

BURGHLEY CCI ***

Five US riders finish in top ten; Stephen Bradley and Sassy Reason are the grand winners

By Kitty Wieschhoff

Thirty-one-year-old Stephen Bradley, riding Ann Mills' Sassy Reason, was the convincing winner of the Burghley Horse Trials CCI**** at Stamford, Lincolnshire, over what the course designer Captain Mark Phillips called "the biggest four-star track in the world this year". Second was New Zealand's Mark Todd with Just an Ace. Third was Australia's Andrew Nicholson on his Olympic mount Spinning Rhombus. He was the only rider to go inside the time and who jumped his first clear round ever, at a three-day event, having had nine show



Burghley winner Stephen Bradley on Sassy Reason at Fence #7, The Brompton Willows, finished with 50.2 penalty points
Dr. & Mrs. K.H. Wieschhoff



The three remaining 2nd placed Team members (with U.S. Chef d'Equipe Karen Stives), Stephen Bradley (Sassy Reason), Bruce Davidson (Happy Talk) and Michael Godfrey (Glendevlin)
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jump rails down in Barcelona. Fourth was Stephen's mentor and trainer Bruce Davidson, riding Mr. and Mrs. Roy Chapman's Eagle Lion, who won Fair Hill last year. Bruce was also ninth on Brendon Furlong's Happy Talk, his 1993 Rolex Kentucky winner

Bruce is the only American to have won at Burghley (on Irish Cap) at the 1974 World Championships. Dorothy Trapp improved from eighth place at Burghley last year to finish fifth with her Olympic mount Molokai. Sixth was the popular Swedish rider Anna Herman riding Elektra Spiritus. The only British rider in the top ten was Frances Hay Smith riding Jabba the Hutt who finished seventh. Vicky Latta and her Olympic partner Chief were eighth. Riding in his first four-star event Michael Godfrey (who previously competed Shannon now ridden by Karen Lende) finished 10th with his new mount Genesis Partnership's Glendevlin.

Stephen Bradley started his campaign for Burghley's prestigious Remy Martin Centaur Trophy and a \$15,000 first prize, with a light forward and flowing dressage test which put him into sixth place. Burghley's cross-country track seemed made for the pair, and they attacked it with gusto and panache. Their second fastest time with only .08 time penalties to their score in a display of accuracy, power and skill conjured admiration from all who were privileged to watch. "I just had to remember that Mark Phillip's courses walk big but ride well," he said. "Sassy was wonderful! He just pulled me around, and I didn't have an anxious moment. With show jumping in the usual reverse order, both horse and rider kept their cool and show no signs of the previous day's exertions. One of only eight combinations to go clear within the time, they were assured of a final win.

Bruce Davidson attacked the course on both of his horses with a masterful display of cross-country riding, which left no doubt in the minds of spectators as to why he is in a class of his own. Deceptively swift, he managed good times on both, while not risking his chances at "The Willows". On his Team horse Happy Talk, he made sure of a good start for the Team with 18.2 time faults, while with Eagle Lion he had only 76.2 penalties.

Dorothy Trapp must be one of the most fortunate riders in the sport to own the Thoroughbred Molokai, "the point and shoot pony. He is so incredibly honest, fast and brave, and when I get it wrong (as all riders do at some point) he just moves over under me and keeps going". Molokai had one of the fastest rounds with only eight seconds over the time for 3.2 faults.

Michael Godfrey and Glendevlin had an excellent ride around the course. He had a couple of hairy moments at the

TEAM COMPETITION

Team/Horse/Rider	Total	Team Total
1. NEW ZEALAND		189.15
SPINNING RHOMBUS/ Andrew Nicholson	57.1	
JOSHUA VI/Paul O'Brien	Elim.	
CHIEF/Victoria Latta	75.2	
JUST AN ACE/Mark Todd	56.8	
2. USA		215.4
HAPPY TALK/Bruce Davidson	79.0	
DOWNTOWN UPROAR/Louise Meryman	With.	
SASSY REASON/Stephen Bradley	50.2	
GLENDEVLIN/Michael Godfrey	86.2	

complicated second water-crossing, but the horse just kept powering forward while Michael reorganized.

David O'Connor and On a Mission "attacked" the dressage test in a way preferred by the European judges, to lie fourth. The horse has come a long way in the 18 month since he changed from a show jumper to an eventer. David incurred 20 penalties when he changed his game plan just before the tricky corner at the Timber Yard. "He just never saw what I wanted him to do". He flew around the rest of the course with no problems, giving the impression of a horse with a big future in the sport. One rail down in show jumping left them in 19th place.

Jim Graham and his consistent performer Easter Parade competed clear by slow in cross country, but played it a bit too cautiously in show jumping with three rails down to finish 22nd.

Karen Reuter and Master McCoy were going well cross-country, when he caught his left toe on the big table taking the short route at The Maltings, dropped his left shoulder and lost his rider. Karen was winded by uninjured, and decided to call it a day. Marcia Carabell's super performer Alden's Image was not himself, and Marcia wisely decided to retire.

Burghley was not a good experience for Jill Walton and her Olympic mount Patrona. The mare who was the best of the US horses in Barcelona, suffered a recurrence of her dressage problems. She later tied up on phase C and was returned to the stable by ambulance.

Karen Lende O'Connor and Shannon withdrew before the endurance phase. Shannon had injured herself when grabbing a shoe at the sunken road at her last event at Thirlestane Castle in Scotland. It was felt that the mare should wait a bit longer for a big challenge. Karen hopes to take her to Boekelo in Holland in October.

Five of the top ten finishers and six of the top 20 were Americans. Stephen Bradley gave much credit for their success to the new chef d'equipe, Captain Mark Phillips. "As a Team, we owe him a lot". In fact, Karen Stives, chairman of US Selectors acted as "official" chef d'equipe for Burghley, to avoid any conflict of interest with Mark as course designer. This left him free to be available to look at the fences with all 11 nations taking part. Afterwards, he was delighted with the way the course ride, s there was no bogey fence, and no horse or rider was seriously hurt.

"The Rest of the World" unofficial Team competition was an innovation at this year's Burghley. It was held to offer a Team challenge at four star level to non-European countries who are ineligible for the European Championships. Australia, New Zealand, the US and Britain as host country, competed for a \$6000 first prize which was won by the New Zealand Team. The US Team of Stephen Bradley (Sassy Reason), Bruce Davidson (Happy Talk), Michael Godfrey



Michael Godfrey and Glendevlin at Fence #4 "The Open Ditch", finished 10th. Dr. & Mrs. K.H. Wieschhoff



All the American competitors at Burghley with Captain Mark Phillips. Michael Godfrey, Marcia Carabell, Dorothy Trapp, Bruce Davidson, Louise Meryman, Stephen Bradley, Jim Graham, Jill Walton, David & Karen O'Connor and Captain Mark Phillips. Dr. & Mrs. K.H. Wieschhoff

(Glendevlin), and Louise Meryman (Downtown Uproar (who withdrew), placed second, winning \$3000, while the other two Teams were eliminated.

Out of 82 competitors, 11 American combinations were presented for the first veterinary inspection, and six of them finished. Forty Five of the original starters completed the event. □

BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS ADVANCED - CCI****

Place	Horse	Rider	1st DAY		2nd DAY				3rd DAY		Final Total
			Dressage Score	A&C	Steeplechase Jump	Time	Cross-Country Jump	Time	Jumping Jump	Time	
1st	SASSY REASON	Stephen Bradley	49.4	-	-	-	-	.8	-	-	50.2
2nd	JUST AN ACE (NZL)	Mark Todd	50.6	-	-	-	-	1.2	5	-	56.8
3rd	SPINNING RHOMBUS (NZL)	Andrew Nicholson	56.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	.75	57.15
4th	EAGLE LION	Bruce Davidson	59.4	-	-	-	-	7.2	-	-	66.6
5th	MOLOKAI	Dorothy Trapp	58.2	-	-	-	-	3.2	5	1.0	67.4
6th	ELECTRA SPIRITUS (SWE)	Anna Hermann	55.2	-	-	-	-	13.2	-	-	68.4
7th	JABBA THE HUTT (GBR)	Frances Hay Smith	46.0	-	-	-	-	12.8	10	.25	69.05
8th	CHIEF (NZL)	Victoria Latta	57.0	-	-	-	-	13.2	5	-	75.2
9th	HAPPY TALK	Bruce Davidson	55.2	-	-	-	-	18.8	5	-	79.0
10th	GLENDEVLIN	Michael Godfrey	54.6	-	-	-	-	21.6	10	-	86.2

U.S. riders who also competed: 19th. On a Mission, David O'Connor, 107.4; 22nd. Easter Parade, Jim Graham, 114.45.

Retired on Cross-Country: Alden's Image, Marcia Carabell; Master McCoy, Karen Reuter. Retired on Phase C: Downtown Uproar, Louise Meryman. Withdrawn after Steeplechase: Patrona, Jill Walton. Withdrawn after dressage: Shannon, Karen O'Connor