



ONWARDS AND UPWARDS



TREVOR HOIT

Izzy Taylor reveals life on the Eventing rollercoaster

SINCE MY last diary, Thistledown Poposki, 'Pop', who came 18th at The Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials, became a Dad (via semen taken before he was cut) to a beautiful filly. Mum is 'Bluebell' by Windsor Heights, owned by Jane Holderness-Roddam.

I had just been placed second on Orlando at Bramham in the CCI3* - a nail-biting weekend for Owners and spectators alike. I scored a personal best dressage mark of 28.1. He consistently scored eights and nines with a single perfect 10 to finish from one judge. So for the big question: cross country day, which was, to say the least, eventful and very wet! Orlando rode his heart out, even taking two long routes. I still led the CCI3* class after cross country with the 14.8 time faults I had incurred, but with a much reduced margin. Orlando passed the trot-up and then was the nerve-wracking show jumping round. I didn't have a fence in hand over Ireland's Aoife Clark and

Fenyas Elegance, so I had to go clear, and sadly we had a rail. Yes of course there's disappointment, but also I am elated. If you'd asked me at the beginning of the week to predict the result I couldn't have; it had been like a fairytale for us all.

I was selected to join the UK Sport Lottery-funded GB squad to contest the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG), which takes place in Normandy. A week later, Orlando and I were selected onto the UK Sport Lottery-funded British squad for the FEI Nations Cup™ series in Aachen, Germany (17-19 July). We had an FEI film crew at the yard for a day for a documentary entitled *The Road to Normandy* - I haven't talked so much in years!



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As if all that wasn't enough, I had the privilege to have a morning of dressage lessons with Charlotte Dujardin, British dressage rider, European Champion 2013 and double gold medallist at the London 2012 Olympic Games, who holds all three World Records in dressage. This wonderful opportunity was thanks to my sponsor Simon Middleton (MD of Zebra Products), and for everyone asking, yes, I was put through my paces, but it was inspiring and she was fabulous.

As I send this article for submission Orlando and I have been placed fourth in Aachen. The Germans claimed the top three spots individually. Orlando is living up to his nick name 'GingjaNinja' that's for sure - it was so hot and yet he kept giving every time I asked, the little superstar!

At the WEG training session we announced we were withdrawing Allercombe Ellie, owned by Ms Frances Carter and Miss Susan Holroyd, from the British WEG Eventing squad due to a minor set back during training. I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for their support and kind words. It's a huge disappointment for all concerned and I am truly gutted! However, at the time it was announced the memorial service of Benjamin Winter was taking place, a timely reminder to reflect on the future ahead of me.

Family Taylor also had its own goodbyes to say to the one and only 'Toffee Taylor', who, at the ripe old age of 37, bid us all farewell. He was our family pony and he'll leave a gaping hole in the yard. As our rollercoaster goes up and down, Cara, Molly and Annabelle, our summer pupils, have jumped aboard - fingers crossed they are prepared for the Team Taylor ride. Hold on tight! 🐾