

By adding a Burghley title to his Badminton win, Oliver Townend joins an elite band of riders who have won the great four-stars consecutively. **JULIE HARDING** charts his progress from dressage leader to history maker

DOING THE DOUBLE



OLIVER Townend is only the sixth rider to score the back-to-back Badminton/Burghley double. The others are: **Annell Drummond-Hay** (Merely-A-Monarch) 1961/62; **Lucinda Green** (George) 1977; **Ginny Elliot** (Priceless) 1985 and (Master Craftsman) 1989; **Pippa Funnell** (Supreme Rock/Badminton, Primmore's Pride/Burghley) 2003; **Lucinda Fredericks** (Headley Britannia) 2006/07

Townend joins eventing's list of greats

Polly had pulled off a meteoric leap from 13th after the dressage on Westwood Poser partly thanks to an enviable show jumping clear but the winner had led from the word go, securing the only mark below 40 during a wild and windy dressage phase that saw top hats flying across the arena, horses rearing, flags flapping manically and marquees fighting to escape their anchors.

But Carousel Quest is the kind of horse who can rise above such distractions, his jockey describing him as "pure class". But the grey son of Carousel's road to Burghley certainly hadn't been paved with gold. Rather it has been marred by injuries, lamenesses and various frustrating sidelinings.

"We bought him at the right money but he's had soundness issues. He's been a tricky limping character in the past, plus he's fragile mentally," explained Oliver.



**Sam Griffiths and Happy Times, third, fly the skinny brush at the Rolex Combination (14)**

Polly Stockton and Westwood Poser's show jumping clear elevates them through the ranks into second place



**ALL ABOUT... WESTWOOD POSER**

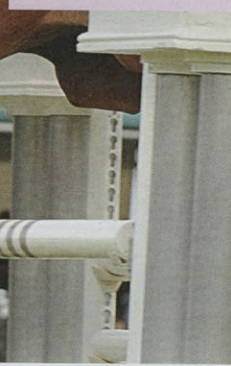
SOLICITOR Arthur Comyn and Polly Stockton discovered a wild Westwood Poser in a field belonging to Maurice Coleman in Lombardstown, Ireland. They had gone to look at another horse but Westwood Poser caught their eye with his extravagant movement – hence his name. They asked to see him in the arena and bought him on the spot. Maurice's nephew, Patrick, then broke him and hunted him two days a week with the Duhallo – for whom Arthur whips in – before he was sent to Polly as a five-year-old.

"My advice to Polly was to ride him every day," said Arthur. "He had a lethal buck but we discovered the secret was to lunge him, which allows him to relax."

The bay by Master Imp began his eventing career with Polly's working pupil Fiona Jonason. "When he was six Polly was disappointed with him but I told her that he was going to be the one," said Arthur, who became Polly's owner in 1997 after meeting her out hunting and then "buying her a pint of Guinness in the pub".

Prior to Burghley the 10-year-old Westwood Poser had only contested one three-star CCI – Boekelo, which he failed to finish after injuring his back jumping into the water – but his record in World Cup qualifiers – he was fourth at both Tattersalls and the Festival of British Eventing – led to his connections believing that a four-star wasn't beyond his capabilities. However, his entry was only confirmed at the last minute when Polly's intended ride, Regulus, underwent colic surgery.

"He's a typical Master Imp offspring, being fragile and a worrier," said Polly. "I took him to Blair last week and he was wild. But I came here knowing that if things went to plan he could go well."



**the injury prone Truluck completes his first three-day for two years in fourth place with Phillip Dutton**



Like Fun and Sara Burdess's Shiver St George – made reasonably light work of Mark Phillips' 27 fences, now spread over a shortened distance of 6,020m (Eventing, July, News) and with an optimum time of 10min 34sec, it looked like Burghley 2009 could turn into a speed contest. But three early clears were a red herring as the rest of the 74 starters could produce only 36 rounds free of jumping faults despite perfect going and the previous two days' fierce winds having died to only a whisper to leave tranquillity, sunshine and blue skies.

In total 13 were eliminated and 12 retired and riders mainly concurred that far from making the course a picnic, the removal of the loop close to Winners' Avenue had merely increased the intensity.

"The loop they took out was the one where you had a chance to have a breather," said Oliver Townend.

Apart from fence 4, the Leaf Pit, where fifth placed John-Paul Sheffield parted company from Crown Farm Consort, the stiffest early test came at fence 6, the Discovery Valley, where horse after horse stopped or jinked left at the awkwardly angled brush hedge after the step up.

It became a true old fashioned bogey fence, 28 faulting here, including household names Matt Ryan and Bonza Puzzle (lying 9th), William Fox-Pitt and his former Bramham and Luhmühlen winner Macchiato, Daisy Dick and Spring Along (see Diary, page 12), plus Piggy French and What A Performance.

All subsequently retired, leaving gaps in the action for a bumper crowd (who had paid up to £10 per car and £23 per person to enter Burghley Park) but at least Piggy could celebrate the news, delivered a few hours earlier, that she and Some Day Soon, lying 55th after the dressage at Burghley, would



**Aussie power — Paul Tapner and Inonoth fly the Land Rover Arena Trailer (fence 24b) en route to sixth place, while Clayton Fredericks and the four-star first-timer Poilu (right) have one show jump down for fifth**



the railed corner at Capability's Classic (see News), where he straddled the fence. The course was held for nearly half an hour – Mary King and Apache Sauce at the Dairy Farm and Macchiato in the start box – as the groundwork team dismantled the fence. To add to the drama, the handbrake on one of the team's tractors failed and it careered down the hill, crashing into parked cars below and causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. Despite spectators having to run to escape the hurtling vehicle, no one was injured and the event has launched an investigation into the incident.

Three horses were withdrawn overnight, including Anna Warnecke's Twinkle Bee, lying eighth after a fast cross-country round for only 0.8 of a time fault. He was thought to have suffered a stone bruise during his round and while he was immediately taken to a veterinary hospital the prognosis was good.

Significant sums of money were won and lost in the influential show jumping phase, designed by US import Richard Jeffery, the man responsible for the track in Kentucky. Sam Griffith's four-fault gate Oliver Townend a two-fence cushion that he didn't need, Carousel Quest pulling off one of the most elegant of the eight clear rounds.

As he stood on the podium and collected his £50,000 winnings Oliver was already formulating his plan for bigger prize pots – the HSBC FEI Classics series and the Rolex Grand Slam. This rider with the notoriously large mortgage has even bigger fish to fry. ■



THE red hot favourite triumphed once again in the Young Event Horse five-year-old final, newly sponsored by Dubarry. In fact the Funnell factor was all too obvious, with Pippa heading the line up on the stallion Billy Be Cool and her stand in jockey Antoinette McKeown piloting another Funnell protégé, Billy Beware, into second.

"We agreed beforehand that I would ride whichever horse had the highest score going into the final," said Pippa, the most prolific winner of this 11-year series.

Billy Be Cool, a son of Vechta who is owned by Jonathan and Jane Clarke and Jonathan and Lisa Ford, has already triumphed at BE100 level, and he may well combine eventing with stud duties in the future.

"We'll be working out a plan for him because although he copes with combining the two things it might be tough to ask him to do both as he goes up through the grades," said Pippa.

Billy Beware, an imposing bay by Kannan, has yet to event, but he already reminds Pippa of a young Primmore's Pride.

"The plan will be to jump him over the winter, then do a couple of BE100s but my main problem will be persuading my husband [William] that Billy Beware should be an eventer and not a show jumper."

Another Kannan son, Billy Buck, a full brother to Billy Beware, finished as runner-up in the four-year-old final, losing out by just 0.5 of a mark to the Dutch-bred Azarah, ridden by Alex Postolowsky.

Azarah, only the third mare ever to triumph in this contest, was bought by owner Rachel Evison to be a show jumper when the 16.1hh horse was a two-year-old. Azarah had

FINAL SCOREBOARD				
Horse & Rider	Dressage	Cross-country	Time	Show jumping
1. Billy Be Cool, by Vechta (Pippa Funnell), 67.5; 2. Billy Beware, by Kannan (Antoinette McKeown), 65; 3. Fernhill Pimms, by Ard Vel Douglas (Quarte Seabra), 73.	39.8	3.2	43.0	
4. Westwood Poser (Polly Stockton, GBR)	48.5	3.2	51.7	
5. Happy Times (Sam Griffiths, AUS)	48.3	-	52.3	
6. Truluck (Philip Dutton, USA)	45.3	5.2	54.5	
7. Poilu (Clayton Fredericks, AUS)	51.7	-	55.7	
8. Inonoth (Paul Tapner, AUS)	51.5	6.8	58.3	
9. Seacookie (William Fox-Pitt, GBR)	47.5	6.8	58.3	
10. Lenamore (Caroline Powell, NZL)	45.2	5.2	58.4	
11. Barry's Best (Rosie Thomas, GBR)	59.7	-	63.7	
12. Leprince Des Bois (Kai Ruder, GER)	46.7	13.6	64.3	
13. Ballynec Castle RM (Buck Davidson, USA)	51.8	13.6	65.4	
14. Apache Sauce (Mary King, GBR)	58.3	0.4	66.7	
15. SS Jett (Karin Donckers, BEL)	48.3	18.4	66.7	
16. Leyland (Amy Tryon, USA)	49.5	15.6	69.1	
17. Kiffinell II (Paul Tapner, AUS)	51.2	9.2	72.4	
18. Bit O' A Barney (Louise Skelton, GBR)	65.0	3.6	72.6	
19. Looks Like Fun (Vicky Brake, GBR)	54.3	4.4	72.7	
20. Kings Temptress (Mary King, GBR)	51.3	10.0	73.3	
21. Special Attorney (Dan Jocelyn, NZL)	60.8	12.8	73.6	
22. Sir Percival III (Francis Whittington, GBR)	49.8	20	73.8	
23. Armada (Andrew Nicholson, NZL)	67.5	-	75.5	
24. Glenbuck (Cara Phillips, GBR)	49.8	18.0	78.8	
25. Another Cavalier (Matthew Wright, GBR)	57.5	23.6	81.1	
26. Watership Down (Louise Lyons, IRL)	66.3	13.6	83.9	
27. Major Buck (Jeanette Brakewell, GBR)	84.0	24.4	88.4	
28. Ashdale Cruise Master (Emily Gluh, GBR)	54.2	20	89.8	
29. Just Appeal (Sara Wynne Morris, GBR)	56.3	9.2	90.5	
30. Hugo's Theme III (Neil Spurr, NZL)	49.0	19.0	91.0	
31. Black Drum (Annabel Wigley, NZL)	69.8	19.2	92.0	
32. Master Banks (Nicola Wilson, GBR)	57.0	20	92.2	
33. The Good Witch (Jennifer Wooten, USA)	60.0	20	98.4	
34. Instant Reaction (Ginnie Turnbull, GBR)	67.3	26.8	99.1	
35. Cornsay Grouse (Angus Smiles, GBR)	70.7	24.8	100.5	
36. Sidnificant (Clare Lewis, GBR)	77.2	24.4	102.6	
37. Running Brook II (George Spence, GBR)	61.5	20	103.1	
38. Tiger's Eye II (Alexander Peternel, RSA)	60.3	20	104.3	
39. Lazy Acres Skip On (Sarah Snelton, GBR)	58.2	20	106.2	
40. Chill Out Boy (Jeanette Brakewell, GBR)	58.2	20	106.6	
41. Ariel Spirit (Rebecca Gibbs, GBR)	58.2	20	109.0	
42. Political Trump (Matthew Prior, GBR)	57.7	39.6	109.3	
43. Balmoral Cavalier (Emily Anker, AUS)	63.2	29.6	126.8	
44. Critical Decision (Missy Ransenhoven, USA)	56.7	20	128.9	
45. McFly (Nicola Malcolm, GBR)	81.5	20	129.7	
46. Kinnago Bay (Richard Jones, GBR)	72.0	44.4	130.4	
47. Park Pageboy (Carm Lewis, GBR)	65.0	40	152.2	
48. Manny (Dana Burnett, CAN)	56.8	40	164.4	
49. Gros Bonnet (Sidney Duheane, FRA)	70.8	40	189.0	

**Eliminated first horse inspection** – Zircon II (Rodney Powell, GBR) Birthday Night (George Spence, GBR) Withdrawn before cross-country – Some Day Soon (Piggy French, GBR) 60.5 Lead The Way (Claire Phillips, GBR) 58.8 Midnight Dazzler (Harry Meade, GBR) 51.3 Retired on cross-country – Macchato (William Fox-Pitt, GBR) 55.7; Courageous Comet (Bridie Hales, USA) 53.3 Braggart (Becky Breeze, GBR) 63.6; Bonza Puzzle (Matti Ryan, AUS) 48.2; Vortex (Tim Price, NZL) 56.2; Awa (Susanna Borbone, ITA) 54; Incan Writer (Richard Jones, GBR) 60.3; What A Performance (Piggy French, GBR) 50.7 Eliminated on cross-country – Watch II (Simon Lawrence, GBR) 65.7; Crown Farm Consort (J-P Sheffield, GBR) 46.5; Boondoggle (Kitty Boggs, GBR) 48.3; Mandala (Karen O'Connor, USA) 49.8; Wilster Rock On (Laura Shears, GBR) 63.8; Madison Park (Kylie Carter, CAN) 58.3; Be My Guest (Dixie Schrade, GER) 52.8; Nereo (Andrew Nicholson, NZL) 45; Duranger (Harry Meade, GBR) 55.3; Sportfield Sandymean (Paul Cowrie, IRL) 71; High Treach (Harry Meade, GBR) 61.8; Mary (Bryna Bowyer, FRA) 75.7; 42 (Alison Spurr, USA) 47.2; Withdrawn after cross-country – Shiver St George (Sara Burdess, GBR) 59.2; 0.178; Stormyday (Karin Miller, GBR) 70.5; 0.132; Twinkle Bee (Anna Warnecke, GER) 57.5; 0.018



**above Polly Stockton with Burghley president Miranda Rock, Westwood Poser's owner Arthur Comyn and Land Rover's John Edwards right Kai Ruder, 10th and winner of the HSBC FEI Classics training Bursary**



**top pathfinders Annabel Wigley and Black Drum above left David O'Connor above right Matt Ryan**



**above Polly Stockton with Burghley president Miranda Rock, Westwood Poser's owner Arthur Comyn and Land Rover's John Edwards right Kai Ruder, 10th and winner of the HSBC FEI Classics training Bursary**



**above William Fox-Pitt in his trot-up gear left Rosie Thomas, ninth**



**above Carousel Quest's owner Andrew Cawthray above right Zara Phillips with her father Mark**