



The Equestrian World Class Programme

Welcome to the latest World Class Newsletter; the season is now well underway while we continue to work hard on preparations for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games—don't forget we are still fundraising so check out the latest lots on our [auction website](#) and let us know if you want to donate a prize.

Will Connell, Performance Director

Development riders compete in Saumur

Amy Stovold, Charlie Hutton, Gemma Green and Michael Eilberg, all World Class development programme riders, were selected to take part in the CDI at Saumur (29 April —2 May).

Amy and Gemma both made their senior debuts while Charlie competed in the young rider class and Michael took part in the Big Tour Grand Prix, as well as the under 25 class.

The competition took place at the prestigious French riding school – Le Cadre Noir in Saumur. Gemma and Amy were joined by Judy Harvey, Anna Ross Davies and World Class Performance rider Fiona Bigwood to contest the CDIO.

It proved a happy hunting ground for the British riders with the new combinations finding their feet and more established riders stamping their authority on the proceedings. A 70.85% score from Fiona Bigwood in the Grand Prix boosted an otherwise inexperienced senior team to clinch third for the Brits in the Nations Cup ahead of Germany.

Fiona from Horsham in West Sussex went on to take second in the Grand Prix special (71.17%) and third in the Grand Prix freestyle (72.55%) partnered with her 11 year old Wie Wiltmeyer gelding Wie Atlantico. "We've been working hard all winter and I was hoping to do well but you can never be sure. I really feel as though we've turned a corner, it was a great show and we all left with smiles on our faces!"

Gemma with Showtime, Judy Harvey with Fitzceraldo and Anna Ross-Davies with Pegasus MK completed the team



Amy Stovold with MacBrian

along with a new senior chef d'equipe Dicky Waygood who will work alongside team captain Richard Davison in preparation for the World Equestrian Games later this year.

Richard Davison commented: "This was an inexperienced team and with the exception of Fiona all the riders came away feeling they could have gone better. It was a useful experience though as the riders learnt a great deal and each showed they have a lot more to come. All credit to Fiona who rode a very good test to pull GB into third spot. They have built on the potential they showed last year to become a very exciting prospect ahead of Kentucky in September."

"I was so excited when I found out I'd been selected" said Gemma prior to the competition, "I've had Showtime since he was six so to have brought him up through the grades to this level and then be selected is immensely rewarding."

"The event should be a really valuable experience for us both – competing on the centre stage against a wealth of leading dressage riders from across the globe, and will hopefully stand us in good stead for future team competitions and selection."

Gemma finished in eighteenth place in the Team Grand Prix (69.4%) and scored 64.33% in the freestyle. World Class Development rider Michael Eilberg achieved joint fourth in the Big Tour Grand Prix (66.94%) partnered with Monet whilst Charlie Hutton achieved sixth place in the Young Riders team Championship class (69.15%).

World Class Development rider Amy Stovold impressed on her senior debut to improve from tenth place (65.23%) in the Grand Prix to fourth in the freestyle (70.65%) partnered with Julia Jacobs and Maggi Stovold's MacBrian.

"I'm really excited and nervous at the same time," said Amy before heading out to Saumur, "I've dreamed of this since I was 16, so after all the hard work it's great that we now have this opportunity to compete overseas. It will be a fantastic experience for us both and will be interesting to see how Macbrian copes with it all."

Joanne Eccles wins in Ermelo, Holland

British Vaultler, Joanne Eccles has taken her ninth consecutive win at international competition.

With her horse W.H.Bentley and father and lungeur John Eccles this is the second time that Joey has retained the top spot at Ermelo achieving a score of 8.3.

Joanne beat the 2006 World Champion Megan Benjamin into second place with fellow American Mary McCormack coming third. Sister Hannah Eccles, who is now also competing in the senior class, came sixth with a score of 7.7 and achieved the second highest score for her freestyle on the second day.

The Eccles sisters have made a strong start to their campaign for achieving podium places at the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, USA.

Interviews from Rolex Kentucky

William Fox-Pitt has become only the second British rider to win the Rolex Kentucky Three day event in its 30 year history. Riding Cool Mountain, Fox-Pitt finished on 42.8 points to finish 4.9 ahead of American Phillip Dutton.

Fox-Pitt said after showjumping: "When I went in there I just set him off and just hoped I'd give him a good ride and he jumped out of his skin. It's fantastic to have finally won here and I feel very proud to have won it".

The full interview can be found on the [Team GBR](#) website.



William Fox-Pitt in Kentucky

Emily Davies wins in Birmingham

Emily Davies won the World Class Development Championship at the British Open Show Jumping Championships on Thursday 8th April 2010, held at the LG Arena, Birmingham.

Emily, riding Cougar II owned by Mr Charles Davies was sixth in the World Class Development Programme Pathfinder class the day before.

It was a different story in the Championship class, after the first round there were only three clears; Emily Davies, Anthony Condon riding EuroCommerce Lanapoule and the youngest rider in the competitions, Yazmin Pinchen riding Ashkari, who in the jump off were clear in a time of 38.90 seconds. After a lovely clear round from Anthony in a time of 33.90, Emily had it all to play for and even with a slip coming to the penultimate fence, jumped clear in a time of 33.04 seconds.

Will Connell, World Class Performance Director said: "The interest that the WCD Programme Championship class has generated among some of the best young showjumping riders in Great Britain signifies the importance they place on qualifying to compete in the Championship class. The high level of riding required in order to win this prestigious title demonstrates the value and importance of correct training and riding".

Scott triumphs on the Sunshine Tour

At the CSI 3* Vejer de la Frontera show in Spain, World Class Development rider Scott Brash riding his father Stanley's 11 year old black gelding Intertoy Z won the Grand Prix beating Dutch H. Von de Pol riding Abeltje Z into second place by 1.21 seconds. He also picked up a first place in a 3* class riding Sebastian III at the start of the Tour.

"It was a great experience to be on the same bill as other top international riders and I'm delighted with how it went. To win a 3* Grand Prix just topped it all off brilliantly", said Scott. "The support I get from the World Class Programme has been instrumental in my success and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season".

Championship win for Sam at the British Open

Sam Hutton, a development programme showjumper from Southampton, has won the prestigious Rising Stars (PCA Futura) championship final at the British Open on Thursday 8th April at NEC in Birmingham.

Sam won the Rising Stars PCA title on Astral while holding fifth spot on Sharifa Al-Homaizi's nine year old chestnut mare Olympia III.

Following a series of strong results in qualifiers throughout the Winter Premier Season, Sam had finished top of the U23 WCD qualifying points table with Astral and had qualified both Astral and Olympia for the PCA, only one of two riders to qualify two horses for this event at the British Open.

Sam said of his success; "Astral was amazing, this was his first performance at the NEC and on such a big stage and it did not faze him at all, he is a real star. I was delighted with the performances of both these very talented horses. I am very lucky to have such supportive owners, an exceptional coach in Tony and the back up of the World Class Development Programme. I am looking forward to competing both horses in the Young Rider European Trials".

The World Class Programme incorporates the three Olympic sports of dressage, eventing, show jumping and the Paralympic sport of para-equestrian dressage. It comprises the Performance and Development programmes plus the Equine Pathway.

The aim of the Programme is to have in place a sustainable system that can deliver more medals on the international stage now and in the future. The Programme has been funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, through Exchequer and National Lottery funds, via UK Sport since 1998.

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