

Townend's the Master again

Oliver Townend puts in the fastest cross-country round in the World Cup class to win on Ashdale Cruise Master



WORLD CUP EVENT
 1st Oliver Townend on Ashdale Cruise Master (GB)
 2nd Mary King on Apache Sauce (GB)
 3rd Michael Ryan on Ballylynch Adventure (IRL)

TATTERSALLS, IRELAND 27-30 May

By Kate Green

OLIVER TOWNEND may have ended Irish domination of their premier event, but none of the appreciative crowd at Tattersalls begrudged him his convincing win there in the sixth leg of the HSBC FEI World Cup on Henry and Edna Harding's Ashdale Cruise Master.

Just five weeks after the pair's painful fall at Kentucky was beamed around the world, Oliver gave the latest addition to his line-up of grey stars an admirably positive ride to lead from the off. "It's what I came to do and I now hope that it'll be the end of the fall talk," said Oliver. "We're still a relatively new partnership and I

haven't quite sorted the biting, but I'm thrilled with the horse. He's had a lot to cope with and has changed hugely, both mentally and physically."

Mary King was masterful in second throughout on Apache Sauce, who rose above his occasional tendency to be cheekily headstrong. "He was so silly at Belton and Chatsworth that I withdrew, but he was on his best behaviour here," said Mary, who blamed herself for unbalancing him before the last showjump, which he had down.

Michael Ryan, runner-up in 2009, was best of the home side and, for the second year running, produced a beautiful showjumping round — the only totally clear one, as it turned out, for Oliver had two time-faults.



'On best behaviour': Apache Sauce puts some cheekiness behind him to finish second in the main class for Mary King