

Reid hits a High

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By Pippa Roome

MARCUS REID nearly didn't run his home-bred High Light III across country after a poor day with his other rides. The decision to go for it meant he ended the event on a true high when he took the sole intermediate with the nine-year-old.

"He's a beautiful horse and a typical Anglo Arab, quite flamboyant," said Marcus, who previously rode for the Guinneses — breeders of Tamarillo — and used their stallion Sisyrrinchium to produce the grey. He is out of the Irish throughbred mare High Profile, by Euphemism.

High Light III completed on his dressage score of 27.7 and the most thrilling part for Marcus was his showjumping clear.

"He's a very good jumper, but I've struggled to jump a clear on him this year," admitted the rider. "I've been eventing professionally for 20 years, but you're always learning and I've ridden a lot of backwards-thinking horses. He's quick to his fences and I've had to learn to sit quiet and just leave it to him."

A change from a snaffle to a pelham helped.

"I felt he was a bit on my hands in the snaffle," said Marcus, who is based in mid-Wales.

Simon Grieve was just 0.5 of a penalty in arrears on the seven-year-old Drumbilla Metro, owned by Merna Merrett and her daughter Catherine. The Merretts bought the Metropole son from



Marcus Reid's day improves significantly with an intermediate win on High Light III

Vere Phillipps and Debbie Edmundson produced the horse until Simon took over this year.

"I worked for Debbie when I was in my teens and she's been a great support to me ever since," said Simon, who was recording his 10th double clear with Drumbilla Metro, in 10 outings.

Hannah Jones scored for amateur riders with third on Nolton Barnacle. The 27-year-old is a full-time vet at Avenue Veterinary Centre in Malvern.

Evo's a winner

ANDREW NICHOLSON claimed three of the top eight places in the open intermediate, including winning with Sally-Anne Egginton's Cillnabraden Evo. The eight-year-old by Creevagh Ferro Ex Siebe joined the New Zealander this season after being ridden by Lucy Wiegiersma and her boyfriend Pdraig McCarthy.

"He was quite strong when I started riding him, but he's better now," said Andrew. "He's a nice-looking horse who moves well and he's a good jumper. The courses here were educational and no pushover, which is how they should be."

This was Cillnabraden Evo's sixth top-three result with Andrew, although the pair have also had falls at Houghton and Tattersalls.

Lucy Jackson was ruing a fence down on each of her rides, which meant she finished second and third rather than first and second.

"The horses who were just back from three-day events thought the cross-country looked much more fun than jumping coloured poles," she explained. "But it's good practice having the cross-country and showjumping arena close together."

Second-placed Mercury Bay is a 15-year-old who was bred in New Zealand and brought over by owners the Wicks family. Produced to two-star by Katie Wicks, he joined Lucy 18 months



Andrew Nicholson tops an 'educational' open intermediate on CillnabradenEvo



Lucy Jackson and Mercury Bay clear the influential rail ditch rail on the way to second in the OI

Pictures by Jo Prestwich