

# Stable start for Ciren

TONY Jafrate's 40 points were enough to claim first place in Cirencester Seniors' stableford Division One competition, while Jim Donovan had to settle for second with 39 points. Jafrate came out on top of the 73 competitors who took part last in the tournament week. John Thurston improved on his fourth-place finish in March with a third this time around, while four players on 38 points had to be separated on countback for fourth,

**GOLF**  
with Rodney Williams eventually claiming that mantle. In Division Two, Geoff Knick took first spot on countback from Geoff Southwell, after both players scored 41 points. Knight's birdie on the 16th proved decisive. Mark Harrison was third with 39 points, while David Bamford and Bob Allen finished fourth and fifth.



■ Wrag Barn Juniors

# Wrag's riches out in Spain

**GOLF**  
WRAG Barn Juniors may have missed out on team glory at the Junior Team Golf Home International Final but they did pick up two individual awards. The Highworth-based side qualified for the finals at Antequera Golf Club in Spain after finishing runners-up in November's English National Final. Wrag's first match in Pool B saw them pitted against Welsh National Champions Aberdare but with all their team giving away shots to their opponents it was always going to be a tough ask. However, Wrag produced a dominant performance against Aberdare as they clinched a 4-2 victory. Jack Seaman, Max Mulcock and Max Drayton won their matches while Kendle McCrossan and Lewis Ward halved their matches and Ross Loveridge suffered Wrag's only loss. Wrag were brought down to earth with a bump on day two with Mulcock clinching his side's only success in defeat against Eire Champions Mallow.

That defeat left Wrag Barn needing victory against Scottish Champions Turnhouse to stand a chance of advancing to the final stages of the tournament. Drayton, Mulcock and Loveridge all won their matches while halves from Harry Hillerby and McCrossan scored a 4-2 win for Wrag. The result left Wrag Barn level on points with two other teams in Pool B and they missed out on the knockout stages by rubbers difference. Northern Ireland's Belvoir Park and Ireland's Mallow contested the final with the latter triumphing 6-0 while Wrag Barn faced Abergele in a play-off for fifth place. Mulcock, Drayton, Ward, Hillerby and Drayton won their matches as Wrag beat Abergele 5-1 to secure fifth. Wrag Barn though didn't leave Spain empty-handed with Mulcock awarded the Paul Casey Trophy for having the best playing record during the week after winning four wins from four matches. McCrossan also picked up an award - the Sir Alex Hay Memorial Trophy - for his personal contribution to junior golf. Junior coach Richard Ward said: of his team's efforts: "This week was a great experience for all concerned and we thank the competition organisers and management team.

"Our thanks also go to all those at Wrag Barn that supported our quest to become Home International Champions and so generously gave to the team's fund raising. "To come fifth at the end of the week felt disappointing at the time but our match statistics show Wrag Barn deserved to be much higher up the leader board. "Now the event is over and we have all had time to reflect I have nothing but pride and admiration for the efforts of the Wrag Barn juniors. "The behaviour and etiquette of the squad was second to none and the boys represented Wrag Barn, Wiltshire and England with honour. Being the fifth best Junior Golf Team in Great Britain & Ireland is not a bad feeling at all."



■ Max Mulcock received the Paul Casey Award

# Meade for speed

## Fit-again Harry raring to go

HAVING suffered a horror fall at the end of last season which saw both his elbows shattered, Harry Meade's future as an event rider was hanging in the balance.

Seven months down the line, he's not only back eventing but arguably looking better than ever.

Meade revealed he did have some worries, however, saying: "I was told at Christmas I may never sit on a horse again, so of course it was a concern.

"It's been a pretty stressful winter, in fact. It felt really good to be back and I was pleased that I've been able to make a good start to the season."

With a few events under his belt, including some brilliant results at Gatcombe when all five of his horses recorded double clears with dressage tests in the 20s, Meade is feeling confident about the season ahead.

He said: "If I had any doubts at all, there was no better way to put those to rest than the great weekend at Gatcombe. It was one of those rare events where everything just went right start to finish - it was a real confidence boost and now I feel I can put the fall behind me and look forward."

Wild Lone, who heads to Badminton for the third year, came third at Gatcombe with his best dressage mark to date on March 22, following on from another good dressage at Aldon.

Meade has said previously that the flatwork would be the horse's weakest phase but he is pleased with the progress.

"I'm a little hesitant to get over excited until they've proven they can do it on the big stage but I do feel we've turned a bit of a corner and he's working better than ever before. I'm looking forward to it," he said.

"He's been a very consistent four star horse and his dressage is improving all the time, so I'm feeling positive. This will be my ninth Badminton and I know well what we're capable of in each phase so I'm confident but equally realistic. "You just have to get on and do your

**Nicki Strong EQUESTRIAN**

sport@swindonadvertiser.co.uk  
@HSEquestrian

job and if everything goes to plan you'll do well, and if you don't you won't. There's no point worrying what others are doing, I think that's what makes the sport a friendly one with good camaraderie, because you don't get the same rivalries. Essentially you're competing against the course.

"I think what makes my horse special is that he's very, very honest. I've produced him from a four-year-old and knew from about five that he would be a good four-star horse.

"He's ultra consistent and has done very little wrong in his career. He can be a bit of a twit in his brain but you forgive him for that because the good four-star horses do have something else about them in terms of temperament.

"He's always busy in his brain but that's what makes him good and on the ball, he's always looking for the next fence. In his attitude he's very honest and extremely trusting. I just don't think he ever questions anything and that's the result of a long term way of producing a horse, accumulating that trust."

"I'm quite excited about a lovely seven-year-old called Away Cruising. I think he will be a very good horse. Some you are not so sure about and they surprise you but some of them you can be pretty sure they're special early on. He's another I've had since he was a four-year-old."

Meade has around nine horses ready to compete this season and he has also been selected as part of the FEI Nations Cup squad representing Team GB.

He said of the achievement: "It's great to be selected so I'm looking forward to competing at some of those legs. Otherwise, we will be heading to Belton next weekend then onto Tattersalls for the end of May."



■ Chippenham eventer Harry Meade shattered both his elbows last season but is already back in the saddle