



Brits flying high

Oliver Townend takes the first ERM series while Scott Brash wins at Spruce Meadows

BRITISH riders were flying the flag this weekend, taking top prizes in showjumping and eventing.

Scott Brash became only the second rider to win back-to-back victories in the CP International grand prix at Spruce Meadows (7-11 September), while Oliver Townend took the first Event Rider Masters (ERM) title, finishing runner-up in the final leg at Blenheim (8-11 September).

Oliver's second place, on Cillnabradren Evo, took his series points total to 100, which was enough for him to be crowned ERM champion (report, p 50).

"To win any ERM leg you need an exceptional horse – who is a good mover and jumper, has a great brain and is quick – and I feel Cillnabradren Evo has proved he is perfectly suited to this series," said Oliver (pictured, above). "I am very proud of him.

"I was a slow starter in the series, as I was chasing the Olympic dream. Next year I intend to compete in as many legs as I can and aim to retain my title. For me, ERM is the competition of the future and I am so



pleased to have been part of it from its outset."

Scott's win on Ursula XII came a year after his victory on Hello Sanctos, which clinched the Rolex Grand Slam after his wins in the Geneva and Aachen grands prix.

"I think there was more pressure last year," said Scott (pictured, left), who beat America's McLain Ward on HH Azur in a two-horse jump-off.

"I think all eyes were on Sanctos then. He was in great form – he had won in Geneva and Aachen and everyone was talking about it and the lead-up to it.

"This year has been different, but the pressure is still difficult. McLain and Azur are fantastic. The pressure was on until the last moment."

The win was a first step towards a second grand slam – which Scott said he would "give his best shot" (report, p76).

And there was more British success in Lausanne, where Robert Whitaker headed a British top three in the five-star grand prix (report, p77). EJ