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Contact: Marty Bauman, 508-878-2394; marty@classic-communications.com

Local Hunter Champions Crowned During First Day of 2026 Hampton Classic

Bridgehampton, NY – August 24, 2026 – The 2026 Hampton Classic Horse Show commenced on Sunday with several hunter divisions reserved exclusively for Long Island residents in what is commonly referred to as “Local Day.” Leading the way into the winner’s circle was Laura Bowery of Bridgehampton, NY, aboard Anne Byers’ *Blue Cruise*, who earned the **Grand Local Hunter Championship** and associated South Fork Perpetual Trophy.

Celebrating 51 years of world-class equestrian competition in Bridgehampton, NY, the Hampton Classic features FEI CSI5* and CSI2* show jumping and USEF Premier hunter competitions with more than \$1 million in prize money, **August 23-30**.



Laura Bowery and Blue Cruise won the Grand Local Hunter Championship for their outstanding performances in the Local Professional Hunter Section A presented by Barbara Borg & Yvetta Rechler Newman © KindMedia

Both Bowery and Byers, of Locust Valley, NY, had a busy schedule during the Classic’s Local Day, with Bowery riding horses across multiple divisions and Byers having several of her own mounts onsite.

Bowery claimed top honors in both sections of the **Local Professional Hunter Division** presented by **Barbara Borg & Yvetta Rechler Newman**, guiding *Blue Cruise* to victory in Section A and Justine Ryan's *Monalisa* to the win in Section B.

Blue Cruise also brought home the tricolor for the **Bulovas Restorations Local Amateur-Owner Hunter Championship** with Byers herself in the irons.



Anne Byers and Blue Cruise won the Bulovas Restorations Local Amateur-Owner Hunter Championship
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Other Local Hunter champions included Northern Ridge Stables LLC's *Casamigos*, ridden by Elsie Esposito of Westhampton, NY, in the **Atlantic Equine Local Junior Hunter** division. Meagan McCusker of Glen Head, NY, piloted Louis R. Mayoka's *Kabriano* to the **Local Non-Professional Hunter Championship**.



Elsie Esposito and Casamigos won the Atlantic Equine Local Junior Hunter Championship © KindMedia

For live show results, visit HamptonClassic.com. Photos from the event are [available via Dropbox](#) with credits to KindMedia (unless otherwise noted in the folder name).

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 Horse Show. Rated **USEF ‘Premier-6’** for hunters and jumpers with designated **FEI 2* and 5*** jumping 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.

FEI competition begins on Thursday, August 27, with the **\$5,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$32,000 CSI5* BrainJuice Two-Phase** and continues throughout the weekend with seven 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Nick Granat (USA) and Anderson Lima (BRA). FEI competition also includes Friday’s **\$32,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Grand Prix Qualifier**, **\$116,100 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday’s **\$62,500 5* Winning Round**, and culminates with the **\$70,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, August 30. The **\$30,000 Longines Rider Challenges** will also be presented on Grand Prix Sunday as two separate bonuses: \$10,000 for the FEI 2* division and \$20,000 for the FEI 5* division.

Other competition highlights include the **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper** (Tuesday), **\$40,000 1.45m National Grand Prix** (Wednesday), **\$10,000 Hunt & Go Stake presented by The Baran** (Thursday), **\$10,000 Harrods Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake** (Friday), **\$10,000 Hermès**

Equitation Championship (Saturday), \$30,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey 1.45m Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic and \$10,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic (Sunday).

Outside of the show rings, families can enjoy unique shopping in the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden and on Stable Row; hands-on activities, pony rides and petting zoo animals at the Kids Exhibition Tent; and many more fun activities during Kids Day (Saturday, August 29).

Daily entry to the Hampton Classic is \$25 per carload which includes grandstand seating on all days except Grand Prix Sunday. Admission is free on Monday. Admission is also free on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for Seniors, members of the Military and those who bring three or more non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

Tickets for **reserved grandstand seats** for Grand Prix Sunday, August 30, are \$75 per seat and are available on the [Hampton Classic website](#). Tickets for the **Classic Club** (formerly the Judge's Box Lounge), which offers an elevated experience for watching Grand Prix Ring competition on Thursday-Sunday, August 27-30, are also available.

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.