

Townend strikes twice

**KELSALL HILL (2)
CHESHIRE**
27-28 September

By Jo Prestwich

DESPITE a partnership of just five days, Oliver Townend and Patsy Winson's Mr Hiho led throughout to win the open intermediate (OI) at Kelsall Hill.

"He's a tricky character, but has oodles of ability," said Oliver of the former Mary and Emily King ride. Mr Hiho won a junior individual silver medal with Emily in 2012, but has had some issues with the Kings this year, including being strong across country.

"I did enough at home to bring him here and I wanted to test the water and see how it went," Oliver added. "He has loads of gallop and was plenty strong enough, but I wanted to feel he was slightly in control and taking me forward."

The gelding was the only one to break the 20-barrier in the dressage.

"He's more warmblood than my usual rides and has plenty of trot and the presence to go with it," said Oliver. "His test did deserve a good mark — Emily has trained him well."

Oliver followed up with a win in the intermediate with Power Drive. The Irish-bred son of Power Blade — who stands at Harthill Stud, sponsors of this class — is a full thoroughbred and belongs to one of Oliver's long-standing owners Mary Clague.

"She's been a very loyal owner and it's great to have a proper horse for her," he said.

"This is a serious event," he added. "You can treat it as



educational with a youngster, or knife in and cut the turns and make it tougher. It is a track to bring a full range of horses to. I'd love to see a CIC2* and an advanced here in the future."

Paul Sims filled second in the intermediate with Fred and Roselle Willis's Last Secret, the only pairing to make the time round the intermediate track.

"She pulled my arms out," said Paul of the mare by I'm Henry.

"She came out of the start box on the 'g' of the 'go'. The brakes aren't brilliant, but she is a real class horse and one for the future."

Only 17-year-old Phoebe Powell prevented professionals filling the top six places in both the OI and intermediate sections. Phoebe, fresh from her first advanced run at Allerton Park a week earlier, was third behind Paul and Last Secret with her Irish-bred coloured eight-year-old, Kelly's Lad.

The Aughabeg Patch gelding was bought as an unbroken four-year-old.

"We saw him loose jump over a



Phoebe Powell, 17, and Kelly's Lad join the pros with intermediate third

cross pole and he fell over and split his neck open," said Phoebe, who is about to move from North Yorkshire to Shropshire to pursue a career in horses.

"I felt sorry for him, though he was very cute and bought him. I'd no idea how talented he was, he's so special and I hope he is going to be a four-star horse for me." H&H

Results

KELSALL HILL (2)

OI — 1. Mr Hiho (O Townend) 18.6, 0.0-4-19; 2. Whitson (L Harwood) 21.8, 0.0-4-22; 3. Calstar (P Sims) 22.0, 2-27. Int. — 1. Power Drive (O Townend) 23.6, 0.2-26; 2. Last Secret (P Sims) 28.6, 0.0-28; 3. Kelly's Lad (P Powell) 35.9, 0.0-36; 7. nov sec M. — 1. Your Bard (L Middleton) 25.0, 2-27; 2. Cletto H (H Hobday) 28.5, 0.0-28; 3. Lualike (P Sims) 33.5, 0.0-33; 5. sec N. — 1. Sockbridge Supreme (R Gray) 28.0, 0-28; 2. For The Boys (C Hardie) 29.4, 0-33; 3. Glenard Olympic Sky (T Cassels) 34.5, 0.0-34; 5. ON. — 1. Unique III (L Morton) 24.4, 2-30; 2. Bazaars Chief (L Poole) 22.8, 2-32; 3. Prince III (J Mantle) 27.8, 0-35. ONUB. — 1. RLE Limbo Kaiser (R Orsman) 28.0, 0-28; 2. It's A Treasure (E Grace) 27.5, 4.0-31; 3. Foxlink Cufflynx (H Wright) 31.0, 1-32; 3. BEIOOpen. — 1. Longfordpass Delux (A Davies-Cooke) 20.4, 0-24; 2. Ottawa Diode (S Holloway) 28.5, 4.0-32; 3. Hartbury Take It 2 (The Top (F Fitzherbert) 30.5, 0.2-32; 3. BEIO sec G. — 1. Sun Dreamer (E Sims) 11.0, 0-11; 2. Don't Delay (K Heath) 17.0, 0-17; 3. Tommy Tuckery (R Magleave) 21.5, 0.0-21; 5. sec H. — 1. Fintows Rendezvous (R Long) 27.0, 0-27; 2. Alvecot Moneymaker (H Bate) 29.0, 0-29; 3. Shuffy (D Seabrook) 29.0, 0-29; sec I. — 1. Shopchick (A Heffernan) 24.4, 0-28; 2. Jay Vee (M Owen) 28.5, 0.0-28; 3. Brewhin Bychan (K MacPherson) 29.0, 0-29; sec J. — 1. Captivate (M Owen) 26.5, 0.0-26; 2. Christoff (P Sims) 24.4, 0-28; 3. Rednag Clover (E Lawton) 32.5, 0.0-32.5.

Keeping it in the family

SECOND and fourth in the OI were Roy Baker and Emma Baker-Jones's homebred full brothers Whitson (ridden by Louise Harwood) and Sam I Am III (pictured right, ridden by Paul Sims). The two trace their damline back to a point-to-point mare, April Sovereign, whom Roy acquired in 1980.

"She belonged to a neighbour who had bred a couple of foals from her," explained Roy. "She ended up coming to us, bred us two nice colts and then a filly [Spring Cruise, by Cruise Missile]."

"When she was scanned with the filly she had actually twinned, so one was pinched out. We always wondered if that was why Spring Cruise, who was very small, was born looking slightly odd on one side. We decided to give her a chance and bred a foal from her. It was lovely so we carried on."

Spring Cruise's resulting filly, by Coosheen Liam, was the middleweight hunter Castle Weir Rebel. Whitson and Sam I Am III are Castle Weir Rebel's sons by Cameo's Reflection.

"They both went fantastically today and I couldn't believe they both scored the exact same mark [21.8] in the dressage," added Roy.



**ASKE (2)
YORKS**
27-28 September

By Helen Scott

NICOLA WILSON gave Beltane Queen a lovely run to win the open intermediate on a double clear by a margin of nearly 9pen.

The 10-year-old mare is being campaigned at a lower level as part of an autumn confidence-giving campaign after demanding runs at Badminton and Blair Castle. Nicola chose to sidestep Burghley and will contest the two-star at Osberton.

"We're thinking of the bigger picture with her and want to give her confidence, particularly in the showjumping. She's a very capable jumper, but we wanted her to think she didn't always have to tackle big showjumps," she said.

Beltane Queen's dressage has always been consistent and she produced a score of 22.7 to head the field convincingly going into the jumping phases.

Although the pair added six time penalties, they still posted the fastest round of the section.

In second was Jamie Atkinson riding Emma Pybus's Fernhill In Action, who has had a chequered season.

Jamie took over the ride in July when Emma secured a job in asset management in London and had to give up competing.

"He started being naughty and, as Emma had her mind on applying for jobs, she couldn't convince him to get on with it," said Emma's mother Jane, who is one of the organisers at Belsay.

"Jamie has been getting to



Intermediate winners Wills Oakden and All of A Spin make the time at Aske