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Hampton Classic Horse Show Designates Opening Day's \$30,000 1.40m Jumper Challenge as a Benefit Class for the Kevin Babington Foundation
Other Highlights Include Long Island Competitors and Family-Friendly Activities

Bridgehampton, NY – July 21, 2026 – The 2026 **Hampton Classic Horse Show** returns for its 51st edition of world-class equestrian competition in Bridgehampton, NY, **August 23-30**. The Classic features FEI CSI5* and CSI2* show jumping and USEF Premier hunter competitions with more than \$1 million in prize money.

Opening Day at the Hampton Classic features many of the world's top riders and horses competing in their first class of the week in the \$30,000 1.40m Jumper Challenge. This year, the Jumper Challenge will serve as a benefit class for the **Kevin Babington Foundation** (KBF) with a portion of the entry fee for each horse in this competition going directly to the Foundation.

"The Kevin Babington Foundation has done incredible work in supporting show jumping riders who have sustained spinal cord and other related injuries," said Shanette Cohen, the Classic's Executive Director. "Kevin Babington was a highly successful rider, not only at the Classic where he won our featured Grand Prix in 2014, but across the country and around the world. He remains an inspiration to all of us, and we are honored to support the Foundation that bears his name."

The KBF was created in 2019 to provide funding and support for equestrian show jumping athletes who sustain spinal injuries. In addition to providing financial assistance, the Foundation strives to educate riders, trainers and show organizers about the most current safety measures designed to reduce the risk of serious injuries that can occur while riding. To learn more or donate, visit

<https://kevinbabingtonfoundation.org/>.



2025 Jumper Challenge winners Brianne Goutal-Marteau (USA) and S & L Marlon VD Heffinck. © KindMedia

Many of the Classic's Opening Day competitions are limited to horses based on Long Island, creating what is commonly referred to as "Local Day." Highlights also include the presentation of the Long Island Sportsmanship Award, Leadline classes for children aged 2-7 judged by three-time Olympic medalist Joe Fargis, and the \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby.

Outside the show ring, there are family-friendly activities such as **cookie decorating** with Citarella and an **exhibition by the Shinnecock Nation** prior to the \$30,000 Jumper Challenge.



Other "Local Day" highlights include the \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby and Leadline classes for young children © KindMedia

About the Hampton Classic Horse Show

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 show grounds.

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.