



# WEEKLY WIRE

EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

WEEK 10 MARCH 17-21, 2021

## ABDEL SAÏD AND BANDIT SAVOIE ARE SPECTACULAR IN THE \$401,000 FIDELITY INVESTMENTS® GRAND PRIX CSI5\*



Abdel Saïd rode Bandit Savoie and became the first Egyptian rider to win a five-star grand prix at WEF. © Sportfot

Under the lights in the International Arena at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), Abdel Saïd (EGY) and his own Bandit Savoie stole the show with a stunning victory in the \$401,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI5\*, on Saturday, March 13, as part of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF).

In the third CSI5\* of the 2021 winter circuit, a field of 39 starters attempted the 1.60m track built by Ireland's Alan Wade, with nine jumping clear to qualify for the jump-off.

Fourth of nine to return, Cian O'Connor (IRL) and Kilkenny flew around the shortened track, electing to leave a stride out down the final line and the risk paid off. He and the nine-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (Cardento x Mhs Pembroke Lady) owned by Ronnoco Jump Ltd moved into the lead with a clear effort, crossing the timers in 39.09 seconds.

Next to go, Saïd piloted his 10-year-old Selle Français gelding (Qlassic Bois Margot x Falmera) around the track effortlessly, opting to make up the time through the turns, moving swiftly across the ground in nine strides to the final fence to take over the lead in 38.70 seconds.

It was the pair following Saïd that kept everyone on the edge of their seats as the quick combination of Daniel Deusser (GER) and Killer Queen VDM gave it their best effort. Deusser, ranked third in the world, guided the

11-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare (Eldorado Vd Zeshoek x Derly Chin De Muze) owned by Stephex Stables to a clear effort, stopping the clock just one-hundredth of a second off the leading time in 38.71 seconds.

In the end, it was Saïd who prevailed to take the victory on the talented gelding he purchased in September from the number one ranked rider in the world, Steve Guerdat.

"He is a feisty little horse who is definitely a trier," said Saïd of the winning gelding. "I love the fire he has in him. It was causing us to have some rails at the past few shows because I didn't really know him, but I sold my two main grand prix horses earlier in the circuit, so he had to really step up.

"I must say today going into the jump-off after the first round I was so happy with how he went," continued Saïd. "I just wanted to do my own round and see where I ended up. I didn't really go until I really had to win today, but I like to go in the jump-off, and it just worked out today. Everything clicked a little more, and I was really happy."

Deusser followed up on his fourth-place finish in the WEF 7 CSI5\* grand prix ending the evening in second place.

"In the last couple of weeks, she has proven herself," said Deusser. "She is a mare with unbelievable scope and she knows what to do with her range; she

## VICTORIA COLVIN CLAIMS FIRST AND SECOND IN THE \$25,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY



Victoria Colvin took the top two spots in the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby with Gabriel (pictured) and El Primero. ©Sportfot

Hunter competition continued on the Derby Field at Equestrian Village on Saturday with professional, junior, and amateur riders competing for the top spot in the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby. Well-known hunter rider Victoria Colvin entered the winner's circle once again taking top honors with JT Farm's Gabriel and second place with Merallex Farm, Inc.'s El Primero.

Forty-one combinations competed in the first round, and the top 12 riders were called back for a shortened handy round that included a trot jump.

Colvin, of Loxahatchee, FL, and Gabriel navigated the classic round course with ease to earn a score of 185. The rider then produced a beautifully ridden handy round to earn another high score of 203 and an overall score of 388 to put the pair at the top of the class. Colvin also earned a handy round score of 202 and an overall score of 385.5 with her other mount, El Primero.

"Basically I did the same strategy on both," said Colvin regarding the plan of her handy round. "I didn't actually walk the handy course because I didn't think there was anything handy. I didn't realize the trot jump was that tight!"

Colvin has had the ride on Gabriel, a 2011 Dutch Warmblood gelding by Azteca VDL, for several years, but this

was one of the few derbies that the duo has done together.

"I've been showing him for a couple years," explained Colvin. "I did him as a pre-green horse, I did him in the first year [greens], and he is a second year green now, so I've been riding him for a while. Ellen [Toon] does him in the amateurs as well so it's an overall really nice horse. I've only done a couple derbies on him."

After having down time due to COVID, Colvin was very pleased with how El Primero rose to the occasion. Colvin and the 2009 Dutch Warmblood gelding by Numero Uno have had numerous hunter derby wins, including a victory on the Derby Field in 2019.

"He's literally done, I think, three classes in the last year," commented Colvin. "He was great out there and couldn't have done better. He was all business!"

Colvin and El Primero are planning to gear up for the USHJA International Hunter Derby during Week 12 of WEF, as well as a few others throughout the year.

Cooper Dean and Rock Ridge Farm's Testify earned a third place finish in the class. Dean, of Fayette, AL, rode Testify to a classic round score of 182 and handy round score of 194 for an overall score of 376.

Please turn to page 13



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## EXCITING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AT PBIEC FOR WEEK 10

### 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. 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 tenth session, hosted on Zoom, will be Thursday, March 18, from 6-7 p.m. EST. The topic of "Blue Ribbon Wound Care, a new way to manage infection and speed wound healing," is sponsored by VetBlue.

### WEF 10 HIGHLIGHTS

WEF 10, which runs on March 17-21, is sponsored by Horseware Ireland and features the \$37,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.45m Jumpers CSI3\* on Thursday; the classics for the Spy Coast Farm Developing Jumper series for Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds and the \$37,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup CSI3\* on Friday; the \$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic CSI3\* on Saturday; and the \$50,000 Hermès Under 25 Grand Prix Series Final and \$137,000 Horseware Ireland Grand Prix CSI3\* on Sunday. Attention Grooms! Don't miss the Hygain Feeds Groom's Class on Friday, March 19.

### ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL 10

Competition returns on March 17-21 for AGDF 10, featuring the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup CDIO3\*, FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle CDI3\*, presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center, FEI Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special CDI3\*, presented by Iron Spring Farm, Small Tour CDI3\*, presented by Horseware Ireland, and the CDIO U25, presented by Diamante Farms, as well as national competition.

### LOOKING AHEAD - WEEK 11

The biggest show jumping event of the season will be held at WEF 11. The \$500,000 Rolex Grand Prix CSI5\* will see the best horse and rider combinations in the world battling it out for top honors on the grass Derby Field on Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. All FEI jumper classes will be at Equestrian Village for the week, with CSI5\* competition on the grass and CSI2\* competition in the sand Equestrian Village International Arena. Equitation riders will also go head-to-head in the WEF Excellence in Equitation class on Friday, March 26, at 5 p.m. AGDF will host national competition on March 26-28.



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## Vivian Golden and D'Artagnan Stay On Top to Win the \$5,000 USHJA Pony DERBY



Vivian Golden rode D'Artagnan to victory in the \$5,000 USHJA Pony Hunter Derby.  
© Sportfot

Pony hunter riders had their chance to show off on the Derby Field at Equestrian Village on Friday in the \$5,000 USHJA Pony Derby. After a classic round and handy round, Vivian Golden and Emma Dyson's D'Artagnan finished at the top of the class with scores of 89 and 88 for a total high score of 177.

Fifty-seven riders competed over the first round track consisting of 10 fences designed by Tom Carlson. The class was set at three separate heights for 13 larges, 27 mediums, and 17 smalls. Once the classic round was complete, the top 12 combinations were called back to navigate the handy round.

Third in the order, Golden, of Reading, PA, and D'Artagnan took the lead with a score of 89 and held their top spot for the remainder of the classic round. This class was only Golden's second time showing D'Artagnan.

"I rode D'Artagnan last weekend for the first time, and he's very nice," commented Golden. "He is quiet, he has such a nice rhythm, and his canter is very comfortable. I got reserve last week when I showed him and then we just kept improving."

"My first round was really good and felt super nice," continued Golden. "I was nervous going in because I've only shown him once, so it felt really good to go and get the highest score."

The duo was one of the last pairs to come back for the handy round, and they once again showed off to earn the highest score of 88.

"I got to watch a couple go so I could make a plan of how I wanted to ride it," she continued. "I wasn't too nervous to come back because he is such a good boy."

Although D'Artagnan's owner will take over the reins on the large pony again in Week 12, Golden is looking forward to the rest of the show season with her other mounts. The rider, who loves showing on the big open field, also took two more spots in the top 12, earning fourth with Goldhills As You Like It and fifth with Dressed To Go.

"I love to be able to gallop and just feel the rhythm," said Golden of riding on the Derby Field. "It is so fun and great out there. I really love to just go gallop those jumps."

Not far behind in points were Olivia Sweetnam, of Wellington, FL, and Emma Brody's Rolex, who took home second place. The pair received a classic round score of 87 and a handy round score of 86 for a total score of 173. Third place honors also went to Sweetnam aboard Jill Shulman's Secret Crush. Sweetnam rode Secret Crush to scores of 84 and 87 with an overall score of 171.

Sabrina Brashares

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## FINAL RESULTS \$5,000 USHJA PONY HUNTER DERBY

Horse | Rider | Owner  
Round 1 Score | Round 2 Score | Total

- 1 D'Artagnan, Vivian Golden, Emma Dyson**  
89.00, 88.00 | 177.00
- 2 Rolex, Olivia Sweetnam, Emma Brody**  
87.00, 86.00 | 173.00
- 3 Secret Crush, Olivia Sweetnam, Jill Shulman**  
84.00, 87.00 | 171.00
- 4 Goldhills As You Like It, Vivian Golden, Vivian Golden**  
86.00, 83.00 | 169.00
- 5 Dressed To Go, Vivian Golden, Vivian Golden**  
85.50, 82.00 | 167.50
- 6 Pepsi, Lily Epstein, Lily Epstein**  
84.50, 81.00 | 165.50
- 7 Brownland's Last Call, Olivia Sweetnam, Castlewood Farm Inc.**  
79.00, 85.00 | 164.00
- 8 Rico Suave, Ava Barnes, Ponies & Palms Show Stables LLC**  
88.00, 75.00 | 163.00
- 9 Farmore State of the Art, Eva Mackenzie, Eva Mackenzie**  
86.50, 74.00 | 160.50
- 10 Eastside, Clara Propp, Aquitaine Equine**  
85.00, 74.50 | 159.5.00
- 11 Daventry's Davinci, Ellie Sadrian, Ellie Sadrian**  
80.00, 76.00 | 156.00
- 12 On Your Mark, Olivia Sweetnam, Sweet Oak Farm**  
82.00, 40.00 | 122.00

## FINAL RESULTS \$25,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

Horse | Rider | Owner  
Round 1 Score | Round 2 Score | Total

- 1 Gabriel, Victoria Colvin, JT Farm**  
185.00, 203.00 | 388.00
- 2 El Primero, Victoria Colvin, Meralex Farm, Inc.**  
183.50, 202.00 | 385.50
- 3 Testify, Cooper Dean, Rock Ridge Farms**  
182.00, 194.00 | 376.00
- 4 Zalandra, Hannah Isop, Harry Littler**  
176.00, 199.00 | 375.00
- 5 Diatendro, Havens Schatt, Kelley Corrigan**  
175.50, 190.00 | 365.50
- 6 Copernicus K, Tiffany Morrissey, Dr. Kathryn Withers**  
180.00, 184.00 | 364.00
- 7 Mindful, Jennifer Hannan, Kensel, LLC**  
182.25, 180.50 | 362.75
- 8 Someday, Laena Romond, Rachel Suna Britchkow**  
176.00, 177.00 | 353.00
- 9 Golden Rule, Stephanie Danhaki, Stephanie Danhaki**  
170.50, 179.00 | 349.50
- 10 Handwritten, Greg Crolick, Jon Cotton**  
170.00, 162.00 | 332.00
- 11 Fedora, Maria Rasmussen, Julianne Karol**  
171.00, 119.00 | 290.00
- 12 Cascartini, Havens Schatt, Ken and Amy Wexler LLC**  
185.00, 103.00 | 288.00

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# STANDINGS AND AWARDS

## WEF WEEK 9

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**LEADING LADY JUMPER RIDER**, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate, in memory of Dale Lawler (after 20 qualifying events)

1. Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 961
2. Margie Engle (USA): 844
3. Beezie Madden (USA): 780.5
4. Lillie Keenan (USA): 779.5
5. Tiffany Foster (CAN): 767



**CHAMPION EQUINE INSURANCE HUNTER STYLE AWARD:** Gabriel, ridden by Victoria Colvin and owned by JT Farm

**CHAMPION EQUINE INSURANCE JUMPER STYLE AWARD:** Corry Be Good, ridden by David Oberkircher and owned by Southfields Farm



**HERMÈS UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES** (after 7 qualifying events)

1. Ashley Vogel (USA): 275.5
2. Flo Norris (GBR): 237
3. Tanner Korotkin (USA): 211
4. Natalie Dean (USA): 201.5
5. Jessica Mendoza (GBR): 200.5

**CaptiveOne**

ADVISORS\*

**CAPTIVEONE ADVISORS 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER CLASSIC SERIES** (after 10 qualifying events)

1. McLain Ward (USA): 369
2. Darragh Kenny (IRL): 341
3. Daniel Deusser (GER): 325
4. Jessica Springsteen (USA): 290
5. Shane Sweetnam (IRL): 268

## WEF 9 JUMP WRAP-UP



McLain Ward and Catoki sped to two five-star victories at WEF 9. ©Sportfot

On the opening day of week nine at the 2021 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), McLain Ward (USA) and Catoki, owned by Marilla van Beuren, Bob Russell, and McLain Ward, galloped to the top spot in the \$37,000 Douglas Elliman Real Estate 1.45m CSI5\*.

Wednesday afternoon's feature class had 56 combinations contest the 1.45m two-phase format designed by Alan Wade (IRL). A total of 32 competitors produced double clear efforts but as the 18th to go in the starting order, Ward did it quickest aboard the 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Catoki x Cartello B, holding the lead to the end of the class to take the victory in 25.51 seconds.

Ireland's Max Wachman opened the week with a win in the \$6,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.40m CSI2\* aboard Ikaros, owned by Coolmore Show Jumping. The 17-year-old rider and the nine-year-old Swedish Warmblood gelding by Chelltago Z x Feliciano 823 jumped a fault-free round in the two-phase competition, finishing in a time of 26.63 seconds.

Following that, Schuyler Riley (USA) and Quilimbo, a 12-year-old Holsteiner stallion by Quidam De Revel x Limbus owned by E2 Show Jumpers, captured the \$1,000 Bainbridge Companies 1.45m. Riley, 49, secured the victory with a double-clear effort over the two-phase track, stopping the clock at 29.98 seconds.

Darragh Kenny (IRL) and Sligo Balou Boy, owned by Michael Kearins, jumped into the winner's circle in the \$73,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup Round 9 CSI5\* on Thursday. A total of 14 entries cleared the course with 10 electing to return for the second round. Kenny was last to return and put forth the fastest jump-off time, with a double-clear effort in 33.75 seconds.

It was quite a day for the Irish contingent in the International Arena as the country continued to showcase their depth of talent. Michael Duffy (IRL) and Jeff Ten Halven, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding by Toulon x Cassis Z owned by HMF Equestrian, finished the day double clear in 34.90 seconds for second place. Rounding out the podium was Paul O'Shea (IRL) and Skara Glen's Chancelloress, a 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare by Chacco Blue x Balou du Rouet owned by Skara Glen Stables. They finished in third, stopping the clock at 35.40 seconds. The Irish didn't stop there as Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and Cian O'Connor (IRL) rounded out the top five finishers.

Jessica Mendoza (GBR) topped Thursday's \$37,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.45m CSI2\* with Dublin, a 2007 German Sport Horse gelding (Cobra x Calido) owned by Windsor Farms. The pair rode to victory in the class of 73 entries in 31.07 seconds.

Celso Ariani (MEX) rode to second place aboard Ukulman De La Nutrina, Ricardo Romero's 2008 Selle Francais gelding by Quick Star, after completing the jump-off in 32.50 seconds. Third went to Laura Chapot on Mary Chapot's 2005 Oldenburg gelding (Chacco Blue x Landcapitol), Chandon Blue, finishing in 32.50 seconds.

## WEF 9 WEEKLY SPONSOR AWARDS



Adrienne Sternlicht won her second Martha Jolicoeur Leading Lady Rider Award, in memory of Dale Lawler, presented by Sharon Loayza and Waverly Ernst. © Sportfot



Along with winning the week's hunter derby, Gabriel was given the Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman. © Sportfot



David Oberkircher and Corry Be Good won the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award, presented by Laura Fetterman. © Sportfot



Congratulations to the WEF 9 Vita Flex Tack Room Award Winners Hunters Landing, Joey Currais, Alex Charles and their team! Courtesy of JRPR Equine News Room

Topping a field of 53 over a speed track, McLain Ward and Catoki, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Catoki x Cartello B, left all the jumps up to fly across the finish line in 52.33 seconds, nearly three seconds faster than the runner-up to win their second class of the week in the \$37,000 Bainbridge Companies 1.45m Classic CSI5\* on Friday.

Erynn Ballard (CAN) came close for a second-place finish aboard Ronja, a 10-year-old Swiss Warmblood mare (Conteur x Czandor) owned by Ilan Ferder in 55.50 seconds. Rounding out the top three was Patricio Pasquel (MEX) with his own mare Yoga Santa Rosa with a time of 55.87 seconds.

Jordan Coyle rode the heels of the week's lucky streak for the Irish to win the \$6,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.45m CSI2\* class on Friday. As the third to final competitor on course, Coyle took the win with Elan Farm's Warnike after flying through the timers in 63.12 seconds.

Carlie Fairty (CAN) and Ilan Ferder's 10-year-old Westphalian gelding (Lancer II x Crassula) Leal rounded out the top three with a time of 67.25 seconds. Anna Dryden (USA) piloted the Double Meadows Farm, LLC's 11-year-old Holsteiner mare (Cosido x Vision) Carioca K to the runner-up position after crossing the finish line in 65.76 seconds.

In the \$73,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic CSI5\*, the final class of the day in the International Arena for the ninth week of the 2021 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Kent Farrington (USA) and Creedance, owned by Farrington and Haity McNerney, were uncatchable for victory.

Sweden's Henrik Von Eckermann was the first to complete the second track fault-free after crossing the timers in 35.10 seconds with the Portfolio Horses, LLC's Glamour Girl. His effort with the 10-year-old KWPN mare (VDL Zirocco Blue x Moonlight II) was enough to secure the third place ribbon at the end of the class. Eduardo Menezes (BRA) flew into second place with his own H5 Quintol. He and the 16-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Quintender x Cento managed an efficient time of 34.83 seconds but was still well-behind the class leader, Farrington who finished in 34.12 seconds.

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## HUNTER RIDERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AT WEF 9



Ava Barnes and Cleverist were the Section B champions of the Always Faithful Equestrian Club Medium Pony Hunters. © Sportfot

Competition began in Ring 11 on Thursday morning with the ESP Open Hunter 3'3" division sponsored by Gold Coast Feed & Nutrition. After earning three firsts and two second place ribbons, Tamara Provost, of Westfield, IN, and Beth Bailey's Independent took home the championship title.

"I love him. He is really nice to ride," said Provost of the coming 11-year-old Holsteiner by Ibsca. "He is a good jumper, good mover, and each time you walk into the ring you feel like you have a great shot on him."

Ed Copeland, of Monmouth Beach, NJ, and Mary Mitsch's Lavender earned two blue ribbons on Wednesday to end as reserve champion in the division.

On Thursday, champion of the High Performance Hunter, sponsored by Antares Sellier France, was awarded to Caitlin Venezia and True Blue, owned by Jennifer Combs. Venezia, of Wellington, FL, rode True Blue to two firsts, two seconds, and a third place ribbon.

Reserve champion in the High Performance Hunter was awarded to Havens Schatt aboard Ken and Amy Wexler LLC's Cascartini. Schatt, of Georgetown, KY, and Cascartini received two firsts, two thirds, and a fourth place ribbon.

Hailey Royce piloted Kimberley Dunn's Narco to champion in the Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17 on Saturday. Royce, of Gurnee, IL, and Narco earned two firsts, a second, and a third place ribbon in the division.

New York, NY resident Stella Propp rode Isabella Griffin's Heaven's Dream to reserve champion in the Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17 division. The pair received three seconds, a third, and a sixth place ribbon to claim the title.

The Amateur-Owner 3'6" 36 and Over division, sponsored by Hunt Ltd, wrapped up on Sunday with Tina Allen and her own Sinatra earning the championship ribbon. Allen, of New Canaan, CT, and Sinatra won every over fences class to take home the top prize.

Laura Sexton and her own Set To Music received reserve champion in the division. Sexton, of Greenwich, CT, rode her mount to a two seconds and three third place ribbons.

Thirty-five pony hunter riders competed for the tricolor ribbon in the Medium Pony Hunter division, sponsored by Always Faithful Equestrian Club, in Ring 11 on Sunday. Due to the large amount of entries the class was held in a California split format and awarded two champions. Vivian Golden, of Reading, PA, piloted her own Goldhills As You Like It to the Section A championship and Ava Barnes, of Liberty TWP, OH, aboard Ellie Sadrian's Cleverist earned the Section B top prize.

"This is my third WEF on her," explained Golden. "We have been together for a little while now and she's such a good girl and I love her so much. She has such a funny personality and she goes to every show with us."

Reserve champion in Section A went to Katherine Mercer, of Wellington, FL, riding Calder Troitz's Not So Secret. The pair earned a first and second place ribbon.

Barnes and her mount Cleverist took home two firsts, a third, and two fifth place ribbons in the Medium Pony Hunters to secure their championship title. The duo has been paired together for one year and their strong partnership showed when Barnes rode the 19-year-old Welsh Pony Cross gelding by Bennos Dream to a high score of 90.

"He does whatever I ask him to do in the ring," commented Barnes. "We won both classes today which was awesome and our rounds were great. There were definitely a lot of ponies and this was the time to qualify for Devon for me so to get champion meant a lot."

Eva Mackenzie, of Darien, CT, and her own Anisette received the reserve champion title for Section B. Mackenzie rode Anisette to a first, third, seventh, and eighth place ribbon.

🌱 Sabrina Brashares

## Ifko Aces \$50,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty Grand Prix CSI 2\*

Canada's Jim Ifko and Eventyre Farms' Un Diamant Des Forets were victorious in the \$50,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty Grand Prix CSI 2\* , after they crossed through the jump-off timers in a quick 32.73 seconds. The class, originally welcoming 45 horse-and-rider combinations into the International Arena at PBIEC, saw 12 pairs return to contest the jump-off.

It was the second two-star win of the season for Ifko and the 2008 Selle Francais stallion (Diamant De Semilly x Grace Des Forets), and after placing tenth in Thursday's qualifier, Ifko went in with a plan that suited his fast-footed mount. "My strategy going in there was to just jump a clear round," he explained. "Fortunately, I do have a naturally fast horse, so as much as that time allowed was quite tight, I knew that if I just stuck to the plan we would make it well within the time. The only problem is leaving the jumps up. It was a difficult, technical course, and on top of that with the tight time, I think it was a challenging class with all of that considered."

Ifko has been riding the horse he fondly calls "Monty" for several years and credited their long partnership for their continued success. "We've been together for quite a few years now," Ifko commented. "I saw him as a five-year-old, and then our first season together was when he was six. We've been able to develop a partnership over the years, and I think that's helped us a lot. At the end of the day I'm so lucky to have a horse that is brave, fast, careful, and wants to win. It's a pretty amazing feeling, and I feel very lucky."



Canadian Jim Ifko and Un Diamant des Forets captured victory in the \$50,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty Grand Prix CSI2\*. © Sportfot

Ifko and his team got to Wellington at the beginning of February and plan to stay for the remainder of the WEF circuit now that they're in their groove. He concluded, "We had to play a bit of catch-up to feel comfortable, find our bearings, and shake the dust off a bit. Our horses have felt really good, and we are off to a great start, so we are hoping to continue on from there through the remainder of the circuit."

Second place in the \$50,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty Grand Prix CSI 2\* went to the USA's Paris Sellon riding Anna Jo, a 2009 Oldenburg mare (Acodetto 2 x For Pleasure) owned by Willow Grace Farm, finishing their jump-off in 34.12 seconds. Maria Costa (USA) rounded out the top three aboard Ravello Farms, LLC's 2009 Zangersheide stallion (Verdi x Converter), Valentino V Z, clearing the fast track in 34.17 seconds.

🌱 Kim Beaudoin



## WEF 9 Winners Gallery

© Sportfot



WEF show manager David Burton was presented with the David E. Burton Perpetual Trophy for Extraordinary Service by Equestrian Sport Productions President Michael Stone and ESP CEO Mark Bellissimo.



Schuyler Riley (USA) and Quilimbo, a 12-year-old Holsteiner stallion by Quidam De Revel x Limbus owned by E2 Show Jumpers, captured the \$1,000 Bainbridge Companies 1.45m.



Longtime FEI Steward and Olympic judge David Distler was also inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.



Ireland's Max Wachman opened the week with a win in the \$6,000 Wellington Equestrian Realty 1.40m CSI2\* aboard Ikaros, owned by Coolmore Show Jumping.



Christina Plichta and King's Mark, owned by Purple Lane Farm LLC, were champions in the Karina Brez Jewelry Adult Amateur Hunter Middle Section A, presented by Karina Brez.



Michael Stone was presented with the Wellington Equestrian Lifetime Achievement Award by Mark Bellissimo.



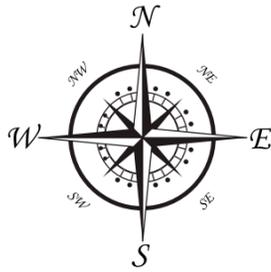
Olympic gold and silver medalist Leslie Howard was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.



Anders Paulson rode Wynnwood Farm's Balou de Nous to the championship in the FarmVet Adult Amateur Modified Jumpers.



Grand prix winners Abdul Said and Bandit Savoie were presented with the Herman "Kappy" Kaplan Memorial Perpetual Trophy, which was donated with fondness by the farriers of the 1995 WEF.



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## GRAND PRIX Continued from Page 1

wants to leave the poles up. Today was a fantastic round for her. I didn't get the best distance to the second to last fence. I was really planning to do the eight [strides] and she has a big stride, but I could not make her do it. I was so deep to the second to last fence, and that's where I lost it."

As the Irish continue to produce clear rounds at WEF, sweeping the top five spots in Thursday's qualifier, O'Connor kept their podium streak alive as he landed in third in the grand prix.

"He's a super horse," said O'Connor. "I only got him last September when he was eight years old. It was really a night of firsts for me; first time under the lights, first time [in a] five star, first time jumping water in the big competition, so I didn't really know what to expect. I'm just thrilled with the horse. He was only half a second off my good friend [Abdel] here, so we're really, really pleased. I couldn't be happier."

It was a historic night for Saïd as his victory marked the first time an Egyptian rider has won a CSI5\* Grand Prix in the history of the Winter Equestrian Festival.

"I'm really, really proud," said Saïd of the opportunity to represent his country in international competition. "Especially now because when my top horses got sold, I felt the pressure of the Olympics and whether or not it would happen. I really felt the pressure the last few shows, and I'm just happy that I have a horse that I can do this with. Obviously, this is a very, very high level and the Olympics aren't too far away, but we will see where we end up."

In a season filled with the challenges of navigating a global pandemic and protecting horses from the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV), competition has been able to continue at WEF with the health and safety of horses and riders as the number one priority. Many riders have expressed the utmost appreciation for the opportunity to compete at the CSI5\* level.

"I think we are blessed," said O'Connor of the current situation. "We spoke about it in the prize giving; to be able to compete here is extraordinary this time of year. The horse show here at WEF does a super job with the COVID protocols and to be able to jump at such a high level and be up and running so early on, we feel privileged. It's a huge advantage for us because other people aren't jumping, things are canceled and so on. It's awful with this [EHV] virus in Europe as well, so we think about everyone who has been affected by that, but we feel fortunate to have planned to come here and that we are all able to jump in a very safe environment."

Kate Pettersen



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## Meet the Riders of WEF: **Morgan Kennedy**

**Q: How many years have you been showing at WEF, and what is one of your favorite memories?**

**A:** I've been showing at WEF since 2004. One of my favorite memories was successfully competing in my very first U25 class and 1.50m class on a horse I brought along from a six-year-old.

**Q: How did you start riding?**

**A:** I was always obsessed with horses as a young kid. I would ride the ponies at the fair every summer, and my parents finally let me take lessons for my 10th birthday. I was hooked!

**Q: What is one of your first horse show memories?**

**A:** One of my first horse show memories is sharing a really sweet horse named Rags to Riches with my (still) best friend to do the cross rails. I remember wearing big rubber muck boots and feeling like I was the coolest kid in town!

**Q: Do you prefer hunters or jumpers and why?**

**A:** I prefer the jumpers because I love the adrenaline rush and also the rewarding feeling of conquering a technical course. I also have a huge appreciation for the athleticism of the upper level horses.

**Q: Who has had the biggest impact on your riding career?**

**A:** It's hard to pick out a single person. I've been lucky enough to work with a lot of top riders as well as very respected trainers in the industry. But I have to say that I am most impacted by all of the hard workers. Whether it be riders, grooms, trainers, or whatever profession, they are all people to look up to.

**Q: If you could ride any famous horse, who would it be and why?**

**A:** Hard to choose between Antidote de Mars, owned by Bliss Heers or Beat Mandli's Dsarie. I like how compact and catty Antidote is. He gives it his all every time and is so game. He looks like so much fun! Dsarie is just so elastic and adjustable. She makes the biggest tracks look so effortless.

**Q: What is your favorite activity to do on a day off?**

**A:** Relax! Either on the beach or on the couch with a good book!

**Q: If you could go anywhere on vacation where would it be?**

**A:** The first place on my bucket list would be the Maldives. I love tropical places, and it just looks so beautiful there.

Sabrina Brashares



Morgan Kennedy and Casrevel competing in the Spy Coast Farm Developing Jumper Six-Year-Old division.  
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DANIEL DEUSSER (GER), StepheX Stables: 0/0/38.71
- 3 KILKENNY:** 2012 Irish Sport Horse gelding by Cardento x Mhs Pembroke Lady  
CIAN O'CONNOR (IRL), Ronnoco Jump Ltd: 0/0/39.09
- 4 CRISTALLINE:** 2008 Bavarian Warmblood mare by Cristallo 1 x Caretello B  
ADRIENNE STERNLICHT (USA), Starlight Farms 1 LLC: 0/0/38.52
- 5 KARLIN VAN 'T VENNEHOF:** 2010 BWP mare by Fantomas De Muze X Quasimodo Vd Molendreef  
SHANE SWEETNAM (IRL), Seabrook LLC and Shane Sweetnam: 0/0/39.83
- 6 CARLITO'S WAY 6:** 2010 Holsteiner gelding by Casall x Lordanos RODRIGO PESSOA (BRA), Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC: 0/0/41.45
- 7 ARMIK:** 2009 Oldenburg gelding by Armitage x Justinian xx CAPT. BRIAN Cournane (IRL), Brian Cournane and M/M Bob Stiller: 0/4/41.17
- 8 LEONE JEI:** 2012 Dutch Warmblood gelding by Baltic VDL x Corland MARTIN FUCHS (SUI), Adolfo Jui: 0/4/42.04
- 9 PACINO AMIRO:** 2012 Irish Sport Horse mare by Pacino x Carnone Dancing Queen BERTRAM ALLEN (IRL), Aiden McGregory: 0/EL
- 10 GEMMA W:** 2011 KWPN mare by Luidam x Unaniem DANIEL BLUMAN (ISR), Blue Star Investments: 1/83.84
- 11 CHAKARIA:** 2010 German Sport Horse mare by Chap 47 x Askari 173 ANDRE THIEME (GER), Pferdemanagement & Marketing GMBH: 4/78.91
- 12 SOUPER SHUTTLE:** 2011 Hanoverian mare by Stakkato x Luise Marie CHLOE REID (USA), Live Oak Plantation: 4/79.44

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**Hannah Murrin**  
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# WEF 9 Parade of Champions

© Sportfot



Dreamboat DHS and Tessa Downey, who rode for Linda Evans and Orion Farm, were the Large Green Pony Hunter champions at WEF 1, 2, 3, and 8.



Winning a championship in the Low Children's Jumpers at WEF 4 were Addison Buetel and Consil, owned by Alexa Rodriguez.



Julie Hogan and Gigi Stetler's Hello Kitty were the Adult Amateur Hunter Middle Section B champions at WEF 8.



Guy Hodgson rode Eton Royal 1916 to the champion and Captain My Captain 1916 (who was champion in WEF 8) to reserve champion at WEF 9 in the Don Little Masters Adult Amateur Jumpers, presented by Horseware Ireland.



Victoria Roman rode Ticket to Ride LLC's Sunbeam and Goliath, owned by Carolex Stables LLC, to championships in both sections of the Cross Rail Hunter Younger division

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## Meet the WEF Cover Artist: Weatherly Stroh

By McKenney Media

The stunning painting gracing the cover of the 2021 Winter Equestrian Festival's magazine and poster, titled "Grey at Work," was created by Wellington-based artist Weatherly Stroh. "I'm so excited to have been chosen as the artist for WEF's program and poster," says Weatherly. "It's a privilege to have my work displayed in such a way."

Weatherly Stroh is an accomplished artist whose work centers around animals and landscapes. Oil is her preferred medium, with a technique characterized by sweeping brush strokes and textural layers. While much of her work is done on canvas, she also paints on aluminum and stretched linen.

The natural world has always been a bountiful source of inspiration for Weatherly. Growing up on a farm in rural Michigan nourished her deep bond to the rhythms of nature and infused her unbridled love of animals. This affinity fuels her ability to connect with her subjects, while many years of experience as a competitive rider augments her intuitive understanding of horses. Emotion and connection is woven through every one of her animal-centered pieces.

Art is in Weatherly's blood. When she was 11, Weatherly's grandfather gave her Gari Melchers' original plein air paint box, which fired her lifelong enthusiasm for painting in oil. Travel is another great passion, and Weatherly searches the world to find the inspiring landscapes and animals she can immortalize in her art. Propelled by her natural curiosity, she constantly looks for fresh ways to express beauty, color, and emotion.

Living in horse-obsessed Wellington, Florida, Weatherly is invigorated by the ever-present dressage, show jumping, and polo. Her paintings of sport horses are infused with power and motion, capturing the controlled elegance of equine athletes.

The vibrant light and natural beauty of Florida offer yet another profound source of inspiration. A profusion of flora and fauna flourish under an ever-changing sky, and Weatherly captures the perpetual motion of sea and sky in her striking landscapes.

Since she loves nothing more than being surrounded by nature and animals, Weatherly also delights in animal portraiture and is well-known for her ability to capture her subjects' personalities on canvas. A passionate advocate for all animals, she donates a portion of the proceeds from her work to a variety of animal welfare and land preservation organizations.

To learn more, or to get in touch with Weatherly, visit [weatherlystroh.com](http://weatherlystroh.com), follow her on Facebook and Instagram, or email at [weatherlystroh@gmail.com](mailto:weatherlystroh@gmail.com).





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