



ROMA



83° CSIO ROMA

PIAZZA DI SIENA



Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri

21 > 24 MAGGIO 2015

Master fratelli d'Inzeo

Press Release n. 4 May 22, 2015

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM WINS IN ROME



Team Great Britain produced a superb back-to-back double in the Fursiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping 2015 Europe Division 1 League when following up their success at La Baule, France a week ago with another extraordinary victory at Piazza di Siena in Rome, Italy today. It was another nail-biting competition that came down to a fierce battle with the reigning Fursiyya champions from The Netherlands this time around. And, not for the first time in his long and legendary career, the result was sealed by the master craftsman John Whitaker.

It was his younger brother, 55-year-old Michael, who clinched it for his side at the French fixture seven days ago, but today his single time fault could have cost his country dearly. Because if John, who turns 60 in August, left a fence on the floor second time out, then all the glory would go to the Dutch. But instead he produced one of four double-clear rounds to ensure pole position and a standing ovation for his team from the enthusiastic Italian crowd.

Sweden lined up third behind The Netherlands while Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Qatar and Belgium filled the remaining places. It was a tough day for the host nation who had high hopes of repeating the success they enjoyed at the opening Europe Division 1 leg in Lummen, Belgium. But, other than a foot-perfect first round from Giulia Martinengo Marquet, who got a late call-up with Fixdesign Funke van't Heike, clears proved elusive for the home side.

Another hero of the day today was master Italian course-designer Uliano Vezzani whose judgement and skill was tested to the limit by appalling weather conditions that seriously affected the arena surface. Thunderous rain, that fell for over an hour before the competition began, made the going deep and sloppy, and he took the decision to lower rails, reduce spreads and take over a metre off the stretch of the open water in order to ensure the welfare of horses was not compromised in any way. Yet he still produced an afternoon of intense competition that went right down to the wire.

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The CSIO of Rome Piazza di Siena - Master fratelli d'Inzeo organized by Integer by TBWA\Italia group according FEI, FISE (Italian Equestrian Federation) and CONI (Italian Olympic Committee) - is one of the most important show jumping event in the world. Reached in 2015 its 83rd edition, the competition will be held in the historic oval arena of Villa Borghese from 21 to 24 May and it will be the third of the eight rounds of Europe Division 1 of the prestigious circuit of Fursiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Series.



Longines has been based at Saint-Imier, Switzerland, since 1832. It has generations of experience as the official timekeeper at world championships and as a partner of international sports federations. Over the years, the brand has built strong and long-lasting links with the equestrian sports. Longines is a member of The Swatch Group S.A., the world's leading manufacturer of horological products. With an excellent reputation for creating refined timepieces, the brand, whose emblem is the winged hourglass, has outlets in over 130 countries. For further information www.longines.com





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WHAT THE WINNERS SAID

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John Whitaker

"This is a great one to win and it was important for us to do well today because we were looking for points. Everyone rode fantastic!" Talking about the hands-on ride I experienced in both rounds with Argento, he added: "He's a stallion and he's a bit full of himself because its spring! He's a lovely horse, not as difficult to ride as he might seem, he's so careful at the jumps - he really wants to clear every fence and that's a fantastic feeling", he explained.

Holly Gillott

"For my horse it wasn't easy on the wet ground, it rained for one whole hour before we started and he didn't like the going, he got tired and flattened at the combinations but he came back really well in the second round."





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Micheal Whitaker

"There were so many Whitakers on the team I was worried that we might not win, so it's a relief!"

Robert Whitaker

He really enjoyed the family feeling! Asked if riding alongside Michael and John puts him under pressure he replied, "it's less pressure actually because I'm riding with my family and it feels very different. We probably try even harder when we are all together, it's great!"

SWITZERLAND'S RUTSCHI AND ITALY'S PREVITALI TAKE THE EARLY HONOURS ON FRIDAY



With great excitement in the air ahead of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ presented by Longines, Switzerland's Niklaus Rutschi and Italy's Roberto Previtali got Friday's action off to a great start with wins in the two early Speed competitions.

From the 41 starters in the 1.45m class, only seven managed to stay inside the time-allowed of 76 seconds, and Rutschi was quickest through the finish with 11-year-old chestnut gelding Earl Pery's Caro CH. It was a convincing victory for the 49-year-old rider who had well over a second of an advantage over Italian runner-up Giovanni Lucchetti partnering the

nine-year-old gelding, Brian, while British legend, John Whitaker, slotted into third with the 10-year-old mare Ornellaiai ahead of reigning European champion Roger Yves Bost from France in fourth with Sangria du Coty. Rutschi very nearly made it a double when posting a fast time of 73.35 seconds in the 1.50 Table C class with the nine-year-old mare St Gracieue Ardente, but Previtali raced home a full second quicker to take top spot with the 12-year-old Oldenburg mare Ambra 83.

Belgium's Pieter Devos lined up third of the 38 starters here with Equipharma Dax v Dibdijhoeve while Italy's Luca de Lorenzo, who has been prominent in every competition so far this week, was fourth with Gangster de Longchamps. Mares have also been stealing a lot of the prizes at Piazza di Siena this week, and it was another 10-year-old, Rosana du Park ridden by 2008 Olympic champion Eric Lamaze from Canada, who claimed fourth place here.

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Loro Piana