

## **Relentless take national team chase title**

Relentless are the 2012 Goring Hotel and Material Change national team chase champions after a thrilling final at the Fernie.

Peter Mason and Philip took the lead over the sumptuous hedges at Tur Langton near Market Harborough, and team mates Ben Pauling, Dougie Gittins and Will Grant kicked on to keep up, making nothing of some tricky combinations over hanging logs, rails and angled palisades.

Their finishing time smashed the course record set in 2003 by the legendary Forge Flyers by some 2sec.

Ben Pauling, assistant trainer to Nicky Henderson in Lambourn, commented: "Peter and Dougie's horses are so quick but my mount Mani is amazing too, he can jump from anywhere. And Will Grant and Ferrari went really well, they have come on dramatically."

Reading University student Dougie Gittins, who hails from Gloucestershire won the Junior trophy, named in honour of Debbie Topping's great horse and awarded to most promising young rider, for his bold ride on Bono.

Defending champions the Art Hotel Chasers gave them a real run for their money, swapping the lead between the horses to play to their strengths but were some 11sec adrift. Team member Yvonne Goss from Evesham took the Retraining of Racehorses prize for the second year with her former hurdler Haxton.

"Our tactics in the pen worked well as Heather Moodie gave a superb lead over the centre of the course," said Sarah Myhill, "But Dingbat was livid as he hates being at the back."

The championship class also featured Dr Cook's Quit the Bit, the sport's first all-bridleless team, who put in a creditable round in their first season for ninth place.

A competitive intermediate saw victory for the Art Hotel Racers, getting a superb lead from Chris Davey and Dunnock.

The UK Hunt team chase, which awards a generous £1000 to the winning hunt, went to the Quorn Hedgehoppers, made up of Paul Hubbard, Becky Mills and Abby and Sally Newton, all members of Quorn farming families.