



Oliver Townend on his CIC2* winner Arctic Mouse, who finished bang on the optimum time.

Townend rules

A drive north pays off for Oliver Townend when he scoops top honours in the two international classes

Floors Castle, Roxburghshire

By MELANIE SCOTT

OLIVER TOWNEND dominated the international classes, claiming the Cazenove Capital Management CIC2* with Arctic Mouse and a one-two in the Strathern CIC*. He produced a masterful clear with Arctic Mouse, stopping the clock on the CIC2* optimum time to give him his 60th international win.

"I rode him as a young horse before selling him to Tamara-Jane Davis four years ago," said Oliver of the Touchdown 15-year-old.

Tamara-Jane's father died recently and Oliver has taken the ride back.

"He feels very professional in all three phases – he's an older horse with a lot of mileage and won Ballindenisik CIC3* in 2012," added Oliver, who also filled eighth with new ride Colby II.

Paul Sims was the runner-up with Last Secret, an 11-year-old mare he holds in high regard.

"She's a smart mare. I've always



CIC2* third Wills Oakden and Cooley Ramiro tackle a triple brush

GROUND CONDITIONS

WITH more than six weeks of dry weather, the ground conditions were a hot topic preceding the event, but concerns were unfounded as the going was good, with the organisers' efforts praised.

Three days of continuous ground work, including pumping 75,000 gallons of water, verti-draining and agri-vating the entire course, dressage and showjumping arenas and warmed-up arenas ensured

TALKING POINT

thought she'd go to four-star and she will go to Bramham CIC3* next," said Paul.

Wills Oakden deputised for Katherine Lindsay to fill third with Cooley Ramiro.

"I've been riding him while Katherine is at university. She's done an amazing job," said Wills, who has already ridden the Ramiro B 10-year-old to an open intermediate (OI) win at Richmond (report, p81) and open novice victory at Dalkeith.

"He was unreal today – absolutely class showjumping and flew round the cross-country. The time was tight, but he's very straight and got stuck in."

Menlo Park was Oliver's CIC* victor. They added nothing to their 36.5 dressage to remain in front, finishing nine penalties clear of second-placed Sweeps Crystal Cruise.

Wills was third, only 0.5 of a penalty away with joint organiser Cindy Onslow's Dreamrain Star Attraction.

RESULTS

CIC2* – 1. Arctic Mouse (O Townend) 41.3.0.0=44.3.2, Last Secret (P Sims) 44.9.0.0=44.9.3, Cooley Ramiro (W Oakden) 46.2.0.2=48.6. **CIC*** – 1. Menlo Park (O Townend) 36.5.0.0=36.5; 2. Sweeps Crystal Cruise (O Townend) 38.1.1.6=44.5.5; 3. Dreamrain Star Attraction (W Oakden) 45.2.0.0=46. **OL** – 1. Aberlathern High Tide (B Hobday) 29.0.3.2=32.5.2; Arctic Cruising (P Nixon) 32.7.0.4=36.7; 3. Etilla (J Atkinson) 32.3.0.5.2=37.5. **ON** – 1. VIP IV (L Riley) 30.0.0=30; 2. Devonair SH (C Wisher) 31.0.0=31; 3. Regal Mix (A King) 22.0.10=32. **NuL8** – 1. Silver Touch (L Crawford) 26.0.0=26; 2. Harbour Lights (L Botterell) 27.0.0=27; 3. Ballintore Harry (L Crawford) 31.0.0=31. **nov sec D** – 1. Grand Armour (A K Magee) 29.8.0.4=33.8; 2. Mile High (E Parker) 34.8.0.0=34.8; 3. Shadow Walker (J Atkinson) 32.3.4.0=35.3; **sec 1** – 1. Silvercroft Kenny (J King) 22.3.0.1.2=23.5; 2. Crime Scene (D Crawford) 28.5.0.0=28.5; 3. Cara Touch (K Corder) 28.8.0.2.8=31.6. **BEIOU open** – 1. Bridgemark Cottage Lady (D Cross) 31.8.0.0=31.8; 2. Hi Silver (E Rowell) 32.5.0.0=32.5; 3. Apollonia (E Galbraith) 32.0.1.2=33.2. **BEIOU sec 1** – 1. Jake XIV (K Veitch) 33.0.0=33; 2. SBT Ballinacree (E Galbraith) 34.0.0=34; 3. Hilton Cooley (K Lindsay) 33.0.1.2=34.5. **sec M** – 1. Wise Guy (A Aspin) 29.0.0=29; 2. Darwood Peri (E Galbraith) 30.8.0.0=30.8; 3. HD The One (H Mutch) 23.3.8.0=31.3. **sec O** – 1. Clover Girl Cooley (E Parker) 31.3.0.0=31.3; 2. Cheekbook Charlie

(S Cruikshank) 33.0.0=33; 3. A Class Cooley (W Oakden) 33.8.0.0=33.8. **sec P** – 1. Zuccheros Deff Leppard (W Oakden) 28.3.4.0=28.3; 2. Samuel (C Marshall) 27.8.0.0=27.8; 3. PRF Divo Mail (P Nixon) 28.3.0.0=28.3. **sec Q** – 1. Balmagray Lancelot (L Webster) 32.5.0.0=32.5; 2. Sella Mark Wish (J Pitt) 30.5.4.1.2=35.7; 3. Tayvate Georgina (W Oakden) 35.0.0.8=35.8. **BEIOU8** – 1. Casper Z (E Macaulay) 26.5.0.0=26.5; 2. Black Jasio (J Agoo) 29.5.0.0=29.5; 3. Ebene (D Cross) 32.8.0.0=29.8. **BE90 open** – 1. Loughnatosa Edward (L Forty) 30.3.0.3.6=33.9; 2. Templetover Miss Bailey (S Nixon) 33.5.0.4.8=36.3; 3. Rockwood Joy (F Pearson) 40.8.0.0=40.8. **BE90 sec E** – 1. Peak A Boo II (H Cooper) 30.3.0.0=30.3; 2. Rainton Woodlander (G Bassett) 28.3.4.0=28.3; 3. Flashed By (J Large) 30.5.4.0=34.5. **sec F** – 1. Strike It Lucky (E Nicholson) 27.5.4.0=31.5; 2. Kaleidoscope Callisto (E Atkinson) 28.8.0.4.8=33.6; 3. Touch Of Faerie Magic (G Campbell) 33.8.0.0=33.8. **sec G** – 1. Highlight K (J Pearson) 27.8.0.0=27.8; 2. CSF Teddy (A King) 29.3.0.0=29.3; 3. Wet Canvas (R Clark) 30.5.0.0=30.5. **sec H** – 1. Monberg Salfar (S O'Neil) 25.8.0.2=25.8; 2. Rossbill Paddy (A England) 30.5.0.4.0=30.9; 3. Westerlake Buttowen (K Wood) 30.8.0.8=31.6. **sec I** – 1. Good Enough II (S O'Neil) 27.0.0=27; 2. Primitive Dolly Bird (Z Dawson) 26.8.1.0=27.8; 3. Jubilee Secret (C Hudson) 34.0.0.0=34. **sec U** – 1. Armore Mr Slipper (K Sanders) 23.8.0.0=23.8; 2. Tinkas Secret (J Cross) 32.3.0.0=32.3; 3. Tino II (B Walker) 28.5.4.0=28.5.

the ground was excellent.

"We all appreciate the effort made to get the ground good for us," said Wills Oakden.

Oliver Townend added: "More people should make the trip up, the event is first class and ground is always good."

"I like coming here," said Ben Hobday. "They look after you, there's good prize money and the ground is good, plus there's a bar in the secretary's tent."

Paul Sims said: "It was a big, bold course that rode well and the distances are on forward strides. Nothing is designed to catch the horses out."

"He's for sale but I'd love to keep the ride. He's consistent – this is his fourth double clear this season and we just popped round for fun," said Wills.

Ben Hobday topped the OI with Aberlathern High Tide, owned by horseandhound.co.uk blogger Hero Douglas. "Heidi" is an eight-year-old by the Welsh cob stallion Brofana Bonny Boy.

"I used to teach Hero, but now she works in London and I've taken over the ride," explained Ben. "This is Heidi's first intermediate; she's a careful jumper and when I say jump, she says, 'How high?' I put her into gear and put my foot down today."

The rider also finished fifth with Mulrys Error.

Jamie Atkinson was third with the exciting eight-year-old Etilla.

"She's talented but can be feisty at competitions," said Jamie. "She's ready for advanced and I'd like to aim for Blenheim's eight- and nine-year-old championships." **H&H**