

Team medals after dressage



Dressage

'A strong 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' extraordinary strength coming into this Olympics that all three riders were to some degree disappointed after their dressage, and yet they held the team gold at the conclusion of this phase.

With Team GB drawn early, Oliver Townend was second to go with Ballaghmor Class on Friday morning. The pair put in what

"Maybe he didn't realise everyone was watching on TV at home"

LAURA COLLETT ON LONDON 52

Oliver described as "a very safe test" – they only scored two marks below a seven and had a couple of nines for a final mark of 23.6.

"We know he's special and I'm just very grateful to him for a clear round in there. You think because there's no crowd, there's no atmosphere, but these stadiums create enough of their own atmosphere to push horses into lacking concentration," he said, adding of his score: "On my own terms, I'd want a little bit more

Individual medals after dressage



Team medals after cross-country



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-and-a-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

"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 for him."

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

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 sometimes make the wrong

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 to 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 Boleybawn Prince seemed to fall 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 thought he was slightly running away with me – in fact, in a couple of places I thought he was in control. But once he got into the course I started picking up

Showjumping

'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

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

OLIVER TOWNEND ON MAKING HISTORY

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

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 moment 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 12 faults.

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

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 bogey 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 antisocial 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 three of us are self-proclaimed eventing geeks, so we're very aware of the past and the names in that roll of honour. To join that bunch of names is a very special feeling," summed up Oliver.



Team Australia celebrate a podium place, taking silver

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Team scores

HORSE & RIDER

	Average	Cross-country faults	Cross-country time	Showjumping 1 faults	Showjumping 1 time	Showjumping 2 faults	Showjumping 2 time	TOTAL
1 GREAT BRITAIN								
Toledo De Kerster (Tom McEwen)	28.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	28.9
London 52 (Laura Collett)	25.8	0	0	4	0	0	0	29.8
Ballaghmor Class (Oliver Townend)	23.6	0	0	4	0	0	0	27.6
Total								86.3
2 AUSTRALIA								
Don Quidam (Kevin McNab)	32.1	0	2.8	0	0	0	0	34.9
Virgil (Shane Rose)	31.7	0	0	4	0	0	0	35.7
Vassily De Lassos (Andrew Hoy)	29.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	29.6
Total								100.2
3 FRANCE								
Absolut Gold (Nicolas Touzaint)	33.1	0	0.4	0	0.4	0.4	0.4	33.9
Triton Fontaine (Karim Florent Laghouag)	32.4	0	0	4	0	0	0	36.4
Totem De Brecey (Christopher Six)	29.6	0	1.6	0	0	0	0	31.2
Total								101.5

Individual scores

HORSE & RIDER

	Average	Cross-country faults	Cross-country time	Showjumping 1 faults	Showjumping 1 time	Showjumping 2 faults	Showjumping 2 time	TOTAL
1 Amade De B'Neville (Julia Krajewski, GER)								
25.2	0	0.4	0	0	0	0.4	0.4	26
2 Toledo De Kerster (Tom McEwen, GBR)								
28.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	29.3
3 Vassily De Lassos (Andrew Hoy, AUS)								
29.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29.6
4 Vinci De La Vigne (Kazuma Tomoto, JPN)								
25.9	0	1.6	4	0	0	0.4	0.4	31.9
5 Ballaghmor Class (Oliver Townend, GBR)								
23.6	0	0	4	0	4	0.8	0.8	32.4
6 Absolut Gold (Nicolas Touzaint, FRA)								
33.1	0	0.4	0	0.4	0	0	0.4	33.9
7 Totem De Brecey (Christopher Six, FRA)								
29.6	0	1.6	0	0	4	0	0	35.2
8 Chipmunk FRH (Michael Jung, GER)								
21.1	11	0	0	0	4	0	0	36.1
9 London 52 (Laura Collett, GBR)								
25.8	0	0	4	0	8	0	0	37.8
10 Virgil (Shane Rose, AUS)								
31.7	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	39.7