

Townend scoops £1k



Lizzie Brown and Playtime NZPH have clicked again after some time apart

KELSALL HILL (1) CHESHIRE 19-21 April

By Jo Prestwich

OLIVER TOWNEND, riding Skyhills Cavalier for Stephen and Victoria Hazeldene and the Mitchell Fox Group, won a nail-biting finale to the £1,000-to-the-winner Grenson Motors advanced intermediate.

Less than a fence covered the top seven going into the final showjumping phase, which proved influential.

Oliver had four in the class, including dressage leader The Chenko Artist, who was not playing the game cross-country and third-placed Pepper Anne, who was having her first outing in over a year.

He put the pressure on early in the showjumping with Skyhills Cavalier, one of the few to jump clear, a feat repeated by Louise Harwood's ride Whitson, who finished second.

New Zealander Lizzie Brown was in the lead and came in needing a clear to win, but Henton Attorney General stopped and unseated her at the fourth fence and it was all over.

"That's the sport," reflected a philosophical Lizzie. "Before and after that was great."



Oliver Townend pilots Skyhills Cavalier to win the lucrative A1. "He's relatively inexperienced, but has all the attributes of a top horse"

Skyhills Cavalier, by Cavalier Two For Joy, is now headed for Chatsworth.

"He is still relatively inexperienced, but I think he has all the attributes of a top horse — he was faultless in all three phases," said Oliver.

"So was the event — it is amazing here and in a different

league to even some of our big venues."

It's win time for Playtime

LIZZIE BROWN experienced the highs and lows of eventing in quick succession. Having seen the advanced intermediate snatched from her grasp, she gained some consolation when winning the

open intermediate with Tessa Grant's Playtime NZPH.

The New Zealand-bred gelding funded Lizzie's relocation to the northern hemisphere in 2011, having been sold to America as a CCI* horse.

"His new rider didn't get on with him, so the owner got in touch and he came back and luckily one of my owners here bought him," explained Lizzie. "It has taken me 18 months to get back with him, but this year we have really clicked."

This was a first visit to Kelsall for the Wiltshire-based rider.

"It was my trainer Erik Duvander who suggested I entered," she said. "What an event. It was beautifully presented and looked more like a CIC — in fact, I think they should have one and soon."

David Doel's first trip to Kelsall Hill — as a 13-year-old in 2007 — ended with him up in front of the steward after collecting 17 time-penalties for going too fast. Seven years later it was a much happier experience. David winning intermediate section T with the Near Misses Syndicate's Jiggle Jones.

"To be honest, I didn't hold out that much for my chances today as when she came out of the lorry, she looked seriously annoyed with me," said David.

"It was an early start and she must have got out of bed on the wrong side, but I gave her a few carrots and did plenty of cantering to work her in and she did a lovely test."

The judge agreed, the mare's **B**

MOST INFLUENTIAL FENCE



THE most influential fence on the intermediate track was the double of corners at fence 14ab. The left-handed and right-handed corners (both with alternatives) had four strides between them and run-outs were evenly spread between the two parts. Emma Silman and Sillogue Callicott (ninth in section T) are pictured here.



Jiggle Jones wins for David Doel, after an unpromising start to the day