



HICKSTEAD

Saturday 10th September

PRESS RELEASE

Monica Ballard takes two at Hickstead

Kent-based Monica Ballard had a day to remember at the All England Jumping Championships, when she won two class finals.

Monica headed both the 1.10m Amateur and the 1.00m Open Championships with the reliably fast Miss Cartier, a seven-year-old chestnut mare. It was the pair's first time competing in Hickstead's famous International Arena.

In the 1.40m Open, the presence of one of Hickstead's most feared Derby fences – the Devil's Dyke – caused a few upsets and only eight combinations made it through to the jump-off. Quickest of these were Tim Davies and Valentinj O, who made the trip from Suffolk more than worthwhile by collecting the £500 first prize.

It was only the second time the nine-year-old Valentinj O has jumped in the main arena at Hickstead, the first being in July when he finished third in the Templant Events Queen Elizabeth II Cup.

"It was really useful to be able to jump round some of the permanent fences here, and get a few days of experience of jumping round Hickstead when it's not so busy," said Tim, who got Valentinj O as a four-year-old and has produced him up through the levels.

Leesa Long has also been enjoying a successful few days here at Hickstead. The former jockey, who is based near Brighton racecourse, won the All England 1.20m Amateur Championship riding Tammys Girl.

"She loves it at Hickstead – she's so laid back and seems to handle the atmosphere brilliantly," Leesa said.

The main focus of ring two this afternoon was the British Showjumping 7YO and the Addington EC 8YO HOYS qualifier, which was won by Georgie Crumley and Strijder IV.

For full results, visit www.hickstead.co.uk

Ends.

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www.hickstead.co.uk