

Show jumping **Horse of the Year Show**

Matthew Sampson scores a young rider-newcomers double — here with Chianti Classico in one of the most nail-biting jump-offs



Super Trooper De Ness (Nicky Boulter) heads the seven- and eight-year-olds



Nick Skelton and Big Star add a HOYS championship to their bow

National championships

Having chased qualification places up and down the country, riders were in determined mood for the national finals — producing some exhilarating climaxes

MATTHEW SAMPSON was crowned the best of his generation with one of the most daring rides of the week in the young riders championship of Great Britain.

The 19-year-old has risen through the show jumping ranks, attracting a growing legion of young fans along the way. He had the HOYS crowd gasping and cheering as his own 15.1hh Chianti Classico twisted and spun to get home without fault — 3sec faster than the only other double clear, Joe Clayton with Saveur.

"I've had a brilliant year — he's been second, fourth and second in young rider grands prix so it was good to get a win," said Matthew, who now runs his own yard near Sheffield, having been based with Duncan Inglis since 2007. "I saw Joe go before me and thought I've just got to try anything."

Matthew was already the proud owner of a HOYS championship rug thanks to an eye-watering tight turn to the final double in the Tri-Zone newcomers with

Graeme Thame's V Anubertha.

"I thought I was a bit slow," he said. "I'd taken an extra stride to a few fences so thought I'd have to risk the turn."

The seven-year-old bay gelding partnered Matthew to victory in the BSJA/Scope Festival newcomers masters and young riders grades B and C final last month.

A classic championship Wynne AMATEURS enjoyed the spotlight on day one in the BSJA classic championship — introduced at HOYS last year and open to riders outside the top 150 British rankings.

Unusually, an upright at fence one proved the first-round bogey, but 11 riders progressed. Arena UK qualifier Ian Wynne was deceptively quick in the jump-off, scooping the title with owner-breeder Ann Wolley Dod's Don Douglas.

This nine-year-old Demonstrator gelding is out of a grand prix dressage mare and started life doing in-hand showing.

"The track was harder than last year, but this is the first championship I've won — I've chosen the right one to win," said Ian who hails from Cheshire.

The first running of the seven- and eight-year-old handicap championship produced a winner from the younger division in Old Lodge's son of Vigo D'Arsouilles, the stallion Super Trooper De Ness.

"[My partner] Nick [Charles] woke up this morning saying he had a feeling we were going to win," said rider Nicky Boulter.

"Super Trooper De Ness is always much better in a jump-off. He likes fast turns and a bit of a challenge.

"He'll compete through the winter, as well as doing stud duties. He's getting very popular now."

Skelton sees Stars

NICK SKELTON and Beverley Widdowson's Big Star continued their domination of six-year-old titles with victory in the HOYS championship. Laura Renwick

(Parvati De Breve) had snaked round Kelvin Bywater's track like an express train to set the lead time of 36.88sec, but Nick was on a mission — flying home in 36.52sec.

"He gets 10 out of 10 for everything — he's 17hh, a stallion, has an unbelievable temperament, a snaffle mouth, huge amounts of scope and he rides like a 12.2hh pony," he said. "You can be absolutely sure his owners won't sell him — and that's what we need for Britain and the sport."

Sunday's grade C championship went to the newly-crowned H&H Foxhunter winner Sultan V (see page 26) with another flawless performance for Bruce Menzies.

"He was sharp today," said a surprised, but exultant, Bruce after completing the double, cheered on by the horse's owners. "He was a bit ragged in the first round, but he was back in his cog in the jump-off. He's jumping out of his skin — it's all fallen into place this week."

PRINCE PHILIP CUP

THE overall lead swapped with each high-velocity round of the NFU Countryside Pony Club Prince Philip Cup mounted games, the Percy hunt and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn's branches fighting it out to the end.

It all hinged on the final sack race and the Percy members jumped with gusto, crossing the line in the lead and rejoicing after securing the title.

"It's the first time we've even got to the final," said trainer Alison Gibson, whose daughter Gemma (Mischief), joined Katie Dawson (Bambi), Grace Pettifer

(Tepi), Suzanne Barwise-Munro (Socks), Brogan Wilkins (Carrie) and Kitty Chrisp, who was on foot, on the team. "To win was an absolute dream."



A jubilant Percy hunt lift the Prince Philip Cup in a thrilling final