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RIDER: OLIVER TOWNEND

HORSE:

117 ASHDALE CRUISE MASTER, grey gelding, 17.0 hh, 1999, s: Cruising, d: Slys Girl,
Breed: ISH, Country of Birth: Ireland Breeder: Michael Doyle
Owners: Henry & Edna Harding, Whitchurch, Shropshire

Yorkshireman Oliver (28) inherited his interest in horses from his parents Alan who competed in eventing, and still does, and Eve who contested side saddle in the show ring. Oliver began riding aged seven and his first major success was at HOYS aged 11. Two years later he represented GB on the Pony European championship team. For three years he was stable jockey to British team trainer, Kenneth Clawson, before going solo at Lubenham Lodge, in Leicestershire. In 2008 he moved to Dudleston Heath near Ellesmere, Shropshire where he is now based with his parents who help run the busy 45-box yard. At the end of last year he was third in the BE rider rankings.

The Hon William Russell's Topping gave Oliver his first Badminton ride and a good result earned them an individual place on the 2005 British European Championship squad at Blenheim. He then took the ride on the grey Flint Curtis and in 2006 gained third at Badminton remaining on the squad (individual) for the WEG in Aachen and the following year gained his first senior team place for the European Championships at Pratoni 2007 winning team gold. He was reserve for the 2008 Hong Kong Olympics with Flint Curtis who was withdrawn from selection but later won the inaugural Express Eventing competition at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. They were members of the British team for the 2009 European Championships but failed to complete having had two stops cross-country and were eliminated at the final inspection.

In 2009 Oliver joined an elite group of riders who have won back-to-back Badminton and Burghley titles. That year he also won the HSBC FEI Classics title and at the end of the 2009 season was top of the BE rider rankings for the first time. At the end of last year he was third in the BE rankings. He did not contest Badminton in 2010 having suffered a fall with Ashdale Cruise Master at Lexington the week previously.

ODT Master Rose by the Irish Thoroughbred Master Imp, who Oliver acquired from Matthew Wright five-years ago, was 13th at Pau last year but this will be the first Badminton for the horse.

Carousel Quest is by the Holstein sire Carousel (also sire of Badminton entry Quixotic) out of a Thoroughbred mare.

Ashdale Cruise Master is by the renowned Irish sire Cruising out of a mare by Master Imp.

Recent results

- 2011 – Belton CIC*** 1st Ashdale Cruise Master
- 2010 – Burghley CCI**** 4th Carousel Quest
- 2010 – Tattersalls CIC***W 1st Ashdale Cruise Master
- 2010 – Pau CCI**** 13th ODT Master Rose
- 2010 – Luhmuhlen CCI**** 5th Ashdale Cruise Master, Elim'd Carousel Quest
- 2010 – Burnham Market CIC*** 1st Ashdale Cruise Master
- 2010 – Burnham Market CIC*** 3rd Carousel Quest
- 2009 – Fontainebleau Eu Ch CCI*** Elim'd Flint Curtis
- 2009 – Strzegom CIC***W final Elim'd Flint Curtis
- 2009 – Pau CCI**** 8th Carousel Quest
- 2009 – Boekelo CCI*** 5th ODT Master Rose
- 2009 – Blenheim CCI***8/9 3rd ODT Master Rose
- 2009 – Burghley CCI**** 1st Carousel Quest
- 2009 – Hartpury CIC*** 5th ODT Master Rose
- 2009 – Gatcombe CIC***W 2nd Flint Curtis
- 2009 – Saumur CCI*** 30th ODT Master Rose
- 2009 – Lexington CCI**** 8th Carousel Quest
- 2009 – Fontainebleau CCI*** 5th Carousel Quest
- 2009 – Burnham Market CIC*** 1st Flint Curtis
- 2008 – Burghley CCI**** Ret'd Flint Curtis

Badminton

- 2009 – 1st Flint Curtis
- 2008 – 12th Coup de Couer
- 2007 – W'drawn Flint Curtis
- 2006 – 3rd Flint Curtis, 13th Topping
- 2005 – 12th Topping