

Oliver Townend and Black Tie II claim ninth after the first phase and move up to fourth in the final reckoning



The Netherlands' Elaine Pen impresses with fourth place on the Jazz mare Vira



home side's Andreas Ostholt with the big-jumping gelding So Is Et.

A Flying start
DESPITE the tragic circumstances surrounding this year's event, the competition itself was gripping. The fact that the ground jury, Gillian Rolton, Ernst Topp and Alain James, are also officiating at WEG, added extra spice to the first phase.

The trio all agreed that Lucinda Fredericks' uphill, punchy test on Flying Finish — runner-up here in 2012 — deserved to lead. She scored 38.7, the only sub-40 mark.

The big-moving Holsteiner gelding was in complete contrast

to FischerRocana FST, who occupied second at this stage. She is built downhill and lacks natural swing in her paces, but in Michael's masterful hands she was soft, elastic and completely correct — and, crucially, their test was mistake-free.

Alain James liked her less and had her in fifth. He preferred Cool Mountain's test — the 14-year-old was considerably more relaxed than he was at Badminton. Here, he allowed William Fox-Pitt to show off his big, loose movement to good effect.

They lay sixth after the first phase, but William withdrew before the cross-country.

OUT & ABOUT



A banner flies as Ingrid Klimke retires FRH Butts Abraxas (1 and 2); comedy and tragedy on Improvise, Bill Levett's ride (3); Bettina Hoy shows her delight with Designer, eighth (4); William Fox-Pitt and Cool Mountain (5), withdrawn after dressage; Boyd Martin gets that crucial clear (6)

Bill Levett and Improvise go clear inside the time to net ninth for Australia



Lucinda Fredericks was making steady progress until Flying Finish banked the top of the wide brush oxer on a mound at fence 22a. She hit the ground hard and was taken to hospital with suspected concussion, but later released.

Punctuating the mishaps came some inspiring riding, none more so than from Oliver Townend, who rode every inch of turf on Black Tie II, a horse that has neither size nor abundant scope on his side.

A puffing Oliver said: "We're both a bit out of breath — and it's not through lack of fitness. We worked really hard out there."

'Naughty street kid' wins CIC3*

THE CIC3* Meßmer Trophy reaffirmed several of Germany's A team's WEG credentials. European silver medallists Ingrid Klimke and FRH Escada JS were a joy to watch in all three phases to finish second.

"She has lots of quality and energy and is top class in all three disciplines," confirmed Ingrid, who also won the CIC3* in Marbach at the beginning of May. They were just pipped by

Andrew Hoy and Cheeky Calimbo, a horse he described as "like a naughty street kid. I've had to show him direction".

Andreas Ostholt has a good back-up to So Is Et in the mare Pennsylvania 28, who took third spot. Peter Thomsen (Horseware's Barny) and Class Hermann Romeike (Cato 60) occupied fourth and fifth. Sandra Auffarth led the dressage with Opgun Louvo, but



Andrew Hoy tops the CIC3* on Cheeky Calimbo: 'I had to show him direction'

withdrew before the cross-country after learning of her close friend Benjamin Winter's fatal fall.

Bettina Hoy looks to have a new star in Designer 10, who galloped and jumped impeccably, clocking up just 1.2 time-penalties. Three fences down plus three time-penalties on the final day dropped her from overnight third to eighth.

In all, there were 26 jumping clears from the 47 starters, with 11 clear and inside the time.

There were six rider falls and two horse falls — "too many," said Mark Phillips at the press conference after Benjamin Winter's death.

"We had two bad falls at straightforward fences, which is worrying [for the sport]. Where do

we go now? What do we do?" he reflected.

Georgie Spence broke a collarbone when Wili Limbo fell at fence five, the Ice-Vibe Oxer. There was also a lengthy hold when Tom Crisp's ride, Liberal, collapsed and died of a suspected ruptured aorta after fence seven (news, p5). But despite the dark shadow that hung over the latter stages of the event, not a single person begrudged the winner, Tim Price, a moment to reflect and enjoy the enormity of what he achieved.

"It is hard to carry on with celebrations in the circumstances,

but my experience here has been a really good one," he said. "I came over from New Zealand in 2005 with a dream of winning a four-star. To actually do it is the pinnacle — it's pretty cool." H&H

Results

LUHMÜHLEN
CCI4* — 1. Wesko (T Price) NZL 43.8, 0, 0=43.8; 2. FischerRocana FST (M Jung) GER 41.5, 0, 0=41.5; 3. Sharmwa 4 (B Martin) USA 47.8, 0, 1=48.8; 4. Black Tie (O Townend) GBR 45.0, 4=49.14; Cooles Louvo (T Crisp) GBR 55.3, 15.6, 1=71.9
CIC3* — 1. Cheeky Calimbo (A Hoy) AUS 28.5, 3.6, 0=32.1; 2. FRH Escada JS (Klimke) GER 34.2, 0, 0=34.2; 3. Pennsylvania 28 (A Ostholt) GER 40.2, 0.8, 0=41.