



Russal Z – one of her three rides
highest-placed Blenheim first-timer

By LUCY ELDER

everyone cheered, it made it feel real," she said. "I think this is the most exciting horse I've ever had the privilege of riding."

Yasmin has made no secret of the fact the Olympics has always been the aim for Sue Davies and Janette Chinn's 10-year-old gelding, with whom she won the young horse championship class last year, when it was relocated from Blenheim to Burnham Market. Watching this year's Tokyo Games has only fueled that hunger further.

"I want to hope that one day, I'll be in that position on the podium with a medal around my neck," she said.

CANTER'S HORSEPOWER

YASMIN and Piggy March held the top two spots from the opening day through to the

fifth in the final standings, and propelling Ros up the leaderboard to fill the runner-up spot.

"He is just a fantastic horse. I've loved him right from the day we broke him in at the age of three, and he's the nicest horse I've probably ever ridden across country," said Ros, who was fourth at Bicton CC15* earlier in the month aboard Lordship Graffalo's half-sister, Pencos Crown Jewel.

"He goes as fast as you want him to go, and as soon as you sit up, he slows down. He comes back with his head in the air and in balance, so going inside the time becomes easier with a horse like that. He was really on it, and didn't bat an eyelid at the people. To be quite honest he made it feel easy, which is exciting."

The depth of the reigning world champion's horsepower was on show across both classes at Blenheim. Ros also finished 13th with a 28.7 dressage and a double clear aboard Irish Sport Horse Rehy Royal Diamond, and was the long-term leader in the young horse CC14*-S with Iziloi DH1.

For Ireland's Susie Berry, the highest placed international rider, her third-place result was perseverance rewarded after a tough year.

Susie, 25, finished on her dressage score of 27.9 aboard Helen Caton's 10-year-old Ludiam gelding, John The Bull.

"The only pressure I felt today is probably the pressure that I put on myself," she said on Sunday. "Because he is such a good jumper, it would be my fault if we were to have a pole. He's just incredible. I didn't have the perfect ride round,



"To pull it all together in all three phases, luck has to come into the equation – and luck was on my side"

CC14*-L WINNER YASMIN INGHAM

business end on Sunday. Ros Canter and multiple CC14*-S winner Lordships Graffalo, owned by Michele Saul, closed in on the early leaders with the best of the Friday dressage tests and jumped clear across country to go into Sunday in provisional third.

The scopey bay gave the fences huge air, stopping the clock one second over the time allowed of 76 seconds to add 0.4 of a time-penalty to his 26.7 dressage.

The result cranked up the pressure yet further on Piggy and Yasmin. The middle upright of the treble at 10 served a costly rail for Piggy and quirky but talented Brookfield Quality – £10,000, to be exact – dropping them to

I was a bit free to a few and he was like, 'I've got it. Don't worry.'"

In an emotional interview after cross-country, Susie explained she has struggled with mindset after breaking her arm in April.

"I've found a little bit since breaking my arm, something negative was happening every time I went out and it has been really hard to get back going," she said, adding that she felt unfamiliar nerves before heading out across country.

"Having those nerves that I'm not used to, I was worried that I would freeze or not use the bit of fight that I have. As soon as I left the start box and jumped the first three, he was so chilled, he didn't

Pictures by Peter Nixon