### TOKYO OLYMPICS

### Team medals after dressage























Astrong

position'

Britain lead despite none of the trio

doing their best test, while favourite

Michael Jung is a class apart

IT was a mark of the Brits'

riders were to some degree

the conclusion of this phase.

extraordinary strength coming

into this Olympics that all three

disappointed after their dressage,

and yet they held the team gold at

With Team GB drawn early,

Oliver Townend was second to go

with Ballaghmor Class on Friday

"Maybe he

didn't realise

everyone was

watching on TV

at home'

Oliver described as "a very safe

nines for a final mark of 23.6.

there's no crowd, there's no

create enough of their own

test" - they only scored two marks

below a seven and had a couple of

"We know he's special and I'm

just very grateful to him for a clear

round in there. You think because

atmosphere, but these stadiums

atmosphere to push horses into

lacking concentration," he said,

adding of his score: "On my own

LAURA COLLETT ON LONDON 52

morning. The pair put in what





but I think it's a very good starting

It proved much more than

that. The judges - Britain's Nick

Burton, the USA's Jane Hamlin

and Sweden's Christina Klingspor

- resisted any temptation towards

mark inflation as the competition

progressed and Oliver found nimself the overnight leader

after the second team rotation.

By the end of the sole Saturday session, only one horse had gone

ahead of him, so he held the

individual silver position going

London 52, made no obvious

The second British team horse,

mistakes - his marks came down a

touch in a couple of flying changes

but were otherwise solid. But he

eemed to shrink in the arena,

rather than showing off for the

score of 21 Laura Collett could

be pleased with a 25, but on a

appointing," said Laura.

"He was quite naughty

yesterday and then came out this

morning and was lovely. But this

going - maybe he did his work this

morning. He was more like the old

London 52, who would suck back

afternoon, he just wasn't really

horse like him it is obviously

pegged at 25.8.

reasonably have expected. He was

know some people would

mark for the team."

Individual medals

after dressage

Michael Jung on



Team medals

after cross-country









**TOKYO** OLYMPICS









Laura Collett on

Individual medals

after cross-country

Oliver Townend on
Ballaghmor Class

Cross-country

# Britain's flawless day

Team GB's trio excel as an eventful cross-country day shuffles both the team and individual team standings

OLIVER TOWNEND previewed US designer Derek di Grazia's course as an intense "four-anda-half star" on which it would be difficult to get the 7min 45sec optimum time.

"You're always on the climb or the camber or in the water or in a combination," he said.

"But the questions are extremely fair and it's very horse friendly. If you took each fence individually there wouldn't be too many problems, but when you add the heat, the terrain, the Olympic pressure and then speed, it's going sometimes make the wrong

failed to remember the right options and were eliminated for missing elements out or jumping them twice.

Irish rider Sam Watson said: "There are not many one-stride distances at all and very few two-stride distances, so not many fences where you can just jump in and then momentum takes you through. You've got to jump in and either hold your line or attack the line. You've got to make choices, so when you're doing that many times, you could find people

### "The bottom line is that he wants to do his job more than most horses"

OLIVER TOWNEND ON BALLAGHMOR CLASS

to cause a lot of trouble. "There are no tricks. Derek doesn't try to catch horses out, he builds see-able questions and lets speed and terrain do the job

The site, Sea Forest, is an island of reclaimed land and space was tight, with multiple turnbacks, but Derek managed to maintain the flow. The long routes were on smooth outer lines to avoid tiring

horses by looping back. He was also clever in the way that fences were numbered so that at four of the combinations, once you had jumped in the direct way, you were committed to continuing on the quickest route. Four riders

in the arena and not really take me, though he hasn't shown any signs of that this week or this year "He is a show-off and maybe

decision and get into trouble." Italy's Vittoria Panizzon pointed out: "The warm-up is down the bottom of the hill and then you go right up the top to start so the horses won't have seen what's going on, what environment they're in. It's going be a bit of a surprise when you suddenly set off."

#### AT THE EXTREMES

THE first two riders showed the extremes of cross-country. Thailand's pathfinder, Arinadtha "Mint" Chavatanont, fell at the log into the first water at fence five when Bolevbawn Prince seemed to fail to get his landing gear out

properly. This was the only horse fall of the day and neither horse nor rider were injured.

Then the British challenge started. Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class made the course look incredibly easy, cruising through all the straight routes and finishing five seconds inside the optimum time

Oliver explained: "Early on I The US's Doug Payne followed thought he was slightly running and had 6.8 time-faults on andiver. The rider said: "We away with me - in fact, in a always expected to be down at the couple of places I thought he was first minute and then he's quite in control. But once he got into strong through the second and the course I started picking up

good quick, big, fast distances -

straightforward fences and he

answered beautifully.

almost racing distances - to the

"His mentality makes him

special more than anything - he

is tough in every aspect of life,

quirky, but the bottom line is that

he wants to do his job more than

# 'A clever course'

Britain's trio secure the gold with a significant margin as the team standings remain unchanged in the final phase



to feel it was edge of the seat stuff. But a terrifying moment in Laura Collett's round reminded us all that nothing is guaranteed with horses

As London 52 approached the water tray, the lights shone on it and "he just suddenly seemed to draw back", as Laura put it. Taking off too far away, he put down in

Germany's trio of clears, saying they had practised jumping under lights at home and she finds it super cool". As Germany moved up to fourth, the USA slipped back to sixth, with all three of their riders having faults.

New Zealand could keep the pressure on France and Australia if Tim Price jumped clear, but he and Vitali had a miscommunication" down the line to the triple.

"That got us there wrong and set the tone for a little bit of a noment later on, so I think if that hadn't happened, it might have been a slightly different day for us," said Tim, who finished with

New Zealand's chance was gone - though in the event, clears from France and Australia's final riders, Christopher Six (Totem De Brecey) and Andrew Hoy (Vassily De Lassos), secured the silver and

## "All three of us are self-proclaimed eventing geeks, so we're very aware of the past"

the middle of the fence. Laura did well to stick with him and get everything back together to clear the following combination.

"He doesn't like hitting them so he wasn't going to have another one after taking however many poles with him," said Laura, "I

Oliver Townend followed

him, but dropped to fifth when

Ballaghmor Class tipped off the

"He's a jumper who finds a rail

most rounds, but at the same time

athlete, and I've got no complaints

is still always very competitive,"

said Oliver. "He's a phenomenal

about any of his performance."

upright at fence two.

bronze and even a clear from Tim could not have changed that. "Nicolas told me just before

I went into the ring that there was a little margin [to stay on the podium]. I did my best to ride well and go clear," said Christopher

Oliver Townend went into the

arena with four fences in hand to secure the team gold - not that he was aware of it.

"I try to go in there and jump a clear inside the time, that was my job," he said. It wasn't quite to be - the

bogev fence at 9a came down, which those watching knew would almost certainly cost Oliver the individual title, though team gold was comfortably secured.

England may not have brought football home this summer, but

for British eventing fans - glued to their televisions to watch, including in the antisocially early hours of the morning for cross-country - this was the one that mattered

"The last British eventing team gold was before our time, but all eventing geeks, so we're very aware of the past and the names in that roll of honour. To join that

three of us are self-proclaimed bunch of names is a very special feeling," summed up Oliver.



Team Australia celebrate a podium place, taking silver

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#### **HORSE & RIDER GREAT BRITAIN** Toledo De Kerser (Tom McEwen) London 52 (Laura Collett) Ballaghmor Class (Oliver Townend) 32.1 0 2.8 0 0 34.9 Don Quidam (Kevin McNab

# Individual scores

**Team scores** 

Virgil (Shane Rose)

FRANCE

assily De Lassos (Andrew Hoy

Absolut Gold (Nicolas Touzaint)

Triton Fontaine (Karim Florent Laghouag)

Totem De Brecey (Christopher Six)

HORSE & RIDER		Se .	Q.	Char	de	cha.	de	
Amande De B'Neville (Julia Krajewski, GER)	25.2	0	0.4	0	0	0	0.4	26
Toledo De Kerser (Tom McEwen, GBR)	28.9	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	29.3
Vassily De Lassos (Andrew Hoy, AUS)	29.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	29.6
Vinci De La Vigne (Kazuma Tomoto, JPN)	25.9	0	1.6	4	0	0	0.4	31.9
Ballaghmor Class (Oliver Townend, GBR)	23.6	0	0	4	0	4	0.8	32.4
Absolut Gold (Nicolas Touzaint, FRA)	33.1	0	0.4	0	0.4	0	0	33.9
Totem De Brecey (Christopher Six, FRA)	29.6	0	1.6	0	0	4	0	35.2
Chipmunk FRH (Michael Jung, GER)	21.1	11	0	0	0	4	0	36.1
London 52 (Laura Collett, GBR)	25.8	0	0	4	0	8	0	37.8
Virgil (Shane Rose, AUS)	31.7	0	0	4	0	4	0	39.7
Cravina Da Bass / Innalla Drina 3171 \	20.7	^	1	^	^	^	10	** ^