



WEEK 5 February 10-14, 2016

# WEEKLY WIRE

EDITOR: JENNIFER WOOD

## George Snow Scholarship Fund Tops 7th Annual Great Charity Challenge, Presented by Fidelity Investments®



Cindy and Timothy Snow of the George Snow Scholarship Fund accept their winning check for \$150,000 with team riders Kaely Tomeu, Shane Sweetnam, and Lindsay Tomeu. © Sportfot

Horses and riders braved pouring rain in the name of giving on Saturday night as the 7th Annual Great Charity Challenge, presented by Fidelity Investments® (GCC), was featured during week four of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF). Shane Sweetnam, Kaely Tomeu, and Lindsay Tomeu were the winning team riders on behalf of the George Snow Scholarship Fund, team sponsors Spy Coast & Preston, and corporate sponsor Fidelity Investments® in the night's event at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, FL.

In its seventh year, the Great Charity Challenge awarded over \$1.65 million dollars in 2016, with 100% of proceeds distributed in full to 50 Palm Beach County charities, bringing the event up to \$9.2 million distributed to date. The competition is a pro-am team relay with each team made up of junior and amateur riders competing side by side with top professionals.

Mark Bellissimo, who founded the GCC with his daughter Paige, said, "We truly saw the dedication of everyone involved. The weather was not on our side, but the horses, riders, grooms, trainers, sponsors, charity representatives, spectators, and staff

braved some incredible weather conditions for this special event. We can't thank them enough. We know how much of an impact the GCC has for Palm Beach County charities, and for everyone to stick through it means so much. Congratulations to all of our riders, charities, and sponsors for a wonderful night, despite the rain."

Spy Coast & Preston sponsored this year's winning team in addition to corporate sponsor Fidelity Investments®. The theme of the event was "fairy tales," and the top three riders dressed the part of Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, and Wendy from the famous children's story. Lindsay Tomeu (dressed as Wendy) jumped first at the 1.10m height with Bonapart, a 15-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding. Kaely Tomeu (Tinker Bell) was next to go riding Belle Bleu S, a 15-year-old Holsteiner mare. Shane Sweetnam (as Peter Pan) anchored the team at the 1.30m level, flying through the course aboard Darero, an eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding. Together, the horses and riders completed the fastest time of 89.55 seconds to win the top prize of \$150,000 for their charity.

"It feels really good. It is more exciting that it is for a good cause and not just

## Eric Lamaze and Check Picobello Z Capture \$216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4\*



Eric Lamaze and Check Picobello Z won both grand prix events at WEF 4, including the \$216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4\*. © Sportfot

Concluding the fourth week of competition at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF), Eric Lamaze (CAN) and Check Picobello Z jumped to victory in the \$216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4\*.

Forty entries competed and five jumped clear over the Guilherme Jorge (BRA) designed course. With three double clears, Lamaze won in 43.65 seconds. Nick Skelton (GBR) and Untouched finished second in 45.52 seconds, and Marilyn Little (USA) and Corona 93 placed third in 46.20 seconds.

Margie Engle (USA) and Georgina Bloomberg (USA) each dropped rails in the race over the short course to finish fourth and fifth respectively. Engle and Indigo, owned by Griese, Garber, Hidden Creek and Gladewinds, dropped the second to last fence and clocked in at 44.10 seconds. Bloomberg and Gotham Enterprizes LLC's Lilli had the last jump down in 45.55 seconds.

Lamaze continued his winning momentum from earlier in the week with Artisan Farms and Torrey Pines Stable's Check Picobello Z. After winning Thursday's Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 4, the 10-year-old Zangersheide gelding (Cardento x Orlando) stepped up to Sunday's grand prix ready to go.

"I was thrilled with him on Thursday. Winning the WEF (Challenge Cup) was already a big step up for him and this was another level from the WEF; it was much higher fences," Lamaze noted. "This was by far the biggest thing he has ever had to do, so to come out with a win, I could not be happier with him. He is a bit of a different horse. He is not the easiest to maneuver around, but at the end he takes care of the fences for me. He has proven that he can be competitive."

"That was the only jump-off at this height that he has ever done," Lamaze detailed. "Last year I got into a few jump-offs in the 1.50m and he felt like he was a bit empty coming back every time and did not quite understand what the second round was there for. This year he seems to have grown up quite a bit. I think every rider at this level knows how much you can push your horse without putting the



## WEF Welcomes Returning Sponsor Fidelity Investments®

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) welcomes Fidelity Investments® as a returning sponsor for the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. Fidelity Investments® has been a sponsor of the Winter Equestrian Festival for nine years and a presenting sponsor of the Great Charity Challenge (GCC) since its inception in 2010. Additionally, Fidelity Investments® is the title sponsor of week five's CSI 5\* competition on February 10-14, which will feature the \$380,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix CSI 5\* on Saturday, February 13.

The Great Charity Challenge is an exhilarating pro/amateur event in which amateurs are paired with world-class riders and randomly assigned with charities to compete for prize money raised by equestrian families and corporate donors. This unique competition awards a sliding scale of prize money to each of the 37 randomly selected charities in Palm Beach County. Over the past six years, more than \$75 million has been given to more than 140 different area charities as a result of the GCC. This year, event producers met their fundraising goal of \$1.6 million with another successful event on February 6.

"All of us with Fidelity Investments® here in Palm Beach County are delighted to be involved with the Winter Equestrian Festival and with the Great Charity Challenge. It's an exciting 12 weeks of world-class equestrian competitions, with the GCC as a highlight. We are proud to be involved with an event that helps so many charities in Palm Beach County," said Russell Binkley, Manager of Fidelity's Investor Center on Palm Beach Island.

## About Fidelity Investments®

Fidelity's goal is to make financial expertise broadly accessible and effective in helping people live the lives they want. With assets under administration of \$5.2 trillion, including managed assets of \$2.0 trillion as of December 31, 2015, we focus on meeting the unique needs of a diverse set of customers: helping more than 24 million people invest their own life savings, nearly 20,000 businesses manage employee benefit programs, as well as providing nearly 10,000 advisory firms with technology solutions to invest their own clients' money. Privately held for nearly 70 years, Fidelity employs 42,000 associates who are focused on the long-term success of our customers. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit <https://www.fidelity.com/about>.

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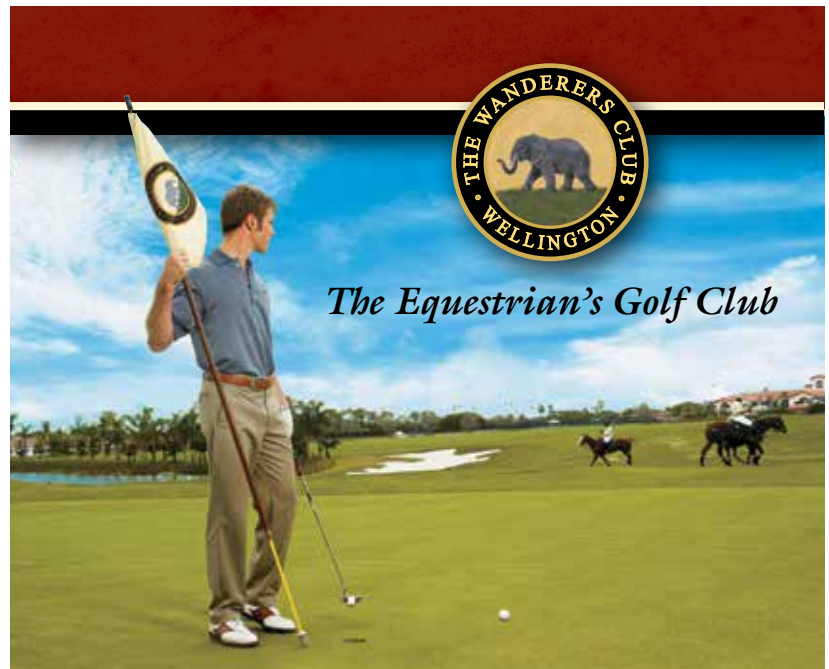


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## PBIEC Week 5 Upcoming Events:

### AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT

The event is open to the public. This week's judges include actress Alfre Woodard, Tim and Susie Dutta, and Carl Hester. The American Equestrians Got Talent Auditions continue on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:30 pm at the White Horse Fashion Cuisine. The event is open to the public. Each week's audition and the Finale will be live streamed on The Chronicle of the Horse, which is brought to you by Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC. Every week the winner is chosen by audience applause and receives \$1,000 prize money. Didn't win? Come back the following week and try again! For auditions, please email [rdoover2@aol.com](mailto:rdoover2@aol.com) to sign up. For table reservations at White Horse Fashion Cuisine, please call 561-847-4549. The AEGT Finale is on March 20 with a \$10,000 grand prize!

### LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

On Thursday, February 11, the Lunch & Learn Series will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Wellington Club. This informational and educational series has a variety of subjects for horsemen and women to learn more for their horses. Admission is free for riders, trainers, and owners, while all others are \$25. Register at the door for a chance to win exciting prizes. The season finale door prize includes a custom trunk provided by Clever Jumps & Trunks and TheraPlate. The subject for WEF 4 is "Recent Advances in Navicular Syndrome for the Equine Athlete with Osphos® (clodronate injection)" sponsored by Dechra. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or [laura@equestriansport.com](mailto:laura@equestriansport.com) for more information.

### ANN ROMNEY BOOK SIGNING

Bestselling author and former First Lady of Massachusetts, Ann Romney, opens up for the first time detailing her battle with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), her faith, and finding joy. Within "IN THIS TOGETHER: My Story," Romney discusses her diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis in the mid-1990s and how important equine therapy was to her recovery. Romney is well known in the equestrian community, largely in part to her ownership of Olympic dressage star Rafalca, who competed with rider Jan Ebeling for many years. Mrs. Romney will host a book signing on the evening of Friday, February 12, from 6-7 p.m. in the Global Pavilion at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds). "IN THIS TOGETHER: My Story" will be available for purchase at the WEF Boutique on the WEF and AGDF show grounds.

### ADEQUAN® GLOBAL DRESSAGE FESTIVAL "FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

AGDF's "Friday Night Stars" Series returns in week 5 featuring some of the world's best dressage riders as they perform freestyles at the top level of competition. The CDI 5\* competition, sponsored by Diamante Farms, will feature FEI Grand Prix musical freestyle competition on Friday, February 12. Held at The Stadium at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, gates open at 6 p.m. and competition begins at 7 p.m.

### KELLY KLEIN BOOK SIGNING

Come celebrate Kelly Klein's new book, "Photographs By Kelly Klein" at a book signing on Saturday, February 13, from 6-8 p.m. at the International Club Lobby. Everyone is welcome to attend and copies of the book will be available for purchase at the WEF Boutique.

### COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This is the preliminary event for riders to begin their campaign to compete at the Regional Special Olympics event on March 26 at The Stadium at PBIEC, and ultimately the State Special Olympic Games held at The Grand Oaks Resort in April. Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center will mount 40 riders at this event, and they will compete in two of the following divisions: Dressage, English or Western Equitation, Trail or Pole Bending. The County Special Olympics are on Saturday, February 13, from 9 am to 2 p.m. in the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC. Anyone interested in volunteering or judging, please contact Ruth Menor at 561-792-9900.

### "SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS" - \$380,000 FIDELITY INVESTMENTS® GRAND PRIX CSI 5\*

The first five-star grand prix competition of the circuit will feature WEF's best show jumping horses and riders on Saturday, February 13, with gates opening at 6 p.m. This always-exciting competition features the biggest jumps with daring jump-off rides for the best prize money.

### LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT THE EQUESTRIAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

A luncheon to benefit equestrians for the Special Olympics will be held on Sunday, February 14, at 12 p.m. in The Wellington Club. For more information please call Romy Tschudi at 954.643.8678.

### 8TH ANNUAL LIP SYNC BENEFITING DANNY & RON'S RESCUE

Returning for the 8th year at PBIEC, the Danny & Ron's Rescue Lip Sync is a highlight for equestrian children and their families. Tickets and tables are now on sale for the event, held Sunday, February 14, in the Special Events Pavilion. Started by Event Chairwoman Kim Kolloff, the Lip Sync is intended to foster a sense of philanthropy and altruism in children and provide a kid-friendly event that is truly one of a kind. Guest star judge and performer, Gloria Gaynor, best known for her performance of "I Will Survive" is interrupting her European tour and donating her time to help raise funds for the rescue. Looking to enter a performance, please contact Kim Kolloff: [kimkolloff@aol.com](mailto:kimkolloff@aol.com) or 978-273-6475. Limited tables and seating available, please visit: <http://www.dannyandronsrescue.com/611.aspx>. For more event information, please call Anne Caroline at 727-678-8677 or [drrlipsync@gmail.com](mailto:drrlipsync@gmail.com).



### PLAN AHEAD FOR WEEKS SIX AND SEVEN! RIDE & LEARN WITH HEATHER CARISTO-WILLIAMS

The Ride & Learn Series will take place each Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. during WEF. Each week will feature a mounted riding clinic instructed by highly esteemed industry professionals and will be held in various venues and arenas at PBIEC. Week 6 features top show jumper Heather Caristo-Williams at the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, February 16. Participation to ride in the clinic is \$100 per horse/rider per clinic, with a maximum of 12 horses, so sign up today! Auditing is Free. For more information or to sign up for a clinic, please contact Jessica Nichols at 561-784-4275 or [jnichols@equestriansport.com](mailto:jnichols@equestriansport.com).

### NUTRENA OPEN FORUM AND Q&A SESSION WITH EQUINE NUTRITIONIST RUSSELL MUELLER

Nutrena and Progressive Nutrition present an Open Forum and Q & A Session with Equine Nutritionist Russell Mueller on Friday, February 19, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Hospitality Tent on Vendor Deck at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds), prior to \$130,000 Grand Prix CSI 3\*. The presenter, Russell Mueller M.S., PAS, holds a B.S. in Animal Science and M.S. in Equine Nutrition and has conducted nutritional seminars all across the United States. He currently works for the Cargill Equine Enterprise Team developing on-farm nutrition programs for farms of all sizes for the - including Disney World. He is a lifetime member of the AQHA and currently shows in All Around Classes. He and his family have raised horses for over 40 years. RSVP is kindly appreciated for planning purposes, please email: [kblasius@equestriansport.com](mailto:kblasius@equestriansport.com).

### HARRY AND SNOWMAN ADVANCE CHARITY FILM SCREENING TO BENEFIT EQUESTRIAN AID FOUNDATION

The Harry and Snowman advance charity film screening will take place on Sunday evening, February 21, at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) at 13500 South Shore Blvd. The money raised will go to support the Equestrian Aid Foundation's mission to help equestrian professionals in their time of need. Guests will enjoy a variety of picnic style food trucks, popcorn, ice cream and cocktails while experiencing Harry de Leyer's Cinderella story. Harry and Snowman is a feature length documentary about international show jumping rider Harry deLeyer and

Located in the Special Events Pavilion, The Suites offer prime viewing, a full buffet, and premium bar options in a semi-private suite. Each suite accommodates up to 22 people, or just buy individual tickets or tables. The Suites are available for \$150 per person for WEF 8 - March 5, WEF 10 - March 19, WEF 11 - March 26, and for \$200 per person during the CSI 5\* weeks: WEF 5 - February 13, WEF 7 - February 27, WEF 9 - March 12, and WEF 12 - April 2. Availability is on first-come, first-served basis, so book now before they all fill up! Contact Patti Miele at 561-784-1125 or [pmiele@whitehorsetavernflorida.com](mailto:pmiele@whitehorsetavernflorida.com) today.

his horse Snowman. For more information or to order tickets, please visit <https://harryandsnowman.eventbrite.com>.

### WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION VIEWING

On Tuesday, February 23, at 3 p.m., there will be a presentation of VDL auction horses under saddle jumping in the International Arena at the WEF show grounds of PBIEC. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a cash bar is available in The Wellington Club.

### GRAND PRIX RIDERS TEAMING UP TO BENEFIT THE EQUUS FOUNDATION

On Friday, February 26, the EQUUS Foundation's Fete Cheval Etoile will feature the second annual Best Performance Team Invitational showcasing teams of grand prix riders judged on their style, function, and execution by Timmy Kees and Frank Madden with live commentary by Don Stewart and Jimmy Torano. 100% of event proceeds benefit horse welfare in the United States. Starting at 6 p.m. in PBIEC's International Club, guests will enjoy cocktails, an auction, dinner, and a tribute to the 2016 Horse Stars Hall of Fame inductees. Tickets and tables are still available. RSVP at [equusfoundation.org/fete](http://equusfoundation.org/fete). Contact Shannon Coakley at [shannon@equusfoundation.org](mailto:shannon@equusfoundation.org) or 203-259-1550.

### LYME DISEASE IN HUMANS, DOGS & HORSES: WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Held on February 10, from 11:30 - 1:30 pm in The Wellington Club, join internationally recognized Lyme disease expert, Dr. Richard Goldstein, Chief Medical Officer at the Animal Medical Center in Manhattan, for a presentation and Q&A on the most current findings related to Lyme Disease in humans, dogs and horses. To join AMC, email Stephanie Thomas at [Stephanie.thomas@amcny.org](mailto:Stephanie.thomas@amcny.org)

### HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES EVENT

The Humane Society of the United States and Richard Schechter, Chairman and CEO, The Bainbridge Companies, and member of The HSUS National Council and Equine Leadership Council and Ariana Rockefeller, CEO of Aldrich Rockefeller Designs LLC and equine welfare advocate, invite you to a special evening to support the life-saving work of the HSUS Equine Protection Program and enjoy the \$380,000 SunCast® Grand Prix CSI 5\* on Saturday, February 27, at The Gallery. For more information, please contact HSUS Special Events at [speialevents@humanesociety.org](mailto:speialevents@humanesociety.org) or 301-258-3155. For tables and tickets, visit [regonline.com!](http://regonline.com!) ■

for our own satisfaction," Kaely Tomeu stated.

Her younger sister, Lindsay, added, "I am thrilled. I honestly thought we would never win it. Every year we think we have a chance and something happens, so I am delighted."

Sweetnam remarked, "Obviously we had a really strong team this year. Kaely wins a lot, Lindsay wins a lot, and I had a nice horse that has just come into the country and was really good out there. It is nice for the George Snow charity. They told us beforehand that if they went over \$60,000, there was a donor that was going to give an extra \$100,000, which is really great, so that gave us an extra incentive to give it as much as we could.

"You never know how things are going to go here. There are so many fast riders, we would have been happy to be in the top three," Sweetnam added. "It is great for the foundation and a great cause. Every year this event gets bigger. Mark (Bellissimo) and the team have done an incredible job."

The George Snow Scholarship Fund is dedicated to helping individuals in financial need through a scholarship program for residents of Palm Beach County who are continuing their education. Their goal is to help deserving individuals within the community achieve their career goals, an objective which has the added benefit of bettering the community at large. In short,

their goal is to insure that no deserving scholar in the community will be deprived of higher education because of a shortage of funds.

Timothy Snow, president of the George Snow Scholarship Fund, was on hand for the evening and proudly accepted the winning check on behalf of his organization.

"We were in the GCC one of the first years, and we have been trying to get back in ever since," Snow said of the event. "We were thrilled to be chosen this year and the fact that we won it is an amazing blessing. I am essentially speechless." Snow went on to speak about watching the team's winning round and how the money will help his organization.

"First of all, I want to thank every rider that rode in this event tonight," Snow stated. "With the conditions that we had with the rain, they really had a lot of heart, and they gave a lot to all the charities that are going to benefit here tonight. It was an amazing event all the way around. When our team came out, we did not really know what to expect. We met our team earlier and they seemed very confident, so that felt good. But when they went out and they turned in the time that they did, which was so substantially under everybody else, I could not believe it. It was amazing. They are obviously a very talented team and they showed it tonight for sure."

Since its inception the George Snow Scholarship Fund has awarded over 7.3 million dollars in educational grants. In the year 2015 alone, the Scholarship Fund awarded \$615,791.15 in scholarships and scholar support services to 67 students. This level of support places the Fund as one of Palm Beach County's largest sources of educational grants. The Fund aims to grant at least one award to each public high school in Palm Beach County. Known as experts in scholarship administration, the George Snow Scholarship Fund has developed a reputation for creating innovative programs, which address the educational needs of those in our community.

Snow also spoke of the extremely generous anonymous donor who gave the charity an additional \$100,000 for their win.

"He said that if we had reached the \$60,000 level, he would give us an additional \$100,000, so tonight is essentially a quarter-of-a-million dollar night for us," Snow declared. "It is unbelievable. It is so special, and the people who organize this have no idea the good that they are doing in our county. They are a huge blessing to so many people, and we thank them for that."

Coming in second place was the team for Bella's Angels, sponsored by EnTrust as well as corporate sponsor Wellington Equestrian Realty. The team of Sydney Shulman, Cloe Hymowitz, and Sophie Rueben completed the course with a combined time of 93.94

seconds to earn \$125,000 for their charity.

Kid's Cancer Foundation finished third for the second year in a row and won \$112,500. The team was made up of Ignacio Maurin, Emanuel Andrade, and Victoria Karam, sponsored by Hollow Creek and corporate sponsor Meralex Farm. They finished with a combined total of 94.48 seconds.

The GCC features a sliding scale for the balance of the proceeds down to \$15,500 for 37th place, ensuring that everyone is a winner.

GCC Executive Director Anne Caroline Valtin said, "Tonight's class was a true demonstration of sportsmanship and philanthropy. Even with some of the strongest rains we've experienced this winter, the teams and riders did not back down. Their dedication to these organizations was nothing short of stoic. We can't thank them enough for braving the weather, all in the name of helping!"

New for 2016, the Grand Prix Society was formed for donors over \$50,000 by the Ziegler Family Foundation. This new initiative offers donors the opportunity to designate all or part of their support to a limited list of cornerstone Palm Beach County nonprofit organizations, which resulted in an additional \$50,000 of grants distributed during the evening. ■

## GCC ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND AWARDS

### LITTLE LEAGUES

1. Western Communities Football League \$7,000.00
2. Colts Travel Baseball \$6,000.00
3. Wolves Basketball \$5,000.00
4. Wellington Wizzards \$4,000.00

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS

Glades Initiative \$25,000.00

### Ziegler Family Foundation- presenting the Grand Prix Society

1. Adopt a Family of the Palm Beaches \$5,000.00
2. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of PB and Martin \$5,000.00
3. Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County \$5,000.00
4. Florence Fuller Child Development Centers \$5,000.00
5. Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach \$5,000.00
6. Hospice of Palm Beach County \$5,000.00
7. Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County \$5,000.00
8. Palm Beach County ARC \$5,000.00
9. Palm Beach County Food Bank \$5,000.00
10. YMCA of Palm Beach County \$5,000.00

### RANDOMLY DRAWN GRANTS:

1. Women's Circle \$10,000.00
2. YMCA of S. Palm Beach County \$10,000.00
3. Take Stock Palm Beach \$7,500.00
4. Best Foot Forward \$7,500.00
5. Communities in Schools \$5,000.00
6. HACER \$5,000.00
7. Dress for Success \$2,500.00
8. Quantum House \$2,500.00

### TEAM COSTUME AWARDS

1. Team Goshen Hill for Vinceremos \$7,500.00
2. Mershad Family for Friends of Foster Children of PB County \$5,000.00
3. Peacock Ridge for JDRF \$2,500.00

### GROOM

Russehoff & Cohen  
Families for Twin Palms  
Center for the Disabled \$3,000.00

### KIDS COSTUME CONTEST

School: Binks Forest Elementary \$1,000.00  
Charity: Animal Rescue Force \$1,000.00

School: Diamond View \$1,000.00  
Charity: Big Dog Ranch \$1,000.00

For full GCC results, please visit [www.GreatCharityChallenge.com](http://www.GreatCharityChallenge.com)





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# VENDOR VIEWS

## Vendor Village

Alessandro Albanese  
Ann Hubbards Tack Shop  
Anne Gittins Photography  
Antarès Saddlery France  
Beval Saddlery  
Bomber Bits  
Carson & Co  
Cavalleria Toscana  
Charles Ancona NY  
CM Hadfields Saddlery Inc.  
CWD Custom Saddles  
Der Dau Custom Boots  
Equiline Equestrian Fashion  
Equine and Country  
Equine Tack & Nutritionals  
Equis LLC  
French Corner, Inc.  
Horseware Ireland Equestrian  
Hot to Trot Boutique  
III. Fabbri Riding Boots  
James Leslie Parker Photography  
Jods Equestrian Apparel  
JOTT  
Kocher Tack Shop  
La Mundial Custom Boots

Le Fash  
ME.N.U.  
OnTyte Stirrups & Footwear  
Personalised Products  
Running Fox Equestrian  
Sharon Lynn Campbell  
Sofie Belgium Boutique  
Styleliner  
Tack 'N' Rider  
Tato's  
Turner & Co  
Voltaire Design Fine Saddlery  
WEF Official Boutique

## BARN 3 & 4

Dandy Products  
Farmvet Inc.  
RC Saddle & Tack Repair

## Barn 5

Woody's Shoe Repair  
Josey's Laundry Service

## RING 6

Amberway Equine Solutions  
Horse Gym USA®

## RINGS 9 & 10

Barn Savers  
Butet Saumur Saddles  
Devoucoux Custom Saddles & Tack  
GPA Helmets  
McGuinn Farms Inc. Tack Trunks and Stable Equipment  
SportFot USA Inc.

## INTERNATIONAL ARENA

### WARM UP

Animo USA  
Bruno Delgrange Custom Saddles  
Equisafe LLC

### HUNTER HILL

Advantage Biosciences  
C Jones Silver Housewares  
Danny & Ron's Dog Rescue  
Fab Finds by Sarah  
Illustrated Properties Realtor  
Just FUR Fun – Goodies for Dogs  
Linda Luster Studio  
Olive and Bette's  
Pinnell Custom Leather Inc.

Jods Equestrian Apparel  
Sarm Hippique & Pariani

## BRIDGE DECKS

BIBA of NY Boutique  
Kingsland Equestrian  
Romitelli Shoes & Boots  
WEF Official Boutique

## INTERNATIONAL SHOPPES

Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
Equiline Equestrian Fashion  
Hunt LTD  
Karina Brez Jewelry  
Keyes Art Consulting  
Lugano Diamonds  
Maybach Icons of Luxury

## TIKI HUT TERRACE

Ariat®  
Copious Row Luxury Gifts  
Eyes of Wellington  
Hermès  
Michel McNabb Jewlery  
Rocio G  
Skiffingtons Boutique

Swatches and Rags  
Fine Menswear  
Tucci by Newstar  
Zadeh – Men's Jewelry

## PLACES TO EAT

### INTERNATIONAL ARENA

Tito's Tacos  
Tiki Hut

### VENDOR ROW

Harry's Lemonade  
Loopy's Crepe Café  
Coliano's Pizza  
Oasis Café

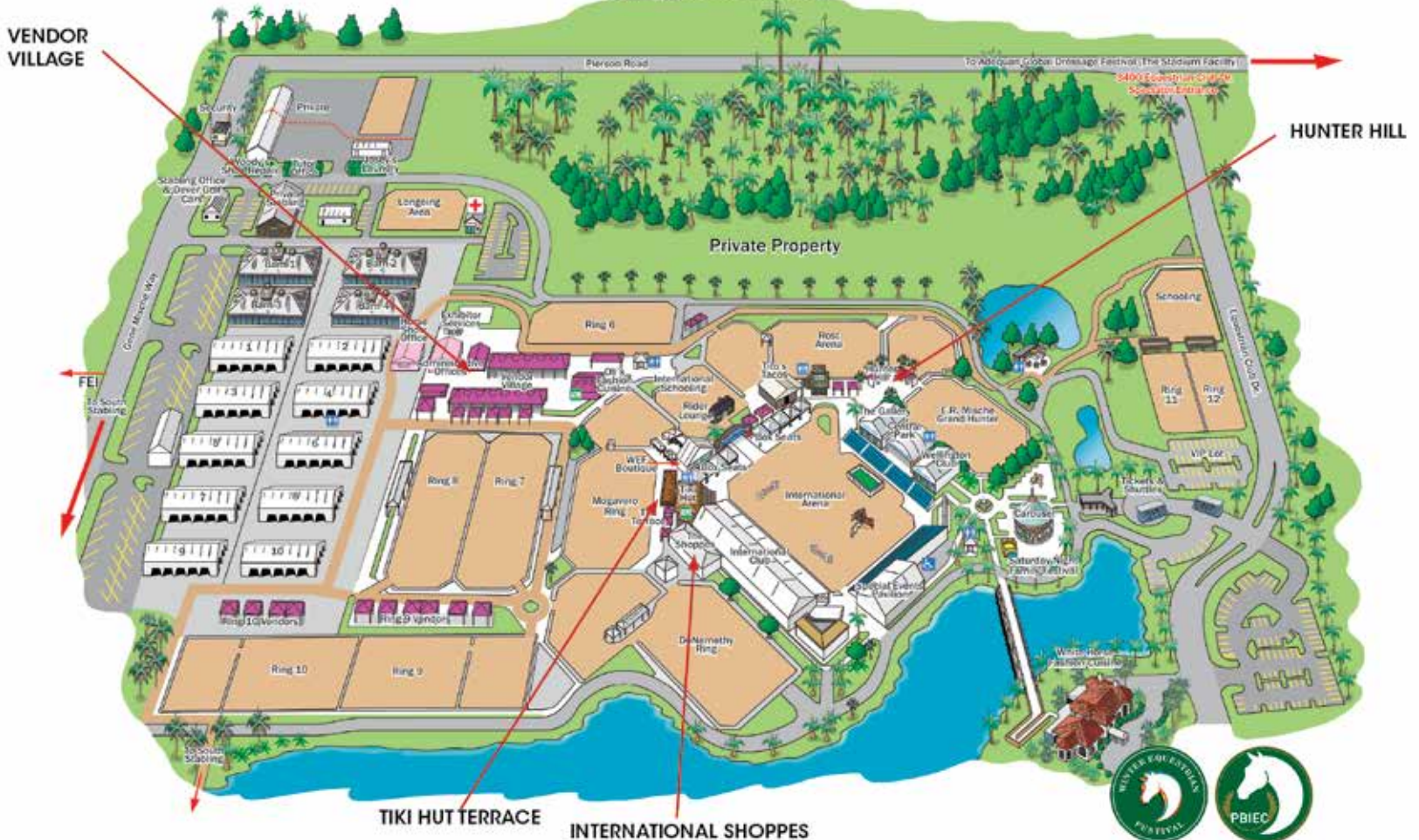
### RINGS 9 & 10

Professional Concessions  
Magdalena's Mexican Food  
Muddy Paw Coffee  
Nathalie's Café

### BARN 4

Burgess and Clark Coffee

## Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (Main Grounds)



# Hunter Competition in Full Swing Week 4 of WEF

The fourth week of competition at the Winter Equestrian Festival included some unseasonably cold weather and some rain, but hunter and equitation exhibitors continued to brave the elements to battle it out for championship titles.

Kelley Farmer kicked off the show week with an impressive high score of 98 in one of the four over fences classes on her way to the Equine Tack and Nutritionals First Year Green Hunter Championship. Farmer also placed second over fences on Wednesday and won both jumping classes on Thursday aboard Like I Said, an eight-year-old Mecklenburg mare owned by David Glefke and Kent Farrington.

Over on "Pony Island", Natalie Jayne piloted Carolyn Desfor's Welsh Pony Cross gelding, Webster, to the SOLIC Medium Pony Hunter division championship. Jayne earned two blue ribbons in the over fences portion of the division. She also earned a second-place ribbon over jumps and a fourth in the under saddle aboard the 15-year-old gelding. Reserve champion honors were awarded to Brighton My Day and Sophia Calamari. Calamari won the handy, and also placed seventh, second, and third over jumps.

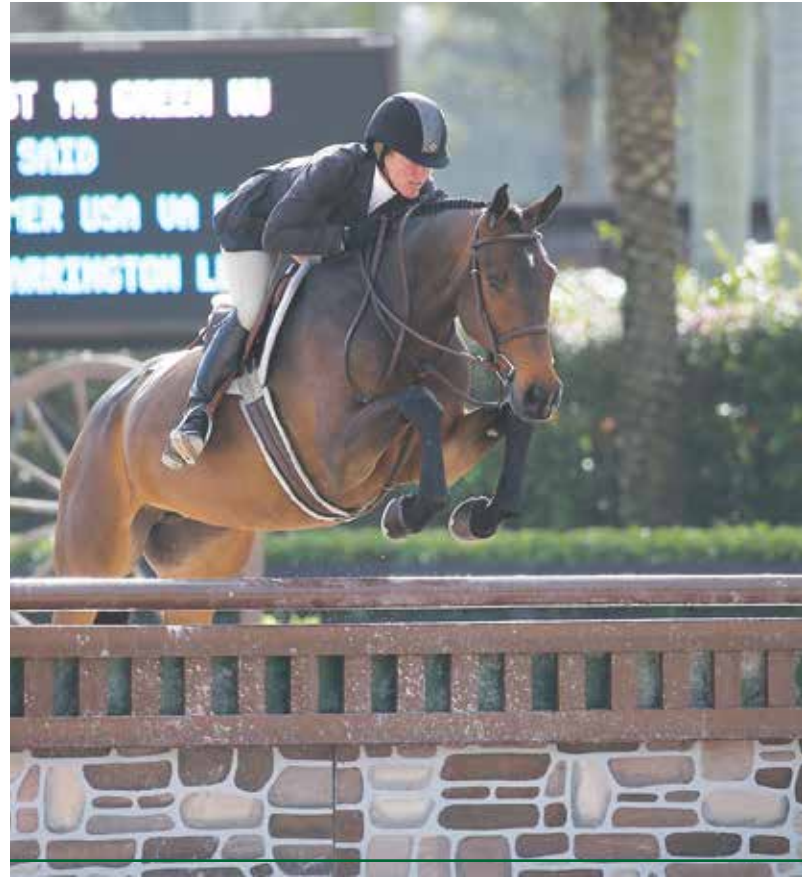
Top junior exhibitors battled it out for the win in the ASPCA Maclay on Sunday morning, but it was the students of Stacia Madden who were the victors in both

sections. Maya Nayyar topped Section A with her mount Connaro, who is an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding. Lucy Deslauriers, of New York, NY, won Section B aboard Great Expectations.

Junior competitors also showcased their talents this week in the hunter ring. Caroline Dance rode Bryan Baldwin's Cinemagic to the Large Junior Hunter 16-17 division championship, which was sponsored by Bruno Delgrange. The pair dominated much of the division, winning the under saddle and two of the four over fences classes. Dance also placed fourth and sixth over jumps with the 10-year-old Westphalian gelding. Catina and Kimmee Gottwald settled for the reserve tricolor honors after earning two firsts and a third over fences, including a win in the stake round.

Competition in the amateur ring was also fierce this weekend. Margaret de Filippo rode Eye Kandy to the Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35 Section B championship. They garnered two firsts and two seconds over fences and were fifth in the under saddle. Stephanie Bulger took home the reserve tricolor aboard her own Mayfair. Bulger placed first, first, second, and fifth over fences with the Holsteiner gelding.

Hunter action resumes on Wednesday, February 10, during week five of the Winter Equestrian Festival. ■ Callie Seaman



Kelley Farmer and Like I Said won the Equine Tack & Nutritionals First Year Green Hunter championship at WEF 4. Photo © Sportfot

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## Alexander, Moffitt, Heise, and Yates Win \$25,000 Artisan Farms U25 Team Event, Sponsored by The McNerney Family



The winning team with sponsor Carlene Ziegler of Artisan Farms. © Sportfot

The \$25,000 Artisan Farms Under 25 Team Event, sponsored by The McNerney Family, was the highlight event in the International Ring at The Stadium at PBIEC on Friday evening. The competition saw a win for Team 3, which included Taylor Alexander, Emily Moffitt, Emma Heise, and Tina (DiLandri) Yates.

Seventeen teams made up of 65 riders in total contested a Richard Jeffery (GBR) designed course. The top eight teams then returned in reverse order of merit based on their scores from the first round.

Combining the scores from both rounds of competition, three teams ended up in a tie for top honors on eight faults. A tie-breaking jump-off was then held with one rider from each team to determine the final standings.

The winning Team 3 was made up of Taylor Alexander riding Alexander LLC's G&C Flash, Emily Moffitt aboard Poden Farms' For Sale 6, Emma Heise riding Old Willow Farms LLC's Quentucky Jolly, and Tina Yates aboard Highpoint Farm LLC's Zelote VDL, led by Chef d'Equipe Laura Kraut. Alexander, Moffitt, and Heise all train with Kraut and her partner, Nick Skelton, while Yates is trained by her husband, Jonathen Yates.

Alexander was the drop score of eight in round one, but returned to jump clear in round two. Moffitt was the only rider from the team to jump double clear. Heise had a score of four in round and a clear in round two, then jumped off for her team with another clear round in the fastest time of 34.99 seconds to secure their victory. Yates scored four faults in round one and another dropped four faults in round two.

Heise and Quentucky Jolly completed an unbeatable jump-off round that helped their team get the win. The 16-year-old rider from Chicago, IL, was competing in the event for the first time with the 12-year-old Selle Francais gelding (by Nirvana V) that she purchased at the end of last year's WEF circuit.

Speaking of their partnership, Heise stated, "He is very special. He likes to do his own thing and he is definitely one of my more

technical rides. It was difficult for me in the beginning to figure out how to get him bent around me in the turns going to the jumps because he likes to shift in a lot. He has come so far in such a short time. We really started clicking a few months ago and this is the third or fourth big class that I have done him in. He is going amazing, and I did not really expect for us to click so well!"

Seventeen-year-old Emily Moffitt (Los Angeles, CA) was also competing in the class for the first time and jumped double clear aboard her mount, For Sale 6. Moffitt has only been riding the 10-year-old Westphalian mare (For Pleasure x Cassini I) for three weeks and was pleasantly surprised at the result.

"It was not in the plan to show her in this at all, so to have a double clear round is unreal," Moffitt smiled. "She is the best horse I have ever ridden; everything about her is perfect."

Taylor Alexander, of Castle Rock, CO, is 21 years old and competed in the Under 25 team event for the first time last year. Alexander was aboard her horse G&C Flash, a 14-year-old Hanoverian gelding (Forrester x Grannus), that she has had for two years.

"I got him as a seasoned horse; he has been there, done that, with a lot of people," Alexander noted. "It is really nice to go in there on a horse who has done it all and done Nations Cups before."

Yates (24) is from Scottsdale, AZ, and also competed in this team event last year. She bought her mount Zelote VDL three years ago and built the 12-year-old KWPN stallion (Chin Chin x Libero H) up to jumping the 1.40m level.

For Yates, competing in a team competition is a valuable part of any rider's education and the Under 25 event provides the riders with great experience.

"You are always competing as an individual, so to be a part of a team is a great experience, especially because I am sure we all have aspirations to be on some Nations Cup teams and represent Team USA," Yates said. "It is really great to come here and get a little feel for what that is like, and obviously winning is the icing on the cake."

Team 4 finished second for Canada, with Sarah Bagworth riding her own Goldfinger vd Hengstenpoel, Quincy Hayes on her own Calgary 56, Sarah Johnstone aboard Lillie Ann Morris's Bolocia, and Ben Asselin riding Attache Stables' Wahrhaftige.

Team 8, for Sweet Oak Farm, included Lacey Gilbertson and Seabrook LLC's Bijzonder, Noelle Barry riding Spy Coast Farm LLC's Ventura 9, Kaely Tomeu aboard Siboney Ranch's Gentille, and Brett Burlington with Alden Burlington's Bluf. ■ Lauren Fisher

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## Parade of Champions Photo Gallery

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The Low Children's Jumper Champion, sponsored by Tucci by Newstar, was Petit Flipper ridden by Rachel Rothenberg. They also won the Kastel Denmark Best Turnout Award.



Caledonia LLWB and Sabrina Lefebvre were the Children's Hunter 15-17 champions.



Allison Coleman and Bayview Hi-Hope were the Palm Beach Riding Academy Short Stirrup Hunter champions.



The Low Child/Adult Training Jumper champion was Rusia Z, ridden by Sophia Thomson, owned by Anne Marie Stupinski, and trained by Kristen Vanderveen.

# WEF4 Special Awards



The Champion Equine Insurance Hunter Style Award went to Winner, ridden by Jimmy Torano – © Sportfot



Kelley Farmer and It's Me won the WEF 4 Vita Flex Victory Pass Award.



Irma Rubesa of Equis Boutique (right) presents Heather Caristo-Williams and Jesse Williams, pictured with Freak Out, with the "Best Presented Horse" Award at WEF 4 - © Jump Media



The Leading Lady Jumper Rider Award, presented by Martha W. Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman, went to Tiffany Foster at WEF 4 - © Sportfot



Eric Lamaze of Canada, Emanuel Andrade of Venezuela and Giavanna Rinaldi of the U.S. were all winners in the SSG Gloves "Go Clean for the Green" promotion during WEF 4. Lamaze won his third consecutive \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup with Check Picobello Z while wearing SSG "Digital" riding gloves to bring his total bonus money won to date this season to \$9,000. Andrade, 19, topped the \$15,000 High Amateur-Owner Classic riding Belita to win a \$1,000 bonus from SSG Gloves while Giavanna Rinaldi (pictured), 16, won the \$10,000 High Junior Jumper Classic riding Dulf van den Bisschop to claim her \$1,000 bonus. © Jump Media



Along with their grand prix win, Eric Lamaze and Check Picobello Z were the Champion Equine Insurance Jumper Style Award winners – © Sportfot

fences at risk, and at this moment he is giving me a lot of confidence that he is going to stay off the fences.”

Nick Skelton has a talented new mount in Poden Farm’s nine-year-old Westphalian stallion, Untouched (Untouchable x Capitol I), and was happy with his second place finish in Sunday’s grand prix.

“He is really relative low experience at this level, so I am very pleased with him,” Skelton said of Untouched. “He has been graduating over the last four weeks and he is getting better all the time.”

“I plan to bring him along until Big Star is back in a couple of weeks,” Skelton continued. “Big Star picked up an infection in his leg from a cut, but when I get him back going, I will have two really nice horses.”

Skelton spoke of the first round and then detailed his plan in the jump-off, stating, “I think the course was quite difficult today. There were very tall verticals and the combination was in a difficult place. All in all, it was a good four-star course.”

“I planned to go as quick as I could and not put the fences at risk because I knew whatever I did, Eric was going to beat me,” Skelton said of the second round. “He is always going to be faster; the only chance I had was if he had one down. That was my only hope I think, but I was very pleased with the horse anyway. I have not been in the jump-off in a couple of years, so I am really pleased.”

Marilyn Little also competed in this week’s 2016 Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, at PBIEC and was thrilled to finish out the weekend with an excellent grand prix finish. Little was aboard Raylyn Farms’ Corona 93, a 12-year-old Hanoverian mare (Cordalme Z x Lenz XX) that she has owned for one year.

“I have had a wonderful group of people behind her,” Little explained. “Andrea King, Angel Karolyi, Christina Kelly, and my mother Lynn Little have all helped to bring her along at

the shows when I could not be there. I got to step onto a very lovely horse in December and take my time getting to know her. She is an experienced horse and certainly has more scope than I have ever had the privilege to ride. It has been a dream out there.”

Little, who was the team and individual gold medalist in Eventing at the 2015 Pan American Games, spoke about stepping into the grand prix ring after the weekend’s Eventing. “The jumps looked very big today - less solid, but very big,” she said. “It was really exciting for me to be here. I have not jumped in a grand prix in quite a few years now. I have been Eventing and focusing on that. The Pan American Games were a very big push last year and I would not trade the experience at Eventing for anything, but I also would not trade the feeling out there for anything either. It was such a thrill!”

“I was proud that she went so well, and to be part of a jump-off with names like the ones that were all coming behind me... If Nick felt like he could not be fast enough, you can imagine how I felt,” Little laughed. “I was hoping to go clear. I do not know the horse so well; she is a new ride for me in the last three weeks. I was hoping for a double clear, and she did the job. Then I got to watch Nick and Eric show me how to do it”

A special \$500 Groom’s Award was also presented to Martina Natali as the groom of winning horse, Check Picobello Z. ■ [Lauren Fisher](#)

## Final Results: \$216,000 Ariat® Grand Prix CSI 4\*

- 1. CHECK PICOBELLO Z:** 2006 Zangersheide gelding by Cardento x Orlando ERIC LAMAZE (CAN), Artisan Farms, LLC & Torrey Pines: 0/0/43.65
- 2. UNTOUCHED:** 2007 Westphalian stallion by Untouchable x Capitol I NICK SKELTON (GBR), Poden Farms: 0/0/45.52
- 3. CORONA 93:** 2004 Hanoverian mare by Cordalme Z x Lenz XX MARILYN LITTLE (USA), Raylyn Farms, Inc: 0/0/46.20
- 4. INDIGO:** 2000 KWPN gelding by Indoctro x Unknown MARGIE ENGLE (USA), Griese, Garber, Hidden Creek & Gladewinds: 0/4/44.10
- 5. LILLI:** 2004 Brandenburg mare by Lefevre x Diamir GEORGINA BLOOMBERG (USA), Gotham Enterprizes LLC: 0/4/45.55
- 6. BABALOU 41:** 2005 Oldenburg mare by Balou du Rouet x Silvio I TODD MINIKUS (USA), Two Swans Farm: 4/75.52
- 7. BEEZIE:** 2006 KWPN mare by by Cardento x Canabis Z HAYLEY BARNHILL (USA), The ISB Group: 4/78.15
- 8. SOUTHWIND VDL:** 1999 KWPN gelding by Baloubet du Rouet x Ahorn TIFFANY FOSTER (CAN), Artisan Farms, LLC: 4/78.45
- 9. EREGAST VAN’T KIEZELHOF:** 2004 Belgian Warmblood gelding by Thunder van de Zuuthoeve x Latano SHANE SWEETNAM (IRL), Spy Coast Farm, LLC: 4/78.83
- 10. ZEREMONIE:** 2007 Holsteiner mare by Cero II x Quick Star LAURA KRAUT (USA), Old Willow Farms, LLC: 4/78.99
- 11. APSARA:** 2006 Holsteiner mare by Ephebe For Ever x Calido I MEREDITH MICHAELS-BEERBAUM (GER), Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC: 4/79.03
- 12. SAM DU CHALLOIS:** 2006 Selle Francais stallion by Quaprice Boimargot Quincy x Adam IV CIAN O’CONNOR (IRL), Ronnoco Jump Ltd & Jean-Claude Jobin: 4/79.28

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# Jumper Highlights – Wednesday through Sunday

Week four of the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) kicked off on Wednesday morning with a win for Richie Moloney (IRL) and Equinimity LLC's Alsvid in the \$35,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m Jumper Classic.

Guilherme Jorge (BRA) was the international course designer for week four competition at PBIEC. Jorge set the opening speed track for the \$35,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m with 59 entries and 22 clear rounds. Thirty-eighth in the order, Richie Moloney and Alsvid clocked the winning time of 60.07 seconds. Kristen Vanderveen (USA) and Bull Run's Eternal finished second in 60.24 seconds. Shane Sweenam and Spy Coast Farm LLC's Cyklon 1083 placed third in 60.88 seconds, and Eric Lamaze (CAN) guided Artisan Farms LLC's Melody des Hayettes Z to fourth place honors in a time of 61.78.

Also competing in the International Ring on Wednesday, the \$6,000 1.40m speed, sponsored by Illustrated Properties, was held in a California split with 170 entries in total. Richard Spooner and Legacy Stables LLC's Tuxedo took home the win in Section A with the fastest of 39 clear rounds. Peter Wylde and Kathleen Kamine's Royal Flush topped Section B.

In his first big win of the week, Eric Lamaze (CAN) and Check Picobello Z took the top place in the \$35,000 Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round 4. The win marked three in a row for Lamaze in this year's Ruby

et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Series, with victories in weeks two and three aboard Rosana du Park.

Kevin Babington (IRL) and Mark Q set the pace in 42.02 seconds, which eventually placed third. Daniel Bluman (COL) and Conconcreto Believe were next to clear the short course in 42.57 seconds to finish fourth. Lillie Keenan (USA) and Chansonette Farm LLC's Super Sox were next to go, clear in 41.86 seconds to take over the lead, but eventually finish second. Audrey Coulter (USA) also cleared the jump-off with Copernicus Stables LLC's Alex, placing sixth overall, with a time of 43.46. Lamaze and Check Picobello Z followed with the winning round in 41.43 seconds, and last to go, Pedro Muylaert (BRA) jumped into fifth with a time of 42.90 seconds riding Rubens Takaneo's Colorado.

Also showing in the International Ring on Thursday, Darragh Kenny (IRL) and Kerry Anne LLC's Glamour van de Kakebeek won the \$8,000 Douglas Elliman 1.45m jump-off class. Emanuel Andrade was victorious in the \$2,500 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper speed class with Belita.

The \$35,000 Illustrated Properties 1.45m Classic was held in the International Ring on the main show grounds on Friday with a win for Eduardo Menezes (BRA) and Caruschka 2 in the afternoon.

The pair beat out Kristen Vanderveen (USA) and Bull Run's Eternal by 4/100ths of a second with their winning time of 62.65 seconds. Vanderveen settled for second place in 62.69 seconds. Conor Swail (IRL) and Ariel and Susan Grange's Dillinger placed third in 63.22 seconds, and Shane Sweetnam (IRL) finished fourth in 63.59 seconds riding Spy Coast Farm LLC's Cyklon 1083.

Also showing in the International Ring on Friday, Kelsey Thatcher and Pony Lane Farm's Everything were victorious in the \$2,500 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY High Amateur-Owner Jumper class. Silvana Cabral and Louis Pedro Biraben's Toulouse 66 topped the \$1,500 Sleepy P Ranch High Junior Jumper class. The \$6,000 Illustrated Properties 1.40m Speed Challenge concluded the day, pinned in a California Split with 122 entries. Todd Minikus and Plum Creek Hollow Farm's Con Capilot completed the fastest time overall to win Section A. Laura Chapot and her own BEC Hugo topped Section B.

Shane Sweetnam (IRL) was the winner of the \$35,000 Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic with a brand new mount on Saturday during week four. Guilherme Jorge (BRA) set the course for 38 entries in the morning's 1.50m, with four clear rounds,

and a win for Sweetnam aboard The Blue Buckle Group's Buckle Up.

Cian O'Connor (IRL) was first to jump-off riding Callisto, owned by Ian O'Grady, Philippe de Balander and Ronnoco Jump Ltd. The pair set the pace at 39.70 seconds, eventually settling for second place. David Blake (IRL) and Pine Hollow Farm's Binkie were next to go, dropping one rail in the short course to finish fourth in 44.95 seconds. Sweetnam and Buckle Up followed with the winning double clear in 38.93 seconds. Last to go, Jordan MacPherson (CAN) jumped into third place with one rail in a time of 39.57 seconds, riding Sved Stables' Aldine.

Also showing in the International Ring on Saturday, Emanuel Andrade won the \$15,000 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic riding Belita.

On Sunday, Giavanna Rinaldi was the winner of the \$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch SJHOF High Junior Jumper Classic riding Pony Lane Farm's Dulf van den Bisschop. The \$10,000 Animo USA Medium Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic was pinned in a California Split with 102 entries. Melissa Orlick-Zbierski and Isotropic's Viekie were the winners in Section A. Mackenzie Drazen and Rusty Girl topped Section B. ■

## WEF 4 Award Standings



### Leading Lady Jumper Rider, sponsored by Martha Jolicoeur of Douglas Elliman Real Estate (after 8 qualifying events)

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Laura Kraut (USA): 524                | 4 Molly Ashe-Cawley (USA): 315 |
| 2 Tiffany Foster (CAN): 382             | 5 Amanda Derbyshire (GBR): 297 |
| 3 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER): 364 |                                |



### Suncast® 1.50m Championship Jumper Classic Series (after 4 qualifying events)

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER): 108 | 3 McLain Ward (USA): 100  |
| 2 Darragh Kenny (IRL): 101              | 4 Laura Kraut (USA): 96   |
|   | 5 Andrew Ramsay (USA): 95 |



### Hermès Talented Young Rider Award (after 15 qualifying events)

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Emanuel Andrade (VEN): 302     | 4 Jessica Springsteen (USA): 166 |
| 2 Chloe Reid (USA): 288          | 5 Lillie Keenan (USA): 149       |
| 3 Adrienne Sternlicht (USA): 186 |                                  |



### Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series, presented by The Dutta Corp. in assoc. with Guido Klatte (after 4 qualifying rounds)

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Katherine Strauss (USA): 152.5 | 4 Viggo Bjorklund (SWE): 114         |
| 2 Madison Goetzmann (USA): 132   | 5 Tina Di Landri Yates (USA): 113.75 |
| 3 Kelli Crucioti (USA): 123      |                                      |

## Week 4 Jumper Classic winners:

\$15,000 MAYBACH – ICONS OF LUXURY SJHOF High Amateur-Owner Jumpers – Emanuel Andrade and Belita

\$10,000 Sleepy P Ranch SJHOF High Junior Jumpers – Giavanna Rinaldi and Dulf van den Bisschop

\$10,000 Animo USA Medium Amateur-Owner Jumpers – California Split – Melissa Orlick-Zbierski and Viekie (Section A); Mackenzie Drazen and Rusty Girl (Section B)

\$10,000 Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Low Amateur-Owner Jumpers – Tori Corts and Rockstar

\$10,000 Rosenbaum Mollengarden PLLC Adult Jumpers 18-35 – Alicia Gamboa and Bright Lady

\$10,000 Engel & Völkers Adult Jumpers 36-49 – Hope Batchelor & Orlando

\$10,000 Maria Mendelsohn, Douglas Elliman Low Junior Jumpers – Katherine Strauss and Waterloo S

\$10,000 Hollow Creek Farm Medium Junior Jumpers – Lauren Fischer and Tosca du Feugre

\$10,000 Horseware Ireland Don Little Masters – Jorge Gomez and Votredame

## Week 4 Jumper Champions:

Palm Beach International Academy Children's Jumper 14 & Under – Sydney Berube and VDL Dundee

Equis Children's Jumper 15-17 – Phoebe Alwine and Zenith Dance

FarmVet Adult Modified Jumpers – Courtney Boyd and Madeleine Gastineau with Limited Edition

Griffis Residential Children's Modified Jumpers – Rosalie Biedron and Will Wimble

Equiline Low Adult Jumper 18-35 – Casey Brottman and San Luca

Pegasus Builders Low Adult Jumper 36 & Over – Sarah Nathanson and Caloro

Tucci by Newstar Low Children's Jumper – Savanah Serrano and Finn Again; Rachel Rothenberg and Petit Flipper

The Best Turnout Award for the Artisan Farms Under 25 Grand Prix Series jog at WEF 4 went to Mark Murphy.

# Boyd Martin Repeats Eventing Victory

Boyd Martin (USA) piloted new mount Blackfoot Mystery to victory in the \$75,000 Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, held at The Stadium at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center and produced by Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP). Martin bested a class of 35 entries with a final score of 30.60. Colleen Rutledge (USA) and Covert Rights finished in second place with a 31.00, while Daniel Jocelyn (NZL) rode catch-ride Devil Munchkin to third with a score of 32.30.

The 2016 event proved to be the most successful yet, as a large crowd of spectators and fans packed the Global Pavilion and lined the fences of the polo and derby fields used to host cross-country competition. Martin and Blackfoot Mystery, owned by the Blackfoot Mystery Syndicate, jumped to an early lead after going clear in the show jumping phase around the difficult track set by Richard Jeffrey. They then continued fault-free on cross-country to earn a double clear effort.

"This year was a much more competitive field, and it was definitely of a higher standard. The course was a bit tougher, and it was harder to win this year than last year. By saying that, I knew this horse I had, Blackfoot Mystery, had a good chance," said Martin. "We've just purchased him thanks to a group of supporters and this is the first time a few of the owners have come to see him. [There are] not many better ways to impress our owners than to bring them to Wellington in this beautiful marquee and have this horse win. I was very pleased on

all levels."

Blackfoot Mystery, a 2004 Thoroughbred gelding (Out of Place x True Mystery), has come into his own with the experienced Martin. The pair were only one of eight clear efforts (no jumping or time faults) in the stadium round, which has been an aspect of training Martin has focused on since acquiring the talented gelding in July.

The event, which saw four different nations represented, offered new owners and fans the opportunity to experience the third equestrian Olympic discipline at PBIEC. Martin, who thrives in pressure situations, rose to the occasion once again and found himself crossing the finish with a double clear round in hand, ultimately securing his second victory.

Martin said, "I've got a lot of respect for (ESP CEO) Mark Bellissimo, and I think we've got a similar personality. His ideas are out of this world, which I love. Wellington is a place for the Olympic disciplines, except for eventers, until this [competition], and I think he's got the sport we love in front of a lot more people."

Colleen Rutledge and her impressive home-bred Covert Rights made another bold statement early in the year, adding this top finish to their list of accolades over the past two years. The 2006 Thoroughbred cross gelding (Black Fox Farm Incognito x Let's Get It Right) has added two FEI CCI 4\* finishes to its resume over the past two years and looks primed to take the international limelight again, as the duo are headed to the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day CCI 4\*.

"The cross-country course was fabulous

today," said Rutledge. "I was so proud of the way that CR went out and ran. The amount that he's grown up since Rolex last year is just leaps and bounds. He's a completely different horse. This was just fantastic to run on and the course was great. It asked some very good questions and for me, this was my horse's first run of the year. It was a fantastic start, and I'm just thrilled with everything. I've had a great time and a great run."

Daniel Jocelyn was one of two non-U.S. based riders representing the nation of New Zealand who made the trip to PBIEC to test the waters of the event. Tim Price also made the journey to Wellington for the event. Both riders currently reside in the U.K. and were paired with two catch rides for the event. Jocelyn made the most of his time aboard Devil Munchkin a 2008 Dutch Warmblood gelding (Casiro I x Rhona), owned by Sable Giesler. Jocelyn had sat on the gelding just one time before entering the dressage ring on Friday afternoon. They added nothing to their original score of 32.30 for third place.

Jocelyn said, "Firstly, thank you to Sable [Giesler] and Jessica [Bortner-Harris] for lending the horses to me for this weekend. I'm very happy to have the ride on the horses, and they've obviously done a good job on the groundwork because the horses felt fantastic."

"This is a fantastic facility, and I've enjoyed the three days I've been here. It's an unbelievable experience and something certainly I'll be taking home and telling everyone about. It's a great time," he continued.

The mastermind behind much of the operation, Mark Bellissimo, also managing

partner of Tryon Equestrian Partners, spoke to the notion of bringing all three equestrian Olympic disciplines to Wellington and the success of the event.

"Thank you to Asheville Regional Airport. They've been a great partner here and a great partner in Tryon. We appreciate everything you do for us. We've had a great relationship with Wellington Equestrian Realty since they stormed Wellington six years ago. We're very proud of this event and it really takes a village," Bellissimo said. "It's amazing to see a group of athletes, both human and animal, go through this course and everywhere I walked there were so many people who were just excited because they had never seen this before."

Several new awards were distributed during the awards ceremony, highlighting the dedication and support of owners and team members for all participating rider combinations. Caroline Moran of Goshen Hill donated \$10,000 for the Grooms' Awards, which was distributed to all grooms at the event in honor of their continued hard work and commitment to the sport. Martin's groom, Sergio Reyes, took top honors earning \$2,500, while Colleen Rutledge's groom Alex Ambelang received \$1,500, and \$1,000 went to Sabel Giesler, the groom for Daniel Jocelyn this week. The Blackfoot Mystery Syndicate, owners of the winning horse, were awarded with a \$10,000 check to be donated to the charity of their choice, Guillain-Barre syndrome research, in honor of syndicate member Anne Laver. Martin also received a \$10,000 bonus for winning two years in a row. ■ Carly Weilminster

## Final Results: Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty

- 1 Blackfoot Mystery, Boyd Martin (USA): 30.6
- 2 Covert Rights, Colleen Rutledge (USA): 31.0
- 3 Devil Munchkin, Daniel Jocelyn (NZL): 32.3
- 4 Fernhill Fugitive, Phillip Dutton (USA): 33.2
- 5 Ballynoecastle RM, Buck Davidson (USA): 34.1
- 6 Catalina, Jennie Brannigan (USA): 34.3
- 7 RF Demeter, Marilyn Little (USA): 34.9
- 8 Fernhill Cubalawn, Phillip Dutton (USA): 35.4
- 9 Arthur, Allison Springer (USA): 36.3
- 10 Novelle, Tim Prize (NZL): 38.2
- 11 Donner, Lynn Symansky (USA): 39.4
- 12 Vandiver, Doug Payne (USA): 40.7



Boyd Martin won his second Eventing competition at PBIEC in a row, this year with Blackfoot Mystery. © SusanJStickle.com



© Meg Banks for ESP: Boyd Martin and Blackfoot Mystery easily galloped down the Asheville Regional Airport "Runway" through the Global Pavilion on course for cross-country.



Allison Springer and Arthur won the dressage phase and finished ninth overall.



Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Fugitive were clear through show jumping and cross-country for fourth place overall.



The Grooms' Awards, donated by Caroline Moran, went to Sergio Reyes, Alex Ambelang, and Sabel Giesler.



Boyd Martin was joined by his owners of the Blackfoot Mystery Syndicate for a \$10,000 Owner's Award, which was donated to their charity of choice for Guillain-Barre syndrome research, in honor of syndicate member Anne Laver.



Craig Martin, Rob Desino, and Matt Varney of Wellington Equestrian Realty joined Mark Bellissimo for the top three rider awards.



Colleen Rutledge and Covert Rights moved from fifth to second after a clear show jumping phase and stayed clear on cross-country for second overall.



Daniel Jocelyn rode Devil Munchkin for the first time on Thursday, but his solid rides placed them third overall.

## FACES OF WEF:

### A Conversation with Christian Craig

The torch that is Winter Equestrian Festival Ringmaster has been passed this year. Gustavo Murcia, the familiar face of prize giving during the 2015 season, is now dedicated to his work as an equine dentist full-time and has made way for a protege.



Ringmaster Christian Craig  
© Lindsay Brock

Twenty-one-year-old Christian Craig can be found darting between rings, posing for awards presentation, and always offering a smile to riders and visitors to Palm

Beach International Equestrian Center. However, WEF is not all that consumes his time. Craig is becoming proficient at juggling two part-time jobs and a full course load at Broward College in Fort Lauderdale with plans that include Florida Atlantic University, law school, and much more.

#### HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT CHRISTIAN CRAIG:

##### HOW DID YOU BECOME RINGMASTER AT WEF?

I owe it all to the Gamboa family. Leanne Gamboa works here, and she recommended me for the job. It's because of them that I am doing this, but I talk to Gustavo all the time. Every time I have a question, I call him and he walks me through it. It was pretty nerve-wracking at first, but thanks to him I am making it work.

##### WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HORSE INDUSTRY?

I rode and competed until I was 12, but then I found football and rugby. Both my parents grew up riding and my little sister still competes.

##### DO YOU ENJOY BEING AROUND HORSES AGAIN?

It's nice to be around horses again, but especially at this level. They are beautiful animals. Even after being out of it for 10 years, I really appreciate the quality horses I see every day.

##### WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING RINGMASTER?

I'm not really a social person, but because of this job I have to get out of my comfort zone and meet people. I talk to extremely interesting people every day. That's the best part because you have to get out of your comfort zone to become better as a person.

##### WHAT CAN WE FIND YOU DOING WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT THE HORSE SHOW OR STUDYING?

You can find me at my other job as personal trainer at the Weston YMCA or working out. I used to be overweight despite all the sports I played. One of the trainers at the YMCA really turned my life around. He offered me the opportunity to be a trainer; I took it and it became a passion.

##### WHERE DO YOU SPEND YOUR RARE DAYS OFF?

At the gym or the beach. But, my favorite place to spend a few days off is the Bahamas.



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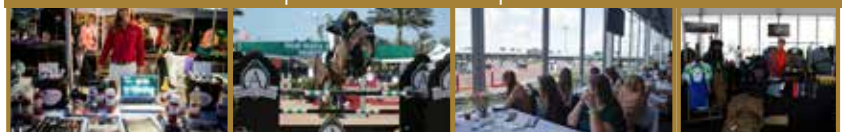
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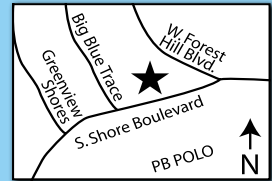
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## Gleneayre Equestrian Program Visits WEF 5

The 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) welcomes visitors from the Gleneayre Equestrian Program (GEP) of Lumberton, NJ, during week five competition. Gleneayre Equestrian Program's mission is to provide an experiential learning environment where children facing challenges such as academic, social, financial, family, or the challenges associated with military families, can feel safe and valued. It is a place where children and horses come together for the betterment of each other's lives through teaching sound horsemanship, ethics, and character skills; and youth have opportunities for physical and emotional growth, responsibility, and self-discovery.

Today, many children need a healthy outlet for their personal, family or academically related stresses. GEP has created a safe place for children to develop and grow. Their work to ride program provides children who are experiencing challenges an opportunity to develop a relationship with horses. It is GEP's directive to accurately portray and teach every aspect of horsemanship; therefore each GEP student is assigned a personal project horse. Students are responsible for everything from grooming and exercising the horses to cleaning their horses' stalls and tack, practicing basic barn management skills, and administering limited veterinary care with supervision.

Over the weekend of February 13-14, seven seniors of the GEP work to ride program will visit Wellington along with GEP's Managing Director, Alison Newman, her assistant, and GEP's assistant trainer. During their stay, the girls have a fun schedule of activities planned with some of the USA's top trainers and riders. They will be staying at the house of GEP Founder and Executive Director Ellen J. Healey.

On Saturday morning, the girls will volunteer at The County Special Olympics and assist as judges for the competition, held in the Van Kampen Covered Arena at The Stadium at PBIEC. They will then observe an equitation lesson with renowned trainer Stacia Madden and have the opportunity to meet the riders after their lesson. On Saturday evening, the girls will get the chance to walk the grand prix course with a special celebrity trainer.

Sunday morning, the girls will walk the Maclay course with Stacia Madden and observe the class. They will then meet with George Morris in the afternoon. Monday will be a fun beach and shopping day. Then on Tuesday, the girls will visit Hunter Farms, where a former GEP student is now a professional groom. In the afternoon, they will have the opportunity to audit another lesson. At some point during the weekend, the group will also meet with well-known trainer Michele Grubb to observe grand prix rider Ali Wolff as she prepares and shows.

This will be the sixth time that the Gleneayre program has visited WEF, and Ellen Healey looks forward to hosting the girls for this fantastic experience.

"The girls fundraise and then the senior girls get to come down and stay with me in my home," Healey detailed. "We want them to see the other end of the sport. The girls care for their horses, do farm and barn management chores under supervision, and they compete. We do a local circuit, and periodically we can do some rated shows, but we wanted the girls to experience everything down here and meet some of the stars of their sport. We have been so fortunate that everyone has been gracious enough to meet with the girls. Our last year here we got to observe George Morris riding and jumping and he spent a lot of time talking with the girls. It was an amazing thing to see."

"The horses we use are all donated," Healey added. "Many are horses that have spent time at the WEF and other big competitions. Some of the horses retire on our farm when they can no longer be ridden and they can be retrained for groundwork in the therapy program. We also have a program for military families. It is an equine facilitated psychotherapy program dealing with military personnel and their families."

The Gleneayre Equestrian Program looks forward to a fun stay in Wellington during week five competition. For more information on the program, visit [www.gepnj.org](http://www.gepnj.org). ■



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