

Oliver Townend continues his extraordinary domination of the CIC3\*, taking the prize again with last year's winner Cooley Master Class



## Perfect 10 for Townend

A talented but fragile horse gives Oliver Townend his 10th win in the top class

**Barefoot Estates Burnham Market (1), Norfolk**

BY CATHERINE AUSTEN

OLIVER TOWNEND'S utter dominance of the CIC3\* at Burnham Market is, surely, unprecedented in eventing in Britain. He first took it in 2007 on Flint Curtis, and last Saturday won it for the 10th time. Oliver was riding Angela Hislop's Cooley Master Class, also victorious in 2016. The pair added just a single showjumping time-fault to their dressage mark of 39.2.

"I think this is the first event of the season at which I really aim to be competitive," said Oliver. "I trust the ground and the course-design here, which is why I bring

the horses here to tee them up for the bigger things to come."

Burnham Market was also a leg of the Shearwater Insurance Tri-Star Grand Slam. Izzy Taylor won the first stage at Belton, and she and Oliver are bound to target the remaining legs (Houghton, Burgham and Hartpury) and the £50,000 on offer for winning three of the five.

It was a huge class, with 115 starters, and only Cooley Master Class and Byrnesgrove First Diamond, with whom Andrew Nicholson collected a mark of 37.2, scored under 40 in the

first phase. Byrnesgrove First Diamond showjumped clear and set out across country in the lead, but the nine-year-old gelding, who is owned by Andrew's mother-in-law Mary Channer, is new to this level and jumped round comfortably for 8.4 time-faults for eventual third.

Twelve-year-old Cooley Master Class, who is by Ramiro B out of a Master Imp mare, is talented but fragile. This was only his second run since he won here last year — and only his fifth since Boekelo CCI3\* in 2014.

"He's had a few issues [he has had ligaments in a leg operated on] and now we'll find out whether they have been dealt

with," Oliver said. "He's not the toughest, but when he gets to an event, he's class."

Cooley Master Class was one of five horses to make the time round Alec Lochore's track, and second-placed Vanir Kamira was another. Trevor Dickens' 12-year-old mare, who competed at CCI4\* with Paul Tapner, has returned to Piggy French, with whom she started her career in 2012.

"I gave up the ride on her when I moved yards that winter, and when Paul cut back last season Trevor rang to ask if I'd like her back," said Piggy.

"She's not the easiest and it has taken a while to figure her out,"

### TOWNEND'S 10 BURNHAM MARKET CIC3\* WINS

- 2017: Cooley Master Class
- 2016: Cooley Master Class
- 2015: Mr Hiho
- 2014: Black Tie II and Armada (two CIC3\* sections)
- 2012: Pepper Anne
- 2010: Ashdale Cruise Master
- 2009: Flint Curtis
- 2008: Coup De Coeur
- 2007: Flint Curtis

### 'He was a 15.3hh rabbit when I backed him'

NINI FRENCH ON TIME FOR HARRY, THIRD IN THE CIC3\*, WHO NOW MEASURES 17.1HH

she continued. "She gets nervous before the jumping phases and can be nappy, but she's improving with each run and she tries hard."

It was only the pair's fourth outing together since Piggy reclaimed the ride, and they will tackle the CCI3\* at Bramham before thinking about Burghley.

Nicola Wilson and the Badminton-bound Annie Clover were fourth, and Tom Jackson was fifth on another mare, Dusty II.

The latter pairing, who won the young rider CCI2\* at Tattersall's and were on the British Nations Cup team at Waregem

last year, are ones to watch.

"She's quite feisty," observed Tom, "but she's a very exciting horse and just cruised round this course."

Tom, who jumped double clear on all of his three rides in the CIC3\*, has been having help from Pippa Funnell recently, which he said was "amazing", and is aiming for a first CC14\* with Waltham Fiddlers Find at Badminton next month.

### FUN FAMILY HORSE WINS

SARAH COHEN and Treason had a perfect start to 2017, winning the CIC2\* on their dressage mark of 37.2. Neither horse nor rider have competed since they finished 12th at Burghley last year.

Sarah explained: "He is my only horse now, and I want to make every run count [hence doing the CIC2\* rather than an open intermediate, for example], but we also try to pick events where we can see friends and have fun."

Despite that excellent Burghley result, Badminton was never on the cards.

"It's too early for us — I don't have a school at home and just do flatwork on hacks and in the field behind my house. I'd like to do the Event Rider Masters series if I can get into it, and perhaps Burghley again if all's gone well," she said.

"Treason did feel fantastic here. Because he's a family, 'fun' horse, he's relaxed about things like a dressage arena with atmosphere. I've been taking him to JP Sheffield's a few miles away to jump, and JP has really helped me with his straightness over a fence. He cruised round the cross-country and it's been a lovely boost to our confidence."

Second was Emily King on the 15-year-old Danish-bred mare Walitze F Vagard, owned by Jane del Missier. The pair finished on a clean sheet two marks behind the winners, and less than a penalty in front of third-placed Nini French and Time For Harry.

Nini bought the nine-year-old by Primitive Proposal as a three-year-old from her next-door neighbour — she had competed Time For Harry's dam, Gold Leaf.

"He's a really sweet, kind horse who has taken a bit of time because he is so tall [17.1hh], gangly and weak," said Nini, who is backed with her sister Piggy at Maidwell in Northamptonshire at the moment. "He was a 15.3hh rabbit when I backed him."

"This is his second season at intermediate level and he's much more confident and I'm having more lovely spins on him. I'm glad I took my time — he's quite



CIC2\* runners-up Emily King and the Danish-bred Walitze F Vagard finish on their dressage score behind Sarah Cohen and Treason



### PROBLEMATIC ADVANCED FENCES

ORGANISER and course-designer Alec Lochore admitted to a "fairly sleepless night" on Friday after the advanced track — which was to be ridden again in the CIC3\* on Saturday — caused more problems than expected.

"One or two of the distances hadn't quite worked as I thought they would," said Alec.

Of the 30 that ran across country, 12 had problems, five of them at the Nags Essentials Ditch and Rails. This was an angled "coffin" four fences from home on a downhill run, the first element of which appeared remarkably tall and upright. Among those caught out were Pippa Funnell, Zara Phillips, Sam Griffiths and Sarah Bullmore.

A ground rail was added and the height of the first element was reduced from 1.15m to 1.10m before the CIC3\* started, and it caused a more proportionate amount of trouble.

"I wanted to be proactive [by making the changes] — but I do think it was ridden better as well," said Alec.

Another fence that notched up a few notable victims was the second water complex, the Barefoot Estates Seaside Resort. After jumping a sizable horse in (pictured being jumped by CIC3\* runner-up Piggy French), the 90-degree turn to a log in the water four strides later was a serious question and Mark Todd's NZB Campino was just one who found themselves at a standstill in front of it. Emily King and Dargun, who set off across country on 40.2 and with a chance of finishing on the same score as the winners, also faulted here, as did Nicola Wilson and Bulana.

After a dry spring, Friday's ground was fairly firm, but a downpour on Friday night improved things for Saturday's competition and horses made a good print.

TALKING POINT

insecure about life in general and it's very nice that he now feels confident."

Japanese riders impressed in this 101-starter class: Yoshiaki Oiwa was fourth on his Rio Olympics ride The Duke Of Cavan and 10th on Calle 44, both of whom finished on their dressage marks, and Kazuma Tomoto was fifth on Brookpark Vikenti. Kazuma has showjumped to grand prix level but is a recent convert to eventing.

### THREE MORE FOR TOWNEND

AS well as the principal CIC3\* class, Oliver Townend also won the advanced, an intermediate and a novice class. He topped the advanced with Val Ryan's Lanfranco, finishing on a dressage mark of 29.

Oliver seems very fond of the 17-year-old, who has always been something of an enigma.

"He has the life of Riley — I

### 'He has the life of Riley — he knows he's kingpin and has a smile on his face because he does what he likes'

OLIVER TOWNEND ON 17-YEAR-OLD ADVANCED WINNER LANFRANCO

wish I could swap places with him," he said. "He barely ever goes in the school, he knows he is kingpin of the yard and has a smile on his face because he really does do whatever he likes. He was beautiful to ride today."

Lanfranco's former rider, Bettina Hoy, was second with Seigneur Medicott. The combination had led the dressage with 22.1, but a rail down and a sprinkling of time-faults meant they finished 1.5 penalties behind Oliver and Lanfranco.

Oliver's intermediate section J winner was Andrew Cawthray's Eceehira. The eight-year-old

thoroughbred mare — a daughter of the Juddmonte-bred sprinter/miler Three Valleys — is unbeaten this season.

"I love her," said Oliver with a grin. "She's a proper one." Angus Smales and Sean Frankham's Ballintieskin Rado are another combination on a roll — they have won both their outings this season, first at Belton and now at Burnham Market.

Angus and Sean are both amateur whippers-in to the Fennie, and Angus events Sean's young hunters in the summer.

"This one is very trainable on the flat — he did about as good

a test here as he could do at his stage — and he gave me the best ride across country I've had on him," said Angus.

"But he's an unbelievable hunter as well; we're on the cusp of having to decide whether he is a hunter or an event horse."

Harry Meade took the open

intermediate on Di Davies, Irene Graham and Anita Dalton's 16-year-old Orlando.

Harry said: "He's an old man now and I just wanted him to have an enjoyable run. I didn't set out to go fast across country, but he's a horse who has to ride positively." H&H

RESULTS	
<b>CIC3*</b> — 1, Cooley Master Class (O Townend) 39.2, 0.0=40.2; 2, Vanir Kamira (P French) 42.8, 0.0=42.8; 3, Byrnesgrove First Diamond (A Nicholson) 37.2, 0.8=44.6; <b>CIC2*</b> — 1, Treason (S Cohen) 37.2, 0.0=37.2; 2, Walitze F Vagard (E King) 39.2, 0.0=39.2; 3, Time For Harry (N French) 39.2, 0.0=39.2; <b>adv.</b> — 1, Lanfranco (O Townend) 29.0, 0.0=29.0; 2, Seigneur Medicott (B Hoy) 22.1, 4.4=30.5; 3, Kipatrick Knight (A O'Connor) 29.8, 0.1=31.4; <b>OL</b> — 1, Orlando (H Meade) 25.2, 0.0=25.2; 2, Cooley Showtime (T Price) 25.9, 0.0=25.9; 3, Mind Me (E Power) 25.4, 0.0=30.4; <b>int sec J</b> — 1, Eceehira (O Townend) 27.3, 0.0=27.3; 2, Chance Encounter VII (C Powell) 31.1, 0.0=31.1; 3, Justine Guzzi Van T Asschaert (S Oliver) 33.2, 0.1=34.4; <b>sec K</b> — 1, Ballintieskin Graf III (A Bellamy) 32.5, 0.0=33.3; <b>ON</b> — 1, Cundillgreen Birthday Girl (C Smith) 29.3, 0.0=29.3; 2, Tacoma Dhorset (K Tomoto) 29.8, 0.0=29.8; 3, Shepherds Watch (C Powell) 29.3, 0.1=30.9; <b>nov ul8</b> — 1, Cannavaro (B Upton) 25.3, 0.0=25.3; 2, Jigolo Junior (A Kilham) 28.0, 0.0=28.0; 3, Fennhill First Friend (A Pascoe) 29.5, 0.0=29.5.	
<b>nov sec H</b> — 1, Shadow Top Gun (B Hobday) 29.0, 0.0=29.0; 2, Quimira (S Bullimore) 29.8, 0.2=30.2; 3, Remeo IX (A Clark) 32.3, 0.0=32.3; <b>sec L</b> — 1, Sweeps Crystal Cruise (O Townend) 24.3, 0.0=24.3; 2, Corouet (S Bullimore) 22.8, 0.3=26.4; 3, Aberlarnach High Tide (B Hobday) 26.5, 0.0=26.5; <b>sec N</b> — 1, Cooley Monsoon (P French) 22.3, 0.2=24.7; 2, Billy Shania (G Tattersall) 27.0, 0.8=28.2; 3, Genuine Pearl (J Abraham) 27.8, 0.1=29.2; <b>sec O</b> — 1, Coruda Stavistos (V Becker) 32.5, 0.0=32.5; 2, Halaraafa (C Powell) 32.5, 0.0=32.5; 3, Billy Hopefull (G Tattersall) 32.5, 0.0=32.5; <b>BEIOopen</b> — 1, OHI Jura (R Carter) 28.3, 0.0=28.3; 2, Eto O (P Dixon) 28.5, 0.1=29.7; 3, Doctors Orders (K Walters) 31.0, 0.0=31.0; <b>BEIO sec C</b> — 1, MGF Harley Ribbe (I Taylor) 26.8, 0.0=26.8; 2, Barnardraig Boy (P Dixon) 27.3, 0.0=27.3; 3, Enjoy II (S Charley) 28.4, 0.0=28.4; 4, 2, AKO Corine (P French) 22.3, 0.2=24.2; 3, Carrick Alder Girl (A Postolovsky) 29.8, 0.0=29.8; <b>BEIOul8</b> — 1, The Texas Ranger (S Byford) 25.0, 0.0=25.0; 2, Brosna King (D Dollar) 25.4, 0.0=25.4; 3, Apaches Blaze (D Proctor) 28.5, 0.2=30.9.	



Open intermediate winners Harry Meade and Orlando



'I'm having some lovely spins on him': Nini French is rewarded for producing Time For Harry slowly, as they take third in the CIC3\*