

JUMPING VERONA

2015

Longines FEI World Cup™
Jumping Verona 5-8 Novembre 2015



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PERFECT PREPARATON FOR PENELOPE WITH DOUBLE-VICTORY AT VERONA TODAY



With two Longines FEI World Cup™ wins already under her belt this season, French rider Penelope Leprevost put herself in the **perfect frame of mind** ahead of tomorrow's Italian qualifier when posting a double-victory at Jumping Verona today.

In the 1.45m **Equiline** Speed she galloped the nine-year-old mare, Sultane des Ibis, home to pin Italy's **Luca de Lorenzo** and the eight-year-old Homer de Reve into runner-up spot by a one-second margin. And she then clinched victory over yesterday's big class winners, America's **Jessica Springsteen** and Davendy S, in the Selleria Equipe Small Grand Prix, this time partnering the 11-year-old mare Nice Stephanie.

It will be quite a sensation if Leprevost can win three Longines qualifiers in the space of a few short weeks, but on current form, and already heading the Western European League leaderboard, **the 35-year-old**

Frenchwoman is in the form of her life. *"This is a really great time for me, my horses are going really well right now and I hope you will be interviewing me as the winner again tomorrow evening!"* she said this evening.

She wasn't expecting such a great performance from Sultane des Ibis. *"Usually she gets strong and fights a bit, but today I had a really nice feeling, she was very relaxed so I could ride smoothly all the way"*, Leprevost explained.

And she was even less sure about Nice Stephanie who didn't seem to be feeling quite herself yesterday. But after some nice work on the flat this morning, and a great clear in the first round of the competition Leprevost decided to "give it a go" against the clock and was already galloping as she entered the arena - "I wanted to go for it and I also knew that Jessica (Springsteen) is very fast with Davendy so I had to give it everything!" Leprevost said, after pinning Springsteen into second place.

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LUCA WILL LEAD THE WAY IN TOMORROW'S LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ AT VERONA

Italian horseman extraordinaire, **Luca Maria Moneta**, will be first into the arena when the fourth leg of the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping 2015/2016 Western European League gets underway at Jumping Verona tomorrow afternoon.

The draw took place yesterday evening, with Germany's **Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum** and Italy's **Emilio Bicocchi** pulling the names and numbers from the drum. And it worked out very nicely indeed for the German rider, as she will be second-last to go of the 40 starters when the action begins.

Italy's **Emanuele Gaudio** is drawn last, so like Michaels-Beerbaum he will have plenty of time to see how course designer Uliano Vezzani's track is jumping before he takes his turn.

Luca Moneta won't have that opportunity, but this is a man with a superb rapport with his horses and the coolest attitude to pressure. He is a great ambassador for "natural horsemanship", allowing his horses to go in their own way without interfering with them and consequently building up a tremendous partnership built on trust.

Luca is quite a star on social media, with videos of him jumping without a bridle proving just how powerful that bond of trust can be. However he will definitely have the reins in his hands and bit in his horse's mouth when he rides into the ring to get things off to start in the Longines FEI World Cup™ at 14.30 local time tomorrow.



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A WATERSHED WIN FOR BERTRAM ALLEN...

His sensational victory in last year's Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping qualifier at Verona was a watershed in the career of Ireland's Bertram Allen who says, *"it's a moment I will never forget!"* Against a field filled with stars the rider, who was still only 19 years old, produced an extraordinary turn of speed in the jump-off with this fabulous grey mare, **Molly Malone**, to come out on top.

And he was only the second Irish rider to win the Italian leg of the World Cup series during its 32-year history. Irish legend, Eddie Macken, steered El Paso to success at the very first leg staged on Italian soil, at Milan back in 1983.



Allen will attempt to repeat last season's success in tomorrow's leg of the Western European League, this time partnering the amazing 17-year-old stallion **Romanov** with which he won a leg of the Global Champions Tour in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France in July.

He is enjoying the facilities and the atmosphere in Verona and is looking forward to tomorrow's big event. Talking about his tactics he explains, "I don't usually watch the other riders a lot, I tend to do my own thing, but if I'm looking for advice the one I would turn to would be Marcus Ehning". Allen occasionally trains with the German rider who has three FEI World Cup titles under his belt but Ehning is not at Verona this week however. Being without his coach won't worry the young Irish superstar who has held the No. 7 spot on the world rankings for some time now however.

He believes in himself and in the ability of his horses, "and Romanov is a rock - he's a really great horse" Allen says.

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