

Ben Maher and Diva II competing at the Final of the Furusiyya Nations Cup



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EVANGELISTA

GB finishes 2nd in Barcelona final

September saw the 2015 Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup series draw to a close, with the Final taking place at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona.

The top eight teams from the initial 19 were invited to contest the floodlit Final, with its €2.5m prize fund. Qualifying alongside Great Britain were Germany, Sweden, USA, the Netherlands, Ireland and Switzerland.

The course, designed by Santiago Varela, was incredibly tough, with just a few riders jumping clear.

It was Ben Maher, with the British-bred mare Diva II owned by Tatiana Korsakova, who took the role of pathfinder for the team. He finished with an unfortunate four penalties when a top pole rolled from its cups in an otherwise foot perfect round.

Next to go was 19-year-old Jessica Mendoza, with her mother's British-bred mare Spirit T. A vertical mid-way round caught them out, as it had for so many others before them, so they too finished with four penalties.

Laura Renwick, with her own and husband John's bay gelding Bintang II, was next to go. It was an uncharacteristic round for them both, as although they started well, Bintang took a dislike to something in the arena and picked up four penalties for disobedience. A foot in the water and a fence down saw a further eight penalties accrued, alongside four further time penalties.

Anchorman Joe Clew, with Ludwig Criel's consistently brilliant Utamaro d'Ecaussines, entered the arena knowing that it was crucial he delivered a clear if GB were to finish high in the placings. They achieved an incredible round and a top class clear, coming through the finish line with time to spare.

Clew's round helped the team to finish in second place, after Belgium took the top spot.

For Great Britain, the series and the Final were a success. A solid finish in Dublin saw the team secure GB's place on next year's series and the objective of finishing high up at the Final has also been met.

Alexanders Horseboxes Scope Festival

This September's Festival was a celebration of showjumping across both international and national classes, culminating with the top-billed Grand Prix.

The class was won by Matthew Sampson with Roi IV, giving him three international wins overall.

Sampson said: "[Roi's] not that experienced against the clock, but there aren't many chances you have of winning Scope's Grand Prix, so I went for it!"

Anna Edwards brought Blazer B into second, while Joe Davison and Calimero Van't Roth took third.

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Ronnie Massarella

It is with great sorrow that British Showjumping announces the death of its Honorary Vice President, Ronnie Massarella OBE. Ronnie, aged 92 years, sadly lost his fight against ill health in October.

Team Manager and Chef d'Equipe of the Senior British Showjumping teams for three decades, Ronnie led his teams to numerous international honours around the world, including a silver medal at both the Rotterdam

Ronnie Massarella 23 July 1923 – 18 October 2015

Compensatory Olympic Games in 1980 and the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

An incredibly popular and fair man who drew respect from all who knew him, Ronnie was with the team when they won team gold at the World Championship in 1978 as well as at the European Championships in 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1989. In addition to this, he also guided Great Britain to team silver at the 1983 European Championships.

Ronnie was appointed OBE in Her Majesty the Queen's New Years Honours List in 1982 for his services to British Showjumping, and is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest ambassadors the sport has ever known.

Retiring from his role in December 2000, Ronnie was awarded the British Showjumping Lifetime Award at the British Showjumping Awards Ball in 2001.

Born in Britain of Italian background, Ronnie was a renowned family man through and through. Holding the post of Chairman within the family-owned Massarella Catering Group, a company he initially grew to be one of the biggest ice cream producers in Europe, before diversifying into the provision of catering services within shopping centres, department stores, garden centres, retail and leisure outlets. Working alongside his sons within the Massarella Catering Group gave Ronnie great pleasure and extreme pride.

Married to Edna Elizabeth Massarella, Ronnie was left a widower when she sadly passed away in May 2012 aged 86 years. Our thoughts and best wishes during this difficult time go to Ronnie and Edna's four sons Michael, Mark, Stephen and Jeremy and their 12 grandchildren.