



## Townend's stop of the Class

### Kelsall Hill (2), Cheshire

23-25 September  
By Jo Prestwich

**O**LIVER TOWNEND cruised round Kelsall Hill's rolling acres to post an easy win in the open intermediate (OI) riding Angela Hislop and Karyn Shuter's Irish-bred Ballaghmor Class.

Like Oliver's two other rides, Cooley SRS and King Joules, Ballaghmor Class was at Kelsall as a final outing before Boekelo.

"This will have set them up perfectly," said Oliver. "I let my winner stride on that bit more as he needed a good gallop for his fitness levels and the going was just perfect. This is one of the best one-day events in the country, a proper event with an excellent track and I think they should have an advanced or a CCI here. It is exceptional."

Four marks adrift of Oliver was Louise Harwood on Mr

the schooling on the flat," said Sarah. "The vets injected his back and so far so good."

Sarah was in cracking form over the weekend, also picking up a second behind Michael Owen (see box, below) in the intermediate with Jane Starkey's Browning. The combination had parted company at Gatcombe the previous week so Sarah snuck in an outing down a level in the open novice at Moreton Morrell on Friday – for second place – before heading up the motorway to Cheshire.

"She ate it up round here," said Sarah. "To be honest all credit goes to Jane as she does all the work and I sit on the mare

a couple of times a week and at competitions."

Dressage leader Willa Newton was left kicking herself after a superb test with Neelix. The pair jumped a clear round in the showjumping before cruising round the Mark Phillips-designed and David Evans-built track – but sadly without jumping fence 21.

Kelsall ran, as ever, to rave reviews with three days packed full of competition but sadly the second day was marred by the death of Susan Matthews' Rapid Desire. The former racehorse, ridden by Gareth Warburton, suffered a serious leg injury between fences on the novice course. **H&H**

### FIRST WIN

Jims Pal

MICHAEL OWEN finished off his season in great style, winning the sole intermediate section on his girlfriend

"He went to B... he struggled in the day," said Michael... it would do him... decent ground to