



Miners Frolic has the last laugh

BRIGHTLING PARK

IT had all the ingredients for a cliff-hanger. Only one fence separated the top three before the final show jumping phase in the CIC** at the Amlin Plus-sponsored Brightling Park horse trials, but it was Tina Cook and Miners Frolic who snatched the £1,000 winner's cheque courtesy of posting the only clear round out of this leading trio.

"I came here to give him an easy outing and I'm thrilled that the plan paid off," said a delighted Tina of her former Burghley Young Event Horse winner, who finished ninth at Bramham earlier this year.

Local rider Clare Lewis and Sidnificant came within a hair's breath of notching up their first international win when they headed the leaderboard after the cross-country, but when the usually ultra-careful 'Sid' dislodged the back rail of fence three this proved enough to relegate him to second.

Andrew Nicholson, who had been breathing down the leaders' necks throughout, finished third with Rosemary Barlow's consistent youngster Avebury.

Tina is pinning her comeback campaign squarely on the shoulders of Nick and Valda Embricos and Sarah Pelham's strapping nine-year-old Miners Frolic.

"He's top class," confirmed Tina. "He felt a little green at Bramham, so it was good to give him an easier run here before Blenheim."

Clare Lewis and Sidnificant finish second in the CIC after leading the cross-country above Tina Cook and Miners Frolic show jump clear to notch up a narrow victory**



Miners Frolic will be aimed at a four-star next year.

"I haven't rushed him as I want him to come out at four-star level and be competitive."

For Clare Lewis it was not achieving by far the fastest cross-country time of the section (for just 1.6 penalties) that gave her the most satisfaction, but rather Sid's dressage score of 50.7.

"He has a habit of standing on his hind legs mid-test — as he did at Barbury last weekend — but he was on his best behaviour today," said Clare. "I'd like to think he's improving, but one swallow doesn't necessarily make it summer, so who knows what he'll be like next time out!"

But the eight-year-old's jumping credentials are certainly not in doubt, a fact he proved when going clear at Saumur in May. Blenheim is next on the cards for the pair.

Oliver Townend brought a quartet of rising stars to Brightling and stamped his authority on the class by finishing fourth, fifth, seventh and 10th, with ODT Mouse, ODT Master Rose, Best Of Spirits and Divine Inspiration respectively. Emilie Chandler and the up-and-coming Cavaliers Knight slotted into sixth place courtesy of a double clear.

Once again staying power was the name of the game around Scott Brickell's energy-sapping 25-fence CIC cross-country course. Apart from Clare Lewis only Italian Olivia Simonazzi and the former Andrew