



Oliver Townend and Cooley Rosalant win Kentucky CCI5*



Britain's clean sweep – and Grand Slam contender

Oliver Townend heads to Badminton with a live chance of being crowned the third rider to win the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing

By ELEANOR JONES

BRITAIN had a clean sweep of the podium at the Kentucky Three-Day Event – and secured a new Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing live contender.

Oliver Townend topped the US CCI5* with Cooley Rosalant, with Tom McEwen (JL Dublin) second and Yasmin Ingham (Banzai Du Loir) third. This puts 2023 Burghley winner Oliver into position to potentially become the third-ever winner of the Grand Slam, after Pippa Funnell and Michael Jung, if he can take the Badminton title next week.

Since its inception in 1999,

Rolex has offered a major cash prize, now \$350,000 (£279,000), to any rider

who can secure consecutive victories at Burghley, Kentucky and Badminton.

Oliver has secured two of the three in a row twice before. The first time, he had a fall at

Kentucky in 2010 – then he just missed out by finishing second at Badminton in 2018.

"So perhaps it's third time lucky," he said.

"Perhaps this will be third time lucky"

OLIVER TOWNEND

"It's an amazing position to be in with such incredible sponsorship – to have such grand names as Defender and Rolex as a part of the sport is a massive achievement for the

sport and makes me proud to be among those sentences that include such names.

"It's hopefully something to be celebrated and something the press get excited about so Rolex get their money's worth over the next two weeks."

Oliver and Paul and Diana Ridgeon's 10-year-old mare showjumped clear on the final day to secure the Kentucky win.

"It's Paul's first five-star win, so I'm so proud for him," said Oliver. "He's 92 and for him to finally get a five-star win under his belt I think is as special for him as it is for me."