

Stuart Fitzgerald arrived back in the UK at the beginning of December in order to put his horse back into work in preparation for what is going to be a tough year for him. After moving around a bit in December and working for Ian Stark over X-mas and New Year Stuart settled, in to what he hopes will be his base for a while at Angela Tucker's in Tetbury.

In order for him to pick up the required qualifications it was necessary to head off to Portugal for two events in what is the eventing equivalent of the showjumpers summer tour. Before the weather permits any eventing in the UK, Portugal hosts two events back to back, that while they maybe very far away, are a useful way of ensuring that one gets early season runs. The first weekend in Portugal Stuart ran a CIC\* (and picked up a minor place) as a warm up and then ran a CCI\*\* the second weekend. Stuart and Classic Diamond Charm had a great time in the CCI\*\* up until the showjumping – they were lying third after both the dressage and cross country (in a field of 40+) until they had 4 poles knocking them from what would have been a great result to being just outside the places.

