



## FRANCE EVENTING FONTAINEBLEAU 26-29 MARCH

### OLIVER TOWNEND

enjoyed an excellent build-up to the spring four-stars when he took the best two British placings in the CICO\*\*\*.

"I wanted a complete preparation — I knew the ground and the track would be good, and there would be an opportunity for good dressage practice in the main

arena," said Oliver, who was paying his first visit to the event, which hosts the European Championships this September.

Oliver was fifth on Andrew Cawthray's Kentucky-bound Carousel Quest, who he took on last year. The 14-year-old was previously ridden by Cressida Clague Reading.

"He's a phenomenally

talented horse, although he's quirky, but hopefully I've got the knack of him now," said Oliver.

At Fontainebleau, they scored 47.3 to lie 15th after dressage, but moved up by virtue of adding just 3.2 cross-country time-penalties.

Oliver's other ride, the Nicholsons' Flint Curtis, managed one of just four clear cross-country rounds inside the time and had one show jump down, plus two time-penalties, to rise from 36th after dressage to finish 14th.

"He did one of his better tests for this time of year [he can be excitable] and was as good as ever cross-country — I couldn't have wished for him to go any

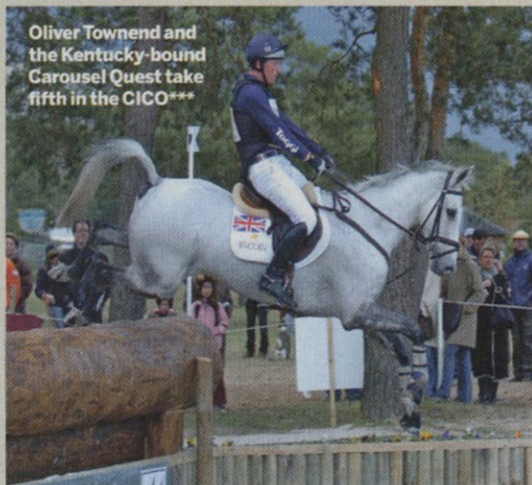
better," said Oliver.

Flint Curtis now heads to Badminton. Both he and Carousel Quest will do the dressage and show jumping only at Burnham Market before their four-star runs.

The Germans won the team event, their success spearheaded by individual winners Bettina Hoy and Ringwood Cockatoo.

Britain were third behind France, fielding Flint Curtis, **Mary King** and Imperial Cavalier (next best Brits in 18th), **Lucy Wiegiersma** and Shaabrak (who were third after cross-country, but dropped to 30th with seven show jumps down), and **Nick Gauntlett** and Rocket Science (33rd). **H&H**

Oliver Townend and the Kentucky-bound Carousel Quest take fifth in the CICO\*\*\*



### Results

**CICO\*\*\***. — 1, Ringwood Cockatoo (B Hoy), GER 31.7.10.8.0=42.5; 2, Flambeau H3 (S Deitermann), GER 41.5.5.2.0=46.7; 3, Headley Britannia (L Fredericks), AUS 36.5.11.6.0=48.1; 5, Carousel Quest (O Townend), GB 47.3.3.2.0=50.5; 14, Flint Curtis (O Townend) 53.7.0.6=59.7; 18, Imperial Cavalier

(M King), GB 50.6.11.2.0=61.8; 21, Apache Sauce (M King) 47.1.7.6.8=62.7. **team**. — 1, Germany (B Hoy, S Deitermann, P Thomsen, B Kaack) 160.3; 2, France (N Touzaint, J Teulère, D Dhennin, L Guyon) 173.1; 3, Great Britain (O Townend, M King, L Wiegiersma, N Gauntlett) 192.9.