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Caitriona Murphy is editor of Irish Horse World
 cmurphy@theirishfield.ie



Nigel Goddard



Sarah Ennis and BLM Diamond Delux are best of the Irish in 12th place at Badminton

HANDY GUIDE TO EQUESTRIAN TV COVERAGE

Sunday, May 8th	BBC 2	2.00pm	Badminton Live
Monday, May 9th	Eurosport	4.15pm	Horse Excellence
Thursday, May 12th	Eurosport	7.30am	Show Jumping
Friday, May 13th	Setanta Sports 1	2.45pm	Nations Cup Live

Please note: Programmes and times liable to change

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

- RTÉ Sport @RTÉsport**
 Bertram Allen drives Molly Malone to Hamburg glory - and picks up a brand new Merc
 "He was a little bit jolly but he did some really nice work, too." Zara Tindall on High Kingdom's test #MMBHT
- Team IRL Equestrian@TeamIRLEq**
 Best of luck @JMurphyEventing @SarahEnnisEvent @DoneganRyanEven @CamillaSpeirs @bhorsetrials #MMBHT
- The Breen Team @breenequestrian**
 Comparing notes. Shane - Acoustic Solo du Baloubet - 2nd & Jake - Grand Cru Du Pamael - 1st in 1.45 in Le Touquet
- Ger O'Neill @geroneilldotcom**
 We got off to a great start to the Dublin Horse Show qualifiers winning the 6 yrs qualifier on John Kearneys Kearneys Killosery Kaiden and Castlefield wizard also taking a qualifying spot

Badminton H Trials @bhorsetrials
 "I'm very proud, but I was confident they could do it." Mary King reflects on her daughter, @emilyking_'s test, which puts her 2nd #MMBHT

Badminton H Trials @bhorsetrials

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Hands on
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Jung on track for Grand Slam as Irish riders battle hard

■ Caitriona Murphy

MICHAEL JUNG remains on track to win the Rolex Grand Slam as he leads after the dressage phase of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials.

The German superstar leads on a penalty score of 34.4 with La Biosthetique - Sam FBW, a marker set down on Thursday and bettered by no one.

He is closely followed by British rider Emily King, who produced the dressage test of the day on Friday to score 36.8 with Brookleigh, while Jung's compatriot Andreas Ostholt (So Is Et) on 38.2.

The top 10 after dressage continues with Francis Whittington (Hasty Imp) in fourth on 40.0 and Australian Christopher Burton (Nobilis 18)

in fifth on 40.3. Two young British riders - Dani Evans (Raphael II) and Izzy Taylor (Allercombe Ellie) share equal sixth place on 40.4, while Oliver Townend (Black Tie) lies eighth on 40.7. New Zealand riders Clarke Johnstone (Balmoral Sensation) and Jesse Campbell (Kaapachino) lie ninth and 10th on 40.8 and 41.1 respectively.

Sarah Ennis (BLM Diamond Delux) is best of the Irish heading into cross-country day, lying in 12th place of the 77 riders who completed the dressage phase.

Camilla Speirs and Portersize Just A Jif (49.9) lie in 45th place, while, Joseph Murphy and Sportsfield Othello (52.2) are in equal 55th place. Michael Ryan and Ballylynch Adventure (52.8) occupy equal 59th place and Murphy and



Michael Jung and La Biosthetique Sam are in the lead going into cross-country day at the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials

his second mount, DSHI Postory (54.9) are in 67th place.

The Irish quarter are expected to climb up the leaderboard on cross-country day as their traditionally strongest phase gets underway.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Saturday's cross-country phase is widely acknowledged to be a tougher challenge than last year's track, also designed by Giuseppe della Chiesa. Commentators have compared this year's track to that of 2014 which caused carnage, albeit in terrible weather and ground conditions.

If Jung maintains his lead after cross-country, few would bet against adding the Rolex Grand Slam title to his jaw-dropping CV that already includes the Olympic, world and European championships.

Mullingar launches €100,000 two-star show

■ Emer Bermingham

IT'S all action at Mullingar Equestrian where staff are in full swing preparing to host their ninth annual International CSI** show which will be held from June 3rd - 6th and boasts an impressive prize fund of €100,000.

This year the show highlights include the Pegus Puisseance, Devenish Bet Show Jumping Live, Pro Am pairs relays, International Grand Prix, leading young rider, working hunter, showing, sportmans and up to 70 national classes, which start from 60cms up to the very top level. This year also sees the introduction of the Koro D'Or* three-year-old select performance competition and sale, which will take place on the Saturday evening of the show.

In recent weeks, the show has attracted a large interest from overseas riders, with entries at this point up on previous years.



At the launch of Mullingar International CSI Show were (l-r) Robert Fagan, show director, Francis Connors, winner of the 2015 Devenish Bet Showjumping, Richard Kennedy, Devenish Group CEO and John Fagan from RTÉ's Big Week on the Farm**

As well as the packed equestrian schedule, there is much to do to entertain families with the Entertainment Village, full of free activities such as the Agri Aware education farm, pony rides as well as the food and craft area,

trade stands, live music, a picnic area, dog show plus much more. The famous Tractor Ted will also be making his appearance on bank holiday Monday as will farmer John Fagan from the Big Week on the Farm, that aired on RTÉ.

Robert Fagan said: "Mullingar International Horse Show has grown tremendously over the years. This is due to our continuous innovative projects, improved facilities and support of our loyal patrons. We have worked and continue to work with the equestrian industry to progress with the times.

"This year the show is delighted to be hosting the final of the Bet Show Jumping Live Speed Championships and we are very grateful for the support we have from our lead sponsor Devenish. Last year this competition brought a new dimension to show jumping through the live betting. In a bid to bring more people into the sport, we have a range of sponsorship packages and this year we are introducing a new package which will allow companies and equestrian supporters to become involved for an affordable price. This package will allow sponsors to entertain guests at the ringside," he added.

Thomastown loses €500 due to late start

■ Emer Bermingham

AS A consequence of Thomastown Grand Prix starting at the later time of 4.30pm last Sunday, the show will lose its €500 contribution towards the prize fund from Showjumping Ireland.

In a new move by the Showjumping Association, shows that fail to start 30 minutes either side of the official time of three o'clock will lose the SJI contribution.

In the case of a Grand Prix, the show will suffer the loss of €500. However, in the case of a Premier Series, they will lose out a whopping €4,000.

Shows were informed about the new SJI rule in February. Robert Wallace of SJI said: "These Grands Prix are the pinnacle of national show jumping and it's important for owners, spectators and sponsors that they run on time."

In the case of Thomastown, secretary of the show Fionnuala Taylor said: "We were on site and arenas opened and ready to go at 9am but we did not get a rider into the ring until 10.15am.

"It's a shame that we have lost this contribution as this show is run by volunteers who have given up their time."

Dressage chef d'équipe to be confirmed

■ Emer Bermingham

WITH just 90 days left before Rio, *The Irish Field* has learned that a chef d'équipe has not yet been assigned to Ireland's sole dressage rider Judy Reynolds.

There are two possible candidates, one is show jumping chef d'équipe Robert Splaine and the other is a Horse Sport Ireland internal candidate.

While the Reynolds family and Horse Sport Ireland had no comment on the issue at this stage, dressage insiders said that due to the complexity of rules and draws within the discipline, a person with knowledge of the discipline would be an advantage.

In London 2012, Triona Connors of HSI filled the role



Judy Reynolds

of chef d'équipe for dressage rider Anna Merveldt, while at the World Equestrian Games in France two years ago, Amanda Renouard acted as the Irish dressage chef d'équipe.