

# Foxley fulfils a dream

**ROYAL CORNWALL, WADEBRIDGE**

5-7 June

By Kathryn Pearn

ALLY FOXLEY fulfilled one of her greatest ambitions when she won the Jackie Stanley grand prix at Royal Cornwall on her nine-year-old mare Amelie.

"When we stepped up to the bigger tracks, my target was always to win an area trial or grand prix and now we've done it," said Berkshire-based Ally.

"Amelie's an amazing mare. This is our first serious campaign on the county circuit and in a short span she's jumped four trials and been placed in every one."

Saturday's grand prix saw a capacity crowd in the grandstand alongside the sun-drenched ring.

"This is the only time these big classes are held in Cornwall and the crowd absolutely love it," said course-builder Steve Williams.

"The grand prix was powerful with straight related distances. This is one of the best, if not the best, grass arena on the county circuit."

Having recorded the fastest clear, Ally Foxley and Amelie took pole position in the eight-strong jump-off, which developed into a real crowd pleaser.

Jenny Cassan opened with a calculated round on No Wise Cracks, but their target was short-lived when Carron Nicol fought back on her eight-year-old mare Fantasia II to secure a 7sec advantage.

Sammie Jo Coffin came next on her seven-year-old gelding Crosswinds Bobby Dazzler and saved valuable time cutting inside to the final oxer to take the lead.

But again the order changed as Carron Nicol utilised the big stride of her stallion Hollywood to regain the advantage.

"Simon [Nicholson] has done a fantastic job



Ally Foxley and Amelie take the Jackie Stanley grand prix

**My target was always to win an area trial or grand prix**

**Ally Foxley** who won Royal Cornwall's grand prix

keeping Hollywood going for me [while I was recovering from a broken collarbone]," said Carron (see box, right).

Lynne Bevan finished just off the pace with Top Gun IV, and then the crowd were on the edge of their seats as Keith Doyle and Jill Boyd's Wokando were up on the clock until faulting at the final fence.

Phillip Miller maintained the crescendo on Pennie Cornish's stallion Univeau, who finished a split second off the time as the pressure fell on Ally Foxley.

"I knew Carron was hungry for a win, but I was even hungrier," said Ally. "I made sure I got into the mode and allowed Amelie to do the jumping. I was

worried about cutting into the last with its square rails on flat cups, but Amelie was on springs. The atmosphere was incredible. My next aim is to find another horse, travel to some small internationals and attract a sponsor."

Steve Williams posed a series of technical questions in the Bergen Stud area trial, where his sweeping final line proved influential.

Phillip Miller (Caritiar Z) and Keith Doyle (Wokando) returned the only clears. They were joined by Sian Price (Rambo III), Carron Nicol (Fantasia II) and Sammie Jo Coffin (Crosswinds Bobby Dazzler) in the jump-off.

Sian Price made amends for a misjudgement of the countdown, which left her with two time-faults after starting 5sec into the time.

"I needed to put pressure on Phillip and Keith and went as fast as I could," said Sian, who also took the South West Loos 1.40m.

"The ground was spot-on and Rambo really appreciated it. He was off for the best part of last year recovering from a nasty virus, but he's back to his old self now."

Sian's strategy worked well when Keith and Wokando slipped down the leader board and Phillip Miller made an error at the final fence on Caritiar Z to the benefit of Carron Nicol and Fantasia II, who moved into second place.

"I only brought Rambo back to work in January," said Sian. "It's lovely to win."

Cornish farrier Andrew James and The Libero Raphael won the Riders Garages Group accumulator, while the Devon Cider 1.35m and 1.30m stayed locally with Adam Ellery (Dalcotes Cotehele) and Sammie Jo Coffin (Willem De Lux).

Devon's Tom Dunn headed the Horse & Jockey grade C on Want That One, while Amy Parkin (Canavan) won the Peter Roberts Memorial junior open for the third year.

I owe it to...

**my consultant and Simon Nicholson**

CARRON NICOL credits her speedy return to the saddle to her consultant Mr Stanislas of the Warwick Nuffield hospital and her stallion Hollywood's good form to Simon Nicholson.

In March 2008, Carron shattered her collarbone in five places in a fall at Addington EC.

"Mr Stanislas put in a plate with eight screws and wires to hold my collarbone together and he performed a synthetic bone graft," said Carron.

"He told me it would take six months to completely heal and it may need another bone graft. I wouldn't be back competing without his expertise. He's warned me that if I fall off it will break again.

"I also owe a lot to Simon Nicholson for keeping Hollywood going for me. During their short time together, they won nearly £1,000."

"Everyone says I'm back too early, which is why Royal Cornwall was such a boost."

## Results

**Horse & Jockey grade C.** — 1, Want That One (T Dunn); 2, Vicaros (S J Coffin); 3, Oregon Du Thot (S Stockdale). **South West Loos 1.40m.** — 1, Rambo III (S Price); 2, Univeau (P Miller); 3, Caritiar Z (P Miller). **Devon Cider 1.35m.** — 1, Dalcotes Cotehele (A Ellery); 2, Vicaros; 3, Dottie Z (L Bevan). **Bergen Stud area trial.** — 1, Rambo III; 2, Fantasia II (C Nicol); 3, Caritiar Z. **Riders Garages Group open accumulator.** — 1, The Libero Raphael (A James); 2, Perpetual Motion (M Edwards); 3, Univeau. **The Peter Roberts Memorial West of England jnr open.** — 1, Canavan (A Parkin); 2, Frankies Ace (C Brooks); 3, The Flying Cobra (A Parkin). **1.30m.** — 1, Willem de Lux (S J Coffin); 2, Simarilla (C Beacham); 3, Golden Boy II (T Dunn).