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**Geoffrey Hesslink Wins the \$5,000 Mane 'N Tail Rider Challenge
Champions Crowned in the Hunter Rings at the 45th Hampton Classic Horse Show**

Bridgehampton, NY – Sept. 1, 2021 – Geoffrey Hesslink of Shelburne, Vt., walked away with top honors in the \$5,000 Mane 'N Tail Rider Challenge, presented at the Hampton Classic Horse Show on Wednesday.

Regardless of which horses they rode, Rider Challenge competitors earned points based on their overall placings in several of the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows and Hampton Classic Horse Show hunter divisions: Green Working 3'6" and 3'9" hunters, Green Conformation, High Performance Conformation, High Performance Hunter, and Old Salem Farm's Performance 3'6" Hunter and \$15,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby.



Geoffrey Hesslink accumulated the most points in the \$5,000 Mane 'N Tail Rider Challenge © Kind Media

“I had a great year,” Hesslink said. “I’m really lucky to have the horses that I do in my stable, so it was really easy to have a successful run. I didn’t bring many horses to the Hampton Classic since it’s always nerve-wracking to show on grass, but I had a lot of fun here. It was a big mental win for me.”

Hesslink accumulated 700 points during the show season, earning him a landslide win. Holliday Ryals of Bayville, N.Y., earned second place with a total of 260 points, and Jennifer Hannan of Wakefield, R.I., finished third with 240 points.

Many other champions were crowned in the hunter rings, including Betsee Parker’s Nottingham, ridden by Scott Stewart of Wellington, Fla., in the LiveEq Green Working Hunter 3’6” division. The pair was awarded the Ever So Dark Trophy for their successful performance.



Scott Stewart and Nottingham took home the LiveEq Green Working Hunter 3’6” Championship
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Stewart later won the Green 3’9”/High Performance 4’ Hunter division on Cabrio, owned by Bikoff Equestrian LLC. He also rode Parker’s Charlemagne and For Always to the Green Conformation 3’6” and High Performance Conformation 3’9” hunter championships, respectively.

Catch-22, owned and ridden by Inez Martinez-Gonzalez of Shelter Island, N.Y., earned the Grand Children’s Hunter Championship and Virginia Hunt Trophy for accumulating the most points in all of the Children’s Hunter divisions. The duo won the Children’s Hunter Large Pony Championship earlier in the day.



Inez Martinez-Gonzalez and Catch-22 © Kind Media

In the Children's Hunter Small/Medium Pony section, Gray Neville of East Hampton, N.Y., piloted Savannah Welch's Mapleside Magic Wish to top honors. For full show results, visit sho.net/biz.

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. The Hampton Classic features more than 200 classes in six 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. This year's Hampton Classic features five FEI classes in its grass Grand Prix ring showcasing elite riders from around the world, including Olympic and World Equestrian Games veterans. There are also kid-friendly activities throughout the week including pony rides, petting farm animals, daily special attractions and more.

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday, and seniors are admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grandstand tickets for the \$300,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 5, are \$45 per person for reserved bucket seating, which are available for purchase on the Hampton Classic website.

The Hampton Classic is pleased to continue its relationship with ShowNet by offering its services FREE to all exhibitors. Services include: Orders of Go; Live Ring Status; Live Results; and Post Round Video.

For those who can't make it to the show grounds, complimentary live webcasts of all Grand Prix ring competitions air on the Hampton Classic website, produced by ClipMyHorseTV and courtesy of LONGINES. ClipMyHorseTV is also providing a complimentary live webcast of all Anne Aspinall ring competitions and archive video, all available on the Hampton Classic website. 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.