

Highdown March, who belongs to Piggy's husband Tom and John and Judith Addicott, certainly boasts an impressive eventing gene pool — he is by Jaguar Mail and out of Richard Jones' five-star ride Valentina II.

"He's just fantastic, a dream to ride and very polite, but he is one that you have to be prepared to give a kick," admitted Piggy.

Alexander Whewell was left rueing his too-quick time but admitted that he couldn't have asked any more of Chakiris Star, who has only recently returned to competition after time off as a result of repeatedly losing shoes.

Former British young rider European Championships squad member Lizzie Baugh finished third with her home-bred nine-year-old B Exclusive, rising from 13th after dressage courtesy of two fault-free jumping rounds.

## MARES LEAVE A MARK

WHILE the two jumping phases heavily influenced the final leaderboard below her in the Bede Events CCI2\*-L, world champion Ros Canter remained typically calm and unassuming at the head of affairs, leading from start to finish.

Riding Sharon Bayston's Irish-bred seven-year-old mare Shannondale Nadia, she completed on her first phase score of 28.1. Mares filled three of the top four places in what, as usual, was a highly competitive class, attracting more than 100 entries.

Just one fence separated the top 13 after cross-country.

"I'm delighted as she's not jumped that many clear showjumping rounds — she's very bold and scopey and can sometimes jump herself into trouble," said Ros, who is recently back in the saddle after having her daughter, Ziggy.

"She's had a quiet season but the goal this year was always to come here as it was something nice for us both to aim for. She hasn't had an intermediate run yet so we couldn't do the seven-year-old championship."

Second place went to Cumbria-based Mark Davidson with another seven-year-old, Highlight K, on 30. The Dutch-bred gelding has had an incredibly consistent season, not finishing out of the top 10 in any of his 11 runs coming into Osberton.

"He's totally unflappable, unless he sees a cow," laughed Mark, "but he is incredibly quick at picking things up, which is why he is so consistent."

Hannah Bate and Willa Newton were rewarded for their clear showjumping rounds aboard the mares Tremanton and Fadeline respectively to finish third and fourth.

Stuart Buntine's cross-country tracks rode well overall, although the rail, ditch, rail combination that came early on both tracks — fence seven on the two-star and

## ON TO LE LION

THE seven-year-old championship riders heading to Le Lion d'Angers Federation Championships for Young Riders were Osberton runner-up Grafennacht world champions Kitty King and Cooley Lancer, who have both been selected, as have Doodle Do (fourth) and Halenza (fifth and 15th) and Cooley Lancer, who contest the six-year-old

TALKING POINT

six on the three-star — caught out several combinations. Most incurred penalties at the first set of blue rails, with horses either surprised as they faced them off a right-hand turn or by the fact the ground appeared to slip away immediately after them.

## UPCOMING TALENT

THE Caunton Manor Stud British seven-year-old championship was run as a CCI3\*-S, and a win for Piggy French here set the scene for her subsequent record. Riding an Irish-bred son of Harlequin Du Carel, Sportsfield Top Notch,



"I'm delighted": Ros Canter tops the CCI2\*-L with Shannondale Nadia

# EVENTING

OSBERTON  
2-6 October



Ros Canter and Izilol DHI take the lead in the six-year-old championship

Ricardo Z and Creggan Diamond bloodlines.

Second-placed Grafennacht has contested Osberton's young horse championships every year since she was a four-year-old. Grafennacht is by the prolific eventing sire Grafenstolz out of Nachtigall, with whom owner Susan Eggleton won up to open intermediate level.

This year's European young rider championship individual bronze medallist Heidi Coy had led the class after showjumping on Russal Z on 28.9, moving up the leaderboard after the dressage leaders — Giovanni Ugolotti and the British-bred Swirly Temptress (eventual third) and Piggy and Sportsfield Top Notch — both lowered a showjump. However, six cross-country time-penalties dropped them to eventual fifth.

The Caunton Manor Stud British six-year-old championship, run at CCI2\*-S level, resulted in a second win for Ros Canter, this time with the Dutch-bred Izilol DHI. He is by

Zavall VDL, who boasts Olympic showjumping stallion Casall as his sire, and Ros very much rates him as one for the future.

"He's almost double jointed, he's that flexible over a fence," she said. "He's also very sharp — not because he's naughty but because he's so intelligent."

It was nearly a hat-trick for Piggy French, who finished second with The Lancer Stud's Swiss-bred Cooley Lancer just 0.1 of a penalty adrift on 27.9. Alexa Palmer and her German-bred mare Global Super Nova were third on 30.6. The pair survived a couple of hairy moments on Sunday's cross-country track after Alexa saw flyers at a couple of fences, Global Super Nova clearly inheriting her grandsire's jumping ability — her sire, Numero Uno, is by 1994 World Cup winner Libero H.

Former Norwegian pony team member Yasmin Olsson-Sanderson and Incheilo DHI had led going into the final phase, but a stop at the Investec Mound saw them drop out of contention.