



W I N T E R   E Q U E S T R I A N   F E S T I V A L

# WEEKLY WIRE

WEEK 7 • FEBRUARY 18, 2026



VICTORIA  
COLVIN

WINS SEVENTH  
WCHR PETER  
WETHERILL PALM  
BEACH HUNTER  
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# FORMER CHAMPIONS RETURN:

## A GRAND PRIX DEFINED BY REPEAT WINNERS

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### Former Champions

Who are the combinations that have won the CSI5\* \$500,000 Modon Grand Prix in the last decade?

Date	Winners	Elo at the Time	Elo Field Strength	Winning Margin (in secs)
2025	Kent Farrington Greya	772	711	0.98
2024	Richard Vogel United Touch S	751	701	0.35
2023	Laura Kraut Baloutinue	759	696	0.30
2022	Bertram Allen Pacino Amiro	697	709	0.35
2021	Bertram Allen Pacino Amiro	680	701	1.79
2020	McLain Ward HH Azur	754	697	4.34
2019	Dani G. Waldman Lizziemary	736	693	1.74
2018	Dani G. Waldman Lizziemary	697	677	9.85
2017	McLain Ward HH Azur	765	685	0.36
2016	McLain Ward HH Azur	723	676	2.65



The second CSI5\* Grand Prix of the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit has built a reputation not just for its prize money and prestige, but for something even rarer in modern show jumping: repeat champions.

Over the past decade, this class has consistently attracted the very best in the sport. Time and again, it has rewarded partnerships that find their rhythm in Wellington, proving that lightning can indeed strike twice. The question each year is simple: can anyone add their name to the repeat-winners list?

As we look ahead to Saturday night, the final start list is still to be confirmed. But many of the horses already on the grounds have proven

they know exactly how to win this class.

#### GREYA RETURNS TO DEFEND

In 2025, Kent Farrington and Greya added their names to the roll of honor with victory against one of the strongest fields of the season. Now, Greya returns to Wellington with the chance to defend her Week 7 crown.

Her recent form suggests she is more than capable. Two weeks ago, in the CSI5\* \$500,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix, she came agonisingly close to another five-star victory. A rail at the final fence of the jump-off dropped her to fifth, denying what had looked like a winning round. The margin was narrow; the message was clear: Greya remains one of the sport's most formidable Grand Prix horses.

Farrington, however, does not rely on a single contender. He also brings Toulayna this week, another horse ranked among the world's Top 10. Few riders can call upon two horses of that calibre in the same week. Whoever steps forward on Saturday night, the depth of quality is undeniable.

#### VOGEL'S WINNING FORMULA

Richard Vogel arrives in Week 7 with momentum firmly on his side. Two weeks ago, he captured the CSI5\* \$500,000 Fidelity Investments® Grand Prix aboard Gangster Montdesir. That same horse now returns

to Wellington alongside Vogel, himself a former champion of this class after winning in 2024 with United Touch S.

Few combinations in the sport are as consistent in five-star company as Vogel and his top horses. History suggests that when former champions return to WEF, they are rarely just participants.

#### KRAUT'S DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE

Laura Kraut also brings serious credentials into the week. She claimed this Grand Prix in 2023 with Baloutinue, and that former champion is back on the grounds once again.

But Kraut's strength lies in her depth. Bisquetta and Tres Bien Z have both delivered CSI5\* victories in recent months, underlining the power of her string at the highest level. Whether it is Baloutinue reprising his winning role or one of her other top mounts stepping into the spotlight, Kraut's experience and options make her a formidable presence.

#### WARD'S WELLINGTON LEGACY

No discussion of WEF five-star history would be complete without McLain Ward. A three-time winner of this class, Ward's record in Wellington speaks for itself.

This year, he returns with High Star Hero, alongside

Lestro Vd Valckenborg and Le Louvre 5, horses with proven or developing 1m60 credentials. While HH Azur's era defined a chapter of dominance, Ward has consistently demonstrated an ability to produce new stars for major nights.

#### A FIELD BUILT ON EXPERIENCE

A decade of this Grand Prix tells a clear story: this is a class that favors partnerships who already know how to win it. Former champions return, and more often than not, they place themselves right back in contention.

With Greya looking to defend her title, Vogel arriving off a fresh five-star victory, Kraut armed with multiple proven winners, and Ward adding another chapter to his Wellington résumé, the stage is set for a showdown shaped as much by experience as by raw talent.

One thing is certain: when these past winners canter into the International Arena, they will not be there to make up the numbers. They will be there to chase history, and to try to win it again.



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## Sharing traditions of artistry and athleticism

**Modon creates places where people can live well, connect easily and feel part of a thriving, meaningful environment.**

As an investor in Wellington International's future development, Modon Holding is proud to join the Winter Equestrian Festival as a premier sponsor, and to stand beside an event that represents the highest expression of equestrian sport.

Listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, the Modon group operates across real estate, hospitality, asset and investment management, and events, catering and tourism. Through its presence across four continents and 13 countries, including an established real estate portfolio that spans the

Middle East, Europe and North Africa, Modon shapes world-class destinations, reimagining the future of living.

International landmarks include Hudayriyat Island in Abu Dhabi, where Modon is creating a leisure, sports and luxury residential destination around half the size of Manhattan. On Egypt's north coast, Ras El Hekma promises timeless Mediterranean living across a 66 square mile master plan. In Spain, La Zageleta ranks among the most exclusive and luxurious residential golf estates in Europe, setting the very highest standards in the

ultra-luxury segment. Modon is also a joint-venture partner in 2 Finsbury Avenue, a prime 750,000 square feet office tower under construction in the heart of the City of London.

Beyond property and real estate, Modon operates two of the world's leading events venues with ExCel in London and ADNEC Centre in Abu Dhabi. The hospitality segment features a collection of 28 hotels and resorts. Sports and leisure assets include the world's largest man-made wave pool, already on the calendar for pro-tour surfing events, with the Middle East's first UCI Category 1 indoor

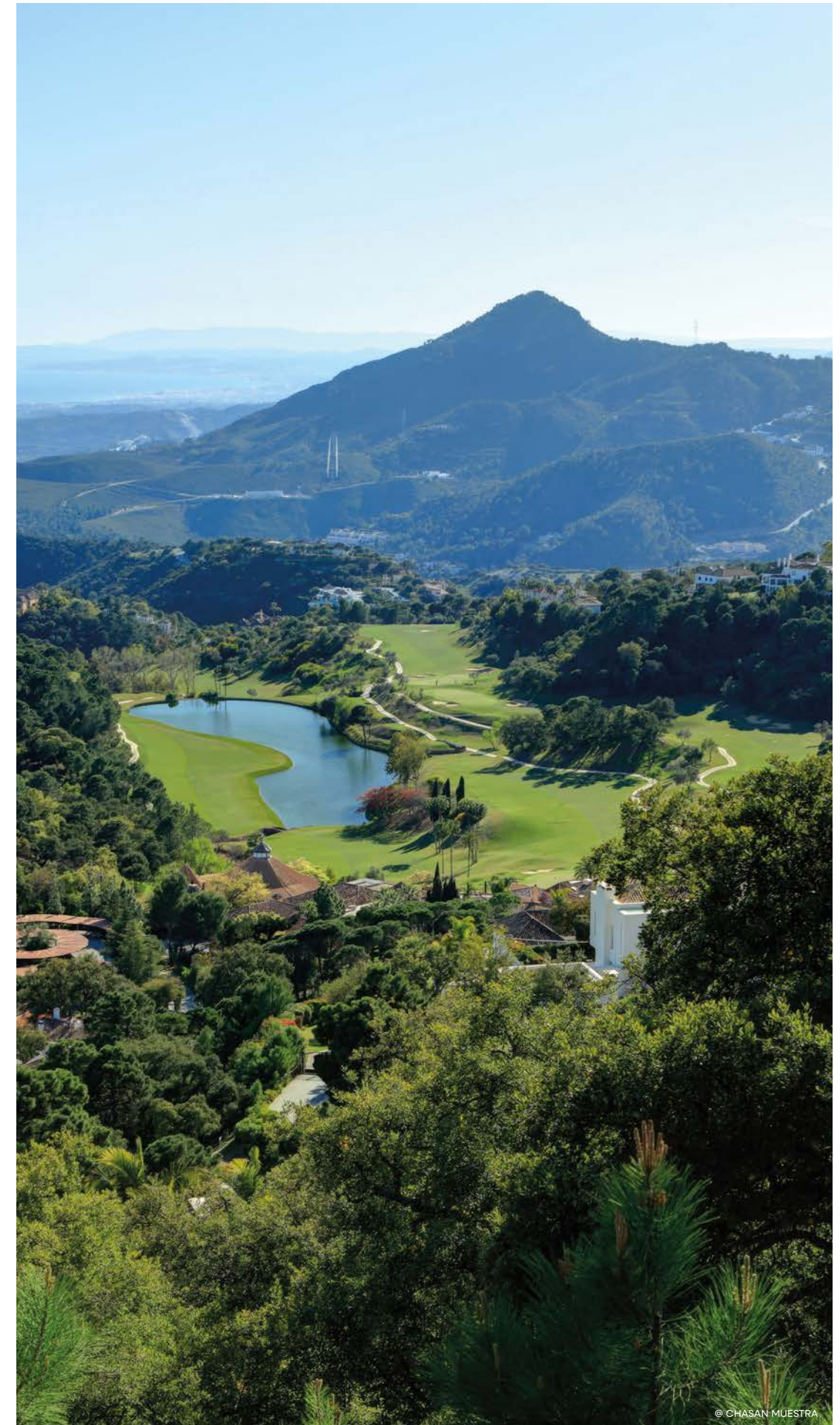


velodrome coming soon. Arena, a Modon company, is the world's leading events infrastructure company, providing structures, seating and multipurpose venues for unforgettable experiences.

Modon now brings that range and depth of experience to its investment in Wellington Lifestyle Partners, supporting the long-term evolution of Wellington International showgrounds and their surrounding areas. This includes enhanced equestrian facilities, premium residential living, boutique hospitality and a walkable lifestyle marketplace. The ambition is clear: elevate Wellington and deliver a long-term plan to strengthen its standing as the global home of equestrian sport – and of luxury living.

Already recognized globally for large-scale, high-value real estate and lifestyle projects, Modon's partnership in Wellington is built on a shared vision for excellence in destination development, and a unique collaboration that brings together expertise in real estate, equestrian, hospitality and sports-led communities.

Year after year, the world's finest riders return to Wellington for the Global Dressage Festival and Winter Equestrian Festival. Modon is honored to be part of this season and looks forward to playing a meaningful role in Wellington International's future – shaping a destination that already sets a global benchmark for equestrian excellence.





# VICTORIA COLVIN & DICOBLUE PS

CLAIM \$150,000 WCHR PETER WETHERILL PALM BEACH HUNTER SPECTACULAR



World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Week at WEF came to a celebrated peak at Wellington International during 'Saturday Night Lights'. The country's best hunter combinations went head-to-head in the \$150,000 WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular with a win for Victoria Colvin of Loxahatchee, FL, riding Dicoblue PS for owners John & Stephanie Ingram.

Meghan Rawlins (CAN) designed the two-round class that allowed riders to show off their horses over a classic first round and then a handy track. The panel one judges were Alex Jayne and Shane George; panel two was Mary Lisa Leffler and Mary Eufemia; and panel three was Rob Bielefield and Tom Brennan. Entries for the 'Saturday Night Lights' class qualified by winning the champion title in their respective divisions at the 3'6" height or above.



Colvin and the 11-year-old Diarado's Boy son posted a 95.66 from the opening round and a 97 in the handy, including a perfect 100 from panel three. She finished with a final average score of 95.83.

"He is the best," said Colvin of her winning mount, who also carried her to win the International Hunter Derby Championship this summer. "He has not been fazed by anything. He was great at Derby Finals under the lights and incredible again here. I was confident that he was going to be good, but you also never know—he walked in and was fantastic. I couldn't have asked him to do anything better."

From a 30-horse field at 3'6", 3'9" and 4' heights, 12 returned for the handy round. "The Handy was the most fun for me—the course designer gave us many options, especially at the split-rail complex. You could jump the hay bales or the stick jumps either way. I jumped it straight, which most people did," said Colvin, who has won the WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular six previous times, most recently in 2020.

Laena Romond of Brookefield, CT, riding Oslo, owned by Lexi Maounis took second on scores of 90.16 and 92.33 for a 91.24 average. Rounding out the top three, Scott Stewart of

Wellington, FL, finished on an 89.41 after scores of 87.83 and 91 were averaged for Cadet, owned by Stephanie Danhaki.

When asked about her mental game during big weeks like WCHR at WEF, Colvin responded, "I never really get super nervous. I go into the ring and know the horse is going to do his best, and I'm going to try and do my best. I try not to put too much pressure on us."

While making waves in the professional division with Colvin, Dicoblue PS also carried his owner, John Ingram, in the amateur-owner ranks.

To conclude, Colvin discussed the significance of WCHR Week within the WEF season. "This whole season, we've been gearing up for this week so that all the horses are prepared and ready. It's exciting to see some new faces from Ocala and other places coming down for this. It's very competitive and fun. I look forward to it every year."

Dicoblue PS was also awarded the Peter Wetherill Cup as WCHR Hunter of the Year, and the Mark Gregory Memorial Award for Best Conditioned Horse.

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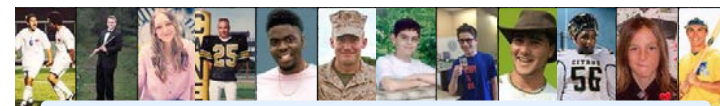
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- Wellington Lifestyle Partners
- Human Touch

## TIKI TERRACE

- French Boutique (WEF P-2)
- Flor de Campo (WEF 3-4)
- Irene Neuwirth (WEF 5-6)
- Zoe (WEF 7-11)
- SR Blackinton (WEF 12)
- WEF Store
- Hermès
- DandyLion
- Karina Brez Jewelry
- Serenella

## BRIDGE DECK AT TIKI TERRACE

- DADA Sport
- Coastal Steel Structures (WEF 5-7)
- US Equestrian Store (WEF 12)
- Cara VL (WEF P-1)
- Horsehair Jewellery (WEF 3-4)
- Hangai Mountain Textiles (WEF 5-7)
- The Calvert Collection (WEF 8-12)
- Weatherly Stroh Studio (WEF 8-11)

## HUNTER HILL

- LeMieux
- Gladiator Equine
- Lash LaRue
- VMJ for Horses (WEF P-10)
- Coastal Steel Structures (WEF 11-12)

## INTERNATIONAL RING WARM UP

- Prestige Italia
- Horcery
- Bruno Delgrange Maître Sellier
- Barnwalkers
- IDA Development

## RING 6

- Antarès Sellier
- Voltaire Design
- Theault

## RING 9

- Arion Sellier
- Forestier Sellier
- Sportfot
- Graceful Oaks (F)
- Nathalie's Café (F)

## RING 10

- Ringside Health
- McGuinn Farms
- Magdalena's Mexican (F)

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- Best Buds Florist
- Odette Boutique (WEF P-4)
- Respoke (WEF 5-8)
- Flor de Campo (WEF 9-10)
- Renrod Equestrian (WEF 11-12)

## VENDOR VILLAGE NORTHSIDE

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- The In Gate
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## PONY ISLAND

- Farm Stand
- Hunters Landing
- Silva's Tacos (F)
- Florida Snow (F)
- Best Pizza Heaven (F)
- Palm Beach
- International Academy
- House Call The App (WEF 1-2)
- Fashion Farm Girl (WEF 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 & 12)

## OASIS

- Charles Ancona
- La Enovesé Designs
- Erica Wilson (WEF P-4)
- J Wilder Imports (WEF 5-6)
- Odette Boutique (WEF 7-8, WEF 11-12)
- Ryde Equestrian (WEF 9-10)
- Devoucoux
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- Paulina Velez Designs
- The Oasis Café (F)

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- FarmVet
- Josey's Laundry
- Anonymous Coffee (F)

## SOUTH BARN

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- Zest
- Blue Ribbon Carts
- Tampico Hermoso (F)

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# AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective



# AROUND THE GROUNDS

From the Wellington International Photography Collective





# BERTRAM ALLEN OWNS THE IDA DEVELOPMENT CSI3\* GRAND PRIX

**B**ertram Allen rode longtime partner Pacino Amiro to victory in the \$140,000 IDA Development CSI3\* Grand Prix to close out Week 6 of WEF. The win marked the Irish Olympian's fourth win in this particular event.

Course designer Ana Catalina "Catsy" Cruz Harris' (MEX) welcomed five pairs to the jump-off, including Allen and his mount from the Tokyo Olympic Games—14-year-old Pacino Amiro. Allen and the Irish-bred gelding (Pacino x NC Amiro) owned by Aloga Stables stopped the clock at 46.67 seconds.

An injury sidelined Pacino Amiro just before the Paris games, but Allen says the

gelding is finally feeling like himself again. "He has been back now the last few months, but even before Christmas, he wasn't in the best form. My grooms do a great job—they have him feeling much better," said Allen of his team, which includes Lovisa Minter, who was honored with the Double H Farm Grooms Award and \$500 prize for her care and preparation of Pacino Amiro.

"He's looking great, and he jumped super this weekend," said Allen, who also rode Pacino Amiro to second in the Adequan® WEF Challenge Cup qualifier earlier in the week. "I couldn't be happier. He's been a great horse for me, and a special horse in the stable.



"It must be my lucky week," continued Allen on his track record during WEF 6. "I like jumping on the grass here, and I wasn't originally planning him for this week, but I knew he likes to grass too. We swapped plans at the last minute, and that paid off.

Zoe Hank Conter (BEL) rode Tombola Z to second for owner Stephex Stables. She and the 12-year-old Toulon daughter clocked in at 49.60 seconds. After consistent placings during WEF 6, Hank Conter was awarded the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award.

Rounding out the podium, Yali Kass (ISR) was third riding Obora's Crunchy Nut.



© SPORTFOT



## EXPERIENCE Saturday Night Lights

JAN. 03

**\$75,000 Battle of the Sexes** presented by LeMieux

JAN. 10

**Country Western Night \$140,000** Palm Beach County Sports Commission CSI3\* Grand Prix

JAN. 17

**Family Night \$50,000** Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix

JAN. 24

**Military & First Responder Appreciation Night** Presented by Wellington Regional Medical Center **\$215,000** NetJets CSI4\* Grand Prix

JAN. 31

**Great Charity Challenge** Sponsored by Fidelity Investments®

FEB. 07

**\$500,000** Fidelity Investments® CSI5\* Grand Prix

FEB. 14

**\$150,000** Peter Wetherill WCHR/USHJA Hunter Spectacular

FEB. 21

**\$500,000** Modon CSI5\* Grand Prix

FEB. 28

**\$150,000 Nations Cup** CSIO4\* presented by Florida Coast Equipment

MAR. 07

**\$500,000** Bainbridge Companies CSI5\* Grand Prix

MAR. 14

**ABBA Night \$215,000** Horseware Ireland CSI4\* Grand Prix

MAR. 21

**Fan Appreciation Night** Presented by Palm Beach County Sports Commission **\$150,000** Herta's 1.50m Championship Series Jumper Final

MAR. 28

**\$1,000,000** Rolex US Equestrian Open CSI5\* Grand Prix, a Rolex Series Event

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Gates open at 6 PM, competition starts at 7 PM.\*

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\*Competition times may vary, please visit [www.WellingtonInternational.com](http://www.WellingtonInternational.com) for more event information.

SCAN ME!





# CHAMPIONS GALLERY



# CHAMPIONS GALLERY





# ALEXANDER ALSTON AND SPIDER

## TOP BRAINJUICE U25 GRAND PRIX

**B**rainJuice Under-25 competition returned to the grass derby field at Equestrian Village on Sunday with a win for 22-year-old Alexander Alston and his own Spider in the \$31,020 BrainJuice U25 Grand Prix.

Coming off a victory in the U25 Team Competition a couple of weeks earlier, Alston and his 13-year-old mare by VDL Cardento 933 pipped Mimi Gochman in an eight-horse jump-off.

“The U25 series has been a steppingstone for me and has helped me move up into the FEI level,” said Alston

about his participation in the series aimed at developing up-and-coming riders and horses. “I stepped up to the three-star level over the summer, and it’s because of this series. I love to compete in the U25 here—it’s so much fun.”

Alston clocked a winning time of 40.25 seconds, while Gochman settled for second in 41.58 seconds riding Tage BH. The podium finish came one day after she punched her ticket to her first FEI World Cup™ Final by winning the final qualifying grand prix of the season.

Rounding out the podium, Eva Fisherman was third in 42.63 seconds riding Casallvano.

When asked about how his partnership came together with Spider, Alston said it was ‘love at first sight. “I flew to Europe to try her, and I didn’t want to try her second time because I loved her so much. She’s so athletic, smart, forgiving and kind. She’s also beautiful.

Alston now sets his focus on the BrainJuice U25 Semi-Final Grand Prix during WEF 8.

# WEF 6 STANDINGS

## LEADING LADY RIDER AWARD STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY MARTHA W. JOLICOEUR, DOUGLAS ELLIMAN

1	LILLIE KEENAN USA	390 PTS
2	ERYNN BALLARD CAN	323 PTS
3	NATALIE DEAN USA	315 PTS
4	NINA MALLEVAEY FRA	305 PTS
5	MARILYN LITTLE USA	241 PTS



Zoe Hank Conter was awarded the Martha Jolicoeur, Douglas Elliman Leading Lady Rider Award for WEF 6 from Martha Jolicoeur and Dr. Stephen Norton. Photo ©Sportfot

## HERMÈS 1.50M CHAMPIONSHIP JUMPER SERIES

1	CIAN O’CONNOR IRL	118 PTS
2	ERYNN BALLARD CAN	103 PTS
	LILLIE KEENAN USA	103 PTS
4	MARK BLUMAN COL	94 PTS
5	MCLAIN WARD USA	85 PTS

## \$25,000 LEADING INTERNATIONAL RIDER BONUS STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL SMITH

1	RICHARD VOGEL GER	\$157,266
2	BEN MAHER GBR	\$151,516
3	BERTRAM ALLEN IRL	\$150,423
4	LILLIE KEENAN USA	\$149,500
5	SHANE SWEETNAM IRL	\$111,509

## DON LITTLE MASTERS STANDINGS

PRESENTED BY RUSHY MARSH FARM

1	JEANNE REID & ATALANTE D’UHART	58 PTS
2	REZA SHABANI & DAKOTA Z	53 PTS
3	CAMILLE PACHECO CESARSKI & FLINT T.S. ET	52 PTS
4	BLYTHE MASTERS & PALERMO VAN PAAL Z	45 PTS
5	PHILIP STEINKRAUS & PAUL DE LUXE	44 PTS

## BRAINJUICE UNDER 25 GRAND PRIX SERIES

1	CAMPBELL BROWN USA	162 PTS
2	ELISE STEPHENS USA	131.5 PTS
3	ALEXANDER ALSTON USA	129 PTS
4	EVA FISHERMAN USA	129 PTS
5	CASSIDY REIN CAN	123 PTS

## OVERALL HUNTER JUNIOR/AMATEUR-OWNER RIDER

PRESENTED BY YETI

1	LILLY HERZOG	376 PTS
2	PARKER PEACOCK	367 PTS
3	IRENE NEUWIRTH	275 PTS
4	JOHN INGRAM	271 PTS
5	LEXI MAOUNIS	270 PTS

## OVERALL HUNTER PROFESSIONAL RIDER

PRESENTED BY YETI

1	VICTORIA COLVIN	1757 PTS
3	SCOTT STEWART	1200 PTS
2	JENNIFER HANNAN	936 PTS
4	CHRISTOPHER PAYNE	856 PTS
5	MICHAEL BRITT-LEON	813 PTS

# LEE MCKEEVER AND ALBANY ELECTED TO SHOW JUMPING HALL OF FAME

TO BE INDUCTED MARCH 1 AT INDUCTION GALA IN WELLINGTON

## KEVIN BABINGTON TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Lee McKeever and Albany, Leslie Burr Howard's 1984 Olympic mount, have been elected to the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. They will be formally inducted during the Hall of Fame's Induction Gala on Sunday evening, March 1, at the Wellington National Golf Club in Wellington, Florida. Additionally, the Hall of Fame will present its annual International Award to Irish Olympic veteran Kevin Babington.

Induction into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame is an honor bestowed annually upon select individuals whose accomplishments and contributions to the sport have set them apart and whose influence has had a significant impact on the sport of show jumping and the equestrian community. It is because

of their talents, efforts, accomplishments, and what they have brought to the sport, that the Election Committee, comprising some of the nation's top riders, trainers and officials, elected McKeever and Albany as the class of 2025.

### LEE MCKEEVER

For the last 38 years, Lee McKeever has been the sport horse manager and closest advisor to six-time Olympian McLain Ward. McKeever has been an indispensable member of Ward's team and has played a key role in Ward's competing in 20 World Cup Finals and 14 major championships, bringing home 13 medals.

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, McKeever started his love affair with horses when



New Show Jumping Hall of Famer Lee McKeever

he was 12 years old. While still a boy, McKeever left school and found a job as a groom. Shortly thereafter, someone told him that a friend, Jimmy Doyle, could get him a job in America. McKeever came to the U.S. in 1988 and took a job working for Barney Ward at Castle Hill Farm in Brewster, New York.

McKeever oversees every aspect of caring for more than 30 horses at a time and has played a key role in the success of such superstars as Sapphire, Rothchild, Antares F, HH Azur, Contagious, HH Carlos Z, Clinta, High Star Hero, First Lady, and many more. With McKeever at his side, Ward has won 13 medals

at the Olympics, Pan American Games and World Equestrian Games, the FEI World Cup Finals in 2017, and many major Grand Prix in the U.S. and around the world.

McKeever is an invaluable source of knowledge not only for Ward and the Castle Hill team, but also for other grooms and horsemen with whom he is more than happy to share his knowledge and expertise. McKeever's success and importance in the industry is recognized around the world and was formally acknowledged in 2018 when he was honored by the FEI with its Best Groom award.

Ward has undying respect and praise for his longtime partner. "He knows the horses better than anybody," Ward said. "He knows just how to have their conditioning and their health, and how to prevent and deal with injuries. There's never been a moment when I doubted that my horses were in anything but the best of care and that they had the best preparation to be ready to compete."

"This has never been a job for me," McKeever says. "It's a way of life." It was at Castle Hill that McKeever met his wife, Erica, who began working there about the same time he did and who continues to work with him managing all that goes on at Castle Hill. They have two children, a son, Bradlee, and a daughter, Baylee, who



Albany, with Leslie Burr, at the 1984 Olympic Games

has risen through the ranks to compete at the Five Star level while still a Young Rider.

### ALBANY

Fine-boned and light on his feet, Albany was an amazing horse, both for his performance in the ring and his beautiful personality outside the ring. He was a classic-type Thoroughbred who began his career on the racetrack. The sensitive horse, foaled in 1975, proved more talented over fences than he was on the track, and he became a true star in the show jumping ring. After starting his career with Joanne Kovacs and Jimmy Kohn, Albany was purchased for the 1983 season by Debbie Dolan (Sweeney). He was originally shown on the Grand Prix level by her trainer, Leslie Burr (Howard), while the 19-year-old Dolan was still showing in the amateur-owner division.

Following a highly successful career with Burr

in the saddle, Albany had continued success both nationally and internationally once Dolan moved up to Grand Prix competition. With Burr in the saddle, Albany was named the American Grandprix Association (AGA) Horse of the Year in both 1983 and 1984, and he carried Burr to the AGA Rider of the Year title in 1983.

In 1984, the pair won the \$100,000 American Invitational in Tampa Stadium, and they topped the U.S. Olympic Trials to secure a spot on the Olympic team alongside Joe Fargis and Touch of Class, Conrad Homfeld and Abdullah, and Melanie Smith (Taylor) and Calypso. At the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, Albany teamed with the others to make history as the first U.S. team ever to win the Olympic show jumping team Gold Medal.

When Burr handed over the reins to Dolan, Albany

continued his successful career. Over the next few years, the new combination won the Cleveland Grand Prix in 1986 and the Winter Equestrian Festival Challenge Series in 1988. They also had top-five Grand Prix finishes at the National Horse Show and Valley Forge in 1986; at Old Salem, Cleveland and the American Invitational in 1988; and at Palm Beach and Baltimore in 1989. Internationally, the pair rode on winning Nations Cup teams at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in 1987 and at Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1988 and won the Ladies Show Jumping Championship at Windsor, England, in 1989.

When Albany's Grand Prix career came to a close at the end of the decade, his earnings ranked third in AGA history.

### KEVIN BABINGTON

Riding for Ireland, Kevin

*CONTINUED ON PG. 22*



The Show Jumping Hall of Fame will also honor Irish Olympian Kevin Babington with its International Award

Babington has achieved incredible success on the U.S. circuit and internationally. He was part of Ireland's Gold Medal team at the 2001 European Championships, placed eighth individually in the World Championships at the 2002 World Equestrian Games and fourth individually in the 2004 Olympic Games.

He has ridden to victory in many of this country's most significant Grand Prix including the Hampton Classic, Sapphire Grand Prix at Devon, and Grand Prix de Penn National at Harrisburg. He is the only rider to win the Silver Oak Grand Prix three times and he was Grand Prix champion at Lake Placid four times including 2019 when he finished first, second and third!

The Show Jumping Hall of Fame was organized to promote the sport of show jumping and to immortalize the legends of the men, women and horses who have made great contributions to the sport. The Show Jumping Hall of Fame is located at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Plaques honoring those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame can be seen at the Horse Park's Rolex Stadium. Mementos and artifacts from the sport's history are on display as part of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame collection at the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Wheeler Museum at the Horse Park.



# SIP & SHOP



**FEBRUARY 21**

**6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION:**  
INTERNATIONAL CLUB LOBBY

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres & cocktails prior to the \$500,000 Modon CSI5\* Grand Prix

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



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**Cleveland Clinic**  
*Elevating the Healthcare Landscape*  
The Campaign for Cleveland Clinic Palm Beach

# CHABLIS

## RETIRED FROM COMPETITION

DURING SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS CEREMONY AT WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL

Kelly Tropin Whitridge's 18-year-old Württemberger gelding Chablis was officially retired from competition on Saturday evening, February 14, in a ceremony at Wellington International ahead of the \$150,000 WCHR Peter Wetherill Palm Beach Hunter Spectacular.

Discovered as a 4-year-old by Peter Lutz in 2012, Chablis was purchased by Tropin Whitridge two years later and remained under the training and care of Lutz and Mary Manfredi for his entire career.

"The term horse of a lifetime gets used a lot, but it is an absolutely appropriate description for Chablis," said Tropin Whitridge of the horse that never missed a WEF season during his competitive career. "From the moment Peter first saw him, he knew that Chablis was incredibly special, and he proved that time and again."

In a career that spanned 12 years, Chablis accumulated 105 championship and reserve titles. He won high score awards at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and



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Devon Horse Show. At WEF, Tropin Whitridge competed in the WCHR Hunter Spectacular four times and scored a 98 in one appearance.

Additionally, Chablis was named WCHR hunter of the year in 2020 and was memorialized as a Breyer horse model in 2022.

"The only reason Chablis was able to accomplish these results was because of the longevity of his career, which is a tribute to the team around him," said Tropin Whitridge. "Chablis was never pushed as a young horse, and throughout his career, we prioritized his soundness and health over doing one more show

or one more round. Mary, Peter, and I would all rather do less in the short term to get more in the long term, and I think that is a big part of why he is now able to retire sound and happy. We also had an incredible team of grooms that had eyes on him at all times, and our vet Dr. Amy Rabanal and farrier Mike Boylan kept him sound throughout his career. Because of those people, this horse never missed a show for his entire competitive career.

"On the one hand, it is sad for Chablis' show career to officially be over, but on the other, I am so happy that he was as successful at the end of his career as he was at the beginning,"

she continued. "This horse provided so much joy over our time together, and giving him a happy and long retirement is the best way of thanking him for his incredible generosity of spirit over the past fourteen years."

The entire team at Wellington International wishes Chablis a collective congratulations on an exceptional career and expresses their sincere thanks to Kelly Tropin Whitridge and her team for sharing his moments with us.



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Save  
— the —  
Date

# WELLINGTON BREEDERS' TALK

Hosted by Michael Doherty



Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026  
7 PM • The Wellington Club



WINTER  
EQUESTRIAN  
FESTIVAL