equestrian duties have to fit in with that."

NEW RIDER TAKES THAT

MINI supreme was a more seasoned contender, the lovely lead-rein pony Barkway Take That, who has been produced and led by Sharn Linney throughout his career, standing champion at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) in 2021.

This was his third outing with new jockey, Reevea Gardner, five, who was enjoying her first major championship show. A win in the RIHS lead-rein class earlier in the day, followed by the section championship, put the new

combination into their first evening performance where they topped the podium after giving a polished display.

Freya Jones headed the gold medal supreme, which was only for UKPH members. She stood champion in the UKPH mountain and moorland section earlier in the day with her sister Georgia's six-year-old Connemara gelding, Carramore Fred. This free-moving pony is home-produced by the sisters, who bought him last year. This will be his first proper season.

"We bought him to do workers but realised that he is beautiful enough to do flat classes as well," said Freya.

Taking the first RIHS qualifying ticket for working hunter horses was Rachel Turner riding her sister Rebecca Brierley's 13-year-old gelding Ernie Big. Rachel was first to go over Stephen Craddock's testing track, gaining the highest jump mark in the class, which yielded only three clear rounds.

"My sister told me she had entered us here, but as she is away skiing, she said I would have to come by myself!" said Rachel. "I was just going to use this as a practice for the later shows and I did not expect to qualify. It was a good course, and I am thrilled."

Rachel has partnered Ernie for six years, previously qualifying for Hickstead, but narrowly missing out on a HOYS ticket. That will



"I'M GOING TO EAT CAKE AND HAVE A GOOD CRY"

IT was an emotional moment for Georgie Lewis-Roberts when she was called forward to take the UKPH in-hand championship with her grey Fell stallion, Clifford Blue Chip, under judge Amy Cook. She had lost one of her other Fell ponies, Waverhead Dazzler II (Possum), to cancer the previous week and nearly did not attend the show.

"I was devastated," said Georgie. "We bought Possum 10 years ago, shortly after my father died and he was my best friend. Coming today was difficult, but I am glad we did. I am going back to the lorry now to eat cake and have a good cry."

Georgie purchased Clifford Blue Chip, eight, unseen after a friend showed her a photograph. He had previously done side-saddle, but not showing, and Georgie plans to campaign him in RIHS and HOYS qualifiers later this season. The pony showcases the versatility of the breed as he also competes in showjumping and will contest workers classes in due course.

ONE TO WATCH

Georgie, who is based in Evesham, works full-time as a data analyst for a software company and keeps her ponies at home, riding at 6am every morning before work.

be the focus for this year.

A 2am start paid dividends for Amanda Marfleet, who rode daughter Kate Barber-Lomax's heavyweight cob to two RIHS tickets and a reserve championship.

Amanda, a 70-year-old who describes herself as an OAP, had only ridden Master Of The House once since November, but was called in at the last minute as Kate was on childminding duty. She duly won the heavyweight RIHS qualifying class, taking the reserve championship, before also pocketing the amateur heavyweight ticket.

"It was hard work but worth the effort," said a delighted Amanda. "My back is killing me, and I feel the need to go and lie down in a darkened room. Kate has rung to say she is a very proud owner. I told her not to get used to it, as she

needs to take over the ride for the rest of the season!"

The horse was previously competed by Oliver Hood, who won with him at Hickstead. He was gifted to Kate two years ago; she struck up a successful partnership, finishing second at the RIHS last season.

Emma Taylor's 18-year-old PRE stallion Novato Salvatella, known at home as Sparky, was indeed on sparkling form, winning the supreme veteran championship after finishing top in the pre-veteran ridden. This qualifies him for the Veteran Horse Society championships in September.

"He is the most amazing ambassador for his breed," said Emma. "He is kind and gentle and so versatile; he loves showing and takes part in demonstrations and also competes at dressage and working equitation." **H&H**