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2022 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: MAIDEN GOLDS FOR FOLLETT (GBR) AND BERECKZKI (HUN)



Photo credit: HMPA / Virág Buza

Two of Modern Pentathlon's emerging talents defeated a high-quality field to become individual champions for the first time at the 2022 European Championships in Szekesfehervar (HUN).

Charlie Follett led an impressive team effort by **Great Britain** to win the Women's Final on September 18, with team-mate **Joanna Muir** (GBR) claiming silver and Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion **Kate French** (GBR) finishing 5th.

World No.1 **Michelle Gulyas** of **Hungary** added to her burgeoning tally of major medals with the bronze, with **Ieva Serapinaite** of **Lithuania** coming 4th and **Sarolta Simon** (HUN) completing the top six.



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Later in the day, **Richard Bereczki** (HUN) delivered a champagne moment for the host nation as he claimed Men's Final gold and celebrated on the podium with team-mate **Balazs Szep** (HUN), who took silver ahead of bronze medallist **Maksym Aharushev** of **Ukraine**.

Lukasz Gutkowski of **Poland** was 4th and **Christopher Patte** of **France** and **Bence Demeter** (HUN) occupied the next two places.



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With the format mirroring the new Pentathlon World Championships and Paris 2024 Olympic Games format, all individual athletes competed in Qualification and Semi-finals to reach the 18-strong Final line-up.

The Women's Team medals went to Great Britain (gold), Hungary (silver) and Lithuania (bronze), while Hungary (gold), France (silver) and **Czech Republic** (bronze) claimed the Men's Team medals.



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The championships closed with the Mixed Relay on September 19, won by French (GBR) and **Myles Pillage** (GBR) ahead of **Italy (Alessandra Frezza & Matteo Cicinelli)** and France (**Marie Oteiza & Ugo Fleurot**).

Earlier in the week, Lithuania (**Elzbieta Adomaityte & Ieva Serapinaite**) won the Women's Relay ahead of Poland and Czech Republic, who won gold in the Men's Relay thanks to **Jan Kuf** and **Martin Vlach**. Poland and France completed the Men's Relay podium.

Martin Dawe, UIPM Executive Board Member for Marketing, who attended the championships, said: "We saw some exceptional competition throughout the 2022 European Championships and, as always, the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Federation organised a high-quality event that was enjoyed by both athletes and spectators."

"Finals day was particularly memorable, with excellent performances in weather that felt like a mix of four seasons. Congratulations to all countries who enjoyed success at the 2022 European Championships."

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