

# Superb riding and steely nerves

Britain's golden quartet have all had different personal journeys to this gold, but they came together to excel with personal bests when it mattered

HAVING predicted Britain would take team bronze at the European Eventing Championships (preview, 17 August), I've rarely been so happy to be wrong. I did also say that we could go better, if the Germans and French faltered, plus our team put in personal bests, and that's exactly what happened.

Our three girls — championship debutante Ros Canter, the experienced Tina Cook and first-time individual medallist Nicola Wilson — were superb to take the team gold. All did as well or better than expected in the dressage, made it happen over a difficult cross-country and held their nerve to showjump clear and win with a two-fence cushion.

Each has had a different journey here. Ros' stellar year has been a while coming as she's got to grips with Allstar B, a huge horse for her, and top-level competition. Tina's Billy The Red is young at 10 and Nicola's Bulana has always been

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talented but she had to find a way to manage her exuberance.

A special mention for Oliver Townend — he may have been the discard score, but there is no doubt the information he brought home as cross-country pathfinder helped make the others' performance.

Congratulations to our golden quartet and their back-up teams, from grooms to owners, trainers and more. **H&H**

