



Ben Maher and Wonderboy III take the Rabobank winning round class in an exciting late-night atmosphere

## Wonderboy wins £5,000 for Maher



**THE NETHERLANDS SHOWJUMPING**  
'S-HERTOGENBOSCH CSI\*\*\*\*\*W 26-28 March

ALTHOUGH Ben Maher didn't gain a place for this weekend's World Cup final at the last qualification leg of the season, he was not too disappointed. The British number one has bigger goals for his top horse Robin Hood W in 2010, while with Wonderboy III he collected £5,000 after victory in the winning round class.

"It would have been nice, but qualifying for the World Cup final was not one of my main priorities," said Ben. "I think it's hard

for a horse doing two championships in one year. I think Robin was a bit tired at last year's Europeans [having jumped in the 2009 World Cup final]. This year, I'll be targeting the Global Champions Tour shows with him to work him towards the World Equestrian Games [WEG]."

**World Cup qualifier**  
OF the 40 starters, 16 made the jump-off, quite a large number for this level of class.

"The first round was big, but the distances were quite simple, which was why so many went clear," explained Ben. "It did, however, mean the jump-off got very fast."

Seven went clear again, with Sweden's Rolf-Goran Bengtsson (Casall La Silla)

### It's hard on a horse doing two championships in one year. Robin was tired at last year's Europeans

Ben Maher doesn't mind not going to the World Cup final before WEG

beating Ireland's Jessica Kurten (Castle Forbes Libertina) by just 0.1sec. Despite the win, Rolf-Goran didn't qualify for the Geneva final, while Ben and Robin Hood W had one down to finish 11th.

"I was too long to an oxer and couldn't quite make it," said Ben. "I was riding to win rather than to go for a safe qualification. I thought it would be the best course of action."

After the Paris Grand Palais CSI\*\*\*\*\* (3-4 April), Robin will now have a break before beginning his summer campaign in May.

#### Late-night victory

WONDERBOY III, who, like Robin Hood W, is owned by Ben and the Quainton Stud's Mike and Emma Phillips, had begun his Dutch trip with a win in the first day's 1.50m Rabobank winning round.

A fast first-round time put Ben 10th to go of the 12 through to the jump-off and he headed the class by 2sec.

"Wonderboy is a quick horse anyway," said Ben. "I took an extra stride out than everybody else did to the last vertical. I don't usually have to worry about him touching them."

The class started at 9.30pm and the late-night atmosphere combined with riders' determination made this a special victory.

"It's nice to win anything, but in this class everyone was really trying," he said.

#### Western European League riders with a World Cup final spot

**Jessica Kurten, IRE**  
**Marco Kutcher, GER**  
**Pius Schwizer, SUI**  
**Edwina Alexander, AUS**  
**Marcus Ehning, GER**  
**Rodrigo Pessoa, BRA**  
**Ludger Beerbaum, GER**  
**Kevin Staut, FRA**  
**Beat Mandil, SUI**  
**Eric Van Der Vleuten, NED**  
**Philip Weishaupt, GER**  
**Patrice Delaveau, FRA**  
**Penelope Leprevost, FRA**  
**Michael Whitaker, GB**  
**Daniel Etter, SUI**  
**Sven Johansson, SWE**  
**Luciana Diniz, POR**  
**Dermott Lennon, IRE**

#### Those who just missed out

**Natale Chiaudani, ITA**  
**Steve Guerdat, SUI**  
**Albert Zoer, NED**  
**Ben Maher, GB**  
**Harry Smolders, NED**  
**Rolf-Goran Bengtsson, SWE**  
**Lars Neiberg, GER**

Having had the first fence down in Saturday night's grand prix, Ben decided to take the 11-year-old son of Flamenco Desemilly in the final day's accumulator.

"After jumping in a big class the day before, I thought I'd give him a bit of a sweetener," said Ben. "Accumulators suit him."

The pair were third, collecting another £3,100.

Wonderboy will join Ben at this week's British Open Show Jumping Championships with Toklund and another of Ben's rising stars.

"Even though Robin Hood won't be there, I'll still be able to be competitive," he said. **H&H**

#### Results

##### ITALY SHOWJUMPING AREZZO II CSI\*\*\*\* 23-28 MARCH

**7-y.o.** — 1. Diaghiev (A Edwards), GB; 2. William Wallace (C Collins), GB; 3. Violetta (T Weirberg), GER. **24 Mar:** **6-y.o.** — 1. Ma Cherie (J Nij), BEL; 2. Diamanti (N Schuman), ROU; 3. Extra (C Collins), ITA. **7-y.o.** — 1. Pour Le Pousage (T Meyer), GER; 2. William Wallace; 3. Lando Boy (N Schuman). **26 Mar: gold tour 1.40m.** — 1. Zamar Fortuna Forever (L De Luca), ITA; 2. Joyau D'Opal (G Govani), ITA; 3. Olymp (P Speyer), GB. **bronze tour 1.25m.** — 1. Kalla Du Fragnieu (F M Savarola Avella), ITA; 2. Labuleska

(C Collins); 3. Cherie (M Bruse), GER. **silver tour 1.40m.** — 1. Lussabon (A Rees), GB; 2. No Fear (D Zetterman), SWE; 3. Lightning (M Wrede), GER. **gold tour 1.35.** — 1. Tiffany (G Luckett), GB; 2. Askoll Rocky (A Marioni), ITA; 3. Spettler (M Zanotelli), BRA. **27 Mar: gold tour 1.35m accumulator.** — 1. R Little Lefanie (G Luckett); 2. Greta (N Schuman); 3. Treviano (A Schrabel), GER. **bronze tour 1.25m.** — 1. Neo (I Tomada), ITA; 2. Quadana (M Valeriano Menada), ITA; 3. Labuleska. **28 Mar: silver tour 1.35m.** — 1. Suleika (C Schoonbroodt), BEL; 2. Troubadour (C Collins); 3. Bacchara Z (A Intagliata).

**ITA, gold tour 1.35m.** — 1. Primas (J Bosteels), BEL; 2. Tiffany; 3. Annabell III (T Meyer). **bronze tour 1.25m.** — 1. Kannada (Linda Thy), LUX; 2. Quick Ann (Lette Thy), LUX; 3. Labuleska.

##### PORTUGAL SHOWJUMPING VILAMOURA I CSI\*\* 24-28 MARCH

**7-y.o.** — 1. Mary T (S Gwercett), GB; 2. A Touch Of Grey (M M Bravo), POR; 3. Camira 2 (H Luther), GER. **25 Mar: 5-y.o.** — Cassius III (C Lamb), GB; 2. Amble (C Moyce), GB; 3. Ananaz (A Frutuoso de Melo), POR. **7-y.o.** — 1. Camira 2; 2. W Amekusena 64 (P Barker), GB; 3. Top Hero (J Pals), NED.

**26 Mar: big tour 1.30m.** — 1. Quinton (P Barker); 2. Parvati De Breve (L Renwick), GB; 3. Joop (M Maggi), SWE. **big tour 1.35m.** — 1. Softrack Limgelght De Breve (L Renwick); 2. Cara Touch (C Swaf), IRE; 3. Calanda 31 (H Luther). **smi tour 1.20m.** — 1 & 3. Cathleen 16 & Douce De Rouland (C Aston), GB; 2. Uskara (T Christie), GB. **27 Mar: big tour 1.30m.** — 1. Softrack Limgelght De Breve; 2. Pfort (C Moyce), GB; 3. Quinton. **big tour 1.35m.** — 1. Joyau Du Manor (F Malta da Costa), POR; 2. Sultan V (B Menzies), GB; 3. Undercover (J Pals). **big tour 1.40m.** — 1. Softrack Beluga II (L Renwick); 2 & 3. Amadeus V & Temple Bonte

Lola (P Barker). **smi tour 1.20m.** — 1. Temple Croesus (H Mousley), GB; 2. Cathleen 16; 3. Diana (B Costa Cabral), POR. **28 Mar: big tour 1.30m.** — 1. Pukhet (N Bion), ESP; 2. Cajun Candy (M Sanz Fernandez), ESP; 3. Sylvanna (V Malin), GB. **big tour 1.35m.** — 1. Parvati De Breve; 2. Laliq (M portela de Moraes), POR; 3. Tango (M del Pozo Antunes), ESP. **smi tour 1.10m.** — 1. Ulisses O Grande (S Oliveira), POR; 2. Urban Hero (J Hardnick Smith), GB; 3. KEC Strike Out (C Duarte Smith), POR. **smi tour 1.20m.** — 1 & 3. Cathleen 16 & Douce De Rouland; 2. Blue Velvet Van Hel Dingshof (S Albanese), ITA.