

Oliver Townend puts Britain on the Adelaide roll of honour,
while awards season takes off with balls in Scotland and Cumbria

Townend scores a GB first

OLIVER TOWNEND became the first British rider to win at the Australian International Three Day Event at Adelaide when he took the CIC3* (3-6 November).

"I've been working with [Australian rider] Tim Boland for the past decade quietly selling horses to Australia and vice versa," said Oliver. "He wanted to set up something more structured in terms of sending a small number of horses over to Australia to sell every year and said I should go and see what it's like. But he knew I'd need an incentive and said he'd get me a ride in the CIC3*."

Tim is based about an hour south of Sydney and Oliver spent a week in the city before the event, having "great fun doing the tourist bit".

Oliver's ride was Napoleon (pictured), an 11-year-old son of APH Spiegel. The Brit rode him three times in Sydney, including winning a 1.30m showjumping speed class at the Olympic Park.

"He was a beautiful horse to sit on," said Oliver. "I was trying to improve him quickly and, while I didn't have him under pressure, I was conscious that every bit of work is important."

Although he is a former double winner at two-star, Napoleon has been eliminated or retired in five of his past six events with Tim.

"People took the mickey out of me for flying to



Australia to ride a horse with that record, but I wasn't riding his record," said Oliver. "He's a nice horse."

The pair were second after dressage on a mark of 44.9, but moved up to lead with the only showjumping clear in the time. Dressage leader Tim was eliminated when his mount GV Billy Elliot napped at the entrance in the showjumping. Oliver had 13.2 time-faults over Mike Etherington-Smith's cross-country track to seal victory.

"The horse was green and a bit cautious across country in places, but he was exceptional to answer every call," said Oliver. "It was a tricky course."

Oliver said the Adelaide site in the city centre is "unique" and he really enjoyed the whole experience.

"It didn't feel like eventing — it felt like nothing but a holiday with good friends," he said. "We ate out, drank quite a lot and there was no pressure." **H&H**

END OF SEASON RANKINGS WINNERS

BRITISH EVENTING LISTS

Leading rider

Oliver Townend

Leading horse

Diane Brunnsen and Peter Cattell's Leonidas II, ridden by Mark Todd

Goldman Cup (under-21)

Sam Ercroft

Fairfax Britannia League

Sam Ercroft's Wodan III, ridden by the owner

Calver Wealth Management Two-Star League

Barbara and Nicholas Walkinshaw's Billy Walk On, ridden by Pippa Funnell

Gatehouse One-Star League

Storm Straker's Well Designed, ridden by the owner

Foundation points rider

Alex Postolowsky

Foundation points horse

Elena Scott-Forbes'