



OLIVER SAYS...

"OWNERS don't get enough recognition in our sport, and we really need to change that.

"I have a friend who owns a racehorse — when it won, he was invited into a special room and given free champagne and sandwiches with all his friends while the race was replayed on a loop. This was at a standard meeting, but he said that by the time he left he felt like he'd won at Cheltenham, and that eventing has a lot to learn.

"Owners have a lot of different reasons for coming into the sport, and they want varying levels of involvement and different things out of it, but ultimately they all want to win.

"My idea for improving owner recognition is to have more owners' prizes in general, but in particular to have a leading owner prize, for the owner whose horses have collectively won the most points in the season, like the leading owner prize in racing. It would need a perpetual trophy, but also a really good prize every year — maybe it could be sponsored by a holiday company with a free holiday to the winner.

"Also, the rankings would need to be well publicised on a rolling basis — both that and the rider rankings should be more prominent on the British Eventing website — so owners felt like they were competing between themselves, and were even encouraged to invest in horsepower to increase their chances of winning."