

AND BREATHE ...



KBIS Briarlands Matilda placed seventh in The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials 2014

ADAM FANTHORPE

Izzy Taylor pens her last diary of 2014

AS I WRITE I'VE just returned from Ballindenisk (2) in Ireland, having won the CCI2* on Call Me Maggie May. She's really something special and has come a long way. The fabulous Thistledown Poposki also competed at Ballindenisk (2) and went into the lead in the CIC3* class following the cross country (he was the only horse to make the time - legend), but then he struggled in the show jumping and dropped to fourth. Although disappointed for his owner Lady Anne Whiteley not to have a win, I was thrilled with him as he tried his heart out, just like at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. He's now having a well deserved break, along with Orlando, who's had one hell of a season as well this year.

KBIS Briarlands Matilda is now on holiday having had a cracking season - she is currently in equal 12th place in top 20 horses in the BE points system for the season so far. She had her last run of 2014 at The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials CCI4* and finished in seventh place; gosh that was a cross country course and a half! It tested both of us in every sense,

but we both love a challenge and all the photos of us show the pure determination to finish as close to the time as possible.

Team Taylor has also been expanding over the summer, with new rides arriving on the yard, Briarlands Birdsong "Rick" only five weeks on and we are beginning to get to know each other and came 2nd in the OI at Burnham Market (2). I thrive on being busy and am at my happiest when I am taking up to five horses to Events like Aston, Somerford, Keysoe, Burnham Market and Moreton Morrell where the likes of Extreme II 'Dennis', Kiltlealy Catch Up 'Lyra', Bugbrooke 'Foalie', Calibro 'Iglu John' have all been doing brilliantly. Every Event is another learning curve for them with different atmospheres, courses and challenges.



I am so proud to be in fourth place in the BE rider rankings for 2014



To summarise "what a Team Taylor year" it's been. We clocked up some serious miles around the UK and Europe, we have had some real excitement with Pop's becoming a dad, KBIS Starlet 'Doris' is in foal, the elation of personal bests, top 10 placings and the wins!

As for all of us involved in the wonderful world of Eventing, we all get brought back down to earth with a bump with huge disappointments and set backs along the way, my overriding thought is that it's part and parcel of life.

As autumn sets in, I have begun cubbing - I am eagerly awaiting the hunting season. I will take the time to take stock of the season, analyse and make improvements to myself and the horses. I look forward to the return of KBIS Starburst, KBIS Starchaser, Dax Van Ternieuwbeke and Allercombe Ellie, who are all returning to work.

I am so proud to be in fourth place in the BE rider rankings for 2014, which is only possible because of the Owners of the horses I ride - thank you for making this possible. I'm living the dream every day thanks to you for choosing me - it's a privilege. I couldn't compete without my family and support team, and those Owners and sponsors who have supported me over the years. I definitely have my eye on the Europeans in Scotland next year!

A sincere welcome new Owners, sponsors and team members. Its great to have you on board. Finally thank you to the support from UK Sport and the National Lottery via World Class for including me on their programme which is of such benefit and last, but by no means least, British Eventing and all those that provide the venues, organise, sponsor, and volunteer. Roll on 2015! 🐾