

Top British riders will compete in a new big-money US arena challenge, upcoming youngsters head to France and the Buntines have reason to celebrate

New York calling for Townend and Fox-Pitt

RECENT Burghley winner Oliver Townend will team up with William Fox-Pitt to represent Britain on borrowed horses in a new arena competition which brings eventing into the heart of New York City for the first time.

The Rolex Central Park Horse Show runs 20-24 September in Wollman Rink, which hosts ice skating in winter. The show has been running since 2014 and eventing has joined the schedule this year after the withdrawal of top competitors forced the cancellation of the dressage CDI which usually forms part of the line-up.

"The idea of riding at the show very much appealed," said Oliver. "I like to go to America — there are lots of new opportunities over there."

"I'm just going for three days to compete and for a bit of a busman's holiday. I'm looking forward to it. I've been through New York before when travelling to events, but never spent any time there."

The arena eventing will take



place at 8pm on Saturday, 23 September, with a total prize fund of \$50,000 (£37,700). Twenty-four riders will compete, with two Australian teams, a Canadian team and eight American teams as well as the British pair.

The teams will be named after significant New York City landmarks, including a "soon-to-be iconic 'Big Apple' jump".

The competition will be run as a relay-style speed contest, with riders competing over a themed course designed by Mark Phillips.

Two seconds will be added to the team's score for each jumping fault and the top six teams after round one will make it through to the "money round" to vie for a share of the prize fund and the title of US open arena eventing champions.

RANKINGS ROUND-UP

Leaders on 13 September

World rankings

Michael Jung (GER)

British Eventing lists

LEADING RIDER

Oliver Townend

LEADING HORSE

Bulana, owned by Jo and James Lambert, ridden by Nicola Wilson

GOLDMAN CUP (UNDER-21)

Emily King

BRITANNIA LEAGUE

Will Furlong and his own Collien P2

CALVER WEALTH MANAGEMENT TWO-STAR LEAGUE

The Quiet Man, owned and ridden by Sam Ecroyst

GATEHOUSE ONE-STAR LEAGUE

Bobby Upton, riding Rachel Upton's Eros DH1

FOUNDATION POINTS RIDER

Nicola Wilson

FOUNDATION POINTS HORSE

Think Tank Think, owned and ridden by Sophia Icke

MITSUBISHI MOTORS CUP RIDER LEAGUE

Samantha Jimmisson

MITSUBISHI MOTORS CUP HORSE LEAGUE

Think Tank Think

Competitors include former Kentucky winner Clayton Fredericks and US Olympians Phillip Dutton and Boyd Martin.