



# WEEKLY WIRE

EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 10-14, 2021

## Over \$1 Million Distributed at the 12th Annual Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments®



Monica Preston of Team Sponsor Spy Coast and Preston, Ashley Vogel, Shane Sweetnam, Lindsey Tomeu, Lisa Lourie of Team Sponsor Spy Coast and Preston, and Terri Kane of Corporate Sponsor Diamante Dressage in the award ceremony. © Sportfoto

**HOPE:** one word, four letters and so much more. For 46 Palm Beach County Charities, the feeling of hope shifted into a reality on Saturday, February 6, at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC). What is usually the biggest night of the 12-week Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), the Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments® (GCC) pivoted to a blend of in-person competition for riders and virtual celebration for charities and supporters. Those supporters cheered as equestrians and their mounts, representing local non-profit organizations, competed for a share of more than \$1 million in prize money.

Held at PBIEC in Wellington, Palm Beach County, Florida, the past 12 years, the GCC has become a highlight of the winter season and has distributed a stunning \$15,928,227.66 to 276 local non-profit organizations.

Determined to show the power of united communities, the GCC is an exciting show jumping event that combines equestrian sports and philanthropy, bringing hope to Palm Beach County charities every year. Three riders made up the top team of the night out of 23 pro-am combinations, which are paired with randomly selected Palm Beach County charities. Each team was made up of junior and amateur riders competing side-by-side with top professionals, including Olympians.

In addition to the 23 charities that were part of the GCC competition, an additional 24 non-profits received

funding through grants that were awarded leading up to the event. For a full list of benefiting non-profit organizations, we invite you to visit: [www.GreatCharityChallenge.com](http://www.GreatCharityChallenge.com)

"Seeing the level of need in our community and knowing how difficult the past year has been, we quickly realized that we couldn't turn our backs on our most vulnerable neighbors," said GCC co-founder Mark Bellissimo. "We are truly grateful to see that the community was able to adapt to this format while stepping up to provide crucial funding to local organizations."

A moment of silence at the beginning of the event paid recognition to all of the friends of GCC we lost and those who we lost to the pandemic in the past year.

Following a year of uncertainties and challenges, the GCC featured riders dressed up in costumes and horses adorned to match them, paying recognition to the #Heroes who stepped up during the pandemic as well as those who have inspired us to push beyond our own limits and driven us to "dream bigger."

The winning team of riders - Lindsey Tomeu riding Bonapart, Ashley Vogel on Lucy in the Sky, and Shane Sweetnam aboard Heart on Fire - sponsored by team sponsor Spy Coast and Preston and corporate sponsor Diamante Dressage, came in the ring representing the United States Army as their heroes and finished with a time of 91.664 seconds. Their strategy

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## Super Sunday for Daniel Deusser and Killer Queen VDM Winning the \$214,000 Marshall & Sterling/Great American CSI4\*



Daniel Deusser and Killer Queen VDM rose to the top of the \$214,000 Marshall & Sterling/Great American Grand Prix CSI4\* © Equestrian Sport Productions

Daniel Deusser (GER) and Killer Queen VDM, owned by StepheX Stables, flew to the top spot in the \$214,000 Marshall & Sterling/Great American Insurance Group Grand Prix CSI4\* on the grass Derby Field at Equestrian Village on Sunday, February 7, to close out the Marshall & Sterling/Great American Insurance Group CSI4\* week at the 2021 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF).

The test set by Anderson Lima (BRA) featured 16 jumping efforts with a shortened jump-off course boasting seven obstacles and included an exciting gallop home to the Marshall & Sterling/Great American Insurance Group oxer. Eight nations were represented in the dozen qualified to return for the featured class jump-off.

Deusser and Killer Queen VDM, an 11-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare by Eldorado Vd Zeshoek x Derly Chin De Muze, galloped swiftly across the track, leaving all the jumps in their cups. The pair stopped the clock in 39.98 seconds making them the only combination of the day to crack the 40-second mark.

"I'm very happy with Killer Queen today," said Deusser. "She arrived two weeks ago. I took her to other places to work with her on the grass, and she took it very well this weekend. At the end she is just an unbelievable horse. She has all of the things that a good show jumper needs; she's very scopey, she's careful, she has a huge stride, and she can be fast easily."

Ashlee Bond (ISR) and Donatello 141, a 10-year-old Westphalian gelding by Diarado x Lamoureux I owned by Little Valley Farms, gave it their best effort, flying over the final jump on course to finish in 40.41 seconds. Their impressive performance marks the first time the pair has competed in an FEI event since winning the CSI5\* grand prix during WEF 9 at the 2020 WEF.

"My plan was just to run, kick as hard as I could, and turn as fast as I could," Bond said with a smile. "My horse is little. He's like 15.3hh and doesn't have a very big stride, but he is game, so I just took a chance and would have been happy wherever I ended up because he's such a good boy."

"I think that Andersen [Lima] is a genius course designer," Bond continued. "Every horse that I watched this week, including my own, just got better as they went on. The courses are smart, they ask tough questions of the horses, but they're not unfair. There are faults all over the course, and I really enjoy riding his tracks. It was a blast to be able to go up against riders like Daniel and McLain. There was so much talent out there."

Taking the final spot on the podium was the aforementioned McLain Ward (USA) aboard Contagious, a 12-year-old Rheinlander gelding by Contagio x For Mary owned by Beechwood Stables, LLC, crossing the finish line in 40.66 seconds.

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DOUGLAS ELLIMAN PRESENTS

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## WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

Featuring

**PREVIEW:**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021  
at 3:00 p.m.

**AUCTION:**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021  
at 7:00 p.m.

For the complete schedule of events:  
**WEFSPOORTHORSEAUCTION.COM**  
Contact: melanie@horsemls.com  
or call 561.870.6587

For horse trials and information,  
contact Janko van de Lageweg:  
Cell: 0031-651815225 or 832.706.3407  
e-mail: janko@vdlstud.com

### PBIEC UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WEEK 5 AND MORE

#### PBIEC EDUCATIONAL SERIES, PRESENTED BY ADEQUAN®

The PBIEC Educational Series, presented by Adequan®, is hosted weekly during the annual Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). The series provides an educational platform for horse enthusiasts to expand their knowledge on a variety of equine- and rider-related topics including management and maintenance, horsemanship and care, emerging technologies and treatment methods available in the equine veterinary industry, and more. Admission is free, and pre-registration is required. Participants will automatically be entered to win a luxury item from Karina Brez Jewelry as the grand prize giveaway. The fifth session, hosted on Zoom, will be Thursday, February 11, from 6-7 p.m. EST. The topic of "Mastering Nutrition: A Genuinely Unique Approach to Equine Nutrition, Bone Density, and Tendinitis," with Martin Connell, National Territory Manager, is sponsored by HyGain USA.

#### WEF 5 LIVE STREAM SCHEDULE

The first five-star week of the season at the 2021 WEF, sponsored by Douglas Elliman Real Estate, is on February 10-14 and will run in the International Arena on the main grounds of PBIEC. A concurrent CSI2\* will run as well, sponsored by Restylane. The week opens on Wednesday, February 10, with the \$37,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.45m Classic CSI5\*, followed by Thursday's \$73,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup Round 5. On Friday is the \$37,000 Bainbridge 1.45m Classic along with the \$37,000 Restylane 1.45m Qualifier CSI2\*.

The \$401,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate Grand Prix CSI5\* will be the "Saturday Night Lights" event on Saturday, February 13. Closing out the week on Sunday is the \$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic and the \$50,000 Restylane Grand Prix CSI2\*. Visit PBIEC.com, click on the "Video Streaming" tab on the left, and then click on "Live Stream-Featured Classes" to view.

#### ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL 5 CDI-W

AGDF 5 runs February 10-14 with CDI-W and national competition, including Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by Helgstrand Dressage; Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3\*, presented by CabanaCoast; Small Tour CDI3\*; and Small Tour CDI1\*. CDI judges for the week include Christof Umbach (LUX), Stephen Clarke (GBR), Henning Lehrman (GER), Claudia Thaler (AUT), Gabriela Valerianova (CZE), and Maarten van der Heijden (NED).

#### WEF 6 - JUMPERS BACK AT EQUESTRIAN VILLAGE, HUNTERS TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT

FEI jumpers and the Hermès Under 25 Series return to Equestrian Village and will compete on turf once again during the sixth week of competition on February 17-21. Hunters will take the spotlight in the International Arena on the main grounds of PBIEC in their World Champion Hunter Rider week competition, featuring Saturday night's USHJA/WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular.

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER



### THE VIRTUAL EDITION!

6:00-7:00 p.m. EST

## WEF 5 Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 pm

Mastering Nutrition: A GENUINELY unique approach to equine nutrition, bone density and tendinitis with Martin Connell, National Territory Manager

Sponsored by  
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For more information contact  
Miranda Tiona at mtiona@equestriansport.com

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
**Pre-registration is required**

All participants will automatically be entered to win a luxury item from Karina Brez Jewelry as the Grand Prize giveaway

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Established in 1911, Douglas Elliman has over 110 years of success; translating into unprecedented experience, historical knowledge and world-wide brand recognition. Today, we have a true understanding of the local market and maintain our focus on service, quality, innovation and expertise. With 19 Florida offices and a network of approximately 105 offices nationwide, Douglas Elliman leads the Market as one of the largest independent residential real estate brokerages in the United States.

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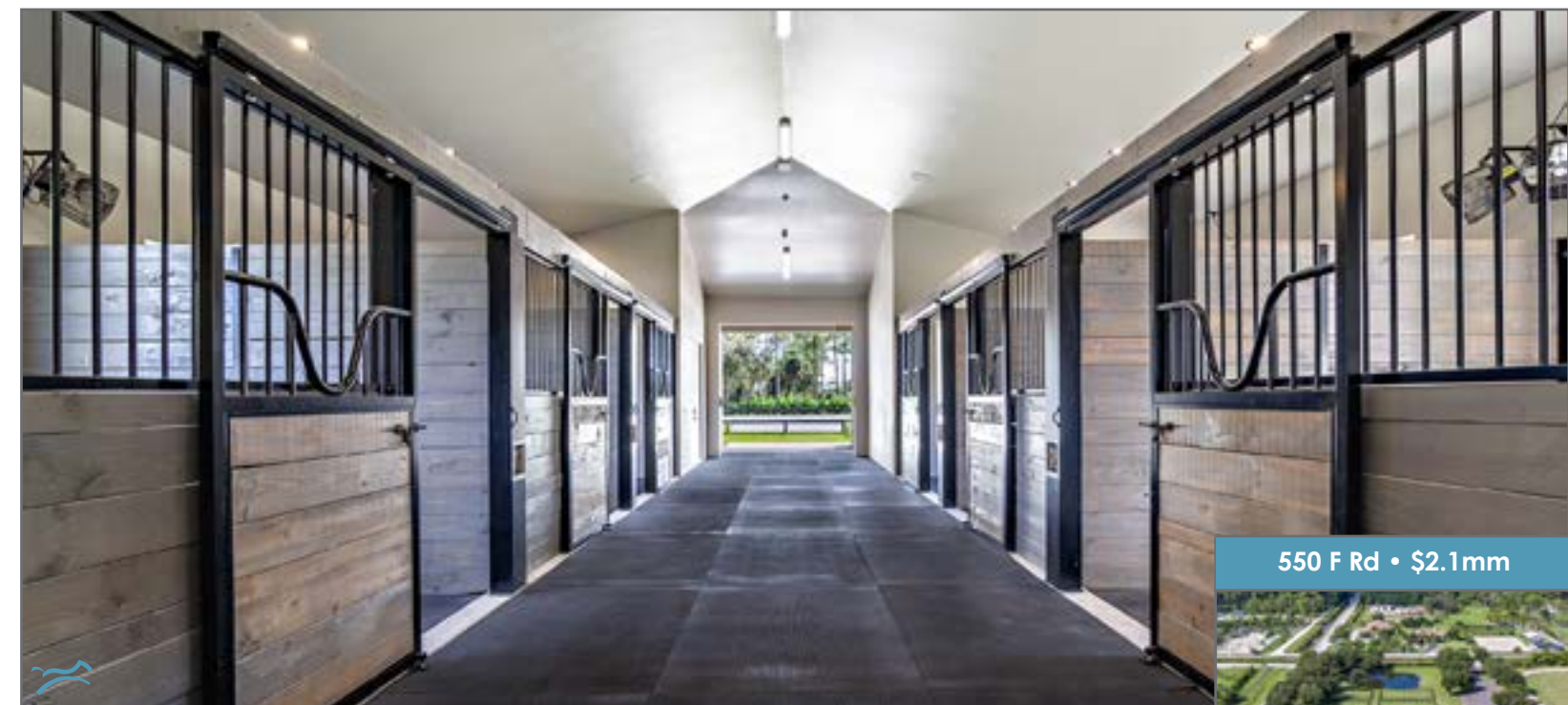
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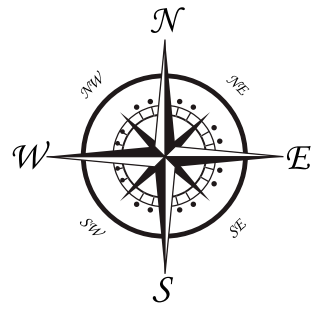
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- Temperature Checkpoint
- Shuttle Pick up
- Food Vendors
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- Trailer Traffic



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  - Charles Owen
  - Cosi
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  - Sportfot USA
  - Stephex
  - Tack N Rider
  - Tony Hanley Horse Supplements
  - Turner & Co
  - Urban Strides
  - Voltaire Design USA
  - WEF Official Boutique
  - Wellington Agricultural
  - Woody's Boot Repairs
  - Zest

- PLACES TO EAT**
- Bit-O-Gelato (Farm Stand)
  - BJ's Greek Food (Ring 10)
  - Burgess & Clark Coffee (Corner of Barn 4)
  - Don Chepo's (International Arena)
  - Harry's Lemonade (Vendor Village)
  - Loopy's Crepes (Vendor Village)
  - Magdalena's Mexican Food (Ring 10)
  - Meraki (Farm Stand)
  - Muddy Paw Coffee & Ice Cream (Ring 9)
  - Nathalie's Café (Ring 9)
  - Oasis (Vendor Village)
  - Pump House Coffee (Farm Stand)
  - Silva's Mexican Food (Pony Island)
  - Tess & Co (Farm Stand)
  - Tiki Hut (International Arena)



# PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER (Main Grounds)



# Standings and Awards

WEF WEEK 4



**LEADING LADY JUMPER RIDER**, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, in memory of Dale Lawler (after 10 qualifying events)

1. Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 597
2. Laura Kraut (USA): 541
3. Margie Engle (USA): 487
4. Tiffany Foster (CAN): 450
5. Lillie Keenan (USA): 401



**CHAMPION EQUINE INSURANCE HUNTER STYLE AWARD:** Fine Art, ridden by Scott Stewart and owned by Rivers Edge

**CHAMPION EQUINE INSURANCE JUMPER STYLE AWARD:** Diamonte Darco, ridden by Wilton Porter and owned by Sleepy P Ranch



## HERMÈS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

(after 3 qualifying events)

1. Flo Norris (GBR): 117.5
2. Ashley Vogel (USA): 115
2. Lucy Deslauriers (USA): 115
4. Jessica Mendoza (GBR): 110.5
5. Helen Graves (USA): 103.5

## CaptiveOne

ADVISORS\*

### CAPTIVEONE ADVISORS 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER CLASSIC SERIES (after 5 qualifying events)

1. McLain Ward (USA): 220
2. Jordan Coyle (IRL): 192
3. Jessica Springsteen (USA): 178
4. Darragh Kenny (IRL): 166
5. Vanessa Mannix (CAN): 157

## WEF 4 WEEKLY SPONSOR AWARDS



Samantha Wight and Carmen were the Lugano Diamonds High Amateur-Owner Jumper champions after winning the classic. They were presented their award by James Sardelli, Equestrian Sales and Operations Manager of Lugano Diamonds. © Sportfot



Tiffany Foster was the WEF 4 Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate in memory of Dale Lawler. The award was presented by Dr. Stephen Norton and Martha Jolicoeur. © Sportfot



Scott Stewart and Fine Art were presented with the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award by Laura Fetterman. © Sportfot



Laura Fetterman also presented the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award to Wilton Porter and Diamonte Darco. © Sportfot



## Time to Show the Love

Because we believe that all romance is worth celebrating, Farm Stand is ready to help you do Valentine's Day differently this year! Shop for the ones you love - partners, friends, dogs, and especially yourself - at our boutique behind the Grand Hunter Ring, or online at [www.farm-stand.com](http://www.farm-stand.com). Need help deciding?

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## GRAND PRIX Continued from Page 1

"I was thrilled with Contagious," said the two-time Olympic team gold medalist. "We gave him a bit of a rest in the fall. We've been building him back up, and we're thrilled with him. I thought he jumped really spectacular. I was a little chicken to the last fence in the jump-off, and I took away his wind a little bit. This year WEF is so competitive, and we're seeing a level higher of competition than ever because we're lucky enough to still be able to compete, so everyone has come to Florida. It's exciting."

Horses and riders enjoyed their second opportunity to jump on the grass Derby Field and will have two more weeks of competition on the turf during WEF, which runs until April 4.

"I think it's great," said Ward of the opportunity to spend more time on the Derby Field. "The footing is pretty spectacular, it's a beautiful setting, and it's nice to have a variety of places to jump to keep the horses interested, engaged, and fresh. I thought Anderson [Lima] did a great job today. The time allowed was probably a little bit friendly in the end and maybe opened the door for a few more into the jump-off."

Sunday's win marks a welcome return for Deusser, the third-ranked rider in the world, who is competing at WEF for the first time in four years.

"I have to admit that I missed it a little bit," said Deusser. "Everything around this facility is fantastic. There are fantastic rings here and the circumstances around the world are difficult right now, so we are very happy to be here and that we can compete here."

After a successful Sunday, Deusser is already looking ahead, hungry to add to his collection of accolades.

"I will continue with Killer Queen in the CSI5\*, and after that she will have a couple weeks off and then I will work with some of my other horses during that time," he said.

Following the class, Deusser was also recognized with The Village of Wellington Cup, an award established in 1998 by the Village of Wellington that is presented annually by the Mayor of Wellington to the winning rider of the WEF 4 Grand Prix.

Kate Pettersen

## FINAL RESULTS

**\$214,000 MARSHALL & STERLING/GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE GROUP GRAND PRIX CSI4\***

- 1. KILLER QUEEN VDM:** 2010 BWP mare by Eldorado Vd Zeshoek x Derly Chin De Muze  
DANIEL DEUSSER (GER), StepheX Stables: 0/0/39.98
- 2. DONATELLO 141:** 2011 Westphalian gelding by Diarado x Lamoureux I  
ASHLEE BOND (ISR), Little Valley Farms: 0/0/40.41
- 3. CONTAGIOUS:** 2009 Rheinlander gelding by Contagio x For Mary  
MCLAIN WARD (USA), Beechwood Stables LLC: 0/0/40.66
- 4. HESTER:** 2005 Belgian Warmblood gelding (Wandor van de Mispelaere x Palestro vd Begijnakker)  
LUCY DESLAURIERS (USA), Lisa Deslauriers: 0/0/40.68
- 5. NORTHERN LIGHT:** 2011 SWB mare by Plot Blue x Contender  
TIFFANY FOSTER (CAN), Artisan Farms, LLC: 0/0/40.96
- 6. CHIC CHIC:** 2011 Westphalian stallion by Comme Il Fault x Contendra  
DARRAGH KENNY (IRL), Vlock Show Stables LLC: 0/0/41.72
- 7. LEONE JEI:** 2012 KWPN gelding by Baltic Vdl x Dara  
MARTIN FUCHS (SUI), Aldofo Jui: 0/0/44.45
- 8. TRUMAN:** 2009 Selle Francais gelding by Mylord Carthago\*HN x Kolibri  
AMY MILLAR (CAN), Millar Brooke Farm Ltd: 0/0/46.08
- 9. SKYHORSE:** 2007 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Calvaro x Quidam de Revel  
LILLIE KEENAN (USA), Chansonette Farm LLC: 0/0/46.53
- 10. DUBAI:** 2008 KWPN gelding by Cardento 933 x Ozella  
SAMUEL PAROT (CHI), Samuel Parot: 0/4/43.72
- 11. COSA NOSTRA:** 2010 Oldenburg mare by Conthargos x Quintender  
ALBERTO MICHAN (ISR), Alberto Michan: 0/4/44.42
- 12. DARRY LOU:** 2008 KWPN stallion by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Nabab de Reve  
NAYEL NASSAR (EGY), Evergate Stables, LLC: 0/EL



## Meet The Riders of WEF: Alexandra Beyrer



Alexandra Beyrer riding New England Farm's Caytano in the Adult Amateur Hunter Middle Section B at WEF.

© Jennifer Wood Media/Sabrina Brashares

### Q: What horses are you showing and who do you train with?

**A:** I am currently showing a mare, United Colors, who belongs to Holly Caristo. I train with Heather Caristo-Williams, Holly's daughter, who also happens to be one of my nearest and dearest friends. United Colors is a flashy paint, and I have been showing her for about three years now in the Adult Hunters and we have had quite the winning streak. At this past South Florida Hunter & Jumper Association show held [at PBIEC], United Colors was champion in the Adult Hunter Middle section, she won the Lamborghini Memorial Trophy, and I was awarded Best 3' Amateur Rider. I am also showing a jumper named Lukanec in the Adult Jumpers. He is owned by New England Farm, and Cynthia Williams is the trainer. I started riding with Cynthia when I was 13 years old, and she has shaped me into the rider that I have

become. During WEF Premiere Week I was champion with United Colors and won the \$10,000 Adult Jumper Classic with Lukanec. It was such a nice way to start the new year!

### Q: Do you have any goals for this circuit?

**A:** I don't have specific goals this circuit other than continuing to work as hard as I possibly can to be the best rider I can be for the incredible horses that I am privileged to ride.

### Q: When did you begin riding and how did you start?

**A:** I started riding when I was five years old. As long as I can remember, any time I saw a horse or a pony, whether it was on the TV, in a book, or if we drove past a local stable, I was just drawn to them. I needed to be near them, pet them, and ride them! Apparently I made that abundantly clear to my parents who then decided they would take me for some pony rides which eventually led to some weekly lessons.

### Q: What is your profession?

**A:** I am a police detective in Suffolk County, New York. I was on patrol as a uniformed police officer for 11 years and was promoted to detective in 2012. I have spent some time working in the precinct detective squad where I investigated all felony crimes, and I also spent several years in the Special Victims Unit and the District Attorneys Squad. I am a hostage negotiator as well. I did a two-week training with the FBI, which was really exciting. Although it's high stress, it's also really rewarding to help somebody get out of those situations. Riding is such a much needed and healthy outlet for me. My profession is high stress, and I need horses in my life to help balance out the types of things that I have to see and deal with on a daily basis.

### Q: Do you prefer hunters or jumpers?

**A:** If I had to pick, I'd say I prefer jumpers to hunters by a narrow margin. And the reason for that has to be the adrenaline rush that I am just completely addicted to.

### Q: Do you have any hobbies besides riding?

**A:** Next to riding, my second most favorite thing to do is dance salsa. I love the music as much as the dance! I am a Puerto Rican from the Bronx, so it's simply in my blood! I also like running. Pre-COVID, I enjoyed running races in Central Park with the New York Road Runners. My favorite place to run is anywhere in California. I have run half marathon races in San Francisco, Santa Monica, Carlsbad, Marin County, and Big Sur. In 2013, I ran the NYC Marathon. I believe it is important for all riders to stay fit like any athlete in any sport.

Sabrina Brashares

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### EXCLUSIVE OFFER



Limited Number of Tables Available for Grand Prix Events in The Wellington Club

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) is pleased to announce that a limited number of tables are now available in The Wellington Club for grand prix classes.

Table packages are offered for four dates, which will feature classes rated at the highest levels of competition. The doors to The Wellington Club will be opened to ticketed groups in order to experience live show jumping from one of the best seats in the house. Unlike in the past, The Wellington Club will be converted to an open-air, socially-distanced layout to offer an unobstructed view of the action in a safe manner.

Tables of 6 (front row), tables of 8 (second row), and tables of 4 (third row) will be available. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the show starts at 7:00 pm.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Wellington Club for an open-air experience and light buffet. Beverages are not included with the ticket, but a cash bar and table service are available. General parking will be free with a valid ticket.

Please note that no separate seats will be available for purchase, and there will be no combining of tables. All sales are for the full-table and all-dates package.

To inquire about the four class dates and availability, interested parties should contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or pmiele@equestriansport.com.

All sales are based on a first-come first-serve basis, so don't delay!

Tickets will be sent via email during the week of the event date and will be scanned upon entry. Individuals without a ticket will not be permitted on the property.

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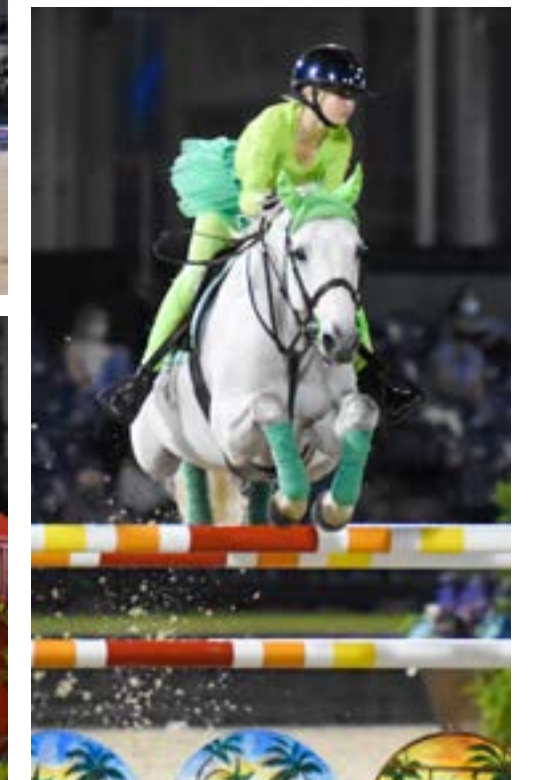
# 2021 Gallery



GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Presented by Fidelity Investments

# We Can Be HEROES





and teamwork paid off for their assigned charity YWCA of Palm Beach County, a local non-profit organization that is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all, earning them the top prize of \$100,000. The sliding scale for the balance of the proceeds, down to 22nd place winning a minimum of \$15,000, ensured that everyone was a winner.

Team sponsor Spy Coast and Preston has been involved with the Great Charity Challenge since its first year in 2010. "I've been supporting [the GCC] since its inception," said Lisa Lourie of Spy Coast Farm, "and I've been fortunate enough to win four times thanks to an incredible team. Shane is one of the top grand prix riders here at this show, and he still participates every single year. I think he might be passing on the baton next year, but that doesn't mean we won't have an incredible team. He trains these kids and brings them along to be like him so that's really terrific. Monica [Preston] and I have been more than happy to contribute to this cause, and we're very thrilled that we pulled the YWCA, especially thrilled about the causes they're directing their money towards. Both Monica and I are all for empowering women, certainly for racial equality, and helping children, so we're thrilled to do it and we're honored and privileged to be able to do it in this way."

"We are elated," said Shay Spencer, Executive Director of YWCA of Palm Beach County. "We have been live streaming all night, and we are so thankful to the sponsors, the supporters, the riders, everyone who livestreamed, and especially to the GCC for putting this all together. We have been supporters, and it is amazing to now be award recipients."

"We do have some very specific plans for the \$100,000," continued Spencer. "We have an amazing new initiative called the Women's Health Institute, which helps to target the disparities that women face in the health industry, being both women and women of color. We have our child development center which helps to provide free, quality child care for low income families. We are going to use the funds to continue our mission, to empower women, to eliminate racism, and to promote peace, freedom, and justice for all. It's been an amazing night."

GCC team veteran Shane Sweetnam commented, "Every year it's a great event and it's a great cause for the community, especially this year. I know it probably wasn't easy to organize, but these charities need it more than ever this year. It's great that we could do our part and have something to cheer for and give back to our community."

Coming in second place was the team for Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches, sponsored by Lothlorien Farm and corporate sponsor La Victoria Farm. The team consisted of Edit Wetzel riding Annabelle, Charlotte McLaughlin aboard Elmo, and Daniel Coyle on Essedon, who were just a single second shy of the win in 92.869 seconds, earning \$90,000 for their charity.

Center for Family Services of Palm Beach County finished third and won \$80,000 with a time of 92.756 seconds. The team was made up of Keira Foster

on Ash Ville Rock, Olivia Markman riding Zanta Fee Van T Hofterrijckel, and Zayna Rizvi aboard Chaplin W, sponsored by Peacock Ridge and corporate sponsor Rosner's Appliances.

"Fidelity Investments is committed to making a difference in the communities where we work and live, and we were proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Winter Equestrian Festival and the 12th edition of the Great Charity Challenge. This important event distributed over \$1 million to more than 40 charities in the Palm Beach community, which will help assist populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dave Cvercko, Regional Head of Fidelity's South-Central Investor Centers.

Great Charity Challenge co-founder Paige Bellissimo commented, "While this year's event looked very different than our usual full stands, our focus remained the same: to ensure that local non-profit heroes receive a financial 'leg up' during these challenging times. We are so grateful for the support and generosity of the event sponsors and donors who make this possible!"

In the spirit of collaboration during these challenging times, United Way of Palm Beach County joined forces with the Great Charity Challenge, enabling spectators near and far to donate to the event online for the first time.

With a focus on community impact, the event also teamed up with the Equestrian Cooperative, an initiative founded by Adrienne Sternlicht, Lucy Deslauriers, Paige Bellissimo, and Tori Repole, aimed at making social activism and community involvement more accessible to equestrians. Their first mission: to dissolve the medical debt of about 1,200 people in Palm Beach County. In working with RIP Medical Debt, a non-profit organization that buys medical debt at pennies on the dollar, their \$34,000 goal will eradicate approximately \$5 million of debt at approximately \$1.50 to the penny. For additional information on how to alleviate the financial burdens of those with whom we share our community, please visit: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/ec/>

Grant drawings and special initiatives took place leading up to the event's 12th edition. Thanks to the annual support of the Ziegler Family Foundation, five non-profits were surprised with \$10,000 grants. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of elected officials and long-time supporters, the following non-profits were randomly awarded grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000: The Alliance of Women Executives, Faulk Center for Counseling, Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, Help Our Wounded Foundation, JDRF, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, Nicholas and Christen Thompson Foundation, Sea Turtle Adventures, Speak up for Kids, and Unified Dream.

"We are truly inspired by seeing key players come together to support change in this community," concluded Mark Bellissimo. "There are many charities within Palm Beach County that work tirelessly to do just that. We are grateful to our amazing donors who give them access to additional funding and riders who donate their time to compete on their behalf. They share one common purpose: empowering local non-profit organizations to do what they do best."

## KAREN POLLE AND JET RUN FLY HIGH IN THE \$50,000 PALM BEACH EQUINE CLINIC 1.45M GRAND PRIX CSI2\*



Karen Polle and Jet Run were victorious in the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix CSI2\*. © Sportfot

Kicking off the day in fine form, Karen Polle (JPN) and her own 11-year-old gelding Jet Run captured the \$50,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic 1.45m Grand Prix CSI2\* with a stellar double clear effort.

Anderson Lima's (BRA) artistry was put to the test once again with 16 jumping efforts featured in the first round of competition. There were 45 combinations in the starting field with a total of 15 qualifying to jump off over a shortened track that offered opportunities for tight turns and spots for a big gallop across the stunning grass field. The fastest of the day was Polle riding Jet Run (Chacco-Blue x Peisha), finishing in 37.52 seconds.

"I thought the course was pretty challenging, and it was a fair test," she said of the 1.45m track. "I was a little bit surprised there were so many clear actually and a lot of fast riders in the jump-off, so I was definitely a bit nervous. My horse has a lot of ability, and he's very experienced so even though we're still a relatively new combination, I have a lot of faith in him, so I felt good going in. I stuck to my plan in the jump-off, but the last line ended up a lot shorter for me than I expected so I was lucky my horse was good there."

Of the seven nations represented in the second round, it was a second-place finish for Great Britain as Jessica Mendoza guided Casanova 499, a 10-year-old Holsteiner

gelding by Clarimo x Wencke owned by Carly Day, to a double-clear effort, finishing just off the mark in 37.68 seconds. Representing the host nation, Sloane Coles (USA) rounded out the all-female podium with a third-place finish aboard De Vleut, a 13-year-old gelding by Vleut x Rolina owned by Avalon Partners BV, stopping the clock in 38.29 seconds.

Jet Run was previously campaigned by Spanish rider Sergio Alvarez Moya and joined Polle's string just over a year ago. As the pair continues to get acquainted with each other, their consistent finishes throughout the past week and their win on Sunday has the rider's confidence trending in the right direction.

"My rounds in the qualifier and in the two rounds today, I really felt like I had the connection right with my horse and I felt like he was really listening. In the jump-off I felt like I could run but then get him back if I needed, so this is the most comfortable I've felt with him."

It has been a work in progress to get to this point, and Polle credits her recent success to finding the right bit after a series of trial and error.

"I've been playing around the past couple months with different bits," she said. "I jumped in a different one in the warm-up class the first day, switching it [to a Kimberwick] for the qualifier and that worked well so I used the same one again today. I needed to work on his flatwork as well. We've been spending a lot of time on that, so it's really nice to see it coming together."

They'll continue to campaign throughout the winter circuit at WEF and hope to keep riding the wave of their increased confidence and synergy.

Kate Pettersen

## GRANTS & AWARDS

### TEAM COSTUME CONTEST

AWARD	CHARITY	AMOUNT
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Family Promise of North Central PB	\$ 3,000.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Hanley Foundation	\$ 2,000.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Junior League of the PB	\$ 1,000.00

### HORSE PRESENTATION - In Ring Contest

AWARD	CHARITY	AMOUNT
Team Spirit	Hanley Foundation	\$ 2,000.00
Best Horse Presentation	YMCA of Palm Beach County	\$ 1,000.00
Most Inspirational	Eat Better Live Better	\$ 1,000.00

### ZIEGLER FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANTS

CHARITY	AMOUNT
HomeSafe	\$10,000.00
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County	\$10,000.00
The Lord's Place, Inc.	\$10,000.00
Place of Hope	\$10,000.00
Urban Youth Impact, Inc.	\$10,000.00

**PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS DURING WEF**  
\$11,000.00

### DOYLE FAMILY FOUNDATION

CHARITY	AMOUNT
Alliance of Women Executives	\$2,000.00
Faulk Center for Counseling	\$2,000.00
Florence Fuller Child Development Center	\$2,000.00
Help Our Wounded Foundation	\$2,000.00
JDRF Palm Beach	\$2,000.00
Kayla Cares 4 Kids	\$2,000.00
Nicholas and Christen Thompson Foundation	\$2,000.00
Sea Turtles Adventures	\$2,000.00
Speak Up for Kids	\$2,000.00
Unified Dream	\$2,000.00

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS

CHARITY	AMOUNT
New Horizons Service Dogs, Inc.	\$5,000.00
Wellington Wizards Rugby Club	\$2,000.00
Wellington Wrestling Club, Inc.	\$3,000.00
Wellington Volleyball Academy	\$1,000.00
Women's Chamber Foundation, Inc.	\$3,000.00
Operation 120, Inc.	\$3,000.00
Passion for Paws, Inc.	\$2,000.00
Junior League of Boca Raton	\$2,000.00
Restoration Bridge International	\$2,000.00



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## \$25,000 Hermès U25 Grand Prix Series Team Event Welcomes Win for Mendoza, Moffitt, Debney, and Mytilineou



Leah Rogers Meierfeld, Senior Equestrian Account Executive for Hermès, Ioli Mytilineou, Jessica Mendoza, Emily Moffitt, and Grace Debney in their awards presentation. © Sportfot

In the \$25,000 Hermès U25 Grand Prix Series Team Event, team Baywatch took the victory with an impressive final score of zero. The team was composed of Jessica Mendoza (GBR) and I-Cap CL Z, owned by Jessica Mendoza (0,0); Emily Moffitt (GBR) and Light Blue, owned by Poden Farms (0,0); Ioli Mytilineou (GRE) and Caiam D'Ivraie, owned by Elia Construction SA (0,0); and Grace Debney (GBR) and Boheme De La Roque, owned by Temple Equestrian, LLC (4,0).

"It's really great to do this team," began Mendoza. "I've competed in this event several times, and this is my last year in [the under 25 division]. This year I used a green horse, and I thought this would be a good experience to be here and go into the ring with a Nations Cup format. I thought that was great, and it was nice to be a part of such a good team."

It is 16-year-old Debney's first season riding in the U25 series. She noted her excitement for the series and credited her horse for their solid day's performance. "It means so much to be on a team like this and to have this opportunity," she explained. "These are three other amazing riders on this team, and this season is my first time competing in the U25 series. It's cool to ride on the team with them and experience this type of team format."

Debney continued, "My horse is the quietest horse in the barn, and when she gets to the show ring she's all business and wants to jump clear as much as I do, so I was really proud of her today. She was amazing."

Chef d'Equipe McLain Ward also credited Debney and the entire team's hard work and determination. "They did great, and their win is very exciting. They're four top young riders and pretty seasoned in competition. Grace (Debney) was on a new horse that I helped sell to her. Her trainer Sam Schafer has worked with me for the last several years, so it's nice to be able to bring some experience to the table to help her bring a clear round to the team. She handled it beautifully, so it was a good afternoon."



Jessica Mendoza (GBR) and I-Cap CL Z. © Sportfot

It's Ioli Mytilineou's first season competing in Florida, and she is grateful for the opportunity to participate in more team events and gain that experience with her peers in the U25. "To me it's a great experience to be on this team," noted the 23-year-old. "I'm from Greece so I haven't done many team events, plus it's my first time in Florida. I'm liking it so far; I've got a win under my belt and I'm ready to go home now! Being a part of such a great team was awesome. It's a big class, and there is a lot of talent out here."

Moffitt, 22, was also on a green horse like Mendoza and admitted her pride in her mount and his performance. "I have a super green horse," she concluded. "This was his third 1.45m ever, and I was so proud of him. I'm a sucker for a team event. It's such a fun experience, and I'm lucky to be a part of such a great team, especially because it's all girls. I have to throw that in there! It's one of my favorite events, and I try to participate in it every year."



Grace Debney (GBR) and Boheme De La Roque. © Sportfot

Second place in the \$25,000 Hermès U25 Grand Prix Series Team Event went to The Chiefs, consisting of team members Lucy Deslauriers (USA) and Billy De Beaufour owned by Luja, LLC (0,0), Carlos Hank Guerreiro (MEX) and H5 Market Irminka owned by H5 Stables (0,0), Zoe Conter (BEL) and Dolitaire Chavannaise owned by Stephex Stables (4,0), and Eugenio Garza Perez (MEX) and Contago owned by El Milagro (0,0).

Third place was a three-way tie, and was awarded to Heathman Farm team of Delaney Hamill (USA), Ty Simpson (USA), Daniel Cyphert (USA), and Stella Stinnett (USA); Team Madden with riders Kelli Crucioti Vanderveen (USA), Samantha Wight (USA), Audrey Schulze (USA), and Maria Brugal (USA); and Connect 4 with Flo Norris (GBR), Maya Nayyar (USA), Alessandra Volpi (USA), and Tanimara Macari (MEX).

Kimberlyn Beaudoin



Emily Moffitt (GBR) and Light Blue. © Sportfot



Ioli Mytilineou (GRE) and Caiam D'Ivraie. © Sportfot

## Jumpers on Sand and Turf at WEF 4

Laura Chapot (USA) had a stellar day to open WEF 4, taking the win in the \$6,000 Bainbridge Companies 1.40m Jumpers aboard Shooting Star, an entry owned by Laura and Mary Chapot, and adding to that by capturing the top four spots with her other mounts on Wednesday.

Chapot and Shooting Star, her 20-year-old gelding by Phin Phin x Filexa, were the first to enter the International Arena. Their speedy effort of 26.825 seconds in the jump-off held from start to finish for the victory. The 50-year-old rider from Neshanic Station, NJ, finished first overall in Section B of the California Split class aboard Out of Ireland, a 15-year-old Anglo European mare by Lougherne Connaught x Amiro M, owned by Laura Chapot and The Edge, stopping the timers in 26.978 seconds.

Chapot also finished second in Section A aboard Calafornia, a 14-year-old KWPN gelding by Ultimo x Lux, owned by Laura and Mary Chapot in a time of 27.280 seconds. She rounded out her incredible day with a second-place finish in Section B aboard Chandon Blue, a 16-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Chacco Blue x Landcapitol owned by Laura and Mary Chapot, finishing their jump-off in 27.773 seconds.

"I probably should retire and go home after this," she said with a smile, noting this as the first time she's ever finished in the top four spots in the same class.

Sweden's Henrik von Eckermann rode Glamorous Girl, owned by Portfolio Horses, LLC, to victory in the \$6,000 Bainbridge Companies 1.45m Jumpers CSI4\*. A field of 32 horse and rider combinations set out over the course designed by Anderson Lima (BRA) consisting of nine efforts in the first phase and five obstacles in the second phase. Von Eckermann piloted the talented 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare by Vdl Zirocco Blue x Moonlight II, to a double-clear effort in 26.56 seconds.

Three different nationalities were represented in podium position as Ireland's Jordan Coyle finished as runner up aboard Picador, owned by Elan Farm, stopping the clock in 28.36 seconds. Rounding out the top three was Ashlee Bond (ISR) and Lazy for Stephex Stables and Aurora Farms, LLC in 28.53 seconds.

Wilton Porter (USA) and Diamonte Darco, owned by Sleepy P Ranch, LLC, opened Friday's schedule with a win in the \$37,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic 1.45m Qualifier CSI2.

Just five hundredths of a second behind the class winner, 18-year-old Irish rider Max Wachman piloted the 12-year-old gelding Lazzaro Delle Schiave, owned by Coolmore Show Jumping, to a runner-up finish in 43.17 seconds. Rounding out the podium in third place was Anna Beth Athey (USA) aboard her own Nat King Cole, an 11-year-old Swedish Warmblood mare, stopping the clock in 43.87 seconds.

Bliss Heers (USA) and Antidote De Mars owned by Bridgeside Farm, LLC, found their way to the top of the podium in the \$50,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup Round 4. Heers and the 11-year-old Selle Français stallion by Diamant de Semilly x Jarnac emerged victorious in a time of 38.98 seconds.



Laura Chapot took the top four spots in Wednesday's Bainbridge 1.40m Jumpers, including the overall win with Shooting Star. © Sportfot



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## Hunters Continue to Excel Week 4



Tina Allen and Galaxy were the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 and Over division champions at WEF 4. © Sportfot

The Hygain Feeds Green Hunter 3' division wrapped up on Thursday morning in Ring 6 with Kelley Farmer aboard Roseann Messina's Night Moves earning the tricolor ribbon for the week. Farmer, of Wellington, FL, piloted Night Moves to three firsts, a second, and a third place ribbon.

"He just got down here, and Scott Petrie called me and told me he had a nice, young horse and asked if I would ride him," explained Farmer. "The first time I sat on him was Tuesday, and he is a really lovely young horse. He has all the quality in the world."

Scott Stewart piloted Rivers Edge's Fine Art to reserve champion in the division. Stewart, of Wellington, FL, and Fine Art received two firsts and two second place ribbons.

The Pre-Green Hunter 3 and 4 Year Old division also finished on Thursday with Cooper Dean, of Fayette, AL, riding Larry Glefke's Figure of Speech to win every class.

"He was great yesterday, and I think the experience he got yesterday helped him be even better today," said Dean of the four-year-old Holsteiner by Casall. "With these young horses they just need time in the ring, and luckily he is nice enough that even when he has an okay round he can still win it. He has the look."

The Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 and Over division had 18 riders competing for the tricolor ribbon in the E.R. Mische Grand Hunter Ring. After two days of competition, it was Tina Allen, of New Canaan, CT, and her own Galaxy who earned the championship honors with three second place ribbons and one third.

"I've had him since he was five and I've been doing this division on him for several years now, so I know him quite well," said Allen of the 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding. "He is just such a lovely horse and so fun to ride. I'm so pleased with how he went today!"

Reserve champion for the Amateur-Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 and Over division went to Becky Gochman aboard Gochman Sport Horses LLC's Last Man Darling. Wellington, FL, resident Gochman and Last Man Darling earned two firsts and a fourth place ribbon.

Sunday was the final day of competition for the fourth week of the Winter Equestrian Festival and Julia Weiss, of Amagansett, NY and her own Catena 5 ended the week on a high note. The pair earned the championship title in the Amateur-Owner Hunter 18-35 division, sponsored by Adequan, after receiving three firsts and a seventh place ribbon.

"One day I wasn't able to make it to my jumper class because of work, so I showed her in the hunters instead and she won two classes so now she's my hunter!" said Weiss of the 11-year-old Holsteiner mare by Calido I. "Last summer in Kentucky we did both the hunters and jumpers, but then we made the official switch to the hunters last year at WEF."

Margaret Oberkircher and Southfields Farm LLC's Patriot took home the reserve champion title. Oberkircher, of Collegeville, PA, and Patriot received two firsts, a second, a sixth, and a seventh place ribbon.

👉 Sabrina Brashares

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GALDERMA

## John French and Queen Celeste Take Top Honors in the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby Hunt & Go

The Hygain Feeds Green Hunter 3' division wrapped up on Thursday morning in Ring 6 with Kelley Farmer aboard Roseann Messina's Night Moves earning the tricolor ribbon for the week. Farmer, of Wellington, FL, piloted Night Moves to three firsts, a second, and a third place ribbon.

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👉 Sabrina Brashares



John French and Queen Celeste won the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby Hunt & Go. © Sportfot

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# Parade of Champions

WEF 4

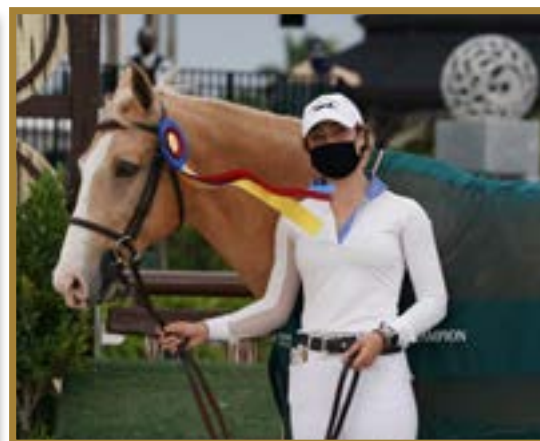
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Riding Green Book, Madison Olvert was the Adult Amateur Equitation champion at WEF Premiere and WEF 2.



The Restylane Low Adult Hunter Section A championship went to Lightful, ridden by Angela Dominguez and owned by La Primera Hacienda, LP



Legally Blonde and Alea Lasaponara won a ProElite Low Children's/Adult Amateur Training Jumper championship.



BJ Ehrhardt rode Leigh Creamer's Crystal to the USHJA Hunter 2'3" championship.



Eve Meyer and Cloud 9 won the Wanderers Club Low Adult Hunter Section B championship.



In the ProElite Low Children's/Adult Amateur Training Jumper .90m division, Jennifer Perry and Carlton won the championship.



Wendy Dixon and Bonita VI were also ProElite Low Children's/Adult Amateur Training Jumper .80m champions.



# Parade of Champions

WEF 4

© Sportfot



Consent and Kat Fuqua won the Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 15 & Under championship at WEF 2 and 4.



Maria Sabers and Boeket, owned by Market Street Inc., won the Low Children's Jumper championship at WEF 3.



Lilly Fisher rode Linda Smith-Faver's Millpond Patchwork to the Walk/Trot championship.



Victoria Roman won both sections of the Younger Cross Rail Hunters with Sunbeam, owned by Ticket To Ride LLC and Dreamboy, owned by Kristina Muse.



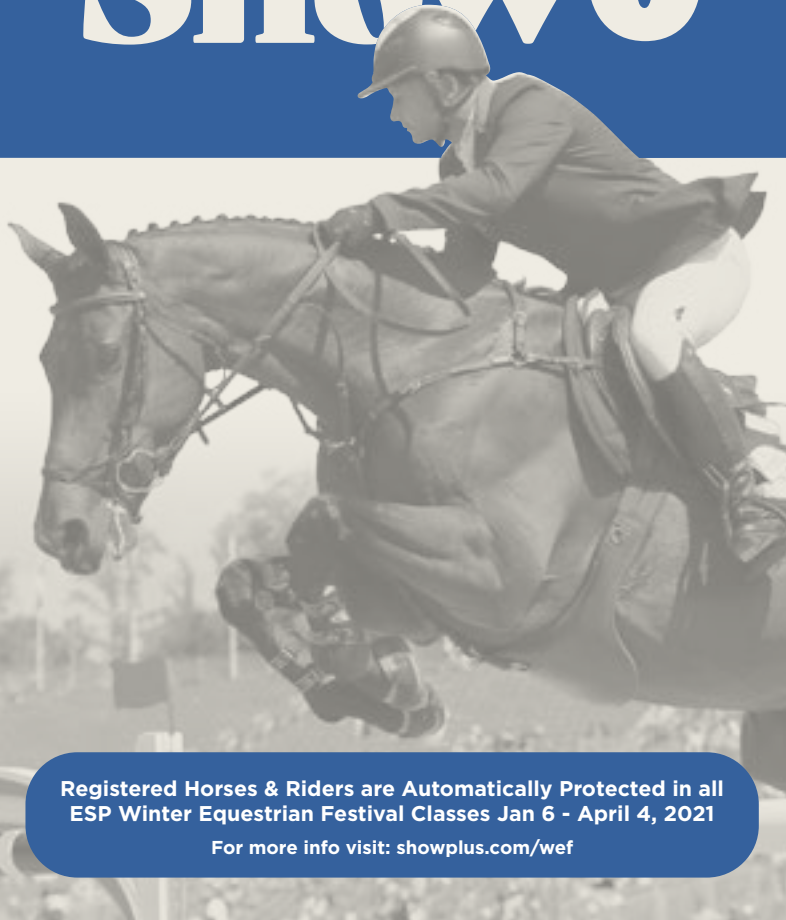
# Leadline Gallery

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