



A five-star feast

The 2019 top two could repeat their results in a rematch, says *H&H* eventing editor *Pippa Roome* as she previews the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event

Joint favourite for this year's event, Oliver Townend is looking to defend his 2018 and 2019 titles aboard Cooley Master Class



KENTUCKY has had a tumultuous build-up this year. After initially cancelling, the organisers were persuaded to go ahead with the event behind closed doors after a crowd-funding effort raised over \$550,000 (about £400,000).

Seventy-five horses were entered from eight nations and even allowing for the natural wastage in the run-up to any five-star, this should yield a strong starting field for the

only five-star of the 2021 spring season.

Oliver Townend has three entered and a chance to defend his title on the 2018 and 2019 winner, Cooley Master Class, while fellow five-star winner Ballaghmor Class could equally grace the winners' enclosure. The Brit starts as joint favourite with the home side's biggest hope, Boyd Martin on Tsetserleg TSE. This pair were second to Oliver and Cooley Master Class in 2019 and a repeat battle will ensue.

Looking to Tokyo selection for the US team,

Boyd and Phillip Dutton should be shoe-ins, but the third space is wide open and as well as Lauren Nicholson, Liz Halliday-Sharp and Marilyn Little (see right), many others will hope to make a splash – in a good way, rather than by falling in the Head of the Lake. Keep an eye on Hannah Sue Burnett (Harbour Pilot), Will Coleman (Off The Record), Doug Payne (Vandiver) and Tamie Smith (Mai Baum).

This will be an important selection trial for the Canadians too, with six pairs entered, including three from the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Lisa Marie Fergusson (Honor Me), Hawley Bennett-Awad (Jollybo) and Colleen Loach (Qorry Blue D'Argoues), who was also at the Rio Olympics on the same horse.

Aside from Oliver's entries, 11 other horses fly in from Europe to represent Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Germany. The retirement of Julia Krajewski's Samourai Du That opens up the German Olympic selection and creates particular interest around Anna Siemer's Kentucky result.

Don't forget Britain's 2004 Olympic champion Leslie Law, who has lived in the US since 2005. He is unlikely to trouble the dressage leaders, but jumped a double clear here for 10th with *Voltaire De Tre'* in 2019 and was recently third in a CCI4*-S. **H&H**

HOW TO FOLLOW

- Kentucky runs from 22 to 25 April, with the traditional eventing schedule of dressage on Thursday and Friday, cross-country on Saturday and showjumping on Sunday. Each day, the CCI4*-S competition is in the morning and the CCI5* in the afternoon.
- Kentucky is five hours behind Britain, so if you're following from Britain, the CCI4*-S will be on in the afternoon and the CCI5* in the evening each day.
- Find the full timetable, entries and results at kentuckythreedayevent.com
- *Horse & Hound* will cover Kentucky online with full daily analysis of the action. Visit horseandhound.co.uk
- Our magazine report from Kentucky and an opinion column from Mark Phillips, who will be attending the event, run in the 29 April issue.
- Hear Boyd Martin talking about his hopes for Kentucky on *The Horse & Hound Podcast* episode out 15 April and we will review the event on the 29 April podcast. Visit horseandhound.co.uk/podcast or search in your usual podcast app.
- In Britain, watch the action by subscribing to H&C+ from £5.99 a month. Visit horseandcountry.tv for full details
- In the US, viewing is free via the USEF Network: usef.org/network