



▲ Norfolk rider Kelly Aldous makes a splash through the water jump

The EQ^{Life} Burnham Market International Horse Trials

in association with the Eastern Daily Press

With a star-studded line up of top international riders expected, plus a vast area of tradestands, food stalls and family entertainment, The EQ Life Burnham Market International Horse Trials on April 17-19 is a hot ticket for equestrian fans in the region.

Sussex Farm has hosted this prestigious event since 1999 and as a fairly early event in the eventing calendar it attracts some of the world's top names before they tackle events at Badminton and Burghley later in the year. Burnham Market was awarded international status in 2003, when it ran a CIC** and now the event hosts a range of classes from BE100 through to CIC***. Riders often spotted here include Piggy French, Oliver Townend and Nicola Wilson, with top riders from around the world including last year's CCI*** winner Italy's Stefano Brecciaroli and his Olympic ride Apollo VD Wendi Kurt Hoeve.

There are two international classes

held at Burnham Market over the three days, they are the CIC** and CIC***. Both are classed as 'one-day' events, which means they perform their dressage test on either Thursday or Friday and complete the showjumping, followed by the cross-country on Saturday. The course is around the beautiful undulating hills of the farm and includes a variety of obstacles including water, and many of the jumps can be seen from the all-important 'viewing mound' in the centre of the course.

The dressage and show jumping provide fantastic viewing too, with elegance, precision and style on show. This year the main arena is sponsored by Equitrek,



Event preview

with other important sponsors including Bedmax, Baileys Horse Feeds, Feedmark, The Hoste Arms, The Nelson, GJL Animal Feeds and Suzuki and of course title sponsors EQ Life Magazine in association with the Eastern Daily Press.

As a family outing Burnham Market International is hard to beat. For children clowns Razz & Pearl are on hand to entertain as well as alpaca, fairground rides a bouncy castle and terrier racing.

For ticket prices and booking visit www.musketeer.co.uk/Box_Office or find out more about the event at www.musketeer.co.uk EQ



▲ Look out for the alpacas

Georgina Underdown:

It's a great course. It's normally my first 'tough' novice as the xc is always strong and has different combinations each year. The time is usually very tight so it's also a good test of fitness and a nice time for me to 'push' my horse as he would have a couple of runs under his belt.

It's a great test early on in the season and I usually decide after this event if I will be entering Houghton. It's a good indicator as both courses are designed by the same person.

I will only have one ride this year. My own EL Dorado in the ON. My other rides include a 90 horse and my 100 horse is starting a little later on.

I very much like Burnham. The atmosphere is brilliant and it's great to ride with so many professionals.



▲ Italy's Stefano Brecciaroli and his Olympic ride Apollo VD Wendi Kurt Hoeve, winners of last year's CIC3star



▲ Suffolk's Mary Edmundson on Sonny Early



▲ Olympic team partners Nicola Wilson and Opposition Buzz



▲ Anna Cheney jumps the EQ life sunkun road skinny

With thanks to Musketeer Event Management, www.jamiehallphotography.co.uk, www.equus-imaging.com and www.chrisdoylephotos.co.uk for the photos in this feature.

Piggy French:

It's always good ground at Burnham Market in the spring and that's a real priority for me. I like to run my top horses at this event before they go off to a major three day competition a little later in the season. I originate from Norfolk so Burnham Market is a particularly special place for me. It's a great atmosphere, extremely well run and the organisers do everything possible to make it as successful an event as it is!