



do it anymore – he just loves it so much. He never put a foot wrong at Burghley. His ears couldn't have been more pricked!"

Lenamore, as he has aged, has become so consistent, although Caroline says that over the past seven years, they've had plenty 'hairy' moments – 5th at the Festival of Eventing at Gatcombe, 5th at Badminton 2010, 9th in 2009, 4th in 2008, 8th at Burghley last year.

Now he'll do more fun classes like the Hickstead Eventers' Derby (Lenamore was fourth this year and "had a great time"). He was due to make an appearance at Lexi's wedding the weekend after Burghley – the win a great wedding present!

Caroline didn't do anything special in the way of build-up for Burghley.

"You can't change that much with him anyway". She had, however, spent the previous month training with ex-pat dressage rider, Lisa White on whom she heaps praise for her teaching.

"Lisa's been really, really good and I've been learning the techniques of training the horse, rather than just getting on and riding them. That's got to be good!"

Her WEG ride, Mac Macdonald is a part-warmblood, 17h.h. 12-year-old by Blaze o' Gold, a grandson of Seattle Slew, which Caroline bought as a two-year-old.

"He's a lovely honest horse," she smiles, "and really tries his heart out. I must admit I never really expected him to go past Intermediate, but he's just kept on going."

He's been steady, if not spectacular over the past couple of years, but Caroline is confident that he'll step up to the mark in Kentucky.

She has several horses in her yard and is looking for more, but Caroline singles out two as being pretty special, which she rates as real international prospects. Thornfield Jones, 9, is by the Selle Francais Dow Jones Courcel (by international show jumper Quito de Baussy) out of an Irish-TB mare. He was third in the two-star at Blair Castle and third in the Intermediate section at Gatcombe.

Onwards & Upwards is a seven-year-old by the Westpalian sire Laureus out of a Dutch warmblood mare by Voltaire. He has a steady record at Intermediate level.

Caroline also mentions Mrs Tilly, 9, an Anglo-Arab by a 15.2h.h. riding pony Romany Jojo, on which she got the ride at the start of the season, since when in limited outings she has never been out of the top ten. "She's a nice wee mare, and she's going to Boekelo".

Caroline was looking forward to WEG, very pleased with the team which she considers is well balanced, and she's delighted with the back-up support too. "The whole atmosphere of the team feels good – and that is very, very important."

And after WEG? "We both really, really need a holiday, lying in the sun and doing nothing!"



# Burghley Triumph For Kiwi

PHOTOS: © KIT HOUGHTON

## CAROLINE POWELL AND LENAMORE BRING HOME THE SILVERWARE!

Winning last month's Burghley international three day event was due reward for years of hard work for New Zealand international representative, Caroline Powell and Lexi Mackinnon's bouncing little grey, the 15.2h.h. Irish-bred Lenamore. Joan Gilchrist spoke to her after her win.

Caroline is a practical, no-nonsense person...get in, get the job done, finish. There are no dramatics, no prima donna antics – just a hard-working, remarkably talented person doing what she does best in the highly competitive world of international eventing. She's based in Kelso with husband Richard, who manages a holiday park, farms French Berrichon du Cher sheep, as well owning a few racehorses: "To have fun with over the winter."

Caroline has been in the UK since 1992, worked briefly in a point-to-point yard, groomed for British Olympian Ian Stark and then had success on a number of horses including Cocky Olly Bird, Dalliance and Caliber; she's finished in the top 15 on six occasions at Badminton.

When Show Circuit catches up with her on the cell phone three days after her outstanding win at Burghley Horse Trials, she says she's on a horse. No surprise there, so we postpone the conversation for a couple of hours, while she finishes doing what she was doing and is back on the end of a landline at Jacky Green's yard in Wiltshire, where she and her horses have been based for just over a month.

Yes, there was a party after the win at Burghley, but not until the

Monday night when some "140 people walked through the door"; a reasonable celebration, then, for the expat Cantabrian's biggest triumph to date.

The euphoria of the win is still there in Caroline's voice, but she was quickly back to the day to day work of eventing, with Boekelo and Lyon d'Angers to ride at before heading out to Kentucky.

The praise, however, is all for her long-time equine partner, Lenamore. At 17, the little grey looked younger and fitter than ever, as he skipped round Captain Mark Phillips's demanding cross-country course 20 seconds under the time, looking a bit like the Energizer bunny.

"He's not using up as much nervous energy; he's more in balance with himself."

But for all that, she and owner Lexi Mackinnon, who rode Lenamore up to three star level before she went to work in London, are careful where they take Lenamore. He has very definite preferences for venues and demonstrates that clearly, as at Blair Castle, prior to Burghley, where he was to do the dressage and show jumping.

"He got a 66 in dressage and should have got 86 the way he went!" laughs Caroline. "He doesn't need to prove anything now and he only runs six times a year. He's got to the stage in life where we know the places he likes and where he performs. We know we cannot get him to perform in new places; he likes the places he likes!"

That's one of the reasons his owners decided he wouldn't be available for WEG in Kentucky.

"We will keep campaigning him until he tells us he doesn't want to