Moon Fleet ends Hoy's 27-year wait

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>
> **Andrew Hoy**

'Senior' rider Andrew Hoy's long wait for Badminton victory is finally over, and after his win in Kentucky the Grand Slam is in his sights. But Oliver Townend heads a new-look young British line-up snapping at his heels, reports **Kate Green**

ANDREW Hoy last week fulfilled a Badminton dream that began when he was a naive 20-year-old. Twenty-seven years later, now a consummate horseman, he achieved it, deservedly capturing the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy on Sue Magnier's Moon Fleet with an invincible performance.

"A few weeks ago, my wife Bettina said: 'Moon Fleet is going to win Badminton for you,'" said Andrew. "Then when I was warming up for dressage, she said: 'He's going to get 36,' and he did. I should listen to my wife more often."

Andrew's is a tale of perseverance and hard graft reaping their just reward. The former farmer from Wagga Wagga is Australia's first victor for 45 years (since Laurie Morgan); he is Badminton's oldest winner (beating Christopher Bartle by months), and he first rode here in 1979, which is four years before third-placed Oliver Townend was even born.

Andrew's first two attempts were abject failures and he didn't return until the 1990s, when he twice led on Darien Powers before it ended in tears. He won three consecutive Olympic gold medals, but just couldn't crack Badminton. Now 47, Andrew is enjoying a purple patch.

He has more four-star horses — five — than ever before, and his Kentucky win seven days earlier means he could emulate Pippa Funnell's 2003 feat of winning the US$250,000 Rolex Grand Slam with victory at Burghley.

Event director Hugh Thomas expressed the popular sentiment when he said: "I've admired Andrew's riding for years and not to have his name at the top at Badminton would be an anomaly."

And runner-up Ingrid Klimke, who produced Germany's best ever Badminton result on her debut, said sweetly: "Finishing second to Andrew is as good as winning."

The European bronze medallist and Olympic rider charmed the spectators, who roared their approval of her sunny disposition and brave horsemanship at every opportunity. In turn, Ingrid, 38, appeared charmed by Badminton.

"My best memory will be the crowds on cross-country day. And the friendliness — everywhere I looked, someone was willing to help me. I am thrilled.

> Riders are more prepared and are presenting tests that actually resemble dressage. They're learning to take risks; it seems to be getting through to them not to be obsessed with going for a safe seven
>
> **Carl Hester**

"It used not to be so common for German riders to come here, but Chris Bartle [team trainer] has encouraged us. He said: 'You don't have to be frightened of eventing in Britain because you can keep up. Just give it a try.'"

Oli Townend, who storms the national scene, proved he can cut it at the sharp end, too. The 23-year-old finished on his dressage score with a new ride, Edward Nicholson's home-bred Flint Curtis, one of only two 10-year-olds in the field (with Polly Stockton's Regulus), who had done only one CCI***.

This was a big step up in class for Flint Curtis, who was ridden at under-25 level by Alex Postolowsky and Izzy Taylor, but, far from adopting a "let's see" attitude, the ever-ebullient Oli said he'd set out across country "to win. If the horse is ready, I always come to win".

In the year of Badminton's new-look line-up and new short format, Oli, who is never shy of challenging his seniors, agreed that his success heralds another generation of British riders.

"I hope the selectors have had their eyes opened. Flint Curtis has proved himself a serious horse and I hope I've proved myself and improved from last year [12th on his debut with Topping]," he said.

Andrew in 1979, the year he first rode at Badminton. Main: tasting victory at last

Germany's Ingrid Klimke holds on to her second place: "Sleep Late's the best horse I've ever had"
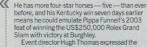

New Zealand's Bundy Philpott suffers a soaking when she falls into the Lake from Fig Jam

Oliver Townend, 23, raises the Butler Bowl he won as best British rider. He finished third

Pippa Funnell's ride, Ensign, in the stables with his many cards from well-wishers

Oliver Townend goes clear inside the time on Edward Nicholson's Flint Curtis to move into third place

Belgium's Karin Donckers and Gormley lay eighth after the dressage but came a cropper at the Vicarage Vee when Gormley hit the high part of the fence.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2006 FINAL SCOREBOARD

HORSE AND RIDER	Dressage	Cross-country Time	Cross-country Jumps	Show jumping Jumps/time	TOTAL
1 Moon Fleet (Andrew Hoy, AUS)	36.5	-	-	0/0	36.5
2 Sleep Late (Ingrid Klimke, GER)	40.4	2.8	-	4/0	47.2
3 Flint Curtis (Oliver Townend, GB)	43.5	-	-	8/0	51.5
4 Over To You (Jeanette Brakewell, GB)	52	-	-	0/0	52.0
5 Comanche (James Robinson, GB)	49.4	2.8	-	0/0	52.2
6 Tankers Town (Sharon Hunt, GB)	49.6	-	-	4/0	53.6
7 Shaabrak (Lucy Wiegersma, GB)	49.8	-	-	4/0	53.8
8 Spring Along (Daisy Dick, GB)	49.4	0.4	-	4/0	53.8
9 Ballincoola (William Fox-Pitt, GB)	50.7	-	-	4/0	54.7
10 Snip (Joe Meyer, NZ)	51.3	3.6	-	0/0	54.9
11 Two Thyme (Ruth Edge, GB)	40.6	7.6	-	8/0	56.2
12 Ballys Geronimo (Viktoria Carlerback, SWE)	52.8	1.6	-	4/0	58.4
13 FRH Little Lemon (Andreas Dibowski, GER)	44.8	14	-	0/0	58.8
14 Lord Killinghurst (Andrew Nicholson, GB)	51.1	-	-	8/0	59.1
15 Mr Pracatan (Andrew Hoy, AUS)	49.1	-	-	12/0	61.1
16 Hope Street (Daisy Dick, GB)	58.9	3.2	-	0/0	62.1
17 WP In Limbo (Clayton Fredericks, AUS)	59.1	-	-	4/0	63.1
18 Cashel Bay (Mary King, GB)	56.1	-	-	8/0	64.1
19 Whos Blitz (Dag Albert, SWE)	61.7	-	-	4/0	65.7
20 In The Purple (Lucy Wiegersma, GB)	53.7	-	-	12/0	65.7
21 Midnight Dazzler (Harry Meade, GB)	62.8	-	-	4/0	66.8
22 Tangleman (Polly Stockton, GB)	51.1	2	-	16/0	69.1
23 Park Pilot (Matthew Wright, GB)	62.2	-	-	8/0	70.2
24 Ava (Susanna Bordone, ITA)	54.8	0.4	-	16/0	71.2
25 Twinkle Bee (Anna Warnecke, GER)	58.2	0.4	-	12/1	71.6
26 Connigar Bay (Sam Griffiths, AUS)	60.2	-	-	12/0	72.2
27 Onyx (Viktoria Carlerback, SWE)	56.9	8	-	8/0	72.9
28 Osh Kosh (Francis Whittington, GB)	6.0	2.4	-	8/3	73.4
29 Two O Two (Antoinette McKeowen, GB)	58.5	7.2	-	8/0	73.7
30 Bonza Katoomba (Matt Ryan, AUS)	54.1	11.6	-	8/0	73.7
31 Topping (Oliver Townend, GB)	58.7	0.4	-	16/1	76.1
32 Duel (Beanie Hughes, GB)	61.5	-	-	16/0	77.5
33 Old Road (Michael Ryan, IRE)	65.6	2	-	12/0	79.6
34 Major Tom (Johan Lundin, SWE)	69.8	2	-	8/0	79.8
35 Helicine (Thierry Meyssonnier, FRA)	66.7	8	-	8/0	82.7
36 Lenamore (Caroline Powell, NZ)	58.5	0.8	20	4/0	83.3
37 Rongotai (Nick Turner, GB)	59.1	12.4	-	16/0	87.5
38 Hiawatha II (Christine Hardinge, GB)	80.0	-	-	8/0	88.0
39 Regulus (Polly Stockton, GB)	58.3	10.4	-	20/0	88.7
40 Glenbury Du Leon (Pascal Leroy, FRA)	45.4	20	20	4/0	89.4
41 Amaretto (Tobias Gronberg, SWE)	62.4	4.8	-	16/8	91.2
42 Phoebus (Laurence Hunt, GB)	61.5	-	-	28/3	92.5
43 Drop Dead Gorgeous (Chloe Newton, GB)	64.4	12	-	28/0	100.4
44 Political Mandate (Carlos Paro, BRA)	65.4	16.8	20	0/0	102.2
45 Calibre (Nick Gauntlett, GB)	61.8	42.8	-	8/0	112.6
46 Bow House Sydney (John-Peter Daker, GB)	76.1	23.6	-	16/0	115.7
47 Carousel VI (Lucy Diamond, GB)	69.8	40.8	-	8/0	118.6
48 Cool Kiwi (Ann Hatton, IRL)	65.9	24.8	20	16/0	126.7
49 Harry (Bruno Bouvier, FRA)	64.4	15.6	40	4/4	128.0
50 Ginger Charlie (Claire Phillips, GB)	66.1	31.2	20	12/1	131.3
51 Two Tone Tyrone (Serena Russell, GB)	73.3	46.8	20	0/0	147.1
52 Don Giovanni II (Caroline Moore, GB)	53.5	32.4	65	16/1	167.9
53 Tip Top Tiger (Helen Wilson, GB)	59.3	55.6	65	12/3	194.9

Withdrawn after dressage — Tamarillo (William Fox-Pitt, GB) 49.8; Cermont (Matthew Wright, GB) 68.2; Sindy 43 (Dirk Schrade, GER) 49.3; Liquid Ice (Rodney Powell, GB) 53.5; Hilton Star (Stefanie Thompson, GER) 65.4; Before I Do It (Samantha Albert, JAM) 69.3. **Retired on cross-country** — Spin Doctor (Francis Whittington, GB) 56.5; The Busker (Phoebe Buckley, GB) 63.7; Dusky Moon (Eddy Stibbe, AHO) 55.4; Fig Jam (Bundy Philpott, NZ) 63; Tommy Pink (Sarra Mayberry, GB) 71.5; Arthurs Word (Nick Gauntlett, GB) 60.4. **Eliminated on cross-country** — Gormley (Karin Donckers, BEL) 45.6; Ensign (Pippa Funnell, GB) 52.8; Karl D'Cymbeline (Lucy Kemplay, GB) 51.5; Astronave (Clare Chamberlayne, GB) 73.9. **Withdrawn after cross-country** — Foreign Exchange (Terry Boon, GB) 40.9,3,2,0; River Rose (Peter Laidlaw, GB) 52.4,0,0. **Eliminated final inspection** — GV Top Of The Line (Olivia Bunn, AUS) 49.1,0,7,2.