

The Open presenter

A RAY OF



SUNSHINE

Lee Mottershead meets Channel 4 Racing's Alice Plunkett and feels a warm glow as her enthusiasm for Jump racing shines through

Photography by Edward Whitaker

ALICE PLUNKETT is big on self-deprecation, not to mention just about every other endearing quality. One of life's wide-eyed optimists, she is the very best of company and easy to admire on any number of levels. To appreciate on quite how many levels, one need only type her name into Google.

Among the first four entries, the words 'presenter', 'Channel 4 Racing' and 'William Fox-Pitt' all figure prominently. No surprises there. Perhaps not quite so anticipated is the prominence of the sixth entry, a link to a YouTube clip from an edition of the Morning Line posted under 'Alice Plunkett in Leather

Pants and High Heels'. The accompanying comments are evidence of a large legion of followers, not all of whom are first and foremost concerned with her presentational prowess.

Yet they should be, for Plunkett, wife of Britain's leading three-day eventer William Fox-Pitt, is exceptionally good at what she does. Through the summer months she assists her husband at their purpose-built Dorset stables, the eventing world's equivalent of Jackdaws Castle. Come the winter she swaps one man for another, teaming up with Alastair Down to front Channel 4's Jumps action.

Whether at Ascot, Newbury, Kempton, Sandown or on the ultimate stage at ▶