

Lucy Jackson and Bosun II put a fall at Badminton behind them with an advanced win



# Bosun charges to top spot

**Horsezone Aston-le-Walls (3) Northants**

22-24 July

By Gemma Redrup

**L**UCY JACKSON jumped her way to victory riding Bosun II in advanced section J in glorious sunshine. Lucy said she had "an absolute ball" with the Cruising-sired 12-year-old, whom she owns jointly with Linda and Claire Gregson, Anne Baldock and Rebecca Vinter.

The pair suffered a crashing fall at the Vicarage Vee at Badminton this spring, which led to Lucy turning this horse's work programme "on its head".

"Bosun was wild at Badminton – over-fit and under-run – so now we plan to

Ulises, one of Oliver Townend's two advanced winners, tops the eight- and nine-year-old class



run him more and school him less at home," explained Lucy.

"We ran him in the two-star at Barbury to check the wheels were still on. He jumped a double clear and his result today is great."

Izzy Taylor was the bridesmaid of Aston, notching up three second places in the advanced sections, which she described as "very annoying". She was second to Lucy on Alex Phillips' Impromptu II, adding just four showjumping faults to their dressage score.

"I'm thrilled with him," said Izzy. "His showjumping is much improved. We had four down at Barbury but he seems to have taken that on board."

Oliver Townend enjoyed a fruitful weekend. He started

strongly, claiming first and second places in Friday's advanced section H riding Andrew Cawthray's Note Worthy and Sally-Anne Egginton's Cillnabradren Evo.

"Note Worthy is still a bit of a baby," said Oliver. "He's not experienced, but on his day he is a top horse."

Oliver cruised around Nigel Taylor's inviting advanced track one second inside the 6min 15sec optimum time.

"There was no pressure on him today time-wise, but we met every fence on a lovely distance and he has endless gallop," explained Oliver.

Cillnabradren Evo was formerly ridden by Andrew Nicholson until their crashing fall at the final fence at Gatcombe last year.

"He's a very good jumper, but you have to be 100% accurate with him at every fence, or you end up on the floor," said Oliver of the 10-year-old with whom he suffered a nasty fall at their last outing in the Event Rider Masters (ERM) at Barbury.

"He went very well today though, but we'll take each day as it comes."

Oliver's run of good luck continued in the hotly contested eight- and nine-year-old advanced section L riding the nine-year-old Ulises, owned by Paul and Diana Ridgeon.

Ulises is by Fines, also the sire of four-star campaigners Armada, Nereo and Oplitas, and Oliver joked that he has "no idea" why Andrew Nicholson passed on the ride to him before the start of the 2016 season.

"If he stays as sound as Armada then he will hopefully be better than him," said Oliver. "I didn't expect him to win here today as he's still green at this level, but I think a lot of him."

Picture by www.focusonhorses.com