

# Tapner's fourth win

**ALDON (1), SOMERSET**  
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By Jane Perry

FOR an incredible fourth consecutive year, Paul Tapner ended the day heading the leader board in the advanced intermediate (AI) class at the Aldon Horse Trials spring fixture.

This year it was Jenny Waaler's experienced campaigner Inonothing, winner on the first two occasions, whose name will join Paul's on the silver Alpin Horse statue. He lost out to his stablemate, Stormhill Michael, last year.

Victory in a top-class field was no mean feat, as over half of the 40 starters in the class are entered for Badminton.

"All my hard work over the winter always seems to pay off here," said a delighted Paul. "I just need to work out how to keep it going through the year!"

The pair had their first outing with a steady run at Tweseldown but came to Aldon fully prepared to be competitive.

Paul said: "Inonothing is an old pro now, but I still need to have a fast run with him — in fact, I slowed down coming to the last fence which is really unusual for us."

The pair led after dressage on a mark of 29, just ahead of Mary King with Imperial Cavalier, but, when Mary rolled a pole in the showjumping while Paul finished with a clean slate, he had a small amount of breathing space.

"When I was on the cross-country I heard the commentary say Andrew [Nicholson] had gone into the lead on a mark of 34.5," said Paul. "So I quickly did some maths to work out how many time-faults I could afford."

Fortunately this was not needed as Paul was one of only a handful of riders all day who beat the optimum time. Andrew Nicholson continued his excellent start to 2010 with second on Deborah Sellar's impressive chestnut Nereo, while Ireland's Sam Watson completed a successful day with third on Horseware Bushman.



Paul Tapner puts in a rare clear inside the time on Inonothing to take the AI for the fourth year in a row