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Next Generation of Horsemen Kicks Off Competition at the 2023 Hampton Classic Horse Show

Bridgehampton, NY – August 27, 2023 – The 48th annual Hampton Classic Horse Show commenced its week of world-class equestrian competition under beautiful blue skies and warm weather. The first group of competitors to take center stage, dressed in their Sunday bests, were leadline riders in age groups of 2-4 and 5-7; the division was presented by Brennan's Bit and Bridle and judged by three-time Olympic medalist Joe Fargis.

The Hampton Classic, August 27-September 3, is one of the world's most prestigious horse shows, featuring competitors at every level from young children in leadline to Olympic, World, and World Cup Champions. The Classic also has competitions for riders with disabilities.

A combined total of 68 entries in the Leadline divisions presented by Brennan's Bit and Bridle set the stage for tough competition in the Grand Prix Arena. The first groups featured riders from ages 2-4, followed by sections for the 5- to 7-year-olds. Judging the next generation of horsemen, Olympic double gold medalist and Show Jumping Hall of Famer Joe Fargis of Middleburg, VA, returned once again to support and encourage each exhibitor in the ring.



Ine's Marteau and Love Me Too won their Leadline 2-4 class presented by Brennan's Bit & Bridle

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“The kids are all wonderful to work with,” said Fargis. “I’ll tell you something great about this leadline class. I’ve lived long enough that I’ve seen some of these young riders 15 years later jumping in the Grand Prix here (at the Hampton Classic). I love that; I love how as time goes on, their riding has matured. It’s just wonderful.”

Section Champions of Leadline 2-4 years presented by Brennan's Bit and Bridle:

1. Ine's Marteau of Sag Harbor, NY, riding GHF Hamptons LLC's *Love Me Too*
1. Eleanor Calame of Garden City, NY, riding her own *Topped In Gold*
1. Wesleigh Harrison of Rowayton, CT, riding Pamela Suskind's *Lolli Pop*

Section Champions of Leadline 5-7 years presented by Brennan's Bit and Bridle:

1. Harbor Mentzel of East Patchogue, NY, riding Mackenzie Rose Rocco's *Oopsie Daisy*
1. Sienna Pepa of Sag Harbor, NY, riding Arete Equestrian's *Night Light*
1. Lucia Dibartolo of Sag Harbor, NY, riding Topping Riding Club's *Be Right Back*



Harbor Mentzel and Oopsie Daisy won their Leadline 5-7 class presented by Brennan's Bit & Bridle

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The official **Opening Day** ceremonies followed in the afternoon with the introduction of officials and special guests before moving into the afternoon's highlight classes, the \$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge and \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby.

The Hampton Classic's official community partner, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, was brought to the field to kick off the festivities. Partnered with the Hampton Classic since the show's inception in 1976, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital has received more than \$2 million in contributions from the show during that time.

Sadie Berkhout of Eastport, NY, received the 17th annual **Long Island Sportsmanship Award**. A working student at Northern Ridge Stables, Berkhout's many nominations describe her as a dedicated, organized, and thoughtful horsewoman. With a strong work ethic, Berkhout is a great role model for young riders, and seasoned equestrians are quick to praise her for her dedication and love of horses and their wellbeing.

Other festivities included a showcase of participating horses in Monday's Hampton Classic Adoption Day Sponsored by Georgina Bloomberg. A key partner of the equine portion of Adoption Day, the EQUUS Foundation, founded in 2002 to keep America's horses safe at all

stages of their lives, was presented with a \$4,000 donation from Long Island Market President of Connect One Bank, Kevin Santecroce. The EQUUS Foundation was also joined by their Guardian Program charities, Rising Starr Horse Rescue of Wilton, CT, and Sunshine Horses of Clay, NY.

For live show results, visit TheHamptonClassic.com.

Each year approximately 50,000 people – including many A-list celebrities – come to watch the nation’s best equestrian athletes compete at the Hampton Classic. Rated USEF ‘Premier-6’ for hunters and jumpers with designated FEI 2* and 5* classes, the Hampton Classic features more than 200 competitions in six spectacular show rings, the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, and a wide selection of dining options, all on its world-class 60-acre showgrounds.

The Hampton Classic’s FEI competition begins Thursday, August 31, with the **\$10,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$39,000 Flecha Azul 5* Speed Stake** and continues throughout the weekend with eight 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Ireland’s Alan Wade. FEI competition also includes Friday’s **\$39,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Jumper Classic**, **\$78,000 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday’s **\$39,000 Open Speed Class CSI2***, and the **\$78,000 The Agency 5* Speed Stake**, and culminating with the **\$78,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 3.

Outside the show rings, families can enjoy unique shopping; hands-on activities, pony rides and petting zoo animals at the Kids Exhibition Tent; and many more fun activities during News 12 Long Island Kids Day (Saturday, September 2).

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday; seniors and military are also admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grandstand tickets for the \$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 3, are \$55 per person for

reserved bucket seating. Grandstand tickets are electronic only; E-Tickets are provided thanks to support from Green is the New Blue.

For those who can't make it to the show grounds, complimentary live webcasts of all Grand Prix and Aspinall Ring competitions air on the Hampton Classic website. Produced by ClipMyHorse.TV, the Grand Prix Ring livestreams are sponsored by Longines and the Aspinall Ring livestreams are sponsored by ClipMyHorse.TV. In addition, WVVH-TV, Hamptons Television, broadcasts up to five hours of competition and highlights each day during the Classic. These broadcasts can also be seen online at www.wvvh.tv.

For more information on the Hampton Classic Horse Show, please visit the Hampton Classic website at www.hamptonclassic.com or call 631-537-3177. Hampton Classic Horse Show, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.