

Townend gets his Three Wishes

BRIGHTLING, EAST SUSSEX
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By Pippa Rowe

OLIVER TOWNEND won three classes at the Amlin Plus Brightling Horse Trials last Sunday. In the process, he set himself up for a £10,000 bonus if he can take the CIC** at South of England in September on Three Wishes IV, his winning ride in the same class here.

Oliver led from the outset by scoring 45 in the dressage and then notched up the quickest cross-country round (1.2 time-penalties) over the hilly terrain. He started the reverse-order show jumping phase with two fences in hand, which looked like an unnecessary cushion, until Three Wishes IV took out two jumps near the end of the track.

Nevertheless, the 11-year-old's performance was good enough for his first win on this side of the Atlantic. Oliver heard about Kristen Bond's former ride last year through Buck Davidson, who teaches Kristen, and flew to America to ride him at Fair Hill CCI***. He fell off, but bought the horse anyway, and he is now in the ownership of Oliver's loyal supporter Andrew Cawthray.

"I think he's a very good horse, but he's got a brain and you've got to get inside his head," said Oliver. "It's taken a while to get his trust, but he's improving all the time."

Emily Llewellyn was runner-up on her young rider European champion and national under-25 winner Pardon Me II. They were second after dressage, dropped to third after a steadier cross-country run and then moved back up with a show jumping clear.

"I was so pleased with his dressage," she said. "He's come out fresh this year, and this is the first time I've really had him submissive. I wanted that for the final trial [for the young rider squad] at Aston-le-Walls, 13-15 August."

Paul Sims was delighted with Kim Belton's eight-year-old Power Of Dreams, third despite a show jump down.



Oliver Townend takes the CIC* on seven-year-old ODT Arctic Fox. He also won the CIC** and the intermediate

"He's only done two intermediates and just came here to get him qualified for a three-day," said the 22-year-old, who will aim the horse at Blair CCI**.

Watson keeps up success

IN THE CIC*, Oliver's speed cross-country was again a deciding factor as he put in one of the only two rounds inside the time, sealing his victory on ODT Arctic Fox, another belonging to Andrew Cawthray.

"He's a very good seven-year-old," said Oliver. "He's qualified for the British novice championships and hopefully he'll go to [the young horse world championships at] Le Lion d'Angers."

Young Irishman Sam Watson kept up his run of good form by taking second on Hoyo, an eight-year-old who shares his sire, Puissance, with Sam's top ride

Horseware Bushman.

"It's my first visit to Brightling, but I'll definitely be back — it's great to have a one- and two-star which aren't dressage competitions," said Sam.

More than half the starters in this popular CIC* faulted across

COURSE CHAT

IT was so windy that by the time the riders had walked the CIC* show jumping, seven fences had been flattened. The Brightling team came to the rescue with sandbags to anchor the wings and Pippa Funnell led a group of riders and their supporters into the arena to help set everything up again.

EMILY LLEWELLYN was a victim of the weather when a marquee housing a bar took off as she was about to start her dressage on her second ride in the CIC**. Junior II. She couldn't get him anywhere near that end of the arena and was eliminated. "He was terrified — I couldn't blame him really," she said.

country and plenty of young horses also found the atmosphere in the other phases electric, not helped by the fierce wind.

Sacha Pemble was third with another good result for Ireland on Caroline Richardson's nine-year-old Rock N Roll, who is back competing after two and a half years off with a pulled ligament. During that time she had a foal by Weston Justice, now a yearling. J-P Sheffield (Treschoch) was second to Oliver and ODT Penguin Ice in the intermediate, while local girl Lisa Pilbeam, 23, was third on Cullawn Holly, another mare on the comeback trail after an injury.

Clair Jeffreys, who works full-time for property agent Coverwood, took the seven-runner open intermediate on her partner of seven years, Great Idea.

"We have a brilliant relationship and I call him my second child" said the Reigate-based 42-year-old, whose first child is son Benji.

Pippa Funnell was second on a new ride, Jackson D'Allez, formerly of Oliver Townend. H&H

Results

CIC (sec L).** — 1. Three Wishes IV (O Townend) 45.8.1.2=54.2. 2. Pardon Me II (E Llewellyn) 46.0.0.1.2=58.1. 3. Power Of Dreams (P Sims) 51.1.4=59.1. **CIC* (sec K).** — 1. ODT Arctic Fox (O Townend) 45.3.0.0=45.3. 2. Hoyo (S Watson) 46.2.0.5.2=51.4. 3. Rock N Roll (S Pemble) 49.1.0.3.2=52.3. **OI (sec M2).** — 1. Great Idea (C Jeffreys) 30.9.4.2=36.9. 2. Jackson D'Allez (P Funnell) 25.9.6.8=39.9. 3. Joli Figure (V Lang) 28.6.0.14=43. **Int (sec M3).** — 1. ODT Penguin Ice (O Townend) 31.4.0.0.8=32.2. 2. Treschoch (J-P Sheffield) 31.4.0.0.8=38.1. 3. Cullawn Holly (L Pilbeam) 35.1.9.6=45.6. **ON (sec J).** — 1. My Diamond Imbad (A Guerin) 34.3.0.3.2=37.5. 2. Tsano (D Dick) 30.8.8=38.8. 3. Kilmurray CUI (A Lidstone) 35.7.4.0=39.7. **Nov (sec H).** — 1. Italian Touch (S Jennings) 33.3.0.2.8=36.1. 2. Della's Daughter (C Cawston) 25.2.8.3.2=36.4.

3. Jungle Cruise (D Sheerin) 31.4.2=37. **(sec I).** — 1. Killyrossy Ardenhus (R Walker) 31.4.0.7.6=39. 2. Dideri (T Cook) 28.6.0.0.8=39.4. 3. Merlo Hensell II (D Davy) 31.4.4.7.2=42.6. **BEIOOpen (sec G).** — 1. Sparrowhall Sambucus (M Seiby) 28.0.0=28. 2. Cool Clover (A Regan) 25.0.4.8=30.3. 3. Aran Island (H Cranfield) 31.0.0=31. **BEIO (sec D).** — 1. Just A Physician (L Geary) 27.0.0=27. 2. Red Wizard (A Hilton) 29.5.0=29.5. 3. Bankes Burston Bertie (H Banks) 27.4.0=31. **(sec E).** — 1. Bellissima (C Stokoe) 26.5.0.0.4=36.9. 2. Lisha Luba (C Jennings) 31.5.0.0=31.5. 3. Weston Justintyme (P Patterson) 36.0.0=36. **(sec F).** — 1. Libbysaus (S Polking) 28.5.0.0=28.5. 2. Perching (H Lacey) 34.0.0=34. 3. Wintarsara (E Leslie-Miller) 35.4.0=40.