

Evo bows out on eight wins

A one-day event specialist retires at the top as Oliver Townend extends his extraordinary record at this Norfolk venue

CILLNABRADDEN EVO'S victory in the CCI4*-S was his eighth international win with Oliver Townend, his fifth at four-star level and his second at Burnham Market. It was also his last, because Oliver and owner Sally-Anne Egginton announced the elegant black horse's retirement immediately afterwards.

"It's just time. He's been punching above his weight for a very long time and he is very special to my yard and to his owner," said Oliver, who has now extended his extraordinary Burnham Market record to 13 CCI4*-S wins. "He's probably won more international classes than 10 horses would together and every time he went out, you pretty much knew you were going to have a good weekend."

Their dressage mark of 23.2 might not quite have been the 19.7 they posted at Badminton in 2019, but it slotted them in close behind Therese Viklund and Diabolique, who scored 22.3. A clear showjumping round to Diabolique's cricket score of 22 left them in the lead, and they were able to afford their two cross-country time-faults. Once again Oliver coaxed the best out of the



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CCI4*-S

- 1st** Oliver Townend (GBR)
on Cillinabradden Evo
2nd Kevin McNab (AUS)
on Scuderia 1918 Don Quidam
3rd Sarah Bullimore (GBR)
on Reve Du Rouet

14-year-old son of Creevagh Ferro, and he has finished his career healthy and happy.

MCNAB'S DRESSAGE SCORE FINISHES

IN contrast to the CCI4*-I, only two horses finished on their dressage scores in this class,

and both were ridden by Kevin McNab. Scuderia 1918 Don Quidam took second place on 26.9 and Scuderia 1918 A Best Friend was eighth with 35.1.

"They're very different people," said Kevin. "Don Quidam is cheeky, but in a nice way. Every day with him is fun - he's a horse you enjoy riding each time. For a really big horse, A Best Friend is a little bit anxious. He likes to have his friends around and someone to hold his hand. It hasn't hurt him to be at home over lockdown, and to have a bit more time to work with him and develop our relationship."

Both of Kevin's horses, like third-placed Reve Du Rouet, are aiming at the CCI5* at Pau to finish the season.

Sarah Bullimore and Reve Du Rouet did a lovely dressage test for 23.7, and were unlucky to "breathe" on a pole in the showjumping. Their cross-country round was as smooth and assured as would be expected of a pair who have placed in so many

five-stars; perhaps next month in France they can finally climb right to the top of the podium.

Sarah was also fifth on Conspire who, like his older stable-companion, is owned by Sarah's husband Brett and Christopher and Susan Gillespie.

Alex Hua Tian's Don Geniro doesn't always live up to his high expectations, but he did here with fourth place, adding a sprinkling of time-faults in both jumping phases to a dressage of 23.8.

There were only two other clear cross-country rounds inside the time allowed of 6min 46sec; Lizzie Baugh and B Exclusive, sixth, and Heidi Coy and Carrigean Tigerseye, 15th.

The two most significant withdrawals after showjumping were Tom McEwen with Toledo De Kerser and Kitty King with Vendredi Biats, both of whom had showjumped clear on top of dressage scores of 25.7 and 27.3 respectively. Both have Pau in their sights, travel restrictions permitting. H&H



Kevin McNab and Scuderia 1918 Don Quidam clinch the runner-up position by finishing on their dressage score