

# Allstar B

Ros Canter's 17hh European eventing gold medallist who craves attention — and carries his pint-sized rider around the biggest tracks with care

"I'VE never sat on another horse like him and I probably never will again," says Ros Canter of her fifth-placed European Championships mount, Allstar B (Alby). "He has such power and scope to jump around the likes of Badminton and Burghley. It's a real privilege to ride him."

Ros first set eyes on Alby in owner Caroline Moore's yard. "Straightaway I could see that he was a huge horse with an eye-catching jump." At that point, Alby already boasted some eventing mileage, having been started off by Caroline and taken to CCI2\* level by Emily Parker.

Earlier in his life, as a four-year-old, he had been purchased by Vere Philipps from Addington's December Elite Sale. The renowned horse dealer only caught the last few seconds of the imposing bay in the ring and was too late to put in a bid, but he liked what he saw and the deal was sealed outside.

While Vere could see Alby's

*'As he has a black tooth, he looks a bit like a pirate'*

ROS CANTER

By JULIE HARDING

potential superstar status, so, too, could Caroline, who bought him when he was rising six.

"Because he was big, it did take him a long time to grow into himself," says Ros who, at 5ft 2in tall and weighing under 8st, momentarily wondered if the 17hh Alby might be too imposing for her. "To me he still rides big in the first phase, but as he's got older he's become more agile, so he's easier to manoeuvre around the corners. He felt strong across country when I rode with shorter reins, but since I started training with Christopher [Bartle] I now ride with slightly longer ones and that's made a difference."

According to his rider, Alby is a people person. "He craves attention. He always wants his dinner first; he loves being brushed; and he frequently curls his top lip to tell you he likes or dislikes something. As he has a black front tooth, he looks a bit like a pirate."

Ultimately, though, Ros feels that Alby has a kind heart. "If he didn't, he wouldn't carry someone as small as me around such big tracks." H&H

NEXT WEEK

Blenheim CCI3\* winner Cooley Cross Border

## THE OVERALL PICTURE

Allstar B was impressive even as a youngster, according to Vere Philipps, who showjumped him as a five-year-old before selling him to Caroline Moore.

"He always possessed many of the ingredients necessary to make a top class horse. His good limbs and the angles of his frame were obvious to me. Caroline and Ros then produced him patiently to allow him to fulfil his potential. I'm sure he is the envy of many of Ros's contemporaries now, but they may not have recognised his four-star potential as a 17hh five-year-old in showjumping condition," says Vere, who points out Allstar B's strong back and loins, his well-set tail, his uphill build and his slightly high wither, which gives Ros a sense of security in the saddle.

"Allstar B stands in a good frame and looks well balanced," he adds.

## HEAD AND NECK

"Allstar B has always had an enthusiastic and genuine expression, which shows in his head and eye," according to Vere. "His neck could perhaps be set a fraction higher and be a little longer, but his excellent shoulder counteracts this. His head is a little large in proportion to his frame, but it only looks this way as he is stripped out in three-day event condition."

## THE MOVEMENT

"Allstar B is a good mover with well-engaged hocks," says Vere. "He has a particularly good canter with excellent stride length and in the picture it is possible to see plenty of daylight underneath him, which is good for galloping. He has particularly good angles through his hindquarters for power and agility in both the jumping and the dressage phases."

## FRONT LIMBS

Allstar B boasts particularly impressive limbs and feet, according to Vere.

"Horses competing at this level need to have a good set of limbs in order to stay sound," he says.

"Allstar B has good bone and is not back at the knee. His pastern length and angle are nigh on perfect for a long and sound competitive career. Horses with upright pasterns are more prone to joint problems, while those with long sloping pasterns are more prone to tendon injuries, as are horses that are back at the knee."

Ephebe For Ever	Galoubet A
	Geisha N (by Night And Day)
Narenca B	Ekstein
	Gcubertha (by Ladalco)

Stable name: Alby

Owners: Caroline Moore and Ros Canter

Rider: Ros Canter

Results: 632 BE points; fifth Chatsworth CIC3\*, seventh Bramham CIC3\* 2014; fifth Bramham ERM3\* 2016; fifth Badminton, fifth and team gold medal Strzegom European Championships 2017