

# 'The Euros was no fluke'

The solid frontline of 'young' British riders makes us hopeful about a new era of success for the home side

WHEN I sat down to write the opener of my Burghley report this week (p34), I dallied with the clichés about young Brits coming of age.

Then I realised the definition of young is relative — the top three riders, Oliver Townend, Piggy French and Gemma Tattersall are all in their 30s. Admittedly, fourth-placed Tom McEwen, at 26, is a generation younger.

None of these riders are new to senior level success — Oliver has won two four-stars previously, Piggy was runner-up at Badminton in 2011, Gemma is an Olympian and Tom has been to a European Championship.

But something about seeing them combined into a solid frontline makes me suddenly feel very hopeful about the next 20 or 30 years of eventing for Britain, particularly when you remember we also won a team gold medal at the European

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Championships two weeks before Burghley.

We will never know quite how much the new performance team of Dickie Waygood and Chris Bartle has created this year's success and whether it might have happened anyway. But I'd say Burghley proved the Europeans wasn't a fluke. I was fascinated to speak to Dickie at Burghley about the pair's principles for managing the team — read what he said on page 36. **H&H**

