



Townend and Edge

Oliver Townend and Flint Curtis repeat their 2007 win by taking CIC*** section P: 'He was on the bridle all the way round'



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By Catherine Austen

OLIVER TOWNEND and Ruth Edge have dominated the international classes at the Veranda Resort Burnham Market Horse Trials in recent years, and it was the same story at the 2009 event as they took a CIC*** section apiece.

Oliver and Flint Curtis were repeating their 2007 success — he also won on Coup De Coeur in 2008 — while Ruth, second last year, won on Two Thyme in 2005. She had a particularly good weekend this time, taking the other CIC*** on Marsh Mayfly and finishing runner-up to Oliver on PC Wilson.

This win means Flint Curtis now has more than 1,200 British Eventing points. Oliver hadn't planned to run the 13-year-old grey across country, but made the decision because he thought the ground was very good.

"They have done a great job aerovating it and last night's rain helped," he said. "And Badminton is a month away, so it would have been a long time [since Fontainebleau at the end of March] not to have run him. He was on the bridle all the way round."

The pair led from the start with a 38.7 dressage. A clear show jumping round and 7.2 time-faults across country left them on 45.9, miles ahead of Ruth and PC Wilson on 59.5.

Ruth, who is only recently back in the saddle after an operation to reconstruct the cruciate ligament in her knee, was delighted with the son of Welt Hit II.

"He really enjoyed himself today. Hartpury last year [where he won the CIC***] was his first advanced, so he doesn't have huge mileage at this level," she said.



Her section Q winner, Marsh Mayfly, was having her first run since Chatsworth in 2007. She sustained a leg injury and was put in-foal. She has a bay colt by Pro Set whom Ruth describes as "really cute": A 42.6 dressage and one pole down show jumping was followed by a confident cross-country round. She shared the honours for the fastest time with Flint Curtis.

"She hasn't forgotten a thing," said Ruth, beaming. "She had a whale of a time across country."

The 12-year-old mare is on the wait-list for

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Ruth Edge on Marsh Mayfly, who is back from two years off injured