

SUCCESS FOR YOUNG AGILITY HANDLER AND DOG AT EUROPEAN OPEN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019



© Kennel Club / Simon Peachey

Tariq, a Border Collie, and her owner, 10-year-old Taylor Lyon from Northamptonshire took 4th place in the Large Under 12 Individual competition at the European Open Junior Agility Championships in Switzerland, which took place between the 12th-14th July.

Taylor, who is a Young Kennel Club (YKC) member and was representing YKC Agility Team GB with Tariq, placed 7th in the Large Under 12 Agility round and 3rd in the Large Under 12 Jumping round, earning the pair a bronze medal.

Other successes for YKC Agility Team GB included Team GB Blue, made up of Lucy Lightowler, Rory Tidmarsh, Thomas Shaw, and Emily Rice-Stringer, who won a gold medal in the Large Team Agility round. 15-year-old Rory Tidmarsh and his Border Collie, Mr Red, won a silver medal in the Large Individual U19 Agility round; Team GB Union Jacks, made up of Stacey Frost, Sarah Kirk, Jack Ryan, and Millie Sawyer placed 7th overall in the Small Teams competition; and Lucas Irwin-Burns and Taylor Lyon, as part of International Team 2, were awarded a bronze medal for their Medium Team Jumping round.

The Junior European Open Agility Championships attracted nearly 500 dogs and handlers from all over the world, with countries represented at the competition including the USA, Japan and Finland. This was the fourth time a junior team from Britain made up of YKC members competed at the championships.

YKC Agility Team GB is sponsored by the Kennel Club, Natural Instinct and Pet Rehab. The coaching team consisted of Mark Laker (Team Manager), Josie Spurling (Team Coach), Rachel Mowbray (Team Vet), Ann Roberts (Team Liaison), and Jen Slade (Team Assistant) who travelled to Switzerland with them.

Agility Team GB Manager, Mark Laker said of their achievement: "I'm thrilled that the YKC Agility Team GB have had another successful championships against some of the top young handlers in FCI competitions. Achieving clear rounds at this level is a big achievement and winning podium places is like a dream coming true. Rory, Taylor, Lucas, Lucy, Emily and Thomas performed extraordinarily well.

"Winning at this level is a team effort. All the handlers brought their own unique characters and support to this successful team who have been fantastic to work with."

Emma Cooper, of Natural Instinct, sponsor of YKC Agility Team GB, said: "On behalf of Natural Instinct, we'd like to congratulate everyone on their results at the EOJ. We are proud to sponsor this fantastic team and are excited to see what the future holds for these amazing athletes!"

The European Open Junior Championship will be held in Finland in 2020. Details of the squad selection process can be found on the Young Kennel Club website - <https://www.ykc.org.uk>.

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[146.19] 15th July 2019

FIVE IS THE LUCKY NUMBER FOR AGILITY TEAM GB FOLLOWING IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES AT EUROPEAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



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The Kennel Club would like to congratulate Agility Team GB for their performances at the European Open Agility Championships in Arnhem, The Netherlands over the weekend (25th-28th July).

For the first time in the team's history, all three large dog and handler teams made it through to the Team Large final, with GB All4One placing fifth overall. The group competed against 109 other teams from



around the world in the qualifiers, which took place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th, with GB Darkside and GB High Hopes respectively placing 10th and 16th overall.

GB All4One was comprised of Jo Tristram (Team Captain) from Gloucestershire with her Border Collie, Brite; Euan Paterson from Aberdeenshire with his Border Collie, Crazee; Jo Gleed from West Midlands with her Border Collie, Scooter; and Megan Hunt from Kent with her Working Sheepdog, Thyme.

Additional Team GB efforts saw fifth place awarded to Sam Lane from Buckinghamshire and her Cocker Spaniel, Ninja Zippy in the Small Individual final; Hayley Telling from West Sussex and her Shetland Sheepdog, Teal, in the Medium Individual final; and Natasha Wise from Northamptonshire and her Border Collie, Pebbles in the Large Individual final.

Agility Team GB experienced additional challenges during their time in The Netherlands owing to the adverse hot weather conditions, with the championships having to be held overnight to ensure the health and welfare of those competing were not put at risk.

Next year will see the Kennel Club host the European Agility Championships, which will be held at Rutland Showground in Oakham, Leicestershire, from Friday 31st July until Sunday 2nd August 2020. More information can be found by visiting <https://eo2020.com/>.

Team Manager, Mark Laker commented: "The European Open 2019 will be remembered as EO by night! Although the team are coming home without silverware, they responded admirably to the changes in the programme caused by the extreme heat and put in consistent performances, making this one of the most successful European Opens for the overall team."

Agility Team GB is supported by the Kennel Club, Natural Instinct and Nottingham Trent University.

Emma Cooper, Marketing Assistant from Natural Instinct, said: "On behalf of Natural Instinct, we'd like to congratulate everyone on their results at the European Open Agility Championships. We are proud to sponsor this fantastic team and are excited to see what the future holds for these amazing athletes!"

The team of 24 dogs and handlers were chosen following this year's squad selection process, which concluded at the Performance Weekend held at Arena UK, Grantham in April.

For the full list of results, visit <https://www.eo2019.eu/results/>

The squad qualification process to try out for the 2020 Agility Team GB can be found on the Kennel Club website: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/agility/international-agility-teams/.

To find an agility club near you, visit www.findadogclub.org.uk.

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[161.19] 29th July 2019

UK AGILITY TEAM WIN BRONZE MEDAL AT THE FCI AGILITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FINLAND



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The GB High Hopes team has won an overall bronze medal in the Large team competition at the FCI Agility World Championships on Friday 20th September, after competing against 33 other teams.

Held in Turku in Finland, the World Championships saw hundreds of handlers and dogs take part over the weekend (19th – 22nd September 2019), from 41 countries including Australia and Chile, with a variety of breeds competing including 186 Border Collies, as well as an English Toy Terrier, Lagotto Romagnolo and a Cardigan Welsh Corgi. GB High Hopes travelled with the Agility Team GB squad from the UK to Finland to take part in the championships.

Agility Team GB Manager, Mark Laker said: "I'm very pleased with the team's performance across all heights at this year's World Championships. Once again the dedication and commitment made by the handlers has been amazing which is reflected by our results. The handlers and coaching team would also like to thank all our followers and our sponsors who support the team."

The team comprised team captain Natasha Wise from Northamptonshire and her Border Collie, Pebbles; Dan Shaw from Hertfordshire and his Border Collie, Geek; Dave Munnings from Oxfordshire and his Border Collie, Fame; and Naarah Cuddy from Devon and her Border Collie, Lemon.

Proud team captain, Natasha said: "I'm super proud of the effort, determination and cohesion this team showed to achieve this medal. Each team member added value in their own way and this resulted in our podium. All GB dogs shone brightly on the world stage and it was an honour to build and captain this strong team to the bronze medal."

After close competition, Team GB were also awarded fourth overall place in the Small dogs, with Lauren Langman from Okehampton, Devon and Cocker Spaniel, Blink, placing 15th in jumping and 11th in agility. Lauren and Blink narrowly missed out on an overall bronze medal by one hundredth of a second.

Proud of their achievements, Lauren said: "Blink is a dream come true, a dog in a lifetime and my best friend. Team GB has always been a goal for me and Blink makes this all so achievable. I'm so grateful for the opportunity and would like to thank everyone involved."



Other highlights over the weekend include Euan Paterson from Stonehaven, Scotland and Border Collie, Crazee, winning first place in the Large agility round, beating 130 other agility handlers and dogs. This is the first year Euan and Crazee have competed in Team GB. Euan said: "I honestly believe if you set yourself realistic goals and you have the belief and determination then anything is possible. I'm so grateful to have such a talented dog. Crazee is what makes this possible."

Agility Team GB were chosen following this year's squad selection process, which concluded at the Performance Weekend held at Arena UK, Grantham in April. Agility Team GB attended the European Open Agility Championships in the Netherlands at the end of July where all three large dog and handler teams made it through to the Team Large final, a first in Agility Team GB's history. GB All4One placed fifth overall, whilst GB Darkside and GB High Hopes respectively placed 10th and 16th overall.

A spokesperson for Natural Instinct, sponsor of Agility Team GB, said: "On behalf of the team here at Natural Instinct, we'd like to congratulate everyone on their results at the Agility World Championships. We are very proud to sponsor this fantastic team and are excited to see what the future holds for these amazing athletes!"

Agility Team GB is supported by the Kennel Club, Natural Instinct and Nottingham Trent University.

The coaching team consisted of Mark Laker (Team Manager), Becky Sargent (Team Assistant), Martin Cavill (Technical Coach), Maria Johnston (Team Physiotherapist), Hana McNicholas (Team Vet), Ruth MacGill (Fitness coach/handler) and Gina Sansom (Kennel Club Senior Events Coordinator) who travelled to Finland with them.

The 2020 FCI Agility World Championships will be held in Tallinn, Estonia from 10th – 13th September 2020. The European Open Agility Championships 2020 will take place from 30th July – 2nd August at the Rutland Showground in the UK.

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23rd September 2019