

GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE:
WILL THE LOCALS FROM THE ST
TROPEZ PIRATES DETHRONE THE
LONDON KNIGHTS?

Suspense is at its height after the first round (of two) of the Global Champions League, which took place this afternoon as part of the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show. The London Knights team, which are in the lead in the provisional ranking before the leg on the French Riviera, is seriously threatened by the locals from the St Tropez Pirates. Will the London Knights maintain their lead at the end of this weekend of top sport and glamour, on the particularly technical courses of the Italian course designer, Uliano Vezzani? All will be revealed on Saturday 14 September at around 4.15pm.

Valkenswaard United win the first round, the St. Tropez Pirates lie in wait

Technical is how we described Uliano Vezzani's course... Only five combinations managed to jump clear in the allowed time out of the thirty-two participants in the Global Champions League: first in the ring and the first clear round, Great Britain's Scott Brash (New York Empire team) with Hello Mr President didn't pave the way for a long series of clear rounds. It wasn't until sixteen competitors later that Italy's Alberto Zorzi (Valkenswaard United) had the second clear round with Cinsey. Belgium's Pieter Devos (St. Tropez Pirates), riding Espoir, Sweden's Evelina Tovek (Scandinavian Vikings) with Winnetou de la Hamente Z, and Germany's Maurice Tebbel (Cannes Star) with Don Diarado, were the only other riders who managed to overcome the particularities of the maestro Vezzani's course. The result was positive for Valkenswaard United, which won the class, thanks to the clear round of Zorzi and Marcus Ehning's four faults with Prêt à Tout. Behind them the St. Tropez Pirates (France's Olivier Robert with Tempo de Paban and Pieter Devos) went into second place also with an overall total of four faults, but with a slightly slower time than that of Valkenswaard United. However the local team managed to successfully carry out its campaign of intimidation and gave the London Knights good reason to be worried (sixteen faults, eight for the British rider Ben Maher with Concona, eight for his team mate Belgium's Olivier Philippaerts with H&M Legend of Love who benefit from a tiny one fault lead over the Pirates in the provisional ranking of the Global Champions League before the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show.

Outcome of the Global Champions League of Ramatuelle - Saint-Tropez: on Saturday 14 September, from 1.45pm.

Individually, France's Olivier Perreau (not competing in the Global Champions League) had a great performance, finishing second in the class with GL events Venizia d'Aiguilly.

What the riders had to say

Alberto Zorzi (Valkenswaard United): "I'm very happy with this first place in the first round of the Global Champions League of Ramatuelle - Saint-Tropez. Cinsey jumped very well. My team mate Marcus Ehning had an amazing round which was a bit unlucky, but it's a great start."

Marcus Ehning (Valkenswaard United): "It was a tough class today. My horse Prêt à Tout jumped really well, but maybe I wasn't attentive enough which might explain why we still had one rail down. We are in the lead so we hope we can hold onto it. This is the position we want to be in. It's always nice to be on the podium, but there's another big round on Saturday. So we'll keep focused and try to do our best. If we are double clear on Saturday, no other team can beat us timewise."

Full results

<https://www.longinestiming.com/equestrian/2019/longines-global-champions-tour-of-st-tropez-st-tropez>

To follow the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show on social networks

Instagram : longines_aohs

Facebook : LonginesAOHS

PRESS CONTACT: BLIZKO COMMUNICATION

Daniel Koroloff - Mob. : +33 (0) 6 11 02 18 12 – Email: daniel@blizko-communication.com

Juliette Feytout - Mob. : +33 (0) 7 50 39 37 40 – Email: juliette@blizko-communication.com

Communication and Marketing Director: Sara Tanganelli - Email: sara@denismonticolo.com

About the Global Champions Tour

In 2018, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show joined the ranks of the prestigious Longines Global Champions Tour. This international show jumping circuit, created in 2005 by the Olympic team gold medalist Jan Tops, brings together the sport's top show jumpers to compete in 19 legs, renowned for unprecedented prize money. The Championship spans three continents, taking in some of the world's greatest cities—including Paris, London, Madrid, Miami Beach, Shanghai and Rome. Since 2018, the circuit has culminated with the final organised in Prague, the Global Champions Playoffs.

About the Global Champions League

Created in 2016, the Global Champions League is the brainchild of its co-founders, Jan Tops and Frank H. McCourt Junior. It takes place alongside each leg of the Longines Global Champions Tour, and aims to bring together the best riders in the world in a team competition with fences standing 1m60 in height.

The 2019 Global Champions League features sixteen teams of six riders. For each leg, comprising two classes, the team captain chooses two riders to represent the team. A Global Champions League leg boasts two classes. The team ranking is established by adding the faults of the two combinations in all four rounds together plus both riders' times in the second round. The second class in the Global Champions League also acts as a qualifying round for the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix. The 35 top riders will automatically be qualified for the weekend's leading class, the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix.

After the 19 legs, the three best teams will be invited to the overall final, during the Prague Playoffs.

About Longines

Longines has been based in Saint-Imier in Switzerland since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has generations of experience as the timekeeper of world championships and as a partner of international sporting federations. Over the years, Longines has established solid, long-term relationships with the sporting world. Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd., the world's leading manufacturer of horological products. The brand, which has a winged hourglass as its emblem, is established in over 150 countries.

Longines International Public Relations: publicrelations@longines.com - www.longines.com

Press kits are available at mediacenter.longines.com/

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- . The Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show – from 12 to 14 September 2019
- . Pampelonne Beach – Ramatuelle, Var
- . Free admission every day except on Saturday: entrance fee for the seats in the grandstands.
- . Seats in the grandstands on Saturday 14 September 2019: 30 euros for adults and 10 euros for children from 10 to 14-years-old
- . Tickets available at: www.fnac.com – www.carrefour.fr – www.francebillet.com
- . Additional information: www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com