

# The horse I wish I'd ridden...

OLIVER TOWNEND

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**Badminton and Burghley winner 2009**

**"IT'S OTTO** was something really special, although I only ever saw him jump on TV. I'm good friends with his rider Geoff Billington and even after so many years, Geoff can get very emotional talking about certain rounds that horse jumped. To have that sort of effect even after the horse has retired, he must have been outstanding.

"Without doubt, he was a freak of a horse, and one that made Geoff's childhood dreams come true. He went to two Olympic Games, and won European and world team bronze medals. He was exceptional, and I don't think there will ever be another one like him.

"For me, it would be amazing to ride something with that sort of scope. We eventers ride a lot of moderate showjumpers, and I would love to have a go on one with that ability and desire to clear any fence, not wanting to touch anything.

"The purity of showjumping does appeal, but I'm too far down another road at the moment. In the future, who knows?"