

Burghley's first ladies

THE biggest emotion Ros Canter recalls feeling was pride, after guiding Kate James and Annie Makin's Pencos Crown Jewel round clear across country on the mare's Burghley debut last year. Ros and "Jasmine" finished a very respectable 11th. While the spotlight tends to fall on Jasmine's half-brother, Michele Saul's Lordships Graffalo, thanks to his recent European Championships double gold and his Badminton win this spring, the half-siblings are both showing an equal love of the sport.

"As a young horse we didn't think, 'Wow, Jasmine is going to go round a five-star'. She just looked like a nice horse that might go round a few novices, so each time we stepped up she surprised us. When she was a five-year-old if you'd asked me if I thought she'd go round Burghley, I'd have said no. It's her heart and determination that got us there," says Ros.

"I'm quite protective of her because she's quite small, so I went out thinking I'd jump each fence separately, and if at any point she wasn't happy I'd do what's right for her. But she went through the first combination and just loved it.

"When we got to the Leaf Pit, which was one of the really serious combinations that a lot of horses had made to look very big, she jumped it very easily, and I thought, 'Come on now Ros, she's told you she's enjoying the experience, so let's



Above: Ros Canter's Pencos Crown Jewel's "heart and determination" allow her to enjoy the big track. Left: Mark