



AGDF TIMES

Issue 3, February 10-14, 2016

2016 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival

Editor: Jennifer Wood

Belinda Trussell and Anton Dominate Large Tour Competition at AGDF 3



Belinda Trussell (CAN) and Anton won the "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, presented by U.S. P.R.E. Association. Photo © SusanJStickle.com

Belinda Trussell (CAN) and Anton impressed the judging panel in the AGDF 3 "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W, presented by U.S. P.R.E. Association, as the pair took their second win of the week in Large Tour competition at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF). Trussell and Anton earned a 75.025% to take a commanding lead in the class of 15 entries. Allison Brock (USA) and Rosevelt concluded an outstanding performance for the pair earning a score of 73.900% while fellow American Shelly Francis and Doktor collected a 73.400% for third place.

"Anton was really hot tonight and I was hoping to keep everything in control and keep our harmony together. He was great. It really felt like I was riding a rocket. He's such a good boy, and he loves his job," noted Trussell. "I'm so thrilled for these two wins (in the Freestyle and FEI Grand Prix) and am sitting here in utter shock to be sitting in this company. It's wonderful to be here, and I'm so thankful to my owners and my family at home."

Adequan® presented several

owner awards throughout Friday evening, including the High Point National Owner Award, which was presented to Shaween Jacobs, owner of Ebony, which was accepted on her behalf by rider Janine Little. Michael Collins accepted the award for Winner of the Prix St. Georges, as the owner of Don Tignanello ridden by Leida Collins-Strijk. Robyn Eames and Marc Trussell were awarded with the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Owner Award, as their Anton took top honors.

Held over two days with 46 pairs competing in the Van Kampen Covered Arena due to inclement weather, the competition in the FEI Grand Prix, presented by Yeguada de Ymas, was strong and impressively consistent, with the top four riders scoring within tenths of points of each other. Belinda Trussell (CAN) won the test with a 72.860% aboard Robyn Eames and Marc Trussell's Anton.

Arlene "Tuny" Page (USA) closely followed Trussell with Woodstock, coming in with a 72.760% for second place. Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) held on to her top score from competing yesterday in the start of the FEI

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Boyd Martin Repeats Eventing Victory



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

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

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CDI 5* Sponsor, Diamante Farms, Does It Again With The 2016 Salute to the Olympians



The Diamante Farms team © ManciniPhotos

In the show ring, Diamante Farms' head trainer Devon Kane and her magnificent horses turn heads. In the eyes of young dressage riders, Diamante Farms has been the place to celebrate after the Florida International Youth Dressage Championships and Robert Dover Horsemastership Clinic. To everyone who benefits from the Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center and the Challenge of the Americas fundraiser for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Diamante Farms is a generous benefactor. To Terri and Devon Kane, owners of the Wellington, Florida facility, Diamante Farms is just doing their part to give back to the dressage community that they love so much.

Once again, Diamante Farms— a founding sponsor of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival— will act as the presenting sponsor of the CDI5* competition on February 10-14. Diamante Farms will also, for the second year, host the Salute to the Olympians before the Friday Night Stars Grand Prix Freestyle competition to honor the all the riders present who have competed in the Olympic Games.

The Olympian Salute, which will take place at 6:15 pm on Friday, February 12, will open the competitive CDI5* Grand Prix Freestyle. Young flag bearers from the non-profit organization Dressage4Kids will lead Olympian riders from each nation into the International Stadium, and mother-daughter team Terri and Devon Kane will present the Olympians with flowers. Last year, more than twenty-five Olympians from at least eight nations attended the event, including Olympian Team Gold Medalist Carl Hester of the UK; legendary dressage rider Robert Dover, who competed in six consecutive Olympic Games with the United States Equestrian Team; six-time Olympian

Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfvén of Sweden; and Canada's Christilot Boylen, who has also competed in six Games.

As they honor the stars of dressage's past, the Kanes are always looking forward toward the future. This year at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival, Devon Kane is debuting two of her newer horses— Sir Galanto, her Hanoverian stallion (by Stedinger out of a De Niro mare), and Winchester, her Oldenburg gelding (by World of Dreams out of a Fürst Heinrich mare). Seeing Devon Kane with new horses on the international show grounds is never a surprise— she has a small herd of several carefully selected young horses in Europe, growing up and waiting for their turn to start training and eventually making their mark under the Diamante banner.

Having settled permanently in Wellington with the intent of helping to grow the United States' dressage community, the Kanes are proud to be founding sponsors of the Adequan Global Dressage Festival.

"We feel it is very important to our sport to have a first-class facility in order to bring top competitors from all over the world," says Terri Kane. "Diamante Farms is extremely proud to have been a force for the Global Dressage Festival long before the actual construction began and we plan to be a part of it for many years to come."

Diamante Farms is always in high gear to help riders and horses excel. "There is an air of excitement around the farm, especially on the CDI 5* week," Devon Kane says. For more information about Diamante Farms, visit www.DiamanteFarms.com or call 561-307-2831. ■



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Devon Kane and Destiny © SusanJStickle.com

PBIEC Week 5 Upcoming Events:

AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT

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. This week's judges include actress Alfre Woodard, Tim and Susie Dutta, and Carl Hester. 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 rdoer2@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!

DRESSAGE OWNERS TASK FORCE WELCOME RECEPTION

On Wednesday, February 10, from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Global Pavilion, there will be a welcome reception sponsored by the Dressage Owners Task Force. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, mingle with fellow owners and athletes, and observe a presentation from their speakers about "Defining the High Performance Owner" with speakers Betsy Juliano, Laura Graves, and Hallye Griffin. All athletes and owners are encouraged to attend.

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 for more information.

SYNDICATION AND SPONSORSHIP WORKSHOP

On Friday, February 12, from 1-2 p.m. in the VKBM Hospitality Tent on the Vendor Deck at AGDF show grounds, there will be a syndication and sponsorship workshop sponsored by the Dressage Owners Task Force. The topic is "Funding Options for Riders and Owners" with speakers Beth Meyers, Margaret Duprey, and Attorney Yvonne Ocran. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

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 Rafaela, 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 or 978-273-6475. Limited tables and seating available, please visit: <http://www.dannyandronrescue.com/611.aspx>. For more event information, please call Anne Caroline at 727-678-8677 or drllipsync@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEEKS 6 AND 7

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.

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 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 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. Contact Shannon Cookley at 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@amcnyc.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 or 301-258-3155. For tables and tickets, visit regonline.com! ■

AGDF Welcomes Week 5 Sponsor, Wellington Equestrian Realty



Rob and Chris Desino, Craig Martin and Matt Varney of Wellington Equestrian Realty have become a valuable ally for buyers and sellers to help navigate the new real estate reality. Wellington Equestrian Realty always brings their "A" game, whether it's a \$400,000 property or one for \$50 million. Matt Varney states, "All of us at WER live and breathe this lifestyle and understand it on a deep level, helping buyers, especially if they are in Wellington for the first time."

One of the first founding sponsors of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival, Wellington Equestrian Realty continues grow their dedication and support of AGDF each year. This cohesive relationship has been a productive one and Wellington Equestrian Realty has become the top contact when searching for premier Wellington properties for many clients competing at AGDF throughout the winter season.

Wellington Equestrian Realty is the sponsor of CDI 3* competition during the fifth week of the AGDF, honoring the horses competing in Large Tour competition and presenting the winners of the FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, and FEI Grand Prix Special.

They also stepped up in a big way as presenting sponsor of the Asheville Regional Airport Wellington Eventing Showcase, held last week at The Stadium at PBIEC. This helped enable the prize money to increase to \$75,000 from \$50,000 and the event was a huge success.

The perfect Wellington property is not only a home for you and your horses, but also a major investment. With backgrounds in the equestrian sport as well as business and property development, Wellington Equestrian

Realty brings a unique ability to understand their clients' needs and goals.

"We will do anything we can to close a deal that's going to make our seller or our buyer happy, no matter what the obstacles are," states Varney. That's where their relationship with lenders and the Village of Wellington are important, as well as understanding contractual nuances, especially when it comes to local and international buyers.

And for Wellington Equestrian Realty, they don't just talk the horse farm talk, they walk the walk, investing themselves in Wellington equestrian properties. Varney observes, "It builds the confidence in a consumer that what we're telling them is not just rhetoric. They feel a lot more confident when we show them what we've invested in our sponsorship, our company, office space, and our own projects here in Wellington."

That investment also extends to marketing, where Wellington Equestrian Realty spends an enormous amount on exposing their properties around the world, giving sellers every opportunity for their property to be seen. The entire team at Wellington Equestrian Realty is simply known as being world-class business professionals.

Wellington Equestrian Realty invites everyone to visit them at their office between the Welli Deli and Tackeria. "Walk in and say hi and ask us questions," says Craig. "We make ourselves extremely accessible even if you just want information on Wellington. We love talking real estate and horses and the investment side more than ever."

For more information: www.wellingtonequestrianrealty.com, 561-779-9992, 13501 South Shore Blvd., Suite 108, Wellington FL. ■



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Recent Advances in Navicular Syndrome for the Equine Athlete with OSPHOS® (clodronate injection), sponsored by Dechra

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**



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. ©SusanJStickle.com



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



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



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



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. ©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.



Faces of AGDF: Q&A with Show Manager Monica Fitzgerald



Monica Fitzgerald with Teresa Uddo Griner and Walter Bagley.

Monica Fitzgerald has been with the AGDF for three years and currently is the horse show manager and secretary, working with a team in the horse show office to keep the growing AGDF organized in CDI and National competition. We spoke with her to find out more about this integral person at AGDF.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH SECRETARIAL AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF DRESSAGE SHOWS?

It has probably been almost 20 years now that I've been doing this.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST SHOW?

My first rated show was the Gold Coast Opener and it was at White Fences back then, but I started off with the Gold Coast shows and have worked the circuit since.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING SECRETARY VERSUS MANAGER?

There's much more responsibility on the management side, and I'm learning to appreciate the people who have done it in the past. You have to know all of the rules to be on both sides, but the duties as show manager are more about organizational skills than I would say on the secretarial side of things. As a secretary you're much more hands on with competitors and now, as a manager, I'm more operational while I'm still trying to do that too.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING THE AGDF SEASON?

I really like seeing all of the different people who come and go and the success from start to finish of all of our competitors. You can really see improvements from the beginning to the season to the end.

WHEN DID YOU START WORKING FOR AGDF?

This is my third year with AGDF, and the show has just grown tremendously. Since I've been here, every year has been big, but now that we've had two (championship) qualifying years, it seems that it just keeps getting larger and larger. Last year with Pan Ams and this year with the Olympics, we always see a large jump in entry numbers for sure. We're seeing 70+ entries in the Grand Prix this year, which is what we had last year for the Small Tour when people were trying to qualify for the Pan Ams. The growth is amazing, and I'm very lucky to be a part of it.



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Welcome reception: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Sunday, February 28: 10:00am-2:00pm

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

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.

"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 said. "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.

Charity Representative Timothy Snow also noted that an extremely generous anonymous donor who gave the charity an additional \$100,000 for their win.

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 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. ■

Lauren Fisher



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



Show jumper Candice King wowed the crowd in her "Olaf" costume from the movie "Frozen." © Meg Banks.



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Grand Prix with Goerklintgaards Doublet, a 13-year-old Danish gelding (Diamond Hit x La Costa) owned by Diane Perry and bred by Jorgen Ravn. They finished third with a score of 72.320%.

In the FEI Prix St Georges, presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute, there were 21 entries representing nine countries. Victory went to Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) and Tignanello, who scored 72.456%. Michael Klimke (GER) and Djamba Djokiba finished second with a score of 71.316%. Klimke also took third place on Harmony's Don Depardieu on 71.140%.

Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) also collected her second win of the week aboard Don Tigananello in the FEI Intermediaire I, presented by the Chesapeake Dressage Institute, with a score of 73.991%. Suzan Pape (GBR) and Harmony's Don Noblesse finished in second with a score of 72.763%, while Collins-Strijk also earned third place honors aboard Zantros with a score of 71.009%. Small Tour competition will continue on Sunday, February 1, with the FEI Intermediaire 1 Freestyle presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute.

It was a clean sweep by the Americans for the top three placings in the FEI Grand Prix Special, presented by Yeguada de Ymas. Arlene "Tuny" Page (USA) rode her own Woodstock to the top of the class, winning with a score of 73.059%.

Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) continued her superbly successful first CDI at the Grand Prix level with Goerklintgaards Doublet, the 13-year-old Danish gelding (Diamond Hit x La Costa) owned by Diane Perry. The pair was very close to Page and Woodstock, earning a 72.902%. Third place went to Shelly Francis (USA) riding Patricia Stempel's Danilo, the 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding (De Niro x Annabelle). The pair earned a 71.900%.

Leida Collins-Strijk (NED) and Don Tignanello took a clean sweep of Small Tour competition when they won the FEI Intermediaire 1 Freestyle, presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute. Collins-Strijk and Don Tignanello earned 75.792% to take top honors. Michael Klimke (GER) and Djamba Djokiba followed in second place with 73.333%, while Katharina Stumpf (AUT) and For My Love were third with 71.417%.

The Consolation Grand Prix concluded the final day of FEI competition at AGDF 3 presented by the U.S. P.R.E. Association, as Evi Strasser (CAN) and Renaissance Tyme took the win with a 65.767%. Joanne Vaughan (GEO) and Elmegarden's Marquis followed in second with a 64.033%, while Maria Florencia Manfredi (ARG) and Bandurria Kacero earned third place with a 63.633%. ■ **Carly Weilmminster and Allison Kavey**



Leida Collins-Strijk and Don Tigananello swept the FEI Small Tour, presented by Chesapeake Dressage Institute, at AGDF 3. ©SusanJStickle.com

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

Russekoff & 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



1. Felicitas Hendricks (GER) with Faible AS, a 12-year-old Westphalian gelding, with Chelsea Barrett from N2 Saddlery presenting the High Point Junior/Young Rider Award.
2. Shelly Francis (USA) with Danilo won the Dressage People's Choice Award, presented by Ann-Louise Cook.
3. Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven from Sweden on Benetton Dream, owned by Lovsta Stuteri, won the Kastel Denmark "Best Seat Award."
4. Barbara (Bebe) Davis (USA) and Feivel Mousekewitz, owned by Michael Davis, with their trainer Endel Ots, was awarded the FarmVet Youth Sportsmanship Award.
5. Felicitas Hendricks (GER) riding Faible AS, with Trainer Christoph Koschel, won the Perfect Products "Perfect Conduct Award."
6. The Gumbits Happy Horse Harmony Award went to Katharina Stumpf from Austria with "For My Love".
7. Renaissance Tyme and Evi Strasser with Tanya Strasser and Jana Crimmins won the Best Horse Turnout Award from Kastel Denmark/Charlotte Jorst, presented by Cora Causemann.



SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS PHOTO GALLERY



1. Michael Bragdoll and Faberge Blue win the Vita Flex Victory Pass Award

2. Lauren Chumley and FMF Champagne win the Everglades Dressage Achievement Award.

3. Carol Cohen presents Katherine and Mark Belissimo with the Global Dressage Visionary Award

4. Ann Romney wins the Premier Equestrian Award

5. Shannon Dueck was presented with the Neue Schule Best Hands Award for her excellent contact with Cantaris owned by Elizabeth Ferber

6. Jewel's Amethyst, owned and ridden by Eliane Cordia-van Reesema (far right), won the Omega Alpha Healthy Horse Award

7. Djamba Djokiba, owned and ridden by Michael Klimke, wins the TheraPlate Peak Performance Award

8. Juan Matute Jr. was the Diamante Farms Under 25 class winner, pictured with judge Christoph Umbach, Terri Kane of Diamante Farms, and presenter Cora Causemann.

2016

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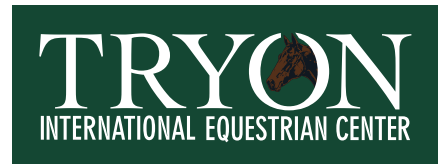


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THE 2016 TRYON DRESSAGE SCHEDULE

April 20-24
Tryon Spring Dressage 1
June 15-19
Tryon Summer Dressage 1
June 29-July 1
Tryon Summer Dressage 3
August 3-7
Tryon Summer Dressage 4
August 10-13
Tryon Summer Dressage 5
August 17-21
Tryon Summer Dressage 6
September 7-11
Tryon Fall Dressage 2



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