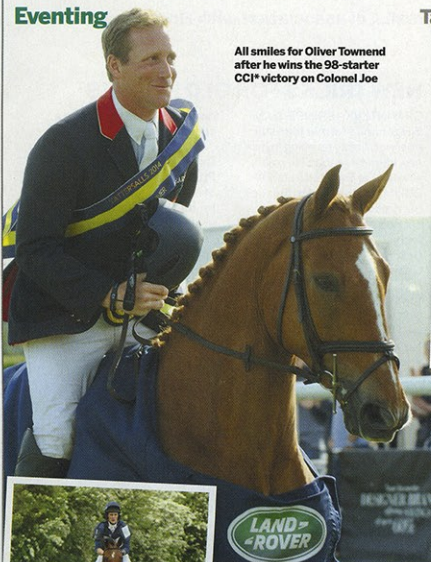


All smiles for Oliver Townend after he wins the 98-starter CCI* victory on Colonel Joe



Tom McEwen has a good week with two seconds, including in the CCI* on Toledo De Kerster, pictured here

dressage score of 34.6.

"I promised I wouldn't come here until I had a chance of winning it, and I can't believe I've pulled that off," she said.

In a smart all-grey line-up William Fox-Pitt was second on Catherine Witt's Vechta-sired Luxury FH and cross-country

leader Piggy French finished third with one showjumping rail down on British Eventing board member Jane McGivern's Irish-bred 'hunter' Seapatrik Dark Curue.

The nine-year-old Quicklook, by Urkel out of a Quick Star mare, came to Gemma as a six-year-old after Chris Stone bought her as a project to sell on. "When I first saw her go past I thought 'Wow,'" recalled Gemma, who was also fifth on Dinky Inky.

"She had only just been broken and could be a bit tricky across country because she was bold but green, so I've taken my time with her. She tried her heart out here."

Gemma's verdict on the cross-country, which produced 38 clear rounds from the 59 starters, with 31 inside the optimum time of 9min 22sec, should please Ian Stark. "This is such an important stepping stone for young horses and it will really have educated them well," she said.

There was no shortage of opportunity to practise water jumps — there were four in total — and it was a while before riders got the measure of a pair of uncompromising box-brush fences in the Dubarry Water at 22.

Andrew Nicholson, whose best result in three rides was ninth on the stunning prospect Jet Set, set out first and parted company from Cillnabraden Evo here. Next to go, Jules Stiller did the same with Chwupdidid, and Irish riders Sam Watson (Imperial Sky) and



Millie Dumas wins the under-25 CCI2* on The Duke Of Cavan, who she took on when owner Natalie Stevens was pregnant. She also took CCI3* second (Artistiek)

Elizabeth Power (Zazoe) ran out. The four-element Horse Sport Ireland Water at nine asked for a leap of faith over the log in and Andrew Nicholson (Thornton Jones) and Lucy Jackson (Corazon) both stopped here, as did dressage runner-up Brook Staples, who then retired Doonaveerah O Six.

Dressage leaders William Fox-Pitt and Henton For Fun, who were briefly held on course when US rider Katherine Coleman fell with Courage Under Fire, had a frustrating run-out at the skinny brush after the Land Rover Water at 18.

Townend's wait's worthwhile

Land Rover CCI* victor Oliver Townend bought his winning ride, Colonel Joe, as a "backwards baby" during his 2010 Tattersalls visit, but he has had to wait until this year to compete Andrew Cawthray's pale chestnut by Colonel Clover.

"I was desperate to get on him but Paul Burgess, who was working for me, was riding him and it seemed a bit unfair to take him away," explained Oliver.

William Fox-Pitt led the first two phases on the French-bred Top Biats, but dislodged a showjumping pole to drop to third. Runners-up Tom McEwen and Toledo De Kerster finished on the same score as Oliver,

but were further inside the optimum cross-country time.

This marathon 98-runner class, in which 47 out of the 79 clears were within the optimum time, creates a course-designer's conundrum in that it must cater for the Fox-Pitts and Nicholsons of this world, albeit on green horses, plus vast numbers of Irish riders for whom it is, as event director Jean Mitchell points out, "their Balmintin".

"It was a brilliant course and what my horses needed. They should all come on for the run," commented Oliver, who was also sixth on Cooley SRs and seventh on Ballaghmor Class. H&H



Sarah Ennis and Steller Rebound, third in the CCI3*, jump through the double of owl holes in the water

Three days of action

TATTERSALLS continues to raise its game nine years after the late George Mernagh started the event. Following an exhausting near 12-hour day in 2013, the organisers laid on three days of cross-country action this time.

They were rewarded by massive entries from across the Irish Sea — 111 of them British — and the visitors won everything bar the ponies' Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa CCI*, a home victory for Fionn Clarke on Black Velvet Band.

Results

TATTERSALLS

CCI3* — 1. Allercombe Ellie (T Taylor) GBR 41.0, 0=41; 2. Whitton (L. Harwood) GBR 45; 4. 1.2, 0=46; 6. 3. Steller Rebound (S Ennis) IRL 47; 4.0, 0=47; 4. CCI2* — 1. Wesko (T Price) NZL 39; 2.4, 0=43; 2. Artistiek (M Dumas) GBR 38; 1.6=45; 3. Improvise (B Levett) AUS 44; 6.0, 1=46; 2. CCI1* — 1. Quicklook (G Tattersalls) GBR 34; 6.0, 0=34; 6. 2. Luxury FH (W Fox-Pitt) GBR 37; 2.0, 0=37; 2. 3. Seapatrik Dark Curue (P French) GBR 34; 3.0, 0=38; 3. under-25 CCI2* — 1. The Duke Of Cavan (M Dumas) 42; 6.0, 0=42; 6. 2. Rethy USA (T

McEwen) GBR 43; 0.0=43; 3. Walitze F Veigar (E King) GBR 45; 7.0, 0=45; 7. CCI1* — 1. Colonel Joe (O Townend) GBR 40; 6.0, 0=40; 6. 2. Toledo De Kerster (T McEwen) 40; 6.0, 0=40; 6. 3. Top Biats (W Fox-Pitt) 36; 9.0, 4=40; 9. CCI1* — 1. Granrevite Prince (J Blekman) NED 36; 3.0, 0=36; 3; 2. Flying Machine (A Keen) GBR 45; 8.0, 0=45; 8; 3. Master Brightside (C Daniels) IRL 42; 5.0, 4=46; 5. CCI* for ponies — 1. Black Velvet Band (F Clarke) IRL 53; 3.0, 8=58; 1; 2. Three Willis Breeze (S Hammarstrom) SWE 42; 7.12, 8=59; 5; 3. Greybrook Miller (S Connell) IRL 54; 2.0, 8=52; 2.