

Badminton over the years

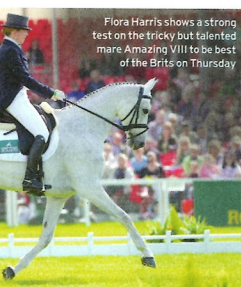
Placing after Friday dressage

First
Second

Ninth

Third
Second
Fourth
First
First

(S)
Tanna (AUS)



Flora Harris shows a strong test on the tricky but talented mare Amazing VIII to be best of the Brits on Thursday

seventh on Badminton debutant Indian Mill, a thoroughbred from Northern Ireland's Scarvagh House Stud – also responsible for Calico Joe, who slotted into 12th with Andrew Nicholson.

Bettina Hoy was ninth on Designer 10, who "tried so hard" as he is not a natural dressage star, while Aoife Clark and Vaguely North did a four-star personal best (42.9) for 10th.

Tina Cook claimed 11th on De Novo News, who was distracted in walk by seeing himself on screen.

"I don't know why he was so vain!" said Tina, who trialled a double bridle to flatter his "big head and weak neck".



Bill Levett and Shannondale Titan, who Carl Hester picked as the best mover, are equal 15th

COMMENT

Carl
Hester



'Some marks needed correcting'

THERE were no 10s this year and few nines, after more "wow dressage" and top marks over the past few years. This four-star test [A 2009] requires more collection than the other one and so many top riders dropped from the top ranks because of the flying changes.

The first change, after the extended canter, sets the scene — riders who can't collect and have a wild change here take a while to recover.

There's almost a need for a judges' supervisory panel — as we have in pure dressage — because some marks needed correcting. A late change should get a poor mark, a clean but boring one an average mark and an expressive change a high mark. Some late changes garnered a seven or eight, while clean ones got 6.5, which is ridiculous.

Nicholson's risks

AMONG the top players Andrew Nicholson had the rideability factor — he took risks, as he does across country, and it paid off. William Fox-Pitt's Chilli Morning has more lightness and he could have led without the mistakes in the changes. And it was great to see Oliver Townend's ride Armada finally become submissive without losing his sparkle.

Ingrid Klimke was impressive as Horseware Hale Bob is not the best mover. Young riders should aspire to emulate her softness and good position. I felt Joeky Paget was slightly undermarked on Clifton Lush, but to be fifth and sixth was quite something.

Titan was the best mover

I would take Bill Levett's Shannondale Titan as a horse for the future. He was the best mover and his springy trot, with a clear moment of suspension, deserved better marks. If he could be mistake-free and show better self-carriage he could score in the 20s, something we've not seen for a while.

The young German Niklas Bschorer is a lovely rider and it was nice to see Louisa Milne Home hit the 40s with King Eider after steady improvement each year. Paul Tapner is a top rider — both his horses were between leg and hand and Indian Mill showed lots of potential. Let's hope Laura Collett's Grand Manoeuvre can fulfill his promise and also Flora Harris' Amazing VIII, who showed the best outline in extended trot.

The take-home message? Flying changes have returned as a weakness in eventing dressage, having improved since they were first introduced. The placing of them is difficult in this test and I'm not sure if it's the best arrangement for fit horses, who have to deal with quite a difference between the warm-up and competition atmosphere. **H&H**

MITSUBISHI MOTORS BADMINTON

Overall: final scoreboard

MITSUBISHI MOTORS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2015

Final position	Horse and rider	Dressage	Cross-country Time	Jumping Time	Total
1	Chilli Morning (William Fox-Pitt, GBR)	39	-	-	39
2	Horseware Hale Bob (Ingrid Klimke, GER)	40.2	-	-	40.2
3	Clifton Lush (Joeky Paget, NZL)	40.8	-	4	44.8
4	Leonidas II (Mark Todd, NZL)	45.8	1.2	1	48
5	Designer 10 (Bettina Hoy, GER)	42.8	1.6	4	48.4
6	Nero (Andrew Nicholson, NZL)	37.8	-	12	49.8
7	One Two Many (Nicola Wilson, GBR)	47	4	-	51
8	Vaguely North (Aoife Clark, IRL)	42.9	4.8	4	51.7
9	Ballynch Adventure (Michael Ryan, IRL)	52.1	1.2	-	53.3
10	Paulank Brockagh (Sam Griffiths, AUS)	48.2	1.6	4	53.8
11	Armada (Oliver Townend, GBR)	39.6	-	16	55.6
12	Redesigned (Pippa Funnell, GBR)	46	4.4	4	56.4
13	Kilronan (Paul Tapner, AUS)	47.8	5.6	4	57.4
14	Indian Mill (Paul Tapner, AUS)	41.9	-	16	57.9
15	Ringwood Sky Boy (Tim Price, NZL)	48.1	-	12	60.1
16	Arctic Soul (Gemma Tattersall, GBR)	48.6	-	12	60.6
17	Minos De Petra (Pascal Leroy, FRA)	46.6	2.8	12	61.4
18	Shannondale Titan (Bill Levett, AUS)	45.8	8	8	61.8
19	Beltane Queen (Nicola Wilson, GBR)	50.9	1.2	8	62.1
20	Classic Moet (Janelle Price, NZL)	54.9	-	8	62.9
21	Kaufman NND (Tim Inc. NED)	61	8.4	4	62.4