

The class of 2015

Last year's highest-placed Burghley first-timer, Ros Canter, had one big aim: to compete at a four-star before her 30th birthday. Aged 29 and nine months she not only ticked that box, but completed in 37th place, winning the prize for the highest-placed British first-timer with Allstar B. A run-out at Discovery Valley prevented a possible top-10 finish.

"Of course you always want to do a little bit better, but overall I was thrilled to make the step up to that level – it's a really big thing and has given me confidence that I can take forward," says Ros.

Two other four-star debutantes completed last year – and both

made a big impression.

Charlotte Brear, a 27-year-old car mechanic, had never even watched a top-class three-day event, let alone competed in one. She had a dream debut with the charming part-Shire Manor Missile, for 40th place.

"I walked up to the main arena before my dressage test alongside William Fox-Pitt. He told me I should be proud just to get this far, whatever happened," she recalls.

Abi Boulton, one of the youngest riders in last year's field at 21, completed in 47th place with a clear round across country on Tilston Tic Toc, a horse she had graduated to five years ago after outgrowing her 14hh pony.

