

World Class Start & Potential Newsletter Update

News

Eventing

At this year's Badminton Horse Trials, there were six World Class Potential event riders competing, three of whom finished in the top 10.

Oliver Townend (Flint Curtis) was the best placed British rider finishing in 3rd place, with Sharon Hunt (Tankers Town) 6th and Lucy Wiegiersma (Shaabrak) 7th, with Ruth Edge (Two Thyme) finishing in 11th place.

Oliver and Sharon were also recipients of three of the trophies that are awarded at Badminton:

Oliver collected:

Butler Bowl - best British rider

Frank Weldon Memorial Trophy – rider of youngest British owned and ridden horse in the top twelve

Sharon collected:

Silver Jubilee Plate- best Owner/Rider

Below is the list of the World Class Potential riders and horses that competed at Badminton:

Terry Boon -Leicestershire	(Foreign Exchange)
Ruth Edge - Cumbria	(Two Thyme)
Nick Gauntlett - Glos	(Arthur's Word and Calibre)
Sharon Hunt - Suffolk	(Tankers Town)
Oliver Townend -Leicestershire	(Flint Curtis and Topping)
Lucy Wiegiersma - Devon	(In The Purple and Shaabrak)

After Badminton the selectors announced the three remaining combinations for this year's World Equestrian Games in Aachen (24 - 27 August), included in the selection was Oliver Townend. Sharon Hunt is included in the 1st reserve list of riders, with Ruth and Lucy in the 2nd reserve list of riders.

Kitty Boggis won both OI sections at Aston-le-Walls horse trials with Five Boys and Imperial Master, the latter Kitty rode at Punchestown in the CCI** finishing 9th.

Show Jumping

Robert Whitaker continues to cement his relationship with his new ride La Croix, finishing 7th in the final Western European League World Cup qualifier in Gothenburg CSI and winning the Grand Prix at Royal Windsor. In the FEI Gandini world rankings, Robert has broken into the top 50 and is now placed 39th.

Charlotte Platt hit top form at Royal Windsor, winning both the young riders grand prix and accumulator.

At the Wales and the West European Trials, James Billington won the U21 trial and the U21 grand prix, with Hannah Paul winning the U18 grand prix.

Paul Barker won the easibed National 1.40m class, a competitive B and C class and the 1.30m class at Lambley House, Nottinghamshire. Paul was in excellent form at the Royal Ulster Show in Balmoral, winning four classes, including the grand prix and was presented with the leading rider award.

Dressage

Darryl Thickitt was in fantastic form at the recent Sheepgate premier league show, where he won a Prix St George class with Rex and another with Morris II and the Intermediaire II on Donnez Moi in addition to a 3rd placing in the Grand Prix.

Laura Bechtolsheimer, who until recently was on the Potential squad is one of the riders who has been chosen to represent GB at the CDIO Aachen.

Emily Cousins, Annie Perry, Natalie Allen and Henry Boswell were chosen to represent GB at CDIJ/YR Saumur, France with Annie achieving the best results overall 11th in the Team Test, 11th in the Individual and 10th in the Freestyle.

Two Potential riders competed in the senior classes at Hagen in Germany with Maria Eilberg finishing slightly higher on the more experienced Two Sox in 16th place and Sarah Millis with Korenbloem O'Neill lower down the list. Maria then qualified for the Freestyle in which she was placed 6th.

Maria also competed in Hansbeke in Belgium which was a new show for this year where she achieved good results with Topscore in the PSG and Int 1 being 5th and 6th respectively. Andrew Gould also traveled to Hansbeke for these Small Tour classes and was 13th. This was among extremely good company so were excellent results.

Para Dressage

Four riders from the Start & Potential programme competed at the first F.E.I Para Dressage International that was held at Mannheim at the beginning of May. The team consisted of Grade II Start rider Alex McNamara, Grade II Potential riders Natasha Baker and Liz Stone and Grade IV Potential rider Sophie Wells. This was a good show for International competition experience as it ran alongside the able-bodied show jumping and dressage competition; so had a big show atmosphere. With Germany, Norway, Belgium and South Africa sending their 'A' Squad riders; the Start & Potential Riders produced very creditable results. Alex came fourth and Natasha fifth in the Grade II Individual and Kur and Sophie was third in the Grade IV Individual test. This is an excellent result when you consider they are still only sixteen years of age.

All Start & Potential riders except for Liz Stone competed at the Selection Trials for the Hartpury International, which were held at Weston Lawns. Alex McNamara came third in the Open Grade II class and Felicity Coulthard won the Restricted Grade II and was overall winner of the Restricted Section. Emma Kent competed her new horse at its first major competition and won the Restricted Grade III and came third overall in the section.