



63rd CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL DE GENÈVE

11th to 15th DECEMBER 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Martin Fuchs made his dream come true!

Geneva, 13 December 2024 – The 23rd Rolex IJRC Top 10 Final at CHI Geneva featured a very worthy starting field of the top ten riders in the world!

It is never easy to be the first to open such a competition. Martin Fuchs from Switzerland, who was called into the Top Ten Final at short notice after world number 10 Conor Swail was unable to compete, decided to take up the challenge and gave the crowd a perfect first round. The bar was set...

American McLain Ward was one down with Ilex at the final fence, having previously jumped clear. Reigning Olympic gold medallist Christian Kukuk of Germany confirmed his talent in the first round with a remarkable clear round on Just Be Gentle. Germany's Richard Vogel and Austria's Max Kühner didn't escape unscathed with 8 and 4 points respectively on United Touch S and EIC Cooley Jump The Q. France's Julien Épaillard and Donatello d'Auge once again showed their ability to join the ranks of the clear jumpers. They were followed by two-time final winner Kent Farrington from the USA on Toulayna. Great Britain's Ben Maher also showed off his skills, riding his exceptional horse Point Break efficiently and unobtrusively around the arena. A few minutes later, the crowd gasped as the bar for the final fence fell for local hero Steve Guerdat. The last rider to clear was current world number one Henrick von Eckermann on King Edward. This brought the first part of the competition to a close.

The second act. With the start in reverse order of the classification, the second heat was even more exciting and came to a head as the six clear riders from the first heat crossed the finish line. Point Break, Ben Maher's ten-year-old gelding, confirmed this by taking the lead with a time of 48.59. But he hadn't reckoned with the incredible partnership of Martin Fuchs and Leone Jei, who smashed the target time to 47.02 seconds. Would the Swiss, who had won the Trophée de Genève with Conner Jei the day before, win for the second time in two days? "This is really my favourite competition. I've never won it before, so I told myself I'd put my best horse out there and do my best to win it," said the Swiss rider after his victory. But first he had to face some tough competition with the same goal. Kent Farrington brought the crowd to its feet, but was not fast enough (48.05). That left the winning duo of 2022: the Swede and his King Edward. But even they were not successful... Martin's dream had come true and he could add his name to the list of winners of this unique final for the first time. Tears of joy ran down the winner's cheeks, he was touched by this success and in the winner's interview he gave special thanks to the owner of his horse, who was unfortunately unable to be present for health reasons. A lovely get-well present.



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German double

In the second qualifier for Sunday's Rolex Grand Prix, Olympic gold medallist Christian Kukuk celebrated a convincing victory in the Prix des Communes Genevoises in the early afternoon. Karl Cook, long in the lead with a brilliant ride on Caracole de la Roque, thought he would be riding to the American national anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner, at the end. But then Daniel Deusser and Otello de Guldenboom managed to beat the American's time by almost two seconds with a very fast variation. Christian Kukuk, who had been closely following the strategies of his competitors, copied his fellow countryman's variation with his stallion Chageorge and lowered the bar by almost another one and a half seconds!

Toubleu put in a fantastic final performance

Unbelievable! They did it! In their last competition, Toubleu de Rueire and Mélody Johner gave themselves a present by winning the Tribune de Genève indoor cross-country. As the last pair to start, the beautiful grey horse and Swiss rider simply put in a perfect round. Not only did they clear all the fences, they also crossed the finish line in 155.02 seconds, with a target time of 155 seconds! What better reward could there be for the pair who finished fourth in the team competition at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games? What better way for this fantastic duo to end their time competing together?

Information for the media

For any further information, please contact our press officer, Corinne Druey, on + 41 21 312 82 22.



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