



# Gold! Britain does it again

A historic win in the Palace of Versailles as Great Britain takes a fifth Olympic team title and individual bronze

BRITAIN has made history by becoming the first country to win five Olympic eventing team gold medals – and Laura Collett took individual bronze.

Laura and London 52, Tom McEwen and JL Dublin and Ros Canter with Lordships Graffalo finished on a total score of 91.3 to defend the team title won in Tokyo, with the French second on 103.6 and Japan taking bronze with 115.8.

"We knew coming here we had a good chance," said Laura. "The horsepower the British team has at the moment is second to none. We could have fielded another whole team with the reserves and could have won a gold medal so the pressure is on [for us to perform] but luckily, we all managed to deliver."

*"I want every child out there to keep dreaming"*

LAURA COLLETT

Britain went into the showjumping with a fence in hand, even though Ros was given a controversial 15 penalties for knocking a flag across country, after what had looked to be a super clear well within the time.

After footage was reviewed, the penalties stood – but such was the Brits' class, the gold was still in reach as both Tom and "Dubs" and Laura and "Dan" jumped clear across country, the latter having set an Olympic record dressage score of 17.5 and added just 0.5 of a cross-country time-fault. Tom and Dubs showjumped



clear, and Ros and Laura clipped just a rail each to secure the team gold.

In the individual showjumping medal decider, Laura and "Dan" jumped clear to secure their bronze, behind champions Michael Jung and Chipmunk FRH for Germany and Australia's Chris Burton with Shadow Man. Tom and Dubs also jumped a second clear to finish fourth.

British eventing performance manager Dickie Waygood said it was very satisfying to retain the title won in Tokyo.

"We came strong, but you can be really unfortunate and

have to substitute a horse as the Japanese did, and that could have been any team," he said.

"The stars aligned for us, as they did in Tokyo. We kept to our system, we kept everything constant."

## DON'T CHANGE THINGS

DICKIE added: "That's the key, don't change things, just do what you do in a normal way; methodical. It might be boring, but you've got to be disciplined. Stick to the system or stick to your process. And if you're disciplined, that discipline turns into fun. And today it did turn into fun."

Riders and spectators

praised the beautiful venue of the Palace of Versailles and the huge, enthusiastic crowds. Individual silver medal winner Chris Burton said: "The atmosphere at Olympics is indescribable isn't it? You wish you could bottle it."

"What a wonderful show, wonderful park and what a great day for eventing."

Laura added: "I just want every child out there to realise that you can never dream too big. I definitely never really dreamt realistically that I could go to an Olympic Games, let alone go to two and come back with two team gold medals – so keep dreaming."