



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marty Bauman, 508-698-6810; marty@classic-communications.com

**World #1 Kent Farrington and Seven-Time Champion McLain Ward
Headline Impressive List of Entries for 2026 Hampton Classic**

***Entries Include Athletes from 13 Countries with Three of the World's Top Six Riders
and Eight of the Top 30***

Bridgehampton, NY – August 19, 2026 – World #1 Kent Farrington (USA), #3 Shane Sweetnam (IRL), and seven-time champion McLain Ward (USA) headline an impressive list of show jumping athletes entered to compete in the 2026 **Hampton Classic Horse Show**. 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**.

In all, the Classic's Grand Prix Arena is slated to host nine Olympians (including defending Olympic champion Christian Kukuk of Germany), top international stars from 13 countries and the defending Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix champion Jessica Mendoza (GBR). Several of these athletes will be coming directly to the Classic after competing at the 2026 FEI Jumping World Championships in Aachen, Germany!

Great Britain's **Jessica Mendoza** (World #33) hopes to defend her 2025 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix title against multiple Olympic veterans and fellow Hampton Classic Grand Prix winners, including **Farrington**, who won the event in 2012 and 2013. Farrington has represented the U.S. at two Olympic Games and multiple championships with one Olympic medal (team Silver in 2016), one World Championship medal (team Bronze in 2014) and two Pan American Games medals (team Gold in 2011, team Bronze in 2015). He also won the 2026 Longines FEI World Cup™ Final for the home U.S. crowd in Fort Worth, Texas.



World #1 Kent Farrington (USA), winning the Hampton Classic Grand Prix in 2013. © ESI



Defending Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix champions Jessica Mendoza (GBR) and In The Air. © KindMedia

Among those joining Mendoza and Farrington at the Classic is World #3 **Shane Sweetnam**, who placed second in the Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix last year, and six-time U.S. Olympian **McLain Ward**, who has won the Hampton Classic Grand Prix a record seven times! Ward is currently ranked World #12. Sweetnam represented Ireland in the 2021 and 2024 Olympic Games and has won the Hampton Classic's Longines Rider Challenge three times. Ward has won five Olympic medals (team Gold in 2004 and 2008; team Silver in 2016, 2021 and 2024) and was the Longines FEI World Cup™ champion in 2017.



World #3 Shane Sweetnam (IRL) and James Kann Cruz flew to second place in the 2026 Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix. © KindMedia



World #12 McLain Ward (USA) has won the Hampton Classic Grand Prix a record seven times. © KindMedia

Also looking to reclaim the Hampton Classic Grand Prix title is three-time Olympian **Daniel Bluman** of Israel, who is currently ranked #6 on the Longines FEI World Rider Rankings. He brought home his third Classic title in 2023 when he became just the fourth rider to win the featured event at least three times.

Other entered riders include defending Olympic champion and World #10 **Christian Kukuk** (GER); 2016 Olympic team Silver medalist **Lucy Davis Kennedy** (USA); 2021 Olympian **Nayel Nassar** (EGY); and 2024 Olympians **Thaisa Erwin** (AUS) and **Erynn Ballard** (CAN), who is currently World #30.

Other notable entries looking to claim the prestigious Hampton Classic title include World #21 **Mark Bluman** (ISR); World #28 **Aaron Vale** (USA); 2018 World Equestrian Games team Gold medalist **Adrienne Sternlicht** (USA); and 2024 Hampton Classic Grand Prix podium finishers **Mimi Gochman** (USA) and **Alex Matz** (USA), who finished in second and third, respectively.



World #6 Daniel Bluman (ISR), winning his third Hampton Classic Grand Prix in 2023. © KindMedia



Among the Classic's star-studded lineup for 2026 is defending Olympic champion and World #10 Christian Kukuk (GER). © Longines Global Champions Tour

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.

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. 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.

Monday admission is free for everyone. Admission is 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.

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.