

BURGHLEY WINNER KEEPS IMPROVING

BALLAGHMOR CLASS finished on his second-placed dressage score of 20.5 to land section B. Oliver Townend said the 2017 Burghley winner – who belongs to Karyn Shuter, Angela Hislop and Val Ryan – feels “better than he’s ever been”, particularly on the flat.

“I can’t tell you how much he’s come on – I know he’s always done good tests at big events, but I think his work has gone up another level,” he said.

“He just cantered round the cross-country and makes everything feel very easy. A lot of effort had been put into the course, which was good to see.”

Ros Canter’s ride Lordships Graffalo was the only horse to best Ballaghmor Class in the dressage, with 18.9, and finished second.

Oliver had a horse in each section, with Miss Cooley fifth in section A and Tregilder ninth in section E, while Cooley Rosalent and the double Kentucky winner Cooley Master Class were run very steadily across country.

“We weren’t there to win rosettes, but just to have an outing and take a step forward from it,” said Oliver. “Hopefully the world

afford his six time-faults.

“He benefits from outings, but everyone’s been limited in what they could do in winter,” said Piggy. “He was spooky and fresh jumping, but his class gets him through – it does me good to be reminded he’s not totally golden balls.”

TALKING POINT

The Lancer Stud’s Fonbherm Lancer (pictured) was the victor in section E as he starts his

will return to being able to plan something and work backwards from it.”

Oliver’s was the largest winning margin of the day – eight marks – while Laura Collett was just 0.9 of a penalty ahead in section D, which she led from start to finish on last autumn’s Pau winner London 52, who belongs to Keith Scott and Karen Bartlett and his rider.

“He was mega. I let him dictate the pace across country and he cruised round,” she said. “It’s just nice to have him feeling like he’s started where he left off last year. The course was perfect for what we all needed and the ground was brilliant.”

Laura was also second in section A on Dacapo. He shared the dressage lead with 2019 Badminton winner Vanir Kamira,

