



AGDF TIMES

Issue 4, February 24-28, 2016

2016 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival

Editor: Jennifer Wood

AGDF Experiences Five Star Week of Incredible Competition



Mikala Gundersen and My Lady were victorious in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CSI 5*, presented by Diamante Farms. Photo © SusanJStickle.com

The stands were filled with eager spectators at the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF), as competitors from around the world took to the Global International Ring for the "Friday Night Stars" FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 5*, presented by Diamante Farms, on Friday, February 12. Mikala Gundersen (DEN) and My Lady impressed the judging panel to earn a 79.075% for their first major win at AGDF this season. Fellow Dane Lars Petersen and Mariett followed in second place with a 76.600%, while Steffen Peters and Legolas 92 finished in third place with a 76.425%.

Gundersen and My Lady were one of the most winning combinations on the AGDF circuit in 2015 and their victory tonight marked their first CDI 5* win since 2013, when the duo took home first place in the CDI 5* Grand Prix Special at AGDF.

"Lady was really good. She was very good yesterday, but I planned to push a little bit more today and see if I could put her up a little bit higher in

the neck," Gundersen said. "I had that in the warm-up and then when I came in, when my music was supposed to start it didn't, so I went to circle. Then the music started, and I tried to finish my circle, but Lady was like 'No, no. Wrong way,' and went for the centerline. Once I hit the centerline, she went into the passage, and I knew that we were good."

The pair thrives in consistency, and they are usually expected to finish atop their respective classes. Gundersen noted that Lady is reliable in big atmospheres such as the freestyle, even though she is an incredibly sensitive horse, because she is so well-versed in their choreography and enjoys performing for a crowd.

"Every time I go down the centerline it's a new feeling. This is a very sensitive horse, and it's not like we push a button and then get to go to a Grand Prix," she elaborated. "It's always different, and we are always trying to make it better. Since she's so sensitive, I don't always know what

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WEF Sport Horse Auction to Include Diverse Range of Dressage Prospects in 2017



Everyone is welcome to attend and watch the WEF Sport Horse Auction on Thursday, March 3. © ManciniPhotos.

The Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) Sport Horse Auction has always drawn a large crowd into the Global International Pavilion each year, as bidders from around the world come to The Stadium at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) to view the next generation of top talent in equestrian sport. This year's WEF Sport Horse Auction will be hosted at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at The Stadium at PBIEC, showcasing 16 of Europe's finest international show jumping prospects.

Each horse is imported from the famous VDL Stud in The Netherlands, while owner and operator Janko van de Lageweg hand selects the specific horses who make the journey overseas to the equestrian capital of the world for potential buyers. In its fourth year, the WEF Sport Horse Auction has found incredible success in placing top show jumping prospects with some of the most competitive barns in the United States.

In 2015, two young dressage horses were included in the WEF

Sport Horse Auction for the first time ever, attracting a new audience to the thriving event and offering a new discipline access to one of the most elite sport horse auctions in the United States.

Rhegan White, representative for the Westphalian studbook in the United States, played an integral role in the selection process for these two unique mounts, discussing the potential for the dressage portion of the auction in the years to come. She emphasized the intensive search for top quality horses and explained how the auction offers an incredible opportunity for dressage breeders in Europe to expose their horses to a diverse market.

"Last year it was the first year and was very experimental. We were very pleased with the quality of horses that we were able to import," she explained. "Not only were they strong in their physical appearance and working ability, but also their movement and conformation. This is extremely important for anything that we want to import into the United

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AGDF Welcomes The Axel Johnson Group As Title Sponsor of Week 7 CDI-W Competition



Antonia Ax:son Johnson and Talento

The 2016 Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) is pleased to welcome The Axel Johnson Group as the title sponsor of week seven CDI-W 3* competition at The Stadium at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC). Competition in Wellington, FL, runs February 24-28, featuring the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI-W 3*, presented by Axel Johnson Group as the highlight "Friday Night Lights" event on February 26.

For Antonia Ax:son Johnson, business and horses are part of the same family legacy. Johnson is a fourth generation Chairman and

Owner of Swedish based company, The Axel Johnson Group, as well as the Founder and Owner of top equestrian breeding and training farm, Lövsta Stud Farm. She grew up with an entrepreneurial mind and a love of all things equine that have been instilled in her family for over 100 years. Rooted in what Johnson calls a yin and yang alignment of these personal interests, she has become a leader in the development of modern equestrian sport. Continuing the family legacy, The Axel Johnson Group proudly returns as title sponsor of week seven's CDI-W 3* competition at AGDF.

"When the Global Dressage Festival was introduced in Wellington five years ago, there was a sparse and scattered audience," Johnson said of the event. "Each year, we have seen new spectators come to watch with a growing enthusiasm. The show has grown by some 30% a year and has definitely come to stay. We are proud to be sponsors to this terrific dressage hub, and now with some of the world's best riders in the limelight."

"I just love being here," Johnson added. "The winter months we spend here do wonders. The horses become happy, supple and athletic, and we feel the joy of being immersed in a magic world of horses. Every person we meet is here for a horse reason!"

Johnson's great grandfather originally founded the family business, a trading company known as A. Johnson & Co., in 1873. The business has since developed into a worldwide operation, employing more than 25,000 people internationally with a turnover of close to 20 billion USD. The businesses are mainly in the Nordic countries and the United States.

"When it comes to business, we can really join forces with many to talk about what the equestrian sport can teach us in a broader sense," Johnson noted. "For me, that includes perseverance and a long term perspective. Riding gives life focus, total concentration, unwavering commitment and the excitement

of those magical moments that occur. If you are running a business that is exactly what you need."

Antonia Johnson's love of horses stems from many summers spent on a ranch in Nevada with her parents. Much later she began importing and breeding American Morgan horses in Sweden with her father. Later she developed a fascination with and deep respect for the art of dressage, and took her family's legacy in entrepreneurship to the next level.

On January 1st, 2000, Johnson formed a partnership with one of the world's top dressage riders, Tinne Vilhelmsen Silfvén, a six-time Olympian, currently ranked sixth in the world. Silfvén joined Johnson in building what is now the modern Lövsta Stud Farm and Johnson also took up dressage for the first time herself at the age of 50! With a fifth generation at the helm of the family business she now has time to ride two or three horses every morning.

Today, Lövsta Stud Farm is one of Sweden's leading stud farms. From a small beginning in a rebuilt cow barn with 12 stalls, Lövsta Stud Farm now has about 50 horses in total at two farms just north of Stockholm. The business includes a very successful stud station as well as competition activities at all levels from three-year-olds up to Grand Prix at the Olympics and World Championships. Lövsta supports young riders and young horses through the

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PASSION FOR BUSINESS, PASSION FOR HORSES

PART OF THE SAME FAMILY LEGACY SINCE 1873



Benetton Dream FRH 1301
Owned by Lövsta Studen.
Photo: Helene Schmitz

AXEL JOHNSON GROUP

PBIEC Week 7 Upcoming Events:

AMERICAN EQUESTRIANS GOT TALENT

The American Equestrians Got Talent Auditions continue on Wednesday, February 24, 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 rdover2@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 25, 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 7 is "Innovative Product Panel" Equine Technology with NightWatch™, CeeCoach™, and Accuhorsemat™. Contact Laura Bostwick at 561-784-1130 or laura@equestriansport.com for more information.

"FRIDAY NIGHT STARS"

Dressage returns to Friday night this week on Friday, February 26, with gates opening at 6 p.m. The FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CSI-W 3*, presented by Axel Johnson Group, will feature horses completing their freestyle choreography to entertaining music ensembles. Also on Friday night during the break in competition is the Pony Leadline class – see the dressage stars of the future!

"SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS"

The \$380,000 Suncast® Grand Prix CSI 5* is the second five-star event of the season on Saturday, February 27, and will see the best horses and riders compete for speed under the lights of the International Arena. Gates open at 6 pm, general admission is free.

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEEKS 8 & 9 UPCOMING EVENTS

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 International 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 Coakley at shannon@equusfoundation.org or 203-259-1550.

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!

RIDE & LEARN WITH CHARLIE MOORCROFT

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 8 features top trainer Charlie Moorcroft teaching pony hunters at the AGDF/PBRA grass field at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on Tuesday, March 1. The clinic is sponsored by Draper Therapies®. 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.

WEF SPORT HORSE AUCTION

Each year the WEF Sport Horse Auction offers an exclusive opportunity for individuals to acquire the next generation of top champions from VDL Stud. Riders, owners, and trainers have the ability to purchase their next star in an exciting live auction atmosphere. The 2016 edition of the WEF Sport Horse Auction is set to take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at The Stadium at PBIEC. General admission

is free. For more information on the WEF Sport Horse Auction please visit www.WefSportHorseAuction.com or www.facebook.com/WEFSportHorseAuction.

GIVE A BUCK PONY DERBY AND GALA

It will be an enchanted evening of dancing, dining, and live entertainment in celebration of the pony derby gala in The Gallery overlooking the International Arena on Friday, March 11, from 6-9:30

p.m. It will be a "A Night in Neverland", presented by Baxter Hill to support Give a Buck for Special Equestrian's mission of providing horsepower that heals. Tables and individual tickets are available. The Give A Buck Pony Derby will begin on the grass derby field at The Stadium at PBIEC (AGDF show grounds) on March 11 at 9 a.m. For more information please call Tara Bieling at 239-200-2230 or email tara@giveabuck.org. See more at www.giveabuckeq.com. ■



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Scenes from AGDF 5: Photos © SusanJStickle.com



Allyn Mann of Adequan®, along with Cora Causemann of AGDF, presented Owner Awards to several recipients at AGDF 5, including: Karen Pavicic, who accepted the award on behalf of Lynda Hol, owner of Beaujolais, at AGDF 4 National; Lauren Chumley, who was there for Christopher Preston, owner of Hotstreak CF, for AGDF 3 National; and Christina Vinios, owner of Folkestone OLD, who won the FEI Prix St. Georges at AGDF 5.



Steffen Peters and Rosamunde won the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty.



Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD won the FEI Prix St. Georges and FEI Intermediaire 1, presented by Kirk Arabians.



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States. It isn't easy to find that quality of horse and is definitely a challenge. We were super picky with last year's selection."

J.J. Jaguar and Fürsten Vera set the stage for the inaugural year of dressage selections, with both taken at top dollar price. White expressed her excitement for the expansion and future of the auction with the inclusion of world-class dressage mounts from Europe readily available to the North American community.

"We thought the prices went very well, and we were really happy with that," she noted. "Looking forward, we want to make sure that it is quality and temperament that we are focused on. It's really about finding the breeders and people willing to work with us. This event is truly a two-year project for us."

Even though bidders will have to wait until 2017 for the presentation of additional dressage prospects, White is confident that she and her colleagues will source some of the finest dressage talent available in Europe for the North American equestrian community.

"We have our finger on the pulse for next year already. We have a breeder who is interested in sending their best stock and we'll be able to offer a variety of experience. We normally start with a group of ten horses and then narrow it down to four," said White, as she

described the selection process. "Four is our optimum number for the auction. We work on it throughout the year and our breeders are very aware of what they need to provide. It is a different market here in the U.S., and we want to cater to the needs of the equestrian community here in Wellington."

White has been partnered with the Westphalian Stud for nearly four years, working to gain more exposure for the breed. She remarked, "It's very exciting for European breeders to have this type of direct entry into the United States market. That isn't something that they have access to most of the time. Melanie [Peterson] does a spectacular job putting on this auction. I feel very confident that our meetings with the breeders and our explanation of expectations will generate interest in the Westphalian breed here in North America, while bringing attention to the superior product these breeders are offering these buyers."

The breeding history of the Westphalian in Europe is intricate and well documented, spanning back over the past 200 years, as one of Germany's oldest equine studbooks.

"They're breeding 3,000 to 4,000 foals a year. It has to be a qualified dam and sire bloodline in order to be registered with our studbook," explained White. "From all of that, we narrow through our 8,000 members included in the

association and go to the top breeders. We have several members who are incredibly excited about the opportunities available for the breed in the U.S. and are breeding specifically with this market in mind."

While standards for movement and quality remain the same for both Europeans and Americans, there are several other distinguishing factors that determine the right prospects for buyers outside of Europe. White remarked, "The American market has a specific requirement as to what they want, a well-mannered and incredibly athletic horse. They must all have the look as well. The Westphalian studbook is famous for producing even-tempered horses with athletic bloodlines, which makes them the perfect breed choice for this specific event."

Interestingly enough, as the demand for high quality equine prospects has increased around the world, the breeding capacity in Europe has seen a decrease since the recession in 2008. White noted this change and its impact on the market, "The breeding situation has changed a lot in Europe since the recession. It applies all across Europe. A lot of the breeders got out of the business because they got stuck with horses and decided that they wanted to be done with it. The challenge has become that there are all of these people looking for great horses and

there is half the pool to choose from."

"For us, it's a great deal of public relations with not only the buying audience in Wellington, but also the breeders in Germany. It's an interesting time. It means that when we get these amazing horses over here, they're ready, through quarantine, and you can just drive home with them once you've purchased them. It's a great deal and an incredible opportunity," she continued.

As for next year's stock, White is already working to secure the diversity of prospects from the Westphalian Stud.

"We'd like to have two mares and two geldings for next year to offer more variety in what we have available. We're starting from fresh and trying to build a client base here in Wellington. It's an exciting time of this breed, and we're already looking to source the best prospects possible for next year's auction."

The 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival Sport Horse Auction will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at The Stadium at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC). For more information, please visit www.wefsporthorseauction.com.

For more information on the Westphalian Stud please contact Rhegan White at (912) 257-0064 or by email at rheganwhite@gmail.com. ■ Carly Weilminster



VDL Stud

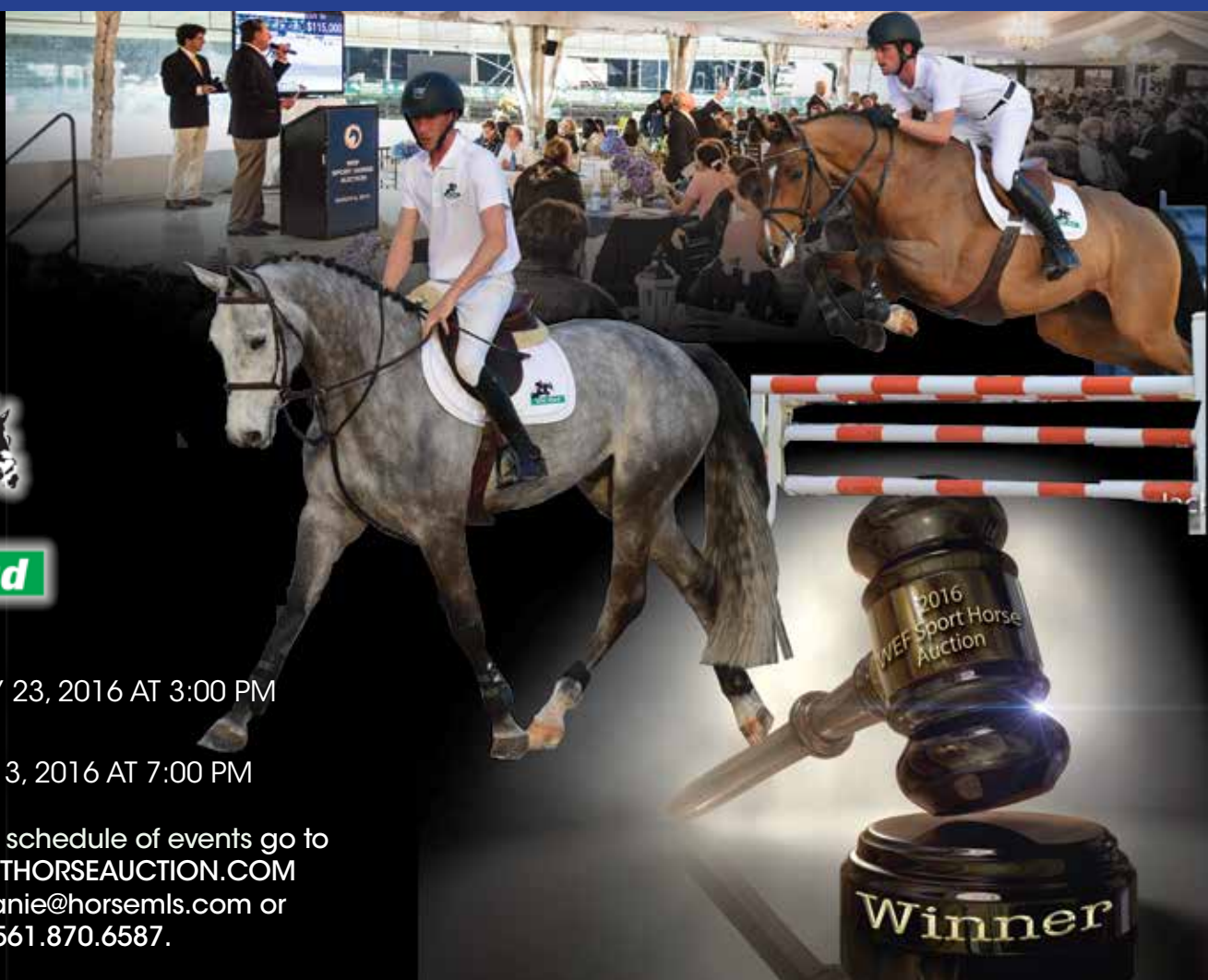
PRESENTATION:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 3:00 PM

AUCTION:

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

For the complete schedule of events go to
www.WEFSPORTHORSEAUCTION.COM
Contact: melanie@horsemills.com or
call 561.870.6587.







I have, but I had a good feeling and she was on it tonight. She wanted to do well."

The stands were overflowing at AGDF that Friday night, as the facility was filled with spectators who journeyed from around the state to watch the only FEI CDI 5* competition.

"I heard the crowd at the end, and I really felt it on the way out. I thought to myself that that was the biggest applause we've ever had. I know the music is fun and it gets people out of their seats. I think that going last with that music was a little bit like, 'Okay, let's finish this party!'"

Fellow Danish teammate Lars Petersen and the veteran mare Mariett performed for the second time this season at AGDF and collected second place honors, as the 18-year-old mare looked poised and energized in the ring.

"I was pretty pleased with our test. We showed the last CDI and then this competition here, but other than that we haven't shown since April of last year," noted Petersen. "I've had a little bit of a hard time finding a rhythm I must admit. Our Grand Prix test was not so good, but today I felt like we had a bit better rhythm. To me we just felt a little rusty still."

One of the top combinations, Steffen Peters and Legolas 92, battled through a few mistakes in their test to ultimately receive a score of 76.425%. While the test looked fluid, Peters felt the tension that ultimately detracted from their score.

"Today was very tough. I was sitting not on just one stick of dynamite tonight, but it was a whole case underneath of me," said Peters of the 2002 Westphalian gelding. "That's just the case with this horse. It can go absolutely brilliantly like he did two weeks ago when he is relaxed. I felt today in the warm-up that he was pretty keyed up. Of course, it's disappointing, but we've dug ourselves out of this spot before and we'll try to do the same in the future."

Judge at C, Thomas Lang (AUT) commented on the strong showing of the evening's competition and referenced that AGDF has created a new epicenter for the sport of dressage during the winter months.

"I think that it is very marvelous for the riders to compete here and for the judges. It's great because of the atmosphere here and the audience is really looking and hoping for these pairs. I think it's very good for the sport to have a show like this," he said. "There are so many people here and so many shows; it is that the whole world is looking to Wellington from January to March and really now this is the center of the dressage world for those three months."

Devon Kane of Diamante Farms, a founding sponsor of the AGDF venue, has been thrilled with the growth of the competition and was overwhelmed by the number of spectators who came out to

witness the CDI 5* Grand Prix Freestyle in real time.

"It's really been amazing to me, as a participant, but also watching from the background. When Mark [Bellissimo] approached us with this idea and Ken [Braddick] also, we had a lot of dressage people who stepped in. We did it as a family and now you see the corporate sponsors stepping in and the town getting involved. You have all of these people from Wellington coming to dressage," Kane expressed. "I think that's amazing that we've made this a center point of dressage, but also a venue for everyone else. The vision of AGDF has really come to par and morphed into what we all had hoped it would be from the beginning."

AGDF 5 Highlights Wednesday through Sunday

Steffen Peters (USA) and Rosamunde, owned by Four Winds Farm, made an impressive jump to the top of the standings with a score of 75.380% in the FEI Grand Prix CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, on Wednesday. Shelly Francis (USA) and Danilo finished in second place with a 72.240%, while Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) and Goerklintgaards Dublet collected third place honors with a 71.020%.

Topping a talented field of seasoned international competitors, Laura Graves (USA) and Verdades returned to their winning ways in the FEI Grand Prix CDI 5*, presented by Diamante Farms on Thursday. Graves and Verdades were the final ride in the class of 30 entries and received a 76.440%. Steffen Peters (USA) and Legolas 92 collected second place with a 74.100%, while Mikala Gundersen (DEN) and My Lady earned third with a 71.760%.

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD served as the first American pair to take a win in Small Tour competition at AGDF this season, as the combination bested a class of 28 entries in the FEI Prix St. Georges, presented by Kirk Arabians. Vinios and Folkestone OLD received a 72.842% for first place, while Leida Collins-Strijk, who has dominated the Small Tour so far this season, took home second and third place honors aboard Don Tignanello and Zantros respectively, with a 71.579% and 71.289%.

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD captured their second victory of the week in the FEI Intermediaire I CDI 1*, presented by Kirk Arabians, with a score of 72.316%. Virginia Yarur Ready (CHI) and Finn collected second place honors with a score of 70.237%, while Suzan Pape (GBR) and Samson 494 finished in third place with 69.816%.

The FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, was won with a 74.300% by Beatrice Marienau (USA) riding Stefano

8, her own KWPN (Gribaldi x Gracia) gelding. She was stunned by their success in the freestyle, but has steadily worked on improving the pair's marks in the arena throughout the year.

"It's still unreal to me. I think it takes a little bit to understand what happened here; it's amazing. He was really hot already in the warm-up today and I have to figure out how to channel that energy. He was very strong and the last couple of freestyles, I had a few problems in the beginning," she explained. "I was able to just take his energy and really dance within that. Through the whole test I knew that he was very strong, but also knew that's what makes him extremely special. That's when he looks big and looks impressive. I tried to let him do his job and just stay out of his way."

Shelly Francis and Patricia Stempel's Hanoverian (De Niro x Annabelle) gelding Danilo took second place in today's competition with a technically excellent and musically compelling performance that earned a 74.175%.

Arlene Page and her Danish Warmblood (Michellino x Alberte Lindebjerg) mare Alina took third place in today's competition with a 71.150%. She was exceptionally proud of her mare, who gave her another great performance.

Alongside their major contributions to the competition and facility, Adequan® has also taken a strong initiative to recognize the people who help make top sport possible, sponsoring each of the owner awards given throughout the night. Christopher Preston was awarded with the High Point National Show Owner Award, which was accepted on his behalf by rider Lauren Chumley for her performance aboard Hotstreak CF during AGDF 3. Lynda Hol accepted the High Point National Show Owner Award, as Karen Pavicic rode Beaujolais to a weekend high score during AGDF 4.

Christina Vinios and Folkestone OLD dominated Small Tour competition at AGDF 5, and earned themselves the FEI Prix St Georges Owner Award for their win in the division on Thursday. Janne Rumbough, owner of My Lady, winner of the FEI CDI 5* Grand Prix Freestyle, was presented with the Grand Prix Freestyle Owner Award, while My Lady's groom Julie Albrechtsen accepted the Groom's Initiative Award presented by Mark Bellissimo, managing partner of Wellington Equestrian Partners, to reward her dedication and hard work as an integral member of the winning team.

Laura Graves (USA) and Verdades added another win to their week, as the duo scored a 74.667% to best the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 5*, presented by Diamante Farms. Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven (SWE) and Benetton Dream finished in second with a 72.412%,

while Belinda Trussell (CAN) and Anton captured third place receiving a 71.431%.

While Verdades' test was not as exact or powerful as may be typically expected, it was an example of an established partnership that is continuing to grow with time. The judges recognized the maturity of their effort, awarding it a 74.667% for the win. Graves reflected on the experience of coming back to the ring after their last difficult competition.

"Today I really wanted to ride him down and let him have another good experience. Tonight I felt like it was far from being our highest score, the most precise, and certainly not our most powerful, but he was 100% himself tonight and that was a really good feeling," she explained. "What we did in the Grand Prix on Thursday really paid off and it's good to feel like I have him back knowing that I could have ridden better."

Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven and Benetton Dream, owned by Lövsta Stuteri, represented Sweden with excellent style, earning a 72.412% for a solid test that featured sweeping half-passes and a strong piaffe-passage tour. Vilhelmson-Silfven noted that this is only the second time that the 12-year-old Hanoverian stallion has done the Special and was pleased with his performance.

Belinda Trussell rode Anton, owned by Robyn Eames and Marc Trussell, to third place after an already successful campaign at AGDF so far this season. Trussell noted that Anton's natural capacity for piaffe makes the Grand Prix Special a great test for him.

Steffen Peters (USA) and Rosamunde continued their dominance in Large Tour competition at AGDF, earning top scores in the FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty, to take the class with a 73.333%. Kasey Perry-Glass (USA) and Goerklintgaards Dublet earned another top finish, adding a second place collection for the week, while young talent Juan Matute, Jr. (ESP) and Quantico Ymas earned third place with a 69.059%.

Virginia Yarur Ready (CHI) and her own Finn concluded the final day of week five of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) with a win in the FEI Intermediaire I Freestyle, presented by Kirk Arabians, at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC). Yarur Ready and Finn scored a 71.550% for first place, while Michael Klimke (GER) and Royal Dancer 33 collected second place with a 70.975%. Tina Irwin (CAN) and Fancy That finished just behind Klimke with a 70.275% for third place. ■ Carly Weilminster and Allison Kavey

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Saturday, February 27: 9:00am-3:30pm
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Welcome reception: 5:30pm-6:30pm

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

SPECIAL SALES | RAFFLE PRIZES | NEW COLLECTIONS



Continued from Page 2

Lövsta Future Challenge Cup and is at the very forefront in sustainability, being the world's first environmentally certified stud and competition farm.

The vision for Lövsta from the beginning was to improve Swedish dressage by breeding, training and competing top quality horses and also by training and educating young riders. What began as a dressage operation then also moved into the sport of show jumping in Europe and abroad.

"This year I find that people are getting more and more curious about breeding," Johnson noted. "So many great horses are imported to the US, but what if there were to be a fine dressage breeding program here as well! We have brought one of our stallions, Benetton Dream, with us this year again. This serene and powerful horse has been very successful at the show this winter after two intense breeding seasons in Europe. If more horses were bred in the USA it would be a great boost to the sport."

Since five years back, a team of Lövsta riders and top horses have a winter camp at "Lövsta South" in Wellington, where the horses are trained and competed in the warm Florida sun. An unusual and rewarding project in Florida is Lövsta South's commitment to Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center in a specific project to support young people with special challenges by introducing them to the world of horses.

A new addition for 2016 is Lövsta Ranch, a workman style ranch house that Johnson had built right across the street from Lövsta South. The house serves as a gathering place for family, friends and colleagues. Johnson held a roof topping ceremony for 50 people as the final beams were raised, inaugurating the home and celebrating the workers who constructed the house.

The idea for Lövsta Ranch originated from Johnson's time spent in Nevada as a child, as well as her 70th birthday celebration at a ranch in Wyoming. Johnson has been a leader in developing equestrian sport in many disciplines and recently returned to her early love of western riding. She recently purchased a reining horse and a cutting horse that she rides out on the trails every day after a workout on her dressage horses.

Antonia Ax:son Johnson looks forward to fantastic competition this week as some of the world's best dressage horses and riders compete at AGDF. For more information and a complete competition schedule, please visit www.globaldressagefestival.com.

For more information on The Axel Johnson Group, please visit <https://axeljohnson.com/> as the Swedish site axeljohnson.se. For more information on Lövsta Stud Farm, please visit <http://www.lovestastuteri.com/>. ■ Lauren Fisher



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THE AMERICAN ADVANTAGE

AGDF 5 SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS PHOTO GALLERY



1. Christoph Koschel on Butopiar with Charlotte Jorst from Kastel Denmark receiving the Best Seat Award.
2. The People's Choice Award was given to Laura Graves and Verdades by Ann Louise Cook.
3. Heather Blitz with "Ripline" were presented the Perfect Products Performance Weekly Award by Ashley Perkins from Perfect Products.
4. The FarmVet Youth Sportsmanship Award went to Molly Paris with "Diamant Sky", shown here with Emilie Taylor.
5. Graham Newell and dog Harry from N2 Saddlery presented the High Point Junior/Young Rider Award to Helen Claire Mc Nulty and Checkmate at AGDF 6.
6. Steffen Peters with Rosamunde and Jana Crimmins from Horse & Rider won the Best Horse Turnout Award.
7. Juan Matute Jr. and Dhannie Ymas was awarded the High Point Junior/Young Rider Award at AGDF 5 from Sue and Graham Newell.
8. The Gumbits Happy Horse Award went to Denielle Gallagher-Legriffon and "Steeped in Luck", shown here with Karen Pavicic.



SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS PHOTO GALLERY



1. Charlene Moskowitz won the Piaffe Performance Adult Amateur Award presented by Dr. Cesar Parra (left), with her trainer Denielle Gallagher (right).
2. Christine Traurig (riding Louisdor) wins the Custom Saddlery MVR Award.
3. Vita Flex Victory Pass Award presented to Steffen Peters.
4. Shelly Francis wins the World Equestrian Brands Tack Matters Award.
5. Unico G, owned and ridden by Anna Marek with trainer Anne Gribbons (left), won the TheraPlate Peak Performance Award.

6. The ShowChic Turnout Award is presented to Karen Lipp (pictured from left to right- Krystalann Shingler of ShowChic, Willem Klein Zeggelink of Cavallo, Karen Lipp, Terri Kane of Diamante Farms, and Michele Hundt of ShowChic).
7. The Horse of Course High Score Award recipient Karin Persson (left) with Beth Haist, CEO of The Horse of Course (right).
8. Carol Cohen Presents Carl Hester with the Global Dressage Visionary Award.





THE 2016



DRESSAGE SCHEDULE

April 20-24

Tryon Spring Dressage 1 CDI 3*

June 18-19

Tryon Summer Dressage 1
Level 3

August 13-14

Tryon Summer Dressage 5
Level 3

September 7-11

Tryon Fall Dressage 2 CDI 3*

Tryon International Equestrian Center and Tryon Resort offers spectators, exhibitors, and competitors a wide variety of on-site lodging options, all located just steps away from facility stabling to ensure a convenient and stress-free stay. If interested in booking lodging for the 2016 Tryon Spring Show Series, please contact lodging@tryon.com for more information regarding weekly rates.

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SCENES FROM AGDF 5: PHOTOS © SUSANJSTICKLE.COM



Beatrice Marienau and Stefano 8 won the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle CDI 3*, presented by Wellington Equestrian Realty.



Laura Graves and Verdades were victorious in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special CDI 5*, presented by Diamante Farms.



My Lady's groom Julie Albrechtsen accepted the Groom's Initiative Award presented by Mark Bellissimo, managing partner of Wellington Equestrian Partners, to reward her dedication and hard work as an integral member of the winning team.



In the FEI Intermediaire 1 Freestyle, Virginia Yarus Ready and Finn took home the win.