

Brits abroad

Townend's best Brit at Boekelo

NETHERLANDS EVENTING
MILITARY BOEKELO CCI***
14-17 October

OLIVER TOWNEND

enjoyed some late-season success with eighth place on ODT Sonas Rovatio.

"Boekelo is always a good event and there was a top-class field," said Oliver.

A dressage score of 52 put the pair in 16th position and they enjoyed a steady rise up the leader board with just 2.8 time-penalties to add from the cross-country phase and a clear round over the coloured poles.

"The course was stronger than usual and the time was tight, but it is a good stepping stone for the younger horses and jumping a double clear here bodes well for the

future," said Oliver.

Eight-year-old ODT Sonas Rovatio is part-owned by Andrew Cawthray and won the Strzegom CCI** in June.

Sarah Cohen was the next best Brit, riding Treason. She added only 6.4 cross-country time-penalties to a dressage score of 58.8, making a colossal climb up the placings from 64th to eventual 17th.

"I was a little disappointed with the dressage. He wasn't quite secure enough into the contact so was marked down," admitted Sarah.

"The course was very twisty and quite tough for



Oliver Townend and ODT Sonas Rovatio finish eighth in a huge field at Boekelo

younger horses, but it rode better than it walked," she added. "My horse went beautifully, even though we were held at fence 14."

The eight-year-old

gelding finished second in the CIC*** at Blenheim earlier this year and Sarah plans to do lots of dressage with him over the winter.

France's Donatien Schaully capped a good season by taking the honours riding Ocarina Du Chanois, the horse with whom he won the CIC*** at Bramham earlier this year. Mark Todd and NZB Land Vision, the overnight leaders after the cross-country, had one pole down and acquired two time-penalties in the showjumping to drop into second place.

Michael Jung, the new world champion, continued his run of success in third. He led after the dressage, but 8.4 cross-country time-penalties and a pole down showjumping put paid to his chances of another win.

Results

CCI***.—1. Ocarina Du Chanois (D Schaully), FRA 43.8,4,0=47.8; 2. NZB Land Vision (M Todd), NZL 42.4,1,6,6=50; 3. Weidezauwprof's River Of Joy (M Jung), GER 37.8,8,4,4=50.2; 8. ODT Sonas Rovatio (O Townend), GB 52.2,8,0=54.8; 17. Treason (S Cohen), GB 58.8,6,4,0=65.2; 26. Happy Go Lucky (R Powell), GB 51.4,14,8,4=70.2.