



PRESS RELEASE / #5

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DAY TWO OF JUMPING VERONA 2021 WAS ANOTHER CRACKER... BRILLIANT VICTORY FOR BELGIUM'S VERMIER IN SELLERIA EQUIPE SMALL GRAND PRIX

Belgium's Wilm Vermier gave an exhibition of jump-off riding to win tonight's **Selleria Equipe Small Grand Prix** at Jumping Verona 2021. First to go in the 14-horse second-round decider, and knowing that 13 more of the best riders in the world were about to come after him, he steered a superb course to clinch victory with the 13-year-old gelding Iq van het Steentje.

The rest tried their best, but Vermier's line was just too tight for them to catch him. As he said tonight, *"when I was finished I thought I would be really close to winning because I had everywhere the first distance I was looking for, and I was really happy about my jump-off!"*



Ph. JV / Marco Proli

Setting the target at clear in 34.01 seconds he had to sit back and watch his rivals pit themselves and their horses against that time. And it was Ireland's **Mark McAuley** who slotted into runner-up spot when bringing the veteran Miebello through the finish in 34.39 while Vermeir's compatriot, **Pieter Devos**, lined up in third with Kannabis van de Bucxtale, with the clock showing 34.42. Vermeir is no attention-seeker, quietly producing some of the best horses in the sport from his base near Lummen in Belgium, but his reputation as rider is second to none and in Iq he has a horse that has given him opportunities he never had before. The 13-year-old Belgian-bred gelding belongs to his brother, Bert, so today's win was very much a family affair.

"He jumped very good in the first round, normally he isn't quick but he was fast already in the first round so I felt I would give it a good try and give it everything", he said this evening. Not realising he needed to qualify for tomorrow's Italian leg of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ series he mistakenly rode another horse in last night's qualifying competition so he can't compete in the feature class. "But it's OK", he said, "we won the Grand Prix tonight so it's all good!"

JUMPING VERONA WINS SCUDERIA 1918 CHARITY TEAM EVENT

Fast clear rounds from Great Britain's **Jack Whitaker**, Belgium's **Olivier Philippaerts** and Italian champion **Luca Marziani** gave **Team Jumping Verona** the honours in the **brand new Scuderia 1918 team competition** this afternoon.

Whitaker, Philippaerts and Marziani were selected to represent the Jumping Verona side along with Spain's **Sergio Alvarez Moya** and Brazil's **Marlon Zanotelli**. And they took on a mighty side representing **Scuderia 1918** that included Italy's **Lorenzo De Luca** and **Giulia Martinengo Marquez**, America's **Jessica Springsteen**, Germany's **Daniel Deusser** and **Kevin Staut** from France. But the Verona quintet proved the stronger force on the day, beating their rivals in the series of five head-to-head challenges by a margin of three to two.

Scuderia 1918's patron, **Emanuele Anchisi**, may have had to settle for runner-up spot but on an afternoon of great sport in aid of charity there were no losers.



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LYNCH LIFTS THE FRANCO TUCCI SPEED TITLE

Ireland's **Denis Lynch** and the 15-year-old stallion Rubens LS La Silla topped the first class, the Franco Tucci Speed, on the second day of Jumping Verona 2021 this afternoon.

Fifth-last to go in the field of 57 starters, the man who hails from Tipperary had plenty of time to assess Uliano Vezzani's course and squeezed Frenchman **Julien Anquetin** out of pole position when just over a half-second quicker around the 12-fence track. It was however a particularly impressive runner-up placing for Anquetin's gelding Z Ice Cube Z as the horse is only eight years old, yet showed maturity beyond his years when cruising through the finish in 62.10 seconds. Only 15 horse-and-rider combinations managed to return without penalties in this class.



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It was **Sameh El Dahan** and the wonderful 17-year-old mare Suma's Zorro who set the early target when clearing the line in 62.16, and at the end of the day that proved good enough for third spot.

Anquetin has been showing increasingly strong form and the 29-year-old rider finished eighth with Blood Diamond du Pont at the first leg of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Western European League in Oslo three weeks ago. He will start eighth in tomorrow's Italian leg of the World Cup series.

In contrast however 45-year-old Lynch is a veteran of two World Championships, six FEI Jumping World Cup Finals and was a member of the gold-medal-winning Irish team at the European Championships in 2017. With his wealth of experience he calculated every stride along the way to stop the clock on 61.60 seconds to take the win today.

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