

# Townend wins with 'serious one'



A perfect showjumping clear and an honest round over a 'tough' cross-country course bring CCI3\* victory for Cooley SRS and his rider Oliver Townend

## Ballinidenisk, Co Cork, Ireland

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By Catherine Austen

**O**LIVER TOWNEND rarely leaves Ballinidenisk without a winner's cheque of some sort, but his victory on Angela Hislop's Cooley SRS was his first in the CCI3\* at the Cork venue's autumn event since 2012.

He won by jumping a perfect clear in the showjumping. Trish Ryan, in the lead after the first two phases on Tullineasky Hi Ho, had no room for error, and when she hit two fences Oliver took the title. He finished on his dressage score of 44.3.

"He's a serious one - I've always been in love with him," said Oliver, who bought the eight-year-old by Ramiro B from Richard Sheane, who picked him out of the Going for Gold Sale at Goresbridge.

"He was unbelievably honest round a cross-country track that I thought was too tough in

places - through his honesty and naivety, he just wants to get to the other side.

"He's a good showjumper, but because he finds it so easy he can have a pole sometimes because he doesn't have to concentrate. But he didn't touch a fence in the warm-up or the ring; it felt like we were in my school at home."

Second to Oliver was his girlfriend, Belgium's Stephanie d'Andrimont, who scored her best international result to date riding Alexander IV.

"I've only had him a few months and this is our first CCI3\*," said Stephanie.

Trish's two rails dropped her to third, half a penalty behind Stephanie on a final score of 51.5.

Mark Todd gave NZB Campino the perfect prep run for the CCI4\* at Pau by winning the CIC3\*. The Contendro 13-year-old was one mark behind Emily King and Brookleigh in the dressage, with 36.6, but one rail down to Emily's two and a clear inside the time across country gave him the win.

## ONE TO WATCH

### Rakam D'Emra

MATTHEW WRIGHT won the CCI\* on a very new ride, Rakam D'Emra, owned by his fiancée Victoria's father, Sir John Peace.

Matthew said the 10-year-old being ridden back from the cross-country at Hartbury by Frenchman Thomas Carille after being eliminated for three refusals, liked him and bought him there and then.

"He looked a bit sour, so I chucked him in the field, fed him up and made him feel good about himself," said Matthew. "He looks like a totally different horse now and has improved beyond all recognition. We've done three events together and won them all."

Helen West finished second on Eebay, also something of a cast-out. Helen explained: "He came to Biction [which Helen runs] showjumping. I spotted him and liked him, the girl who was riding said I could have him and left him there.

"He's a real character but very talented, and as he's now my only horse I can indulge his quirks a bit."

The CCI\* results make for odd reading - Matthew was the fastest across country with 14 time-penalties, which is highly unusual for a good-ground one-star. It turns out that, although the track was measured correctly, the wrong details of time and distance were posted in the office for the riders to see.

