

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2018

THE DRESSAGE ROUND UP

UPDATE 3. FRIDAY 4 MAY





THE LEADING PACK

OLIVER TOWNEND & BALLAGHMOR CLASS

Oliver has recorded the second best ever Dressage score seen here at Badminton with 20.8, sitting just behind the record holder Andrew Hoy & Darien Powers who scored 20.5 (30.8) in 2000. Yes, we convert things to take account of the multiplier!! You'll see the old scores and the converted scores in the table below. Since 2008 Oliver has made the optimum time here on 4 occasions from 10 runs. If he can do it tomorrow then he would be on track to become the third person in history to take the Rolex Grand Slam.

RECORD DRESSAGE SCORES AT BADMINTON (1998 - 2017)

RANK	NAME	NAT	HORSE	YEAR	SCORE	
1	ANDREW HOY	AUS	DARIEN POWERS	2000	30.8	20.5
2	OLIVER TOWNEND	GBR	BALLAGHMOR CLASS	2018	31.2	20.8
3	PIPPA FUNNELL	GBR	SUPREME ROCK	2002	31.6	21.1
3	CHRISTOPHER BURTON	AUS	GRAF LIBERTY	2017	32.9	21.9
4	PIPPA FUNNELL	GBR	SUPREME ROCK	2003	33.2	22.1
5	RUTH EDGE	GBR	TWO THYME	2011	33.3	22.2
6	CLARK MONTGOMERY	USA	LOUGHAN GLEN	2014	33.3	22.2
7	BETTINA HOY	GER	RINGWOOD COCKATOO	2003	33.4	22.3
8	KAI RÜDER	GER	LEPRINCE DES BOIS	2010	33.8	22.5
9	STUART BLACK	CAN	MARKET VENTURE	1998	34.2	22.8

SIR MARK TODD & KILTUBRID RHAPSODY

Sir Mark produced his best top level Dressage score in over a decade today, he also recorded the lowest dressage test for a New Zealand rider in that period as well. This horse has only one previous run at the level which resulted in 20 penalties at Pau last season. There is however no better man on board with Sir Mark aiming to take his 4* tally to 12 wins in his career. Only one man has more wins at the top level, William Fox-Pitt who has 14.

ROS CANTER & ALLSTAR B

They scored a huge career personal best in the Dressage yesterday and will sit 3rd going into the XC.

This combination have 1 Badminton completion which resulted in a top 5 finish. They had 9.6 time penalties last year, having been 24 seconds over the time. They'll need to be quicker here this year, especially as the removal of the co-efficient has made things extra tight on the leader board. Just 16 seconds separate the top 20.

JONTY EVANS & COOLEY RORKES DRIFT

A career best for this combination (at any level) as well as a record Irish 4* Dressage score. This puts them right in the hunt going into the jumping. They'll need to up the speed across the country though as they average 22 time penalties from their 2 completed runs at this level.



SAM GRIFFITHS & PAULANK BROCKAGH

The 2014 champions equalled their career best dressage score (at any level) this afternoon of 24.4 (for both horse and rider). While hugely experienced at this level with 8 clears from 10 runs they have never yet made the optimum time across the country.

PAUL TAPNER & BONZA KING OF ROUGES

Paul is a former winner here back in 2010 with Inonothing. He came close to matching his Badminton best test here (Kilronan in 214, 36 (now 24)) with Bonza King of Rouges and sits close to the top of the leader board. They fell here last year but were clear at Burghley last Autumn although picked up 29.6 time penalties. They won't be able to add anything like that if they want to stay near the top here this year.

STILL WITH THE PBS – OVER HALF THE FIELD!

36 out of the 71 starters who have previously competed at 4* level have recorded **personal best top level dressage scores** in the first phase, this is 51% of the field. (This calculation does not include the 7 CCI4* first timers as that wouldn't be a personal best).

XC IN NUMBERS

Since 2008 at this venue - 53% of combinations jump clear XC. On average 11% of combinations since 2008 make the time XC. Last year only 2 achieved it (including the returning La Biosthetique - Sam FBW) but back in 2013 as many as 25 made it (30%). In the last wet year in 2014, nobody made the time.

Just 16 seconds cover the top 20. If we look back to before the co-efficient was removed there would be 24 seconds splitting the group. Expect a game of snakes and ladders. Every mistake, every penalty, will be costly.

XC SPEED MACHINES

We've crunched the numbers and here are the top 5 speed horses to follow tomorrow.

JONELLE PRICE & CLASSIC MOET (22ND)

Classic Moet has been clear inside the time on both previous Badminton runs plus she averages just 1.6 time penalties at this level from 6 runs. She was the fastest horse at WEG 2014.

Jonelle Price as a rider has the best CCI4* XC record in the field with a 91% completion rate, that's 19 from 21 CCI4* runs since 2008. As a comparison Michael Jung as a rider has 82%.

Having produced a top level personal best in the first phase and sitting within 17 seconds of the lead this is combination expected to climb by tomorrow evening.

MICHAEL JUNG & LA BIOSTHETIQUE - SAM FBW (8TH)

Super Sam has been clear jumping in the cross country in 10 out of his 11 top level runs, he has made the time in 8 of those and has only ever added 3 seconds in TOTAL to his Dressage score. He's 18 now but the King is very much still one to watch. He already holds the record for the horse with the highest number of wins at this level (6) and he is a master of finishing on his Dressage score (being the only horse to finish on this dressage score at the Olympics – and he has done it twice!).



GEMMA TATTERSALL & ARCTIC SOUL (21ST)

He has finished on his Dressage score here at the past 2 renewals of the event and we expect him to be on course to continue this trend by Saturday evening. Always a climber, the removal of the multiplier will work in his favour.

ANDREW NICHOLSON & NEREO (33RD)

Last year's winner defied the numbers on the final day and at 18 years of age he may be slowing up slightly.

That being said he is still one of the fastest in the field and has made the time here on 3 previous occasions.

TIM PRICE & RINGWOOD SKY BOY (14TH)

This horse made the time here back in 2015 and Tim was one of only 2 to make it last year when finishing 3rd of Xavier Faer. Write them off at your peril.

KEY STAT TO REMEMBER

In three of the last 10 years, the dressage winner has come from outside the top 5 (2014, 2010, 2008). Every other year, the winner is in the top 5. In that time, only Sam (2016) led and went on to win. Game on tomorrow.