

'Proper, proper class'



Nations Cup debutante Rosalind Canter finishes fifth with Zenshera, contributing to Britain's victory

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By Catherine Austen

OLIVER TOWNEND breezed to a win in the CICO3* at Ballindenisk. He and Angela Hislop's Cooley Master Class established a 7.5pen lead after the dressage with a mark of 33.6 and never relinquishing it.

Master Class, a nine-year-old by Ramiro B, was faultless in the jumping phases to record his second Ballindenisk victory — he took the CCI2* here last spring.

"I love him. He's proper, proper class," said Oliver, who was also in pole position going into Monday's showjumping for the CCI2* at this year's event on Shearwater Touchingwood. "He's perfect to train, he moves, he jumps, he gallops and he's quiet."

Second to Oliver in the CICO3* was Izzy Taylor on Frances Carter and Susan Holroyd's Allercombe Ellie. The pair led the British team to Nations Cup victory.

Izzy only acquired the ride on the 11-year-old Jumbo mare at the beginning of this year.

"She's really nice to ride and Aaron Millar, who rode her previously, has done a great job with her," said Izzy. "Her strength is her brain — she lets you ride her and that's half the battle."

Izzy added just 0.4 of a cross-country time-fault to her dressage score of 41.1pen.

"We're just getting to know each other and Ballindenisk,

Oliver Townend tops the CICO3*, staying on his leading dressage score with Cooley Master Class



which has a lovely, galloping track without anything too fiddly, was perfect for that," she added.

A CCI3* at either Bramham or Tattersalls is next on the agenda.

The Brits' Nations Cup success over France was narrow — 138.4pen to 141.9 — and the French only dropped into second when their final pair, Maxime Livo and Pico D'Or, ran out at the penultimate cross-country fence.

The other three members of the British team were debutante Rosalind Canter, fifth with Zenshera, eighth-placed Lucy Wiegiersma and Mr Chunky and Nicky Roncoroni with Stonedee. 19th. All four were clear across country, but Izzy produced the team's only clean showjumping round.

"The cross-country wasn't as

strong as it sometimes has been here, but it was still a proper three-star track with enough to jump," said Oliver. "And the ground in the showjumping was testing after a heavy shower of rain. The course felt up-to-height and had plenty of technicality, but my horse is an out-and-out jumper."

French riders Geoffrey Soulez (Madiran Du Liot) and Pascal Leroy (Minos De Petra) filled third and fourth spots.

Building for the future

THIS was the first time France-based riders have made the trip to Ballindenisk, and organiser Peter Fell reported that they were delighted with Ballindenisk's signature old-fashioned, galloping tracks and wide-open spaces.

"We were awarded the Nations

ASTAR IN THE MAKING?

OLIVER TOWNEND bought CICO3* winner Cooley Master Class as a four-year-old from Richard Sheane.

"He spent a long time in novice classes as he was such a cheeky bugger," said Oliver, who now stands Cooley Master Class' sire Ramiro B at his and Nina Barbour's Harthill Stud. "He has found everything so far ridiculously easy — he's never been under pressure in his whole life."

He was second in the CCI1* at Tattersalls as a seven-year-old and was first and second in his two CCI2*'s in 2013, before finishing runner-up in the intermediate championships at the Festival of British Eventing. The immediate target is Saumur CCI3*.

"I think he's outstanding," said Oliver. "I had seven marks in hand going into the cross-country, so I didn't need or try to go quick, but he just got into gear and never came out of it. He finished in my hand with his ears pricked."

Cup very late so we didn't get many teams, but we got quality, if not quantity," said Peter. "We hope more will come in the future."

Sarah Ennis (Sugar Brown Babe) and Joseph Murphy (Electric Cruise) produced good runs for the home side, finishing sixth and ninth.

But they were tethered to third place out of the three teams when Sam Watson and his championship partner Horseware Bushman put a foot into a ditch early in the track and breasted the hedge behind it, falling and breaking the fence. Sam was taken to hospital with a shoulder injury and a suspected dislocation.

The Irish had better luck in the CCI2* which was won by Elizabeth Power and HHS Comporta Beach. H&H

RESULTS

BALLINDENISK

CICO3* — 1. Cooley Master Class (O Townend) GBR 33.6, 0.0=33.6; 2. Allercombe Ellie (I Taylor) GBR 41.1, 0.0=41.5; 3. Madiran Du Liot (G Soulez) FRA 42.0, 0.0=42.0; 4. Zenshera (R Canter) GBR 41.7, 0.0=41.7; 5. Sugar Brown Babe (S Ennis) IRL 43.5, 0.0=43.5; 6. Mr Chunky (L Wiegiersma) GBR 40.8, 2.4=51.2; 7. Electric Cruise (J Murphy) IRL 54.0, 0.0=54.0. Nations Cup — 1. Britain (I Taylor/Allercombe Ellie, R Canter/Zenshera, L Wiegiersma/Mr Chunky, N Roncoroni/Stonedee) 138.4; 2. France (G Soulez/Madiran Du Liot, P Leroy/Minos De Petra, T Valette/Cree/Ong Du Broit Ene, M Livo/Pico D'Or) 141.9; 3. Ireland (S Ennis/Sugar Brown Babe, J Murphy/Electric Cruise, C Spens/Portersee, Auld, A, Jr, S Watson/Horseware Bushman) 155.7.

Izzy Taylor pilots the Jumbo mare Allercombe Ellie to second and leads the British team to a win

