**FEI Pony European Championships: triple gold for Ireland and Germany, French rider defends eventing title**

All of the medals have been decided at the 2020 FEI Pony European Championships in Strzegom. Today the rivalry ended in the eventing, showjumping individual final and dressage Freestyle.

**Eventing**

Irish riders: Ben Ben Connors with Cornafest Fred, Josh Williamson with Ardeo Fireman, Matthew Love with Lucky For Some and Claire O'Ryan with Carhu Melody took the lead after yesterday’s brilliant cross-country trials. Today even three knockdowns and the added 12 penalties could not threaten their win, with the result of 104,1 and they took home the gold medal. The best one of them was Ben Connors, who was clear in today’s jumping trial and finished with the silver individual medal (28,9).

Team silver went to Germany, with the result of 107,6. They kept their second position through all of the trials. Team member Merle Hoffmann with Penny Lane WE finished with the bronze medal individually (31).

The French, defending their last year’s title, lost their dressage lead in the cross-country yesterday, after one of their riders had a run-out at the last combination and that knocked them down into third. Today they added 8 penalties to the score, but that kept them in the bronze medal position, finishing with the score of 108,9.

The best one of them was once again Mae Rinaldi aboard Boston Du Verdon. The dressage leader went over the XC clear and perfectly inside the time, and delivered yet another perfect round today, to finish at 25,6. - “It’s amazing. My pony was fantastic all week. Yesterday’s cross-country was long, with demanding fences and combinations, but Boston was great as always. Today we were under a lot of pressure, but my pony jumped great and I’m really happy to win the European Championships for the second time in a row!”

**Dressage**

Germany were unbeatable this year. Their riders took home the gold medal twice – winning both the team classification and Freestyle, and took all the spots at the podium in the individual class.

Today in the Freestyle the best one of them was Mia Allegra Lohe with Tovdals Golden Future Imperial - 80,355%, and the silver went to Maddy Dijkshoorn from the Netherlands with Boogie De L'Aube - 77,795%.

There was also a historic success for a Polish rider. Veronica Pawluk with D'Artagnan 187 took home the bronze medal, with the result of 77,490%.

**Showjumping**

Ireland took it all, both in the team and individual classifications. In today’s individual final, the two decisive rounds have confirmed the amazing form of the Irish, that have dominated the podium. Two riders in green jackets finished all of the 5 courses at this year’s championships on a zero-penalty score. The champion had to be determined in the jump-off. There the win belonged to James Derwin with Rincoola Babog – the same one that secured the team’s gold medal on Friday with his faultless round. Silver went to James Brennan aboard the 9-year-old MHS Glow, and bronze to Coen Williams with Saxton Freedam, who also did not make any mistakes on the jumps throughout the week, but finished today’s first round with three points for time.

**FEI Eventing Pony European Championships – Team medals**

1. Ireland - 104,1

Ben Connors, CORNAFEST FRED

Josh Williamson, ARDEO FIREMAN

Matthew Love, LUCKY FOR SOME

Claire O'Ryan, CARHU MELODY

2. Germany - 107,6

Merle Hoffmann, PENNY LANE WE

Pita Schmid, SIETLANDS CATRINA

Sina Brügger, NEXT GENERATION

Linn Marie Schlütter, RATHCLINE DREAM

3. France - 108,9

Mae Rinaldi, BOSTON DU VERDON

Oceane Villeton, BABYLON NIGHT GRAVES

Ambroise Maindru, VERSAILLES DES MORINS

Zoe Ballot, VOLTAIR DE LALANDE

Results: <https://zawodykonne.com/zawody/6/tour/865>

Photos for editorial use: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w53Mwfjp06LWPwPKmZIHxfBn-CTZEeh9>

Photographers:

LW: Leszek Wójcik

MC: Mariusz Chmieliński

Photos:

MC\_7\_7850 - Eventing, team podium

MC\_7\_8098 - Eventing, individual podium

MC\_8\_3986 - Mae Rinaldi, Boston Du Verdon

LW\_7\_1551 - Mia Allegra Lohe, Tovdals Golden Future Imperial, GER

LW\_7\_1459 - Maddy Dijkshoorn, Boogie De L'Aube, NED

LW\_7\_1250 - Veronica Pawluk, D'Artagnan, POL

LW\_7\_1864 - Dressage, Freestyle, podium

LW\_7\_2703 - James Derwin, Rincoola Babog, IRL

LW\_7\_2907 - Jumping, individual podium

LW\_7\_2928 - Jumping, individual podium

LW\_7\_2945 - Jumping, individual podium