

Team GBR Youth Teams Archive June - Dec 2008

Junior and Young Rider European Dressage Championship Team announced 2008-06-12

The team members for the Junior & Young Rider European Dressage Championships to be held in Azeitao, Portugal from 14-20 July 2008, are as follows:

Juniors:

Alexandria Barr and Don Perry
Keri Bates and Donna Parrina
Melissa Beer and Celestial King
Rebecca Drane and Half Moon Bardolino
Non-travelling reserve:
Samantha Harrison and Broomford Locarno

Young riders:

Amber de Savary and Diamond Fritz
Lara Griffith and Warlock
Charlie Hutton and Abira
Zoe Sleigh and Orvieto

Non travelling reserves:

Natalie Allen and Duke 77
Emily Cousins and Solo Bachelorette

Three of the riders selected to compete on these teams, are part of the World Class Development Dressage programme.

Keri Bates, riding Donna Parrina is among the four riders on the Junior team, with Lara Griffith riding Warlock IV and Charlie Hutton riding Abira on the four strong Young Rider team.

Vikki Underwood, World Class Development Programme Manager says, "Congratulations to Keri, Charlie and Lara on being selected to represent GB at these Championships, which hopefully will provide a foundation to their dressage careers and one that will see them develop and progress onto the Performance Programme in the future".

The World Class Development Programme, is Lottery funded through UK Sport and is designed to assist in the development of talented riders, with the best opportunities to maximise their competitive potential through an established training pathway that will see them progress onto the Olympic Performance Programme for 2012 and beyond.

Childrens European Show Jumping Team Selected

2008-06-18The riders who will represent Great Britain at this year's Childrens European Show Jumping Championships have been selected.

Thirteen year-old Chloe Aston from Tring in Hertfordshire will ride Cathleen 16, an eleven year-old grey mare owned by CC Equine International.

Abigail Newbery from Southampton in Hampshire, also thirteen years of age with partner Universe Special, a seven year-old bay gelding jointly owned by Tony Newbery and Fiona Dunning.

Reigning Childrens European Individual Gold Medallist, thirteen year-old Graham Gillespie from Dunbartonshire in Scotland will defend his title aboard Beth Gillespie's eleven year-old bay mare, Ara.

Thirteen year-old Lauren Edwards from Stockport in Cheshire will ride Peter Lamb's eleven year-old chestnut gelding Mr Bon Ami.

Thirteen year-old Olivia Dales from Brough in Hull will ride Russ Underwood's seven year-old grey mare Arabella IV.

Two non-travelling reserves have also been announced; thirteen year-old Nikki Freeman with It'll Be Me, a nine year-old chestnut mare owned by Emma Shaw and twelve year-old Ella Curley from Hartfield, East Sussex with Deborah Curley's ten year-old bay mare Latifah.

The 2008 Childrens European Championships will take place at the Marcopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre in Athens, Greece from the 10th - 13th July 2008 and Great Britain will be looking to emulate their performance at last year's Championships when they not only took the Team Gold Medal, but also the Individual Gold and Silver medals.

The Squad will be accompanied on their trip to Greece by Chef d'Equipe Mike Florence, Team Trainer Corinne Bracken and Team Vet John Killingbeck.

Further details regarding the Championships can be viewed at www.equestrian.org.gr

The Childrens Team are generously supported by Next Plc and Toggi who have very kindly supplied the team clothing

Juniors and Young Riders Selected for European Show Jumping Championships 2008-07-02

The Accenture Juniors and Young Riders who will represent Great Britain at the 2008 European Show Jumping Championships to be held in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic from the 16th - 20th July 2008 have been selected.

JUNIORS

Seventeen year-old Jason Smith from Kilmarnock, Ayrshire will partner Anne Smith's eleven year-old bay gelding Rival 14. Jason and Rival 14 were members of the British Junior Nations Cup Team in Wierden earlier this year.

Fifteen year-old Marla Lovett from Henfield in West Sussex will ride Sharon Lovett's nine-year old dark bay mare Emily 46. Marla and Emily 46 represented their country on the British Junior Nations Cup Team in Reims last month.

Eighteen year-old Louise Saywell from Retford, Nottinghamshire will ride Andrew Saywell's eight year-old grey gelding Cyprianus Z. Louise has won Pony European Team Gold and Silver Medals as well as Individual Gold and Bronze Medals in 2005 and 2006. This will be Louise and Cyprianus Z's second successive appearance at the Junior European Championships following their selection for the 2007 Junior European Championships held in Auvers, France. Louise is a member of the World Class Development Squad which is lottery funded through UK Sport and provides support across a wide range of support services as well as direct funding support.

Seventeen year-old Matthew Sampson who is based in Haywards Heath, West Sussex with Duncan Inglis' ten year-old bay mare Indy 28. Matthew who is now based with Duncan Inglis had a very successful pony career which included a Pony European Team Gold Medal in 2006. Matthew was a member of the British Bronze medal winning Junior Team at the 2007 Junior European Championships and is also a member of the World Class Development Squad which is lottery funded through UK Sport and provides support across a wide range of support services as well as direct funding support.

Eighteen year-old Daniel Neilson, based in Brentwood, Essex will ride Christian Saunders' eleven year-old grey mare High Tone Z. Daniel only started competing on horses in 2007 following a tremendous end to his pony career in 2006 winning both Team and Individual Pony European Gold Medals. Daniel and High Tone Z then went onto win Team Bronze and Individual Silver at the 2007 Junior European Championships. Daniel who is also a member of the World Class Development Squad which is lottery funded through UK Sport and provides support across a wide range of support services as well as direct funding support.

Non travelling reserve will be seventeen year-old Danielle Farnsworth from Kinoulton, Nottingham with Mr & Mrs Bryce's ten year-old chestnut gelding Orlof Wisbecq. Danielle and Orlof Wisbecq finished in third place in the Wierden Junior Grand Prix at the beginning of June.

YOUNG RIDERS

Twenty-one year old Gemma Plumley from Chepstow, Gwent will ride Johnsey Estates' nine year-old bay mare Lutine du Charmois. Gemma won both Team Gold and Individual Bronze medals at the 2007 Young Rider European Championships held in Auvers, France.

Twenty year-old Ryan Prater from Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire will partner Whisker, a nine-year old bay stallion co-owned by Ryan and Suzanne Heath. Ryan and Whisker took seventh place in the Young Rider Grand Prix in Reims last month.

Nineteen year-old Hannah Paul from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire will ride Simon Paul's nine year old black gelding Sirius III. Hannah is a member of the World Class Development Squad which is lottery funded through UK Sport and provides support across a wide range of support services as well as direct funding support.

Nineteen year-old Tim Page from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk will ride Trevor Sturman's ten year-old chestnut gelding Quentin Tarantino. Tim and Quentin Tarrantino represented Great Britain on the Young Rider Nations Cup Team in Reims earlier this year.

Eighteen year-old William Whitaker based with his uncle Michael in Whatton, Nottinghamshire will partner Ian Whitaker's nine year-old bay gelding Sarlino. William and Sarlino finished in runner up spot in the Grand Prix at CSI4* Antwerp back in May. William who is also a member of the World Class Development Squad which is lottery funded through UK Sport and provides support across a wide range of support services as well as direct funding support.

Non travelling reserve will be nineteen year-old Louis Godber from Ripley in Derbyshire with Rowena Gredley's thirteen year-old chestnut gelding Niko IV. Louis and Niko IV were victorious in the Wierden Young Rider Grand Prix earlier this year.

Accenture are delighted to continue their 7 year successful sponsorship of BSJA Young Riders as part of their overall sponsorship of youth in British Sports. The results - including a Gold Medal for 5 of the 6 years - support our overall goal of "winners working with winners". Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing

company. Committed to delivering innovation, Accenture works with its clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. With deep industry and business process expertise, broad global resources and a proven track record, Accenture can mobilise the right people, skills and technology to help clients improve their performance. In the UK alone the company generated net revenues of £1.5billion for the fiscal year end August 31st 2005 and has a staff of 12,000. Globally Accenture has more than 120,000 staff out of 56 countries. For more information on Accenture please see :- www.accenture.com.

The Junior and Young Rider Teams are also supported by the World Class Development programme which is Lottery funded through UK Sport.

The Junior and Young Rider Teams are generously supported by Next Plc and Toggi who have very kindly supplied the team clothing.

Pony European Championship Show Jumping Squad Selected 2008-07-08

The John Whitaker International Pony Team who will represent Great Britain at the 2008 Pony European Championships to be held in Avenches, France from 22 - 27 July has been announced;

Fourteen year-old Pippa Allen from Thornaby, Cleveland will make her second Team appearance with Peter Allen's seventeen year-old appaloosa mare Spot the Lady, having been a member of last years British gold medal winning Team in Freudenberg.

Sixteen year-old James Smith from Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire with Leona Smith's twelve year-old black gelding Mr Nice Guy is also familiar with medal success, having been a member of last year's British gold medal winning team and also the individual Bronze medal.

Sixteen year-old Jessie Drea from Horsham, West Sussex will ride Lynne Humphries' nine year-old bay gelding Quantum Light.

Sixteen year-old George Whitaker from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire with Christopher McSharry's ten year-old coloured gelding The Colour of Money.

Fifteen year-old Emma Stoker from Goole, North Humberside riding Sarah Stoker's eleven year-old bay gelding Peron III.

Great Britain's pony riders have an outstanding medal tally at the Pony European Championships having won ten Team Gold Medals and one Team Silver Medal in the last eleven years.

Accompanying the squad to the European Championships will be Pony Chairman, Clare Whitaker from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire; Chef d'Equipe Katrina Moore from Brentwood, Essex; Team Trainer Alan Fazakerley from Manchester and Team Vet Mark Sinnott from South Hanningfield, Essex.

The Pony Team is sponsored by John Whitaker International who have sponsored the squad since 2004. The Whitaker family firmly believe in the training and producing of riders that will become future champions for Great Britain.

The John Whitaker International Signature range of equestrian products have been developed and worn by riding professionals. With national pride, John Whitaker International

is proud to sponsor the Pony squad and wishes the team facing the challenges of the European Champions every success.

The Pony Team is kindly supported by the World Class Development Programme who are Lottery funded through UK Sport and further supported by NEXT Plc and Toggi who supply the team clothing.

British Children Retain Team Gold Medal 2008-07-11

The British Childrens Team competing at the FEI European Show Jumping Championship for Children in Athens, Greece have successfully defended their title, winning the Team Gold Medal at the Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Centre this afternoon.

The quartet took victory from a field of nine teams, finishing on a total score of just four penalties. Thirteen year-old Chloe Aston from Tring in Hertfordshire jumped two faultless rounds aboard CC Equine International's Cathleen 16 and this was emulated by thirteen year-old Graham Gillespie from Dunbartonshire, Scotland riding Beth Gillespie's Ara who also produced two foot perfect rounds. Thirteen year-old Lauren Edwards from Stockport in Cheshire with Peter Lamb's Mr Bon Ami finished with just four faults in the first round and jumped a clear in the second. Thirteen year-old Olivia Dales from Brough, Hull riding Russ Underwood's Arabella IV finished the first round with thirteen penalties and the second with twenty four. The Italian Team took the silver medal and Turkey the Bronze.

Chef d'Equipe Mike Florence, speaking from Athens said:

"This is a fantastic result from such a young Team and it's a great feeling to come into the Markopoulo Olympic Stadium here in Athens and take home the Gold Medal for the second year running."

The Individual medals will be decided on Sunday afternoon and the news and results from the Championships

Gillespie Wins Silver Medal! 2008-07-13

Thirteen year-old Graham Gillespie from Dunbartonshire, Scotland has won the Individual Silver Medal at the 2008 FEI European Show Jumping Championship for Children in Athens.

Graham riding Beth Gillespie's Ara lowered just a single pole throughout the whole three days of competition meaning he had to jump off with Belgium's Vicky van de Poel and his fellow British Team mate Thirteen year-old Lauren Edwards from Stockport in Cheshire with Peter Lamb's Mr Bon Ami, who also finished with just four penalties, to decide the Silver and Bronze medals.

Graham produced the fastest clear beating his Belgian competitor by almost a second to take the Silver medal with Lauren and Mr Bon Ami clocking up eight penalties to take fourth place. The Gold Medal went to Italy's Francesca Arioldi. Thirteen year-old Chloe Aston from Tring in Hertfordshire aboard CC Equine International's Cathleen 16 finished in equal fifth place.

Full results can be downloaded at www.equestrian.org.gr
Young Riders Show Jumping Team Battle for Bronze in Prague

2008-07-20

Britain's Accenture Young Rider team have taken the Bronze medal this afternoon at the 2008 FEI European Championship for Young Riders in Prague, after a jump off with France.

Fifteen teams took part in today's competition, and after a nail biting two rounds, Great Britain were holding equal third place with France, meaning a jump off would be required to decide the final medal position. The British contingent held their nerve and produced three faultless rounds in the jump off to secure the Bronze medal.

Having won Team Gold and Individual Bronze Medals in 2004 and 2007 and Team Silver in 2003, Gemma Plumley from Chepstow, Gwent and Johnsey Estate's Lutine du Charmois, demonstrated their depth of experience having just a single fence down in the second round and jumping clear in the first round and the jump off. Ryan Prater riding Whisker, a nine-year old bay stallion co-owned by Ryan and Suzanne Heath lowered just one fence to finish the first round on four penalties, twelve penalties in the second and jumped a clear in the jump off. Hannah Paul riding Simon Paul's Sirius III lowered a pole in the first round and then went on to jump clear in both the second round and the jump off. William Whitaker riding Ian Whitaker's Sarlino had four penalties in both the first and second rounds and as the three clears from his fellow Team mates had already secured the Bronze medal for Great Britain, William was not required to take part in the jump off.

Switzerland took the Gold medal with The Netherlands in silver medal position.

2008 FEI European Show Jumping Championship for Young Riders
Team Final

Gold Switzerland
Silver The Netherlands

Bronze Great Britain
Ryan Prater Whisker 4/12/0
Gemma Plumley Lutine du Charmois 0/4/0
Hannah Paul Sirius III 4/0/0
William Whitaker Sarlino 4/4/ns

Full results can be downloaded from www.eurohorse-promotion.cz

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Young Dressage Brits make vast improvement at 2008 Junior and Young Rider Euros 2008-07-21

Britain's Young Rider and Junior Dressage teams made a vast improvement this year with the juniors finishing fifth, only a little more than three points away from a bronze medal, at the 2008 European Junior and Young Rider Dressage Championships in Azeitao, Portugal, 16-20 July.

Junior chef d'equipe Islay Auty said: "We were fifth by the skin of our teeth. We had several horses who suffered from the four-day journey here in the intense heat and needed careful veterinary treatment, including fluids. It was nearly 40°C at the end of the team competition day and Don Perry was certainly still suffering the after-effects of the journey and ran out of steam towards the end of the test."

Despite these difficulties, the junior team of Rebecca Drane and Half Moon Bardolino (18th), Keri Bates and Donna Parina (22nd) Melissa Bates and Celestial King (23rd) and Alexandria Barr and Don Perry (34th) finished a creditable fifth out of 11 teams.

This was Rebecca's first time on a British team and it is her last as a junior.

"She was magnificent, particularly as she is so inexperienced," said Islay of Rebecca, who has regular help from Judy Harvey.

The young riders finished sixth with Charlie Hutton and Abira in 17th, Lara Griffith and Warlock 18th, Amber de Savary and Diamond Fritz 29th and Zoe Sleigh and Orvieto 34th.

"The young riders have made a vast improvement on last year. Charlie was on the junior team then and he has moved up to this level fabulously. Charlie, Lara and junior rider Keri are all on the World Class Development Programme and credit must be given to that programme for advancing these riders who gave the overall strength to the teams," said Islay, who praised the excellent team spirit in the British camp.

Islay also gave credit to team vet Andre Buthe: "He has been phenomenal. We wouldn't be where we are without him."

Keri Bates and Donna Parrina moved up to 11th place in the junior individual test and went on to take ninth in the freestyle with an impressive 69.2%. Keri, who is 17, has competed the 11-year-old 16.1hh bay mare by Donnerhall since 2006 and was also on the junior team last year.

In the young rider section, Lara Griffith and Warlock were the best Brits, finishing 15th in the individual test and 12th in the freestyle. Lara, 19, was a member of the junior team in 2006 with the now 16-year-old 16.2hh chesnut gelding by Werther and this year their wins include the Intermediaire II Freestyle Winter Championships.

For the full results go to www.conventosaodomingos.com/classificacoes.html.

Juniors take Team Gold at Junior European Show Jumping Championships

2008-07-21

Britain's Accenture Junior team took the Gold medal yesterday at the 2008 FEI European Show Jumping Championship for Juniors in Prague.

From a starting field of eighteen nations, Chef d'Equipe Mike Florence led the British contingent to a convincing victory over Denmark who took the Silver medal and Germany who took Bronze after a jump off with Switzerland.

Seventeen year-old Matthew Sampson who is based in Haywards Heath, West Sussex riding Duncan Inglis' ten year-old bay mare Indy 28 proved a worthy pathfinder, jumping clear in both rounds. Eighteen year-old Louise Saywell from Retford, Nottinghamshire riding Andrew Saywell's eight year-old grey gelding Cyprianus Z produced a fantastic clear in the first round and was unlucky to finish with just four penalties in the second. A reversal of fortunes for eighteen year-old Daniel Neilson, based in Brentwood, Essex and Christian Saunders' eleven year-old grey mare High Tone Z saw them finish the first round with four penalties and then jumped a superb clear round in the second. Fifteen year-old Marla Lovett from Henfield in West Sussex riding Sharon Lovett's nine-year old dark bay mare Emily 46 had twenty one penalties in the first round and twelve in the second.

2008 FEI European Show Jumping Championship for Juniors Team Final

Gold Great Britain

Matthew Sampson Indy 28 0/0

Louise Saywell Cyprianus Z 0/4

Marla Lovett Emily 46 21/12

Daniel Neilson High Tone Z 4/0

Silver Denmark

Bronze Germany

Full results can be downloaded from www.eurohorse-promotion.cz

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Ponies Eventing Team Win Silver in Avenches 2008-07-28

With less than a fence separating Gold from Silver, the Derby House British Pony Eventing Team have won Team Silver at the European Pony Championships in Avenches, Switzerland this weekend (21-27 July).

The Team consisted of an all-girl squad, namely Gina Ruck (15), from Tealby, Lincs; Eliza Stoddart (15) from Market Harborough, Leics; Ella McEwen (14) from Swindon, Wilts; Althea Bleekman (16) from Cullompton, Devon and Helen Dunning (15) from Tarporley, Cheshire.

In the nail-biting final phase, the show jumping, Gina, Eliza and Ella all jumped clear rounds to put the pressure on the German Team. They finished individually in 4th, 5th and 6th place respectively, just a hairsbreadth away from individual Medal placings.

Althea and Helen both had just one fence down, but their rounds were good enough to secure a hard-earned 10th and 11th place individually.

Team Manager Ginnie Keen said: "I am over the moon with our Team Silver Medal! The Germans had a very strong team this year and to be second to them with less than a fence in it is a great achievement.

"I would like to thank all those who have helped the Team, particularly our sponsors Derby House who have given us great support over the years."

Final Results

Individual Scores

1st Nina Stegemann 43.0 (GER)
2nd Chloe Deschamps 43.2 (FRA)
3rd Pia Munker 44.2 (GER)
4th Gina Ruck 45.7
5th Eliza Stoddart 48.1
6th Ella McEwen 49.4

10th Helen Dunning 56.1
11th Althea Bleekman 56.7

Team Scores

Gold - Germany 140.0
Silver Great Britain 143.2
Bronze - Italy 179.4

British Squad

Althea Bleekman (16) from Cullompton, Devon
Riding: Nightgirl 002
Brown, Mare, 14.1hh, 10yrs
Sire: Night Power
Owner: Rider

Helen Dunning (15) from Tarporley, Cheshire
Riding: Glenayre Bay Surf
Bay, Gelding, 14.2hh, 11yrs
Sire: Grange Kings Surf
Owner: Rider

Ella McEwen (14) from Swindon, Wilts

Riding: Catherston Nutsafe
Bay, Mare, 14.2hh, 12yrs
Sire: Catherston Nightsafe
Owner: Rider

Gina Ruck (15) from Tealby, Lincs
Riding: Ice Cool Bailey
Grey, Gelding, 14.2hh, 12yrs
Sire: Unknown
Owner: Rider

Eliza Stoddart (15) from Market Harborough, Leics
Riding: Killacorran Blue
Grey, Gelding, 14.2hh, 8yrs
Sire: Blue Smokey
Owner: Rider

2008 Dressage European Pony Champs: Brits sixth after hard-fought battle 2008-07-28

Britain's Dressage pony riders finished sixth after a hard-fought battle at the 2008 European Dressage Pony Championships in Avenches, Switzerland, 23-27 July.

In the past, the British pony team has returned with team bronze on numerous occasions. This year, Germany once again took the top slot with The Netherlands second. Denmark snatched bronze from Belgium by just 0.6% while the traditionally strong dressage nation of Sweden took fifth.

Selector Jenny Ward said: "We had noticed the Belgians improving over the last few international shows, but they were much better than they've ever been before."

Natasha Leak (pictured), Britain's youngest team member with one more year in ponies, was best Brit riding the 13-year-old palomino stallion De Vito to score 66.632%. Last year's team bronze medallist Olivia Kuropatwa and the 13-year-old chestnut gelding Kastanienhof's Vitus were close behind with 66.369%. Team debutantes Roberta Hayler and the 10-year-old grey stallion Nanos scored 65.737% and Amy Woodhead and the 12-year-old bay gelding Languard 4 finished on 65.421%. The last three riders are all in the final year as pony riders.

Jenny said: "All the riders coped extremely well with the pressure and showed maturity. The judges commented how much they liked the way Olivia rode and Amy has improved her pony out of all recognition."

Please note these results are unconfirmed at this stage. Please go to the show's website for the official results www.pony-euro08.ch as they were unavailable at the time of writing.

Junior Eventing European Championship Team Announced 2008-07-29

After a campaign of spring trials and three day events at Chepstow, Houghton and Jardy, the Junior Selectors are pleased to announce the squad of twelve for the Junior Eventing European Championships, taking place in the beautiful setting of Thirlestane Castle in the Scottish Borders over 14th - 17th August 2008.

Heading the line-up are 2007 Junior squad members, Marina Lawson-Smith and Fergus Payne. Marina was a member of the Gold medal winning team in Avenches last year but has a new ride this year with Sky Sport. Fergus, who rode as an individual, makes his second squad appearance with his father, Michael's, Secret Avalanche.

Joining them are reigning British under-18 champions, Evie Paterson and Direct Opposition, following their win at Chepstow CCI* back in May and Jardy CCI* winner, Gaby Cooke and Northcroft Frontier, who produced an immaculate performance in France at the end of June.

Making their Junior Squad debuts are three former Pony Team medallists. Libby Soley, the 2007 double gold medallist, is named with the choice of two rides, Kachemire Le Beau and Noble Springbok. Reigning JRN Champion Sienna Myson-Davies rides Tambourine and Amy Hawley partners Helpful Harry II.

The Squad will go into final concentration at Quainton Stud on the 4th - 8th August before leaving for Thirlestane Castle on the 12th August.

The Squad of twelve:-

Giles Blanchard (17)
Gaby Cooke (17)
Iona Dent (17)
Mary Edmundson (16)
Dani Evans (16)
Amy Hawley (17)
Marina Lawson-Smith (17)
Sienna Myson-Davies (16)
William Newton (18)
Evie Paterson (16)
Fergus Payne (18)
Libby Soley (17)

Reserve combinations in order of acceptance:-

Harry Dzenis (17)

Rosie Chinery (17)

Tim Rogers (16)

Eleanor Barns-Graham (18)

The Junior Selectors reserve the right to make alterations at any time to the above lists, should they be warranted.

The British Junior Squad is kindly supported by UK Sport (Team Funding), Land Rover (Team Vehicles), Toggi (Team Clothing), KC Equestrian (Rodney Powell Body Protectors), Urchin (Rugs and Numnahs), Gatehouse Range (Hat Silks) and the Horse Trails Support Group (Funding for Training).

Ponies win Team and Individual Gold at the European Show Jumping Championships 2008-07-30

Yet again, Britain has proved to Europe their incredible talent by securing not only Team Gold but Individual Gold as well at the Pony European Show Jumping Championships held in Avenches, Switzerland (24 - 27 July 2008) - Gold medals that our ponies and riders have consistently won under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe Katrina Moore, Team Coach Alan Fazakerley and Chairman of the Pony Committee Clare Whitaker.

The John Whitaker International Pony Team representing Great Britain took Team Gold. Great Britain's pony riders have an outstanding medal tally at the Pony European Championships having won eleven Team Gold Medals and one Team Silver Medal in the last twelve years. Finishing on just a total of nine faults Great Britain secured the podium position relegating the Netherlands to second place on fifteen faults followed by the German Team who finished on a total of sixteen.

Over a course which caused many to have faults it was George Whitaker with The Colour of Money who produced a foot perfect double clear - a result matched by just a handful of competitors across the fourteen nations competing it.

Fourteen year old Pippa Allen with Spot the Lady took anchor position with Pippa proving her metal, nerve and focus far beyond her years by jumping clear in the final round ensuring the Gold was ours to bring home.

With James Smith and Mr Nice Guy in addition to Emma Stoker with Peron III making up the rest of the team and putting in great performances – the team once again, as our teams have done consistently over the years, showed the depth of talent we have within our pony ranks.

Chef d'Equipe Katrina Moore commented, "We've had ups and downs over the past few weeks and not the best of luck in the first round once here but to have a result like this makes it all worth it. The Netherlands were on our tail the whole way through the competition and Pippa Allen's performance shows her to be the absolute class rider that she is. Once again, our Team have shone through - it's been an emotional day and I'm so proud of the entire team. The talent we have in the UK is second to none - something that every member of our team has proved today."

The team consisted of:

Fourteen year-old Pippa Allen from Thornaby, making her second Team appearance with Peter Allen's seventeen year-old appaloosa mare Spot the Lady, having been a member of last years British gold medal winning Team in Freudenberg.

Sixteen year-old James Smith from Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire with Leona Smith's twelve year-old black gelding Mr Nice Guy is also familiar with medal success, having been a member of last year's British gold medal winning team and also the individual Bronze medal.

Sixteen year-old George Whitaker from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire with Christopher McSharry's ten year-old coloured gelding The Colour of Money.

Fifteen year-old Emma Stoker from Goole, North Humberside riding Sarah Stoker's eleven year-old bay gelding Peron III.

Sixteen year-old George Whitaker from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire with Christopher McSharry's ten year-old coloured gelding The Colour of Money took the Individual Gold. Finishing on a total of 5 faults, George stood one fence ahead of Germany's Maurice Bettle and his pony Giovanni who were relegated to Silver finishing on a total of nine faults.

With three riders finishing on twelve faults – the battle for Bronze was hard fought in a jump off between Britain's fourteen year old Pippa Allen from Thornaby. Jessica Vinter-Jensen from Denmark and Laura Klaphake from Germany.

The three all put in great performances but it was Denmark's Jessica Vinter-Jenson with her pony Nikolina that took the medal having jumped clear in a time of 34.02. In fourth place was Pippa Allen with Peter Allen's eye-catching Appaloosa mare Spot the Lady who had an unlucky fence down in a very fast time of 32.93. Laura Klaphake took fifth place behind Pippa coming home with the same four faults but in a slower time of 34.23.

Speaking from Avenches Katrina Moore commented, "The euphoria we feel in winning an Individual Gold medal is something I can't convey. George Whitaker rode fantastically remaining focused and going out there achieving everything we asked of him. Pippa also showed sportsmanship beyond her years in the way she tackled the jump off for Bronze place and we are all incredibly proud of her fourth position".

Claire Whitaker added, "On behalf of Katrina Moore, Alan Fazakerly, myself and everyone at the BSJA we would like to personally thank Christopher McSharry for keeping The Colour of Money for George to compete on this weekend. We now just hope that this super talented pony stays in the UK!"

The Pony Team is sponsored by John Whitaker International who have sponsored the squad since 2004. The Whitaker family firmly believe in the training and producing of riders that will become future champions for Great Britain

The John Whitaker International Signature range of equestrian products have been developed and worn by riding professionals. With national pride, John Whitaker International is proud to sponsor the Pony squad and wishes the team facing the challenges of the European Champions every success.

The Pony Team is kindly supported by the World Class Development Programme who are Lottery funded through UK Sport and further supported by NEXT Plc and Toggi who supply the team clothing.

Double Gold for British Junior Eventing Team at Thirlestane Castle 2008-08-18

The British Junior Eventing Team held on to their early lead after the first day of dressage with three clear cross-country and show-jumping rounds at the Junior European Championships held at Thirlestane Castle, Scotland this weekend (15-17 Aug). They held an impressive 30+ point lead over Ireland and Germany, finishing on a fantastic final team score of 132.6.

There was also great success for the rest of the British squad in the Individual competition, with Sienna Myson-Davies (16) holding onto first place after posting a dressage score of 38.1, with clear rounds in both the cross-country and show-jumping. Second place went to British rider Libby Soley (17) with a score of 45.

Robin Balfour, Team Manager says: "It was a fantastic European Championship with some very strong teams, and our success exceeded all our expectations. The British Junior Team and our Individual riders are very talented, and the combinations worked very well together, ably demonstrating that we have an excellent core of horses and riders upon which to build teams for the future.

"Thanks must go to our excellent coaching team, who worked very hard to help the riders achieve so many (10 of 12) sub-40 dressage scores; plus five of the 12 clear rounds in the very influential show jumping phase were achieved by British riders."

The British Junior Squad is kindly supported by UK Sport (Team Funding), Land Rover (Team Vehicles), Toggi (Team Clothing), KC Equestrian (Rodney Powell Body Protectors), Urchin (Rugs and Numnahs), Gatehouse Range (Hat Silks) and the Horse Trials Support Group (Funding for Training).

British Junior Eventing Team

Sienna Myson-Davies (16) – Tambourine – 38.1

Willa Newton (18) – Neelix – 54.6

Libby Soley (17) – Kachemire Le Beau - 45

Amy Hawley (17) - Helpful Harry – 49.5

Final Team Scores

1st Great Britain – 132.6

2nd Ireland – 164.8

3rd Germany – 167.0

Final Individual Scores

1st Sienna Myson-Davies & Tambourine – 38.1

2nd Libby Soley & Kachemire Le Beau – 45

3rd Frederique Whittaker & Garie D'Latuilerie – 47.4

British Individual Scores

5th Dani Evans (16) – Uchin – 49.1

6th Giles Blanchard (17) – Arnies Game – 49.3

7th Amy Hawley (17) - Helpful Harry – 49.5

15th Willa Newton (18) – Neelix – 54.6

16th Evie Paterson (16) – Direct Opposition – 56.6

25th Marina Lawson-Smith (17) – Sky Sport – 62.7

43rd Gaby Cooke (18) – Northcroft Frontier – 74.9

57th Iona Dent (17) – Insync – 113.5

Young Riders Endurance European Championships Team Announced 2008-08-28

Cathy Brown and Di Latham the selectors for Endurance GB International Teams are pleased to announce the Young Riders Team to compete in the European Championship in Oviedo in Spain this September. They will compete over a distance of 120km in a day

Kay Counter and Cheeky Charlie

Cari Ann Dar and Elmsteads Poloistique
Beth Langley and HS Ametista
Rachel Rogerson and Gryphon
Abigail Tennant and Chador

All of these young people competed successfully at Ludlow recently riding together as a team tackling the tricky terrain very sensibly and bringing their horses back in good condition. The course in Oviedo is tough and hilly over quite rough terrain so it was a very good test for them. Team Chef Rosemary Attfield, Team Vet Derek Grantham and Team Farrier Chris Pell expressed their satisfaction with the selection.

We would like to thank the Sponsors, EGB groups and individuals who so generously support our Young Riders Team

Currently the Sponsors are :-

Performance Equestrian - Riding Tights
Equi-nice rugs - high quality Cooling rugs and bandages
Reflex Podium - Show numnahs
Mac-Wet - Riding gloves
LAS - Riding helmets and goggles
Toggi - Rider clothing
Jolly Ropes - Lead ropes and halters

Additional funding has been granted towards the Young Riders preparation by the British Equestrian Federation and the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

All of the Sponsors above also support our Senior Team but the Senior Team benefit from our association with the BEF World Class programme to receive in addition NAF supplements and Thermatex rugs

Young Riders European Eventing Squad Announced 2008-09-02

Following the final trial at Gatcombe Park this weekend, the Young Rider Selection Committee are pleased to announce the squad of six that will contest the Young Riders European Eventing Championships to be held this year at Kreuth in Germany, 25 – 28 September.

Heading the 'Jump Squad', are three members of the Young Rider Team that won gold at Blair Castle in 2007. Dani Cuomo and Ballin Willow are the only combination to retain their place where Georgie Spence and Emily Galbraith both have new mounts. Georgie, who is a member of the World Class Start programme, will ride Christopher Jenkins, Skylight and Emily will ride her own Timing, who was third at Burgie earlier in the year.

Completing the six are; reigning under 21 Champion and Junior team gold medallist, Emily Llewellyn with Pardon Me II; Ben Hobday and Uptons Who, who competed as individuals at the 2007 Europeans and are also on the World Class Start Programme; Sarah Stretton with Lazy Acres Skip On who make their squad debut following their 12th placing at Bramham in June.

The Squad will go in to final concentration on 15th September at Quainton Stud before travelling to Kreuth for the Championships on 20th September.

The 2008 Squad

Dani Cuomo (19) from Church Broughton, Derby
Horse: Ballin Willow - Bay, Gelding, 16.2hh, 10yrs s. Ballinvella

Emily Galbraith (20) from Jedburgh, Borders
Horse: Timing - Bay, Gelding, 16.1hh, 8yrs s. No Limit

Ben Hobday (20) from Rossendale, Lancs
Horse: Uptons Who - Dk Bay, Gelding, 16.2hh, 13 yrs s. Upton Deli Circus

Emily Llewellyn (19) from Heathfield, East Sussex
Horse: Pardon Me II, Chestnut, Gelding, 16.1hh, 11 yrs s. Landwind II Owner: Cindy Llewellyn

Georgie Spence (19) from Chippenham, Wilts
Horse: Skylight - Bay, Mare, 16.1hh, 9 yrs s. Jumbo Owner: Christopher Jenkins

Sarah Stretton (21) from Rugby, Warwickshire
Horse: Lazy Acres Skip On - Bay, Gelding, 15.3hh, 9yrs s. Skippy Too Owner: Billie Childs

Reserve Combinations

Sophie Griffith-Jones (20) from Leeds, Yorkshire
Horse: Seaboy - Dk Bay, Gelding, 16.2hh, 9 yrs s. Sevilliano

Alice Pearson (21) from Bromyard, Hereford
Horse: Beau Bear - Brown, Gelding, 16.2hh, 10 yrs s. Alflora Owner: Tricia Wilkins

The Young Rider Selectors reserve the right to make amendments to the list should they be warranted.

The Squad are extremely grateful for the support of: Jump Savings as title sponsors, UK Sport, Toggi, Land Rover, KC Equestrian, Park Gate Equestrian and NEW Equine Wear, with training support from The Horse Trials Support Group.

Young Riders win double gold at European Eventing Championships 2008-09-28

Following an exciting climax to the 2008 Young Rider European Eventing Championships, the British young riders have retained their team Gold, finishing 12.6 marks ahead of their nearest rivals Germany, who finished on 157.2. Having lost two team members before the show jumping France moved down the rankings allowing the Italians to finish in Bronze on 231.5.

Team Results

Gold - Great Britain – 144.6
Silver - Germany – 157.2
Bronze - Italy - 231.5

In addition to the team Gold, Emily Llewellyn jumped a clear show jumping round to take the individual Gold while Ben Hobday emulated Emily moving up to take individual Bronze with his clear round.

Individual Results

Gold - Emily Llewellyn Pardon Me II – 43.8
Silver - Julia Krajewski Lost Prophecy (GER) – 47.5
Bronze - Ben Hobday Uptons Who - 49.8

5th - Dani Cuomo Ballin Willow – 51.0
11th - Emily Galbraith Timing - 57.4
14th - Georgie Spence Skylight - 58.1
20th Sarah Stretton Lazy Acres Skip On - 70.9

For full start lists and results please see: - www.cross-country-tage.de

British Equestrian teams announced for Youth Olympic Festival 2009 2008-12-02

The British Olympic Association (BOA) today selected the two equestrian teams for the Australian Youth Olympic Festival (AYOF).

Seven riders - four show jumpers and three dressage riders - will attend the Festival which is being held at Sydney Olympic Park in Australia from 14-18 January 2009. All riders are under 19 years old and will compete on borrowed horses.

The teams were named as: (Click on each rider to view their individual biography)

Show Jumping (coach Di Lampard)

Daniel Neilson
Matthew Sampson
Louise Saywell
William Whitaker

The selectors have also named Tim Page as a non-travelling reserve.

Dressage (coach Gareth Hughes)

Emily Cousins
Jessica Dunn
Charlie Hutton

The selectors have also named Samantha Harrison as a non-travelling reserve.

“I am delighted to welcome these riders to the British Youth Olympic Team,” said Caroline Griffith, Team Leader AYOF, BEF (and World Class Dressage Development Programme manager). “This is the first time equestrian teams have been invited to take part in the Festival and we’re all really looking forward to the occasion.

“The riders were selected on their successful performances at both a national and international level, as well as taking in to account their ability to ride different horses and they’re all thrilled about this fantastic opportunity to compete on a world stage.

“I have every confidence in each of the rider’s abilities, and with the support of the two great coaches know that they will perform to their best - it’s really exciting.”

The AYOF is a youth multi-sport event which plays a significant role in developing future Olympians. It seeks to provide future Olympic athletes with an environment reminiscent of an Olympic Games and promote the Olympic ideals of friendship, solidarity and fair play. Some 25 nations will take part in 21 different sports. For more information visit <http://www.olympics.com.au/page/35/AYOF>

Chloe Aston is Crowned FEI Childrens World Champion 2008-12-16

Fourteen year-old Chloe Aston from Tring in Hertfordshire has won the Individual Final at the 2008 FEI Childrens International Jumping Final in Bogata, Columbia this evening (14th December).

Chloe, Britain’s sole representative at this year’s Final, snatched victory from South Africa’s Shannon Smith (Silver) and Columbian Andresa Quadros (Bronze), in a jump off to decide the final medal placings.