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

Haness Sweeps the Podium in the \$25,000 Hunter Classic Sponsored by Green River Farm at the 2023 Hampton Classic Horse Show
Orlando Wins \$5,000 Mane 'n Tail Hunter Rider Challenge

Bridgethampton, NY – August 31, 2023 – Twenty-one horse-and-rider combinations turned out for the new **\$25,000 Hunter Classic Sponsored by Green River Farm** in the beautifully manicured Aspinall Hunter Ring at the 48th annual **Hampton Classic** on Thursday. Nick Haness of Temecula, CA, ultimately proved the one to beat as he swept the podium with his three mounts, *Caristo*, *Queen Celeste* and *Private Practice*.

The Hampton Classic, August 27-September 3, is one of the world's most prestigious horse shows, featuring competitors at every level from young children in leadline to Olympic, World, and World Cup Champions. The Classic also has competitions for riders with disabilities.



Nick Haness and Caristo won the \$25,000 Hunter Classic Sponsored by Green River Farm © KindMedia

Scoring a total of 187 points over the \$25,000 Hunter Classic's two-round test, Hanes claimed top honors aboard *Caristo*, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC's 10-year-old Holsteiner gelding. He also presented Glade Run Farm LLC's *Queen Celeste*, a 12-year-old Holsteiner mare, for a second-place score of 186 points. His 180-point combined score on *Private Practice*, John & Stephanie Ingram LLC's 13-year-old Holsteiner gelding, earned third.

"It was pretty exciting to ride *Caristo* and the others in this class," Hanes said. "It was a beautiful and fun day for a hunter classic. Riding around the ring here is always special. I think any time you have a successful ride is a good day, and to ride out with a 96 (in the first round) is super exciting.

"*Caristo* is a new ride for me and just an exceptional horse," he added. "I think the atmosphere was fun with everyone watching as well as a bit of a challenge with the shadows coming out this afternoon. Going into the second round on a 96 added a little pressure, but I just focused on putting in a nice, consistent round to pull off a second nice score and ultimately the win."



Nick Hanes and Caristo © KindMedia

Hanes and his mounts walked away with additional titles as the hunter judges continued to name division champions throughout the day. *Private Practice* earned the **Ollywear Performance Hunter 3'3" Section A Championship**, while *Queen Celeste* reigned supreme in the **Performance 3'6" Hunter** division.

"*Queen Celeste* is an amazing horse," Hanes said. "I've never shown her on grass before. It was a new element for us, and I think it made her jump that much better. She was great in the Hunter Classic,

coming in especially sharp for the second round knowing we had to catch her barnmate's score. She really came in this week and gave me every ounce of her heart, jumping phenomenally well.”

In the **Ollywear Performance Hunter 3'3" Section B**, Geoffrey Hesslink of Shelburne, VT, piloted Lily Sonneborn's *She's All That* to the championship title.



Ollywear Performance Hunter 3'3" champions Nick Haness with Private Practice (left) and Geoffrey Hesslink with She's All That (right) © KindMedia

With the presentation of the \$25,000 Hunter Classic Sponsored by Green River Farm, the third and final leg of the **\$5,000 Mane 'n Tail Hunter Rider Challenge** concluded on Thursday with Holly Orlando of Wellington, FL, coming out on top. Riders competing in the Challenge accumulated points based on their performances in various divisions at the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows and the Hampton Classic Horse Show.



Holly Orlando won the \$5,000 Mane 'n Tail Hunter Rider Challenge © KindMedia

Other hunter highlights included the **Low Adult Amateur Hunter championships**. Among the section winners was *Sazerac*, a 17-year-old Westphalian gelding owned and ridden by Elena Horowitz of Wellington, FL.

Gabrielle Pitts of East Hampton, NY, earned the **Palm Beach International Academy Children's Small/Medium Pony Hunter Championship** aboard GHF Hamptons LLC's *Beyond the Bunny*. In the **Children's Large Pony Hunter** division, Fatemah Khalfan of Old Westbury, NY, rode Charging Steeds LLC's *Black Tie Affair* to the championship.



Gabrielle Pitts and Beyond the Bunny won the Palm Beach International Academy Children's Small/Medium Pony Hunter Championship © KindMedia

For live show results, visit TheHamptonClassic.com.

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 Agnetta Currey Boutique Garden with more than 70 vendors, and a wide selection of dining options, all on its world-class 60-acre showgrounds.

The Hampton Classic's FEI competition begins Thursday, August 31, with the **\$10,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$39,000 Flecha Azul 5* Speed Stake** and continues throughout the weekend with eight 2*/5* classes featuring courses designed by Ireland's Alan Wade. FEI competition also includes Friday's **\$39,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Jumper Classic**, **\$78,000 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday's **\$39,000 Open Speed Class CSI2***, and the **\$78,000 The Agency 5* Speed**

Stake, and culminating with the **\$78,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 3.

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, September 2).

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload. Admission is free on Monday; seniors and military are also admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grandstand tickets for the \$425,000 Longines Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 3, are \$55 per person for reserved bucket seating. Grandstand tickets are electronic only; E-Tickets are provided thanks to support from Green is the New Blue.

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.