

# Brits abroad

## Robin Hood nets Maher big



**CANADA SHOW JUMPING**  
SPRUCE MEADOWS MASTERS  
CSIO\*\*\*\*\* 9-13 September

A week that began with a devastating blow for British show jumping due to the injury of **Tim Stockdale's** Fresh Direct Corlato (news, page 5), ended with British triumph when **Ben Maher** took third in the tough CN Spruce Meadows Masters on Robin Hood W.

"The first round was long and big enough, but jumpable," said Ben, one of 12, including fellow Brits **Peter Charles** (Murka's Pom D'Ami) and **Geoff Billington** (Rosinus), to make the first jump-off.

**Robin Hood W** is about a year off jumping competitively round a track like that final round

**Ben Maher** says his top horse will be better still with more time

"And Tim was fantastic, especially considering his disappointment. He took on a trainer-type role and helped me a lot," he added.

Both Geoff and Peter collected 13 faults this time, to finish ninth and 10th respectively, but Ben produced the first clear of the class, albeit with a single time-fault.

"The second round was huge, course-designer Leopoldo Palacios [who built at the Hong Kong Olympics] said his double of oxers and triple bar were probably the biggest he'd ever built," said Ben.

"There was a double of verticals and, when Robin jumped the first part, it felt like he'd stopped dead. I pushed him on and he jumped so high he nearly had me off. That's where the time went.

"I'd been told that in previous years the class had been won with a clear round and a time-fault in the second, so keeping the fences up was my main priority."



However, both America's McLain Ward (Sapphire) and Canada's Eric Lamaze (Hickstead) remained clear again to go head-to-head in a final round, with Ben securing third and \$100,000 (£61,458).

"I watched those two jump-off and they deserved to be the top two," said Ben. "I think their horses are the best in the world at the moment. Robin is probably about a year off jumping competitively round a

track like that final round." McLain pipped Eric by 0.03sec after both remained clear once again. Ben is likely to give Robin Hood W the winter off after competing at the Global Champions Tour final, so the horse won't go



**GERMANY EVENTING**  
BONN RODDERBURG CIC\*\*\* 11-13 September

**SHARON HUNT'S** trip paid off when she finished 11th in the CIC\*\*\* on Sarah Randall's Kenny.

Although this left her out of the placings, it was mission accomplished in terms of getting the 11-year-old's CIC\*\*\* qualification in the bag.

He did a good test — he's only just learnt flying changes so is adding some extra ones

**Sharon Hunt** is pleased with Kenny's first CIC\*\*\* nonetheless

"He put in a very good performance for his first CIC\*\*\*," she said. "He did a good dressage test — he's only just learnt flying changes so is adding some extra ones — and went well across country.

"I was impressed with the course — the waters were big and they made an effort with the ground. The show jumping was also good, being on a surface."

Sharon was eighth equal after dressage (49.9pen) on her top horse Tankers Town, but she had never intended to run him across country. She will work on his dressage through this winter and save the 15-year-old for next year's big events.

"I put him in a double bridle and it gave me more control and softness," said Sharon.

**Zara Phillips** also took Toytown for the dressage — they were 15th on 53.7pen — and was fifth after cross-country on Secret Legacy.

But Zara withdrew him before the final trot-up as she felt the ground was not suitable for him to show jump.

### Results

**CIC\*\*\*** — 1, Gadget De La Cere (D Schrade), GER 35.8.8.4.4=48.2; 2, FRH Fantasia (A Dibowski), GER 43.8.8.0=51.8; 3, Charlott 23 (A Junkmann), GER 44.1.13.2.4=61.3; 11, Kenny (S Hunt), GB 63.2.8.8=79.2.



**FRANCE SHOW JUMPING**  
CHANTILLY CSI\*\*\*\*\*  
10-13 September

JUST three made the jump-off in Chantilly's grand prix, among them **John Whitaker** and Mandy Hall's Casino 43, who finished second to take home

€14,400 (£13,000).

John produced the first clear of the class with an early draw and was joined in the final round by French riders Timothee Ancaume (Jarnac) and the recently crowned European champion Kevin Staut, riding Le Prestige St Lois.

"I was first to go in the jump-off and went really fast — to be honest I thought I'd done enough to win," he said. "There was one fence near the edge of the arena that I took a bit more care at, as Casino can tend to shy away from the crowd. But I did make the other two work for it."

I was first to go in the jump-off and I thought I'd done enough to win it

**John Whitaker** pipped into second in the grand prix

See also report on eventing from the junior and young rider Europeans, page 36

# cash

Robin Hood W shows his scope, finishing third in the Spruce Meadows Masters for Ben Maher



Picture below by John Gilmore

to Olympia this year. "He's done a lot and he deserves a good rest," said Ben, who finished seventh in the six-bar class with Quainton Quirifino. "Instead, I'll take Wonderboy and perhaps some new

Peter Charles and Murka's Pom D'Ami, 10th in the big class and sixth in a 1.55m jump-off contest



arrivals on the yard." Earlier in the week, Peter Charles won the Atco Electric circuit six-bar outright with Murka's Rubert R after clearing 2.05m in the fifth round. He also took sixth in a 1.55m jump-off class

riding Murka's Pom D'Ami. Tim Stockdale and Fresh Direct Kalico Bay claimed second in a table C and fourth in a 1.40m jump-off class, while Geoff Billington took fifth in the first day's Finning Welcome 1.45m.

John Whitaker and Casino 43 finish second to new European champion Kevin Staur



Kevin followed with a steadier round, before Timothee headed the class by less than 1sec. "He had nothing to lose so just went for it," said

John, who also finished fourth in a seven-year-old class with Argento. The show, held on Chantilly racecourse, with the impressive backdrop

of the Chateau de Chantilly, attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd on the final day.

"It's a really nice show and there was a good atmosphere for the grand prix," said John.

Laura Renwick, who won a 1.50m grand prix qualifier with Limelight De Breve and a 1.40m speed class with Beluga II, echoed his sentiments.

"I'd like to go back there," she said.

Guy Williams took second in a 1.45m class with Toronto Van De Middelstede, a place ahead of William Funnell (Cortaflex Mondriaan), while Philip Spivey finished in eighth with Romanov II.



## ITALY SHOW JUMPING PINEROLO CSI\*\*\* 11-13 September

A week after finishing fourth in the Busto Arsizio grand prix, **Jane Davies** claimed third place in Pinerolo's equivalent and also headed a lucrative 1.40m class with Patrick VII.

Jane was first to go of 19 in the jump-off in the €20,000 (£18,070) 1.40m competition, a Rolex world rankings class in which the final-round fences were put up to 1.50m.

"It finished with five or six double clears, but nobody could catch us," said Jane. "I'd gone as tight and fast as I could. Patrick has a huge stride so covers the ground quickly."

In the final day's 1.50m

grand prix, Jane and Patrick had the final fence down in the first round, but 10, including this British combination, were taken through to the jump-off.

This time, the second-drawn pair remained faultless, the only ones to go clear in the final round. However, Jane was beaten by Finland's Nina Fagerstrom (Wivina), who collected a single time-fault in each round, and Julien (Sandro), jumping clear initially, but with four faults second time out in a slightly quicker time.

"This takes Patrick's winnings to around €20,000 in two weeks," said Jane.

Valente, a seven-year-old mare, was runner-up for Jane in two age classes, while Tulipe Van De Heffink, the dam of Nicole Pavitt's Amaryllys Van De Heffink, finished fourth and fifth in speed contests.

"Valente is out of Imour, the same dam as Patrick," said Jane. "And I've just bought a colt foal of hers by Verdi, too."

**This takes Patrick's winnings to around €20,000 in two weeks**

**Jane Davies counts up her winnings after good results**



## ITALY SHOW JUMPING AREZZO CSI\*\*\* 11-13 September

**ELLEN WHITAKER** just missed out on a second grand prix win with Equimax Ocolado on Arezzo's Equestrian Style tour after a necessary manoeuvre following the final fence cost her valuable time.

Eleven went through to the jump-off, which was a long galloping track, and Ellen was sixth to go.

"After the last fence, the finish was on a left-handed angle, and 'Ollie' jumped to the right," Ellen explained.

"So I had to pull him back to get him through the finish, otherwise I may have missed it. That's where I lost the time."

The final two to go, Germany's Thomas

Wienberg (Escobar 20) and Belgian Gudrun Patteet (Taxi) beat Ellen by 0.77sec and 0.03sec respectively to take the top two places.

"It's a shame he didn't win it because he's been jumping out of his skin and he's not had a fence during the two weeks we've been here. It was only a little thing that cost us this one," said Ellen, who was also second in the first day's grand prix qualifier. "He seems to be getting faster."

**Joe Whitaker**, Ellen's younger brother, also made the grand prix jump-off with Kool Kaiser after jumping clear in the first round. He eventually finished ninth. **H&H**