

# FEI Dressage & Para Dressage European Championships Press Kit

Riesenberg, 2023



**FEI**  
**EUROPEAN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
RIESENBECK  
2023**

**DRESSAGE PARA-DRESSAGE**

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# Preview of the FEI Dressage European Championship 2023

## Europe's Dressage stars all ready for Riesenbeck

By Louise Parkes

It's time for Europe's best Dressage combinations to shine this week when the FEI Dressage European Championship 2023 gets underway in Riesenbeck, Germany.

The pirouettes have been practiced and the piaffe has been perfected, so a total of 70 horse-and-rider combinations from 23 countries are ready to put on their dancing shoes and show all their best moves as they battle it out for both team and individual medals.

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland will all be chasing down the team medals while individuals will fly the flags of Armenia, Cyprus, Estonia, Israel, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. The majority of teams will consist of four combinations, but Luxembourg and Norway field just three team members each.

Also on the agenda over the coming days will be the race for the last three team places on offer to teams from FEI Olympic Groups A and/or B for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Already qualified are France as host nation and Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden and The Netherlands who placed in that order at last summer's FEI Dressage World Championship in Herning (DEN). Poland also made the cut at the Group C qualifier in Budapest (HUN) in June, leaving a total of 16 countries vying for one of those three coveted places this week.

### **Dominated**

Team Germany has long dominated this championship, claiming individual gold 22 times and winning 25 of the 29 team titles since the inaugural event was staged in Copenhagen (DEN) in 1963. And they arrive in Riesenbeck as defending champions once again after sweeping all before them in Hagen (GER) two years ago.

That team consisted of Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, Dorothee Schneider, Isabell Werth and Helen Langehanenberg but this time around Werth and von Bredow-Werndl are joined by Mathias Alexander Rath riding Thiago GS and Frederic Wandres with Bluetooth OLD. Werth, the most medalled athlete in equestrian sport, will partner the stallion DSP Quantaz while von Bredow-Werndl brings out the mare with which she has swept all before her in recent years, the lovely TSF Dalera BB.

### **Same team**

Great Britain filled silver medal spot in 2021 and exactly the same team of riders will line out again this year, but all with different horses. Charlotte Dujardin will ride Imhotep, Charlotte Fry brings Glamourdale, Carl Hester partners Fame and Gareth Hughes brings Classic Briolinca.

Denmark took bronze in Hagen, but then went on to take team gold at the FEI Dressage World Championship 2022 on home ground in Herning (DEN) last summer. They are a real force to be reckoned with and although they will be missing Cathrine Dufour this year, they look set to stake their claim to the podium again in convincing style with their side of Daniel Bachmann Andersen riding Vayron, Andreas Helgstrand with Jovian, Carina Cassøe with Heiline's Dancier and Nanna Skodborg Merrald with Blue Hors Zepter.

### **Anticipation**

Anticipation is at an all-time high ahead of this year's championship because it will see von Bredow Werndl and Dalera face some serious new challengers.



Together the German pair took all gold at the delayed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games before going on to do exactly the same at the FEI European Championship 2021 a few weeks later. They claimed the FEI Dressage World Cup™ 2022 title before von Bredow-Werndl took a baby-break which meant they missed the World Championship last summer. But they bounced back to take the 2023 World Cup title in April and they hold the number one spot on the world rankings once again.

In their absence, Britain's Lottie Fry and Glamourdale won both the Grand Prix Special and Freestyle at the World Championship a year ago, the stunning black stallion stealing the hearts of many in the process. And now Skodborg Merrald and Zepter have stepped under the spotlight with ever-improving results that suggest the Danish pair are going to be big-hitters this week.

The chestnut gelding was previously ridden by Bachmann Andersen and then by Sweden's Patrik Kittel, but since Skodborg Merrald took up the ride early this year the 15-year-old horse has blossomed like never before and the quality of their work together has been sensational.

### **The Grand-Mistress**

Add in the Grand-Mistress of the modern sport, Great Britain's Charlotte Dujardin with yet another new horse that, quite unbelievably, looks set to be as good as any of the greats she has ridden before, and we have a recipe for an intriguing week ahead.

Imhotep, known at home as Pete, was only a nine-year-old when helping Britain to last year's team silver in Herning where he finished fourth in the Grand Prix, sixth in the Special and tenth in the Freestyle. A year later and he was throwing down a challenge to von Bredow-Werndl's Dalera in Aachen (GER) in July, finishing a close second in the Grand Prix Special and third behind Zepter and Dalera in the Freestyle.

### **Head-to-head**

Dalera and Glamourdale have never come head-to-head before, so this week we will see that happen. The power and presence of the stallion who sets hearts racing, especially when he storms into extended canter, will take on the ladylike grace and elegance of von Bredow-Werndl's mare. And the pureness of Zepter's quality work along with the rising potential of Imhotep as he continues the learning curve likely to take him to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games next summer will give the panel of judges plenty to think about.

They will all be first put to the test when the action gets underway in Riesenbeck on Wednesday 6 September with the first group of riders in the Grand Prix. On Thursday the remainder will compete and the team medals will be decided.

The Grand Prix Special takes place on Friday 7, and the new Freestyle champion will be crowned on Sunday 9. It's going to be fascinating, so don't miss a hoofbeat...

# Preview of the FEI Para Dressage European Championship 2023

## FEI Para Dressage European Championship – The Pinnacle Before the Paralympic Stage

By Stinna Tange

It's all to play for at the stunning grounds of Riesenbeck International as it prepares to host a four-day spectacle as Europe's best athletes and horses converge for the FEI Para Dressage European Championship, with highly coveted European titles on offer as well as a qualifying team slot for the Paralympic Games in Paris next year for the top ranked team not already qualified.

Team Netherlands, the reigning champions from 2019 and more recently the ECCO FEI Para Dressage World Championship in Herning (DEN) last year will be the ones to watch, as they line up with their highly successful 2022 squad, although with more than a third of the athletes on the start list competing for the first time at a European Championship, anything could happen...

### Grade I: A New Chapter Without Dokkan

Grade I boasts an impressive line-up of heavyweight athletes, with the likes of Rihard Snikus (LAT) on King of the Dance and Sarah Morganti (ITA) on Royal Delight, who have reigned as the top riders in Europe over the past year. It remains to be seen if last year's world championship bronze medallist, Michael Murphy (IRL), aboard Cleverboy, can challenge their dominance. Jens Lasse Dokkan (NOR), the veteran rider and defending European Champion from Rotterdam 2019, recently retired from the sport. Dokkan's presence in Para Dressage has been monumental since the sport's inception, and his sportsmanship and character will be sorely missed.

### Grade II: Unpredictable Waters

The unexpected sensation of last year's FEI world championship Katrine Kristensen (DEN) on Gørklintgård's Quater is not to be found on the starting list for this year's FEI European Championship. We will however have the pleasure of witnessing the defending European individual champion, and Para Dressage veteran, Pepo Puch and Sailor's Blue from Austria. We will also see the defending European freestyle champion from Great Britain - Georgia Wilson on Sakura. Two host-country German riders, Gianna Regenbrecht on Fuerst Sinclair and Heidemarie Dresing on La Boum will be doing their best to make their mark on this Championship and make their country proud.

### Grade III: Danish Dominance?

In Grade III, we have the seemingly unbeatable duo Tobias Thorning Jørgensen and Jolene Hill from Denmark. Many of the top-placed riders from both the last FEI Para Dressage European Championship in Rotterdam, as well as last year's World Championship in Herning are not on the starting list this time around. That means the door is open for new riders to take to the podium in Riesenbeck, setting the stage for a very exciting competition.

### Grade IV: Dutch Mastery

The Dutch will be out in force in Grade IV with the exceptional pairing of Demantur RS2 N.O.P ridden by Sanne Voets. However, Demi Haerkens on Ehl Daula, a rising star and fellow team member, displayed formidable competition last year, so it will be exciting to see if Sanne is able to defend her title at this year's Championship. It will be just as exciting to see the defending silver and bronze medalists from Rotterdam Louise Etzner Jakobbson from Sweden and Belgium's Manon Clayes, this year both on the start list but each with new horses.

### Grade V: Intense Competition

Rounding things off, Grade V is guaranteed to be a fiercely competitive grade at this year's Championship. With the three major players in the grade, Sophie Wells (GBR), Michelle George

(BEL) and the defending European Champion Frank Hosmar (NED) all being on the starting list, the excitement on how the podium spots will be divided is mounting, and they will surely all be hungry for the gold.

## Road to Paris 2024

The FEI Dressage European Championship 2023 will offer the last three team places for the Olympic Groups A and/or B for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Already qualified are France as host nation and Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden and The Netherlands who placed in that order at last summer's FEI Dressage World Championship in Herning (DEN). Poland also made the cut at the Group C qualifier in Budapest (HUN) in June, leaving a total of 10 countries vying for one of those three coveted places this week.

The FEI Para Dressage European Championships will also provide an opportunity for the top ranked team from the competition (not otherwise qualified) to secure a place for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

### Olympic qualification at a glance

#### Paris 2024 Olympic quota for Dressage

15 teams/ 45 athletes

15 individual athletes

Total: 60 athletes

#### Qualified teams

The following nations have qualified teams to date:

France (host nation); Australia; Denmark; Germany; Great Britain; Sweden; The Netherlands; Poland; USA (9 teams).

#### Teams to qualify

The **three highest ranked teams** from the FEI Dressage European Championship 2023, from FEI Olympic Groups A (North Western Europe) and/or B (South Western Europe) excluding teams already qualified.

#### Teams seeking qualification (10)

Austria; Belgium; Finland; Hungary; Ireland; Luxembourg; Norway; Portugal; Spain; Switzerland

### Paralympic qualification at a glance

#### Paris 2024 Paralympic quota for Para Equestrian

Athlete quota: **78** (15 teams of 4 athletes; 18 individuals)

#### Qualified teams

The following nations have qualified teams to date:

France (host nation); Belgium; Denmark; Germany; Great Britain; Italy; The Netherlands; USA (**8 teams**).

#### Team to qualify (1)

The **highest ranked team** from the FEI Para Dressage European Championship 2023 excluding teams already qualified.

**Teams seeking qualification (6):** Austria; Ireland; Norway; Spain; Sweden; Poland

## About the venue for the FEI Dressage & Para Dressage European Championship 2023

Riesenbeck is one of the most well-known venues for equestrian sports enthusiasts. Throughout its history, this place has hosted several of the most important equestrian competitions in the world. Just two years ago, this small town located on the banks of the Dortmund-Ems Canal hosted the FEI Jumping European Championship 2021.



## Full Programme

### FEI EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS RIESENBECK 2023

#### Zeitplan | Timetable

Dienstag   Tuesday 05/09/23		Mittwoch   Wednesday 06/09/23		Donnerstag   Thursday 07/09/23		Freitag   Friday 08/09/23		Samstag   Saturday 09/09/23		Sonntag   Sunday 10/09/23	
PARA	DRESSAGE	PARA	DRESSAGE	PARA	DRESSAGE	PARA	DRESSAGE	PARA	DRESSAGE	PARA	DRESSAGE
08:30 Individual Grade II		08:30 Individual Grade IV	09:00 Team Part 1	08:30 Team Grade III	09:00 Team Part 2	08:30 Team Grade V	10:00 Individual Grand Prix Special	08:30 Freestyle Grade III	10:00 Freestyle Grade II	10:00 Piaff Förderpreis	08:30 Piaff Förderpreis
11:00 Individual Grade I			Grand Prix	11:00 Team Grade II	Grand Prix	11:30 Team Grade IV		11:30 Freestyle Grade I	Inter I U25		Grand Prix U25
15:00 Individual Grade III		13:00 Individual Grade V		13:30 Team Grade I		14:30 🏆 🏆 🏆		13:30 Freestyle Grade V			13:30 Freestyle
17:00 🏆 🏆 🏆		16:00 🏆 🏆 🏆			17:00 🏆 🏆 🏆		17:00 🏆 🏆 🏆	15:00 Freestyle Grade IV			Grand Prix Kür
								16:30 🏆 🏆 🏆	17:00 Dressage Master Class		17:30 🏆 🏆 🏆
								19:00 Fool Auction			

You can check the Official Schedule [here](#)

## Definite entries

For the FEI Dressage European Championship, click [here](#).

For the FEI Para Dressage European Championship, click [here](#).

### Start Lists and Results

All Start lists and results can be found [here](#).

## FEI Dressage & Para Dressage World Rankings

### FEI Dressage World Ranking - Athletes

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Jessica Von Bredow-Werndl	GER
2	Nanna Skodborg	DEN
3	Charlotte Fry	GBR
4	Isabel Werth	GER
5	Charlotte Dujardin	DEN
6	Patrik Kittel	SWE
7	Carina Cassøe Krüth	DEN
8	Frederic Wandres	GER
9	Dinja Van Liere	NDL
10	Ingrid Klimke	GER

See the full FEI Dressage World Ranking - Athletes [here](#)

### FEI Dressage World Ranking - Horses

Ranking	Athlete
1	TSF Dalera BB
2	Blue Hors Zepter
3	Glamourdale
4	DSP Quantaz
5	Imhotep
6	Emilio 107
7	Heiline's Dancier
8	Touchdown
9	Bluetooth Old
10	Dante Weltino Old

See the full FEI Dressage World Ranking - Horses [here](#)



### FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade I

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Rihards Snikus	LAT
2	Sara Morganti	ITA
3	Laurentia Tan	SGP
4	Michael Murphy	IRL
5	Martina Benzinger	GER
6	Roxanne Trunnell	USA
7	Gemma Rose Jen Foo	SGP
8	Annemarieke Nobel	NED
9	Pui Ting Natasha Tse	HKG
10	Jens Lasse Dokkan	NOR

See the full FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade I ranking [here](#)

### FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade II

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Pepo Puch	AUT
2	Heidemarie Dresing	GER
3	Fiona Howard	USA
4	Ann Cathrin Lübbe	NOR
5	Georgia Wilson	GBR
6	Beatrice De Lavalette	USA
7	Loes Cevaal	NED
8	Julia Porzelt	GER
9	Maddison Cooke	AUS
10	Stephanie Vollstedt	GER

See the full FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade II ranking [here](#)

### FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade III

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Tobias Thorning Joergensen	NED
2	Rebecca Hart	USA
3	Chiara Zenati	FRA
4	Melanie Wienand	GER
5	Francesca Salvade	ITA
6	Lotte Krijnsen	NED
7	Roberta Sheffield	CAN

8	Barbara Minneci	BEL
9	Steffen Zeibib	GER
10	Maurilio Vaccaro	ITA

See the full FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade III ranking [here](#)

#### FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade IV

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Kate Shoemaker	USA
2	Demi Haerkens	NED
3	Louise Etzner Jakobsson	SWE
4	Renee Igelski	DEN
5	Vladimir Vinchon	FRA
6	Manon Claeys	BEL
7	Melissa Janssen	NED
8	Nicola Naylor	GBR
9	Pia Wulff Jelstrup	DEN
10	Monika Bartys	POL

See the full FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade IV ranking [here](#)

#### FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade V

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Sophie Wells	GBR
2	Britney De Jong	NED
3	Regine Mispelkamp	GER
4	Rodolpho Riskalla	BRA
5	Lena Malmström	SWE
6	Isabell Nowak	GER
7	Charlotte Cundall	GBR
8	Kevin Van Ham	BEL
9	Lotta Wallin	SWE
10	Lisa Cez	FRA

See the full FEI Para Dressage World Individual Ranking - Grade V ranking [here](#)

# The FEI Dressage & Para Dressage European Championships

## 2023 Facts & Figures

### Number Crunch

#### Total number of athletes:

- Dressage: 70 athletes
- Para Dressage: 61 athletes

#### Total number of horses:

- Dressage: 70 horses
- Para Dressage: 61 athletes

#### Total number of nations:

- Dressage: 23 nations
- Para Dressage: 21 nations

#### Athletes competing for the first time:

- Dressage: 27 athletes
- Para Dressage: 24 athletes

#### Youngest Athlete(s):

- Dressage: Nicola Louise Ahorner (ISR) & Mathilde Merethe Kalesson (NOR) – 23 years old
- Para Dressage: Carla Onrrubia (ESP) – 15 years old

#### Oldest Athlete:

- Dressage: Carrie Schopf (ARM) – 66 years old
- Para Dressage: Heidemarie Dresing (GER) – 68 years old

#### More Appearances:

- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER) – 15 appearances
- Para Dressage: Frank Hosmar (NED), Sara Morganti (ITA) & Sophie Wells (GBR) – 6 appearances

#### Most Medals:

- Dressage: Isabell Werth (GER) – 26 medals (21 golds) // including triple gold at both the 2019 Championships in Rotterdam (NED) and Gothenburg (SWE) two years previously.
- Para Dressage: Sophie Wells (GBR) – 18 medals (12 golds)

#### Most Medals (by country):

- Dressage: Germany (& FRG) – 59 medals (47 golds)
- Para Dressage: Great Britain 51 medals (27 golds)

## FEI Dressage European Championship history at a glance

The FEI Dressage European Championships began in 1963 in Copenhagen (DEN), ending the unofficial “European champion” title which was given at an FEI Grand Prix each year. In 1963 there was no team medal as only two nations had entered teams and the FEI Rules required at least three teams in order to have a team competition.

From 1965 to 2005, Germany remained undefeated in the team competition until the Dutch finally managed to break the German’s 40-year winning streak to take the title in 2007. Since then, Germany and The Netherlands have continued to battle for the title, with Great Britain upsetting tradition and claiming gold in 2011. At the following edition in 2013 in Herning (DEN), Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro would become the first individual British gold medallists at a European Dressage Championship winning both the Grand Prix Special and Freestyle. Overall, Germany has claimed an incredible 25 team titles.

## FEI Para Dressage European Championship history at a glance

This is the seventh edition of the FEI Para Dressage European Championship which was first held in 2009 in Kristiansand, Norway, and is generally held every two years, with the exception of

2021, which was cancelled due to the postponed Paralympic Games, and hence the last edition dates back to 2019.

During the initial years, from 2009-2017 Great Britain dominated the top step of the podium, with Team Netherlands only breaking the spell in Rotterdam in 2019.

Results from previous editions can be consulted here:

- [2009 - Kristiansand \(NOR\)](#)
- [2011 - Moorsele \(BEL\)](#)
- [2013 - Herning \(DEN\)](#)
- [2015 - Deauville \(FRA\)](#)
- [2017 - Göteborg \(SWE\)](#)
- [2019 - Rotterdam \(NED\)](#)

## Format Competition for the FEI Dressage European Championship 2023

Format Competitions for the FEI Dressage European Championship:

- Grand Prix (Team Competition)
- Grand Prix Special (Individual Competition)
- Grand Prix Freestyle (individual Competition)
- 

### **Team competition: Grand Prix**

This competition is open to all combinations entered, team and individual combinations. Maximum four combinations per nation.

### **Individual competition: Grand Prix Special**

This competition is open to the best 30 combinations who completed the Grand Prix Test. If all four (4) Athletes of a team qualify, they may all participate.

### **Individual Competition: Grand Prix Freestyle**

This competition is open to the best 18 combinations from the Grand Prix Special. Only the three best combinations per nation may participate.



## Reigning Champions of the FEI Dressage European Championship 2021 in Hagen (GER)



### Grand Prix Team

Ranking	Country
1	Germany
2	Great Britain
3	Denmark

### Grand Prix Special

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	von Bredow-Werndl & TSF Dalera BB	GER
2	Isabell Werth & Weihegold OLD	GER
3	Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour & Galleria's Bohemian	DEN

### Grand Prix Freestyle

Ranking	Athlete	Country
1	Jessica von Bredow-Werndl & TSF Dalera BB	GER
2	Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour & Galleria's Bohemian	DEN
3	Charlotte Dujardin & Gio	GBR



## Reigning champions (Para Dressage European Championships 2019)

### Freestyle

#### Grade I

Gold: Jens Lasse Dokkan (NOR) / Aladdin  
Silver: Sara Morganti (ITA) / Royal Delight  
Bronze: Rihards Snikus (LAT) / King of the Dance

#### Grade II

Gold: Georgia Wilson (GBR) / Midnight  
Silver: Pepo Puch (AUT) / Sailor's Blue  
Bronze: Nicole Den Dulk (NED) / Wallace

#### Grade III

Gold: Tobias Thorning Hoergensen (DEN) / Jolene Hill  
Silver: Rixt Van der Horst (NED) / Findsley  
Bronze: Barbara Minneci (BEL) / Stuart

#### Grade IV

Gold: Sanne Voets (NED) / Demantur RS2 N.O.P.V  
Silver: Louise Etzner Jakobsson (SWE) / Zernard  
Bronze: Manon Claeys (BEL) / San Dior 2

#### Grade V

Gold: Frank Hosmar (NED) / Alphaville N.O.P.  
Silver: Sophie WELLS (GBR) / C Fatal Attraction  
Bronze: Michèle George (BEL) / Best of 8





## Individual

### Grade I

Gold: Jens Lasse Dokkan (NOR) / Aladdin  
Silver: Sara Morganti (ITA) / Royal Delight  
Bronze: Rihards Snikus (LAT) / King of the Dance

### Grade II

Gold: Pepo PUCH (AUT) / Sailor's Blue  
Silver: Georgia Wilson (GBR) / Midnight  
Bronze: Nicole DEN DULK (NED) / Wallace

### Grade III

Gold: Tobias Thorning Joergensen (DEN) / Jolene Hill  
Silver: Rixt Van Der Horst (NED) / Findsley  
Bronze: Barbara Minneci (BEL) / Stuart

### Grade IV

Gold: Sanne Voets (NED) / Demantur RS2 N.O.P.

Silver: Manon Claeys (BEL) / San Dior 2  
Bronze: Louise Etzner Jakobsson (SWE) / Zernard

**Grade V**

Gold: Frank Hosmar (NED) / Alphaville N.O.P.  
Silver: Sophie Wells (GBR) / C Fatal Attraction  
Bronze: Michèle George (BEL) / Best of 8



**Team**

Gold: The Netherlands  
Silver: Great Britain  
Bronze: Denmark





## FEI online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the **FEI Dressage & Para Dressage European Championship 2023** in Riesenbeck (GER) [here](#).

**Schedules** and **results** will be available [here](#).

The **FEI Dressage & Para Dressage European Championship 2023** in Riesenbeck (GER) will be broadcast live on **FEI TV**, the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

**Images & Content:** Free images for editorial purposes are available from the **FEI Flickr account** in the photostream and in the dedicated album.

**Video footage** will be available at <https://fei.broadcast-content.tv/> with the following login details: [media@fei.org](mailto:media@fei.org) Password: **FEI2018**

**Biographies** from the main participants are available [here](#)  
You can find the **FEI** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [FEI YouTube](#)

**Press Kit Copyright Images:** Liz Gregg

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags:  
**#Riesenbeck2023 #UnitedByEquestrian** and **#FEIEuros2023**

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