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## **Local Hunter Champions Crowned to Kick Off 2024 Hampton Classic Horse Show**

***Bridgehampton, NY – August 26, 2024*** – Many Long Island competitors stole the show on Sunday at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual **Hampton Classic** as part of its Opening Day, commonly called “Local Day” around the showgrounds. Following their successful performances which secured the TuffShed Local Professional Hunter Championship for their section (the division had a California split), Meghan Knapic of Smithtown, NY, and *Blue Time*, a 7-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by First Blue LLC, earned the **Grand Local Hunter Championship**. Knapic is trained by Heidi Earle, who earlier in the day was honored with the 2024 Long Island Sportsmanship Award.



*Meghan Knapic and Blue Time earned one of the TuffShed Local Professional Hunter Championships and the overall Grand Local Hunter Championship © KindMedia*

The Hampton Classic, August 25-September 1, is one of the world’s most prestigious horse shows, featuring competitors from young children in leadline to Olympic, World, and World Cup Champions. Rated USEF Premier-6 with designated FEI 5\* and 2\* show jumping classes, the Classic also has competitions for riders with disabilities.

The Classic traditionally reserves Opening Day competition for the Long Island equestrian community, with classes open exclusively to horses stabled in Nassau and Suffolk counties for at least 75 days since January of the calendar year. Many local hunter and equitation riders took center stage in the show's beautifully manicured rings, vying for top honors before Sunday afternoon's featured classes, the \$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge and \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby.

Along with their Grand Local Hunter Championship tri-color ribbon, Knapic and *Blue Time* received the South Fork Perpetual Trophy sponsored by the Hampton Classic. They also earned the Eddie Horowitz Memorial Trophy sponsored by North Shore Equestrian Center for winning the **TuffShed Local Professional Hunter Championship**, which they shared with fellow section leaders Emily Williams of Double Oak, TX, and Cori Reich's 8-year-old Westphalian gelding *Inquisitive*.



*Emily Williams and Inquisitive won the TuffShed Local Professional Hunter Championship for their section*

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Joining Knapic and Williams in the winner's circle was Kenzie Smith of Shoreham, NY, who piloted GHF Hamptons LLC's *Graham B* to the **Miller & Associates Local Junior Hunter Championship**. *Dom Perignon*, owned and ridden by Samantha O'Brien of Glen Cove, NY, won the **Local Amateur-Owner Hunter Championship**. In the **Local Non-Professional Hunter** division, Sarah McCombe of Riverhead, NY, won the championship for her outstanding rounds aboard First Blue LLC's *Touch of Blue*.



*Kenzie Smith and Graham B won the Miller & Associates Local Junior Hunter Championship © KindMedia*

Other highlights included the **Schweiger Dermatology Group Adult Equitation** and **ServPro Children's Equitation** divisions. Among the over-fences class winners were Sophia Kirchgassner of East Hampton, NY, aboard Chelsea Cohn's *Quincy De Tillard* and Mackenzie Monaco of Laurel Hollow, NY, aboard her *Believable*, who both competed in the ServPro Children's Equitation Low section.

For live show results, visit [HamptonClassic.com](http://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. 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.

FEI competition begins Thursday, August 29, with the **\$10,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2\*** and **\$32,000 CSI5\* Speed Stake** and continues throughout the weekend with eight 2\*/5\* classes featuring courses designed by Nick Granat. FEI competition also includes Friday's **\$32,000 Wölffer Estate 2\* Jumper Classic** and **\$70,000 Douglas Elliman 5\* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday's **\$32,000 Open Speed Class CSI2\*** and **\$70,000 CSI5\* Winning Round**. The Classic culminates with the **\$75,000 Hampton Classic 2\* Grand Prix** and the **\$400,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5\* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 1.

Other competition highlights include the **\$30,000 Open Jumper Challenge**, **\$10,000 Stomp Capital 1.40m Open Jumper**, **\$10,000 Lugano Diamonds Junior/Amateur Welcome Stake**, **\$10,000 Hermès Equitation Championship**, **\$10,000 Junior/Amateur-Owner Hunter Classic**, **\$25,000 Agneta & Brownlee Currey High Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic**, and the new **\$50,000 Kristen Baran Hunt Team Stake**.

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, August 31).

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday. Seniors and military are admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as are those who bring three or more non-perishable food items for the Sag Harbor Food Pantry. Grandstand tickets for the Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 1, are \$60 per person (including fees) for reserved bucket seating. Grandstand tickets are electronic only.

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](http://www.wvvh.tv).

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