

I'm particularly pleased with our dressage score of 23.2 as we've been working really hard with Andrew Fletcher over the winter," said Lydia. "She's been doing some great work at home so it was nice to be able to replicate this in a competition, which we haven't always been able to do. I'm just a bit worried that we've set the bar quite high now and so need to try and keep it up!"

Izzy Taylor rode *Its Chico* into third place in section L and then went one better in OI section I, where she was second with the exciting eight-year-old KBIS Starburst (Rich), who gave an insight into his potential following a minor operation last year.



A Class of his own

OLIVER TOWNEND had 15 horses entered across all sections and was rewarded with a runaway win in intermediate section K aboard *Angela Hislop's Ballaghmor Class*, a horse who won his first intermediate class as a six-year-old in 2013.

The pair completed almost nine points clear of the field, with the chasing pack headed by *Piggy French* and *Quarrycrest Echo*.

Oliver had to settle for second spot in intermediate section J — a well-earned achievement after he virtually carried a distinctly hesitant *Power Drive* over all three elements of the influential fence 10 (see box, below left).

Angus Smales pipped his former boss to the post in this section with *Diana Birch's Master Crisp*, a result which Angus said was largely due to the time that he has given the nine-year-old to mature.

"I got him at the back end of his five-year-old year and he was basically a naughty, young horse," said Angus. "I've taken the time to produce him in line with his brain, and the time has now come for him to step up — and he did."

All being well, the pair will contest their first three-star in the autumn. **H&H**