

Causing a stir

Our experts pick the horses and riders who have parachuted onto the *H&H* readers' radar in 2017



Little and large: Ros Canter and Allstar B shine to finish fifth at Badminton

EVENTING

ROS CANTER

AFTER a couple of near-miss results at four-star when an annoying 20 penalties has kept her off the podium, the 31-year-old rider pulled off an eye-catching fifth place at Badminton in the spring on Allstar B, the best British result.

The diminutive rider and her giant partner were then selected for their first senior championship, the Europeans in Poland. There they went beyond all expectations when they added just 1.6 time-faults across country to a personal best dressage to finish fifth individually and help Britain to team gold.

Ros also proved she's no one-horse wonder with two top 10 four-star placings on Zenshera.



Oliver Townend and Ballaghmor Class triumph

BALLAGHMOR CLASS

AT the start of this year, "Thomas" was an under-the-radar member of Oliver Townend's string, having performed averagely at his only CCI3*. But he finished the winner of perhaps the world's toughest four-star when he triumphed at Burghley.

Oliver said on dressage day that Ballaghmor Class was probably at Burghley a year too early, but the rider's faith in the scopey flea-bitten grey was justified when he put in a storming cross-country round.

As Ballaghmor Class is just 10 years old, Oliver could hope for another six years or so at the top level with him and he should be an exciting championship performer for Britain.



Consistent: Alex Bragg and Zagreb

ALEX BRAGG

THE 37-year-old made a striking start to his Badminton debut, lying eighth after cross-country. Sadly he withdrew Zagreb from the holding box at the final horse inspection, but the British selectors noticed his efforts and he was long-listed for the European Championships.

Although he didn't make the final squad, Alex had a great summer and autumn season with Zagreb, finishing in the top eight in the CIC3* at Aachen, the British open championship, the Event Riders Masters final at Blenheim and Pau CCI4*.

A former semi-professional rugby player, Alex is articulate with the media and looks set to be an asset to British eventing.