

Larkhill double puts Robbie on cloud nine

Written by Mike Turner

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JOCKEY Robbie Henderson reached the nine-winner mark for the season with a double at the South & South-West point-to-point meeting at Larkhill on Saturday.

Intermediate winner Thinkaboutthat and Kudu Shine (Restricted) provided Henderson's two successes.

The former cruised home after main challengers Hinchelsea Moor and Stalbridgeswansong had fallen when upsides to provide the ideal present for Castle Cary owners Ray and Evelyn Targett, who had celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary 48 hours earlier.

"We bought him to try to win a Maiden for Mr and Mrs Targett and now he's won three races," said Ottery St Mary trainer Ed Walker.

A crack at Cheltenham's Connolly's Red Mills Intermediate Final on May 1 is on the cards.

Audrey Goodwin's home-bred Kudu Shine took advantage of Guido D'Arezzo's penultimate fence departure to record a three-length win.

"His granddam, Oh So Bright, was unbeaten in four outings for Audrey and trainer Oliver Sherwood," said South Molton trainer Kayley Jones. "We were worried the ground might be too quick today, but he's handled it well."

James and Charlotte Townshend's Round Tom may go hunter chasing after opening his pointing account in the Men's Open.

Ridden by reigning national champion Will Biddick, Round Tom turned the race into a procession to record the day's fastest time.

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“He ran in two point-to-points as a five-year-old, he’s won twice summer racing under Rules, he’s fit and he likes the quicker ground”, said Harry Fry, representing Seaborough trainer Richard Barber.

Gort Na Lea is also hunter chase-bound after taking the Hunt race for in-form Gare Hill trainer Charles Whittaker. Gort Na Lea made all under Alice Mills and won more easily than the official half-length margin suggests, after idling on the run-in.

Quedillac recorded his fourth Larkhill victory to provide an early 88th birthday present for Isle of Wight owner Hazel Goody.

Partnered by former national champion Gina Andrews, who is now on the 11-winner mark, Quedillac just got the better of King Of Alcatraz (Vicky Wade) after the pair had jumped the last upsides.

Exford trainer Sharon Westwood opened her account with Degenerate, who delighted his eight-strong Exmoor Pack Partnership group of owners in the Maiden.

Runner-up in a Newton Abbot bumper for David Pipe and AP McCoy two years ago, Degenerate had finished second in three of his seven races between the flags, so was certainly not winning out of turn.

Seamus Mullins’ head girl Laura Scrivener, 21, from Salisbury, made a winning race-riding debut aboard Forest Rhythm in the Willowbrook Challenge charity flat race, which has already raised more than £5,000 in aid of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.