

# Team GB brings home bronze from Breda



After a real rollercoaster of a competition at the World Driving Championships for Ponies 2015 in Breda, Team GB came home with the bronze medal. The drama started before the team had even left England with the Calais blockade meaning the ferries were cancelled. After some frantic calls and rescheduling they finally got a place on the Dover to Dunkirk ferry, which thankfully brought them safely to French shores with a calm crossing. An uneventful journey to Breda was welcome – the mud bath that awaited them wasn't.

Torrential rain and the heavy traffic of lorries and caravans meant wellies were the order of the week, but that didn't dampen team spirits. The sun finally came out for 'Nations Night' where all the competing teams brought local delicacies to share. Team GB's Eton Mess and Pimms proved very popular and no doubt contributed to the making of new friends.

A spectacular opening ceremony and the dressage day were also blessed with sunshine, and Team GB had a great start



to the competition in the dressage phase with Sue Mart leading the field in the single pony class until she was pipped into second place by world champion, Martin Holle.

Sue commented "It was Zac's best performance and our best ever dressage score. We are thrilled with that. A big thank you to all who've supported us, and especially to our dressage trainer Fil Woodland who has been such an inspiration to the team."

Marathon day didn't yield such great results with more rain and horrendous conditions giving all competitors a difficult time. After a challenging cones course on day three as well, Team GB were delighted to finish the competition in Bronze medal position. Anna Grayston of Team GB took Gold in the Pony Pairs for the only individual medal in the GB camp. Rosanna Walters-Symons just missed out on individual Bronze in the Pony Singles.



Flying the flag for GB manufacturing, Bennington carriages were also very much on show with several of the international competitors driving a Bennington as well as a number of Team GB. "It was great to see how well the carriages performed and particularly how they stood up to the awful conditions on the marathon. And we're rather proud that Bennington carriages won medals too!" says Sue Mart. Martin Holle of Hungary was the highest placed Bennington driver with his silver medal in the Single Pony class.

*Representing Team GB were:*

- *Single Pony: Rosanna Walters-Symons, Sue Mart, Robert Buck*
- *Pairs: Roger Campbell, Anna Grayston, Alan Clarke*
- *Fours: Sara Howe, Joanna Broadbent, Gary Power*

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