



Team Bennington speed through an obstacle with Sue Mart driving and sister Wendy Palfrey on the carriage back step. Photo: Andy Palfrey

Team Bennington finish as top Britons at world event

TEAM Bennington finished as highest-placed British team at the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championships in Greven, Germany.

Led by Sue Mart and her sister Wendy Palfrey, both directors of Bennington Carriages, with groom Erica Hine, of Dry Doddington, the team competed in the Single Pony category.

Following the formal trot up and pony inspection, the first of the three competitive elements

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got under way with the dressage.

Team pony Steppers Viceroy, affectionately known as Zac, performed exceptionally with fluidity and confidence - both essential qualities for world class competition.

The team finished sixth out of 36 to mark a good start to the event.

The Marathon followed on the

next competitive day, with an estimated 15,000 spectators watching international teams from as far away as Australia and the USA.

Sue, with sister Wendy on the backstep, set a blistering pace through the eight obstacle sections to the delight of a sea of British supporters, to finish in an exceptional sixth place once again.

The final element of the competition was the Cones,

whereby the agility and speed of driver, pony and carriage are tested on a timed course, with balls balanced on top of FEI-approved cones.

Penalties were incurred for knocking balls down or exceeding the allotted time.

But once again Team Bennington performed magnificently to the packed arena to finish the competition in seventh place overall.