

Canter's Crown Jewel

Eventing's big guns are out in force, but two intermediate winners post career-first victories

By SUE FOLLEY

Lincolnshire

ROS CANTER scored a one-two in the advanced intermediate at Lincolnshire, a fixture now firmly established in the British Eventing (BE) calendar as a go-to event for combinations targeting a spring four- or five-star run, largely courtesy of its reliable ground and top-end intermediate cross-country track.

This year, the 176 starters across its advanced intermediate (AI), three open intermediate (OI) and two intermediate sections comprised numerous World Equestrian Games, Olympic and European medallists. Many were using the run as preparation for Thoresby or Burnham Market CCI4*-S and then either Badminton, Kentucky or Luhmühlen CCI5*.

Reigning world champion Ros



Annie Makin and Kate James' Pencos Crown Jewel adds nothing to her dressage score of 25.5 to win the AI under Ros Canter – who also finishes second on Lordships Graffalo



Canter was no exception, running three horses in the AI – Allstar B and Lordships Graffalo, who are Badminton-bound, and Pencos Crown Jewel, who is currently advertised for sale but may head to Luhmühlen. The latter topped the section, with Lordships Graffalo playing bridesmaid on this occasion.

Annie Makin and Kate James' daughter of Jumbo, Pencos Crown Jewel, completed on a dressage score of 25.5, with Michele Saul's Lordships Graffalo also adding nothing to his first-phase score of 27.2. Both horses are out of Cornish Queen, herself out of Katie Parker's former four-star (now five-star) mare Cornish Faer.

World champion Allstar B finished 12th having been slightly off the pace after dressage.

"I always enjoy riding at

Monkeying Around is another to finish on his dressage score, topping an OI with Izzy Taylor

Lincolnshire and as the ground was so good today it made sense to let them all have a good gallop across country," said Ros.

"The track has a nice start as it's open and forward-moving with the questions coming slightly later. The water is always strong here as they build meaty fences going into it but, to be honest, that's what horses need prior to tackling four- and five-star tracks."

As it was, the intermediate course rode well with 86% completing without jumping penalties. Those who did blot their copy books tended to do so either at the double of brush corners on a sweeping curve at fences 13 and 14 or at the final combination, the viaduct, ditch, viaduct at 20abc.

Bubby Upton was third in the AI with her mother Rachel and the Zebedee Syndicate's Magic Roundabout IV, one of four rides she piloted in this section. She completed on a score of 27.9, with 2021 European team