

## Team GB Bag Bronze At European Championships

The GB TREC Young Rider Team has returned from the TREC Young Riders European Championships 2017 with a Team Bronze medal!

The Championships were held at the Parc Equestre Fédéral in Lamotte-Beuvron, France from 31 August to 2 September 2017.

43 riders from 12 European nations took part in the competition.

Caitlin Crossley and her Dales pony Adamfield Flashlight, Alex Robinson and her Welsh Section D Trefnant Royal Warrior and Jo McCormac and her Irish pony Apache held onto their team ranking of third throughout a tough competition – their achievement even more impressive as they did not have the luxury of a 4<sup>th</sup> team member and a discard score that could be dropped for the Team rankings.

The horses and riders arrived at the impressive Parc Equestre Fédéral in Lamotte-Beuvron on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> August after a long and hot journey through France. The 2 days in the run up to the start of the competition were spent familiarising themselves and their horses with the extensive, flat areas of woodland around the Parc under the watchful eyes of Chef d'équipes Julia Knight-Jones and Anthea Kendrick.

The competition kicked off on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August with vettings, equipment checks and the official opening ceremony.

POR day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September was set to be hot! The riders and horses all successfully negotiated the route in around 5 hours and all horses vetted sound and healthy afterwards.

Caitlin had a fantastic POR and came home with 213 points – only one of very few riders who managed to correctly ride all 6 tickets en route, and coming out with a 4<sup>th</sup> individual position at the end of Day 1. Alex managed to hold onto 168 points giving her individual 15<sup>th</sup> and Jo ended her day 1 on 107 points with an individual placing of 35<sup>th</sup> – extremely impressive considering this was Jo and Apache's international debut.

Team Rankings at the end of Day 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Spain 615 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> France 574 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Britain 487 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Portugal 439 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Germany 435 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> Italy 359 points
- 7<sup>th</sup> Belgium 274 points

All horses vetted sound at the start of day 2 and the MA and PTV looked set to be tough but fair tests. Caitlin and Flash pulled a solid 39 points from phase 2. An unfortunate break for

Jo and Apache gave them 16 points and a very unfortunate foot on the line reduced Alex and Warrior's score to 6.

The PTV course was fairly straight forward obstacle wise, with a number of up to height logs but the obstacle positioning ensured a range of associated difficulties for the riders to negotiate.

Everyone agreed that the Judge's marking was very hard, but to be expected at Championship level. Caitlin and Flash bagged 118 points, Alex and Warrior 74 points and Jo and Apache 83 points.

The competition closed on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September with prize giving and the obligatory celebrations on the Saturday evening.

#### Individual Results:

Caitlin Crossley & Adamfield Flashlight 4<sup>th</sup> with 370 points  
Alex Robinson & Trefnant Royal Warrior 27<sup>th</sup> with 248 points  
Jo McCormac & Apache 35<sup>th</sup> with 206 points

#### Team Rankings:

1<sup>ST</sup> France with 1122 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Spain with 1041 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Great Britain with 831 points  
4<sup>th</sup> Italy with 827 points  
5<sup>th</sup> Portugal with 785 points  
6<sup>th</sup> Germany 702 points  
7<sup>th</sup> Belgium 520 points

A delighted Team GB safely returned from the competition after another long journey on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The Riders, horses and their support crew would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported them in their efforts in getting to the competition. We would particularly like to thank White Horse TREC Group and the Central TREC Group for their financial contributions towards the rider's expenses for this trip. We would also like to sincerely thank Just Chaps, Performance Equestrian, and NAF for their continued support with uniforms and equipment and also to Laura of Handwoven Browbands for her generous gifts.

We are already looking forward to the 2018 Championships, which are being held near Rome in Italy!



GB TREC YR Team 2017 (l to r) Anthea Kendrick, Julia Knight-Jones, Caitlin Crossley & Adamfield Flashlight, Jo McCormac, Alex Robinson



A jubilant GB Young Rider TREC Team - Prize Giving 2017