

# Brits abroad

## Scotland takes the Celtic spoils



**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**ENDURANCE GLENARIFF**  
**ENDURANCE FESTIVAL, 9-10 August**

SCOTLAND swept the board at the Glenariff endurance festival, claiming the home international and Celtic challenge trophies in a weekend characterised by heavy rain.

The home international features the four home nations fielding teams of seven riders who tackle distances of up to 160km over the two days. The competition is decided on most riders home.

The wet weather made the challenging course — which climbed over Slievenorra Hill and dropped deep into Glenariff Glen — more gruelling for competitors.

Four riders were left in contention in the second day of the two-day 160km, Ireland losing both riders

and England and Wales a rider each, meaning Scotland were unassailable if both their riders completed — they were the only team with an eligible compliment to achieve a finishing score.

English rider Jo Chisholm crossed the line first on the 18-year-old Arab gelding Grey Medlar at an average speed of 11.77kph.

A moment later, the Scottish riders crossed the line holding the St Andrew's flag between them, claiming the home international for Scotland to uproarious support from the crowd.

"It was a Scottish flying finish as we wanted to show we were riding for the team, not as individuals," said Kirstie Graham, who regularly reports for *H&H*.



**Kirstie Graham and Arabella, who secured the home international win for the Scottish team**

Kirstie, from Perthshire, was awarded second place on the Arab-Welsh mare Arabelle, with Diane Michie from Morayshire third on the Arab-Highland Skytark's Discovery at an average speed of 11.76kph. The only other completer was Mary Korn on Mr Mylo for Wales, who finished at 11.43kph.

English riders took first and second place in the 80km endurance ride, with

Charlotte Curtis and Razzamatazz winning at 13.56kph, followed by Karen David on Alzahi Kahzan, second at a speed of 13.01kph.

Despite strong individual performances from the English, the consistency of the Scottish team meant England had to settle for second in the home international, with Wales third and Ireland in fourth.

The Celtic challenge

between the three Celtic nations was closely contested. Both Scotland and Wales had the same number of riders home, so it was decided on speed, with Scotland again victorious.

Scottish rider Sue Ravenhall also claimed the novice trophy on Vella Sunrise and Scotland was awarded best-turned out team, in a triumphant weekend for the country. *H&H*