

# GB medal helps to ease pain for Meade

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ZARA PHILLIPS' thoughts quickly turned to teammate Harry Meade after she had helped Team GB to an eventing silver medal at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy.

Zara from Gatcombe, followed up her clear round in the cross country on Saturday aboard High Kingdom with another faultless display in the show jumping arena which earned her 11th place overall.

But last into the arena, world No.1 William Fox-Pitt, had one early fence down so another major international title eluded him as he

dropped from the individual gold medal position to third behind the German one-two of Sandra Auffarth and runner-up Michael Jung.

The British quartet – Fox-Pitt, Phillips, Tina Cook (16th) and Harry Meade, who was sadly reduced to a spectating role after his horse Wild Lone collapsed and died following Saturday's cross-country phase – nonetheless finished just 22 penalties behind the all-conquering Germans.

"Yesterday was a very difficult day," said Phillips, who lives just a few miles away from Luckington-based Meade. "For Harry to lose his horse was so sad. He had such a fantastic round, and this (result) is definitely going towards Harry. It was great that we could put in some good performances for him."

Then reflecting on her own

comeback to British team colours following the birth of her first child earlier this year, she said: "I was so excited getting back in the team, and it is good the horse could prove what he can do.

"He can be a bit of a lazy horse – he doesn't really get out of bed for too much! – but he has been in a big atmosphere before at London 2012."

Meade, who has made a doctor-defying comeback after breaking both his elbows last year, received a huge cheer from a near-capacity 20,000 crowd when he received his medal. "I have lost a wonderful horse, but what more fit-

ting a way to remember him than to have a medal that he contributed towards and that we will always remember him by," he said.

"The eventing public is wonderful, and the camaraderie from the other riders has been overwhelming. It has been a real example of what a great sport we are involved in."

Another consequence of Britain's silver is that they have earned automatic qualification for the Rio Olympics in 2016 along with Germany, third-placed Holland, France, Australia and Ireland.

Fox-Pitt, who had hoped to emulate previous British

world champions Phillips (2006), Lucinda Green (1982) and Mary Gordon-Watson (1970), took his individual setback philosophically.

The 45-year-old has won more than 50 international three-day events and collected over a dozen major championship medals – but not yet a gold. He said: "It was frustrating having a fence down, but Chilli Morning has had a fantastic competition."

Marlborough-based Andrew Nicholson (NZ) finished ninth aboard Nereo and Highworth's adopted Aussie Paul Tapner was 15th on Kilronan.



GB's silver medal-winning team at the World Equestrian Games, from left: Harry Meade, Zara Phillips, Tina Cook and William Fox-Pitt. Picture: Steve Parsons/PA Wire



Zara Phillips of Team GB and High Kingdom went clear in the showjumping arena