

Lyon, Rhône 1 November 2024

LONGINES EQUITA LYON, CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL PETRONELLA ANDERSSON ADDS HER NAME TO THE PRESTIGIOUS LIST OF WINNERS OF THE EQUITA MASTERS PRESENTED BY HERMÈS SELLIER

Once again, the riders in the Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier put on a breathtaking show for the public at the Longines Equita Lyon, *Concours Hippique International*. At the end of two thrilling rounds, Sweden's Petronella Andersson took one of the biggest wins of her career riding Odina van Klapscheut. She became just the second female rider to add her name to the prestigious list of winners. The couple finished ahead of two former winners of the event, Julien Épaillard on Donatello d'Auge and Grégory Wathelet on Special Cera du Maillet Z.

After the traditional photo of all the riders involved in this prestigious evening, the twenty-five best couples in the Longines Grand Prix set about tackling the course, comprising 13 obstacles and 16 difficulties, designed by Grégory Bodo in the International Arena. Everyone's objective was to finish in the top 12 in order to reach the second round. In the end, seven riders from six different countries managed to complete clear rounds on this tricky course. Among them were two Frenchmen, Julien Épaillard and Kevin Staut, riding his latest recruit, Féline de Hus*HDC. Two women riders also managed to do clear rounds: Alessandra Reich (AUT) riding Oeli R and Petronella Andersson (SWE) on Odina van Klapscheut.

An effective strategy

After a short break, the twelve remaining couples took to the arena again to battle it out over a slightly shorter course. Starting in the reverse order of the initial rankings, everything came down to strategy. No-one had managed to complete a clear round when Petronella Andersson, who had ridden a clear round in the first leg, took to the arena again. Without taking too many risks, but making tight turns, the rider from the Stephex Stables masterfully guided her dazzling bay to another clear round in 53''94. The Swede had managed to put real pressure on her rivals. The impressive Julien Épaillard and Donatello d'Auge pulverised their time (50"48) but a mistake on the final fence, after a super-tight bend, deprived them of a double clear round. The Belgian rider, Grégory Wathelet, who won here in 2016, made a mistake on the exit of the double and finished in 53''94. He had to be content with third place. In just their third competition together, and their first at 1.60m, Kevin Staut and Féline de Hus*HDC put in a fine performance to finish fourth (4 pts, 54''53), tied with Belgium's Annelies Vorsselmans riding C. Kullotie W Z.





This victory means Petronella Andersson has added her name to a list of winners that reflects the prestige of the Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier.

What they said:

Petronella Andersson, winner of the Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier, riding Odina van Klapscheut: "I know my mare really well, I've been riding her since she was 7 years old. She is a very fast and obedient horse. I rode my second round just as I'd planned. Odina has a long gallop, so I chose to take a few strides off on several lines. By starting in the middle of the jump-off, I didn't need to take too many risks, and in the end that's what allowed me to win. Grégory Bodo's courses are always great fun to ride; he really is one of the best course designers in the world. Lyon is one of my favourite competitions, so I'm delighted to get this win, especially since I got off to a bad start with a fall in the Prix Groupama. But I've made up for it now (laughs). Tomorrow, I will be riding in the Longines FEI World Cup Grand Prix with Opaline de W&S. She jumped very well on Friday in the Longines Grand Prix. You never know what will happen in a competition, but if I ride well, my horses generally perform well too."

"Julien Épaillard, second in the Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier, riding Donatello d'Auge: "I'm not really too disappointed. That's all part of the game. I hesitated to take the option on the last jump, which was difficult, but there were still some great riders behind me, so I opted for this strategy. I'm satisfied with my second place. On Sunday, Fringan de Vesquerie will be starting in the Longines FEI World Cup Grand Prix. Even though he's still not really competitive at this level, he's confident enough to do it. It will help him gain experience. Donatello will be able to take a breather before the final events of the season."

View all the results.

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Philippe Rozier bids farewell to the 5* circuit

At the end of the class, the French rider Philippe Rozier received a standing ovation from the crowd in Lyon. Indeed, the evening marked the retirement of the Laiterie de Montaigu's star rider from the 5* circuit, and provided the occasion to celebrate the career of one of French show-jumping's top riders. He never missed the Equita Lyon international riding competition and after more than 40 years at the highest level, the Rio 2016 Olympic team champion was given a fitting send-off by his team-mates from the French gold-medal team of the time (Roger-Yves Bost, Pénélope Leprévost, Kevin Staut) and all those close to him, including the owner Christian Baillet, a long-standing partner.

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THE MAIN SPORTS EVENTS OF THE LONGINES EQUITA LYON, CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL

Sunday 2 November

. 10:20am: Amateur Gold Tour FFE Final - Vicomte A.
. 12:50pm: FEI Driving World Cup presented by Laiterie de Montaigu, second leg
. 3:30pm: Longines FEI World Cup Jumping Grand Prix

PLEASE NOTE:

The FEI World Cup dressage and driving events and the FEI Jumping Ponies' Trophy are open free of charge to all visitors with an entrance ticket to the Show. The Longines FEI Jumping World Cup includes many events with free access, as well as three flagship events that all the best riders in the world dream of winning: the Longines Grand Prix, the Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier, and the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup stage (specific tickets are required for these three events).



About GL events Equestrian Sport

GL events Equestrian Sport, the GL events Group's equestrian department, is acknowledged for its expertise throughout the world. The GL events Group has been involved in all the equestrian events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games since 1992.

Since its creation, GL events Equestrian Sport has played an active role in supporting equestrian sports, while placing constant emphasis on the well-being of horses. The team is involved in the long-term international development of equestrian disciplines, as an organiser and overlay-provider to tier-1 events.

- Organiser of Equita Lyon and the Longines Equita Lyon, Concours Hippique International
- Creator and organiser of the Printemps des Sports Équestres in Fontainebleau,
- Provider and partner of the Saut Hermès at the Grand Palais, on behalf of the Maison Hermès,
- Partner to the French Equestrian Federation for the FFE Masters Pro Jumping,
- And partner to the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) for the World Cup Finals in 2014 and 2018.

GL events Equestrian Sport and its expert teams also contributed to the success of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, notably working on the equestrian and para-dressage events organised in the magical setting of the Gardens of the Château de Versailles.

In 2026, GL events Equestrian Sport will be organising the Official French Dressage CDIO5* at the Grand Parquet in Fontainebleau, as part of the Printemps des Sports Equestres.