

Townend scores a quadruple whammy

Oliver Townend is on prolific form, while Kitty King scoops a flawless win

Riseholme College Lincolnshire Horse Trials, Lincs

By LUCY ELDER

OLIVER TOWNEND dominated the scoreboard, winning a staggering four intermediate and open intermediate (OI) sections.

There was no catching the Yorkshireman, who won every section he was entered in on the final day of the event.

The entry lists for both the OI and advanced intermediate sections were peppered with equine stars, who were there for an early-season warm-up run.

"I think my cross-country times came up [on the whole] faster than anybody else, but I don't always feel like I'm going fast — they were definitely comfortable," said Oliver. "Their ears were pricked all the way."

He added "98%" of his rounds were "very smooth", bar one sticky moment on OI section T winner ODT Ghareeb at the corner combination. The 13-year-

old gelding is among Oliver's Badminton contenders.

Ballaghmor Class and Cooley SRS took the two other OI sections, and eight-year-old Ececheira stormed to a 9.8-penalty victory in intermediate section P.

Oliver took on the ride last season and the combination won the CCI* at Ballindenisk. This was the first attempt at intermediate for this ex-racehorse, who was previously partnered by Alice Montgomery.

The mare ran eight times under Rules — three on the Flat and five on all-weather — as a three- and four-year-old before her career change.

"She is a horse I'm pretty excited about," added Oliver.

Andrew Hoy's second-placed OI section T ride, Cheeky Calimbo, is improving with age,



Kitty King and her Rio ride Ceylor LAN top the AI section on 29.1



In form: Oliver Townend on one of his three OI winners, ODT Ghareeb

according to the Australian Olympic medallist.

The 15-year-old Contender gelding has form at three-star and will be aimed at the Event Rider Masters series.

"I have had him a fair few years now and he gets better and better," said Andrew.

Laura Collett was another to be

pipped to glory by Oliver, settling for second with the "amazing jumper" Mr Bass in section Q.

Laura has been focusing on Mr Bass' dressage during the off-season, which was reflected in their smart score of 23.3.

"He seems to have got a bit stronger [over the winter] and can carry himself better now,"