# Adequan Global Dressage Festival | Editor: Jennifer Wood

# VIRTUAL OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FOR 2022 WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL AND ADEQUAN<sup>®</sup> GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL



The opening press conference for the 2022 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) and Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) was held virtually on January 4, 2022, and included management and riders as panelists to discuss plans for this year's circuits. The 2022 WEF begins on Wednesday, January 5, with Premiere week, while AGDF begins on January 12 with CDI-W and CDI4\* competition. Both horse show circuits continue through April 3.

### The panelists included:

- Equestrian Sport Productions
  President Michael Stone
- Global Equestrian Group CEO Andreas Helgstrand
- Global Equestrian Group Commercial Director Anders Bjørnstrup
- AGDF Director of Sport Thomas Baur
- 2021 U.S. Show Jumping FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final team member Lillie Keenan
- Top hunter, jumper, and equitation rider and trainer Patricia Griffith of Heritage Farm

Michael Stone began the press conference with information regarding updates to the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center since Global Equestrian Group (GEG) took ownership of the facility in July 2021. In addition to footing improvements, there were other aspects that centered around making it safer for horses and riders on the property.

Michael Stone: "We made improvements for parts of the facility that affect horses. People will notice that we have redone the railings around most of the rings. There used to be a lot of small railings and now they all have higher, safer railing. Thanks to GEG's investment, they were able to buy two more lots on Gene Mische Road, so we've



extended stabling tents and parking to that part of the property. With a shuttle system and a new, big parking area, we are hopeful that we will fix a lot of those issues. There has been a lot of work done underground for drainage that people won't necessarily notice. While Florida rain can be torrential, everything is draining very fast. Bearing in mind GEG got involved in July, it's amazing how much has been achieved in a short period of time. The concentration has been on horses and the athlete experience. We have big plans for more."

GEG CEO Andreas Helgstrand spoke about the impetus leading to the purchase of PBIEC and the mindset behind owning events that will be unique in equestrian sport. Helgstrand Dressage and Beerbaum Stables, along with the Kingsland Equestrian apparel and accessories company, are also part of the Global Equestrian Group.

Andreas Helgstrand: "We wanted to have events in both dressage and jumping. If we don't create events, we won't create sport or sales of horses or equipment. We really believe in events. That is why I fought for this [acquisition of WEF and PBIEC]. I was very happy and lucky that we could buy it. We are there to create something even more unique than what it is already. We want to take care of it and have Wellington stay as the best place on Earth for horse people. What I like is that this is run by passionate people and people with knowledge. Hopefully very soon we can also take over the dressage and go full power on that side as well. We are there to create something, not just there to make big business. We really want to invest in Wellington."

# WELCOME TO ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

Hello, and welcome to the 2022 Adequan<sup>®</sup> Global Dressage Festival!

Everyone at AGDF is thrilled to be able to welcome back exhibitors, sponsors, owners, trainers, vendors, and spectators to the 11th year of AGDF. We are very happy to return to a normal show circuit at Equestrian Village and believe that we will have yet again another incredible year of top dressage sport.

Many riders prepared at last year's AGDF for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, giving them a great opportunity to train before the pinnacle event. In 2022, the FEI World Championships for Dressage and Para Dressage will be held in

AGDF Director of Sport Thomas Baur. © Elena Lusenti

Denmark in August and many top dressage riders will travel from across North America and around the world to make AGDF a part of their winter plans.

This year's schedule includes five CDI4\* competitions, the five-star event, and the FEI Nations Cup Series CDIO3\*, offering the very best of competition opportunities for international-level riders.

With last year's very successful series for young horses, fans of the sport will be excited to see the return of the \$15,000 Lövsta Future Challenge/ Young Horse Grand Prix series for horses eight to 10 years of age and the \$10,000 Summit Farms Future Challenge/Young Horse Prix St. Georges series for horses aged seven to nine years old. Qualifiers will be held throughout the circuit and the finals are during week 11.

Future stars in the saddle can also be seen throughout AGDF in the FEI Pony, Children's, Junior, Young Rider, and Under 25 divisions. The Palm Beach Dressage Derby knockout exhibition will run during week eight as well, and Germany's Christoph Koschel will try and make it an amazing six wins in a row.

Fans can support their country during week 10 in the FEI Nations Cup Series for both senior and Under 25 riders. We hope to welcome new countries to the Nations Cup experience once again in 2022.

The "Friday Night Stars" series will return to its regular schedule as well, with Grand Prix Freestyle performances during weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11.

If you can't make it to Equestrian Village this winter, please follow along on our livestream events at GlobalDressageFestival.com and on our social media channels. We can't wait to see you this winter at the 2022 Adequan<sup>®</sup> Global Dressage Festival.

Be well and best of luck this year,

Thomas Baur



# LÖVSTA FUTURE CHALLENGE SUPPORTS YOUNG TALENTED HORSES IN DRESSAGE AND JUMPING

Lövsta is proud to continue their Lövsta Future Challenge series in the United States for the third year in a row and is thrilled to welcome the inaugural Lövsta Future Challenge USA jumping tour.



Alice Tarjan and Serenade MF won the 2021 Lövsta Future Challenge/Young Horse Grand Prix Series Final. © SusanJStickle.com

The concept Lövsta Future Challenge was originally set up in Sweden by Tinne Vilhelmson Silfvén and Louise Nathhorst in 2011. Antonia Ax:son Johnson supported the project through Lövsta Stuteri and Lövsta Future Challenge was born, with a stated mission to help bring Sweden to the forefront of equestrian sport and to become a role model for other aspiring equestrian nations. Since then, Lövsta Future Challenge has become one of the world's leading efforts in supporting and growing the best young horses and U25 riders in both dressage and jumping.

The international interest for their concept grew quickly, and Lövsta Future Challenge decided to go international. With some of the best show organizers in the world, they occasionally arrange competitions for the top FEI ranked U25 riders in both dressage and show jumping.

Lövsta Future Challenge Dressage – USA is a tour for young Grand Prix horses up to 10 years old. The tour hosts six qualifiers in Wellington, and the first-placed riders receive a spot in the Finale during week 11. The qualifiers are ridden in Intermediere II, and the final is ridden in the Grand Prix for young horses. The total amount of prize money in the dressage tour is \$15,000.

In 2022, Lövsta Future Challenge is also adding a jumping tour for sevenyear-old horses. Lövsta Future Challenge Jumping is a development tour for seven-year-old horses, with a vision to provide the best possible conditions for future stars in jumping. The tour will host seven qualifiers throughout the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit. At the end of the circuit, the qualified horses will compete in a prestigious final in the International Arena at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, with the total prize money of \$25,000 being offered.

We are absolutely thrilled to have seen such wonderful results in the dressage tour throughout the last season," said Antonia Ax:son Johnson owner of Lövsta Stud, "with an average percent reaching over 70% for a win in each qualification. We are excited to add the jumping tour. The vision is to provide the best possible conditions for dressage and jumping horses to develop to the top level of international sport."

As the Lövsta Future Challenge was developed, it became evident that success strengthened the horses and riders and the wonderful teams at their side: grooms, sponsors, trainers, breeders, and horse owners. Early on, Lövsta Future Challenge focused on other aspects of competition development, including sustainability and more profound respect for horses through their philosophy of horsemanship. They share their beliefs and commitment in various forums in which they invite riders and their trainers from both dressage and jumping to participate in and learn from.

Lövsta Future Challenge is about searching for knowledge and reaching for perfection, embracing the joy of partnership between the horse and rider, and leaving a sustainable footprint within the equestrian sport.

Lövsta Future Challenge also aims to contribute to improve the sometimes-harsh conditions for working horses and other equine animals. For the 2022 season, Antonia Ax:son Johnson has decided to support the Brooke USA Foundation and their work to stop the donkey skin trade. Hundreds of thousands of donkeys, mostly from Africa, are slaughtered for their skins and exported annually, causing donkey numbers a to decimate. Their skins are boiled to produce 'ejiao,' a gelatin used in traditional Chinese medicine. The United States is the third largest importer of eijao, and Brooke USA is leading the charge to ensure that Amazon pulls ejiao from its global online platform.

"We are proud to have connected our passion for our equine animals with the support of The Brooke USA and their work to stop the donkey skin trade.

"For each entry in Lövsta Future Challenge, jumping and dressage, Lövsta is donating \$100 to the cause. We also hope to raise awareness about this horrible industry," concluded Ax:son Johnson.

The first show of the 2022 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, AGDF 1 CDI-W, will be held on January 13-16 and is open to the public with free general admission. The first "Friday Night Stars" freestyle presented by Lövsta is on Saturday, January 14, at 7 p.m. Parking on Friday night is \$20/car. Come see the start of an amazing dressage circuit!

The first grand prix of "Saturday Night Lights" at WEF is the \$140,000 Southern Arches Grand Prix CSI3\* on Saturday, January 15, at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20/car.

Secure your table in The Gallery for all the 4\* and 5\* grand prix classes! Full tables of four, six, and eight seats are offered as an all-inclusive package for seven of our top Saturday night events. Enjoy prime viewing of the competition in a semienclosed venue with general parking, full buffet, and signature bar package included. For more information or to reserve your table, please contact Courtney Schintzius, Event Operations Manager, at events@equestriansport.com or 561-784-1132.

Our Suites are an open-air venue to the east of the International Arena, offering a full buffet and signature bar package with the ticket. Full tables can be purchased during WEF 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 in eight seats per table for front row, six seats per table for second row, as well as four seats per table and two seats per table for the third row. Tickets are \$150 plus tax per seat for WEF 2 and \$200 plus tax per seat for the remaining weeks. Parking is not included. Cost for general parking is \$20 per car and valet is \$30 per car. Tickets will be available for purchase at PBIEC.com. Further inquiries can be sent to Patti Miele at pmiele@equestriansport.com or 561-784-1125.

FEI jumpers will cross the street to the grass Derby Field at Equestrian Village for the first time during WEF 2, sponsored by Hygain Feeds, on January 19-23. The schedule on the grass includes opening classes on Thursday, January 20, the \$37,000 Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup Round 2 on Friday, the \$37,000 CaptiveOne Advisors 1.50m Classic and \$10,000 Hermès U25 Welcome on Saturday, and the \$25,000 Hermès U25 Grand Prix and \$140,000 Hygain Feeds Grand Prix CSI3\* on Sunday.

The "Saturday Night Lights" event for WEF 2 is the \$50,000 Marshall & Sterling/Great American Insurance Group Grand Prix on January 22 at 7 p.m. General admission is free, parking is \$20/car.



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For more information, please visit: www.GreatCharityChallenge.com

# **UPCOMING EVENTS AT PBIEC**

# SATURDAY NIGHT VIEWING PACKAGES

# LOOKING AHEAD



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# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center - Gates Open at 6 PM





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# OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN PALM BEACH EQUINE CLINIC PROVIDES ON-SITE CARE

# Attending to the veterinary needs of equine competitors in Wellington



Sabine Schut-Kerv and Sanceo won the Grand Prix Special CDI5\*, presented by Palm Beach Equine Clinic, at the 2021 AGDF before going on to help the U.S. Dressage team win Olympic silver in Tokvo. © Jump Media

Every winter, top performance horses travel to Wellington, Florida, for elite equestrian competition at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC), Exceptional veterinary care is a top priority for equine athletes, which is exactly what Palm Beach Equine Clinic provides as the Official Veterinarian of the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Adequan<sup>®</sup> Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), and International Polo Club (IPC).

Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC) offers specialized Sports Medicine with trusted veterinarians and staff that understand the commitment it takes to care for a high-level equine competitor. Factors such as discipline, history, competitive level, and career are taken into consideration when evaluating each horse. The dedicated and knowledgeable veterinary team offers a wide variety of services such as surgery, internal medicine, emergency care, reproduction, alternative therapies, regenerative medicine, dentistry, podiatry, and more.

PBEC is celebrating its 40th anniversary of providing world-class equine health care. With a top facility, advanced technology, and great compassion for the horse, PBEC is devoted to providing the best possible service for both owners and patients. All primary veterinarians can refer clients to PBEC for their innovative imaging technologies and surgical center.

# **On the Forefront of Veterinary Medicine**

Centrally located between WEF, GDF, and IPC, Palm Beach Equine Clinic's facility offers clients exact diagnoses with its advanced imaging department. The modern imaging modalities allow veterinarians to gather all the information they need to make a timely diagnosis. Diagnostic imaging is available for all equine patients, even if their primary veterinarian is not at PBEC.

# **PBEC's Diagnostic Imaging Capabilities:**

 Nuclear Scintigraphy (commonly known as a bone scan)

Nuclear scintigraphy involves giving the patient a benign radioactive isotope. Areas on the skeleton of abnormal isotope are detected as "hot spots" by a gamma ray camera as potential sites of injury

 Standing Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

The standing MRI produces highly detailed images across several different planes for examining soft tissue, bone, and cartilage.

 Standing Computed Tomography (CT) Much like a CT in humans, this technology allows veterinarians the unique opportunity to conveniently capture areas of a horse's body that were previously difficult to image by producing 3-D scans.

 Digital Radiography The radiograph is a traditional x-ray that digitally creates images for viewing and evaluation within seconds.

Ultrasonography

An ultrasound machine generates a realtime image where bone appears white, fluid appears black, and all other structures are on a grayscale.

Endoscopy

An endoscope is an instrument that allows veterinarians to look inside the body by being inserted through a natural opening or incision. A tiny video camera on the endoscope allows an in-depth view of internal structures.

### **Surgical Center**

In addition to advanced diagnostic tools, Palm Beach Equine Clinic's 24/7 emergency services are led by three board-certified surgeons, who perform some of the most advanced and least invasive surgeries in the world. Head of surgery Dr. Robert Brusie, as well as Dr. Weston Davis and Dr. Jorge Gomez, make up the surgical team. Together they are adept in any equine medical procedure, from colic cases to injuries that require high levels of expertise and advanced equipment.

### **Internal Medicine**

Understanding why a talented prospect may be coming up short makes Palm Beach Equine Clinic veterinarians determined to find the answers and develop solutions. PBEC proudly offers internal medicine services led by board-certified internist Dr. Peter Heid-

mann. Internal medicine includes the detailed assessment and treatment of a wide variety of diseases affecting the organ systems. Going beyond standard veterinary care, the staff at PBEC can identify the root of subtle changes in a horse's health or performance with internal medicine evaluations and diagnostic procedures.

## **Comprehensive Internal Medicine Offerings:**

- Respiratory Evaluations
- Cardiac Evaluations
- Gastrointestinal Evaluations Neuromuscular Evaluations
- **Alternative Medicine**

Employing a holistic approach to treating patients, Palm Beach Equine Clinic considers all the available avenues for health care. Alternative therapies are often used in conjunction with traditional medicine and can be uniquely tailored to enhance a horse's condition and general health.

### **Alternative Medicine Offerings:**

- Acupuncture and electro-acupuncture
- Equine Medical Manipulation
- (Chiropractic) Adjustments
- Chinese Herbal Medicine
- Laser Therapy (Photobiomodulation)
- Extracorporeal Shockwave

PBEC is dedicated to helping competition horses at WEF, AGDF, and IPC perform at their best throughout the entire show season with their exceptional equine sports medicine. Veterinarians from PBEC will offer diagnostic evaluations, treatment, emergency care, and regular veterinary needs out of its annex office located on the PBIEC showgrounds.

"It's always an honor to take of care some of the best horses in the world that come to Wellington each winter," said PBEC President Dr. Scott Swerdlin. "Being on-site at the showgrounds allows us to provide high-quality and immediate veterinary care for all of the horses competing."

Offering exceptional knowledge, capabilities, and commitment, the team at PBEC is thrilled to once again help equine athletes perform to the best of their abilities during the Wellington winter show season and beyond.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic provides experience, expertise, availability, and the very best care for its clients. To find out more, please visit www.equineclinic.com or call 561-793-1599. "Like" them on Facebook, follow them on Instagram, and get news from their Twitter!

# PRESS CONFERENCE Continued from Page 1

GEG Commercial Director Anders Bjørnstrup added: "We started out by doing a survey in August last year and this provided us with loads of feedback on how riders and spectators see it. We drew up a huge list of things we want to change, and we started prioritizing what is most important and working on it in the coming years. Currently we are working on a fiveyear plan on development of the whole facility. We can't change everything in six months, not even in 18 months. We listen to the riders, spectators, community – everybody who is involved – and all of the feedback provides us with input for the future plan. We want to enhance WEF and maintain our position as the main event in this sport."

Thomas Baur explained the addition of four-star classes to the AGDF schedule and why they are a useful addition for riders: "The main reason for adding the four-star competitions to the schedule was that we can spread the prize money over the shows more equally, which we couldn't do when we only had three-star shows. It is beneficial for riders as well; they can gain more world ranking list points at four-star events. It is also an opportunity for riders who don't do the World Cup classes to compete in a freestyle without having to do the new grand prix short test. AGDF will now have five four-star shows during this season."

Top show jumper Lillie Keenan explained her history with WEF and how it helps her pursue riding and business goals.

Lillie Keenan: "Wellington has been a place that I've been coming to since I was seven years old, and I'm 25 now. It's really become our home. We are so privileged because we have a stable here. It's the one place we can compete and work at home. It's a unique advantage. WEF gives opportunities for a young professional like myself; I can teach younger riders in the other rings and still be showing in a five star in the same week. It's a wealth of opportunity. It's really a hub and pushing everyone to be the best. You want to compete against the best because it makes you better. Wellington is the one place you can do everything, and we're really excited about the season."

Patricia Griffith of Heritage Farm helps oversee one of the largest operations competing at WEF. She rides herself, and Heritage Farm clients compete in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings at all levels.

**ILLUSTRATED** 

**PROPERTIES** 













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Patricia Griffith: "WEF is a great place to bring our riders and horses because we feel like we're constantly honing our skills against the best. There is fantastic footing, course designers, jumps, and the rings have really been sustaining well with any kind of weather. We have to keep raising our bar because we're constantly surrounded by a high level of riders, whether that's First Year Green Hunters, U25 grand prix, even the Medal/Maclay. For our business, it's a place we can bring all of our clients. You can bring a Low Adult Hunter rider, who can be a fantastic owner in the sport, and they have a chance to show as well. I think it's important for the new, up-and-coming 'Lillie Keenans' to see Olympic-level combinations live and in color. It's not often you get to see that, even for myself. It's exciting for them to watch and there's so much to learn even if you're not in the classes. It's just a great place to come and show."

While unable to join the virtual press conference, U.S. Olympic team silver medalist Sabine Schut-Kery commented on what she looks forward to at this year's AGDF.

Sabine Schut-Kery: "It's going to be a great environment to show my international horse Sanceo at the fabulous show grounds at AGDF, but it's also a great show circuit to compete my string of young horses. I really love the option of so many CDIs and national shows in one place close by, so showing becomes less stressful for the horses. AGDF is very special in that I can show in front of a large audience with a more electric atmosphere. I am very excited to be returning with Sanceo to AGDF, and we have our eyes on qualifying for the short list for the World Championship in Herning, Denmark, this year. I look forward to being part of the equestrian community with my clients and supporters."

The team at WEF and AGDF anticipates a busy and successful season in 2022. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit www. PBIEC.com and www.GlobalDressageFestival.com.



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