

# Perfect grades net the booty for Emily

## SOLIHULL (2)

By Katherine Dalgety

SCHOOL teacher Emily Kettle was left celebrating a change in fortune at Solihull (2), where Frontier Girl carried her to a convincing victory in BE90 section A.

"She's had a year off work due to injury and this was our first event back so I'm rather happy," smiled Emily, who teaches at Mountsorrel Primary School. She has owned the nine-year-old mare, who was produced by Ginnie Turnbull, for four years.

The sole BE90RF section went the way of Barclays Bank employee Donna Smith and Four Square III. The 11-year-old gelding has been with the Cheshire-based rider for six years and they have been training with Ruth Edge.

"Now that we've qualified for Badminton I'll have to keep Four Square wrapped up in cotton wool," said Donna.

Alex Lea, 24, finished at the head of affairs in BE100 section N aboard Margaret Boswell's Maybe VIII. The duo also secured the best mare and best under-25 rider prizes.

"Maybe is green and she was spooky today but she's getting better," said Alex, who is based with his girlfriend at Radway Riding School. His good friend Daniel Henson also finished in the prizes, piloting the 17.2hh Fashion Label to the top of the

leaderboard in BE90 section B.

**Bold Heath  
BE90 runners-  
up Ashlee  
Winstanley  
and Wyndham  
Touch Of Spring**



**Four Square III carries Donna Smith to a BE100RF victory at Solihull (2)**

"This is her first season of eventing and she's eight so she's a late developer," said Daniel, who trains with Felicity Scott and Carl Hester and is yard manager to dressage rider Kate Byron.

Organiser Ginny Townsend said: "Every section was chock-a-block and we held a wait list."

## URCHINWOOD MANOR

By Rebecca Short

ALICIA Hawker celebrated turning 16 and finding out her GCSE exam results – five As and three A\*s – with a victory at a soggy Urchinwood Manor, where she headed BE90 section C aboard McGuigans Lad.

"He's a lovely little horse who is in his first season of eventing," said Alicia's mother, Anne. "They've finished in the top five every time out."

McGuigans Lad is by the Irish Sports Horse stallion McGuigan, an international advanced eventer who was campaigned by Jeanette Brakewell.

"Our McGuigan is meant to be very similar as he's also just 15.2hh and short-coupled like his

father," added Anne, who noted that McGuigans Lad had barely jumped a fence before the end of June.

Victoria Vatcher piloted the six-year-old Monopoly Money to victory in BE90 section D.

"He came over from Ireland as a hunter in September last year," said Victoria, who is a master of the Berkeley Hunt and who runs a livery yard near Bristol. "He's one of the nicest youngsters I've produced. At 17hh I didn't want to rush him as he was green and needed time to mature."

Despite heavy rain, the organising team confirmed that good grass coverage meant that the ground held up well and no serious falls were recorded.

## MILTON KEYNES (3)

By Rebecca Short

KELLY Turner and Talented Boy secured their place at next year's Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Grassroots Championship by fending off the opposition

and landing the BE100RF at Milton Keynes (3).

"I've had him since he was a four-year-old, which is when he came over from Holland," said Kelly of the 10-year-old by Voltaire.

Kelly, 28, is a full-time mother and she is currently training for BHSAl exams. She has qualified the 17hh bay gelding for the Petplan area dressage festival.

"Although he's good on the flat and a scopey jumper he's never been brave across country. He's finally realised that the fences and open fields aren't scary," added Kelly.

The eight-year-old chestnut mare Valesca pulled off her best dressage mark to date – 21.5 – to head BE100 section B under 22-year-old Cara Payne.

Cara, who works as a receptionist in a veterinary practice, said: "Valesca's last run was at novice level but the entries here had closed before I knew how she would find it so I entered the BE100 as a back up."

Cara came across the KWPN, by Corland, at a dealer's yard in Buckinghamshire two years ago.

"Valesca had never evented before," said Cara. "So far she's never had a cross-country fault."

Maximum entries were received and a waitlist was held. However, the future of the event, which holds three fixtures, is uncertain as the equestrian centre is on the market.

## FIRLE PLACE

By Aimi Clark

DROPPING down a level following several below par runs this season proved fortuitous for Cullawn Holly, who carried Lisa Pilbeam to the top of the leaderboard in the open novice at Firl Place.

"We did have a hairy moment over the trakehner today, though, which nearly resulted in a fall," said Lisa, who produced and has been campaigning the nine-year-old mare for five seasons.

Local instructor Oonagh Meyer was left celebrating victory in BE90 section D aboard Woodyard Joe.

"I've had a 10-year break from competing and this is my first affiliated win," smiled Oonagh. "It was a challenging cross-country course that needed to be walked

carefully. The big plan is to qualify for Badminton."

Full-time mother Charlotte Neal confessed herself "stunned" when told that she had netted BE90 section C aboard the 10-year-old mare

Knockane Clover Dream.

"I can't believe it," said Charlotte. "I thought my dressage score was 35 not 25.5 – that's a personal best."

BE90 section A went the way of Waringham-based Jade Forlani (right) aboard the six-year-old Laughtons Silver Belle.

The organising team with Josephine Carr at the helm juggled nearly 600 entries to ensure two full days of competition ran.

**"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I THOUGHT MY DRESSAGE SCORE WAS 35 NOT 25.5"**

## WINKBURN PARK

By Rebecca Short

SOPHIE Trotter landed her first ever affiliated victory, in BE90 section F at Winkburn Park riding Foggy Dew.