

Mason's on for sure

A 24-year-old beats a Tokyo horse in the feature class, and horses from Cooley Farm dominate

Cirencester Park (I), Glouc

By CATHERINE AUSTEN

GRETA MASON's advanced intermediate (AI) win on Cooley Fur Sure was a landmark for the pair: the 15-year-old horse's first-ever British Eventing victory, his 24-year-old rider's highest-level success to date – and their seasonal debut.

Only Olympic gold and silver medalists Tom McEwene and

O'Connor and his Tokyo ride Colorado Blue 2.3 penalties behind in second.

"He's the boldest horse I have ever ridden," said Greta. "He was shaking with excitement while I was plating him this morning – he loves it and is a cross-country machine."

Greta is based with Rodney Powell – himself second in intermediate section G on Woomah Free B – and trains with him for jumping and Alex Franklin on the flat.

"We've been working really hard on the dressage, and it is so nice to see that is paying off and the judges are rewarding him with the marks that I know he is capable of," she said. "It's like being second to Toledo! There were a lot of top horses competing and it's good to see where we sit in that company."

The under-25 CCT¹⁴-L at Bramham is their target, and a good run there would set them on the path to a first CCT¹⁴-L at Pau in the autumn.

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GRETA MASON ON COOLEY FUR SURE

Toledo De Kerker scored better in the dressage, with 22.3 to Greta's 27.2, and, when Tom withdrew after both pairs had showjumped clear, Greta went to the cross-country in the lead. A flawless performance in that phase meant she took the class, with Austin



"He's quite a character," says Molly Faulkner of the Passion 11-year-old Call Me Cooley, on whom she heads the under-21 OI



COOLEYS ON TOP

HORSES bought from Richard Sheene's Cooley Farm in Co Wicklow were prominent, with Molly Faulkner taking the under-21 open intermediate (OI) on Call Me Cooley and Selina Milnes winning OI section M on William and Angela Kacker's Cooley Snapchat.

Molly, 19, led the dressage on 25.2 and finished just one second over the time allowed on the Passion 11-year-old.

"He's quite a character – I had to get on him twice before his dressage, as he has to be bored or he will just explode," she said.

"I had a dressage lesson with Kylie Roddy the day before and we put exactly the routine we'd planned into practice. The jumping you can leave up to him – he's phenomenal and as long as I can get the right corner, all I have to do is aim and get to the fence on the right side."

Molly is doing a one-year degree at the Oxford Media and Business School – "quite intense, but I like being busy" – and has moved Call Me Cooley to Kylie's Shakesbury yard for the season. Her "dream" this year is the young rider team, and a second CCT¹⁴-L to give her a CCT¹⁴ qualification.

Cooley Snapchat, an eight-year-old by Kannan who finished third at Le Lion in the seven-year-old World Championships last October, led throughout his class, with a first-phase score of 30.7. "He probably finds it all too easy at the moment. That was our personal best in the dressage; he can have a squeal and a buck, but he was very good today and he's exciting for the future," said Selina, who was also fourth in the AI on the Badminton-bound Iren IV.

The showjumping track caught out some of the less experienced riders in this class, and competitors throughout

the weekend agreed that it was a decent course that required intelligent riding.

Organiser and course-designer Alee Lochore's cross-country was not overly influential on flat

Above: Greta Mason enjoys highest-level success to date with an AI victory on Cooley Fur Sure. Below: Selina Milnes and the Kannan son Cooley Snapchat secure an OI



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