LONGINES
EQUITA LYON
CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL

LYON
EUREXPO
28 OCTOBRE
1 NOVEMBRE
2026

Lyon, Rhône
1 November 2026

LONGINES EQUITA LYON, CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL
ANNA SANDMANN MAKES HISTORY IN THE FEI DRIVING WORLD CUP

There was plenty of action and excitement on the final day of the Longines Equita Lyon, *Concours Hippique International* for the last stage of the FEI Driving World Cup presented by Laiterie de Montaigu. The atmosphere in the stands around the International Arena was absolutely electric as Germany's Anna Sandmann became the first woman to win this World Cup driving stage, defying the odds by beating the current world number one, Belgium's Dries Degrieck. Moreover, she was the only driver not to knock over a single bail during the class. Benjamin Aillaud was the top-ranked French driver, finishing in fourth place.

The crowds at Eurexpo thoroughly enjoyed the thrilling show put on by the seven four-in-hand teams competing in this stage of the FEI Driving World Cup presented by Laiterie de Montaigu. The atmosphere around the arena was absolutely buzzing as the drivers and their teams tried to strike a balance between speed and precision to manoeuvre their horses between the cones (spaced 1.90 metres apart) and then guide them around the marathon obstacles and over a wooden bridge, without knocking any bails over. The course was the same as on Saturday. Consequently, the drivers had already got a feel for the layout and could now try to iron out the little mistakes to improve their scores. So, it was no surprise that four drivers managed a clear round today, compared with just two yesterday. Yesterday's winner, Dries Degrieck, took the lead in the opening round (154.47") ahead of his compatriot Glenn Geerts (155.77") and Anna Sandmann, the only woman competing in this stage in Lyon (156.10"). After making a mistake on one of the marathon obstacles, France's Benjamin Aillaud (160.52") fell just short of qualifying for the drive-off, which is reserved for the top three drivers.

Everything was still to play in the final round. Starting in reverse order of the first-round rankings, world number 5 Anna Sandmann kicked off the proceedings. Once again, she found just the right balance, going through the gates at a solid pace without making any mistakes. She crossed the finish line in 155.52 seconds, intermediately putting the two Belgians under pressure. Glenn Geerts made a mistake and was therefore penalised with an additional 4 seconds, finishing in a time of 159.74 seconds. Then, the 2024 winner of the Lyon stage took to the arena and was determined to uphold the established pecking order, but he knocked a bail over at the very end of the round, which denied him another victory, as he finished with a time of 159.04 seconds.

With this fine performance on her first visit to Lyon, the German rider therefore became the first female driver to win this FEI World Cup stage.

What they said:

Anna Sandmann (GER): "*I am just so happy to have won. This is only my second indoor season. My horses were incredible. I hadn't been to the competition in Lyon before and I have to say that the atmosphere is amazing. My lead horses are very fast, whilst my wheel horses are very responsive, which allowed me to turn and accelerate as I wanted. I'm delighted to be the first female driver to win here. We're seeing more and more women taking to carriage driving, and that's a good thing for the sport. I felt that the crowd was really behind me, and maybe that is partly because I'm a woman too!*"

Dries Degrieck (BEL): "*I have a new lead horse, who used to be one of my wheel horses. He does a good job but, at times, you sense that he still lacks a bit of experience when it comes to correcting himself. But I know full well what we need to work on. I'm really pleased for Anna, who put in a truly superb performance and thoroughly deserves this victory, which acts as a great showcase for the sport at its best. That's also what makes our discipline so interesting at this level; nothing is a foregone conclusion, and that's what makes it so exciting to watch. There is no chance anyone would get bored! Of course, we'd love to win every time, but I didn't really know what to expect from this completely reorganised team of horses. I need to get used to certain new sensations and we need to gain more experience together.*"

Glenn Geerts (BEL): "*My goal was to reach the drive-off. From that point of view, today was a success! I felt really positive after the first round. My first thought was: "I'm back!" It has taken me a few years to get back to this level. In outdoor events, I managed to remain in the world's top 10. But after the Covid pandemic, I found it difficult to find horses for the indoor season. We have invested in a brand-new team of horses, which was competing here in their very first indoor competition. The arena here is quite imposing and yesterday it proved to be a bit of a challenge for them. But today, they performed well and showed they have great promise. So yes, we're back!*"

Benjamin Aillaud (FRA): "*Naturally, I'm a bit disappointed to have missed out on the drive-off by such a small margin. I didn't quite get things right today, but I'm really pleased that the horses are performing at this level. I made a slight driving error: the rear end of the carriage just grazed the base of a cone, causing the bail to fall. The good news is that we're actually not far from reaching the drive-off. We mustn't forget that six years ago, with this very same team, we were 15 seconds behind the leaders. We have improved enormously! Despite the slight disappointment, we still had a fantastic time and really enjoyed ourselves. The crowds here in Lyon are absolutely brilliant. The spectators love this discipline and they are becoming increasingly knowledgeable. They know full well when a class is going to be decided by small margins. They really get behind us. To round off this season, I plan to go to Geneva and Bordeaux.*"

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FFE Amateur Gold Tour – Victomte A.

The FFE Amateur Gold Tour – Vicomte A., a nationwide competition run by the French Equestrian Federation, consisting of 20 stages of Amateur CSI events held throughout the year, came to a conclusion on Sunday morning at the Longines Equita Lyon, *Concours Hippique International*. The top twenty-eight pairs in the rankings took to the arena to compete in their 1.25-metre Grand Prix, with one objective: to add their names to the list of winners. Eight pairs managed to make it through to the jump-off. Yamina Messaoudi Faure rode to victory on Gravity of Galland, clocking the fastest double clear round in 32.60". Maité Gautier, riding Harpe du Rozel, and Juliette Choppin de Janvry on Vesper Gay Z, took the second and third places respectively.

1. Yamina Messaoudi Faure and Gravity of Galland: 0 + 0 in 32.60"
2. Maité Gautier and Harpe du Rozel: 0 + 0 in 32.95"
3. Juliette Choppin de Janvry and Vesper Gay Z: 0 + 0 in 38.97"

Yamina Messaoudi Faure (FRA): "*My mare has had a really good season and I had already finished eighth here with her previously, so I was quite confident. Riding in the International Arena is always a wonderful experience. I've been riding Gravity since April 2025; she's very competitive and obedient. We get on really well. This year, I won the French Cadet Championship with her. Next year, I'd like to try and take part in the CSI2* competitions.*"

View all the results and start lists here.
Follow the events live here

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

Sunday 1 November
. Longines FEI Jumping World Cup

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 Jumping World Cup stage: Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ (specific tickets are required for these three events).

AND THE WESTERN RIDING EVENTS…

Sunday 1 November
. NBHA European Barrel Racing & Pole Bending Championships

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES OF THE TRADE FAIR*

- From Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 October from 8.00am to 8.30pm
- Saturday 31 October, from 8.00am to 10.30pm (*late night session*)
- Sunday 1 November from 8.00am to 7.00pm

TICKETING FOR THE TRADE FAIR

- Free for children under 6 years of age and disabled persons[1,3]
- Full price: €25
- Reduced rates: FFE licence holders, students, Regional pass holders, groups of 15 people or more, €22.50 [1]
- Children between 6 and 12 years old: €16
- 5-day pass: €75
- Family pass (2 adults and 2 children under 16 years of age): €65 (sale on site only)

TICKETING FOR RIDING COMPETITIONS AND "SPORT AND SHOW" EVENINGS

- Friday 30 October, 8.00pm*, show-jumping: from €40[2]
  - Longines Grand Prix followed by the equestrian show
- Saturday 31 October, 8.00pm*, show jumping: from €40[2]
  - Equita Masters presented by Hermès Sellier, followed by the equestrian show
- Sunday 1 November, 3.00pm*, Longines FEI Jumping World Cup stage:
  - Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™: from €40[2]

To make your experience at these events even more special, a limited number of exclusive packages are also available through our ticketing service. Check them out now!

TICKETING FOR INTERNATIONAL REINING

- Saturday 31 October 5.30pm*, Final of the NRHA European Derby Open Sec.2: €55[2]
- Sunday 1 November, 12.30pm*, NBHA European Barrel Racing & Pole Bending Championships: €45[2]

* Times may be modified
[1] Group rate only upon prior reservation: no group rate will be granted at the entrance to the show. Licence holders, students and disabled persons: must show their card at the entrance to the show.
[2] Subject to availability.
[3] To facilitate access to the venue for persons with disabilities, numbered seats can be reserved in the stands by sending a request to the following email address btoblive@fnac.com

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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 CHI,*
- *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 Masters Pro,*
- *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 organised the CDIO5, France's official dressage competition, for the first time at the Grand Parquet de Fontainebleau, as part of the Printemps des Sports Équestres.*