

Oasby (1), Lincs
10-13 March
By Gemma Redrup

OLIVER TOWNEND started 2016 with a bang thanks to a strong performance from his 2014 World Equestrian Games (WEG) mount Black Tie II.

They notched up a speedy double clear, adding just 0.8 of a time-penalty to a dressage score of 28.4 in open intermediate (OI) section I.

"After WEG we wanted to give Black Tie some time to recover," said Oliver. "He did just one intermediate last year; I was very busy with other horses and he got pushed to the bottom of the pile."

Black Tie was discovered by his owner Karyn Shuter in a free ad magazine in her native New Zealand.

"Karyn brought him over to the UK and started to compete him, but then she was injured so I took him competing for her as a favour," said Oliver. "I got to keep the ride after we won our first event together - Karyn said he'd never managed to win with her so I'd best keep going."

Oliver said that Black Tie "couldn't have been more perfect in the jumping phases", after a "fresh" dressage test.

Emily Gilruth took second with Bay Carrick Road.

"He hasn't run since March 2015 due to a small injury but he's come out much more grown-up this year and went well," said Emily who was also second in OI section H riding Topwood Beau.

"I wasn't trying to go quickly so it was a great bonus to be placed," said Emily, who credits her excellent dressage scores (26.4 and 25.2 respectively) to help from fellow eventer and

Black Tie's back in style



Black Tie II returns from post-WEG recovery time off to seize OI victory under Oliver Townend with a sub-30 dressage and quick jumping clears

dressage rider Ruth Edge.

The winner in section H was Paul Tapner riding Yogi Bear VIII, who shares the same sire, Beau Royale, as Topwood Beau.

"Yogi Bear was perfect today," added Paul of the horse who was bought from Ascot Sales as a four-year-old.

Super-sub jumps to it TOM MARCH won intermediate section G riding his own seven-year-old Jump Jet III.

"I haven't evented for 18 months (until this season)," said Tom, who regained the ride following the announcement that his girlfriend Piggy French is pregnant.

"I've always let Piggy do the riding as she's a lot better at it than I am," said Tom. "But Jump Jet was entered here so we thought we might as well have a go."

Eliza Stoddart, who moved to be based with Oliver Townend in December, took second with Anne Staley's home-bred Priorspark Opposition Free.

"Oliver has really helped with my showjumping and his advice and guidance have been fantastic," she said.

Sam Ecroyd, 19, landed the open intermediate under-21 section riding Penelope Ecroyd's Opera House. It was a close-run thing as both he and second-placed Irish rider Susie Berry (Vanir Hello Duca)

finished on the same score, but Susie was one second closer to the optimum time.

"Opera House was very good today," said Sam. "He used to be strong and slow, but I recently spent four months training with Michael Jung and he's become much more reactive and rideable as a result."

Piggy French's working pupil Susie was pleased with the efforts of her new ride Vanir Hello Duca, owned by Vina Buller.

"She's such a cool jumper;

I was almost jumped off in the showjumping," said Susie, who has recently found herself very busy with up to 10 horses to compete due to Piggy's pregnancy.

All riders were hugely complimentary of the ground conditions at Oasby. Very few thought the event would take place following 24 hours of torrential rain on the Wednesday. Thursday competition was abandoned, but the remaining three days ran in glorious sunshine. **H&H**

RESULTS

OI sec H-1, Yogi Bear VIII (P Tapner) 25.0, 2.4-27.9; 2, Topwood Beau (E Gilruth) 25.2, 0.6-28.8; 3, Dromogriffy Blue (O Townend) 28.4, 0.2-30.4. OI sec I-1, Black Tie II (O Townend) 28.4, 0.0-29.2; 2, Bay Carrick Road (E Gilruth) 26.4, 0.6-30.3; 3, Figo Van Het Broekhof (J Amos) 33.9, 0.0-33.9. OI sec II-1, Opera House (S Ecroyd) 25.7, 4.4-4-34.2; Vanir Hello Duca (S Berry) 29.3, 0.4-34.1; 3, Kings Rock (C Clover) 32.5, 4.0-4-36.9. Int-1, Jump Jet III (March) 30.5, 0.6-36.9; 2, Priorspark Opposition Free (E Stoddart) 28.4, 4.6-38.8; 3, Traveller Royale (S Gilroy) 31.8, 0.7-39.9. ON sec L-1, Gortadale Diamond (T Kyle) 27.8, 0.1-29; 2, Freckleton Mythago (M Kyle) 31.5, 0.0-31.5; 3, Coloursat II (A Clark) 31.5, 0.0-32.3. ON sec O-1, Kanastasis (R Conry) 32.5, 0.0-32.5; 2, Union Fortunes (P Locke) 33.5, 0.0-33.5; 3, Count Danilo (D Liddle) 30.8, 0.3-34.2. PT-1, Craig Mor Tom (C Ward-Aldam) 30.2, 0.1-31.9; 2, Killecaran Blue (E Bartlett) 32.2, 0.4-36.8; 3, Wyke Valley Fairstead (E Hobbs) 37.5, 0.4-41.5. New sec K-1, Majestic Meg (S Berry) 28.8, 0.0-28.8; 2, Enzo Van De Neth (H Oakden) 26.8, 0.2-29.6; 3, Casario (E Forsyth) 24.8, 0.0-30.8. Nov sec P-1, River Law (R Jones) 31.0, 0-31.2; Killyboy Bob (R Jones) 30.8, 0.5-36.3; TCH Top Label (J Clarke) 31.0, 5.6-36.6. BE100Open sec TL-1, Turbo Toy (J Crawford) 18.0, 16-19.6; 2, Wintzer II (D Cuomo) 15.8, 0.4-19.8; 3, Madree Isid II (B Levett) 16.8, 4.0-20.8. BE100Open sec TZ-1, Fernhill Bright Echo (C Dyer) 31.0, 0-31; 2, HD Bronze (H Mutch) 31.0, 0-31.3; 3, B Walt Lando (S Healy) 31.5, 0.0-31.5. BE100U8-1, Brutus (G A Bell) 28.0, 0-28; 2, Shannondale Oso (I White) 31.8, 0-31.8; 3, Discovery V (A Davies-Cook) 28.8, 0.3-32. BE100 sec SL-1, Lette Move (A Schoff) 31.5, 0-31.5; 2, Illusion V (A Betts) 31.5, 0-31.5; 3, Rhanmore

(N Wilson) 29.3, 0.2-32.1. BE100 sec SL-1, Ramesses B (R Jones) 23.5, 0.0-23.5; 2, Martel (R Hillman) 27.3, 0.0-27.3; 3, Mullerite Forever (S Williams) 27.8, 0.6-28.6. BE100 sec UL-1, Daruna Blue (H Atkinson) 29.8, 0.0-29.8; 2, Elusive Dasset (C Barr) 32.0, 0-32; 3, Celtic Morning Star (A James) 32.5, 0.0-32.5. BE100 sec U2-1, Frangello (J Wise) 15.8, 0.2-17.8; 2, Egaro (L Bullas) 19.0, 0-19; 3, Mermus R Diamonds (R Carter) 20.8, 0.4-21.2. BE90 sec M1-1, Silver Banner (R Mills) 29.8, 0.1-29.8; 2, One Cool Miller (J Green) 31.0, 0-31; 3, Silogoo B (P Booth) 32.0, 0-32. BE90 sec M2-1, Miss Anjour (E Banks) 24.0, 0.0-24.3; 2, Othello Rie (E McClane) 24.3, 0.2-26.7; 3, Cornswater Elegance (K Walters) 28.0, 0-28. BE90 sec M3-1, Enniscon Morgan (D Ireland) 29.5, 0.0-29.5; 2, B Exclusive (E Baugh) 30.3, 0.0-30.3; 3, Kneelively Puss Clover (E Harding) 33.0, 0-33.3. BE90 sec N1-1, Prince Flynn (L Mancuso) 32.0, 2.4-34.2; 2, De Goede Rees Darwin (J Jackson) 35.0, 0-35; 3, Trendy Diamond Cruiser (E Pycch) 31.5, 0.4-35.9. BE90 sec N2-1, E Moonsacre (A Norman) 29.3, 0.4-29.7; 2, Xaraxym Regal Illusion (J Butler) 28.8, 0.1-30.4; 3, Rainton Woodlander (G Bassett) 27.4, 0-31. BE90 sec V-1, Gallant Star (P Young) 26.5, 0.4-26.9; 2, Garrabyrrit Calvin (C Pearson) 27.5, 0.0-27.5; 3, Millie House (H Norman) 28.8, 0.0-28.8. BE90 sec W-1, Enjoy II (S Charley) 27.5, 0.1-28.9; 2, Lux Zee (L Poole) 28.5, 0.2-4-30.9; 3, Domino Dancer (N Keir) 31.5, 0.0-31.5. BE90 sec X-1, Toperpatrick Pride (L Care) 24.8, 0.0-24.8; 2, Allman (K Woolley) 25.5, 0.0-25.5; 3, Shannondale Tilly (L Waddington) 28.5, 0.0-28.5. BE90 sec Y-1, Vidi Vici (C Horton-Smith) 30.4, 0-34; 2, Dorissimo (G Walters) 34.0, 0-34; 3, Moorsheil Aidato (S Veat) 31.4, 0.4-35.4.

TALKING POINT

Red Noasby

COMPETITORS at Oasby were encouraged to wear an item of red clothing to raise money for Sport Relief.

In addition, organisers BEDE Ltd donated £1 from each start fee to the cause.

At the last count £1,000 had been raised.