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Headlines



Chairman

Khaled Assem

Editor-In-Chief

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Assistant Managing Editor

Aya Amr

Editor

Engy Adham

Art Director

Salonaz Sakr

Designer

Radwa Saeed

IRISH FLY TO VICTORY IN FURUSIYYA LEG ON HOME GROUND



Via: FEI

The main arena of the Royal Dublin Society showgrounds in Ireland's capital city was electric with excitement when the Irish team won the eighth and last leg of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 Europe Division 1 League on their own hallowed turf. As they raised the Aga Khan Cup in triumph - one of the most coveted trophies in the sport - they brought a broad smile to the face of Irish President, His Excellency Michael D Higgins, and the crowd went wild with delight.

Bertram Allen, Greg Broderick, Cian O'Connor, Darragh Kenny and Chef d'Equipe Robert Splaine delivered Ireland's 23rd victory in the 89-year history of the great event that always draws huge numbers of spectators. But this was possibly one of the most emphatic of all time. Because the home side didn't just win, they trounced the opposition with a performance so strong that anchorman, Kenny, didn't even have to jump a second time because it was already wrapped up.

The Netherlands finished second ahead of the Swiss who managed to survive the elimination

of Olympic champion Steve Guerdat on a day when several horses decided they really didn't want to take on Alan Wade's course for a second time. Lying second-last at the halfway point, Germany bounced back to line up fourth ahead of Spain in fifth, while the British had a disappointing afternoon when having to settle for sixth. The Italians rallied with three clear rounds second time out to finish seventh, but the biggest surprise of the day was the last-place finish for the 2014 Dublin winners from the USA.

Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ 2015 Europe Division 1 Standings (after Round 8 in Dublin, Ireland):

1. Belgium - 350
2. Switzerland - 330
3. Great Britain - 315
4. France - 310
5. Ireland - 305
6. Netherlands - 295
7. Sweden - 295
8. Germany - 295
9. Italy - 255
10. Spain - 255



SCOTT BRASH STORMS TO RANKING LEAD AFTER ROLF-GÖRAN BENGTSSON WINS THE LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR LONDON GRAND PRIX

Via: LGCT

The third edition of the Tour in London was a feast of intensity and exceptional sporting action delivering split second drama for the 11th leg of the championship race with World No1 Scott Brash now at the top of the overall series ranking.

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) took his first win of the season with the ever-consistent Casall Ask, racing against the clock to come home in 34.91seconds. The calibre of riders was so high and the final round so intense, that John Whitaker (GBR) came just 8 hundredths of a second off the winning time, with his stallion Argento spurred home by the cheers of the local crowd. France's Simon Delestre rode his beautiful black stallion Qlassic Bois Margot to third around the big, technical course.™

Photo by: Stefano Grasso / LGCT





INAUGURAL JUNIOR WORLD VAULTING CHAMPIONSHIPS A GREAT SUCCESS

Via: FEI

Great success marked the first-ever FEI World Vaulting Championships for juniors, staged at Ermelo in The Netherlands from 6 to 9 August. A massive entry of 56 vaulters from 21 nations, including 11 Pas-de-Deux partnerships and a full 12 Squads, ensured a packed four-day programme of top competition.

This is an equestrian sport that has been developing at a rapid rate. It has been growing in popularity year-on-year since the first major international competition took place in July 1978 at St Moritz in Switzerland. Previously the most important competition for Juniors was staged at Open-European level, but this year marks a turning

point, and World Championships for Juniors will in future be staged in alternate yearly cycles.

The colossal crowds that turned out to see the best vaulters in action at last year's Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Normandy, France indicated the extraordinary level of interest in this discipline. Team Austria scored a double in the Female and Squad events while vaulters from Colombia and USA claimed the Male and Pas-de-Deux titles. ^{BT}

Results:

Junior Female Individual Championship:

- GOLD - Nicole Kirbisch (AUT) 7.763
- SILVER - Franziska Peitzmeier (GER) 7.699
- BRONZE - Manon Moutinho (FRA) 7.638.

Junior Male Individual Championship:

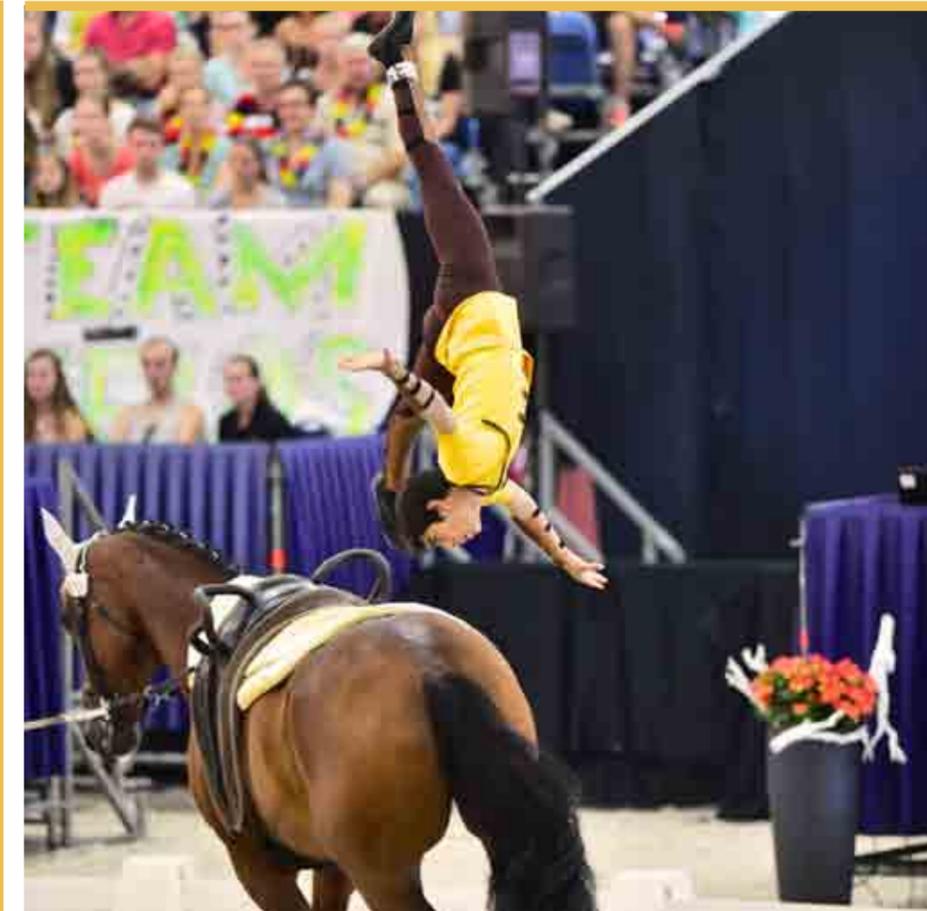
- GOLD - Juan Martin Clavijo (COL) 7.812
- SILVER - Tim Andrich (GER) 7.540
- BRONZE - Lambert Leclezio (MRI) 7.267.

Junior Squad Championship:

- GOLD - Club 43 (AUT) 7.682
- SILVER - Junior Team VV Ingelsberg I (GER) 7.629
- BRONZE - Woodside Vaulters (USA) 7.356.

Junior Pas-de-Deux Championship:

- GOLD - Bodhi Hall/Michelle Guo (USA) 7.799
- SILVER - Sandrine Flicker/Heike Hulla (AUT) 7.609
- BRONZE - Sarah Dunn/Janie Salisbury (USA) 7.018.



PAN-AMERICAN GAMES 2015:

JUMPING GOLD FOR CANADA AND USA



Via: FEI

In a series of competitions that could hardly have been choreographed to better effect, Canada claimed the team title while America's McLain Ward clinched individual gold in Jumping at the Pan-American Games 2015 in Caledon Park, Toronto, Canada.

Thursday's team tussle was an intriguing battle that proved unpredictable to the end when Argentina filled silver medal spot ahead of the USA in bronze. And it continued in the same vein when the individual medals were decided in a two-way jump-off for gold and silver as well as a five-way race for the bronze. Venezuela's Andres Rodriguez went head-to-head with Ward, and although he had to settle for silver his result reflected the consistent theme of the week. The quality of the sport in the region has improved beyond recognition in recent years, and the normally dominant sides had to fight very hard indeed to claim their fair share of the spoils.

Olympic qualification was also hanging in the balance since the action began. It is Canada and Argentina that have claimed the two team berths for Rio 2016, while two individual qualifying spots have been earned by both Colombia and Venezuela, and one each by Uruguay and Peru.

BELGIANS WIN THROUGH IN THREE-ROUND FURUSIYYA NATIONS CUP™ THRILLER AT HICKSTEAD



Via: FEI

In a competition with all the ingredients of drama and surprise that combine to make the sport of team Jumping such a crowd-pleaser, Belgium came out on top in the penultimate leg of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 Europe Division 1 League at Hickstead.

It took a three-way jump-off to decide the result; and hero of the day at the iconic British venue was Pieter Devos who, last to go against the clock, showed exactly why Belgian Chef d'Equipe, Dirk Demeersman, placed his faith in him. Janika Sprunger claimed runner-up spot for Switzerland, while an uncharacteristic mistake from Bezie Madden and Cortes C saw the USA having to settle for third. [©]

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES 2015: EVENTING DOUBLE-GOLD FOR USA

Via: FEI

America scooped both the team and individual titles at the Pan-American Games 2015 in Caledon Park, Toronto, Canada. Always with their eyes on the target of that single qualifying spot on offer for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Philip Dutton, Lauren Kieffer, Marilyn Little and Boyd Martin forged a marginal lead over the host country in Dressage. And, once out in front, they held on tight to triumph ahead of Brazil, while Canada had to settle for bronze in the final analysis.

And Little took the individual title in fine style. Lying second, and less than a fence behind Brazil's Ruy Fonseca who led from the outset with Tom Bombadill Too, the 33-year-old former Jumping rider kept a cool head to stay clear with her relatively inexperienced mare RF Scandalous, while 2011 Pan-American Eventing individual champions Jessica Phoenix and Pavarotti from Canada claimed silver this time around when Fonseca's single error dropped him to bronze medal spot.

A total of 11 nations lined out in the team competition, and Ecuador, Chile and Mexico were lying fourth, fifth and sixth after the Dressage phase. The USA had only a slender 0.7 point lead over Canada going into cross-country day, and Brazil was chasing hard when only three marks further adrift at this stage. 



FEI NATIONS CUP™ DRESSAGE:
DANES DO THE DOUBLE
AT HICKSTEAD



Via: FEI

Team Denmark came out on top by a narrow margin at the sixth and last leg of the FEI Nations Cup™ Dressage 2015 pilot series staged at Hickstead, Great Britain. It was their second successive victory at the British venue, and once again they pinned the host nation into runner-up spot, while Sweden filled third place ahead of South Africa in fourth.

The competition included results from Friday's Grand Prix, Saturday's Grand Prix Special and Grand Prix Freestyle. And there was plenty of pressure on the eventual winners as, similarly to last year, the Danes fielded a team of just three horse-and-rider combinations.

With all six legs of the FEI Nations Cup™ Dressage 2015 pilot series concluded, the provisional results show Germany as the new champions followed by both Sweden and The Netherlands in joint-runner-up spot.

Result:

1. Denmark 140.583: Wie-Atlantico de Ymas (Anders Dahl) 145.500, Charmeur (Sune Hansen) 136.430, Alibi D (Sidsel Johansen) 140.069.

2. Great Britain 139.563: Warlocks Charm (Henriette Andersen) 139.855, Headmore Delegate (Alice Ruth Oppenheimer) 138.895, Rubins Nite (Hayley Watson-Greaves) 139.940, Numberto (Spencer Wilton) 126.106.

The provisional results for the FEI Nations Cup™ Dressage 2015 pilot series show Germany taking the title ahead of The Netherlands and Denmark in joint-second place. 🏆



SCHUYLER RILEY

CLAIMS LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE OPENER
IN BROMONT





Via: FEI

Sunny, blue skies welcomed a large crowd of almost 5,500 that flocked to the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League at the Bromont International, when 16 horse-and-rider combinations took on the challenge. Schuyler Riley (USA) and Dobra de Porceyo were the winners of the inaugural class of the international-level event at the newly revamped show grounds. A welcoming, first-round course, designed by Anthony D'Ambrosio, with 13 obstacles and 16 jumping attempts, allowed for half of the class to go double clear and into the jump-off.

Speed and accuracy were the deciding factor in the second round. The eight-obstacle course, which included a double combination, presented multiple options in terms of striding and inside or outside turns. Every rider in the jump-off chose to take the tight, inside turn to the combination's wide oxer to varying degrees of success.

America's Peter Leone was the first to go and had an unexpected stop with his home-bred mount, Wayfarer. Russia's Ljubov Kochetova and Urus 2 showed an excellent inside line that allowed them to meet the oxer straight on for a clear in a time of 46.08 seconds, and that foot-perfect round was immediately replicated by America's Charlie Jacobs and Flaming Star, with an improved time of 44.43 for a temporary hold on the lead. But it was the final pair that meant it was the American flag that rose at the event's end. Schuyler Riley and Dobra de Porceyo produced the winning round in 41.31 seconds with aggressive inside turns and carefully managing strides, leaving them out and adding them in to keep the clock down but the rails up. 🏆



GREGORY WATHELET WINS THE LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR GRAND PRIX OF CHANTILLY

Via: LGCT

The leadership board was shaken up after Gregory Wathelet (BEL) claimed a stunning victory in Chantilly in another incredible Grand Prix. The level of competition in the Grand Prix was phenomenal and only a few rider and horse combinations were able to pull off double clears, with just three riders going through to an electrifying jump off. The dancing dynamo of Morocco's Abdelkebir Ouaddar and his charismatic stallion Quickly de Kreisker rode to a popular second place, and French favourite Pénélope Leprevost took third place, and her second podium of the year, with her bay stallion Vagabond de la Pomme.

Photos by: Stefano Grasso / LGCT





FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP™ JUMPING 2015

FRANCE PIPS FINLAND IN CLOSE CONTEST AT BRATISLAVA

Via: FEI

In a competition that went right down to the wire, Team France topped the podium at the sixth leg of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 series in Bratislava, Slovakia. But Finland finished a very close second, just a single fault behind, to claim the maximum qualifying points on offer, and has moved to the top of the Europe Division 2 leader board with just two legs of this series remaining.

Belgium lined up third ahead of Turkey in fourth, Poland in fifth, Portugal in sixth and the host nation of Slovakia in seventh place. Just eight of the 13 participating teams returned for the second round, and Brazil made the cut to finish in eighth place.

It was no easy day at the office as the Chef d'Equipe of the winning team confirmed. "The course was difficult, but the course designer did a good job and I'm not just saying that because we won! It was technical and not so easy, it asked the riders to give their full attention and to ride properly" Philippe Guerdat explained. The French have long been one of the dominant forces in Division 1, but like so many other nations they find the experience to be gained in Division 2 is invaluable for up-and-coming horse-and-rider combinations. And the French team manager could feel rightly proud when his side's pathfinder, 24-year-old Geoffroy de Coligny, produced the only double-clear of the competition with Qaid Louviere. 🏆

LONGINES



A photograph of a rider in a red jacket and black helmet jumping a white horse over a blue and white striped obstacle. The rider is leaning forward, and the horse is in mid-air, clearing the jump. The background shows a lush green forest.

DANES HANDLE THE HEAT TO WIN AT BUDAPEST - FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP™ JUMPING 2015

Via: FEI

Denmark won the fifth leg of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 Europe Division 2 League in Budapest, it was a strong course and a mighty battle for qualifying points provided an afternoon of super sport.

Sharing a three-way lead at the halfway stage, the Danes stood firm to finish ahead of the joint-runners-up from Czech Republic and Italy, while Austria lined up fourth ahead of the host nation in fifth place. 

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES 2015:

DRESSAGE DOUBLE-GOLD AND INDIVIDUAL SILVER FOR USA

Via: FEI

America's Steffen Peters and Laura Graves added individual gold and silver to the team title secured at the Pan-American Games 2015 in Toronto, Canada where the host nation's Chris von Martels scooped individual bronze.

The result is a sensational fifth consecutive Pan-American team victory for the Americans, bringing their tally to eight team and nine individual Dressage titles in the 64-year history of the event, and earning a team berth at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The Americans took the lead from the outset of the team competition and held on for gold, but the host Canadians chased them all the way to the line to claim silver, while Brazil just pipped Mexico for the bronze. 

