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McLain Ward Blazes to Victory in the \$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge at the 2022 Hampton Classic Horse Show

Laura Bowery Claims Top Honors in the \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby

Bridgelyampton, NY – August 28, 2022 – Five-time U.S. Olympian and seven-time Hampton Classic Grand Prix champion McLain Ward is no stranger to winning in the Hampton Classic arena, and he started his week at the 2022 Horse Show no differently. He and his 12-year-old Dutch Warmblood *Faro* were impossible to catch in the **\$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge**, finishing in the top spot with a double-clear time of 31.353 seconds.

The Hampton Classic, August 28-September 4, is one of the world's most prestigious horse shows, offering more than \$1 million in prize money with a full schedule 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.

All Grand Prix Arena competitors have the opportunity throughout the week to ride on **the new state-of-the-art all-weather footing** installed by Travis Gould and his JTWG, Inc., under the guidance of iEquitek's Bill Hawe and in consultation with Oliver Hoberg. It is engineered using the same processes used for the footing in the International Arena at Wellington International (FL) and Tryon Stadium (NC), both of which have received rave reviews, as well as the upcoming 2023 LONGINES FEI Jumping World Cup™ Finals in Omaha.

The \$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge drew 59 entries as many of the Classic's Open Jumpers turned out for their first rides on the new footing. The first Alan Wade-designed course of the week featured 14 jumping efforts in a winning-round format, where Ward and *Faro* had the fastest double-clear.



McLain Ward and Faro topped the board in the \$30,000 Hampton Classic 1.40m Jumper Challenge.

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“I had a game plan for *Faro* going into the second round,” Ward said. “I also had a second horse competing, *Catoki*, who is sort of my speed specialist. *Faro* answered all the questions, and even though we had a mishap with *Catoki*, it still worked out nicely.

“I think the new footing is great,” he added. “I’ve been a big proponent of having a modern all-weather surface here in the Hamptons. We’ve had some dry weather so far, but as we know, we can get rain here this time of the year. I think this arena is going to make for even greater sport. It’s always been a great arena for us, and it’s a great place to come every year.”

Nearly a second off Ward’s time with their double-clear round, Great Britain’s Amanda Derbyshire and Gochman Sport Horse LLC’s 10-year-old Anglo-European mare *Wonder If* stopped the clock in 32.258 seconds. Taking third was Alison Robitaille (USA) aboard *Diane De Sivry*, a 9-year-old Selle Français mare owned by Alison Firestone LLC, with a time of 33.365 seconds. Tripping the timers in 37.207 seconds on the only other double-clear round to finish fourth was Ireland’s Jonathan Corrigan aboard *Nadal VD Wateringhoeve*, Maya Nayyar LLC’s 9-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding.

This win gives Ward an early lead in the \$30,000 LONGINES Rider Challenge with 100 points. Derbyshire and Robitaille are not far behind with 80 and 70 points respectively. The Challenge, which awards \$30,000 and a LONGINES watch to the winner, will be awarded Sunday following the \$410,000 Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix.



McLain Ward and Faro © KindMedia

Opening the beautifully manicured Anne Aspinnall Hunter Ring were 34 Long Island competitors in the **\$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby**. Coming off multiple wins in the Local Professional Hunter division with her mounts, Laura Bowery of Bridgehampton, NY, claimed her final victory of the day riding Gregory Unis’s 9-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding *Into the Sky OMHG* in the Derby. The pair earned a total of 174 points over the classic two-round format featuring courses designed by Paul Jewell.

“It’s been an amazing day,” Bowery said. “We started out Champion and Reserve Champion of Section A in the Professionals, then Champion and Reserve Champion in Section B. I really love this horse show, and I really want to win here. We trained really hard all year for this. There’s a great team behind me, and we really came here to win. It’s so fantastic that we did.”



Laura Bowery and Into the Sky OMHG won the \$10,000 Marders Local Hunter Derby. © KindMedia

For live show results, visit ShowNet.biz.

Each year approximately 50,000 people come to watch the nation's best equestrian athletes compete at the Hampton Classic. The Classic is rated USEF 'Premier-6' for both hunters and jumpers with FEI 2* and 5* classes. Ireland's Alan Wade serves as Grand Prix Ring course designer.

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. Offering more than \$1 million in prize money, the Classic is highlighted by the **\$410,000 Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 4.

The Hampton Classic's FEI competition begins Thursday, September 1, with the **\$10,000 Citarella Open Jumper CSI2*** and **\$37,000 Hampton Classic 5* Speed Stake** and continues throughout the weekend with seven 2* and 5* classes. FEI competition also includes Friday's **\$37,000 Wölffer Estate 2* Jumper Classic** and **\$74,000 Douglas Elliman 5* Grand Prix Qualifier**, Saturday's **\$74,000 Hampton Classic 2* Grand Prix** and **\$74,000 5* LONGINES Cup** and the culminating **\$410,000 Hampton Classic 5* Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 4.

The Hampton Classic continues to support several charitable organizations including Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, the Kevin Babington Foundation and Sag Harbor Food Pantry. Everyone who comes to the Classic on Tuesday and Wednesday with three or more non-perishable food items for the Sag Harbor Food Pantry will have their entire car admitted free.

Daily admission to the Classic is \$20 per carload (cash at the gate only). Admission is free on Monday; seniors and military are also admitted free on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grandstand tickets for the \$410,000 Hampton Classic Grand Prix on Sunday, September 4, 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.

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; and Live Results.

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 producing a live webcast of all Anne Aspinnall ring competitions,

available for free on the Hampton Classic website, thanks to Pacaso. 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.