

# Quest leads Townend's charge

**TETTON HALL, CHESHIRE**  
1-2 August

By Jo Prestwich

IN 1769, Dennis O'Kelly coined the phrase "Eclipse first, the rest nowhere" to describe an unbeatable racehorse. Nearly a quarter of a century later, it could just as well apply to Oliver Townend.

He left Tetton Hall Horse Trials last weekend having won three of the four intermediate and above sections, including the Bryn Hall advanced intermediate and its coveted Caroline Pratt memorial

He is the business. This is his first event since Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\* and he was never out of third gear. He didn't even raise a sweat

Oliver Townend on Carousel Quest, one of his two possible team horses for this year



Nina Barbour takes second in an intermediate on her own 10-year-old Balladeer Kursalite

trophy with Carousel Quest. Admittedly, his win in the latter translated into less than Eclipse's usual winning margin of 25 lengths as just 2pen separated him from last year's winners Emily Gilruth and Ashdale Cruise Master, who, like the winner, finished exactly on the optimum time.

"What can I say about Carousel Quest?" said Oliver. "He is the business. This was his first event since Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\* and he was never out of third gear. He didn't even raise a sweat and it is a real honour to win this trophy."

Emily was thrilled with "Splash", who was rerouted to Tetton from the cancelled Auchinleck.

"I would have loved to have taken that trophy back home again, but I couldn't have asked more of the horse — he was great," said Emily, who is aiming for Gatcombe and then Burghley with the Hardings' handsome grey.

#### Winning Hands Down

OLIVER'S second two wins came in the intermediate sections with Hands Down X and ODT Sonas Rovatio, both horses, like Carousel Quest, owned by Andrew Cawthray.



Oliver Townend wins the Caroline Pratt memorial trophy with Carousel Quest, one of three winners on Sunday for Oliver and owner Andrew Cawthray

Oliver had intended to start Hands Down X in the novice, but having realised he had too many rides on the Saturday he switched to Sunday and upped the grade.

"He was foot-perfect round here, even through the corner at six," he said. "The way he went today, I think I will probably finish his season with a CCI\*."

Oliver also thinks highly of Sonas Rovatio, a graduate from the show jumping arena where he had been jumping 1.30m classes.

"He started eventing in the spring," said Oliver, "and I would love to take him to Le Lion d'Angers in the autumn. He is a class horse — an out-and-out jumper with enough blood to

give him a proper gallop." Oliver was quick to give credit to the event: "That was a fantastic track they had built, with some good questions, and I really enjoyed jumping those hedges."

#### Rebel conforms

ONLY the Ol escaped Oliver's clutches, with Nicola Wilson putting up an impressive performance with Christopher Bartle's Ballyengland Rebel. The son of Ricardo Z originally came to Chris as a four-year-old for schooling and, as he proved too much for his owner, Chris bought the horse himself, competing him as a five- and six-year-old before passing the horse on to Nicola at