



W I N T E R E Q U E S T R I A N F E S T I V A L

WEEKLY WIRE

WEEK 4 • JANUARY 29, 2025



GROOM FEATURE:
ANNA HALASZ

LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE
EMPOWERING YOUNG JUMPERS

TRANSCENDING TIME:
THE GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE
SPONSORED BY
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

PHOTO SIERRA/BUERKLEY



TRANSCENDING TIME

For the past 15 years, one single event converges the world of equestrian sport with the heartbeat of altruism. Thanks to the incredible support of donors and sponsors, the Great Charity Challenge sponsored by Fidelity Investments® (GCC) has distributed \$21.7 million to 337 Palm Beach County non-profit organizations.

As the winter chill blankets the air, the Winter Equestrian Festival once again becomes a hotbed of hope, where show-jumping champions and compassionate hearts will unite to transform the lives of more than 40 charities.



The electrifying night isn't just about horsepower; it's about the power to effect change, the power of community, and the undying spirit of giving.

As the 2025 event approaches, a clarion call echoes across the showgrounds and beyond, urging individuals and businesses alike to #BeTheChange, to build upon the GCC's legacy, and to drive the event towards its audacious \$2 million goal.

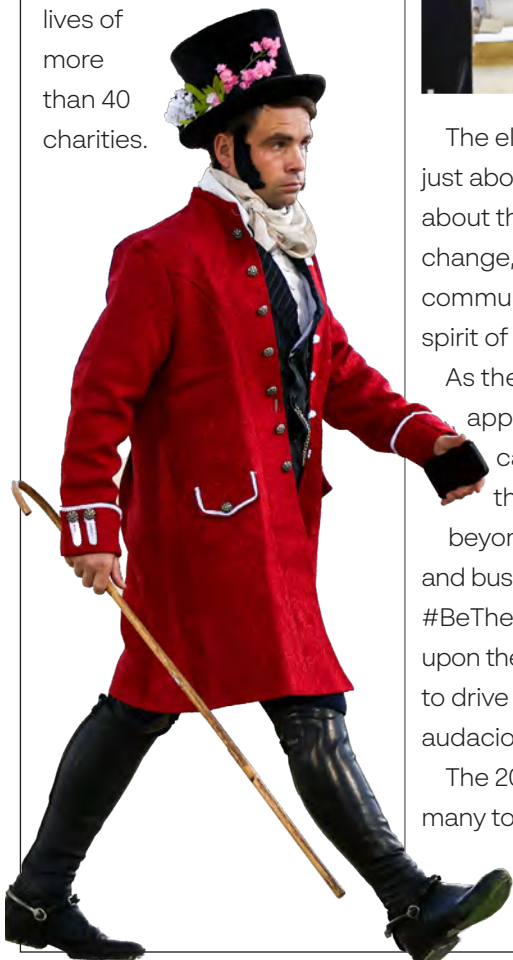
The 2024 edition inspired many to "Be The Change",

raising and distributing a record breaking \$2.25 million dollars that directly impacted some of the most vulnerable populations in Palm Beach County. The event's relationship with the community has evolved over the past 15 years, bringing even more interest, support, and dedication towards its mission.

In 2025, with a new set of incredible charities awaiting their selection, the team at Wellington International looks forward to enabling this amazing event to take place,

supporting organizations in reaching their objectives and fulfilling their missions. The GCC redistributes 100% of donations received back into the community thanks to Wellington International's generosity in covering all costs associated with this community effort. As a result, joining us as a donor or sponsor means that your donation will create a direct impact locally.

"Year after year, the event continues to thrive, thanks to our many donors and sponsors who join forces,





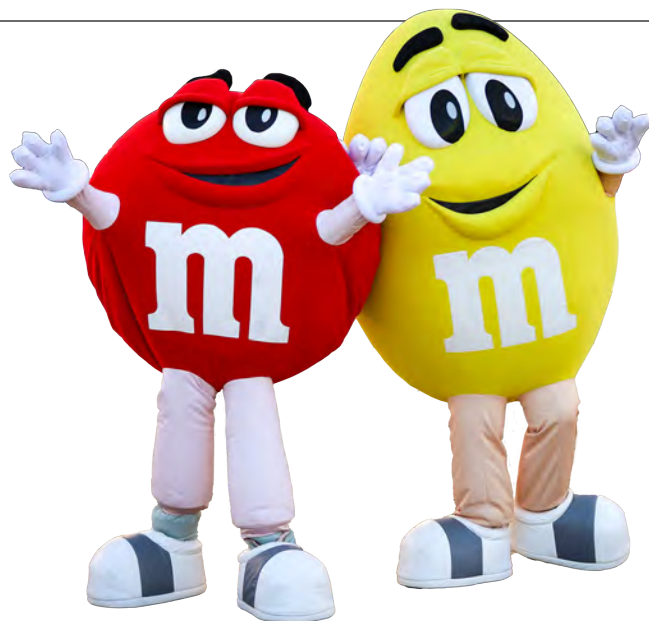
creating a genuine impact for local non-profits and the clients they serve” comments Anne Caroline Valtin, Executive Director of the GCC.

“Looking back on the last 15 years and the tie this event has created between Palm Beach County and the equestrian community, we can’t help but be grateful for our donors’ trust and commitment, and are ecstatic to keep sharing their generosity’s impact”.

In addition to fund disbursements, the event’s strategy encompasses capacity building, fostering invaluable partnerships, and

concentrating on amplifying the event’s impact. By investing in building the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of individuals and organizations, we lay the foundation for sustainable long-term change. Galloping into its 16th year, the GCC hopes to inspire all who attend to take action and become involved in their communities.

The GCC competition, to be held during the 2025 Winter Equestrian Festival, returns on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Wellington International, home of the



Winter Equestrian Festival, and once again, will feature the Pet Parade and Costume Contest presented by the Postage Stamp Farm Foundation, and the school art projects from 12 local public schools.

To ensure transparency, an open application process takes place yearly during the last two weeks of October followed by a rigorous vetting process.

Once approved by a review committee, organizations are randomly selected

out of a lottery drum by sponsors, local officials and team members who go out of their way every year to support the GCC and help the event gain momentum in the community. The charity selection process takes place in mid-December 2024 and is livestreamed via the event’s social media channels; thirty charities will be randomly selected to compete in the 2025 event.

Organizations benefiting from the GCC serve and support Palm Beach County’s community growth and well-being. Grant recipients are required to give updates for one calendar year post event, highlighting how the funds received are being put to work.

A full list of recipients and benefiting charities to date, including their most recent fund use reports, can be viewed on the GCC website.

For more information about GCC, please contact Executive Director Anne Caroline Valtin at acv@greatcharitychallenge.com.





PHOTO © SARAH EAKIN

Meet Double H Farm Grooms Award Winner:

ANNA HALASZ

This article is part of a collaboration between HorseGrooms, Wellington International & Paper Horse Media.

By Sarah Eakin

Anna Halasz, 31, is from Hungary and grooms for Germany's Richard Vogel. Richard and 11-year-old Hanoverian chestnut gelding Cydello won the \$140,000 CSI3* WeatherTech Grand Prix on the grass derby field to close out WEF 2 where Halasz was honored with the \$500 Double H Farm Grooms Award for her unwavering care of Cydello. We caught up with her after the win.

Q What led you to your job working with Richard Vogel?

A That's a funny story. It was a last minute thing. I only started working with Richie last September. A former employer of mine told me that they were searching for somebody, and we ended up working together. I started working with him here in the States and it was my first time here, so it was an interesting experience for sure.

Q How would you describe Cydello's personality?

A He's like a puppy and wants attention all the time. He's a lovely guy, but he's not quiet at all. He is always ready to work, ready to win and is an amazing horse with a big personality. He's super easy to work with, but he sensitive like every other special horse who is competing at the top level.

Q How did you prepare for the CSI3* WeatherTech Grand Prix?

A I usually like to give my main focus to the horse that is doing the grand prix and spend as much time with them as I possibly can—hand walking and doing everything in organized steps. I'm not doing anything crazy; just normal horse care, planning ahead and taking the best care of him so he can have his own down time. For him, rest between the grooming and the class is important. I always give them a little pep talk before they go in the ring.



Q What do you love most about your job?

A Everything. Horses. I like every horse that I meet and it's special for me to get to know them and have these special connections. I always like to be around horses more than humans. Taking care of them is very rewarding.

Q What advice would you give to someone wanting to work as a groom at the top level of the sport?

A If they want to be on the top level, they should never look at it as a job. If you really want to do it and at the top level, you have to love what you do and do it because you love the horse, not because you love the sport. The horses come first and the rest is always going to follow. So, if you take good care of your horse, the results will come.



PHOTO © SPORTFOT

ABOUT HORSEGROOMS

HorseGrooms.com is a platform dedicated to supporting and empowering grooms worldwide. Through resources, articles, and the exclusive Insiders Membership, we provide tools to help grooms grow professionally and connect with a like-minded community. For trainers and owners, giving an Insiders Membership is a meaningful way to support your groom's development and show appreciation for their hard work. With monthly Q&A sessions featuring top grooms, exclusive discounts, and valuable industry insights, it's the ultimate gift for the backbone of your team. Learn more at HorseGrooms.com.



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CHRISTIAN KUKUK & CHECKER 47 COME HOME AGAIN



PHOTO © ASHLEY NEUHOF

Olympic champions Christian Kukuk and Checker 47 returned to familiar territory during WEF 3 'Saturday Night Lights'. Six months after jumping to Olympic gold in Paris, the 2024 Rolex Grand Prix winning duo came in the crowd favorite and topped the \$215,000 NetJets CSI4* Grand Prix.

"I'm very happy to be back [in Wellington]," said Kukuk, who has six of his top horses in Florida for the winter season. "I still remember that night winning the Rolex Grand Prix here in March last year. It was one of my best nights I ever had and best wins."

Germany's Kukuk and his 15-year-old Westphalian gelding partner (Comme Il Faut 5 x Come On) led off in a seven-horse jump-off and held an edge from the start to win by nearly two seconds over Peter Grant's (CAN) short course.

"First to go is never easy in the jump-off," said Kukuk, who stopped the clock at 37.35 seconds. "I did not walk the jump-off because there were long lines and I don't have the huge stride, but I know that [Checker] is naturally very quick even if I have a stride more than the other ones. When I passed the finish line, I knew that the rest were under pressure and they had to try."

When asked about the special bond Kukuk has created with Checker 47, owned by M.H. & Partner Gbr & Madeleine Winter-Schulzehe, he said, "We have come a long way; I've known him since he was five. That's what you need in the end to have big successes—a strong relationship. Like today, when he comes in the ring he feels when it's a special day."

Back-to-back Olympic champions took the top two placings on Saturday night with Great Britain's Ben Maher and Enjeu de Grisien settling as the runners up. Maher—a familiar face at Wellington International—piloted the 11-year-old Selle Français gelding (Toulon x Andiamo) owned by Charlotte Rossetter and Pamela Wright to a time of 39.29 seconds.

"I did everything I could," admitted Maher. "Enjeu has a very big stride for a small horse, but it's a little slow motion. He jumps with a lot of height and a lofty kind of jump. It was always going to be tough to beat Checker, and with the experience of Christian with that horse and the smooth turn back [in the jump-off], I would have had to take an unrealistic risk to be



able to beat him."

Maher has been competing at WEF for roughly 16 years with many great successes on different horses. "It's been a huge part of my career," he said. "I think they're doing a great job to build the fan base here that we have in Europe, and it makes it more special for us to ride in these events with a big crowd and it helps raise our game."

After winning the BrainJuice Under 25 Grand Prix during WEF 2, Nina Mallevaey (FRA) said that her goal was to step up to the four- and five-star level. She realized and exceeded that goal this week with a podium finish in the NetJets Grand Prix riding *Dynastie de Beaufour*, a 12-year-old *Selle Français* mare (*Siamant de Semilly* x *Cassini I*) owned by Tara Dow-Rein & The Rein Family. They stopped the clock at 39.67 seconds for third place.

"I'm really happy with my horse because it's her first time here," said 25-year-old Mallevaey, who trains with Laura Kraut and Nick Skelton. "She had a two-month holiday before coming here and she feels amazing. "I've been riding her for 10 months now. I'm grateful to have a horse like her. I hope to get more good results and maybe think about some championships with her. This season, I'm hoping I can jump the Rolex Grand Prix."

Jacob Pope & Highway FBH Drive Away in Florida Coast Equipment CSI2* Grand Prix

Jacob Pope (USA) wasn't short of good luck charms on Sunday with his parents and barn family supporting him ringside while he rode a win in the Florida Coast Equipment CSI2* Grand Prix aboard *Highway FBH*, owned by Sherri Crawford.

"This is my first win at WEF," Pope, originally from Maryland but who now bases out of Wellington and Traverse City, MI, shared. "The best I'd done before was second in a WEF Challenge Cup so it's really special to win, especially with such a great crowd of family and supporters here."

Among his cheering squad were his parents, his aunt, the horse's owner, plus his group of students and barnmates who stayed to watch him top the competitive class.

"I always joke that my mom and dad are my good luck charms," Pope shared. "I won my first grand prix on my dad's birthday and my second grand prix they were there. Now they're here today and I won."

The win didn't come easy, though, as he was one of 10 to jump clear over Peter Grant's (CAN) course. From top young riders to Olympians alike, it could have been anyone's win, but Pope put the pedal to the metal aboard the 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood stallion (*Plot Blue* x *Cornet Obolensky*) and claimed the win.

Pope credits much of the success in Sunday's



PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

jump-off to his training with 1986 World Champion *Katie Prudent* and partner *Henri*, which began last summer and has continued now that they are all back in Wellington together. During the course walk, *Katie* suggested

everywhere Pope could make up time, and he went out and executed her plan.

"It's been amazing; I've learned a lot," Pope said of working with the *Prudents*, who are based out of Virginia when not in Wellington.

Book VIP Experiences during Saturday Night Lights at Wellington International

THE BLUE RIBBON CLUB

Indulge in a gourmet dinner buffet, enjoy an open bar, and savor the best views of the International Arena.

THE BRAINJUICE TIKI HUT

Relax with a casual, lively atmosphere just steps from the action, for a VIP experience with a fun twist.

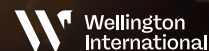
THE NETJETS LANDING

Experience the ultimate in exclusivity with front-row seats, enhanced amenities, an exquisite dinner, and open bar access in the heart of the International Arena.

THE GALLERY

Available only on 4* and 5* Grand Prix nights, enjoy a buffet, open bar, and an exclusive post-competition nightclub for guests 21+.

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AROUND THE GROUNDS

from the Wellington International Photography Collective



PHOTO © SIERRA / BUERKLEY



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PHOTO © GIANNA TERRANOVA PHOTOGRAPHY



CHAMPIONS GALLERY



Kelly Tropin-Whitridge rode Rimaro, owned by Libertas Farm, to champion of the Adequan® 3'3" Amateur-Owner 18-35 Hunter division, to earn the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award from Laura Fetterman.



After winning the Hermès CSI4 1.50m Classic with world no. 1 rider Henrik Von Eckermann, Glamour Girl was named the WEF 3 Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award winner. Pictured with (left to right) Laura Fetterman, owner Robin Parsky and Kate McNamee of Hermès.*



Sophia Walker rode One Up to the top tri-color ribbon in the Low Child/Adult Training Jumper division. Pictured with best friend and horse show companion, Benny Boi.



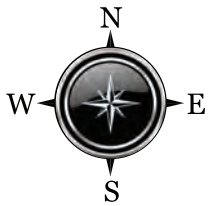
Kendall Kauffman and Biscotti were Champions of the USHJA 2' Hunter division.



Quaid was named Champion of the Low Adult Amateur Hunter Sec. A with Jan Van Allen in the irons.



Farnley Crown Prince carried Fiona Stoltzfus to a Championship title in the UHSJA 2' Junior/ Amateur Hunter division.

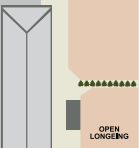


14440 PIERSON ROAD

EXHIBITOR ENTRANCE



dever
GOLF CART
MAINTENANCE



TENT A
OPEN LONGEVING
LAUNDRY

7 STABLES
OFFICE
ADMIN
GOLF CART
RENTALS

BARN C
BARN 1
BARN 2
BARN 3
BARN 4
BARN 5
BARN 6

TENT 1
TENT 2
TENT 3
TENT 4
TENT 5
TENT 6
TENT 7
TENT 8

1 EXHIBITOR SERVICES
2 ADMINISTRATION
3 SHOW OFFICE
4 ADMIN PARKING
5 VIP PARKING
6 GENERAL PARKING
7 STABLES / DEVER

ADMIN PARKING
4

RING 6
SCHOOLING RING

OASIS
VENDOR VILLAGE

RING 8
RING 7

SCHOOLING RING
SCHOOLING RING

MOGAVERO RING

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLING RING

ROST RING

HUNTER HILL VENDORS

INTERNATIONAL ARENA

GRAND HUNTER RING

CAROUSEL

VENDORS

RING 10
RING 9

SCHOOLING RING
SCHOOLING RING

DENEMETHY RING

\$30 RING

SOUTH RING

SCHOOLING RING

TENT 10
TENT 11
TENT 12
TENT 13
TENT 14
TENT 15

ISOLATION

LONGEVING RING
LONGEVING RING

LONGEVING TILL 10AM
OPEN RIDING 10:30- DUSK

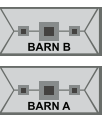
OPEN RIDING RING

Welcome to
Wellington International
3400 Equestrian Club Drive, Wellington, FL 33414



COMPETITION RINGS

- International Arena
- Mogavero Ring
- DeNemethy Ring
- Rost Ring
- Grand Hunter Ring
- South Ring
- Rings 6 -12



OFFICES & PARKING

- 1 Exhibitor Services
- 2 Administration
- 3 Show Office
- 4 Admin Parking
- 5 VIP Parking
- 6 General Parking
- 7 Stabling / Dever

SHOPPING AREAS

- Bridge Deck Shops
- Farm Stand
- Hunter Hill
- Pony Island
- Ring 6 Vendors
- South Ring Vendors
- Vendor Village
- Tiki Terrace
- The Shops at Int'l Club

SHUTTLE STOPS #

- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Farm Stand
- 3 Ring 6
- 4 Exhibitor Services
- 5 Vendor Village
- 6 Dever Golf Cart Rentals
- 7 FEI Barns
- 8 South Ring
- 9 South Parking
- 10 Ring 10
- 11 DeNemethy Ring
- 12 International Club

LEGEND

- Medic
- Fire Rescue
- Gate Entry
- Restrooms
- Food Vendors
- ATM
- Handicap Parking
- Horse Crossing
- Shuttle Stop
- Shuttle Route

FUTURE EXPANSION OF SHOW GROUNDS



INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Lugano
Kiton
NetJets Business Centre
Weatherly Stroh Artist
LAURACEA

TIKI TERRACE

WEF Store
Hermès
Karina Brez Jewelry
KAVAL
DandyLion (WEF 1-6)
Equestrian Stockholm (WEF 7-10)
Julie Keyes Art (WEF 11-12)
Serenella

BRIDGE DECK AT TIKI TERRACE

Dada Sport
Michel McNabb (WEF P-2)
Helgstrand Jewellery (WEF 3-4)
Carol Morano Equine Art (WEF 5-6)
Equisite Elements of Style (WEF 7-12)
Alexander Academic Access (WEF P-1)
DELGÉ (WEF 2)
J Wilder Imports (WEF 3-5)
The Calvert Collection (WEF 6-10)
Maya Delorez (WEF 11-12)

THE BARN AT HUNTER HILL

LeMieux

HUNTER HILL

Ola' Mair Boutique
Vanner House
UNIQ. Jewelry (WEF P-4)
Ryde Equestrian (WEF 5-6)

INTERNATIONAL RING WARM UP

Prestige Italia
Equitan
Bruno Delgrange Maître Sellier
Barnwalkers
IDA Development

RING 6

Antarès Sellier
Voltaire Design
THEAULT

OASIS

Charles Ancona
La Enovesé Designs
Devoucoux

VENDOR VILLAGE SOUTHSIDE

Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue
Equestrian Team Apparel
Optic Nirvana
Fab Finds by Sarah
JODS
Sofie's Boutique
Der Dau
Human Touch (WEF P- 4)
Gladiator Equine (WEF 5- 8)
Shop Cou (WEF 9- 12)
Equiline
Turner & Co
Running Fox
Kocher Tack Shop
Tony Hanley Supplements
Stephex
CWD
Tack n Rider
Personalized Products
Equine Tack & Nutrition
CM Hadfields

VENDOR VILLAGE NORTHSIDE

Loopy's Crepes
The In Gate
Ride EquiSafe
Miki Saddlery
Hunt LTD
Parlanti
Fratelli Fabbri
EQUIS
Vogel NYC
Harry's Lemonade

PONY ISLAND

Farm Stand
Silvia's Tacos
Palm Beach Int'l Academy
Florida Snow
Hunter's Landing

THE BARN

Dandy Products
FarmVet
Josey's Laundry
Anonymous Coffee
Paddock Paws Veterinary Clinic

RING 9

Arion Sellier
Forestier Sellier
Sportfot
Muddy Paws Ice Cream
Nathalie's Café

RING 10

Ringside Health Clinic
McGuinn Farms
Magdalena's Mexican

SOUTH BARN

Rider's Boutique
Zest
Best Islands Kitchen
Alorian Saddlery



PLACES TO EAT

Anonymous Coffee.....Barn 4
Florida SnowPony Island
Harry's Lemonade.....Vendor Village
Loopy's Crepes.....Vendor Village
Magdalena's Mexican ...Ring 10
Muddy Paws.....Ring 9

Nathalie's Café.....Ring 9
Oasis Café.....Vendor Village
BrainJuice Tiki HutInternational Arena
ToastiesVendor Row
Silvia's Tacos.....Pony Island



US EQUESTRIAN OPEN SERIES

Ushers in a New Era for Equestrian Sports

The US Equestrian Open Series marks a transformative moment for equestrian sports in the United States. This comprehensive championship series spans the three Olympic disciplines - eventing, dressage, and jumping - and promises to revolutionize how Americans experience and engage with horse sports.

A Vision of Transformation

The seeds of the US Equestrian Open Series were first planted in conversations among the leadership team, athletes, and stakeholders of US Equestrian. There was a growing sense that the sport was ready for a new level of competition and exposure - a platform that could showcase the incredible talent, engage new fans, and set the stage for success on the international stage. This series represents more than just a competition; it's a strategic vision to elevate equestrian sports from a niche pursuit to a mainstream spectator experience, addressing the critical

need for a more cohesive, accessible, and exciting competitive landscape for athletes and fans alike.

Bridging Disciplines: A Comprehensive Approach

The series uniquely encompasses all three Olympic equestrian disciplines. By creating three major finals across these disciplines, the series provides athletes with goals for seasonal planning and offers fans an unprecedented opportunity to follow top-tier equestrian competitions. The series' high-profile events, significant prize money, top class venues, and extensive media coverage are set to take equestrian sports to a whole new level of hype, introducing them to a new generation of fans. But the impact goes beyond just increased visibility, it is the game-changer for our sport.

Showcasing Excellence Eventing

The US Equestrian Open Series kicked off with several qualifying events in 2024. These events continue through 2025 culminating

in the US Equestrian Open Eventing Final at Morven Park, VA, with \$200,000 in prize money and an additional \$50,000 series award.

Dressage

The US Equestrian Open Dressage series will start in 2025, with qualifying events across the country leading to the final at the Desert International Horse Park in California. The dressage series will reward athletes with \$200,000 in prize money and a \$50,000 series incentive for high-point scorers.

Jumping

In 2025, the US Equestrian Open Jumping Final will culminate with the \$750,000 Rolex US Equestrian Open Grand Prix event at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. This prestigious event, part of the Rolex Series, will provide an additional \$250,000 in prize money through qualifying rounds. Qualifying events will take place during the last week of WEF leading into the Final.

Elevating the Pinnacle of Equestrian Jumping Talent

The US Equestrian Open Jumping series in Wellington, Florida, will further enhance WEF as a premier showcase of equestrian talent. This iconic equestrian destination, known for its state-of-the-art facilities, world class competition, and unparalleled atmosphere, is the perfect stage for the US Equestrian Open Jumping series. The world's leading athletes, featuring the finest talent from across the nation, will gather to compete in a high-stakes, high-profile environment. The series has also secured the prestigious partnership with Rolex, bringing its legacy of precision, excellence, and international sporting prestige to the event.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this groundbreaking initiative that aligns with our commitment to elevating equestrian sport across the world. The US Equestrian Open Jumping Final, hosted during the Rolex Finale Week of the Winter Equestrian Festival, not only celebrates

the incredible Olympic-level talent within our sport but also showcases it on a global stage. This series is a testament to the growing momentum and mainstream appeal of equestrian disciplines, and we are proud to play a pivotal role in its success," says Michael Stone, President of Wellington International.

Hosting the US Equestrian Open Series final during WEF Week 12 in March 2025 further cements Wellington's status as the winter equestrian capital, as this strategic timing allows the series to capitalize on the presence of top international riders already competing at the renowned Winter Equestrian Festival, as well as the knowledgeable and enthusiastic audience of equestrian fans who gather for the electric atmosphere that builds throughout the festival season. By aligning the series final with the culmination of WEF, the US Equestrian Open can leverage the established draw and vibrant energy of this world-class equestrian event, amplifying the visibility and excitement surrounding the pinnacle of the competition.

The selection of Wellington International as the host venue for the US Equestrian Open Series Final underscores the organization's commitment to excellence and the far-reaching impact of this landmark event. By choosing this world-class equestrian destination, the series is poised to deliver a significant



PHOTO © DEVYN TRETHERWEY/US EQUESTRIAN

economic boost to the local community, as the influx of the world's best athletes and horses, support staff, and spectators is expected to contribute substantially to the regional economy.

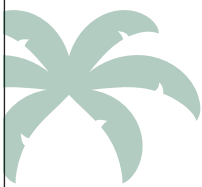
Beyond the financial implications, hosting the series final at Wellington International will further strengthen the area's vibrant equestrian

community, fostering deeper engagement and pride among those who call this the "winter equestrian capital" home. In addition, the global spotlight that will shine on this prestigious competition will draw international attention to the exceptional talent and caliber of U.S. jumping, elevating the sport's profile on the world stage and

solidifying the nation's standing as a powerhouse in the equestrian realm.

The US Equestrian Open Series isn't just changing our sport - it's redefining it!

Stay up to date with news and standings of the US Equestrian Open Series on our dedicated website www.usequestrianopen.org and social media channels.



WEF STANDINGS



MARTHA JOLICOEUR DOUGLAS ELLIMAN



Leading Lady Rider Award

- Natalie Dean – 278 pts**
- Jessica Mendoza – 222 pts**
- Erynn Ballard – 185 pts**
- Emilie Conter – 184 pts**
- Caroline Mawhinney – 136 pts**



Australia's Thaïsa Erwin is presented as the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award for WEF 3.



PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

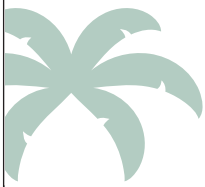
After a consistent three weeks of FEI competition, Egypt's Nayel Nassar, pictured riding ESI Ali, tops the Leading International Rider standings, presented by Michael & Wendy Smith.



LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER

Presented By Michael & Wendy Smith

- Nayel Nassar EGY – 242 pts**
- Carlos Hank Guerreio MEX – 210.5 pts**
- Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 201 pts**
- Natalie Dean USA – 184 pts**
- Richard Vogel GER – 174 pts**



WEF STANDINGS

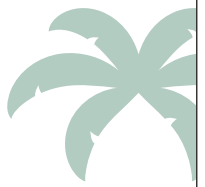


PHOTO © AIDEN CORRIGAN MEDIA

The USA's Ariana Marnell, pictured riding Jikke Cara, leads the BrainJuice Under 25 Grand Prix Series standings after opening week of U25 competition.



UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

Ariana Marnell USA – 93.5 pts

Emily Dehoff USA – 91 pts

Nina Mallevaey FRA – 89.5 pts

Tony Stormanns GER – 88 pts

Charlotte Babbitt USA – 83 pts

HERMÈS SELLIER PARIS

1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES

Luis Fernando Larrazabal VEN – 123 pts

Cian O'Connor IRL – 92 pts

Peter Lutz USA – 79 pts

Mark Bluman COL – 78 pts

Eduardo De Menezes BRA – 76 pts



PHOTO © CASSIDY KLEIN

Luis Fernando Larrazabal (VEN), pictured on Check Me Out PS, currently leads the Hermès 1.50m Championship Jumper Series standings.

LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE

Continues to Support Up-and-Coming Horses in Dressage and Jumping

Lövsta Future Challenge is proud to continue their series in the United States, supporting young horses to reach their full potential, in both dressage and jumping.

What began as a national tour in dressage for U25 riders and young Grand Prix horses has grown into one of the world's leading initiatives to nurture the next generation of equestrian talent," says Antonia Ax:son Johnson, owner of Lövsta Stuteri and founder of Lövsta Future Challenge.

"We're delighted to support the sport here in Wellington and to expand our commitment to the most essential part of our sport—the grooms. These dedicated caretakers are the ones who look after the most valuable part of our sport, our wonderful horses."

This season, Lövsta Future Challenge is introducing a \$3,000 Groom's Award for

each discipline, given to the grooms of the top three placed combinations in each final.

From Sweden to the rest of the world- the journey of Lövsta Future Challenge

Founded in 2011 by Swedish dressage icons Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén and Louise Nathhorst, with the support of Antonia Ax:son Johnson, Lövsta Future Challenge was created to advance Sweden's standing in the equestrian world while serving as a model of sustainable competition. Over a decade later, this vision has grown internationally. Lövsta Future Challenge now includes national tours in Sweden for U25 riders and young horses



PHOTO © SUSAN STICKLE PHOTOGRAPHY

in dressage and jumping, along with international events around Europe.

In show jumping, the U25 competition during the Global Champions Tour in Stockholm is an annual highlight, while in dressage, Lövsta Future Challenge hosts an international U25 series in partnership with World Cup Herning, Jumping Amsterdam, and Gothenburg Horse Show. By providing

these young athletes with a stage at iconic venues, the program aims to prepare future stars for the world's elite competitions.

Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage in Wellington

The Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage – USA is about to enter its sixth season, offering a tour for young Grand Prix horses (from 8-11yo) with five



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PHOTO © SPORTFOT

qualifiers in Wellington. The top two riders from each qualifier will secure one of the highly sought after spots in the finale during week 12. The qualifiers will be held in Intermediate II and the final in Grand Prix for Young Horses. With \$15,000 in total prize money and no entry fees, Lövsta continues to support the riders and teams around them.

Jumping into 2025: Lövsta Future Challenge vision for future show jumping stars

The Lövsta Future Challenge Jumping tour provides seven-year-old horses the chance to gain invaluable experience in a competitive environment. This upcoming season, the tour will host seven qualifiers throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit, culminating in a grand finale at Wellington International with \$25,000 in prize money.

Reflecting on last year's season, Sophie Mörner, founder of Lövsta Future Challenge Jumping US, says, "We were thrilled about the outcome of last year's season. With over 200 entries from more than 15 nationalities, we saw how

crucial it is to put future stars into the spotlight. By giving them the opportunity to compete at Wellington International, we hope to equip them with the experience they need for a successful future."

Honoring Horsemanship and Giving Back to the Community

Beyond competitive success, Lövsta Future Challenge remains deeply committed to sustainability, horsemanship, and community. One example of this commitment is the ongoing collaboration with Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center, a facility that among other things provides equine-assisted therapy for people with disabilities. For the 2025 season, Lövsta Future Challenge will donate \$100 for each participant in its U.S. events to Vinceremos, helping to support its life-changing programs for people of all ages.

"It's equally important for us to look beyond the arena to places where these incredible animals bring joy, healing, and hope in ways that far surpass medals or trophies," Johnson concludes.

Thank You, Robin

“
**His bright, beautiful
 eye has the glimmer
 of an old soul that
 reminds us why
 we do this sport.**
 ”

As a prelude to “Saturday Night Lights” during WEF 3, the U.S. show jumping community bid a special farewell to equine athlete Robin de Ponthual. After 10 years at the grand prix level and 51 pages of international results, Robin retired on Saturday, January 25, happy and healthy at 20 years young.

Accolades that include FEI World Cup™ wins, FEI World Cup™ Final appearances, Team USA Nations Cup bids and CSI5* wins have

cemented Robin as one of the special ones.

Robin, owned by Katherine Gallagher, started his career with Peter Lutz in 2014 before moving to Schuyler Riley. Between them, they won the FEI World Cup™ in Las Vegas, represented the USA at the FEI World Cup™ Finals in 2016 and qualified for 2020. After winning a five-star grand prix at Spruce Meadows in 2016, Robin carried the U.S. flag in Nations Cup competition in Mexico and Barcelona.

Reflecting on Robin’s career, Schuyler Riley shared the following:

“All Robin’s successes brought incredible joy to the lives of his owner

Katherine Gallagher, his riders Peter Lutz and myself, and all of

his support staff, including his long-time groom Jesus Pimentel. But it’s not the end of those successes alone that will bring tears to our eyes. It is that Robin touched hearts everywhere he went. Grooms, trainers, other riders, stewards and people I didn’t even know always seemed to be cheering for Robin.

“His bright, beautiful eye has the glimmer of an old soul that reminds us why we do this sport. It is that incredible connection with the horse; the unspeakable language that binds us on our journey to success. Robin thrived on the journey, and he understood the partnership.

“During every grand prix, Robin pulled me towards the ingate rather than the warm-up. He loved the fanfare, all the attention and most of all Robin loved making his people happy. We celebrate Robin’s victories, his incredible talent and his powerful character which is giving joy to so many.”

Wellington International thanks you for the memories, Robin. Enjoy your retirement!





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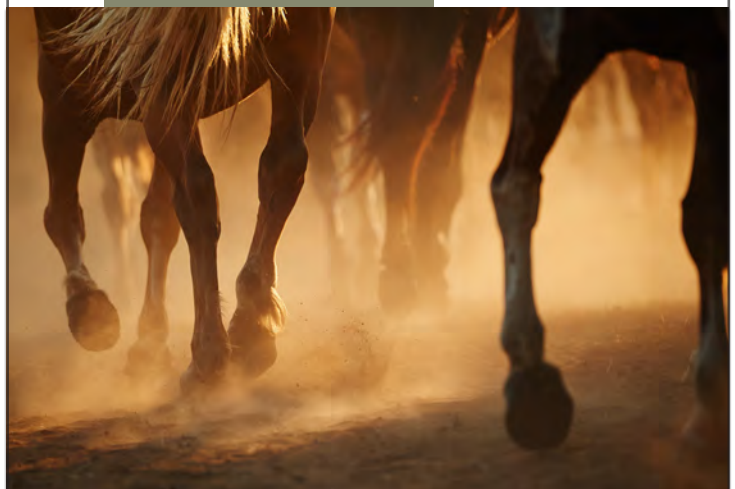
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