



Double Badminton winner Lordships Graffalo is still getting better as he and Ros Canter claim the CCI4\*-S

## Straightness work helps Graffalo win again

ROS CANTER and the indomitable Lordships Graffalo led from start to finish in the Magic CCI4\*-S to win by 5.4 penalties, just adding 0.4 of a cross-country time-fault to their 22.4 dressage.

"He had a quiet run at Aston three weeks ago, and so I wanted to give him a good spin, but I wasn't necessarily coming

here to win," said Ros, who won her second Badminton title in the spring with "Walter".

"I've made a few little tweaks since Badminton, where I missed two changes, so that has been a big topic I've been working on, but there's been other things that have come out of that that I think have improved because of it.

"I've had a bit of help from Amy and Ian Woodhead.

Amy mentioned a couple of things about how I ride his straightness, and that's had a big knock-on effect in the showjumping, which is now feeling better than it has ever felt, just because I'm riding him slightly differently.

"If anything, the work we've been doing on the changes has not helped the changes as much, but it has changed my approach to the jumping. I think he's jumping better and I feel very relaxed and content about the process."

Archie and Michele Saul's 13-year-old Lordships Graffalo is the reigning European champion, but will not defend his title this year at the home Europeans at Blenheim, because Ros announced she is pregnant with her second child the Monday after Hartpury.

"I'll be cheering the team on every step of the way," she said.

Ros Canter wins the top class and follows up with a pregnancy announcement, while up-and-coming stars shine in the other sections

Bubby Upton was second with her mother Rachel Upton's Cola III, with whom she won this class last year. They were third after the dressage and added just two cross-country time-faults to their 26.2 first phase score.

"He was amazing. He just delivers time and time again. Although he won last year, coming second to Lordships Graffalo feels like a win," said Bubby, who has two horses on the European Championships longlist, including Cola.

"I've had him for nine years and I know him inside out. He's like my best friend and never in a million years did I think that he would do what



Selina Milnes (Cooley Snapchat) jumps clear for CCI4\*-S third