



Victoria Panizzon proved she is right back on form after breaking her collarbone in June, rising from ninth place after dressage into the runner-up spot with Patricia and Amy Lambert's Chequers Play The Game, while Tom McEwen recorded his best championship result at The Festival, finishing third with Frank and Jane Inns' Toledo De Kerker, a horse which also finished second at last year's seven year old world championships in Le Lion D'Angers.

Oliver Townend added to his tally by not only winning The Dodson & Horrell British Novice Championship, but also finishing second. Stephanie D'Andrimont's nine year old Sonic de Sermentol gave him a fourth title in this prestigious class with Karyn Shuter's Ridire Dorcha finishing close behind.

"I told Stephanie two months ago that he'd win this title – she was excited, but admitted that she didn't really know what I was talking about!" said Oliver.

then I crossed my tracks while taking an alternative this year," explained Christopher, who will now try his luck at the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials.

Runner-up, New Zealand's first lady Jonelle Price, was grinning from ear to ear as she whipped round the 26-fence course aboard Trisha Rickards' feisty mare Classic Moet.

"Classic Moet coped brilliantly with the undulations and gave me a great ride," said Jonelle, who added 6.4 time penalties across country and one rolled pole in the show jumping to a personal best dressage score of 37.8.

Nicola Wilson became the new British National Champion with the adorable coloured mare Beltane Queen after finishing a close third on a score of 48.7.

"I'm seriously pinching myself; I love this horse and I'm so thrilled for her and her Owners, Ann and Valerie Robson," said Nicola.

#### TOWNEND ON TOP

Oliver Townend took fourth place with the evergreen 16 year old Armada, owned by Paul and Diana Ridgeon. They were the only pair to finish within the 6min 28sec optimum time across country. Louise Harwood (Whitson) and Georgie Strang (Cooley Business Time) completed the top six.

Gatcombe has always been a happy hunting ground for Oliver Townend and so it proved again this year

when the British squad rider captured both The Smith & Williamson British Intermediate Championship and The Dodson & Horrell British Novice Championship.

He led from the start in both and finished a staggering 12 penalties ahead of the rest of the field with his Intermediate winner, Andrew Cawthray's Note Worthy, an 11 year old gelding by Limmerick.

"I love coming to Gatcombe; it's such a prestigious venue and I always try to get a good team of horses together to bring here," said Oliver, who had no less than six rides over the weekend.

Note Worthy has clocked up more air miles than most humans, having spent several seasons down under when he was ridden by Australian Tim Boland.

"I produced the horse originally and sold him to Tim a few years ago. He brought him back to the UK last year when he was preparing for the World Equestrian Games [WEG], but didn't want him to have to make the return trip, so I bought him back. I'd always really rated him," explained Oliver, who added just 1.2 time penalties across the country – by far the fastest time – to his dressage score of 23.3. "I had an early draw and I knew I had good ones around me, so I couldn't afford to hang around."

This was a third Intermediate title for Oliver, who also won in 2007 and 2008 on Daisy Crazy and Land Vision.