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GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR

SUMMER UPDATES

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▲ Rolf Goran-Bengtsson & Casall La Silla

GERMANY

BENGTSSON WINS IN HAMBURG

Sweden's Rolf-Goran Bengtsson and Casall La Silla captured the win in the \$285,000 Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Germany in Hamburg on June 4th.

Of the top FEI ranked riders who were accepted to ride in this elite world-wide series, only four horses cleanly cleared Frank Rothenberger's designed course in the first round including two Germans, Ludger Beerbaum riding Chaman and Janne Friederike Meyer riding Cellagon Lambrrasco.

They were joined by Swedish rider Rolf-Goran Bengtsson on Casall La Silla and winners of the first Global Champions Tour in Doha, Brazilian Alvaro de Miranda Neto with AD Ashleigh Drossel Dan.

The best 18 jumped the second round with three double clears heading to the jump-off for the title and the chance to take home a large prize and a highly prized Jaeger-LeCoultre custom engraved Reverso watch.

Beerbaum went first on Chaman and set the pace with a clear round in a time of 47.93 seconds and a lucky chance at the Massimo Dutti vertical. The very composed Bengtsson completed a smooth and clear round over the nine obstacle jump-off track, to clear in a time of 46.97. The last to go, Meyer knocked two fences down, and at the fifth fence, she had already known that she had secured 3rd place.

The win in the Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Germany gave Bengtsson a boost in GCT rankings with a firm placement at 7th place. It is Alvaro de Miranda Neto from Brazil who has remained in top billing on the GCT Rankings since the first leg of the 2011 series.



▲ Ludger Beerbaum & Chaman

▼ Alvaro di Miranda



FRANCE

EDWINA ELECTRIFIES CANNES



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▲ Edwina Alexander & Cevo Itot de Chateau

▼ Sergio Alvarez Moya & Action Breaker



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On June 11th, another Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Cannes title went to Australian Edwina Alexander as she once again partnered Cevo Itot de Chateau to victory to score a major highlight of her career. She had the appetite for the win early in the day ecstatically stating, “I had a positive feeling this morning that everything was in readiness. I sensed that I would do well.”

48 starters challenged the course set by Serge Houtman and Luc Musette. The classic flowing course of the first round was as big as it could get, with very wide oxers. The toughest combination consisted of an oxer (1.50/1.70m), two strides to another oxer (1.50/1.60m) and one stride coming out to a 1.55m vertical. This proved a challenge, although it did not have a related distance to or away from it. The same combination was actually shortened and a fraction lowered in the second round.

From the 18 through to the second round, 12 were on four faults and one on a time fault to complete 5 clear rounds. Those clear, jumped in order of time taken in the first round starting with Switzerland’s Clarissa Crotta, followed by Germany’s Ludger Beerbaum, Spain’s Sergio Alvarez Moya, Edwina Alexander, and France’s Patrice Delaveau. As the event unfolded the major competition was carried out between those who jumped double clear; Crotta, Beerbaum, Moya and Alexander who sat in pole position as last to go. Delaveau who rode Ornella Mail, knocked down two fences putting him out of the jump-off.

Crotta, riding Imperial West Side V Meerputhoeve led the charge in the jump-off. It was technical and high, and the test required accurate riding. She rolled the rail on top of the skinny

planks as well as the front rail off the oxer, the first element of the double (45.82 seconds). Beerbaum, who was placed second in the last two Global Champions Tour events in Valencia and Hamburg, was hungry to gather as many ranking points as possible with a good result. Riding Gotha FRH, he did not take as many risks when aiming for the clear. With success, he made it in a time of 45.23 seconds. Moya, on his stallion Action Breaker, was quick to the second last fence, however took a slower turn up to the last and was home free in a faster time of 42.37 seconds. Itot may be small in stature but he is very, very quick. Alexander took all the risks and options available knowing that she would finish third if she had just one down. They had jumped clean on the first day of competitions and elected not to go for the jump-off in order to save energy for the Grand Prix. It was good planning as they jumped clean and three seconds faster than Moya as the crowd enthusiastically cheered the combination that they have taken into their hearts.

Alexander now leads to be the first GCT millionaire sitting with 992,399 Euros. Meredith Michael-Beerbaum whose unfortunate no-show at this event was due to a back problem hopes to be in Monaco. She has 976,982 Euros in her Global Champions Tour total prize money bank. Ludger Beerbaum has taken the leaders armband of the GCT rankings with 129 point, ahead of Alexander with 125 points and Denis Lynch with 120 points. Lynch finished in 5th place in the Grand Prix of Cannes with Lantinus 2 adding 32 points. Alvaro de Miranda Neto who had led the rankings for the first three rounds of the series has been relegated to 4th place with 117 points.



▲ Denis Lynch & Lantinus 2

▼ Clarissa Crotta & West Side V





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▲ Christian Ahlmann & Talout Z

▼ Rodrigo Pessoa



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MONACO

BENGTSSON WINS AGAIN IN MC

Skill, scope and agility are three very important components that mark the world's best show jumping combinations. It took all of this and more to win the Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Monaco. And Sweden's Rolf-Goran Bengtsson was the only one of the 48 starters to jump double clean rounds to win his second GCT event this season. He took home a cheque for 92,000 Euros and his second Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso watch.

The GCT Grand Prix of Monaco was set on a non-permanent arena at the Port Hercule back dropped by the palace. The social scene that accompanies this event has led to its heavy upscale sponsorships.

Precision riding over a very technical track saw Bengtsson produce two perfectly executed rounds with the same stallion that he won the GCT of Germany with. Bengtsson remains one of the most compelling forces in the game: World Champion, Olympic silver medallist at the Beijing Olympics and he now adds two GCT wins to his portfolio.

There was no shortage of stiff competition in the Grand Prix as the world's best riders and horses faced German course designer Frank Rothenberger for the fourth time this season. Rothenberger has built four of the five rounds of the Global Champions Tour this season, yet every arena presents a different palate and set of circumstances. The Monaco arena is small with very little room for adjustability on course and Rothenberger's track was big and technical. Twelve clear rounds, one on a time fault and five on four faults made up the 18 who went through to the second round.

Of those, one would have predicted that three or four would go through to the jump-off. However it proved a very difficult challenge for some; Lauren Hough, first to go with Quick Study, was eliminated with two refusals and Billy Twomey retired with Tinka's Serenade. Meredith and Shutterfly had a misunderstanding at the Eurosport vertical causing a sudden stop and further rails put them out of competition. Ludger Beerbaum, who was leading the GCT ranking after the Cannes leg, had three fences down.

The pressure was turned up in the competition as the heavily packed stands watched the clear show jumping rounds multiply for Rolf-Goran Bengtsson and Casall La Silla. No other combinations could match this and he was deemed the winner of the Grand Prix.

German Christian Ahlmann was the closest with just one time fault on Taloubet Z. Adding a stride between the Massimo Dutti fence and the Global Champions Tour oxer left him fractionally over the time but good enough for second place. Rodrigo Pessoa carried four faults from the first round and jumped clean in the second and placed third as the fastest combination on four penalties.

The GCT leader board has once again changed with Australian Edwina Alexander moving ahead of Ludger. She concluded the two rounds with four faults that eventually placed her on time into seventh place in the Grand Prix. She now stands with 155.00 ranking points, a little ahead of Ludger who has 151.50. 🏆



▲ Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum & Shutterfly

▼ Kamal Bahamdan





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▲ *Shiekh Shakhbout Al Nahayan*

▼ *Sheikh Ali Al Thani*



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