



Winner Boyd Martin, pictured with his sons Nox and Leo, and flanked by runner-up Oliver Townend (left) and third-placed Tim Price

## MARYLAND FIVE-STAR

**1st Boyd Martin (USA)**  
on On Cue  
**2nd Oliver Townend (GBR)**  
on Cooley Master Class  
**3rd Tim Price (NZL)**  
on Xavier Faer

Oliver said he took his hat off to Ian for this first Maryland design: "Obviously the rain they normally have here would have changed the whole competition and the difficulty designing a five-star in America is there's quite a big gap between the top horses and those here for experience or trying to get round. Ian will know now horses can get home and as with all course-designers, we expect nothing but progression from this point." **H&H**



Oliver Townend and double Kentucky winner Cooley Master Class are the long-time leaders, finishing second by the tiniest margin

but he fell in love with America and having moved over in 2006, changed nationality in 2008.

The US must be hopeful of a change in the tide, coupling this result with a recent win at Aachen for Will Coleman and team seconds at Aachen and Beekelo.

The last day of Maryland felt like a re-run of Kentucky, with the overnight placings echoing those from the spring – Oliver Townend led on both occasions, albeit on Ballaghmore Class at Kentucky and Cooley Master Class here, with Boyd riding On Cue second overnight at Kentucky and third here, swapping places with Tim Price on Xavier Faer.

Boyd, who landed up fourth at Kentucky, knew he had to jump clear and inside the time to have a chance of winning this time and On Cue tapped virtually every upright, but came away fault-free. When Tim and then Oliver both had a fence down, victory was his.

This was a grand performance by Angela Hislop's 16-year-old double Kentucky winner Cooley Master Class. His dressage test was in a class of its own for a personal best mark of 21.1, he dug deep to make the cross-country time despite not being the most blood horse and gave Oliver his brain – as the rider put it – to help him at the fences where he felt uncertain.

"We're very happy with the way our horse went and very happy



New Zealand's Jonelle Price finishes in eighth place on veteran campaigner and 2018 Badminton winner Classic Moet

for Boyd as well," said Oliver. "He's taken some knocks, the sport's tough and we've all scrapped ourselves off the floor.

"Boyd and Tim are riders I have huge respect for and this shows that normal people – we're all definitely normal people – can make it to the pinnacle of the sport if they work hard. That's a message I want to get out to any kid thinking they can't do it because they're not from a wealthy background."

Third-placed Xavier Faer, a 15-year-old owned by his breeder Trisha Rickards, Nigella Hall and Tim, was securing his fourth top-three placing at five-star. Tim's wife Jonelle was



## ON CUE'S BRITISH BREEDING STORY

**WINNER** On Cue is British-bred, from the dynasty raised in Yorkshire by Alyse Clancey and her daughter Jolyse Bell-Syer (née Clancey).

On Cue (by Cabri D'Elle) is a great granddaughter of the Clanceys' foundation mare Augermist (by the Hanoverian Augermann, out of a mare by a thoroughbred sire), who Alyse competed at Badminton and Burghley. On Cue's dam On High (pictured with Jolyse at Rolleston in 2008) competed to current three-star level, while her grand-dam On Song was a junior team bronze medalist in 2004 under Jolyse.

On Cue has two progeny, one by Trakehner stallion Rusticus and one by the thoroughbred Mystic Replica, damsire of Doug Payne's Tokyo Olympic ride Vandiver.

IN THE GENES

## TERRAIN AND A CRAB

**THIS** was Ian Stark's five-star cross-country course-design debut and it produced plenty of talking points. The terrain was the main one – Oliver said it was "more intense than Burghley" because of the repeated steep climbs and drops – and there were some unusual fences.

Oliver added: "Ian was a big hero of mine, a very brave rider and he's a brave course-designer. I have faith in him. If we do our jobs and look after our horses, we can create an exciting day."

Perhaps the most discussed fence was the Md Crab Water presented by Mars Sustainability Bay, at the turning point of the course, which ran out and back on virtually parallel tracks.

Numbered as fence 15abdef, the straight route involved jumping in over a suspended skinny crab (15ab), across the water and up a bank with a dry ditch in front of it (15cd), a stride to a hanging log (15e) and three strides to a triple brush arrowhead (15f). In the event, the majority took the direct route here without problems, with just one refusal at the crab.

Will Coleman was the first finisher, coming home with 3.6 time-faults on DonDante, having taken the long route at the Brown Advisory-Oriole Bird Water (fence 27ab), which many did to avoid jumping the birds, at which tired