

The moment

28 August 2011: European Championships, Luhmühlen



“ I saw my shoe
catapulting
two strides
ahead of me ”



**Piggy
French**

THIS was possibly the most embarrassing moment of my career.

But you need to know the background... It was my first team call-up at the 2011 European Championships and I was determined to make a good impression.

Hurrying around a supermarket the evening before departure, I grabbed a packet of nude tights for the trot-up.

Sadly, I didn't notice that they were stockings. It was a baking hot day at the first trot-up and the damned stockings

just would not stay up.

As I walked up with Jakata to present to the ground jury, one stocking started to slip. I subtly tried to yank it back up, but two strides later it was round my ankle.

Having realised what had happened, [team trainer] Yogi Breisner stepped in front of me to shield my embarrassment. I whispered: "What shall I do?"

He replied: "Just deal with it." I didn't know whether I should disappear and return in a presentable state, or remove the stocking there and then. So I

plumpled for the latter. Never did I imagine I would be handing my stocking to Yogi!

Having only just recovered from this embarrassment, I presented at the second trot-up four days later, where the ground jury jokingly enquired whether I needed any help with my attire.

I assured them everything was fine. But no more than 30 seconds later, I saw my shoe catapulting two strides ahead of me towards the ground jury – and a photographer captured the moment! **H&H**