



# Gold!

The Brits took a commanding team gold in Tokyo, while Tom McEwen won silver on Toledo De Kerker

BRITAIN'S eventers won team gold in a superb, emphatic performance, while Tom McEwen and Toledo De Kerker won a brilliant individual silver.

Tom and Toledo finished on their dressage score, while Oliver Townend on Ballaghmor Class and Laura Collett and London 52 dislodged just one showjumping pole apiece to secure Britain's first team eventing gold since 1972, almost 14 penalties ahead of Australia. Rio 2016 gold medalists France took bronze.

Oliver said: "It's very unreal. It hasn't sunk in yet but we were three riders on exceptional horses and I think that's what's been so special; all three of us have been on literally horses of a lifetime and for that to fall in the same year, at an Olympic Games with super-special horses... we knew coming here we had a very good chance."

## DOUBLE CLEAR

TOM and Toledo gave another beautiful performance in the second showjumping round that decided the individual medals, their 0.4 of a time-penalty meaning they finished just behind Julia Krajewski, the first woman ever to take individual Olympic eventing gold, on Amande De B'Neville. Andrew Hoy, aged 62, took bronze on Vassily De Lassos in a thrilling finale, while Oliver and Laura finished in fifth and ninth place, with one and two fences down respectively.

"We've come together as a three, with three amazing horses all at the same time," Tom said. "Plus there's our amazing teams at home, Lottery funding, everything that has gone into us that's helped us along our way."

Britain had led throughout the competition, lying in gold-medal position after the dressage, with Oliver, Laura and Tom in second, sixth and 12th individually. All three went clear inside the time across country to take a comfortable lead into the showjumping phase, and their finishing score of 86.3 was the lowest in Olympic history.

"I'm a little bit lost for words,"

By ELEANOR JONES

Laura said. "Even just being here, at the Olympics, is a dream come true, let alone to win a gold medal, so it's going to take a few days, weeks, months, probably for this to actually sink in but just thank you to these guys. It has been an unbelievable team experience."

"We came out knowing we had three of the best horses in the world; their cross-country proved how talented they were."

"We're so lucky to have them, horses of a lifetime, and to have three of them on a team, that's why we're here with a gold medal."

British Equestrian eventing performance manager Dickie Waygood paid tribute to all those involved; the "teams behind the team", including the grooms, farriers, physios and support staff.

He added: "It's incredible. The pressure they were under, they came here statistically in a really strong position, carrying expectation on their shoulders, and they've absolutely delivered."

"They're going home as national heroes - we've got to wrap them up for Paris!"

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Tom McEwen (left, and below with Toledo De Kerker) Laura Collett and Oliver Townend enjoy their moment of glory on the podium

