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## Longines CCI5-L: Caroline Harris Claims Five-Star Victory at Luhmühlen

Great Britain's Caroline Harris secured the second five-star victory of her career at the Longines Luhmühlen Horse Trials, maintaining her overnight lead with a clear show jumping round aboard D. Day to claim the prestigious Longines CCI5\*-L title (31.1)



Having moved into pole position after a superb cross-country performance on Saturday, Harris held her nerve in the final phase to seal victory in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Luhmühlen. Addressing the spectators during the prize-giving ceremony, Harris reflected on a memorable week: "It's been such a great week. The

ground was perfect yesterday, the track kept us on our toes the whole way round – it's been brilliant from start to finish. The British rider was full of praise for her long-time partner, who once again rose to the occasion when it mattered most. "I'm still in shock. He's just all heart and he'll give me everything he's got, every time I ride him. I truly trust that horse and I know he'll try his heart out in the jumping as long as I ride him well. He normally does everything he can to keep all the poles up. So I just try to focus on getting a good canter and keeping a good rhythm. He loves a crowd, so when he



hears clapping, it feels like everyone's here to watch him. It was great to come in after Emily had jumped so well."

Fellow Briton Emily King delivered another outstanding performance with Valmy Biats



to finish runner-up (33.8). King kept the pressure on the eventual winner right until the final fence and secured a well-deserved second place. "He was on springs – he's incredible. On paper he's a little bit older, but he felt like he was seven. He's like Benjamin Button; every year he feels younger and

better. He is so gritty and fights for you every day. His heart's incredible. He loves his job, he's a superb athlete physically, but he also gets up every morning wanting to work. In the tough moments in every phase, he just grits his teeth and keeps fighting. It's an absolute honour to work with a horse like that."

American rider Boyd Martin with Shanroe Cooley completed the podium(38.1). The pair demonstrated their five-star credentials throughout the week, combining a solid



dressage test, a determined cross-country performance and an impressive clear show jumping round to secure third place. "I'm very, very pleased. It's such a huge effort to come all the way from America to Luhmühlen, so I'm incredibly grateful to the owners, supporters and coaches for

backing the trip, because it's a massive undertaking to come across the ocean. I really didn't know what to expect, but he was brilliant in all the lead-up events and it felt like we were starting to click a little bit more. To come to Luhmühlen and finish on the podium really exceeded my expectations."



Local rider Katharina Meyer made her five-star debut, delighting the home crowd by finishing seventh with a faultless show jumping round. Riding a horse she has known



virtually all his life, the German rider tried to hold back her tears after the competition. "I've bred Aspen, so he was born and raised in Luhmühlen and I've known him for sixteen years now. I just want to thank him. Yesterday it felt like he already knew the cross-country course. He did everything on his own and I'm so pleased. Today he was foot-perfect as well. I just tried to stay calm and stay out of his way. I had my child's lucky charm in my pocket, so I stroked his nose before getting on and told him, 'Let's make the most of it.' I feel like such a rookie sitting next to these legends – it's such an honour. To finish seventh and jump a clear round today is simply amazing."

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