



# 55<sup>e</sup> CONCOURS HIPPIQUE INTERNATIONAL DE GENÈVE

10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015

## PRESS RELEASE

### GENEVA IS GETTING READY, TO ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME THE VERY BEST IN THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD

The public can be excited! From December 10<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup> the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the Concours Hippique International de Genève (CHI) will take place with a full blown programme, rich with high level sport and a total of seven equestrian disciplines. The best riders have been invited to participate on the world's largest indoor arena, as have a selection of drivers and their teams to battle out a leg of the FEI Driving World Cup as well as a famous selected few eventers, back again for the sole indoor cross country in Switzerland.

More than just a competition, the CHI has mutated into an equestrian festival. Geneva has put on the forefront what is done best in show jumping with classes in the likes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Rolex IJRC Top 10 final, held for the 11<sup>th</sup> time at Palexpo. Last year, British show-jumper Scott Brash won his way to the highest step on the podium with his phenomenal *Hello Sanctos*. Still n° 1 in the world rankings, the Scottish rider will be in the starting blocks to defend his title on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. However, nine other riders, their names will be known beginning December, have their eyes on the victory and will not make things easy for the couple.

But Scott Brash will actually have two titles to defend. Not only did he take first place on the Friday evening but only two days later, he managed to win the Rolex Grand Prix, with his loyal *Hello Sanctos*. A victory that kick started his counter of the Rolex Grand Slam of Show-Jumping and that would permit him after his wins in Aachen and Calgary, to be the first rider in history to achieve the Rolex Grand Slam. This means that much attention will again be on Sunday's Grand Prix. The other show-jumping competitions will be just as exciting with the Credit Suisse Grand Prix and the Prix Tribune de Genève - Six Bar on Thursday evening, the Prix Starling Hotel Geneva - Speed and Handiness (Friday evening), Coupe de Genève, a combination class (Saturday midday) or the Credit Suisse Geneva Classic on Saturday evening.

#### Driving is unanimously popular

The FEI Driving World Cup is back with a class presented by the Radio Télévision Suisse on Sunday, late morning. The drivers will have had the opportunity to compete in a pre-qualifier, the Prix Brasserie Egger, Saturday early afternoon. Each year, these competitions gain in popularity.

The Indoor Cross Country presented by Rolex has again been programmed on Saturday evening for the second year running. After the huge success last year, organisers, participants and partner decided to re-edit the experience of this one-of-a-kind class, taking riders through a complex and intense course built with natural obstacles and running both on the main arena as well as on the training arena. The public was more than thrilled last year and will be back to encourage this year's competitors.



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Four other equestrian disciplines will be on show in December. The internationally acclaimed dressage rider, Morgan Barbançon Mestre (Friday evening and Saturday afternoon) will show a demonstration of freestyle to music. Para-dressage will be on demonstration Saturday afternoon, and the visually impaired show-jumper, Laetitia Bernard, will ride a course both on Friday and Saturday evening thanks to the support of Suva. There will also be bluffing spectacles of vaulting presented by the German World Champion team and Patric Looser and an introduction to horseball, a type of basketball on horse, will be presented for the first time at the CHI Geneva (Saturday early evening and Sunday late morning).

### **A world premier and in exclusivity at the CHI Geneva**

To make show-jumping that much more understandable, the Geneva organisers contracted the company Playfulvision, a start-up working out of the technological park on the EPFL campus in Lausanne, who have recently brought out a programme that brings together interesting statistics, something similar to what is presented in tennis. A better understanding of the sport through the likes of the number of strides a horse rides between obstacles, the total distance ridden or the average speed at which the rider and horse galloped the course, will help comprehend why one couple beats another. The possibility of precisely comparing two courses is possible through the super-positioning of images of the riders chosen route. This is a first in the equestrian sport and an exclusivity to the Geneva public.

The ticketing office is open since September 7<sup>th</sup> and tickets as well as the passes can be purchased via Starticket and Fnac.

### ***Informations for the medias representatives***

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Geneva, September 2015.