

Five-star prospect triumphs

A "playful character" gives Oliver Townend a fifth intermediate championship win

OLIVER TOWNEND added to his impressive tally of British championship victories when securing the Aston Martin Bristol British intermediate championship.

Riding John and Victoria Peace's En Taro Des Vernier, Oliver capitalised on a speedy

horse, who previously mainly showjumped, from France.

"He's a machine to ride across country and a nice jumper and he has a really nice personality about him. He's a playful character, he deserves this win and we think he's a good one."

"He's so desperate to please"

OLIVER TOWNEND ON EN TARO DES VERNIER

cross-country round. He clocked the joint second-fastest round of the day for four time-faults to complete on 36.4, adding four showjumping faults to a 28.4 dressage.

"I think he's a very, very good horse. He's one of those that isn't flash on the flat in comparison to the modern-day lot, but I think you'll see him at proper five-stars," said Oliver, who purchased this

Speaking of plans for the rest of this season, Oliver said not to be surprised to see En Taro Des Vernier at a top-level event.

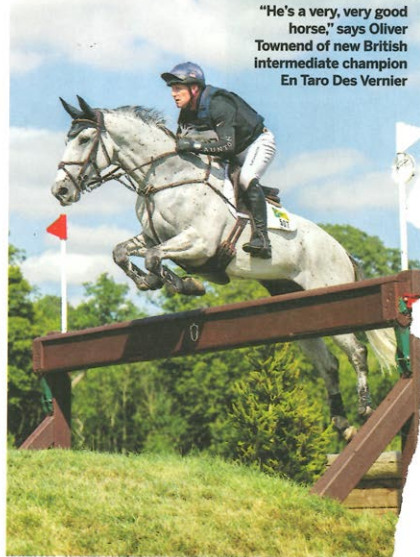
"He could end up at a five-star at the end of this year. He's so enthusiastic across country – he's probably the first one I've ever had that you're almost pulling him off the corners – he almost tries to do it too well, which is an

incredible feeling when you're jumping skinnies on angles and you're telling him, 'Not the wide bit', but he's so desperate to please."

Oliver said that he thought the track at Hartpury was a "proper" test.

"It was like riding around a four-star with the terrain taken into account, which is exactly what you want for a championship course. It was

"He's a very, very good horse," says Oliver Townend of new British intermediate champion En Taro Des Vernier



as tough as you could have it really. Obviously we've lost Gatcombe, which is the saddest thing in my eventing life, but at the same time it's a brilliant replacement in terms of the terrain.

"We're sadly missing quite a lot of what Gatcombe has, but at the same time, from a horse point of view, you come out of this event knowing exactly what you've got."