



## Sinead Halpin And Manoir De Carneville Top Advanced Millbrook Horse Trials

*After a year off, this seasoned horse has upped his game.*

BY ANN GLAVAN  
PHOTO BY LYNDON LANDON FOR  
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**A**s Sinead Halpin looked over the cross-country course at the Millbrook Horse Trials in Millbrook, N.Y., she had an unusual thought.

"You don't normally walk a cross-country course at advanced and think, 'Oh, this is going to be fun,' but it actually really was!" Halpin said with a laugh. "It really was fun."

Halpin and her longtime mount Manoir de Carneville let the good times roll all the way to the top of the 43-horse advanced field, finishing on their dressage score of 27.1 to take the blue ribbon at the event held Aug. 4-7.

"He's been going great; honestly the horse is probably going and training better now than he ever has in his whole life," Halpin said.

The 16-year-old Selle Français gelding (Gaub—Carneville, Matador

**Sinead Halpin rode Manoir de Carneville to the top of the advanced division at the Millbrook Horse Trials by finishing on her dressage score.**

du Bois) has been Halpin's top mount for the better part of eight years. 2016 marks his comeback to top competition after changes in a suspensory had Halpin keeping things light the previous year.

"He just backed off of jumping and galloping," she said. "I think a season of trotting and flatwork really helped him physically develop a stronger topline. In the end it might have been a blessing!"

Halpin, 34, and "Tate" returned to the competition scene this spring, placing ninth at the Cloud 11-Gavilan North LLC Carolina International CIC\*\*\* (N.C.) before incurring a technical elimination for going off course at The Fork CIC\*\*\* (N.C.) in the show jumping. They came out strong in their next outing at the Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\* to place 10th, and scored another 10th-placed finish at the Land Rover Great Meadow International CIC\*\*\* (Va.) in July.

"The results have been mixed and matched, but often I feel like when you up your game and your level of what you're doing and training and trying," Halpin said. "Sometimes you make some mistakes along the way, but hopefully our timing is starting to come together now. He just felt really solid in all three phases at Millbrook."

One change Halpin has made to Tate's program is adding functional electrical stimulation therapy.

"I hooked up with Sheila Schils, and she does functional electric stimulation, which is a therapy that is pretty unbelievable," Halpin said.

FES is an electrotherapy that is supposed to stimulate sensory and motor nerves to encourage correct contraction and relaxation of muscle movement. (Check out the July 13 & 20, 2015, Eventing Issue of the *Chronicle* for an in-depth look at this therapy.)

"He's feeling so much better in his body," Halpin said. "It's really, really helped him as far as his ability to work correctly and develop muscles correctly."

Halpin, Oldwick, N.J., has also been focused on improving Tate's

performance in the dressage ring by teaching the older gelding some new tricks.

"I've been taking a lot of lessons with a lot of different people, and his brain has gotten a lot more trainable than when he was younger, so it makes every day a little more fun," Halpin said. "As opposed to just training the basic moves in the dressage test, we're working on the harder stuff, the passagey-type trot and canter pirouette, and then when you back off and just have the moves in the [eventing] dressage test, it makes it come a little more naturally."

It's all part of the key to unlocking Tate's full potential: making him feel like what he's doing is important and fun.

"I always say that if I have to try too hard with him, or if I make the work too hard he doesn't enjoy it, but if you can make it fun and make him feel good about it then he does really enjoy it," Halpin said. "If you really reward him when he does something pretty cool, he thinks he's pretty cool, and then he's happy to do it."

"I wouldn't say he's one of those horses who just puts his head down and is a work horse, but as long

as he's physically and mentally on your side he'll do anything for you," Halpin continued.

Their win at Millbrook served as a preparatory event before they fly across the pond for the Millstreet/Drishane Castle CCI\*\*\* in County Cork, Ireland. Halpin received a Land Rover/U.S. Equestrian Federation grant to participate in the event, which takes place Aug. 25-28.

Halpin hopes the confident cross-country feeling she got with Tate at Rolex, Great Meadow and Millbrook will set her up nicely for the Irish three-day.

"The horse was off for all of 2015, and this spring was an Olympic spring, and there was a lot of pressure," Halpin said. "I feel like he was wonderful, but it felt like work all spring. Rolex was a tough track, and so it was nice to find Great Meadow so easy for him, and I was hoping I was going to get that same feeling at Millbrook, and I really did. That was wonderful."

Halpin and Tate were named as a non-traveling reserve pair for the Olympic team, a position they also occupied for the 2012 Olympic team. As a reserve, Halpin got to ride in the U.S. training camp in Ocala, Fla., before the team shipped to Rio.

## MILLBROOK HORSE TRIALS

Millbrook, N.Y.—Aug. 4-7

### ▶ ADVANCED

HORSE/RIDER	DRESSAGE	CROSS-COUNTRY JUMP/TIME	SHOW JUMPING JUMP/TIME	TOTAL
1. Manoir de Carneville/Sinead Halpin	27.1	0/0	0/0	27.1
2. Petite Flower/Buck Davidson	28.2	0/0	0/0	28.2
3. Vandiver/Doug Payne	28.4	0/0	0/0	28.4
4. Cooley Cross Border/Kim Severson	25.7	0/7.6	0/0	33.3
5. Delux Z/Kurt Martin	29.6	0/6.4	0/0	36.0
6. Spring Easy/Caroline Martin	33.7	0/2.4	0/1	37.1

Also competed: 7. Anthony Patch/L. Ashker, 37.1; 8. Santino/H. Caravella, 37.8; 9. Fernhill Fearless/K. Severson, 38.0; 10. Never OutFoxed/H. Caravella, 38.8; 11. Cooley On Show/S. White, 38.8; 12. Simply Priceless/E. Wallace, 40.8; 13. Park Trader/B. Davidson, 42.5; 14. Roulette/C. Rutledge, 45.2; 15. Mettraise/E. Sylvester, 46.9; 16. Honor Me/L. Ferguson, 47.0; 17. The Apprentice/B. Davidson, 47.7; 18. Jak My Style/J. Dutton, 54.0; 19. Fernhill Flutter/K. Keane, 54.2; 20. LCC Barnaby/L. Heard, 54.3; 21. Truly Wiley/K. Prather, 56.8; 22. Jaeda/B. Selmayr, 61.2; 23. Campground/E. Sylvester, 65.6; 24. Femme Fatale/J. Thompson, 65.7; 25. Freedoms Light/R. Walker, 66.8; 26. Ramsey/E. Hamel, 69.6; 27. Geoni/T. Bienemann, 72.7; 28. It's The Truth/L. Riley, 79.1; 29. Manny/D. Burnett, 84.7; 30. Wild T'Mater/S. McIntosh, 92.4; 31. Paddy The Caddy/E. Sylvester, 107.9; 32. Cooley O/J. Ennis, 112.7; 33. My Mitch/O. Cliver, 112.8; 34. Serendipity Traveler/A. Waldo, 134.5.

Withdrawn before show jumping: Tsunami III/S. Cousins. Eliminated on cross-country: Charleston VI/L. Scovil. Retired on cross-country: Kemmerlin/B. Dugan. Rider fall on cross-country: Long Island T/P. Barry; Bonner's Chief II/D. Burnett. Withdrawn before cross-country: Knight Lion/S. Cousins; Who's A Star/C. Cooper; I'm Sew Ready/K. Bond; Tight Lines/W. Coleman.

“It’s the second time I’ve waved off the Olympic team, so I’m not going to lie, I’d like to be the one waving the alternates goodbye in four years,” Halpin said with a laugh. “But it’s a great group. That’s been the great thing since David [O’Connor has] come on [as chef d’equipe]; everyone really does have a ton of respect for each other and gets along wonderfully. So from the training aspect it’s awesome. I’m working with the best trainers and the best riders in the country.”

Halpin reflected on the tricky position she has now found herself in twice: narrowly missing the chance to go to the Olympics.

“I think the role as alternate is a tough one,” she said. “You’re around your peers and your friends, and obviously you’re super pro-USA, and you’re in there for everybody, but also you’d love to get to go. Lynn Symansky is the traveling alternate

“I’d like to be the one waving the alternates goodbye in four years.”

—SINEAD HALPIN

and one of my best friends, and the whole team makes it very easy; they make a difficult job easy. We got a lot of great training out of the camp, and it was great to come to Millbrook and quickly put it to work.”

With Tate approaching his late teens, Halpin isn’t quite sure what the future holds for the gelding.

“If they’re a 12-year-old, you’re making plans for the next four years, but with him we’ll just see how he comes through and if he’s feeling good,” she said. “He feels phenom-

enal right now. I think the three-star in Ireland will be great after a tough spring season, a really confident good fall event, and he’ll get a short vacation and get legged back up for work pretty quickly.”

▶ Millbrook Horse Trials

Millbrook, NY—Aug. 4-7.

▲Open Int., Div. 1 - 1. Nylis Du Terroir, K. Samuels, 30.2; 2. Catchascatchcan, S. Murphy, 36.0; 3. Butch Cassidy, W. Coleman, 37.5. ▲Open Int., Div. 2 - 1. Pebbly Maximus, C. Martin, 27.4; 2. Ruby, R. Wood, 35.6; 3. Palm Crescent, M. O’Donoghue, 37.5. ▲Jr./Y.R. Open Prel. - 1. Linford, M. Loughane, 33.4; 2. Dutch Times, A. Aharoni, 37.2; 3. Mansfield Park, O. Grabaskas, 40.7. ▲Open Prel., Div. 1 - 1. Victor B Z, B. Davidson, 27.6; 2. Be Mine, B. Davidson, 28.3; 3. Flagmount’s Mischief, D. Payne, 36.2. ▲Open Prel., Div. 2 - 1. Rehy USA, M. O’Donoghue, 32.8; 2. Carlevo, B. Davidson, 33.4; 3. Picture Perfect, C. Martin, 35.8. ▲Prel. Rider - 1. The Alchemyst, L. Sherrill, 32.8; 2. Leroy, M. Williams, 35.9; 3. Optical Illusion, H. Nicypemeryman, 38.4. ▲Jr. Trg. - 1. Avoca Bravado, M. Foley, 33.9; 2. Idle Secret, R. Keefe, 34.7; 3. Dauntless Heart, M. Baumann, 34.8. ▲Open Trg., Div. 1 - 1. Che Landscape, M. Brown, 29.3; 2. Ready Or Not, S. White, 32.5; 3. Edelmann, C. Wehle, 36.4. ▲Open Trg., Div. 2 - 1. RevitaVet Always Cooley, K. Severson, 32.9; 2. Waterford’s Dubai Storm, N. Battig, 34.6; 3. Main Attraction, C. Kozlowski, 36.9. ▲Open Trg., Div. 3 - 1. GHF Gosling, A. Grald, 30.2; 2. Paladin, M. Chester, 31.1; 3. Fashionably Late, S. White, 32.5. ▲Trg. Rider, Div. 1 - 1. Topgun, N. Carolan, 32.7; 2. Cillnabradan Ceonna, K. Knowles, 34.1; 3. Rising Moon, R. Moon, 34.5. ▲Trg. Rider, Div. 2 - 1. Cano Cristales, S. Holden, 32.7; 2. Twice Wild, E. Hendricks, 33.2; 3. Seattle’s Finest, E. Super, 39.1. ▲Jr. Nov., Div. 1 - 1. Tudor Bridge, G. Fulton, 35.8; 2. October Tryst, K. Cibak, 36.3; 3. Diamond Alexis, L. Chamberlin, 37.0. ▲Jr. Nov., Div. 2 - 1. Monty’s Revenge, S. Tallman, 35.8; 2. Frankly Scarlett, E. Stillier, 37.8; 3. Icabad Crane, O. Dutton, 40.0. ▲Nov. Rider, Div. 1 - 1. Man About Town, S. Noble, 29.8; 2. Lou, K. Roche, 36.0; 3. BoLoco, S. Tallman, 39.0. ▲Nov. Rider, Div. 2 - 1. Zophie, J. Hart, 30.0; 2. Quintana Roo, B. Hill, 30.3; 3. The Spectator, B. Izzarray, 32.3. ▲Open Nov., Div. 1 - 1. Primavera, M. Kulak, 34.8; 2. Eighttofastocatch, R. Keefe, 38.5; 3. SBT Clover Road, K. Andrew, 40.0. ▲Open Nov., Div. 2 - 1. OBOS Hinckley, R. Ward, 30.3; 2. Tuxedo, S. Morton, 31.5; 3. Fernhill PickPocket, L. Jones, 33.3. ▲Beg. Nov. Rider, Div. 1 - 1. Doc Hudson, V. Fabiani, 35.5; 2. Tequisteris, R. Albrizio, 35.9; 3. Werther, J. Blackmore, 37.0. ▲Beg. Nov. Rider, Div. 2 - 1. Carolina PCH, N. Read, 34.0; 2. Didore, W. Bank, 34.3; 3. Sans Souci, C. Rayner-Paulhac, 40.5. ▲Open Beg. Nov. - 1. Laissez Faire, J. Dingy, 33.0; 2. Mr. Mitchel, D. Payne, 34.3; 3. Tough And Groovy, J. Leuenberger, 34.8.

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