

"It's a long-distance memory. All those ups and downs in 2018, but he's all worth it for moments like this."

Laura started with the pressure of expectation - the 15th chance of winning according to data analysis company EquiStats. But she led from the front and added just 0.4 of a championship time-fault to her dressage score, winning with a five in hand.

"I told myself after Tokyo I was just going to enjoy the horse for what he is. He over me nothing. He's given me my first five-star and a gold medal at the Olympics and I'm genuinely just enjoying this moment," she said after the cross-country.

London 2012, though, only 13 and more five-star wins and championship medals could well be in his future.

"I'm the luckiest girl in the world to be sat on him," said Laura at the final press conference. "The girls better and better and the most exciting thing is he's still young enough to come back and do it all again hopefully."

IT'S WALTER'S WAY

ROS CANTER proved she has a successor to world champion Altair B by finishing second on Michael's Lady Lushington. He is just 10 years old and was Ros's direct mentor here for last year's Europeans, but this week he stuck his heady nose in front as he lured home for the World Championships. He was



Right: Oliver Townsend cheers Ballaghmore Class to overall fifth - this was the grilling's eighth top five finish in the B Series. New Zealand's Jamie Price finished 11th, about 15 years old. Classic Model, the 2021 Ballaghmore winner.

EVENTING

your rack up final-day clears



EX GRAND SLAM OF EVENTING

FINAL PLACINGS

1st Laura Collett (GBR)
2nd Ros Canter (GBR)
3rd Oliver Townsend (GBR)
4th Jamie Price (NZL)

An interesting showjumping track shuffles the order, but Laura Collett holds her nerve to triumph

KEVIN WYATKES track included three doubles - two of them positioned consecutively, with a triple-handled curving line between them - but no treble. The shortest related distance was five strides and in places there were options on striding.

"I thought it was a good track - the longer distance requires you to use your eyes and your timing, rather than it being a Mack and white there or foot," said William Price. "It was tight on time as the fences are well spread out. You haven't got tight lines and then long gallops, so there were very few places to make up the time."

William's horses both had two downs to drop four places apiece to 12th (Little Fire) and 14th (Orestis).

NEW SYSTEM SAY OFF FOR ROS CANTER

ROS CANTER changed her preparation with Altair B after a difficult 2021 when they were the alternates at the Tokyo Olympics and then had rebuild at the Europeans.

"I thought about our relationship and I gave further back than that - I missed a year being pregnant and then Covid hit," she said. "The big events that he seemed disappeared, so we had to build up repeatedly to smaller events and probably over-trained."

"I wanted to get back to him loving the job. I've practised dressage lots and learnt so much about his balance off hacking. He doesn't forget how to do a flying change. As soon as he got in there, he said, 'Off we go, fast.'"

"In hindsight, if I'd seen at the Europeans I wouldn't have changed my system and I'd have had a different horse coming into this year."

40 | Horse & Horse 12 May 2022

cray person," said Piggis, who admits that this man never feels as good as the ladies.

"She's pretty professional and I do get that when I'm travelling round the warm-up thinking it's not good enough."

Amanda Portinger was the

"I've been panicking that Vanir Kamira remembers 2019, when I milked the lap of honour"

PRODIGY MARCH

second debutant in the top 10 when she started just Kidding into equal eighth for New Zealand. Ros Canter had two horses in the leading 12, with old campaigner Altair B (see box,

ROS CANTER ON RUNNER-UP LORDSHIPS GRATIALO

Ros and Lordships Gratia, Ying fourth overnight, just in an assured clear, and with Ballaghmore Class having already moved behind them they were guaranteed a podium place.

"It's probably the best she's ever jumped"

PRODIGY MARCH ON VANIR KAMIRA

"As a five-year-old he was casual, but he just seems to get the job more and more," said Ros. Swallow Springs "kipped his way round" as Oliver Townsend gave him all the help he could. They just brought down the front end of the case into the double at fence six, which pushed them behind Lordships Gratia.

100m. Photo: Peter Pearson and Chris Morgan

Overall: final scoreboard

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2022, PRESENTED BY MARS EQUESTRIAN

Rank	Horse	Score	Score	Score	Score		
1	London 22 (Laura Collett, GBR)	25	-	-	0.4	25.4	
2	London 22 (Ros Canter, GBR)	25	-	-	-	25	
3	Swallow Springs (Oliver Townsend, GBR)	25.7	-	-	4	29.7	
4	Vanir Kamira (Piggis Martin, GBR)	25.7	-	0.4	4	30.1	
5	Ballaghmore Class (Oliver Townsend, GBR)	25.9	-	-	4	26.3	
6	Gallop Hound (David, GBR)	26.4	-	1.2	-	27.6	
7	Swallow Springs (Kevin King, GBR)	26.8	-	8	-	1.2	34
8	Swallow Springs (Kevin King, GBR)	26.9	-	-	0.4	36.3	
9	Ballaghmore Class (Oliver Townsend, GBR)	26.9	-	11.2	-	38.1	
10	Altair B (Ros Canter, GBR)	26.8	-	2.8	-	0.8	38.4
11	Classic Model (James Price, NZL)	26.4	-	8	-	34.4	
12	Altair B (Ros Canter, GBR)	26.4	-	12	12	38.4	
13	Little Fire (William Price, GBR)	27.3	-	6	8	41.3	

MEGA CLEARS

AUSTIN O'CONNOR took out a treble to the green seat at first, but piloted Colorado Blue to a clear, one second over the time which bonused him up from 12th to eighth.

"I think I thought I was coming to the green seat at first, but the good horses get their jockeys out of trouble now and then," he said. Piggis's Grand Jet Out and Asperit De La Lage added 0.8 of a time-fault to three downs and plummeted from 12th to 14th, while David Duff (see box, p40) described his clear as "magg" as he rose from 11th to sixth with Gallop Hound.

Kevin King's jumping clear elevated her a place to seventh on



Photo: Peter Pearson

14th in 12th place on 26.4 scored by the young pretender Lordships Gratia in 19th on 26. His soft test was marred only by gressiness in the flying changes. "I was trying to quieten the crowd down after William Price's test, but I don't know why I bothered because he didn't but an eyelid," she said. "He's a bit of a funny character, sometimes he can be very lazy, sometimes he can be a bit hot, but I don't think it's got anything to do with whereabouts he is - it's just William's way on the day."

William slipped into 12th with Little Fire, with Orestis in equal 27th, not helped by William turning the wrong way after the first centre line. Piggis Puntell had MGII Gratia Street in 13th and Billy Walk On equal 16th, alongside Emily King and Valley Stars.

Nicola Wilson was delighted with European champion JL Dolich's rideability as he took 12th on his five-star debut and Badminton first-timer Ginge Le Coe was the only competitive member of the large French contingent when he put Asperit De La Lage in 14th.

A MENTAL GAME

THERE were disappointments too, of course.

11th first-timer Ariel Grail

once you get down to the broken bridge, it really made you in the fact that you're at a five-star."

Ros Canter commented: "If the horses enjoy jumping big jumps on nice distances, hopefully they'll have a great experience. If they suddenly start to think it's a bit big, then there's nowhere to get their confidence back."

Those who had been in Kentucky were glad they'd had a warm-up over bigger fences, though US rider Will Pastore warned: "You can brush through the brush at Kentucky. I'm not sure you can do that here and it makes the jump bigger."

Harry Mink, who finished 26th on Asperit Gring, added: "It's proper crossing the country, jumping whatever's in front of you. I think that involves the right elbow in horses and riders to ride forward and attack. The biggest safety risk in cross-country is when people don't commit and ride forward. Horses need fences

"The biggest safety risk in cross-country is when people don't commit and ride forwards"

HARRY MINK

44 | Horse & Horse 12 May 2022

EVENTING

BADMINTON

Cross country



Ros Canter scored the fifth clear inside the time on Lordships Gratia, with a round as smooth it looked like tender years and inexperience. She moved up six spots to fourth.

"Of course I adore Altair [Altair B], but this horse is in a class of his own - he just finds everything easy," she said. "He has such a long stride but he also has the ability to shorten and add if you need it without taking offences."

Oliver Townsend clocked the final fast-free round of the day on Ballaghmore Class, who was settled by two grey hunt horses - ridden by IRR columnist Matt Riddison, who is joint-master and husband of the headmaster, and bloodstock agent Charlie Gordon-Watson, who hunts with the headmaster - when he looked like going over the top in the warm-up.

"He's just a very good friend and I think if you set out as a rider seven-star he would still come

A ROCKY START

SATURDAY got off to a rocky start when there were three eliminations from the first six rides out on course.

The second ride out, Padraig

Photo: Peter Pearson and Chris Morgan

Patridar Kivry Chabert started off well on Classic VI, who demonstrated that adding extra strides worked well in some combinations, such as the three big angled hedges at the Vulture Design Huntmaster's Chase. However, the mare had three run-outs at the second right-handed open corner at the November course (see box).

"He has such a long stride but he also has the ability to shorten and add without taking offence"

ROS CANTER ON LORDSHIPS GRATIALO