McLain Ward Takes Home the Blue in the Hampton Classic's $37,000 1.50m FEI Jumper Classic

Bridgehampton, NY – Sept. 3, 2021 – Five-time Olympian McLain Ward (USA) and Blossom Z, owned by Ward, Wyndmont, and Heller, brought home their second consecutive win at the Hampton Classic on Friday, riding to victory in the $37,000 1.50m Jumper Classic in a time of 57.410 seconds.

Ward and the 11-year-old Zangersheide mare shaved over a full second off Jonathan Corrigan's time of 59.000 seconds. Corrigan (IRL) piloted Andrea Vogel's Fair Play, an 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, through the first of 22 rounds. The 14-effort course was designed by Ireland's Alan Wade.

McLain Ward and Blossom Z © Kind Media

"It's always nice to win, and Blossom performed beautifully," Ward said. "There's been a monumental effort this week by the Hampton Classic and their entire management team. We had some issues with the turf and a year off with COVID, so the environment has changed. They really moved Heaven and Earth – literally – to be able to get us back to the Grand Prix Ring for the weekend on all-weather footing. I think it worked and we'll have some great sport."

"Jonathan had the unenviable position of going first in a speed class, which is always difficult," Ward added. "And with the new ground, we weren't 100 percent sure how the horses were going to react. I think the advantage of the order was a big deal."

Adrienne Sternlicht (USA) was the only other rider to beat Corrigan's round, stopping the clock at a second-place time of 58.400 seconds aboard Lafayette Van Overis, a 10-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding owned by Starlight Farms 1 LLC. Corrigan and Fair Play ultimately finished third.

Anna Klose presented the $37,000 1.50 Jumper Classic awards to McLain Ward and Blossom Z. © Kind Media

This victory increases Ward's lead in the $30,000 LONGINES Rider Challenge with a total of 338 points. Rodrigo Pessoa (BRA) has moved into second place with 190 points, and Amanda Derbyshire (GBR) is third with 160 points.

Later in the day, 34 riders took on the $10,000 Lugano Diamonds Junior/Amateur/Amateur-Owner Show Jumping Derby Welcome Stake, a 13-effort 1.40m course also designed by Alan Wade.

Zayna Rizvi of Fairfield, Conn., rode to a 1-3 finish aboard Peacock Ridge LLC's Excellent and North Run Inc.'s Quivive S Z with times of 55.196 and 57.077 seconds, respectively. Alexa Lignelli of New York, N.Y., piloted Hampton Green Farm LLC's Darc Kiss Z to second place, stopping the clock at 56.935 seconds.

"On my first horse (Quivive S Z), I went pretty fast," Rizvi said. "Then Alexa went and was even faster, so I was a little nervous. I didn't know if I could beat her time. My second horse (Excellent) has a massive stride, and he loves to go, which definitely helped me out. It was so much fun out there. I really liked this course today and think it worked well for us."

Zayna Rizvi and Excellent © Kind Media

In the Agneta Currey Boutique Garden, Grand Prix rider Serena Marron (USA) and Rapidash, an EQUUS Foundation Equine Ambassador owned by Horse Orchard LLC, were on hand at the Petography booth to help renowned "petographer" Jim Dratfield promote his book, *Her Horse*. A portion of Rapidash's winnings and proceeds from the book sales go to the EQUUS Foundation to help ensure that all horses are safe, healthy, and treated with dignity as partners.

Serena Marron and Rapidash helped promote Jim Dratfield's book, *Her Horse*. © Nancy Moon

For full show results, visit shownet.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 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.