

# 10 of the *greats*



Five top-five places in five Burghley and Badminton starts puts Oliver Townend's ride Ballaghmor Class firmly in the top echelons of eventing.

## Ballaghmor Class

THE 13-year-old is the only one of our Burghley greats still competing, but he has more than earned his place, having already finished first, second and third at the Stamford event.

He has also been second and fifth at Badminton – not many horses can boast five top-five places from their five British eventing classic starts.

Owned by Karyn Shuter, Angela Hislop and Val Ryan, the son of Courage II is a beautiful, flea-bitten grey, and every inch an athlete.

Ballaghmor Class was just 10 and at his first top-level competition when he won Burghley in 2017. Although Oliver admitted at the time that “Thomas” could be extremely quirky at home, the horse’s scope meant the

rider was confident to bring him to the event.

“I knew he wasn’t going to scare himself with a fence as long as I did my job, which is why in my mind it was ok to bring him,” said Oliver.

The grey has improved every year since as he has become established at the level, leading Oliver to remark after his cross-country at Burghley last year: “What can I say – he’s perfect.” H&H

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Who are your Burghley greats? What are your favourite Burghley memories? Write to [hletters@futurenet.com](mailto:hletters@futurenet.com)