

Winning reserve has a point to

CHATSWORTH CIC***W

THERE couldn't have been a sharper question asked of World Cup qualifier winner Oliver Townend during the post victory interviews for the massive Chatsworth crowd.

"Are you sticking pins into effigies of the team members?" Ian Stark jokingly enquired.

After some pause, Oli replied: "Well, yeah.."

Oli, one of the first reserves for the British Olympic team, which had just taken its first photo call, had ridden like a man determined to prove a point throughout the weekend at this picturesque Derbyshire event, sponsored by Nissan.

Lying 11th after the dressage with Edward and Robert Nicholson's Flint Curtis, and posting the fastest cross-country round in the section to climb into fifth, his support team held its breath as he delivered one of only five show jumping clears in the CIC***W. Those above him had only two fences in hand and as the poles rolled relentlessly victory came ever closer.

"I'm thrilled with him," said Oli. "The cross-country posed a number of questions, but it was there to be jumped. Obviously it would have been great to be selected for the Olympics, and a lot can happen between now and then, but we'll go to plan B and hope to pick up some nice prize-money along the way."

Oli, who was still competing with a broken collarbone, also secured a win

One of only five show jumping clears leaves Oliver Townend and Flint Curtis with the spoils



Joe Meyer and Snp, third in CIC*** section J



Andrew Nicholson and his main Hong Kong hope, Lord Killinghurst, notch up another advanced victory to add to their amazing tally

