

Helena Lundback wins her first Rolex

Swedish rider Helena Lundback was ecstatic to win her first Rolex watch, when she triumphed in the 44-starter Rolex Grand Prix at the FEI Alltech European Dressage & Jumping Championships.

“At last, at last!” she exclaimed. “This has made up for everything. I have had a bit of a stressful time recently, but I am thrilled to win a watch – I’ve been trying for years.”

Riding the mare Madick, her Swedish team horse, she came off best in a two-horse jump-off against The Netherlands’ Harrie Smolders on Exquis Walnut de Muze.

The class catered for riders who had not made it into tomorrow’s (Sunday) individual final for the European title, and there were 22 nations represented in total, plus some of Britain’s leading riders.

Best of these was Tina Fletcher, third and the fastest of the five four-faulters, riding her husband Graham’s Promised Land, a Czech-bred 14-year-old gelding.

Norway, Ireland, the USA, Finland and Hungary were all represented in the top 10 with John Whitaker, a rare absentee from the British team, seventh on Casino.