

TAMARILLO

Tamarillo competing in his first Badminton, bred by The Hon. Finn Guinness at the Biddesden Stud in Hampshire and owned by The Hon. Mrs. Mary Guinness and Hacketts finished second at the first attempt.

Such is the quality of dressage in 3 day eventing this year that the marks achieved on day 1 of the competition are all important for the remaining stages. Pippa Funnell and Supreme Rock lead the field after 2 days of dressage competition. It was a hard act to follow. William Fox-Pitt riding Tamarillo, put on an excellent test to finish joint 6th and so close were the top eight competitors that a really exciting event was taking shape.

The weather was perfect for cross country day, not too hot but the going good for the horses. 103 competitors had started the competition and those with 2 horses tend to start either in the first batch or the last. Tamarillo was number 97 and Supreme Rock 102 with Shear H20 and Leslie Law 103. These wonderful horses ended a marvellous day and although I may be biased, Tamarillo flew round making the fences look like practice jumps. His easy going stride eating up the ground and seemingly unhesitating at the fences. Never having been round Badminton, the combination flew over the Vicarage Vee and attacked the Carisma Pond with more energy than most. Off into the distance and Tamarillo was striding out eating up the ground. Listening on the loudspeaker Tamarillo clear all the way and finished within 2 seconds of the time allowed judged to perfection by his rider who unbeknown to the crowd had a serious injury and should not have been riding at all.

On completion Tamarillo went into second place behind Darien Powers ridden by Andrew Hoy. Pippa Funnell, second last to go had a few time penalties but such was her lead after the dressage that she went into first place leaving Tamarillo in 3rd.

Sunday was nail biting with no fences between 3rd - 6th and only once between the first two and the 6th. With Shear H20 clear in show jumping, William Fox-Pitt had it all to do on Tamarillo but true to character, a wonderfully disciplined clear round within the time left the combination finishing on their dressage score. Pippa Funnell was last to go on Supreme Rock and jumped an

emaculate clear round to win the Badminton title for the first time but this is just the beginning for Tamarillo. Look out for him because he will win a big competition very soon.