

REPORTS

BELTON

In the final analysis just two seconds separated the CIC winner and runner-up, Emily Baldwin riding Drivetime. One of the last combinations out on the track,

this pair could afford four cross-country time penalties to add to their score of 38.7 if they were to snatch the lead from the long-time leaders. It couldn't have been closer but

they crossed the line 11 seconds over the optimum for 4.4 time penalties, giving spectators a demonstration of accurate jumping out of a smooth rhythm along the way.

"I was really going for it and I gave it a good crack," said Emily. "I guess I'm a bit disappointed. That said, though, he gave me a brilliant ride and it was the perfect pre-Badminton performance so, looking at the big picture, I am pleased."

The pair won an advanced section here a couple of years ago and Emily admitted that the venue is a favourite for both horse and rider and acknowledged that the 15-year-old by Rolls Royce is one the most consistent CIC*** horses in the world these days.

"This level is very much in his comfort zone as he doesn't have a weak phase. It's all systems go for Badminton now, though."



The Badminton-bound Drivetime finishes 11 seconds off the pace to secure the runner-up spot for Emily Baldwin

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