

## Showjumping

# 'I rolled up my sleeves

Bruce Menzies has high hopes for his eight-year-old champion, the Old Lodge's Sultan V, a son of Irco Mena



### BRITISH YOUNG HORSE SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS, ADDINGTON MANOR EC, BUCKS

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By Kerry Bowness

THE introduction of the Old Lodge eight-year-old final to this year's championships resulted in an excellent class, which showed off the talents of the upcoming equine stars based in Britain. And for the class's sponsors, the result was perfectly scripted as their reigning *Horse & Hound* Foxhunter champion Sultan V took the top spot under rider Bruce Menzies.

Six of the 29 starters, who had qualified after two preliminary rounds, made the jump-off over Bob Ellis's shortened course. The approach to the penultimate Martin Collins vertical, the central part of an S-bend from a double to

the final oxer, was the most crucial part of the course. A sharp approach saved time, but carried the risk of knocking a rail.

The first two opted for the tight approach and paid the price, but Bruce went for the wider route allowing himself to get three strides to the fence with the son of Irco Mena. He cleared the

obstacle and finished with the first double clear of the class.

"It was an awkward fence because you couldn't sweep round to it," said Bruce. "But Sultan has a big stride so was able to make up time that way."

John Whitaker had two horses out of the remaining three to go, all of whom were in with a chance of

gaining a share of the bonus prize (see p58).

John's first horse was Voss and, mindful of the extra money he could gain, he rode a steadier round than Bruce, but the vertical fell for him, too.

David McPherson followed with Billy Bishop, who naturally moves quickly between the fences and



Shane Breen and Brightwells purchase Fahad II

### Stars of the future

OLD LODGE claimed another title at the show in the Equimat stars of the future challenge, for horses who have been purchased at a Brightwells auction.

Shane Breen rode some exceptionally smooth tight lines on the five-year-old Fahad II, a son of Vigo D'Arsoilles, to win.

Shane has partnered the gelding since he was four years old, after he was broken in by William Plunkett. His dam Bagatelle started jumping internationally for Ireland and is currently with Ed Little after she foaled Fahad.

"He was bought from the sale here as a three-year-old," said Old Lodge stud manager Corrina Duncan. "He jumped out of the ring!"

# and went for it'

Laura Kraut lifts the seven-year-old championship with Winde III, whom Lance Whitehouse has campaigned over the summer



Winde III is quick by nature and always looking for the next fence. She's such a winner

**Laura Kraut** on her daughter of Numero Uno who is now qualified for HOYS and will be ridden there by Lance Whitehouse

gained on Bruce's time. His wider approach to the second last enabled him to clear it, but the back rail of the final oxer fell, pushing him to fourth, below Simon Crippen (Ondine Du Logis).

Only last year's seven-year-old winners, John and Argento, remained. They cleared every obstacle, but fell 0.3sec short of Bruce's target to finish second. However, as the sole faultless combination throughout the age group's classes, they took the £4,000 bonus.

"With John going more for the bonus, it worked in my favour a bit," said Bruce, who won £1,500 for the class. "I had a stupid fence [in a prelim round] with Sultan. He just dropped short on an oxer, as if he thought it was a vertical. Today, I

'I am very grateful to Robert Maguire': Rachel Connor wins the non-British six-year-old final with his Zidane VII



rolled up my sleeves and went for it."

Bruce believes Sultan is now ready to move up and is looking to take him to St Lo, France, after Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), for which he qualified for the seven- and eight-year-old championship here last month.

"I'm toying with doing the HOYS wild-card qualifiers," said Bruce.

With Sultan already qualified, a HOYS ticket for the seven- and

eight-year-old final went to Argento, who had not contested any other qualifiers this year.

## SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHAMPIONSHIP Kraut rides like the Winde

SUPERB, speedy attacking of the first three fences in the seven-year-old championships enabled USA Olympic team

## The best of British stallions

THE Tom Hudson Tankard is awarded each year to the highest-placed British-bred stallions in the five-, six-, seven- and now eight-year-old finals. This year's winners were:

**Keeley Durham's eight-year-old Argento**, ridden by John Whitaker  
**Euro Sport Horse's seven-year-old Outcast**, ridden by Mennel Watson  
**James Luker's six-year-old Zig Zag**, ridden by Sammie Coffin  
**The Billy Stud's five-year-old Billy Mexico**, ridden by Daniel Moseley

## Four-year-old honours shared

IN all of the four-year-old classes, faults alone dictated placings.

The Addington Manor EC non-British bred title was shared three ways by Phillip Miller (Basic), Laura Mantel (Millfield Tina) and Aled Harding (Paris XI).

Victory in the British-bred equivalent went two ways, with Louise Pavitt (Sussex Caretino) and Daryl Johnson (Pauldarys Touch Of Tiger) splitting the honours.

gold medallist Laura Kraut to save time early on the course and clinch the title with Joyce Williams' Winde III.

"I hadn't seen any of the others go before me," said Laura. "Winde is quick by nature anyway and always looking for the next fence. She's such a winner."

The Numero Uno daughter, who won the circuit championship for seven- and eight-year-olds at this year's Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida, has been competed by Lance Whitehouse this summer, while Laura has been busy at Global Champions Tour shows.

"I took her to Weston Lawns last week and gave her a jump round a 1.20m, which she won," said Laura. "I'll take her to Wellington again this winter and start jumping her in 1.40m and 1.50m classes."

As with the eight-year-olds, a ticket for HOYS was on offer for their handicap final and Winde took this, too.

"HOYS clashes with the World Equestrian Games [WEG], so Lance will jump her [in Birmingham]," said Laura, who is on the USA team with Cedric for Kentucky. 