



Ros Canter wins her first Badminton title, on Lordships Graffalo



Dreams made for Ros and Walter

IT is what dreams are made of, but Ros Canter said she may never have dreamed she could do what she has done – winning her first Badminton on Lordships Graffalo.

Former world champion Ros and Grafenstolz gelding “Walter”, 11, led from start to finish, topping the dressage on 22.1. They added 11.6 time-penalties on a cross-country course that had been hit by

heavy rain and on which no one made the optimum time, then put in a polished, foot-perfect showjumping clear, adding 1.6 time-penalties to finish on 35.3, exactly 15 penalties ahead of Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class in second.

“Everyone says this is what dreams are made of but I don’t know if I ever dreamed I could do it,” Ros said. “I think it will take a long time to sink

in; I look back to my Pony Club days and can’t believe it has come to this.”

Ros paid tribute to her “amazing” team, and Michele Saul’s gelding, with whom she finished fourth at last year’s World Championships.

“He’s the ultimate event horse; it’s what he lives for and breathes for,” she said. “He’s been amazing every day and we all love him to bits.”

Third place went to Austin O’Connor on Colorado Blue, who had been in joint 34th place after dressage on 31.9 penalties but whose superb cross-country round, adding 10.8 time-penalties for the fastest time of the day, had pushed them up to second. Two poles and 1.2 time-penalties in the showjumping meant they finished on 51.9.

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