

Townend Cruises to winning hat-trick

Oliver Townend cleans up in the major classes, while the Ryans do likewise in the intermediates. By Martha Terry

THERE were more than 300 competitors at Aston-le-Walls (3) last weekend, but Oliver Townend proved a cut above. He rode five horses to net three wins, a second and a third. Between this quintet, he accumulated just 6.4 time-faults, less than most other riders clocked per round.

Tom Cruise II was eliminated at Badminton last time, but the treble CCI*** winner flaunted his class here, adding nothing to a first-rate dressage of 28.1 in OI section E.

"He's smart on the flat and a lovely, genuine jumper," said Oliver. "Our three-day plans are up in the air because of the weather, but it's good to have a clean run after Badminton."

Louisa Lockwood (Token Gesture) trailed 6pen in his wake, despite posting a clean sheet herself. Oliver reappeared in third place on Clover Curtis, ahead of Kitty Boggs on her 2005 European Championships ride, Five Boys.



Oliver Townend and the "out-and-out jumper" Roquefort speed their way to victory



Emily Llewellyn and Society Spice take the lead with a quick double clear



Matt Ryan's "little mare" Staying Cool makes it two in a row