

Emily Baldwin finishes best of Britain's eventers with fifth place on Drivetime



EVENTING GERMANY AACHEN CICO*** 16-17 July

THE British team put inexperience behind them to finish third at Aachen CICO***, 19pen behind fully-fledged German and Swedish teams. Kiwi Andrew Nicholson (Nereo) shot up from 14th place after dressage to take the individual first prize.

Emily Baldwin, riding *Drivetime* — at 14, the most seasoned of the British quintet — produced a stellar performance to take fifth. The pair lay in second after dressage (39.2) and showjumped clear to take top spot before cross-country, when the German dressage leader Michael Jung rattled two with *Weidezaunprofis River Of Joy*.

Although relegated to fifth with 8.8 cross-country time-faults, it was Emily's

one showjumping time-fault that really niggled.

"It cost me third place," she said. "But *Drivetime* felt wonderful in the massive stadium, which some event horses find daunting. I knew he'd get time-faults cross-country as he's not the quickest, but I was up on my minute markers until the final 90 seconds."

British performance manager Yogi Breisner said that this was a good chance for younger horses and riders to experience a top-class show and he was satisfied with the result.

"Emily put in a fantastic performance against the best of the German, Swedish and Belgian teams and some good Australian and New Zealand riders," he said. "The younger horses had

little mishaps, but went as well as I would expect — we were nearly on the pace, even with inexperienced horses. *Carnaval Prince II* [**Ruth Edge**, second-best Brit in 11th] and *Bee Diplomatic* [**Nicola Wilson**, 24th] are both first-season, three-star horses and went well."

Rüdiger Schwarz's course was deemed strong, but fair, with problems spread throughout. A testing early water fence took its toll, including a run-out for Britain's fourth team member **Pippa Funnell's** *Mirage D'Elle*. It featured a large log drop on four strides to a skinny brush, followed five strides later by a corner in the water and several riders felt that it would not have been out of place at a four-star. **H&H**