

DUSTY OLD BOOKS HOLD THE KEY

I OWE IT TO...

CIC2* winner David Doel confessed that getting Shannondale

Quest match-fit became a priority when the 17th son of Cascaletto St Ghyvan Z arrived at his yard in February.

"We dug out some old three-day event instruction books from the days of the long format and followed their advice," he said. "We did a lot of hacking and plenty of cantering and galloping. I'm lucky that my dad and my uncle let me do a lot of fitting work on the fantastic hills around the farm."

a stirrup snapped during their showjumping round, prompting the Swiss rider to retire.

FITTING VICTORY

SAM GRIFFITHS proved a popular winner of Friday's advanced intermediate (AI) as his mount, the 11-year-old On The Brash, was once campaigned by event organiser Helen West.

"To make winning even more apt, Sarah [Tobey, the horse's owner], works for [CIC2*] sponsor Rathbones," said Sam. "With virtually no rain in April, I arrived doubting I'd run across country, but the organisers had worked really hard on the ground and the grass cover was great, so with all to play for I was able to have a good crack at the time."

The top spot in the open intermediate (OI) was claimed by Bristol-based Alexander Whewall aboard his Gatcombe intermediate champion Chakiris Star. They were the only duo in this 17-strong section to record a sub-30 finishing score.

"I recently won the Mark Todd Bridging The Gap scholarship and Toddy has been giving me tips and has made subtle changes," said Alex, who is also instructed by Lizzel Winter. "Chakiris Star

"Tez is a big horse and I've found him difficult to keep together in the jumping," explained Tom. "He had been off through injury more or less since 2013 when I took him on in 2015. He feels different this year, though, so I think it's taken him that long to fully recover. But he's a superstar and he knows it."

Fifty horses started in the CIC2*, with 29 finishing, two of those within the optimum time. The most influential cross-country fence was the eyelashes (fence 7ab), a double of narrow, sculpted brushes with a steep downhill approach that prompted a lack of control and steering in a few cases. Eleven finishers recorded clear showjumping rounds, including third-placed Libby Seed riding Carolyn Bates' Philanderer II, a black stallion by Jumbo. Dressage leaders Christian Landolt and Toblerone NZPH had to drop out of the running when

It's a bit like trying to drive an oil tanker, but once you've got him straight he's good'

DAVID DOEL ON HIS CIC2* WINNER SHANNONDALE QUEST

Giovanni Ugolotti and his potential four-star ride Duke Of Champion land the intermediate



Alexander Whewall and Chakiris Star top the open intermediate on 29.3



Rathbones
Look forward

is so trainable and such a trier — he's amazing."

Giovanni Ugolotti relegated Alex and Edyvanta into second place in the sole intermediate. The Italian rider took on his winning horse, the seven-year-old 16.3hh Duke Of Champion, midway through last season when the son of Duke Of Hearts grew too big for Giovanni's fiancée, Kathryn Robinson.

"I have to say that Kathryn did a great job with him," laughed Giovanni of the gelding he purchased in Germany as a four-year-old. "I really rate him. He's a good mover and jumper and he has enough blood to do four-star."

Intermediate contender Chillout Baby, a nine-year-old grey gelding ridden by Sweden's Line Andersen, had to be put down after breaking a leg in a fall at the giant's table (fence 12).

Organiser Helen West was

pleased with the quality of intermediate and CIC2* entries, but disappointed at the quantity.

"There are seven events on our weekend, four of which run intermediate classes and above. There is a need to revisit the calendar," she said. **H&H**

A HELPING HAND

IN two demonstrations of altruism, Mark Todd donated his two Friday prize cheques to grateful volunteers on the Willberry Wonder Pony stand, while Bilton's medical officer John Shepherd willingly assisted with rebuilding the showjumping course when an SOS went out for volunteers.

TALKING POINT

RESULTS

AI.—1. On The Brash (S Griffiths) 34.2.0=35.2; 2. Sula Blue (S Squires) 30.3.1.6=39.9; 3. Cekatinka (T Price) 27.12.41.4. CIC2*.—1. Shannondale Quest (D Doel) 43.4.0=47.4; 2. Mr Cruise Control (T Hawke) 46.9.0.4=51.3; 3. Philanderer II (L Seed) 50.6.0.4=55.3. OI.—1. Chakiris Star (A Whewall) 27.0.1.6=29.3; 2. Bayano (F Harris) 26.0.1.8=34.1; 3. Kincooley Cruising (T Price) 22.1.0.1=36.1. Int.—1. Duke Of Champion (G Ugolotti) 25.5.4.4=33.9; 2. Edyvanta (A Whewall) 26.0.8.4=35.3; 3. Fision M (L Innes) 31.6.0.4=36.0. ON.—1. Snyperk Ferro XS (A Bragg) 29.3.0.0=29.3; 2. Total Belief (C Egan) 27.3.0.2.4=29.7; 3. Cornish Daybreak (K Burton) 26.5.0.4.8=31.3. nov sec B.—1. Tommy Tittle Mouse (J Rimmer) 24.3.0.1.2=26.5; 2. Fun Time Cilla (T McEwen) 26.3.0.2.8=29.1; 3. Chance Of Glory (L Andersen) 29.0.0.8=29.8. sec C.—1. Elady Liberty (G Gurdur) 26.0.0.0=26.2; 2. McClaren (M Todd) 28.8.0.0=28.8; 3. CHF Cooler (T McEwen) 31.3.0.0.8=32.1. sec T.—1. Leaping Lord (T Grant) 25.3.0.0=25.3; 2. Joblesse Van Bareelhof (J Norman) 27.3.0.0=27.3; 3. Bit Seventh Heaven (W Fox-Pitt) 28.0.0.0=28.5. MuH.—1. Persch Pierd (E Hope) 24.5.0.2=27.7; 2. Winchester (S Inglis) 27.3.0.1.2=28.5; 3. Principal Espoir (G Enthoven) 31.8.0.0=31.8. BE100plus.—1. Gorsehill Woodie (A Taylor) 24.8.0.0=24.8; 2. Larim R (J-L Day) 25.0.0=25.3; 3. Kollection Perfect (I Joce) 27.8.0.0=27.8. BE100open.—1.

Simon Porloe (E Chapman) 29.0.0=29.2. Hunros Toketika (L Luxton) 33.0.0=33.3. Ferdinand R (A Whewall) 33.0.0=33.3. BE100 sec M.—1. Trisha Rock (A Wreford-Brown) 27.3.0.0=27.8; 2. Downe Right Rio (T Cheffings) 28.3.0.0.4=28.7; 3. Dancing Chareek (A Bragg) 29.0.0=29.0. sec O.—1. Argyle Diamond (T Grant) 25.0.0=25.2; 2. Arkid (L Luxton) 22.5.0.4=26.9; 3. Studland Bay Eric (L Ferguson) 28.4.0=32. sec P.—1. Graphene (S Griffiths) 24.4.0=28.2; 2. Mr Delicious (C Matthews) 28.5.0.0=28.5; 3. Dowie Jones (M Martin) 29.5.0.0=29.5. BE100plus sec R.—1. Murphy Mayhew (J Rimmer) 28.3.0.0=28.3; 2. Rathvannan Frankie (J Dowse) 31.0.0=31.3; 3. Culverlane St William Of York (E Williams) 32.3.0.0=32.3. sec S.—1. Glenbarry Fiare (C Read) 25.0.0=25.5; 2. Pebbly Knight Of The Realm (I Eaton) 28.3.0.0=28.3; 3. Mandorin (V Volter) 28.3.0.0=28.3. BE90 sec H.—1. Menal Cosmic Duke (L Drew) 25.0.1.2=26.2; 2. Melloway Rose (C Wilson) 29.8.0.0=29.8; 3. Mind Over Matter (R Churchill) 28.8.0.1.6=30.4. sec I.—1. Merlino (B Balian) 26.0.0=26.2; 2. Horgans Mercury (S McGee) 26.0.0=26.3; 3. Wolfierio China Rose (J Jeans) 29.0.0=29.9. sec J.—1. Elina St (M Harris) 26.3.0.0=26.7; 2. Fivale Blank Canvas (H Green) 27.3.0.0=27.3; 3. Alvecost Peppi (S Williams) 29.3.0.0=29.3. sec K.—1. Shanbo Hazel Nut (I Halpin) 25.0.0=25.2; 2. Just In Thyme X (S Howie) 31.8.0.1.6=33.4; 3. Pennestamp (C Chard) 30.4.0=34. sec L.—1. The Domino Effect (H Townley) 25.3.0.0=25.3; 2. Kevin P (J Bessie) 27.5.0.0=27.8; 3. Rearcross Horse (A Clough) 29.0.0=29.9.