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Team GBR's golden glory

THE British eventing team had "worked hard for their luck" in Strzegom, Poland (17-20 August), securing European Championship gold for the first time since 2009, as well as individual bronze.

Ros Canter (Allstar B), Tina Cook (Billy The Red) and Nicola Wilson (Bulana) all showjumped clear to guarantee the top spot.

The team finished 9.1 penalties clear of Germany, the By RACHAEL TURNER

defending champions, to win Britain's first championship gold in eventing since the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

"We really wanted that gold, it's been a few years and it's fantastic to be back in this position," said Tina. "It's been such a strong team performance.

"As a nation we have a lot of

strong riders and some amazing horses. We've had luck back on our side, but we've worked hard for this luck and it's great to be ahead of Germany at last."

Nicola said winning individual bronze was "a dream come true".

"I'm delighted with how my horse Bulana has been this season, she's just got better and better," she said, "I'm very fortunate to have her."

It was an impressive start for Britain's new eventing performance coach Chris Bartle, who trained the Germans to team silver and individual gold at the Rio Olympics last year.

"I get a lot of teasing from my German friends, but I am thrilled to be working with the British team again," he said. "I'm so proud of how they have all ridden."