



FINALES COUPE DU MONDE FEI JUMPING ET DRESSAGE 2018

11-15 AVRIL
ACCORHOTELS ARENA



Press Release, Paris, 12 April

A LOOK BACK AT THE WARM-UP FOR THE LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP SHOW-JUMPING FINAL



Roger-Yves Bost and Sangria du Coty – © PSV for GL-Events

The opening warm-up session was a genuine competitive class, with ranking and prize money, but did not count for the 40th Longines FEI World Cup Show-Jumping Final. All the horses competing in the final took part in this warm-up class, which seemed more like a little review.

Certain riders took this session with 1.45m obstacles very seriously, such as the Swiss rider Steve Guerdat who won the class with Alamo, the horse he will probably choose to ride tomorrow for the hunter round, whereas he has clearly chosen Bianca for the “work session”. The World No. 2 Harrie Smolders from the Netherlands also chose the two-horse option:

“Ah, but do I really want to reveal my strategy,” he smiled, before admitting:

“Yes, I’ll be riding both my horses. I’m going to start with Zinius, who is faster





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and finish with Emerald.” Nonetheless, the chestnut stallion was the best performer from the Eurohorse stable today, finishing 10th, whereas Zinius came off the course with a penalty. Smolders had never before ridden in this arena, now named the AccorHotels Arena: “The facilities are really great, the stables outside are amazing and there is a very large training area. Inside, the arena is really wonderful, long enough and big enough to build great courses, and with Santiago Varela, we can expect some fantastic sport.” Smolders’ horses each behaved differently in this new environment: “Zinius froze a bit on the first obstacles and then loosened up. On the other hand, Emerald felt immediately at home. Tomorrow will be a tough day, but I’m pretty confident.”

The two French favourites, Kevin Staut and Simon Delestre, chose the same strategy with two horses and rode their two fastest horses in the warm-up, Silver Deux de Virton*HDC and Chadino (6th and 9th). However, Roger-Yves Bost has only one horse, his mare Sangria du Coty, which he chose to keep fresh by not doing the complete round (like Kevin Staut and Rêveur de Hurtebise*HDC): “It was just a question of getting into the competition,” explained the rider from Ile-de-France, “I wanted to check that my horse would jump well on this surface and if she was affected by the environment. She was just perfect, really calm thanks to the paddock which is well away from the arena; she jumped really well. I only did nine obstacles, but I was pretty happy. But tomorrow will be another day with its speed class. It will not be our strong point because my mare is not very fast. Apart from the last European Championship, she has not done many speed rounds. The goal is to try to be in the top 15, even the top 10, but I’m not going to take too many risks... then we will just need to keep riding clear rounds.” However, a good result in this first class is crucial for those aiming to win the final: “In recent years, the winner of the final started with a victory in the first class,”but we have already witnessed some spectacular come-backs.

Unlike Harrie Smolders, Bosty knows the AccorHotels Arena well: “I have even been here since the arena was renovated, because I came here two years ago to open the show by the Jerez Royal Andalusian School, but it always makes a big impression when you come back; we are happy to be riding in this hall. I have experienced all sorts in this arena; I won the Grand Prix in 1995, I must have won all the classes at least once; I’ve fallen off...I’ve really been through everything here!” A victory in this World Cup final would be the cherry on the cake! The serious work will start tomorrow at 20:30 as the most wonderful event on the international indoor circuit gets started.





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TICKETING FOR THE LONGINES FEI SHOW-JUMPING WORLD CUP AND FEI DRESSAGE WORLD CUP FINALS

The ticketing is now open, offering packages that cater for every budget. Prices range from €10 for the warm-up events to €175 for the best seats on the days of the Finals, with a special rate for French Equestrian Federation license holders. www.feiworldcupfinals-paris.com and www.accorhotelsarena.com

- . Wednesday 11 April: OPENING CLASS
Cat. 2, €10; cat.1, €15; cat. Or (Gold), €20*
- . Thursday 12 April: LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL I
Cat. 2, €20; cat.1, €40; cat. Or (Gold), €60*
- . Friday 13 April: FEI WORLD CUP™ DRESSAGE FINAL GRAND PRIX & LONGINES FEI
WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL II
Cat. 2, €40; cat.1, €60; cat. Or (Gold), €90*
- . Saturday 14 April: FEI WORLD CUP™ DRESSAGE FINAL GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE &
GRAND PRIX CSI
Cat. 2, €40; cat.1, €80; cat. Or (Gold), €120*
- . Sunday 15 April: LONGINES FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL III
Cat. 2, € 80; cat.1, € 120; cat. Or (Gold), € 175*
* Subject to availability.

ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES

- . From Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 April
Cat. 2, €150; cat.1, €250; cat. Or (Gold),
€370*

* Subject to availability.

Bookings

www.feiworldcupfinals-paris.com and www.accorhotelsarena.com

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