



WEEK 1 🐾 January 11-15, 2017

WEEKLY WIRE

🐾 EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

2017 WEF Hosts Opening Press Conference



Tuesday's press conference panel (left to right): U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team Silver Medalist Kent Farrington, three-time USHJA International Hunter Derby Finals winner Liza Boyd, Equestrian Sport Productions' CEO Mark Bellissimo, U.S. Olympic Dressage Team Bronze Medalist Kasey-Perry Glass, Allyn Mann, Director of Adequan®, and AGDF Director of Sport Thomas Baur. © Jennifer Wood Media.

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) hosted an opening press conference on Tuesday, January 10, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL, to kick off the start of the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). The 12-week WEF will host thousands of the world's best horses and riders competing in the hunter, jumper, and equitation disciplines starting Wednesday, January 11, and running through April 2.

Tuesday's press conference panel included Equestrian Sport Productions' CEO Mark Bellissimo, AGDF Director of Sport Thomas Baur, U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team Silver Medalist Kent Farrington, U.S. Olympic Dressage Team Bronze Medalist Kasey-Perry Glass, three-time USHJA International Hunter Derby Finals winner Liza Boyd, and Allyn Mann, Director of Adequan®.

Bellissimo began by welcoming everyone to the 2017 WEF circuit and spoke first of major improvements in infrastructure that have been made at PBIEC thanks to participant recommendations.

"At the end of last circuit we had a meeting of riders, trainers, and owners to discuss opportunities to improve the Winter Equestrian Festival," Bellissimo stated. "One of the biggest areas of interest was the footing. We did renovation of the rings, with full removal of footing in the International Ring and its schooling area plus an overhaul of the footing in all of the rings. We also increased the drainage footprint around the arenas. We had an unusually large amount of rain last year, so we wanted to make sure that we kept ahead of

that. There were major barn area enhancements, from drainage to aesthetics."

Bellissimo continued, "We made a major investment in bridle paths this year. We elevated the paths and put in material that allows them to drain better and operate in a more efficient way. We added ring eight as an open riding area. We reduced two stabling tents to decrease congestion and relocated those areas so that we could add another ring that's being called the South Ring. We also created a bridle path that goes along the canal past Mallet Hill, and leads to a 12-acre grass polo field that anyone can hack on. Those are the major changes that we have put forth."

Bellissimo looks forward to another great season as the tremendous amount of support from equestrian athletes worldwide continues to grow at WEF. The latest acquisition of the International Polo Club (IPC) will help even further to achieve goals of connecting the equestrian world and bringing different disciplines together more than ever before as plans continue with that new venture.

Looking at the 2017 season at WEF, the \$75,000 Wellington Regional Medical Center Battle of the Sexes is the first "Saturday Night Lights" event on January 14, which always provides a high-level of entertainment and fun action for the community to cheer on.

The Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments®, is another great community event that will reach

Welcome to the 2017 WEF!

On behalf of the Wellington Equestrian Partners and Equestrian Sport Productions, we would like to welcome you to the 38th annual Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). We can't wait for competition to start and to welcome the community back to Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) for another exciting winter of equestrian sport.

We are proud to celebrate the tenth year of Equestrian Sport Productions managing the Winter Equestrian Festival and the creation of the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. We have seen tremendous growth and opportunities for the equestrian industry. We can't wait to see what the next ten years bring.

For four years, Rolex has been an amazing partner of PBIEC. We appreciate their support in helping us make equestrian sport stronger and give it better exposure in the United States. We are honored to partner with one of the most respected brands in the world.

We are reaching a phenomenal milestone in 2017: at the seventh annual Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments® (GCC), we will have reached \$10 million donated to more than 200 Palm Beach County charities. Our family started with a dream to help charities of all kinds and sizes, and the impact of the GCC on the local community is what we are most proud of.

This year's GCC will be on Saturday, February 4, with the theme of "Animated Movies." We can't wait to cheer on teams and charities and see who takes home the top prize.

Highlights for the WEF circuit include four FEI CSI 5* rated shows, our historic Nations Cup, the USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Hunter Spectacular, USHJA International Hunter Derby, and George H. Morris Excellence in Equitation, with top competition at both the main grounds and at The Stadium at PBIEC. Our commitment to the sport remains steadfast, as we will award more than \$9 million in prize money over 12 weeks.

We welcome everyone to come out and enjoy PBIEC and all that it has to offer. Our "Saturday Night Lights"



Mark and Katherine Bellissimo ©Meg Banks

series features a Kid's Fair, multiple dining options, and a variety of ways to watch the competition – visit our website to see what our hospitality department can do for you.

We encourage everyone to visit the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival for "Friday Night Stars" and incredible dressage freestyle competition. The Stadium at PBIEC hosts yet another discipline in the Wellington Eventing Showcase on February 3-4. It will be a great event welcoming Olympic athletes from a third sport to PBIEC. We also welcome everyone to visit the International Polo Club this season and see top level polo at its finest and enjoy the wide array of hospitality options.

As the winter season gets underway, we would like to thank our wonderful sponsors as well as the riders, trainers, exhibitors, and owners that participate at WEF each year for their invaluable support. We also have to thank our fantastic staff that works countless hours to make it all possible. We look forward to another great circuit!

Sincerely,

Mark and Katherine Bellissimo,
Equestrian Sport Productions
and the Wellington Equestrian
Partners

Wellington Equestrian Partners:

Mark Bellissimo and Katherine Bellissimo, Georgina Bloomberg, Kimberly Boyer and Frederic Boyer, David Burton, Jr. and Julie Burton, Marsha Dammerman, Howard Dvorkin and Gwen Dvorkin, Stuart Goldstein and Susan Goldstein and Danielle Goldstein, Hunter Harrison and Jeannie Harrison, S. Craig Lindner and Frances Lindner, Lisa Lourie, Caroline Moran, Justin Sadrian and Lee Kellogg Sadrian, Roger Smith and Jennifer Smith, Ludwig Sollak and Carol Sollak, Andy Ziegler and Carlene Ziegler

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WEF Week 1 Sponsor - Wellington Regional Medical Center

Many equestrian athletes have called Wellington their “winter home” for several decades. Each year, it is estimated that at least 40,000 people and their equine companions visit the area to participate in dressage, show jumping, polo, and trail riding. On any given day, there are barns, practice arenas and show grounds bustling with activity.

“We recognized an increase in the amount of injuries we are seeing that are associated with these sporting activities,” said Nicholas Sama, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at WRMC.

During the last 10 years, Dr. Sama, a board certified, fellowship trained orthopedic trauma surgeon, has taken care of many of the world’s top equestrian athletes, both in the hospital and in his group practice. He has developed professional relationships with not only the athletes, but with many of the administrators, coaches and supporting staff involved in the equestrian community.

“I have come to understand the unique demands placed on the competitors and have studied the rules and policies governing them, so I understand the need to be treated as quickly as possible and get back on the field,” said Dr. Sama.

Dr. Sama, along with Adam Bromberg, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Emergency Services at WRMC, collaborated with the hospital and the Emergency Department to create a streamlined process that takes into consideration all of the unique aspects of care for equestrian athletes.

“Our multidisciplinary team is comprised of medical and clinical staff from the emergency room, radiology department, department of internal medicine, department of surgery, and department of orthopedics,” said Dr. Bromberg, board certified emergency room physician. “Each department works together to expedite the process, from addressing the injury, creating a treatment plan and ensuring they receive the best outcomes and return to their sport as quickly as possible.”

WRMC is continually expanding services and capabilities so residents don’t have to travel far to receive some of the best care and most cutting edge procedures. In addition to being recognized with an Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement surgeries by the Joint Commission, the hospital recently became a Comprehensive Stroke Center, allowing patients with the most complex strokes to be treated without having to leave the area.

WRMC and Universal Health Services also invested over \$11 million in 2016 to provide advanced minimally invasive services, a comprehensive lung program, a new treatment for breast cancer patients called intraoperative radiation therapy, expanded Women’s and Children’s services, and hepatobiliary surgical procedures.

To hear Dr. Bromberg and Dr. Sama, along with a panel of physician experts, discuss the equestrian care program and new services available at WRMC, please join them at our “Lunch and Learn” on Thursday, January 12 from 11:00 – 1:30 at The Wellington Club.

Wellington Regional Medical Center is proud to serve the equestrian community.

Our services include:

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- Comprehensive Stroke Center
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- Advanced Interventional Procedures
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PBIEC Week 1 Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn Series

On Thursday, January 12, the Lunch & Learn Series begins for the 2017 season. Held every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club, this informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The Week 1 Lunch & Learn is sponsored by Wellington Regional Medical Center. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1112 or lbostwick@equestriansport.com for more information.

Adequan® Global Dressage Festival “Friday Night Stars”

AGDF’s “Friday Night Stars” Series returns in 2017, showcasing some of the world’s best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The first week of CDI-W competition, sponsored by AMCI Group to benefit Brooke USA, will feature FEI World Cup qualifying grand prix musical freestyle competition on Friday, January 13. Held at The Stadium at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$10 per car, and valet is available for \$20.

\$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center

Watch the men compete against the women in the first “Saturday Night Lights” event of the circuit on Saturday, January 14, at 7 p.m. The women won the first eight years in a row. Wear pink or blue to show your support for your team of choice! In addition to show jumping, there will be live entertainment from the band Wonderama. Gates open at 6 p.m.

The Veuve Clicquot Suites – Available Saturday Night!

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Veuve Clicquot Suites are first available on Saturday, January 14. Prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private

suite catered by White Horse Catering, this is the place to host friends and family or even a corporate get-together. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@whitehorsetavernflorida.com today.

6th Annual Jump for HomeSafe Event

During the \$75,000 Battle of the Sexes, enjoy a night of family fun and support a great cause! Jump for HomeSafe will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, in The Wellington Club at PBIEC. There will be dinner, drinks and a silent auction. All proceeds from the event support HomeSafe’s efforts to help victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Contact 561-383-9842 to RSVP.

\$75,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Grand Prix

Watch some of show jumping’s best horses and riders compete in the first grand prix of the 2017 WEF circuit. Competition begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, in the International Arena at PBIEC.

Ride & Learn with Charlie Moorcroft and Bill Schaub

The Ride & Learn Series will take place four times during WEF in 2017. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals and will be held in various venues and arenas at PBIEC. Week 2 features Charlie Moorcroft and Bill Schaub, who will be training with the theme of “Pony Hunters” at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, January 17. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$75 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 6 riders, so sign up today! Each participant will receive a complimentary saddle pad per clinic, generously provided by Equestrian Team Apparel. Auditing is Free. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or jnichols@equestriansport.com.

RESCHEDULED – DON’T MISS IT! WEF/AGDF Exhibitor Party

Welcome back to Wellington! The WEF & AGDF Exhibitor and Trainer Party will be held on Wednesday, January 18, from 6-8 pm at The Wanderer’s Club at 1900 Aero Club Drive in Wellington.

There will be a cash bar and hors d’oeuvres served. Come join the fun and meet fellow exhibitors from both circuits. If you’re interested in booking dinner reservations during that evening, at Duke’s Bar or Stables Restaurant, please call 561-795-3501 or email reservations@wanderersclubwellington.com.



INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB PALM BEACH

H A P P E N I N G S

The 2017 Joe Barry Memorial continues at the International Polo Club this week. This week’s games are Wednesday and Thursday with the Mini-Quarters Sunday, January 15. All weekday games are free admission and free parking.

The savory brunch and after party will continue at The Pavilion this Sunday. Juan Gando, Wellington’s top restaurateur and club operator, owner of the Grille, Oli’s, Seahorse, and White Horse Tavern brings his Fashion Cuisine brand to IPC this year. New brunch packages are available to get guests closer to the action. For \$25, brunch ticket holders can upgrade their seats to the front row. Beverage package add-ons allow brunch goers to continue the party with bottles of Veuve Clicquot and Ketel One.

The Veuve Clicquot Champagne Garden lets guests show off their unique polo style. Every Sunday, fashionistas can be named Sunday’s Most Fashionable on the Field by using the hashtags #ClicquotStyle and #IPCSundayPolo.

Sponsored by Ketel One®, the Ketel Kitchen provides guests with specialty Ketel One Vodka Cocktail offerings, food and exclusive cocktail classes. With bounce houses, big lawn games and fun food, the free Kids’ Fun Zone, sponsored by Wellington Regional Medical Center, allows children to have fun during the match.

To purchase tickets to Sunday polo and brunch at The Pavilion, visit internationalpoloclub.com.



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 12
11:30AM
THE WELLINGTON CLUB**

A Professional Panel from your Local Medical Center, Equestrian Concierge Services,
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Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130
laura@equestriansport.com for more information.

Admission is free.



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
2:00 PM**

**VAN KAMPEN
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AGDF SHOW GROUNDS**

**PONY HUNTER
Charlie Moorcroft
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\$75 per rider per clinic.

Auditing is free.



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Join Ann Romney and medical experts from the Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital for a lively discussion about accelerating research and pursuing new treatments and cures for multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and brain tumors.

Thursday, February 2 | 11:30am
The Wellington Club | Lunch & Learn Series

Complimentary admission



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Keep Track of The Riders Leading These Special WEF Awards All Season!

Suncas® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series:

One of the toughest divisions at the Winter Equestrian Festival, the 1.50m Series has some of the world's best horses and riders competing for honors each week. Points are accumulated in every class and displayed on leaderboards at the Exhibitor entrance so everyone can see who has the chance to win the top prize at the end of the season, a one-year lease on a luxury vehicle. Last year's winner was Shane Sweetnam of Ireland – who will top the standings in 2017?

Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate:

Sponsored by Martha W. Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman in memory of Dale Lawler. Each week, in an award presentation following the Grand Prix, the high score female rider for that week will be awarded a prize for earning the Leading Lady Grand Prix Rider Award. The weekly Leading Lady will be calculated based on the WEF Challenge Cup and Grand Prix. The cumulative highest scoring lady rider will be presented with the Overall WEF Leading Lady Grand Prix Rider Award on Saturday, April 1, and will receive a set of custom Leading Lady Rider jumps. Last year's winner was Tiffany Foster of Canada.

Hermès Talented Young Rider Award:

Young riders ages 16-25 shall be eligible for this special award based upon the following criteria. Riders competing in any FEI competition during the 2017 WEF shall receive points based upon their results in all FEI competitions. You can see the weekly leaders in the WEF Weekly Wire or on special leaderboards on the WEF show grounds. The overall series winner shall be presented during WEF 12 with a special prize. Last year's winner was Jessica Springsteen of the United States.

Hollow Creek Farm Under 25 Grand Prix Series, presented by The Dutta Corp., in association with Guido Klätte:

The best riders under 25 will compete in 10 events for \$215,000 in prize money in this groundbreaking series in equestrian sport. Its series winners have gone on to represent their countries in international competition, and it has given a leg up to some of the best young talent in the world. The overall Series winner will be invited to compete in the CSI2* division of the Chantilly Horse Show, a Global Champions Tour event, from July 13-16, 2017, in France. In addition to

their entry, the winner will also receive two tickets to the Chantilly VIP lounge and transportation for one horse generously provided by The Dutta Corp. in association with Guido Klätte. Last year's Series winner was Kelli Cruciotti of the United States.

Champion Equine Insurance Hunter and Jumper Style Awards:

These awards are presented to both a hunter and jumper in selected classes to be determined throughout the 12 weeks of WEF. Circuit Champions for each discipline will be presented at the final week of WEF. Championship recipients will be selected from the twelve finalists per discipline and will be determined based on most consistent style demonstrated over the twelve weeks of WEF. The Hunter Style Award is given to the hunter whose style best exemplifies a show hunter based on form, movement and way of going. The Jumper Style Award is given to the jumper whose style best exemplifies a show jumper based on scope, rideability, technique and competitive spirit. Last year's jumper style winner was Cyklon 1083, ridden by Shane Sweetnam for Lisa Lourie's Spy Coast Farm, and the hunter style winner was Breeze, ridden by Havens Schatt and owned by John Yozell.

Equis Boutique Best Presented Horse Award:

Continuing their dedication to excellence in all areas of horse sport, Equis Boutique has devoted their presence at North American horse shows to enhancing the importance and prestige of the FEI Horse Inspection. Equis Boutique will sponsor the "Best Presented Horse" at every FEI Horse Inspection at WEF, and the winner will be determined by the FEI Ground Jury. In addition to recognizing the "Best Presented" horse and its rider each week, the groom who prepared the winning horse for FEI competition will receive an embroidered vest from Equis Boutique and a chance to win the overall Best Presented Horse Award at the conclusion of the 2017 show year.

Vita Flex Tack Room Award:

The Vita Flex Tack Room Award will be presented to a Barn Manager or Head Trainer who maintains an ideal and highly organized stable area, that reflects Vita Flex's mission of crossing the fine line between 'good' and 'great.' The Vita Flex Tack Room Award will be presented weekly throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival, and winners will receive an engraved bridle rack and a bucket filled with Vita Flex products.

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KEEP TRACK OF THE RIDERS Continued from Page 4

Omega Alpha Healthy Horse

Award: The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award will be given to a horse that exudes good health through proper muscling, a healthy coat, and a great attitude in its performance, all which reflect good internal health. The Omega Alpha Healthy Horse

selection team will present a total of 6 Healthy Horse Awards during the Winter Equestrian Festival. The winners will receive a Healthy Horse commemorative ribbon, an embroidered fly scrim, and a prize basket filled with Omega Alpha products.

Celebrating Over 20 Years of Partnership

ULTIMA FIT TIP #1

Create a Ritual: Your workout routine should become so ingrained that it becomes a ritual. This means that the time of day, place or cue automatically starts you towards grabbing your bag and heading out. If your workout times are completely random, it will be harder to benefit from the momentum of a ritual.

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RINGS 9 & 10

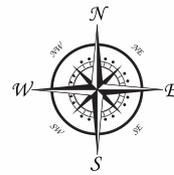
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RING 11 (Pony Island)

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- Colianos Pizza
- Harry's Lemonade
- Loopy's Crêpes Café
- Oasis Café

RINGS 9 AND 10

- Muddy Paws Coffee
- PCI, Professional Concessions
- Magdalena's Mexican
- Nathalie's Cafe

BARN 4

- Burgess & Clark Coffee

PONY ISLAND

- Icy Goddess
- Tito's Mexican
- KP Concessions

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- Ted's Take Out



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Developing Jumper Series Introduced at 2017 WEF



Adolpho Franco (BRA) and Mia won the \$15,000 Adequan® Young Jumper Six-Year-Old Final at the 2016 WEF. Photo © Sportfot

At the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), a new series will address the needs of the young jumper and the young jumper rider at WEF. Termed “The Developing Jumper Series”, the series is designed to provide a low cost, user-friendly way to develop young jumpers for sport.

“This concept has been in development for a long time. It has only been through the thoughtful consideration of many people that it has come to fruition. The input from many young horse owners, breeders, and riders from WEF and beyond was considered before designing this series. I am very grateful to the USEF and USHJA Young Jumper Task Force and to the WEF show management team for their efforts and for their understanding of the special needs of this demographic,” commented jumper breeder and Wellington Equestrian Partners partner Lisa Lourie.

The specifications for this series are the same as those adopted by USEF for 5, 6 and 7 Year Old Jumper competitions under JP 116. As such, they are designed to provide a framework by which trainers and riders can develop their young jumpers. Young horses’ developmental benchmarks will always vary somewhat depending on geographic location, weather, temperament, time of year, etc., but it was felt that an outline for development was needed in order for American-based young horses to be competitive in the market and in the ring.

“Our young athletes need incentives to encourage them to work with young horses. One way to do that is to give

them a goal, like an opportunity to compete (at the FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses) in Lanaken, but if we want our young riders and their horses to be successful once they get there, we need to give them a playbook to help them get ready for it,” said USEF Developing Athlete Chef d’Equipe DiAnn Langer.

The new USEF specifications are designed to be that playbook, and WEF management has taken them and tried to stay true to their intent.

“We are making the commitment to keep the cost of showing young horses down while keeping their show experience up, because it’s the right thing to do,” stated

WEP Managing Partner Mark Bellissimo. “We are placing a bet that if we offer low cost showing opportunities for young horses, new markets will be created in order to meet the needs of our growing industry.”

Indeed, it may not only be domestic breeders who benefit from the new program. European and South American athletes often arrive at WEF with a few extra horses for sale in order to fund their season. Lower cost classes could have the effect of opening up the market for younger age horses from foreign countries.

What exactly are the changes?

All horses competing in age-designated classes will have to hold valid registration papers issued by a breed registry or a valid FEI or National Passport. They must also be in possession of a recording number

(or Life ID number) issued by USEF. Microchipping is strongly encouraged and will be required as of December 1, 2017.

If you want to qualify for one of the new young horse rider or breeder awards being offered, you will need to present your breed papers or passport to the show office at the time of entering your first competition of the WEF series.

The jumps for each age group will be set as per JP 116. In an effort to emphasize training over winning, only clear rounds will be counted for five-year-old horses, with the exception of the final during week 12. A young horse-friendly course will be set and the cost will be \$25/class with a \$20 add back being the only prize money on offer. There will be no nomination fee. The final week will see a

“Suitability for Sport” class, where two young horse judges and a professional rider will use subjective criteria to rank the young horse’s style of jumping over fences. The order in which this class is pinned will determine the order of go for the final.

The six-year-old class will also be free of a nomination fee. It will cost \$45 to enter the ring, and there will be a \$20 add back per class. Total prize money offered per class will vary from \$200-\$300. Courses will be age appropriate and open water (if offered) will be presented as an option.

The seven-year-old classes will run essentially the same as last year. Course design will be a crucial component of the success of this series.

“Last year we paid particular attention to making sure that the courses were age appropriate, and we had far fewer issues than in years past. In fact, pretty much everyone seemed happy with the courses. We will continue to address this important issue during the DJS classes this year,” said David Burton, WEF show manager.

“We hope to offer the same type of series in Tryon,” added Equestrian Sport Productions President Michael Stone. “Our goal is to have a regional final in July or August (before Lanaken) and then eventually offer our own Young Horse Final there in November.”

Because the classes are simply based on the USEF specs, there is nothing proprietary about this series. Results of qualifying rounds will be tracked by USEF and “regionals” could theoretically be held by anyone willing to do so (if approved by USEF). “Any show could put on a series like this one, and I hope they do. The more opportunities there are to show young horses, the better,” said Lourie. “I hope it goes well this season. There are bound to be issues and improvements to be made, but I hope people will keep an open mind and give lots of feedback. Great thought and consideration have been put into these changes, and we are hopeful that they will have a positive effect on young horses, their riders, and the sport at large.”

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a mark of over \$10 million donated to over 200 Palm Beach County charities in its eighth year. The event will be held on Saturday, February 4, with teams of pro-am riders putting on an exciting and philanthropic night of competition to benefit 35 local charities.

This year's WEF will host four weeks of CSI 5* competition, with a new CSI 2* division running concurrently during each week, which will allow riders of different levels to contest international competition. The highlight \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI 5* will be on Saturday, March 25, during week 11 this year due to the upcoming FEI World Cup Finals at the start of April.

A major event on the radar for many show jumpers this season, the FEI World Cup Finals are an important goal for international show jumper Kent Farrington in 2017 and played a big part in Farrington's plans for the WEF circuit. Currently the number three ranked rider in the world, and a team silver medalist competing for USA at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

Farrington has his sights set on the World Cup. He will use the WEF circuit to prepare top mounts Creedance and Gazelle for the championship event. Farrington plans to ride his Olympic mount Voyeur in the 5* competitions at WEF, and will work with new young talents throughout the WEF season.

"What's really great about Wellington is that there is an opportunity to do a little bit of everything," Farrington noted. "I have a mixed group of horses here from very young horses from age five that are just learning to go to a show, to my most experienced grand prix horses that are 15 years old and competing at that high level. For me, this is a combination of spring training for my younger ones and it is still an opportunity to compete against some of the world's best for five-star level, big money competition. I think that is why WEF is unique. That is why we make it our home, and that is why you see a big part of the world spending the winter here. You can do a little bit of everything with the horses and come out way ahead of the game."

Along with top show jumping competition, WEF features divisions for every level of hunter horse, including week six's \$100,000 USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular and week 12's \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby. This year's circuit also includes the addition of two new \$10,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby competitions.

Three-time USHJA International Hunter Derby Finals winner Liza Boyd looks forward to a great 2017 season with her horses and riders. Boyd stated, "There are so many opportunities here for the hunters. The hunter format is growing; the pipeline for hunters is growing. The addition of the young hunter classes for the five, six, and seven year olds is really appreciated. It is a great opportunity for owners and really good for the industry. The National Hunter Derbies are really good for the young horses. There is nice prize money, and it is also a great opportunity for juniors and amateurs to compete and to learn. The addition of the South Ring is wonderful. There are just so many

opportunities, starting from the cross rails, which my daughter will be competing in this year."

The team at Equestrian Sport Productions looks forward to welcoming the best in equestrian sport to the 2017 Winter Equestrian Festival. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit www.PBIEC.com.

Lauren Fisher 🐾

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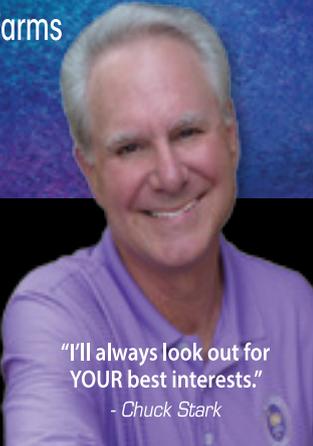
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Following his award-winning equestrian series from Sable Island, Drew Doggett continues his documentation of wild horses in Camargue, France, where he photographs and films the region's majestic animals known for their prehistoric lineage and bold features.

DREW DOGGETT

Band of Rebels: White Horses of Camargue



Camargue Horsemen, also known as Gardians or 'cowboys of the Riviera,' who choose to look after them as their profession.

This Gardians role adds another dimension to the horse's fantastical narrative - one that has also helped them to continue their wild lifestyle for centuries. Since the 1500s, the Gardians have preserved the noble tradition of their caretaking, although social and

economic factors have begun to adversely affect the continuation of this career.

An accompanying short film highlights the gardian's story through an intimate interview, and also features sweeping panoramas of the horses galloping through the Camargue marshlands.

Drew Doggett (b. 1984, Maryland) lives and works in Charleston, South

Carolina. From 2006-2012 he worked under world-renowned fashion photographers like Mark Seliger (his former mentor), Steven Klein, Craig McDean and more. Drew left New York to travel to the Himalayas, where he decided to combine his love of photography with his passion for exploring and telling stories – all while utilizing the discipline, sympathies and skills he learned working in fashion. Since then, Drew has embarked on journeys across the globe to document extraordinary cultures and locales as both an award-winning photographer and director. He has also added a charitable component to his practice; with each new series he finds a way to give back either through sales proceeds or otherwise. His work can be found in public and private collections globally, notably the Smithsonian African Art Museum (DC). He has also been featured in many publications, most recently interviewed in *Photographer* magazine and featured in *Outside Magazine*. He has been sponsored by brands like Hasselblad and Leica and was recently honored as an Associate from the Royal Photographic Society.

To see additional work by Drew from this series as well as others, including his films, please visit his website, www.drewdoggett.com.



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EQUILINE *Enthusiasts*

Emanuel Andrade

EQUILINE: What are you most excited about as WEF 2017 begins?

EMANUEL: I am starting the year with a string of new up and coming horses that are very talented; I'm excited to get them in the ring. These young horses are among the best I've had so far.



photo by Jack Mancini

EQUILINE: Do you have a favorite horse coming into the new season?

EMANUEL: Yes, I am really excited to debut my new stallion; Ricore Courcelle.

EQUILINE: What is your favorite Equiline product?

EMANUEL: I love the Equiline show coats; the fabric is really comfortable and the look of the Italian tailoring and fit is always fantastic.

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