

THE WARM-UP RING

The Official News of the Jumping Committee

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



On behalf of the Jumping Committee, I wish you all a happy new year. I hope the beginning of 2022 is treating you, your family, and your animals well. There have certainly been some initial challenges as we start the new year with the Omicron variant, but it seems that we're all meeting the challenges well, especially given that we're now experienced veterans when it comes to dealing with the pandemic.

The beginning of 2022 brought a great achievement for Canadian show jumping. When the new Longines World Rankings were released, our own Erynn Ballard was the top-ranked female. Sending a huge congratulations to Erynn and her whole team on this incredible accomplishment!

In the last issue of our newsletter, I shared the rigorous hiring process that we had undertaken to fill the role of Technical Advisor. I'm pleased to report that we are nearing the finish line and should have an announcement regarding the successful candidate shortly. In the meantime, I'd like to thank the members of the hiring panel for giving their time and expertise.

Having a new Technical Advisor is of the utmost importance as we approach the World Championships to be held in Herning, Denmark, in August. It marks the first opportunity for Canada to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. We'd love to have qualifying ticked off our list so that we have as much time to prepare for the Olympic Games as possible.

Meanwhile, there are a whole group of athletes out there who aspire to one day reach the international level. Balancing the demands of training and competing while pursuing higher education can often be daunting. That's why we created the Jumping Youth Bursary program in partnership with our lead donors, Mark Samuel, Kevin Sanford, and the Samuel-Sanford family. This year, we once again received many impressive applications and awarded five bursaries in the amount of \$2,000 each to help these talented young people move towards their goals. Congratulations to an amazing group of bursary recipients!

Karen Sparks
Chair,
EC Jumping Committee

As always, we love to hear from you. Drop us a line at warmupring@equestrian.ca and share your feedback on this issue of the newsletter, or any other thoughts on Canada's hunter/jumper industry.

WINTER EQUESTRIAN FESTIVAL PHOTO GALLERY

Wellington, Florida | All Photo Credits © Starting Gate Communications



Carlie Fairty made her 'Saturday Night Lights' debut riding Kanselier vd Donkhoeve in the \$140,000 CSI3* Grand Prix during WEF 1.



Sam Walker and Coralissa took third in the \$10,000 Hermes Under 25 Welcome during WEF 2.



Beth Underhill riding Kino for owners Eric Lamaze and Rein Family LLC.



Calgary's Eric Krawitt and Cactus de Cosniere competing in the WEF Challenge Cup Round 1.



Under 25 competitor Sabrina Lefebvre riding Happy Melody de la Defliere.



Lauren Esdale jumped clear with Missy van de Neerheide in the \$10,000 Hermes Under 25 Welcome.



Mark Samuel, Marilyn Carey, and Mac Cone.



Amy and Truman placed third in the \$140,000 CSI3* Hygain Feeds Grand Prix during WEF 2.



Erynn Ballard and Comedie de Talma racing to third place in the \$37,000 WEF Challenge Cup Round 2.



Canadian Olympic medalists Ian Millar and Eric Lamaze share a laugh.

MEET YOUR EC JUMPING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KAREN SPARKS | OTTAWA, ONTARIO

By Jennifer Ward

There are few people in our sport who play as many roles as Karen Sparks. As an active competitor as well as a competition organizer and owner of high-performance horses, Karen is greatly involved in the sport she loves. Impressively, she still finds time to give back as a tireless volunteer with Equestrian Canada by sitting on numerous committees. Oh, and did we mention that she's also a mother of four? Karen and her husband, Andy, have four children ranging in age from nine to six months – Summer, George, Brecon, and the newest addition, Franklin.

What role do you currently play in equestrian sport?

I have a lot of roles in the industry. I primarily consider myself a competition organizer and am the Executive Director at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, Ontario. I'm also a rider, having started young, and currently try to find as much time as I can to compete. I've also played the role of horse owner for high performance athletes.

How long have you been involved with Equestrian Canada, and in what capacity?

I currently sit as Chair of the EC Jumping Committee. I've been on it for three years and am approaching two years as Chair. I'm also currently a representative from the Jumping Committee as a Category A member.

Prior to that, I served three years on the EC Board of Directors as a member at large. I sat on the EC Nominations Committee for six years, acting as Chair for two. I have also sat on and chaired the EC Awards Committee for many years and have recently stepped down.

What age did you start riding and what was the name of your pony or horse?

I started riding at the age of six at summer camps here in Ottawa. I loved it so much that I started weekly lessons and pony club at Fiddler's Green, a great Ottawa-area barn run by Becky Nuth. I started competing at age 11 at local Trillium shows. I begged my parents for years and finally we were lucky enough to find the best first pony ever, a bay large named American Dream. "William," as we called him, took me to the Trillium Championships and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair which, as you can imagine, was a really big deal for me. I have so many amazing memories and feel very grateful for that time. From there, I moved to Millar Brooke Farm to continue my athletic journey. I have learned so much from all four Millars. I am lucky that I learned from Lynn before her passing, as well as Ian, Amy, and Jonathon, all of whom I continue to learn from to this day!

Do you currently ride?

Yes, I still ride! Between juggling work and being a mother of four, I do my best to find time to compete. I currently have two mounts, Lugano and Athena. Athena is a new horse that I got this past fall to support Lugano as he gets older. My coach, Amy Millar, found her in Ireland. She'll be eight this year; it's been a while since I had a young horse and I'm really looking forward to it.

What is your favourite competition memory?

The first time that I trotted into the International Ring at Spruce



Karen Sparks competing with her horse of a lifetime, Quervo Gold.



Karen Sparks and Teddy du Bosquetiau on course at Wesley Clover Parks.

Meadows on Quervo Gold. That would have been 2010. During that show, Eric Lamaze asked me what I was going to do in a particular line. I answered him calmly but on the inside I was like, “Did Eric Lamaze really just ask me a riding question?!”

My other favourite memory is being present at the 2008 Olympic Games to see Canada win the team silver medal and Eric win the gold medal.

Favourite horse show venue to compete at or visit?

When you put so much time and effort into a project, I would be remiss if I didn't answer our own Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, Canada.

Which competition is still on your bucket list?

Aachen, Germany.

Dream vacation?

There are so many places in the world that I would like to take my family so that's a hard question to answer but I'm particularly interested in checking out Lanai. I've been to Hawaii many times but never to the island of Lanai.

Cats or Dogs?

Dogs. We have a one and a half-year-old blue merle French Bulldog named Bijoux. She's both the bane of my existence and the apple of my eye.

Last show you binge-watched?

We've just started watching season four of *Yellowstone* and we're also watching The Beatles documentary, *Get Back*, which is awesome. We're loving that. But there's not that much time to watch television with a little baby to put to bed every night!

Favourite motto or saying?

I have two favourites: “Luck follows hard work” from my dad and “Proper preparation prevents poor performance” from Ian Millar.

What three things are always in your fridge?

With a family of six, we always have eggs – my kids are big egg eaters. Then cucumbers and white wine.

If you could ride any horse, which one would you pick?

I would take my own Quervo Gold but to have been able to ride him for longer. I only had him for two competition years. If I could have ridden him for his entire career, that would have been amazing.

What's one thing most people don't know about you?

That my family and I enjoy so many other sports. We play beach volleyball, we hike, we climb, we kayak. People also probably don't realize how many other businesses I'm involved in. I spend a lot of time in the horse industry, but I also spend time outside the horse world developing businesses in real estate, hospitality, and technology. And I love to read; I read every night before bed.



Karen Sparks and trainer Ian Millar talk show strategy.



Karen Sparks celebrates a win with three of her children. From left to right: George, Summer, and Brecon.

RENEW YOUR EC SPORT LICENSE TODAY!

The Equestrian Canada (EC) sport license renewal process for 2022 is officially underway. After renewing a Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO) membership, visit the [MyEC portal](#) to renew your EC sport license.

JUMP CANADA HALL OF FAME FLASHBACK

Four new inductees were celebrated at the sold-out 10th annual Jump Canada Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala, presented by BMO Financial Group, on Sunday, November 6, 2016, at the Liberty Grand in Toronto, ON. Having profiled Elizabeth Bordeaux, who was inducted in the Builder – Individual category, in our last issue, we now turn our attention to Glen Owen, a horse that broke the mould and prompted a new category within the Jump Canada Hall of Fame. While the Hall of Fame had previously recognized horses in both the “Hunter” and “Jumper” categories, Glen Owen was the first horse inducted in the category of “Equitation.”

Join us in celebrating the achievements of these remarkable people and horses that have shaped our Canadian hunter/jumper community.

Equitation Horse: Glen Owen

In the ten years since its inception, the Jump Canada Hall of Fame had inducted animals into the categories of Pony, Hunter Horse and Jumper Horse. In 2016, a very special horse prompted the creation of a new category, Equitation Horse. Glen Owen had the unique distinction of carrying the first Canadian rider to victory in the 1980 ASPCA Maclay Medal Final, the most prestigious equitation competition for junior riders in North America.

Glen Owen's story began on Vancouver Island when the then five-year-old Thoroughbred gelding, who had raced as a three and four-year-old, was purchased for Laura Tidball Balisky.

Laura asked for a horse for her 11th birthday and her mother, Dianne Tidball, enlisted the help of Vancouver area trainer Lindy Townley to find one. A trip to Vancouver Island to try Glen Owen was a success, and the partnership between Laura and the chestnut gelding, born in 1969, began.

As their partnership progressed, so did Laura's riding career. When she was 14, she began training with the legendary Ronnie Mutch. By the time she was 16, she had qualified for the ASPCA Medal Final, which was held at the time in New York City's Madison Square Garden as part of the iconic National Horse Show. There was no bigger stage for a teenager, never mind one from Canada, but the strength of her partnership with Glen Owen surpassed all else, and Laura and Glen Owen found themselves making history as the first Canadian winners of the ASPCA Maclay Medal Final.

The pair's success would continue the following year when they qualified for, and won, the 1981 A.H.S.A. Medal Finals (now known as the Pessoa USEF Hunter Seat Medal Final), in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Once again, Glen Owen carried Laura to a title which had never been won by a Canadian before.

The time eventually came for Laura and Glen Owen to part ways. Laura followed the path to becoming a Canadian Olympian, aided by the strong foundation developed during her equitation training aboard Glen Owen. There were younger riders still to teach, and Glen Owen was leased to W.T. 'Timmy' Kees, a well-known equitation trainer based in Connecticut. From 1982 to 1985, Glen Owen carried Kees's students to four more Medal victories, including in 1983 when he again won the A.H.S.A. Medal Finals, this time with Laura O'Connor up. Steve Heinecke was another student who benefitted from Glen Owen's experience. The pair won the ASPCA Maclay Medal Final in 1985, making Glen Owen a two-time Maclay winner with two different riders.

It is said that a successful equitation horse must be physically strong, talented at its job, and patient with its rider. Part athlete and part teacher, the equitation horse truly is a unique animal within our sport. No horse has embodied this more so than Glen Owen, Canada's first equitation superstar.



Glen Owen, pictured with Laura Tidball Balisky.

THE FEI WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK!

Have your voice heard! The Fédération Equestre Internationale is inviting all athletes, officials, grooms, owners, trainers, and other interested parties to share their feedback by taking a short survey regarding Event Standards. All stakeholders are invited to complete the survey by Monday, February 14, at <https://inside.fei.org/hub/fei-events-standards-stakeholders-survey>. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Outcomes will be discussed during the FEI Sports Forum in April.

JUMPING YOUTH BURSARY RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Five young athletes were selected as recipients of the Jumping Youth Bursary, created by the EC Jumping Committee with the generous support of Mark Samuel, Kevin Sanford, and the Samuel-Sanford family. The Jumping Youth Bursary program was developed to support young athletes competing in the hunter, jumper, and equitation divisions while simultaneously striving to continue their education. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, equestrian-related results and goals, and demonstrated financial need.

Each of the following five athletes have been awarded a Jumping Youth Bursary in the amount of \$2,000 in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the sport.



Rayne Dubois, 21, of Ottawa, ON, started riding at the age of 12 when family friend, Elizabeth White, gave her the opportunity to attend a week-long overnight horseback riding camp. The love she found for horses led her to start taking lessons. While she also danced competitively for eight years, Dubois made the decision to commit full-time to show jumping. She currently trains with 10-time Canadian Olympian Ian Millar and his daughter, Amy, at Millar Brooke Farm in Perth, ON. In 2021, she competed in her first grand prix event riding Dublin, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by Millar Brooke Farm. Dubois also recently began teaching at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON, as a beginner instructor. A third-year Psychology student at Ottawa's Carleton University, Dubois has a keen interest in learning how psychological factors affect elite performance.



Jade Lalonde, 21, of Candiac, QC, had an early interest in horses and always wanted to be around them. At the age of four, she started taking riding lessons. While she also tried figure skating given that her parents are former Canadian champions, she found that being on the ice couldn't compare to being in the saddle. She currently competes with Kapital Creation Z, her partner of more than a year, and hopes to advance to the grand prix level. Lalonde is currently in her first year of medical school at the University of Montreal where she is focusing on radiology.



Tatyana Soldera, 18, of Montreal, QC, has tried many sports including skiing, ballet, figure skating, and soccer. However, she determined that her love for animals was the most important to her and took up riding. Soldera started competing at the provincial level in 2017. Training with Josée Turcotte, Soldera rides five days a week with lessons on three of those days. In 2021, she won the CET Medal class at the Ottawa Equestrian Tournaments riding Arezzo Z and qualified for CET Medal Final held during the Royal West in Calgary, AB, in November. Soldera is part of Alliance Sport-Étude in Quebec, which allows her the freedom to concentrate on her studies while also pursuing a competitive riding career. Soldera and her new partner, Chanel, will begin the 2022 season by competing at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, FL. Future goals for Soldera include winning the CET Medal National Finals, competing in the Under 25 division, and representing Canada at the annual Youth Championships.

Spowartholm
Photography



Ellah Dubeau-Kielty, 18, of Burlington, ON, has loved horses since a young age. Her parents enrolled her in riding lessons at the age of four and she began competing in the small pony division at the age of eight. Although Dubeau-Kielty also participated in dance, gymnastics, and soccer, riding has been an unwavering passion. As a working student for Mark Hayes, she mentors young riders and has been fortunate to compete on many different horses in the hunter, jumper, equitation, and hunter derby divisions. Dubeau-Kielty plans to study psychology when she pursues her post-secondary education.

Kim Gaudry Photography



Emma Woo, 18, of Surrey, BC, had her first pony ride at the age of five at a country fair. Later that summer, Woo and her family visited a resort in Whistler, BC, where she went on a trail ride and was hooked. At the age of seven, she started taking riding lessons and showing at local schooling shows on a leased pony. Two years later, Woo won her first red ribbon at Thunderbird Show Park in Langley, BC, and a competitive fire was lit. She has worked at a local supermarket for over two years and spends long hours at Jump Start Stables doing barn chores, feeding, and turning horses in and out. Woo rides Adriana 56 (Addy), a Holsteiner mare, in the equitation divisions and competes with Hello Harry Z (Harry), a Zangersheide gelding, in the jumper ring. Woo plans to balance her riding career with studies in Psychology at the University of British Columbia and hopes to become a sports psychologist.

CANADA'S ERYNN BALLARD TOP RANKED FEMALE IN THE WORLD

When the Longines World Ranking points were calculated at the end of December, they revealed a new leading female rider. With a total of 1,940 points earned throughout the year, Ballard of Tottenham, ON, was ranked 30th overall. This put her ahead of the United States' Laura Kraut, who had previously been the highest-ranked female show jumping athlete in the world.

With Ballard in 30th position, Kraut is now ranked 33rd while Jessica Springsteen of the United States and Malin Baryard-Johnsson of Sweden, both team medalists at the recent Tokyo Olympic Games, sit in 37th and 38th position respectively. Another Canadian show jumping athlete, Tiffany Foster of North Vancouver, BC, is ranked 41st, putting two Canadians in the top five ranked female riders in the world.

Starting Gate
Communications



Eyrnn Ballard and Monty Python de l'Amitie competing at the 2022 Winter Equestrian Festival.

CLINICS, CLINICS, CLINICS!

Who: Radovan Salek (Czechoslovakia), Course Director
What: FEI Jumping Stewards Maintenance Course
When: Monday, February 28, and Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Where: Vilamoura, Portugal
How: Open to all FEI Level 1, 2 and 3 Jumping Stewards
Application deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

Who: Jan Posluszny (Poland), Course Director
What: FEI Jumping Stewards Maintenance Course
When: Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6, 2022
Where: St. Petersburg, Russia
How: Open to all FEI Jumping Stewards
Application deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

Who: Karoly Fugli (Hungary), Course Director
What: FEI Jumping Judges Maintenance Course
When: Thursday, March 10, 2022
Where: Lamotte Beuvron, France
How: Open to all FEI Level 1, 2, and 3 Jumping Judges
Application deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

Who: Stephan Ellenbruch (Germany) and Frances Hesketh-Jones (Italy), Course Directors
What: FEI Jumping Judges Promotion and Transfer Course
When: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 23, 24, and 25, 2022
Where: Olivia, Spain
How: Open to all FEI Level 2 Jumping Judges Eligible for Promotion to Level 3
Application deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 15 participants.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

Who: Frances Hesketh-Jones (Italy), Course Director
What: FEI Jumping Steward Maintenance Course
When: Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2022
Where: Madrid, Spain
How: Open to all FEI Jumping Stewards
Application deadline: Monday, April 18, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

Who: Kate Horgan (Ireland), Course Director
What: FEI Jumping Steward Maintenance Course
When: Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2022
Where: Madrid, Spain
How: Open to all FEI Jumping Stewards
Application deadline: Monday, April 18, 2022
Limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.
For full invitation information, click [here](#).

UPDATES TO THE FEI OFFICIALS COMPETENCY EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR 2022

The **FEI Competency Evaluation System (CES)** section on [Inside.FEI.org](#) has been fully updated with the latest information about the CES in 2022. An [explainer video](#) is also provided.

Key points for the CES in 2022 include:

1. No more groups A or B.

2. Improved CES Online Assessment.

- Taken by every Official, every year, online from home.
- Modular architecture with general modules and function specific modules.
- All assessments accessible from ONE place: The FEI Campus Dashboard.

3. Improved CES Maintenance Course

- Taken at least once every three years.
- Can be in-person (IPMC) or virtual (VMC) format.
- Practical assessments with specific evaluations Case studies, Interactive role plays, E-judging or Field Practices.

4. A new resolution tool: the CES Interview Assessment

- Triggered by a “not passed” result in a CES Online Assessment or CES Maintenance Course.
- Allow for a faster return to officiating with less waiting time and cost for the Official.
- Conducted either online or in-person by two Course Directors.

5. Important FEI Board decision regarding the CES Officiating Review

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Officiating Review process is suspended until 2024. No Officiating Review will take place in 2022 or 2023.

6. Communication to FEI Officials

On 16 December 2021, all FEI Officials will receive an email informing them about their Maintenance Requirements for 2022, with a list of:

- CES Online Assessment(s) to be taken online on FEI Campus in 2022
- The deadline for their next due CES Maintenance Course(s).

SUCCESS STORIES

Starting Gate Communications



ERYNN BALLARD

Erynn Ballard of Tottenham, ON, had the distinction of winning the final grand prix of 2021 as well as the first grand prix of 2022 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL. On New Year's Eve, Ballard won the \$25,000 Palm Beach Equine Clinic Grand Prix riding *Comedie de Talma* (pictured), a 10-year-old Selle Francais mare (Kannan x Contender) owned by Esperanza Imports LLC. Two days later, on January 2, 2022, she piloted *Nanini van d'Abelendreef*, a nine-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare (Kannan x Heartbreaker) co-owned by Ilan Ferder and Esperanza Imports LLC, to double clear rounds and the top of the leaderboard in the \$50,000 Equiline Grand Prix. In addition to scoring two victories, Ballard was also presented as the Martha W. Jolicoeur Leading Lady Award for the ESP Holiday Week Finale.

Winslow Photography



PAUL HALPERN

Paul Halpern of Saint Anne des Plaines, QC, enjoyed a successful trip to the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, OH. Competing during the Winter Classic V, Halpern took top spot in the \$10,000 1.35m Welcome Stake held on Thursday, January 13, riding *Esra*, a 10-year-old bay mare sired by *Bratt Z*, for owner Vanessa Lee. First to go in a nine-horse jump-off, Halpern set a time of 36.46 seconds over Brazilian course designer Anderson Lima's shortened track that would prove to be unbeatable. Halpern and *Esra*, who have been competing together since the mare was five, also finished second in the \$30,000 World Equestrian Center – Wilmington Grand Prix on Saturday, January 15. Ireland's Kevin McCarthy jumped double clear with a jump-off time of 35.47 to take the win riding *Catch A Star HSS* while Halpern and *Esra* were close behind in a time of 35.64 seconds.

ESI Photography



DARRIN DLIN

Canada's own Darrin Dlin of Calgary, AB, won the first grand prix of the season held at the Desert Horse Park in Thermal, CA. A total of 21 horse and rider combinations took their shot over a course designed by Ken Krome with eight going clear in the \$25,000 FarmVet Grand Prix held on Thursday, January 20, during Desert Circuit I. Riding *Buddy Bounce*, an 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding (*Womanizer* x *Chillout*) owned by Dorothy Dlin, Darrin posted the winning time of 63.20 seconds to claim victory over Brazil's Cassio Rivetti who stopped the clock in 63.66 seconds riding *Cristal de Menardiere*. Canadian Show Jumping Team veteran Lisa Carlsen rounded out the top three with a clear round in a time of 66.87 seconds riding *Livestream 2*.

LONGINES WORLD RIDER RANKINGS



TOP 20 CANADIAN RIDERS *as of December 31, 2021*

30.	Erynn Ballard	1940	320.	Jim Ifko	515
41.	Tiffany Foster	1815	338.	Brian Morton	498
59.	Mario Deslauriers	1606	339.	Ali Ramsay	493
109.	Amy Millar	1185	445.	Darrin Dlin	360
122.	Eric Lamaze	1110	479. (tie)	Sean Jobin	330
145.	Vanessa Mannix	995	479. (tie)	Hyde Moffatt	330
182.	Ben Asselin	875	522.	Mac Cone	295
191.	Sam Walker	850	530.	Alicia Gadban-Lewis	290
216.	Jacqueline Steffens	775	548. (tie)	Nicole Walker	280
274.	Lisa Carlsen	625	548. (tie)	Beth Underhill	280

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Canada