



"He has so much ability": Izliot DHI tops the CCI4\*-S with Ros Canter, who has high hopes for the "fantastic" nine-year-old she co-owns with Alex Moody

## LAND ROVER CCI4\*-S

**1st** Ros Canter (GBR) on Izliot DHI  
**2nd** Oliver Townend (GBR) on Cooley Rosalant  
**3rd** Piggy March (GBR) on Brookfield Quality

## 'I've never sat on a horse like him'

Ros Canter's great run of form continues, while Oliver Townend showcases a bright young talent and Piggy March credits a change in bridle for her success

ROS CANTER'S sensational run of form continued when she led the Land Rover CCI4\*-S from pillar to post aboard Izliot DHI.

Ros and the nine-year-old she co-owns with Alex Moody kicked things off with a 23.5 dressage and then proceeded to add just 0.4 of a showjumping time-fault and 1.2 cross-country time-faults.

"He was fantastic across country. He's a spooky little horse and it's taken time – sometimes he's amazing and sometimes he's been tricky – so to go out there and really concentrate was great," said Ros, who admitted she "wasn't sure" if she was going to go for the time when she set out across country.

"I knew I wanted to give it a go. He's been so settled this week. If he hadn't been settled, I wouldn't have tried, even if we were in the lead," she explained. "But he made me want to give it a go today. I had to push hard up the hill at the end. He was a bit shocked because I'm often careful with him – he doesn't get me kicking very often – but I'm delighted."

By GEMMA REDRUP

Ros explained after her dressage that she has had to "rebuild" after "Isaac" competed at the seven-year-old World Championships at Le Lion d'Angers in 2020.

"He found it absolutely terrifying and he didn't have a good experience at all. So it's all about building for bigger things to come. He's got incredibly supportive owners who are very accepting that even though we're at Bramham, we're still making small stepping stones towards what we hope will be a brilliant horse in the future. He has so much ability – I've never sat on a horse that feels like he does."

Ros was "pushing hard" up the final hill on the cross-country to help ensure she stayed ahead of Oliver Townend and Cooley Rosalant, who had been snapping at their heels throughout the jumping phases.

Ultimately, Ros finished 1.5 penalties ahead of Oliver and the

exciting eight-year-old, who is owned by Paul Ridgeon.

Throughout each phase, Oliver was full of praise for this striking grey mare, who was one of just two horses to finish on their dressage score in a section of 74 starters.

"She's very, very good. She's

still a baby with trees blowing – she was spooking coming into combinations and looking at the trees next to them," Oliver said after they finished inside the 6min 32sec optimum time on the cross-country. "We're just ticking along and when all three bits come together, she'll be very, very



Franky Reid-Warriorow and the 10-year-old Artisan II daughter Dolley Phantom stay on their dressage score to secure fourth



## CCI4\*-L

**1st** Izzy Taylor (GBR) on Monkeying Around  
**2nd** Ros Canter (GBR) on Pencos Crown Jewel  
**3rd** Kirsty Chabert (GBR) on Opposition Loire

**WINNING OWNERS:**  
Mark Sartori and Izzy Taylor  
**WINNING BREEDER:**  
Christian Heinrich  
**WINNING GROOM:**  
Chloe Whitlam

## Monkey grows up

Izzy Taylor wins the showcase class for the first time, in a week of drama as Bramham returns to the calendar after two years

By PIPPA ROOME

flashy youngster to nobody. But with patience and skilled horsemanship, Izzy has brought him through to demonstrate his exceptional talent.

"He's won a four-star long before, at Burnham Market in 2020, and then to come here, which is a whole different competition in many respects, proves to me that he's a proper horse, a real one," said Izzy, who turned 39 on cross-country day.

"He could do anything if he chose to, he's scopey, he can turn himself inside out if he needs to. But he's like a talented child – they've never had to try very hard and when they do, they're not sure they like it. I think he's now realised he can try and he can do it and he's still OK."

The pair were three seconds over the time in each jumping phase, having started their

campaign with a loose, expressive dressage test to sit second at that stage.

"He loves having fun and he doesn't always know the difference between fun and not behaving," said Izzy after her dressage. "So we've slightly changed things and try to make sure it's fun. He loves galloping about and jumping so that's what we did yesterday and this morning, I've just been trying to figure out how to get the best out of him."

Monkey already has championship experience – he was 10th at the Europeans last year – and more call-ups surely beckon in the future. He will also be holding Izzy to account for his reward for winning a big event – a chance to go hunting next winter and to head out on exercise with his beloved hounds soon.

**ALL-BRITISH TOP THREE**  
ROS CANTER finished second on "Little Miss Consistent" Pencos

Crown Jewel, the only horse to finish on their dressage score. Annie Makin and Kate James' 13-year-old mare has sometimes flown under the radar, but "Jasmine" has a super record, including fourth at Bicton five-star last September.

"This year our relationship is stronger than ever and I think with a mare that's important," said Ros. "I've learnt she doesn't really like going on the bit, so why do it very often? I think over the past few years, I've potentially tried to overtrain her and make her something she isn't."

The mare – who is a half-sister to Badminton runner-up Lordships Graffalo – had to cope with the wall blowing down after she'd jumped it in the showjumping, which Ros said would be her worst nightmare, but she was a "little warrior" and stayed focused. Ros was also eighth on Rely Royal Diamond. Kirsty Chabert finished third



Ros Canter puts in an assured performance with "Little Miss Consistent" Pencos Crown Jewel, ultimately finishing second and the only combination to remain on their dressage score in the CCI4\*-L