



NICO MORGAN/LAMY

## Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials, GBR: 8-11 May

Sam Griffiths with the  
Badminton Horse Trials Trophy

After knocking on the door in recent years, Sam Griffiths became the sixth Australian to win Badminton, with his ride Paulank Brockagh only the third

mare to do so. It was Sam's first major title and his victory was unexpected, having been lying in 25th place after dressage and then fifth going into the final phase. With only one horse leaving all the poles in their cups, Paulank Brockagh's four faults was good enough to leapfrog to the top of the leaderboard.

"I had thought that we could move up the order," Sam said, "but I had no expectation of being on the podium. This is the ultimate dream, to ride here was always a major ambition. This means the world to me. Badminton is the pinnacle."

Runner-up Oliver Townend and third-placed Harry Meade also stormed up the order after the dressage phase, which had left Armada lying in 34th and Wild Lone back in 46th. "I'm thrilled!" said Oliver. "I was disappointed with our dressage, but this makes up for it. It is a fantastic feeling to be sitting on a Ferrari like Armada when riding a course like we had yesterday."

Harry Meade was perhaps the most surprised to be on the podium after his career-threatening fall last summer. "Badminton was my big target after my injuries, but it has exceeded all possible expectations," admitted Harry. "Wild Lone jumped probably the best show jumping round of his career and I'm over the moon."

Pippa Funnell rode 4\* first timer Billy Beware into sixth place with Izzy Taylor also in the top 20: 17th on KBIS Briarlands Matilda and 18th on Thistledown Poposki.