

Oliver Townend seizes two wins over the weekend, including his ninth CIC3* victory at Burnham Market, riding Cooley Master Class (pictured) – “he was quick without feeling the pressure”



A Master Class from Townend

Barefoot Estates Burnham Market (1), Docking, Norfolk
1-3 April
By Catherine Austen

OLIVER TOWNEND continued his extraordinary record at Barefoot Estates Burnham Market, scoring his ninth CIC3* win here and taking second place to boot.

He led all the way through the 79-runner three-star section,

the first leg of the Shearwater Insurance Tri-Star Grand Slam, with Angela Hislop's Cooley Master Class, who added just 0.8 cross-country time-faults to his dressage mark of 37.4.

The Ramiro B 11-year-old finished eight marks clear of his stable-mate, Andrew Cawthray's Note Worthy, the only horse in the class to complete on his dressage score (46.2).

Cooley Master Class

competed only once last year, at Oasby in March.

“He had a touch of an injury,” said Oliver. “It wasn't bad and I was riding him at home all year. He could have evented, but he and Black Tie II kept being put on the back burner. He'd had a busy career up to that point and he ended up having a long break, which has done him the world of good.”

“I was impressed with his time across country – I didn't

“I love being back in England” – Bettina Hoy on her own Designer 10



set out to go really fast, but went off in a high gear. He's an easy horse to pick up distances on and he was quick without ever feeling under pressure.”

He will now aim for the CCI3* at Saumur.

Pippa Funnell and her Rio prospect Sandman 7 were third, adding only 5.6 time-faults to her 41.5 dressage. Sandman 7, who is owned by Pippa, her mother Jenny Nolan and Pippa's long-time mentor Ruth McMullen, was eighth individually at the European Championships at Blair last September as a nine-year-old and looked very classy here.

“He was very pleased to be out and quite bright in the showjumping, but felt very good,” said Pippa, who will take the CIC3* route with him towards potential Olympic selection this year.

Fourth were Holly Woodhead and her father Ian and stepmother Heidi's DHI Lupison, another to jump a speedy double clear with a smattering of time-faults.

“He was brilliant in the jumping phases, but I made a few mistakes in the dressage, which I am disappointed about [they scored 45]. I'm using a lighter bit across country and riding in a different style this year, and he has adapted really

Edited by Pippa Roome

@pipparoome
DO YOU HAVE AN EVENTING STORY?
Email: pippa.roome@timeinc.com

well to it,” said Holly, another rider who is chasing the dream of Rio selection.

Izzy Taylor, who had 14 rides over the three days of the event and was placed on 11 of them, finished fifth on Sophie Dodds' Be Touchable. The scopey jumper joined Izzy's team in August last year and has moved up quickly – this CIC3* was only his second advanced run and he won the first one, at Little Downham, last year.

Izzy was also eighth on Guy Avis's highly experienced KBIS Briarlands Matilda who, with two cross-country time-faults, was the third-fastest of the class. She now heads to Badminton.

Christopher Burton and Santano II were the only combination apart from Oliver and Cooley Master Class to collect a dressage mark in the 30s – 37.8 – but 11 faults in the showjumping and subsequently a steady cross-country round dropped them to 35th.

The CIC3* track flowed well and caused few problems; 80% of the cross-country starters went clear. Oliver didn't have everything quite his way – he and Black Tie II tipped up at the first combination, fence four. Both were fine, and Oliver said that he hit the ground rather harder than the horse did. Jock Paget and Allora 3

caused a mini-tidal wave when falling in the second water but, again, both walked away.

No joking around
SAMMI BIRCH returned from “maternity leave” for victory in the CIC2* with Kyrle Arscott and Diana Chappell's The Court Jester. A dressage mark of 39.7 left them in second place behind Germany's Pia Munker and Louis M, who scored 36.4, but the latter pair rolled a pole in the showjumping and collected 5.6 cross-country

time-faults, while Sammi and the Harlequin Du Carel 11-year-old showjumped clear and then had a faster cross country round with two time-penalties.

Tim Price rode The Court Jester for Sammi last year, finishing fifth in the CCI3* at Blenheim on him.

Sammi said: “Tim did a fantastic job and has helped me a lot recently. It's really nice to be back – and winning! That was the best test I've done on Jester and he jumped beautifully. He's the sweetest horse in the world and tries so hard.” They next go to Belton for the CIC3*.

Ludwig Svennerstal finished runner-up on his 45.1 dressage mark with his girlfriend Talla Laghzaoui's Master Ping. This is only Ludwig's second run on the horse, and they were also second first time out at Lincoln.

“He's a really nice horse and could be a top one. You can really ride him to a fence, and he's careful when he gets to it,” said the Swedish rider.

Twenty-three-year-old Pia Munker, who is based at the Yorkshire Riding Centre with Chris Bartie until June, only dropped to third with the eye-catching chestnut Louis M by Lissabon.

“We bred him at home and I've known him since he was a foal – he's amazing,” said Pia fondly.

A bright start for Bettina
BETTINA HOY was delighted to win the advanced class with her own Designer 10 on her first

start in Britain this season.

Bettina actually led the dressage with Seigneur Medicott, scoring 25.3, while Designer 10 was second on 28.6. But Seigneur Medicott hit two showjumps and had a run-out across country, while Designer 10 jumped faultlessly and just collected 3.2 time-faults – good enough to keep Bettina ahead of Tim Price and Wesko.

“Designer's come such a long way over the winter with the help of my trainers in Germany, so everything is on track at the moment,” said Bettina, adding with a smile: “It's not so easy at my age to go really fast across country at this time of the season, but I know I have to kick on to have the slightest chance of getting chosen for Rio.

“I love being back in England. I feel so much more relaxed here so I think I ride better.”

Bettina will be based at Catherine Burrell's Marlborough yard until early June.

Tim Price was second and fourth with Wesko and Bango, both of whom head to Kentucky CCI4*, while Izzy Taylor was third on Westwood Mariner, whom she is riding during Piggy French's pregnancy.

Another of Piggy's rides, George and Jayne Apter's OBOS Cooley, won an open intermediate with Tim Price on board. They posted an impressive finishing score of 23.5.



“He's a really nice horse and could be a top one” – Sweden's Ludwig Svennerstal pilots his girlfriend Talla Laghzaoui's Master Ping to advanced runner-up spot, on only his second start on the horse

Pippa Funnell rides her Rio prospect Sandman 7 into third place in the CIC3*



“I'm very lucky to have a horse like this come my way,” said Tim, who may aim the 10-year-old at the Event Riders' Masters series.

Oliver Townend took the other OI with Val Ryan's Lanfranco, who completed on his dressage score of 28.9. The talented but tricky former ride of both Bettina and Andrew Hoy is enjoying life in Shropshire, says Oliver.



A sub-40 dressage mark and clear jumping rounds bring CIC2* glory for Sammi Birch and The Court Jester, who was ridden by Tim Price last year

TO SEE AND PURCHASE FURTHER IMAGES FROM THIS EVENT, VISIT: horseandhound.co.uk/galleries

TALKING POINT

William-watch

THERE was increased media interest in Burnham Market because William Fox-Pitt made his competitive comeback after suffering a head injury in a fall at Le Lion d'Angers last autumn (see interview page 32).

William rode Cool Mountain and Badminton-bound Parklane Hawk (pictured, below) in the open intermediate, and had one showjump down on each and completed two steady but confident clears across country.

“It's been a long process of rehab, and things have been quite relaxed and switched off, so it's great to be here and be switched back on,” said William. “These two amazing horses have both looked after me today and got me back in the groove.”

“I've got a busy week now with Portman, Larkhill and Weston Park, which will be really good for my fitness. There's nothing like competing to get you back on form.”

William's wife Alice said: “I thought I'd come here and be crying all day, but it's been great – it's what he does, and it's just so brilliant to see him do it well. It's been a happy, lovely day.”



Sunshine and fairly warm weather drew good crowds to Burnham Market, and horses enjoyed lovingly going on the cross-country. Neither intermediate nor advanced tracks were over-strong, although the acutely-angled double of corners at 15ab on the intermediate course caught out riders who treated them casually and some of the less experienced horses.

Andrew Nicholson raised a few heart rates when falling on the flat with one of his intermediate rides, Swallow Springs, on Saturday.

It was the first time Andrew has hit the deck since his terrible fall at Gatcombe last August, but no harm was apparently done and he went well with all three of his advanced rides the following day. **H&H**

RESULTS

BAREFOOT ESTATES BURNHAM MARKET (1)
CIC3* – 1. Cooley Master Class (O Townend) 37.4, 0.0, 0.38; 2. Note Worthy (O Townend) 46.2, 0.0, 46.2; 3. Sandman 7 (P Funnell) 41.5, 0.5, 64.7; CIC2* – 1. The Court Jester (S Birch) 39.7, 0.2, 41.7; 2. Master Ping (L Svennerstal) 45.1, 0.0, 43.1; 3. Louis M (P Munker) 36.4, 4.5, 64.6; adv. – 1. Designer 10 (B Hoy) 28.6, 0.2, 23.5; 2. Niplo (T Price) 29.4, 0.2, 23.2; 3. Westwood Mariner (I Taylor) 33.8, 4.1, 23.9; OI (see 1L) – 1. Lanfranco (O Townend) 28.9, 0.0, 28.9; 2. Cyrus (E Piers) 26.0, 0.4, 44.3; 3. WTL Opposition Sky Lar (K Johnstone) 30.7, 0.2, 33.5; see M – 1. OBOS Cooley (T Price) 22.7, 0.0, 23.5; 2. Chabroden Eve (O Keefe) 26.8, 0.0, 26.8; 3. Cooley SRS (O Townend) 23.4, 8.0, 31.4; Int (see J) – 1. Lui (O M Healy) 36.0, 0.0, 36.0; 2. Simpson III (L Jackson) 32.1, 4.4, 48.4; 3. Britannias Mall (L Fredericks) 31.0, 0.0, 41.1; see K – 1. DHI Up Beat (J Ward) 36.4, 0.2, 38.4; 2. Rapin (Gill (W Newton)) 34.6, 4.9, 39.1; 3. Armetown Envoy (L Jackson) 32.1, 4.4, 48.4; 4. Excluse (E Lewellyn) 28.5, 0.0, 28.5; 2. Ulyssa Be

Beroun (J Amos) 28.5, 0.0, 28.5; 3. Vendredi Blats (K King) 28.0, 1.6, 29.6; ON U18 – 1. Foresters Fairy Lady (Cl Coy) 27.0, 0.0, 27.0; 2. Corbett (M Cragg) 29.0, 0.0, 29.3; Eros DHI (B Upton) 26.0, 3.2, 29.5; nov (see H) – 1. Right To Play (Jack Sparrow (A Hoy)) 30.5, 0.0, 30.0; 2. Serafina (I Taylor) 26.4, 1.2, 31.2; 3. Family Affair II (J Amos) 37.5, 0.0, 37.5; see L – 1. Lesage (I Taylor) 30.5, 0.0, 30.5; 2. To Be Fair II (P Sheffield) 33.5, 0.6, 39.5; 3. Las Vegas 200 (R Canter) 34.0, 6.4, 40.4; 4. see M – 1. Jubilee Van Barshel (J Norman) 30.8, 0.0, 30.8; 2. Springwood (J Amos) 32.0, 1.2, 33.2; 3. Pro Joe (G Uggott) 35.0, 0.4, 35.9; BE100 open – 1. Porsch Pops (E Hope) 24.8, 0.1, 26.2; 2. Barnyard (E Corner) 26.8, 0.0, 26.8; 3. Eto (O Dixon) 26.5, 0.0, 26.9; BE100 (see C) – 1. Age Of Innocence (J Atkinson) 27.0, 0.0, 27.0; 2. Keeford Deluxe (K Varley) 28.5, 0.0, 28.5; 3. Artful Trinity (I Taylor) 28.8, 0.0, 28.8; see D – 1. Gallant (M Cooley) 23.5, 0.0, 23.5; 2. Camros Prince (L Kemplay) 25.0, 1.2, 26.2; 3. Jack In The Box II (M Edmondson) 27.0, 0.0, 27.0; see E – 1. Weynes Mayday (G Griev) 26.8, 0.0, 26.8; 2. Tiger Mail (P Buckley) 29.0, 0.4, 29.4; 3. PFW Mullah Murphy (B Westgate) 29.0, 2.8, 32.1.