

takes its toll on 2010 calendar; Oli Townend scoops big prize pot in Pau

Townend bags £92,000 HSBC cheque



DESPITE crashing out in the final phase of the Pau CCI****

(report, page 44) Badminton and Burghley winner Oliver Townend's eighth place was good enough to secure him first prize in the HSBC FEI Classics Series. He received a cheque for US\$150,000 (£92,000) which brought his three-day winnings total from this season to approximately £207,000.

"It's been a fantastic year for me and winning the Classics [which links Badminton, Kentucky, Luhmühlen, Burghley and Pau] means a lot because in this sport these amounts

don't come along very often," said Oliver (*left*).

The final leg of the Classics Series prompted a flurry of changes, Pau winner Dirk Schrade netting enough points to claim the second prize of US\$75,000. Fellow German Andreas Dibowski secured US\$50,000 for third place, while last year's winner William Fox-Pitt was US\$33,000 better off in fourth. UK-based Australian Sam Griffiths filled fifth, for which he received US\$25,000.

Miners' horse rankings

TINA Cook's European gold medal-winning ride Miners Frolic (*above*) has topped British Eventing's 2009 horse rankings. The 11-year-old son of Miners Lamp amassed 464 points, with his victory in Fontainebleau earning 230.

Oliver Townend's Burghley winner, Andrew Cawthray's Carousel Quest is second with 432. He earned 180 points for this four-star victory as well as 110 points apiece when finishing eighth at the Kentucky and Pau CCI****s. William Fox-Pitt's European team gold medalist Idalgo is third with 391 points, while Piggy French's silver medalist Some Day Soon comes in in fourth place.

Oliver Townend heads BE's rider rankings by a mile, 86 points ahead of William Fox-Pitt. By winning Oliver has broken Andrew Nicholson and William's stranglehold on the rankings that dates back 10 years. This time the Kiwi rider occupies third place with 1,419 points, ahead of Piggy French, fourth with 1,192. Lucy Wiegiersma is the only other rider to break the 1,000 points barrier, finishing fifth with 1,183.

TOP 20 RIDERS

1, Oliver Townend, 1,643; 2, William Fox-Pitt, 1,557; 3, Andrew Nicholson, 1,419; 4, Piggy French, 1,192; 5, Lucy Wiegiersma, 1,183; 6, Ruth Edge, 933; 7, Paul Tapner, 854; 8, Mary King, 853; 9, Matthew Wright, 802; 10, Clayton Fredericks, 713; 11, Nicola Wilson, 707; 12, Polly Stockton, 627; 13, Kristina Cook, 602; 14, Sam Griffiths, 560; 15, Georgie Spence, 526; 16, Caroline Powell, 514; 17, Pippa Funnell, 496; 18, Mark Kyle, 477; 19, Daisy Dick, 463; 20, Jeanette Brakewell, 452.

TOP 20 HORSES

1, Nicholas Embiricos, Sarah Pelham & Valda Embiricos' Miners Frolic, 464; 2, Andrew Cawthray's Carousel Quest, 432; 3, George & Jayne Apter's Idalgo, 391; 4, Wally French, Sue Crane & James & Miriam Midgley's Some Day Soon, 383; 5, Geraldine Mills' Granntevka Prince, 375; 6, Rosemary Search's Opposition Buzz, 365; 7, Sam Griffiths, Dinah Postford & Juliet Donald's Happy Times, 364; 8, Derek Baden's Kings Temptress, 348; 9, Paul Tapner & Jenny Waaler's Innothing, 342; 10, Polly Stockton & Arthur Camyn's Westwood Poser, 336; 11, Sue Kerfoot & Ruth Edge's PC Wilson, 334; 12, Edward & Robert Nicholson's Flint Curtis, 329; =13, Ginnie Lyne's Woodfalls Inigo Jones & Lexi Mackinnon & Caroline Powell's Lenamore, 306; 15, Caroline Dick's Spring Along, 299; 16, Lady Pauline Harris's Drivetime, 281; 17, Catherine Witt's Seacookie, 274; 18, Henry & Edna Harding's Ashdale Cruise Master, 244; 19, Paul Ridgeon's Armada, 241; =20, Sue White & Paul Tapner's Kilfinnie II & Margrete Paget's Sir Percival III, 239.