

EVENTS

CHI DE GENEVA 2022

By Laurence Lemire



FROM DECEMBER 7TH TO 11TH, THE BIGGEST STARS IN THE EQUESTRIAN SPORT MET ON THE SUPERB PALEXO TRACK, FOR THE 61ST EDITION OF THE CHI GENEVA. WHETHER IN SHOW JUMPING, EVENTING OR DRIVING, THE VERY HIGH LEVEL GAVE THE ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC A SPORTING SPECTACLE OF VERY HIGH QUALITY.

On the program, in addition to the Rolex Grand Prix on Sunday, there were major competitions, such as the final of the Top 10 Rolex IRC, won by **Hendrik Von Eckermann (Sweden)**. The 2nd place went to the Frenchman **Simon Delestre**, followed by **Peder Fredricson for Sweden**, **Mc Lane Ward (USA)** and **Harrie Smolders (NED)**. 60 riders, including the 10 best in the world rankings, who competed for the trophy of this prestigious event.

Besides the elite of show jumping riders, were added around thirty hopefuls under 25 who competed in 3 events, including the Land Rover Grand Prix on Saturday. In addition, the new team event - the Credit Suisse Coupe du Jockey Club - was able to set the mood on Saturday evening, with show jumping and cross country stars, not to mention a pony team!

Fans of indoor cross-country were not disappointed either; actually since its creation, this event... since its creation, this event has always been eagerly awaited by the public and presented by the Tribune de Genève. It allows you to savor a superb spectacle, with magnificent natural obstacles, in particular the famous lake for which this Radio Télévision Suisse. This little known discipline, however, ensures moments of jubilation and enthusiasm.

Indeed, the presence of the only Swiss qualified for the World Cup circuit, Jérôme Voutaz, created an explosive atmosphere in the arena. Finally, the most anticipated moment of this 61st edition of the CHI Geneva was undoubtedly the farewell of **Clooney 51**, the horse with the impressive prize list of Martin Fuchs, European champion and vice individual world champion. His last lap took place on Sunday December 11, just before the Rolex Grand Prix. Martin fuchs shared his emotion with us in a poignant and sincere speech. The audience was on their feet to give the horse and rider a standing ovation.

Nobody will forget this particularly moving champion, which he will spend in Normandy (**France**), in the stud farm of high honor Luigi Baleri.

Finally, this prestigious equestrian event ended with the famous Rolex Grand Prix, the flagship event of the Geneva event. 40 riders were at the start of this long test of 14 obstacles and 18 efforts. 13 finalists competed in the jump-off, won by the American **Mc Lain Ward** in an incredible time of 38.43 s. **Martin Fuchs**, once again applauded by his Swiss public, won 2nd place, followed by **Shane Sweetnam (Ireland)**, **Gilles Thomas (Bel)**, and **Simon Delestre(Fr)**.

We are all waiting for next year's edition of this unmissable equestrian event that is the CHI Geneva! 🏆

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