

Townend scores a double

ASKE (1)
NORTH YORKS
29-30 June

By Helen Scott

TWO men on a mission dominated the intermediate sections. Oliver Townend won two and Ben Hobday one, while also finishing in the top three with his other two rides.

Both set out to attack the undulating cross-country and had horses fit enough to cope with the steep uphill pull that dominates the second half of this course (see box). Over 25% of the field clocked up cross-country jumping faults and only two horses made the optimum time.

In the open intermediate (OI), the eventual winner, Linda and William Bowen's Sandiman II, ridden by Oliver Townend, produced a smart dressage of 26.4. This was only headed by the 24.1 scored by Dee Hankey on Chequers Playboy.

Sandiman produced a clean sheet in the showjumping and added just 0.4 time-penalties across country.

"It's my first win on him and first clear round showjumping," said Oliver. "He's very talented, but a spooky horse and that's let him down in the past. We did our dressage next to the farmyard and three months ago he'd have found that impossible. But today he coped and he's a great prospect."

Shearwater Touching Wood put in a fast double clear to win intermediate section B convincingly for Oliver. He is being aimed at the seven-year-old championships at Osberton.

Dee and Chequers Playboy put an unfortunate ducking in the water at Lühmühlen behind them by adding one rail down and 1.6pen across country to their good dressage to finish second in the OI.

Dee credits her dressage score to lessons from Tracie Robinson. "I approached her at Lühmühlen and had a couple of sessions working on balance and straightness, so I put that into practice and I reckon it's my improved by eight marks," said Dee.

"It's also the first time I've been

Oliver Townend takes the OI on the 'very talented, but spooky' Sandiman II



Ben Hobday wins on intermediate debutant Burlea Seamerchant

able to ride him for the time, as he's been a bit strong for me to open up in the past. Hayden [Dee's husband] has been working on his rhythm on the gallops and I've had him in a twisted Barry gag, which polo players use."

Dee will now aim for Burghley.

Educational run turns to a win

BEN HOBDAY won section C on Burlea Seamerchant, a horse he is riding for Tanya Buckingham and her syndicate. The Laughing Cavaliers, while she has a knee operation. It was the horse's first outing at the level.

"I saw him last year at Osberton and admired him," said Ben. "He came to me in the middle of May and I've done two novices with top



10 places and just brought him here to educate him. Winning is a bit of a shock!

"He's careful and a bit looky, so I rode him positively to keep him confident. I hope we can build on that."

Ben rode Tracy Whalley's The Winter King into second in section B and Michele Saul's Ramilo into third in section D.

Section D was won by German rider Franca Luedeke on Quaid, who led the dressage with 16.8, adding one down and four cross-country time-penalties.

The 22-year-old is based with Christopher Bartle for the season and won the open novice at Belsay on their first UK run.

"Christopher has been working on our dressage and the horse is very honest and tries for you," said Franca.

The runner-up was Charlotte Breat on her own Manor Missile, who produced a double clear to

record a personal best score of 25.2, 0.4 penalties behind Franca.

Charlotte, a veterinary nurse with her sponsor Airedale Vets, is trained by Alex Pearson. They have recorded consistently good placings at the level. H&H

Results

ASKE (1)

OI — 1. Sandiman II (O Townend) 26.4, 0.0; 2. Chequers Playboy (D Hankey) 24.1, 1.1; 3. Thornfield Jones (C Powell) 31.8, 0.2; 4. 34.2. **int sec B** — 1. Shearwater Touchingwood (O Townend) 31.8, 0.0; 31.8; 2. The Winter King (B Hankey) 32.7, 0.2; 28.3; 3. Balle Star (H Hankey) 30.5, 4.4; 4. 38.9. **sec C** — 1. Burlea Seamerchant (B Hobday) 32.3, 4.5; 2. Mr Presley (E Parker) 32.7, 3.2; 4. 49.3; 3. Kilmare Imp (M Johnson) 29.6, 4.10; 4. 44.4. **sec D** — 1. Quaid (F Luedeke) 16.8, 4.4; 24.8; 2. Manor Missile (C Breat) 23.6, 0.1; 6. 25.2; 3. Ramilo (S Hobday) 25.9, 0.1; 6. 27.5.

OnU/OI — 1. Lemington Lido Dance (K Hall-Jackson) 27.0, 1.6; 28.6; 2. Be Touchable (S Dodd) 30.5, 0.0; 30.5; 3. Chevalia (A Strauss) 38.0, 0.0; 38.0. **nov** **sec E** — 1. Gina Van De Neerheide (J Sommenville) 32.5, 0.4; 4. 36.9; 2. DH Paparazzi (H Woodcock) 27.4, 6.8; 37.8; 3. Rockesport (S Hutchings) 36.5, 0.2; 4. 38.9. **sec F** — 1. Win And Love (N Boschor) 25.5, 4.4; 8. 34.3; 2. Cooley Q (O Townend) 37.0, 0.0; 37.3; 3. Snodgrass (B Hobday) 33.5, 4.0; 37.5. **sec L** — 1. Just Jackson (W Murray) 33.5, 0.0; 33.5; 2. Vicarage Reuben (H Scott) 31.0, 5.2; 36.2; 3. My Anvika (L Broad) 36.5, 0.4; 2. 41.7. **BEIO** **sec G** — 1. Kilmare Bay Lad (J McGreggor) 29.0, 0.0; 29.2; Country Hot Shot (D Johnson) 32.0, 0.0; 32.3; 3. Weir (S Taylor) & Tacina (A-M Kruse) 33.0, 0.0; 33.0. **sec H** — 1. Feliskie Fancy Free (J McGreggor) 28.4, 0.0; 32.2; 3. Killybegs (L Soley) 31.4, 0.0; 35.3; 3. Wee Miss (J Sommenville) 35.0, 0.0; 35.0. **sec I** — 1. Cupido (J Alkinson) 27.5, 0.0; 27.5; 2. Wirona (M Johnson) 29.5, 0.0; 29.5; 3. Dancing Revolution (L Carron) 29.5, 0.0; 29.5. **sec K** — 1. Ballycool Miler (J Sommenville) 27.5, 0.0; 27.5; 2. Carlton Bay (S Herst) 31.0, 0.0; 31.3; 3. Waikiki Vh Blossomier (E Hyslop) 31.5, 0.0; 31.5. **BEIOUO** — 1. Faerie Myra (K Dicken) 29.5, 4.0; 33.5; 2. Knocktopher Bob (E Whittle) 33.5, 0.0; 33.5; 3. Blue Admiral (S Tette) 34.5, 0.0; 34.5.

TALKING POINT

THE jury is out on Aske's second season of running the course in the opposite direction, with a long uphill climb to finish.

"I'm not sure," said Oliver Townend. "You have to run past the showjumping and the final hill could be quite punishing in softer ground."

Dee Hankey added: "My horse is three-day fit, so it was OK. I

think as a rider you'd want to come here prepared."

Organiser and chief steward Faye Stephenson said the course had been changed to make it more flowing and get horses into a rhythm at the start, after rider feedback in previous years.

"We're always keen to listen to the competitors and will keep an open mind," she said.