

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2018

EARLY POINTERS

UPDATE 1. WEDNESDAY 2 MAY





THE REMOVAL OF THE DRESSAGE MULTIPLIER – EXPECT DRAMA

The 2018 Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials will be the first time the event has run since the removal of the dressage multiplier. The result of the removal of the multiplier is that dressage scores will be more tightly bunched going into the jumping phases and from now on, at this level, **cross country will be the most influential phase** - with dressage just behind and then show jumping (dressage is still the main influencer when you look at the sport across all levels).

We are going to see much lower scores in the first phase, a 45 in the old system is a 30 now – so expect those top horses to be scoring in the twenties. If you want to break a course record in the first phase, you almost need to hit the TEENS. Andrew Hoy’s score on Darien Powers (2000) translates to a 20.5 opening score in the new system. Big opening scores won’t be enough at this venue, it will be about finishing on that score. **Make no mistake, this will be a test of who can add the least to their dressage score.** Every second lost on the cross-country course, and every pole down, is likely to see snakes and ladders on the leader board that we are not used to. The field were tightly bunched in Kentucky last week, but a ten-year high in cross country jumping clears meant that the influence of the change probably wasn’t felt to the full extent. We are expecting that to change this weekend. Don’t be surprised by how tightly packed this field after on Friday evening.

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	PIPPA FUNNELL	GBR	SUPREME ROCK	2002	31.6	21.1
3	CHRISTOPHER BURTON	AUS	GRAF LIBERTY	2017	32.9	21.9
3	PIPPA FUNNELL	GBR	SUPREME ROCK	2003	33.2	22.1
4	RUTH EDGE	GBR	TWO THYME	2011	33.3	22.2
5	CLARK MONTGOMERY	USA	LOUGHAN GLEN	2014	33.3	22.2
6	BETTINA HOY	GER	RINGWOOD COCKATOO	2003	33.4	22.3
7	KAI RÜDER	GER	LEPRINCE DES BOIS	2010	33.8	22.5
8	STUART BLACK	CAN	MARKET VENTURE	1998	34.2	22.8
9	RODOLPHE SCHERER	FRA	BAMBI DE BRIERE	2000	34.2	22.8

THIS WILL NOT BE A DRESSAGE COMPETITION

BUT YOU DO NEED TO STAY IN TOUCH

In a normal year, you shouldn’t look far beyond the dressage top 5 to find your winner. Last year Nereo came from 5th after dressage to win. In 2016, LA BIOSTHETIQUE - SAM FBW led. In 2015, Chilli Morning was 2nd after the first phase. In 2013, and 2011, eventual winners Clifton Promise and Land Vision both sat in 4th. This isn’t a normal year for two reasons – the weather, and the multiplier. In 2014, the most recent wet year, we saw Paulank Brockagh climb from 26th after the first phase.

Scores will be tightly bunched and time penalties will be crucial. At Kentucky last week, a cross country jumping fault would have seen the leader drop to second last! Speed on the cross country, and good jumpers, will be more important than ever this year.



The cross country jumping clear rate from the last 4 seasons has been 44.6% – and when you look over 10 seasons (with 2012 cancelled), it sits at 52.8%. **Just over 1 from every 2 coming home with no jumping penalties.** *When looking at the other outcomes, 17% complete with jumping faults and 30% are eliminated or retire.*

EARLY SUNDAY GUIDE

Sunday will bring lots more people adding to their dressage score. Over the last 10 runnings, we have 20.4% completing the showjumping without adding penalties – 1 in 5. There has been big variance over the years, 17 combinations from 46 jumped clear in 2017, 12 from 46 jumped clear in 2017, 7 from 57 in 2015 and in 2014 (that wet year!) not a single combination were clear!

THE KEY STORIES TO FOLLOW

A FEMALE WINNER

IN the seven runnings of Badminton between 2000 and 2007, we had five female victories (Mary King, Pippa Funnell three times and Lucinda Fredericks) but we haven't seen one since.

The change in the dressage multiplier has opened the door for two of the sport's best cross-country riders — Gemma Tattersall and Jonelle Price. I am expecting to see both Arctic Soul and Classic Moet in the top five on Saturday evening and a win will be decided by their showjumping - both can have a pole. Piggy French and Vanir Kamira will have lots of fans too, they will need to be finishing the first phase sub-32 in our opinion to have a chance.

Classic Moet is a perfect 6/6 cross country jumping at the top level, the only perfect record for a horse with more than three runs. She is the fastest horse in the field on our ratings, with four inside the time rounds from her seven rounds at either CCI3 or CCI4*. They were a full eight seconds faster than the other horses at the World Games in 2014. She would be one of our strong favourites to win this year.

A FAIRYTALE GOODBYE

The 18-year-old **La Biosthetique Sam** is making his final appearance at the venue and there wouldn't be many who would begrudge the six-time four-star winner a final victory. His twenty penalties (and subsequent XC retirement at Burghley) is the only time he has finished outside the top 5 at this level.

He has all the qualities to win, unlikely to lead the dressage but the multiplier change will favour him - he averages just 0.1 XCT at top level. He is one of the fastest horses in the field on our speed ratings. Michael felt the pain of a pole down last week at Kentucky when FischerRocana knocked a pole to hand the victory to Oliver Townend. He also knocked a pole here last year to allow Nereo to move past him. I expect the margin for error will be very similar on Sunday. That being said, Michael has jumped 9 clear show jumping rounds (41%). This is the best jumping rate for people with more than five four star rounds.

A POSSIBLE FIVE TIMER

Sir Mark Todd, who first won the competition 38 years ago on Southern Comfort III (and three times since — 1994, 1996, 2011) arrives with **Leonidas II**, an experienced 14-year-old owned by Di Brunnsden and Pete Cattell, with two top-five finishes from his four visits here. He scored a 36.7 (24.5) at Burghley 2017, his last international start. Leonidas has jumped clear XC every time he has been here (4) and not knocked any poles on three of those starts. If they limit the time penalties, they are to the head of the betting.



A FAMOUS FIRST TIMER GRAND SLAM

Last week's dramatic victory in Kentucky on Cooley Master Class has set Oliver up for a historic first timer grand slam, with each of the wins coming on a horse making their four-star debut. He has two rides here, Cooley SRS (first time at four star) and the Burghley winner, Ballaghmor Class. Both have a chance if they keep the poles up on Sunday. Oliver has just become the FEI World Number 1.

FOR THE NERDS

Horses (2008 onwards) that have won on their first time at the CCI4* level

Lexington KY	2010	COOL MOUNTAIN
Badminton	2011	LANDVISION
Burghley	2011	PARKLANE HAWK
Pau	2011	OSLO
Adelaide SA	2012	SANDHILLS BRILLAIRE
Adelaide SA	2013	TS JAMAIMO
Lexington KY	2013	QUIMBO
Burghley	2017	BALLAGHMOR CLASS
Kentucky	2018	COOLEY MASTER CLASS

Diarmuid is on site, based in the Media Centre and is happy to help the accredited media with data and analysis as required over the coming days.