

Competition day? No sweat

Post-competition, cooling and drying your horse without giving him a chill can be a balancing act. We asked eventers Sam Penn and Victoria Brassey to try out the latest coolers and anti-sweat rugs on their horses after a whizz round the cross-country at Somerley Park Horse Trials



AS COOL AS ICE

The technical bit: this Equi-N-icE rug is made from Coolmax, known for its "cooling" properties and used to reduce skin temperature in human athletes.

► **Info:** designed as an alternative to conventional sweat rugs, this active cooler—once it's been treated with Equi-N-icE coolant—is said to drop the horse's core body temperature as quickly and safely as possible and is cold to the touch. Ideal after competition or exercise, when travelling or simply on hot days, it draws heat away from the muscles by rapid evaporation and has been scientifically proven to reduce the horse's temperature after exercise by 7°C in 10 minutes.

► **H&H likes:** the all-in-one design offers complete body cooling—we all know how sweaty the neck gets.

► **Sizes:** one size fits from 14.2hh upwards.

► **Colour:** white

► **Price:** £90

► **Contact:** Tel: 01335 372600

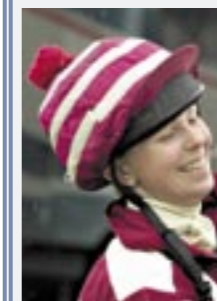
www.belstane.com

SAM'S PICK

"This will be great in summer when it's actually too hot to use any other kind of rug"



Meet... Sam Penn



Age: 25.
Based: Golden Cross Equestrian Centre, East Sussex.
Current rides: six, plus a few for schooling. Owns one horse, My Friend Freddie, who, after two years out of action, was placed in the open novice at Tweseldown in March.
Biggest achievement so far: winning the five-year-old class of the British Eventing young horse championships in 2007 with Pokeys Bally Milo.
Ambition: to get on the senior British team and, of course, win Badminton and Burghley.
How did she get on at Somerley? "We had a stop at the water, but I'm really pleased with how he went."

Meet... On A Par

AKA: Pie

Vital statistics: 16hh, 12-year-old piebald gelding.

Owners: Slice of Pie syndicate.

Breeding: by Western Promise.

How long ridden by Sam: nearly two years.

Career best performance: eighth at Houghton CCI* and ninth in the novice championships at the Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe in 2007.

Future plans: Houghton CCI** in May and then a three-star either by the end of this year or next.

Sam on Pie: "He's such fun and an absolute gentleman, even when he's trying to be a little bit naughty. He's fun to ride and a great character with little legs."



Sam Penn and the Slice of Pie syndicate-owned On A Par in action in the CIC** at Somerley



HIGH WICKING

The technical bit: the TFrost Waffle Cooler is a knitted honeycomb cotton rug with high-wicking properties.

► **Info:** made in a waffle design that will cool and dry the horse by drawing moisture away from the skin and prevent chilling. Said to be ideal for after work or bathing. It comes with front buckles and straps, cross surcingles and fillet string.

► **H&H likes:** the extra-deep design.

► **Sizes:** 5ft 9in-7ft

► **Colour:** navy with blue trim

► **Price:** £27.99

► **Contact:** Tel: 01636 636135

(Polly Products)



LOW-CARBON HOOFPRIINT

The technical bit: this Aerborn Summer Travel/Cooler Sheet is made from woven acrylic yarn fabric.

► **Info:** a classic staple of many equestrian wardrobes, it comes with cross-surcingles, two front fastenings and reflective strip.

► **H&H likes:** it is a British-made "low-carbon hoofprint product".

► **Sizes:** 4ft 3in-7ft

► **Colours:** navy-Cambridge blue or navy-fuchsia

► **Price:** £45

► **Contact:** Tel: 0115 950 5631

www.aerborn.co.uk

► **Sam likes:** "It's really well cut around the neck."



NOT JUST A COOLER

The technical bit: the Coolmasta is a versatile rug made from Insulux, a high-wicking breathable fabric.

► **Info:** this rug features an extra-deep pattern and twin front fastenings, cross-surcingle, wither pad and fillet string. It is designed for use as a cooler, travel rug or summer sheet.

► **H&H likes:** the rug is fully washable and quick-drying, making it very easy to care for.

► **Sizes:** 4ft 3in-7ft

► **Colour:** navy

► **Price:** £41.50

► **Contact:** Tel: 01274 711048

www.masta.co.uk



★ LOUISA'S PICK
 "It's a warm and cosy rug for cooler days, plus it looks great and wicks sweat away quickly"

A NEW TAKE ON A CLASSIC

The technical bit: the Thermatex T2000 is made from a blend of wool and acrylic with a middle layer of polypropylene.

► **Info:** the woven quilted fabric wicks moisture through and into the air, leaving the horse warm, dry and comfortable. The rug is machine

washable with double binding and matching fillet string.

► **H&H likes:** these rugs are hand-made and cut from a single section of fabric that eliminates unnecessary seams.

► **Sizes:** 4ft-7ft 3in

► **Colours:** choice of 22, with triple binding available

► **Price:** £106 (up to 5ft 6in); £138 (5ft 9in and over)

► **Contact:** Tel: 01239 614648

www.thermatex.co.uk

Meet... Louisa Brassey



Age: 23.

Based: Great Somerford, Wiltshire.

Current rides: seven, four of whom are based at the yard.

Biggest achievement: 14th at Blenheim in 2006.

Ambition: to compete in a four-star as soon as possible and hopefully make a career out of eventing.

How did she get on at Somerley: "Good clear cross-country with just a few time-penalties."

Meet... Fergals Flight

AKA: Fergal.

Vital statistics: 16.3hh, nine-year-old bay gelding.

Breeding: by Tara Flight out of Ballinger Rose.

Owner: Ian Clark and his mother Beth, who looks after him at home and does all the hard work. Louisa rides him there three times a week.

Career best: fourth at Aldon intermediate this year.

Future plans: Houghton CCI** and then the intermediate championships at Gatcombe.

Louisa on Fergal: "He's a bit lazy but, because of his dipped back, he's quite sharp and will buck to get you off. Beth has to lead us round on a lead rein when I first get on which, especially at a show, is a bit embarrassing!"



Louisa Brassey and Fergals Flight put in a good clear round over the two-star track at Somerley

NECK COVER AVAILABLE

The technical bit: Coolex is a specially knitted three-ply fabric.

► **Info:** the Coolex Cooler is said to be ideal for use before and after exercise or competition and when travelling. This rug is designed to speed moisture away from the horse's body, as well as insulating against the cold. The outer layer is wind-resistant for warmth and durability, while the Therma-Dry layer provides insulation and the soft inner lining wicks moisture away from the skin. Comes in really smart co-ordinating binding. Mark Todd neck cover is sold separately.

► **H&H likes:** the option of a neck cover, which attaches to the neck binding of the rug – great when there's a nip in the air.

► **Sizes:** 5ft 9in-7ft

► **Colours:** burgundy; navy; black; green or navy with red and white binding

► **Price:** £89.95 (rug) £34.95 (neck cover)

► **Contact:** Tel: 01303 872277

www.wefi.co.uk



THE MESH EFFECT

The technical bit: this Funnell Mesh Cooler is made from lightweight mesh.

► **Info:** this anti-sweat rug is said to stay in shape when wet. It fastens with a front strap, cross-surcingle and fillet string behind. It features shoulder gussets so the horse is free to keep moving to stop the muscles seizing up.

► **H&H likes:** extremely lightweight to carry around the showground on a hot day.

► **Sizes:** 5ft-7ft

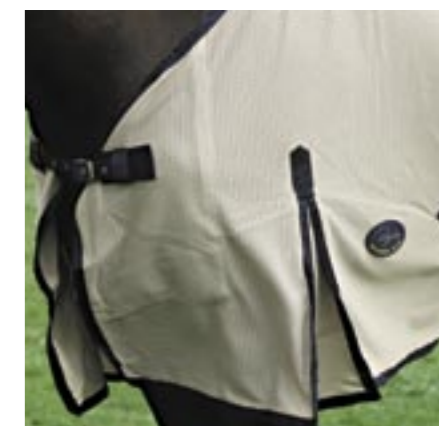
► **Colours:** beige/navy or grey/navy

► **Price:** £32.99

► **Contact:** Tel: 01636 636135

(Polly Products)

► **Louisa likes:** "This is a great way to cool them down on a warmer day."



Thanks to Somerley Park Horse Trials, Ringwood, Hampshire
 Tel: 01425 461744
 www.eleda.co.uk