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EQUESTRIAN

Germans reign supreme at Hall

The Germans were unbeatable at the EQ Life Houghton International Horse Trials this weekend as they dominated the Nations Cup competition, galloping into the lead with a near 15-point advantage over the British.

Only the French rider Luc Chateau seemed to disrupt their winning ways, taking the individual title in the CICO3* on his own stallion, Propriano De L Ebat, which helped his country to third in the team competition. Leading from the start, Chateau credits to the stallion's success – with Houghton Hall as the beautiful backdrop – to his fantastic temperament.

He said: "Out on the cross country he is a very good listener, which for a stallion is incredibly rare. He is a very special horse."

Best-placed British rider went to team member Pippa Funnell and Billy the Biz in third. Thousands of fans took in the world-class action during the three-day event at the glorious country estate.



BEAUTIFUL SETTING:

Cross-country action from the Houghton International Horse Trials at the weekend. Plenty of spectators took in the showcase event which saw riders and their compatriots displaying their excellence at the prestigious Norfolk setting. The Germans proved they were a class above by dominating the Nations Cup and claiming the top placings in almost all of the other classes on show across the three days.

Picture: IAN BURT