



Success at last for Harriet at Hickstead

It was fourth time lucky for Harriet Nuttall when she clinched victory in Hickstead's British Speed Derby on Silver Lift.

Harriet of Queen Camel had finished second twice and third once in this class in previous years.

She took an early lead on Highland Cruiser II in a time of 102.77sec despite having two down. Torrential rain brought proceedings to a standstill while the storm passed over, by which time the weather had taken its toll.

"Before the rain the going was perfect, but afterwards the horses were slipping around," said Harriet.

Riders were forced to take it steady, but poles still fell – until Harriet rode in for a second time on Silver Lift.

The pocket rocket flew around, leaving all the fences up, and posting a new fastest time of 97.53sec.

Harriet came second a total of four times at Hickstead last year, with Daisy Bunn referring to her as 'the bridesmaid, but never the bride'.

"It's a massive weight off my shoulders to finally win here," said Harriet. "I nearly went too fast last year, which was why I had one down, so I knew Silver Lift could do it, I just had to go clear."

Highland Cruiser was third and Harriet said it could be his last Speed Derby.

"He's 16 – he's been my school master for years, but he struggles at this height now, so I think this might his last one."