
06-06-2007

Squad Selected for Para Dressage World Championships

The British Dressage selectors (Jane Goldsmith, Juliet Seal, Michel Assouline) and the World Class Performance Manager (David Hunter) have announced the riders who will bid to retain the World Championship title at the World Para Dressage Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, 20 - 22 July 2007.

They are: -

Grade 1a

Sophie Christiansen (Berkshire)
Anne Dunham (Wiltshire)

Grade 1b

Ricky Balshaw (Shropshire)
Lee Pearson (Staffordshire)

Grade II

Felicity Coulthard (Lancashire)
Nicola Tustain (Denbighshire)

Grade III

Debbie Criddle (Somerset)
Simon Laurens (Channel Isles)

Grade IV

Michelle Crunkhorn (Nottinghamshire)
Denise Shawns (West Lothian)

The ten riders listed above will compete as individuals for Great Britain. In addition four of the riders will be named as the British team. The team must comprise at least one grade 1a or 1b rider.

These ten places represent the full allocation for the host nation; however there are additional places available for riders who wish to compete in order to gain a qualification for the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008.

Great Britain has selected five further riders to take part in the World Championships on this basis. These riders will not be eligible for World Championship medals. They are: -

Grade 1a - Rory Williams (Middlesex)
Grade 1b - Lucy Barclay (Lincolnshire)
Grade II - Natasha Baker (Middlesex)
Grade III - Toby Pawson (Surrey)
Grade IV - Sophie Wells (Nottinghamshire)

As current European, World and Paralympic Champions the British team will be the ones to beat, however several of the most experienced riders will not be partnered by their top horses. Nicola Tustain has been partnered by Prinz Heinrich for the last 4

years, winning team and individual gold medals in that time. However Nicola announced in March that Prinz Heinrich was suffering from an injury and would not be fit to take part in the World Championships. Nicola has since been riding her veteran dressage horse Hotstuff, who also helped Sophie Christiansen win a bronze medal in the Sydney Paralympic Games.

At the selection trials last week Lee Pearson made the difficult decision that the multi gold medal winning Blue Circle Boy would be unable to take part in the Championships. Lee took part in the trials on another horse, and will trial alternative horses for the next two weeks.

Sophie Wells was named as one of the riders taking part to qualify for Beijing and she is also looking for a new equestrian partner.

Great Britain will face stiff opposition from other European nations, including renowned dressage nations Germany and the Netherlands.

“It is unfortunate to have lost two very experienced horses, but other combinations have shown great improvement and new partnerships have proved themselves worthy of taking on the best in the world,” said Performance Manager David Hunter.

“There’s no room for complacency but I’m confident that the strength and depth of the British squad will give us a good chance of successfully defending our title.”

The 15 selected riders will take part in Hickstead Premier League, 28 June – 1st July. The horses taking part in the World Para Dressage Championships, and the riders who be competing as the British team, will be named following this competition.

08-06-2007

World Class Programme Plans for Good Luck Beijing – 10th Anniversary Cup

Great Britain will be taking 3 riders and horses to the Good Luck Beijing – 10th Anniversary Cup CCI2*, taking place in August this year, in preparation for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is part of a series of 42 sporting events taking place between July 2007 and July 2008. The events are all themed ‘Good Luck Beijing’ and cover the whole range of Olympic sports.

The riders and horses provisionally selected to go are:

Amanda Ratcliffe – Teveri, age 14, owned by Rider
Amy Young – Highville, age 12, owned by Anne Marie Young
Caroline Moore - Don Giovanni II, age 15, owned by Rider

This event provides the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) with the opportunity to test all their procedures ahead of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008. This is an essential part of the build up for BOCOG but also for the British Equestrian Team.

The event is run as a CCI2* but is a vital part of preparations for the 3 Olympic disciplines and 1 Paralympic discipline. The British Equestrian Team will be looking to rehearse and finalise a number of training and preparation protocols as well as logistical plans, including preparation before, during and after transportation of the

horses.

Accompanying the three horses will be representatives for all of the Olympic and Paralympic Disciplines, including Team Managers, coaches, riders and grooms.

The British Equestrian Team's logistical planning, including taking three riders and horses to the event, is being organised and funded by the Equestrian World Class Programme. Performance Director and Chef de Mission for the British Equestrian Team, Will Connell, said, "This event will provide us with vital information that will assist us in optimising our plans for Hong Kong in 2008. The horses will arrive 10 days before the competition, exactly as they will do for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, allowing us to practice, in detail, the processes we hope to adopt in 2008. I'm very grateful to both the riders and the owners of the horses who will travel to Hong Kong as their role is of great importance to this overall process. "

The Equestrian World Class Programme is funded by UK Sport who receive their funding through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, primarily from the National Lottery. Further information about the 'Good Luck Beijing' events can be found on the official website - www.goodluckbeijing.com.cn/en

09-07-2007

Eventers Bid for Seventh Title.

Following a busy weekend of CIC*** action at Barbury Castle and Aachen and recent three day event performances, the British Senior Selectors (Lucinda Green (Chairman), Mandy Stibbe, Angela Tucker, Ian Stark and Bridget Parker) have today announced their UK Sport Lottery Funded British Eventing Squad for this year's European Championships at Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy 13 – 16 September. Five of the World Championship squad combinations from 2006 retain their places including World Champion Zara Phillips with Toytown who will be defending her European Champion title won at Blenheim in 2005. Georgie Davies earns her senior flag and hat silk number 182 following a third place at Luhmuhlen CCI**** with Fachoudette. Rodney Powell, last selected in 2000, has been named first reserve while William Fox-Pitt, part of the British Team for the previous six Championships, is second reserve.

The team of four, announced after the first horse inspection on September 12, will be aiming to secure their place in history as they attempt to win a seventh consecutive Team Gold Medal – an incredible unbeaten run which no other nation has even been close to emulating at European level.

The Squad are: (in alphabetical order)

- Georgie Davies (24) from Hemel Hempsted, Hertfordshire and Fachoudette, owned by Nicola Spence, Judy Gardner and rider
- Daisy Dick (35) from Reading, Berkshire and Spring Along, owned by Caroline Dick and rider
- Sharon Hunt (29) from Bury St Edmunds, Norfolk and Tankers Town owned by Terry and Janice Hunt and rider
- Mary King (46) from Sidmouth, Devon and Call Again Cavalier owned by Edwin and Sue Davies and Janette Chin

- Zara Phillips (25) from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire and Toytown owned by BGC Partners & Associates (inc Cantor Index) and rider
- Oliver Townend (24) from Market Harborough, Leics and Flint Curtis owned by Edward and Robert Nicholson

Reserves:

First reserve: Rodney Powell and Langarth Darcy owned by Brook & Sally Johnson

Second reserve: William Fox-Pitt and Ballincoola owned by Michael Payne & Judith Skinner

The following four horses will be third reserves:

Jo May and Faere Vision owned by Peter May

Lucy Wiegersma* and Shaabrak Mark Lean

Francis Whittington and Sir Percival III owned by Margrete Paget

Heidi Woodhead and The Biz owned by Peter and Pauline Simmons & Rider

* - Member of the World Class Potential Squad

Each horse/rider combination will have to prove their fitness and continued good form in training and competitions. The selectors reserve the right to make changes to the above should it be necessary.

The British Eventing Squad is extremely grateful for the generous support it receives from: UK Sport, Toggi, Spillers, Natural Animal Feeds, Land Rover, Horse Trials Support Group, KC Equestrian, Patey Hats, RH Mears, Parkgate Equestrian and Thermatex.

11-07-2007

Team Announced for World Para Dressage Championships

The British Dressage selectors (Jane Goldsmith, Juliet Seal, Michel Assouline) and the World Class Performance Manager (David Hunter) have announced the riders who will compete as the British team at the World Para Dressage Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, 19 - 22 July 2007.

They are: -

Michelle Crunkhorn (Nottinghamshire), grade IV riding **No Limit 5**

Anne Dunham (Wiltshire), grade 1a riding **BB Call Me Caine**

Simon Laurens (Channel Isles), grade III riding **Ocean Diamond**

Lee Pearson (Staffordshire), grade 1b riding **Altino**

The team has the benefit of considerable experience, with a collective tally of six previous World Championship appearances, 6 Paralympic Games and 5 European Championships.

Between them multi medallists Anne, Lee and Michelle have been present at every major para dressage championship in the last 13 years, with relative newcomer Simon Laurens bursting on to the scene in 2006 with top three placings in two

international competitions.

As current European, World and Paralympic Champions the British team will be the ones to beat, however they will face stiff opposition from other European nations, including renowned dressage nations Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark.

“We were aiming to select four riders who have a good chance of scoring 70% or more, which I think we have been able to do. The breadth and depth of talent in para dressage has improved greatly over the last few years and we could realistically have chosen several different combinations for this team,” said Chairman of Selectors Jane Goldsmith.

I've been very impressed by the hard work and dedication of the riders and I'm optimistic that we can retain our title,” she added.

The riders selected for the team will also contest the individual medals, along with six further British riders: -

Ricky Balshaw (Shropshire)
Sophie Christiansen (Berkshire)
Felicity Coulthard (Lancashire)
Debbie Criddle (Somerset)
Denise Shawns (West Lothian)
Nicola Tustain (Denbighshire)

Great Britain has selected five further riders to take part in the World Championships in order to gain a qualification for the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008. These riders will not be eligible for World Championship medals. They are: -

Rory Williams (Middlesex)
Lucy Barclay (Lincolnshire)
Natasha Baker (Middlesex)
Toby Pawson (Surrey)
Sophie Wells (Nottinghamshire)

The British Para Dressage Squad is extremely grateful for the generous support it receives from: UK Sport, Toggi, Spillers, Natural Animal Feeds, Patey Hats, Mears Country Jackets and Thermatex.

20-07-2007

Great Start for Britain at World Para Dressage Championships.

Great Britain had a promising start to the World Para Dressage Championships today, finishing overnight leaders of the Team competition. This coupled with some brilliant individual performances promise an exciting day tomorrow with Individual competitions and the final deciding of the team places.

The competition, held at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, was hit by torrential rain that fell throughout the day. As the roads around the college were closed one by one due to flooding the competition carried on regardless, albeit with a few minor changes. In the afternoon the classes in the outside arena were moved indoors and the fantastic new Hartpury Arena came into its own, allowing the competition to continue without a hitch.

The days competition was the Team test, with all 5 grades (1a, 1b, II, III, IV) competing. Four out of the five Grades were won by British riders and Grade 1a and 1b had British riders in first and second place.

Grade 1a was won by Sophie Christiansen (73.294), the reigning European Champion, with Anne Dunham (72.471) claiming the second spot. Rory Williams (one of Britain's non-competing riders, see xxx, for how this works) scored 71.412 which would have put him in third place. Grade 1b was won by Lee Pearson with the highest score of the day (77.176) and Ricky Balshaw was second (74.706).

Nicola Tustain claimed first spot in the Grade II (72.857), closely followed by newcomer to the British squad, Felicity Coulthard (70.952) in fourth spot. Grade III was won by Debbie Criddle (70.538) with Simon Laurens in third (69.615).

The team standings after the first day are:

1. GBR (219.262)
2. GER (210.814)
3. NOR (209.899)
4. NED (206.929)
5. SWE (206.544)
6. BRA (205.529)
7. DEN (204.575)
8. BEL (204.515)
9. AUS (200.802)
10. FRA (197.973)

Other British Riders positions:

Grade 1b

Lucy Barclay* - 67.059

Grade II

Natasha Baker* - 69.333

Grade III

Toby Pawson* - 66.615

Grade IV

Michelle Crunkhorn – 5th – 68.714

Denise Shawns – 15th – 65.571

Sophie Wells* - 64.429

*Not competing

21-07-2007

Great Britain are World Champions!

Great Britain today won team Gold, two individual Gold medals and two individual Bronze medals.

It was a great day of competition all round, with many very high quality performances and each class finishing closely. Although it was a great day for the British riders the individual competition showed how truly international the sport of Para Equestrian Dressage has become – the British have had to continue to raise their game to stay at the top today and retain the World title.

The Team Gold was won by the team of Anne Dunham & BB Call Me Caine (grade 1a), Lee Pearson & Altino (grade 1b), Simon Laurens & Oceans Diamond (grade III), Michelle Crunkhorn & No Limit IV (grade IV) on a collective score of 440.015, a convincing victory for the British Team.

The individual medal competitions were all closely fought and Britain came out with a further 4 medals, 2 gold and 2 bronze.

Lee Pearson added another gold medal to his vast collection with a victory in the 1b competition, again claiming the highest score of the day with 77.333. This was a great performance on the British-bred Altino, owned by Anne Murray, whom he has only partnered for a matter of weeks.

Nicola Tustain (73.273) also added to her not inconsiderable medal tally with a victory in the Grade II individual, riding Hotsuff, who returned from semi-retirement for the Championship as her top horse is currently out of action.

Britain also claimed 3 Bronze medals with Sophie Christiansen & Gazel (72.000) in the Grade 1a; Ricky Balshaw & Deacons Giorgi (72.000) in the Grade 1b and Debbie Criddle & Figaro IX (72.400) in Grade III.

Positions of other British Riders:

Grade 1a

Anne Dunham – 4th - 71.500

Rory Williams* - 73.100 (Rory would have won the class had his score been counted)

Grade 1b

Lucy Barclay* - 67.048

Grade II

Felicity Coulthard – 14th – 65.727

Natasha Baker* - 71.000

Grade III

Simon Laurens – 4th – 71.920

Toby Pawson* - 65.760

Grade IV

Michelle Crunkhorn – 5th – 65.355

Sophie Wells* - 63.355

Tomorrow will bring the freestyle individual competition with medals up for grabs in each of the grades.

23-07-2007

Great Britain Dominate World Para Dressage Championships.

Great Britain dominated the World Para Dressage Championships which took place at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire from 20th-22nd July 2007. In total Britain won 13 medals, including 6 gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze. This includes winning the Team Gold medal, ensuring that Great Britain remain World, European and Paralympic Champions. The Team Title was won by a convincing margin of 16 points over Germany in Silver and Norway in Bronze.

In addition to the Team title British riders claimed 5 individual titles. Lee Pearson with Altino added to his growing collection of Gold Medals claiming victory in the Individual and the Freestyle competitions in Grade 1b. Gold medals also went to

Simon Laurens & Ocean Diamond in the Grade III Freestyle, Nicola Tustain & Hotstuff in the Grade II Individual and Sophie Christiansen & her new mount Gazel in the Grade 1a Freestyle. Silver medals went to Debbie Criddle, Anne Dunham and Nicola Tustain all for their Freestyle in their relevant grades. Bronze medals went to Felicity Coulthard, Debbie Criddle, Ricky Balshaw and Anne Dunham.

Despite the venue being hit by the worst rainfall that Gloucestershire has seen for over 40 years and becoming gradually cut off from the outside world by the rising flood water, the competition was able to continue unaffected due to the fantastic new indoor school that Hartpury have added to their already impressive outdoor facilities. This 3.2m facility was built with the support of the UK Sport funding and proved to be an excellent venue, with or without the rain.

14-08-2007

Jumping European Final Four Announced.

The four Performance Squad riders who will represent Great Britain at the 2007 European Championships in Mannheim, Germany have been announced.

David McPherson from Maidstone, Kent riding Peter Nagel-Tornau's 12 year-old dark bay stallion, Pilgrim II will be the British pathfinder. David and Pilgrim II have represented their country in the Samsung Super League with FEI Series in La Baule, Aachen and in Rotterdam where they jumped a double clear round.

They will be followed by the Whitaker Family trio; twenty one year old Ellen Whitaker, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire will ride Dawn Makin and Steven Whitaker's 11 year-old bay Holsteiner stallion, Locarno 62. Ellen and Locarno were selected for the 2005 European Championships and appeared on the winning British Super League team in Rotterdam earlier this year.

John Whitaker from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire will be making his tenth appearance in a European Championship and will hopefully add to his eight Team and four Individual European medals. John will ride Rebecca Stones' 10 year-old bay stallion, Peppermill whom he partnered to a double clear in the Samsung Super League with FEI Series in Rome and then went onto victory in the Loro Piana Grand Prix.

British anchorman will be Michael Whitaker from Whatton, Nottingham riding Gillespie Equestrian's Sunca Portofino 63. Michael like his brother John, has made numerous European Championship Team appearances since 1985, and has seven Team medals, including three Team Gold and three Individual European Medals to his name.

All horses and riders have taken part in the Training Session earlier today giving them a chance to familiarise themselves with the superb Mannheim sand arena and colourful fences before the competitions commence tomorrow. The Opening Ceremony takes place this evening. The first competition of the Championships, a speed competition, the results of which will count towards Team and Individual Classification, takes place tomorrow (Wednesday) at 08:30GMT. For the first time, the Team Medals will be decided over two days (Thursday and Friday) with the Individual Final taking place on Sunday.

The British Show Jumping Squad is extremely grateful for the generous support it receives from UK Sport, Toggi, Spillers, Natural Animal Feeds, Patey Hats, RH Mears and Thermatex.

14-08-2007

Good Luck Beijing aids 2008 Plans.

Great Britain took 3 horses and riders to the Good Luck Beijing 10th Anniversary Cup CCI2* (the 'Test Event') in Hong Kong in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games. Caroline Moore unfortunately had to withdraw after the dressage but Amanda Ratcliffe on Teveri and Amy Young on Highville finished 6th and 8th respectively.

This competition was about much more than the result. The aim of the exercise was information gathering and testing logistics and procedures prior to travelling the full teams out to Hong Kong. From this point of view the trip was successful and the British Team is now busy fine tuning plans for next year.

Also in the British contingent travelling to Hong Kong for this event were Para-Equestrian Dressage riders Simon Laurens and Jo Pitt who travelled without horses to look at the special requirements and conditions for the Paralympics. This was a great opportunity to look at how specific plans can support the needs of the Para-Equestrian Dressage riders.

The Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, who are represented in Hong Kong by the "Equestrian Committee," were very pleased with how the event went and they are happy that their plans have been sufficiently tested. The British Team are happy that they were able to fully test and practice all areas that they planned to and will be able to make provisions to hopefully give the British riders and horses the best possible chance of success next year.

17-08-2007

Hunt out of the Eventing European Squad.

Following a setback during training, Tankers Town, owned by Terry and Janice Hunt and ridden by Sharon Hunt, has been withdrawn from the squad for the forthcoming European Championships at Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy (13 – 16 September).

Rodney Powell with Brook and Sally Johnson's Langarth Darcy will now come off the reserve list and join the squad of six.

17-08-2007

Jumping Team Bronze and Olympic Qualification.

Great Britain has secured their place at the 2008 Olympic Games, taking the Bronze medal at the European Show Jumping Championships in Mannheim, Germany. After a shaky start to today's second round, performances improved throughout the afternoon, bringing a medal winning position and Olympic qualification closer and closer.

With twenty one year old Ellen Whitaker, one of the youngest riders at this year's Championship's, producing a phenomenal performance by jumping clear with one time fault everyone was on the edge of their seats watching the competition unfold before them. Taking the role of anchorman, as only John Whitaker can, he entered the ring focused calmly on the job ahead. The tremendous relationship John has built with Rebecca Stones' Peppermill had never been more evident than it was this afternoon with a calm, calculated and precise way that they executed a foot perfect round, securing the Bronze medal for Great Britain and qualification for the 2008 Hong Kong Olympic Games. The remaining two qualification places went to Sweden and Norway.

An emotional Team Manager, Derek Ricketts said:

"Its been a very stressful day but our plans have paid off, we are coming away with not only Olympic qualification but also a Bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement for Great Britain and proves that the strategic approach we have taken to performance this year has paid dividends".

World Class Performance Director, Will Connell said:

"Great Britain is an extremely solid team. It has been a fantastic atmosphere in Mannheim all week and this result just proves how successful we are as a nation in this sport".

Team Final Results:

Gold: Netherlands - 7.37 penalties

Silver: Germany - 9.18 penalties

Bronze: Great Britain - 15.43 penalties

4th: Switzerland - 18.13 penalties

5th: Sweden - 19.65 penalties

6th: Norway - 22.26 penalties

Results can be downloaded at www.em2007.de.

The British Show Jumping Squad is extremely grateful for the generous support it receives from UK Sport, Toggi, Spillers, Natural Animal Feeds, Patey Hats, RH Mears and Thermatex.

13-08-2007

Dressage Team qualify for 2008 Olympic Games.

Britain has qualified for next year's Olympic Games in Beijing after finishing fifth at the European Championships in Turin, Italy, 30 August-2 September.

Laura Bechtolsheimer achieved Britain's highest score. The youngest team member at only 22 skilfully rode the exuberant Mistral Hojris into 13th place with 69.583%. Emma Hindle and Lancet II gave a strong performance, but made a costly mistake in the one-time changes, which put them in 17th place on 68.042%. Yesterday, championship team debutantes Anna Ross-Davies and Liebling II scored a solid 67.41% for 19th while Fiona Bigwood and Mr G De Lully had an uncharacteristically low score of 65.167%, which put them 29th.

Chef d'equipe David Trott said: "It's great that we've qualified for Beijing. At times we

were actually close to winning the bronze medal - it was all nail-biting. All credit to Silvia Ikle, who was the last Swiss rider to go. She pulled it out of the bag and boosted the Swiss team to fourth [by 0.2%]."

03-09-2007

Anna Ross-Davies best of British in Individual Dressage.

Anna Ross-Davies decided to go for "death or glory" in her first championship grand prix freestyle at the 2007 European Championships in Turin, Italy, 30 August-2 September, and it paid off handsomely as she scored 71.95% for 10th place.

Anna was initially selected as reserve and only found out she would be part of the team less than two weeks before the show. She was the only Brit to qualify for the freestyle.

She said: "My aim when I came here was to survive and not let the team down. The selectors took a risk choosing me, so I was pleased not to disappoint them. When I got through to the freestyle, I thought I might never get to do this again, so I would rather go for it and bomb. It is like a dream and I keep wondering when I'm going to wake up.

"The British supporters have been amazing. They rivalled the Dutch, especially with their cheering, and it made all the difference. When the bell rang, I headed towards "A" and saw all these Union Jacks."

Anna, who trains with top German rider Ulla Salzgeber, was riding Donald McTaggart's Liebling II, a 10-year-old gelding by Lorentin I, who only started competing at international grand prix level earlier this year.

"He is the most wonderful horse," said Anna, who was just heading off to muck out his stable before making the journey home.

For the full results, click www.fise.it.

16-09-2007

Eventers make History with 7th Gold & Individual Silver.

The riders from Great Britain have today made history at Pratoni del Vivaro in Italy by securing their seventh consecutive Team Gold and also helped us to a clean sweep of European team medals this year – Pony, Junior, Young Rider and Senior. An individual silver from Mary King and Call Again Cavalier also brings the 2007 medal haul to ten medals.

The team competition was dominated in the end by Britain – securing gold by over 66 penalties. 27 faults were added to our cross country score of 119.0 when Daisy lowered two rails with Spring Along. She felt she was almost too controlled during her round and would have been better to push along as it suits the horse better but eight faults looked enough to take away any chance of an individual medal but it was a counting score secured.

Next, and lying fourth, were Mary King and Cav and they jumped an immaculate clear – one of very few in the day – to pile the pressure on the top three. The Bettina Hoy cantered in as a German individual with Ringwood Cockatoo. They clouted fence nine to add four – dropping her down a place and promoting Mary to Bronze. It was then Zara's turn. Toytown had been warming up well outside and he started well but then they simply missed their stride at fence nine and the horse had no alternative but to stop, clattering through the poles in the process. The fence was rebuilt and he was obviously un-nerved so had the fence down. They also hit fence 11b so it was a total of 12 jumping plus nine time faults for a total of 19 – lowering them to sixth place and the European Individual title was no longer theirs. This did further promote her team-mate to Silver though.

So, could Nicolas Touzaint regain his title he handed over to Zara? Of course! The young Frenchman was certainly the class act of the week with Galan de Sauvagere – adding nothing to their dressage of 29.4 – the only combination inside the time on the cross country and so the only rider to complete on their dressage score – finishing nearly 12 penalties clear of Mary – deserving winners of the European Individual title. Earlier Oliver Townend jumped a great round with Flint Curtis for just one down to leave them in 12th place overall but more importantly, a Gold Medal round his neck on his team debut. Rodney Powell was unlucky to have two down with Langarth Darcy as he looked fresh after Saturday's extreme effort for a final 40th place while Georgie Davies and Fachoudette lowered a single fence for 28th position – this must be a combination to watch for the future.

In the team competition, the loss of Germany from the top ranks meant that France took the Silver and Italy the bronze.

Individual

Gold Nicolas Touzaint (FRA) Gala de Sauvagere 29.4

Silver Mary King (GBR) Call Again Cavalier 41.3

Bronze Bettina Hoy (GER) Ringwood Cockatoo 42.3

British

6th Zara Phillips Toytown 51.6

7th Daisy Dick Spring Along 53.1

12th Oliver Townend Flint Curtis 72.2

28th Georgie Davies Fachoudette 101.4

40th Rodney Powell Langarth Darcy 166.3

Team

Gold GBR

Silver FRA

Bronze ITA

4th BEL

5th DEN

6th SUI

7th GER

8th IRL

9th AUT

10th RUS

09-10-2007

Show Jumping Officially Launch Evolution Squad.

The British Show Jumping Association in conjunction with World Class has been developing their Evolution squad. This is a squad of 43 riders which compliments the Development and Performance squads which exist in World Class across the disciplines.

The Evolution Squad is a competition focused squad made up of horse / rider combinations that have reached a certain standard in their competitive career. World Class and Show Jumping wish to assist these combinations to reach the next level by selecting them to represent Great Britain in 4* and 5* nations cups. The Squad will be officially launched on 10th October with an "Evolution Squad information day". The aim of this day is to explain the key aims of the squad to the members and to find out more about their targets for the year and help to define these more clearly.

15-10-2007

BBC Sport to Follow Daniel Neilson

Following the successful [launch of Equestrian Team GBR](#) Daniel Neilson will be among the British Athletes who BBC Sport will be following during the countdown to 2012.

"I met the team from BBC Sport during the launch of Equestrian Team GBR where Mathew Sampson and I had been asked to represent the World Class Development Programme. It was just a great day and I learnt so much from not only being part of a big press launch, but also the filming both Mathew and I did afterwards with Tim Stockdale" explained Daniel.

"I just felt really lucky to have been part of it and enjoyed meeting everyone from the other equestrian disciplines. The last thing I expected was anything else to come from it. To have been given this opportunity is something I really can't thank the BSJA, UK Sport or BBC Sport for" Daniel continued.

Maria Clayton, Head of Communications for the BSJA commented "It would be impossible to ask Andy Fraser and his team at BBC Sport to be any more proactive or receptive to ideas on how to promote our sport and those within it to a wider audience. Their energy, focus and commitment, not only to show jumping but all sports is second to none and we are thoroughly looking forward to working alongside such a professional and proactive team".

Further information can be found by visiting www.bbc.co.uk then following the links for BBC Sport. A discussion forum and feedback features are already in place with expansion planned in the near future with footage from certain show jumping events and a Blog that Daniel will be keeping to allow for updates and insight into the Junior & Young Rider environment.
