



Oliver Townend storms to victory in the CCI3*-S aboard Tregilder, one of only two combinations to finish on their dressage score



'He gave me a fantastic ride'

Oliver Townend sings the praises of "high-class" Tregilder as they win on their dressage score, and a final competition outing ends in triumph for one university-bound rider

Baileys Horse Feeds Somerford Park, Cheshire

OLIVER TOWNEND and Tregilder put in a foot-perfect performance to win the Baileys Horse Feeds CCI3*-S on their dressage score of 26.6, one of only two combinations to achieve the feat, the other being Piggy March in third with Cooley Goodwood.

"He had a bit of a wobble at Houghton, so he's had a couple of confidence-giving runs and is heading for the five-star at Bicton," explained Oliver of the horse belonging to the Hazeldines and Mitchell Fox Group.

"He's a high-class horse I think a lot of and he gave me a fantastic ride round here. What a special event - everything is done foremost for horse and rider and the rest just slots into place

By JO PRESTWICH

behind that. The facilities are amazing, but the organisation and team behind it are just as good."

Oliver was last to go round the brilliant David Evans track, overtaking long-time leader Sam Lissington and her home-bred Ricker Ridge Ricochet. Sam, who made the long trip from New Zealand in 2019 with four horses, is aiming the mare at Osberton to finish the season.

"When I was moving to the UK, I hadn't planned on bringing her. With home-breds you don't know how special they are, but a couple of people asked why I wasn't taking her, so I did," said Sam. "She's kept on improving and ticks all the right boxes. I love her.

"It's the first time I've been to Somerford but it won't be the

last. They did a great job keeping going, the ground was as good as it could be and the tracks were great - challenging but confidence giving at the same time."

Oliver could hardly have started the weekend better, winning section E of the open intermediate (OI) with Paul and Diana Ridgion's Swallow Springs. The event was the first time he'd sat on the horse, who has been ridden to five-star level by Andrew Nicholson.

"What a special event. The facilities and team are amazing"

OLIVER TOWNEND

"Andrew brought him up and has taken him back home, but we're meeting again at Blenheim," said Oliver. "It was a real privilege to ride one of the best horses in the world. He is beautifully produced and so adjustable.

"Andrew told me just to let him run as he came back to you so quickly, but I forgot and sat up coming into the coffin [at get an extra stride - the ABS [automatic braking system] kicked in. What a horse!"]

"SHE DESERVED THE WIN TODAY"

A DELIGHTED Tarka Abrahams headed up the Rookery Park Stud CCI2*-S with her own Jarisa. The combination were fourth after dressage, but took advantage of overnight leader Amy Hawley and Treamble rolling a pole



Bill Levett and Lates Quin top OI section F, the horse's first BE win