



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities Finals
Presented by Dime Commercial Bank Celebrate 20 Years of Competition
at the 2026 Hampton Classic**

Low Hunter and Short Stirrup Champions Share the Spotlight

Bridgehampton, NY – August 24, 2026 – On Monday, the 2026 **Hampton Classic Horse Show** made way for the talented riders and horses in the **Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities (LIHSSRD) Finals presented by Dime Commercial Bank**. This marked the competition's 20th anniversary, having been held at the Classic every year since its inception in 2006.

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**.

LIHSSRD was established in 2006 by HorseAbility Inc. to provide riders with disabilities with opportunities to participate in USEF-rated hunter/jumper shows and provide them with the same competitive experience that other riders enjoy. Each year, these exceptional athletes and their trusted mounts descend on the Hampton Classic to vie for prestigious year-end awards in their respective divisions: Advanced Independent, Walk/Trot Independent and Walk/Trot with Aides.

“When Katie (McGowan) and Lisa (Zimmerman) first approached me about having an exhibition at the Classic to showcase their riding programs and their riders’ abilities, I told them that I felt a competition would be better,” said Shanette Cohen, Executive Director of the Hampton Classic. “They loved the idea, and things took off from there. To this day, I consider making the LIHSSRD Finals part of the Hampton Classic one of the best things I have ever done. I will always be thankful to Katie, Lisa and everyone associated with this great event for coming together year after year – especially, of course, the riders and horses who work so hard to get here!”

Immediately following the Finals, competitors joined their families and volunteers for an awards ceremony and luncheon in one of the Classic's VIP chalets. Helping to present the awards was 2025 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix champion and current World #33 Jessica Mendoza (GBR).

"This is such an amazing event, and I'm so happy to be here to help celebrate these athletes," Mendoza said. "Getting to the Hampton Classic takes a lot of preparation, especially at the championship level. I'd like to congratulate everyone who participated [in the Series] and look forward to seeing you again next year."



Defending Longines Hampton Classic 5 Grand Prix champion Jessica Mendoza (GBR) was on hand to present awards for the Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities (LIHSSRD) Finals presented by Dime Commercial Bank © KindMedia*

In the **Advanced Independent** division, Beatrix Sorensen brought home top honors riding Metropolitan Equestrian's *Wizard Of Oz*. John (Jack) Slater was the Reserve Champion with Jessica Pierno's *Cotton Candy*.



Beatrix Sorensen and Wizard Of Oz won the LIHSSRD Advanced Independent Final © KindMedia

Earning victory in the **Walk/Trot Independent** division was Noah Jaffee aboard HorseAbility Inc.'s *Vigo Massuere*. Isaiah Forte and *It's 5 O'clock Somewhere*, another HorseAbility Inc. mount, claimed Reserve.



Noah Jaffee and Vigo Massuere won the LIHSSRD Walk/Trot Independent Final © KindMedia

Ethan Michael Hernandez and Katie Kega's *High Stakes* secured the championship in the **Walk/Trot with Aides** division. Coming in Reserve was Kess Delucia aboard Jillian Schulz's *O'Honey*.



Ethan Michael Hernandez and High Stakes won the LIHSSRD Walk/Trot with Aides Final © KindMedia

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, Katie McGowan, founder and Executive Director of HorseAbility Inc., also presented Cohen and Marty Bauman, the Hampton Classic's Press Chief, with the **Ed Wrigley Sportsmanship Award**. "The Ed Wrigley Trophy represents great sportsmanship and love of the industry," McGowan said. "It was last presented in 2018, and this year, we shared it with

Shanette and Marty because they are so well deserving. They have spent years representing the industry as a whole and have supported HorseAbility, LIHSSRD and all our riders every step of the way.”



*Shanette Cohen and Marty Bauman were presented with LIHSSRD's Ed Wrigley Sportsmanship Award
© KindMedia*

Additionally, the Classic hosted several hunter and equitation divisions throughout the day, including the **Brochu Walker Low Adult Amateur Hunter**, Low Children's Hunter and Short Stirrup Equitation divisions. Joe Currais' *Utopia De La Rouase*, ridden by Camille Borres of Lambertville, NJ, brought home the tricolor in the Low Adult Hunter Section A. Sheena Firestone of Stamford, CT, and her *Something Else* claimed the championship in the Low Adult Hunter Section B.

In the **Low Children's Hunter** division, Liam Fields of Teaneck, NJ, and his *Belvedere* secured the championship for Section A, while Lily Walsh of Oyster Bay, NY, piloted Emilia Pfeifler's *Castle* to victory in Section B.

Empire's Paris, owned by Artemis Equestrian Farm LLC and ridden by Ines Marteau of Wellington, FL, was the **Grand Short Stirrup Equitation Champion** following several outstanding performances in the Short Stirrup 9 & Under Section B. Marteau and *Empire's Paris* also earned the associated Conway Cabbage Award sponsored by Denise Maynard.

Other Short Stirrup champions included Rylee McMaster of St. James, NY, and her *Motown* in Section A of the 10-12 age group; Coletta Grgas of Valhalla, NY, and Sage Hill Farm's *Summerland* in Section B of the 10-12 age group; and Petal Neville of Mount Kisco, NY, and Jill Shulman's *Best Kept Secret* in Section A of the 9 & Under age group.



Ines Marteau and Empire's Paris won the Grand Short Stirrup Equitation 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.