



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LiftMaster



**\$50,000 LIFTMASTER GRAND-PRIX EVENTING
AT BRUCE'S FIELD
MARCH 5-6, 2021**

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA – This past Saturday, March 6th, concluded the **2021 \$50,000 LiftMaster Grand-Prix Eventing at Bruce's Field**. The optimum time on Capt. Mark Phillips Cross-Country course, brought to you by the City of Aiken, proved to be a formidable test, but when the dust settled it was Tamie Smith & the the 15-year-old German Sport Horse gelding Mai Baum, owned by the Ahearn family and Eric Markell, who lead the competition start to finish and brought home the win!



GPE 2021 Champions, Tamie Smith & Mai Baum

Tamie & Mai Baum laid down a 23.3 score in the Dressage ring to take the lead after the first phase of competition on Friday, March 5th, and never looked back. A flawless round over Michel Vaillancourt's Show Jumping track, brought to you by Jack Wetzel & the D&W Group, saw them head into Saturday's competition in the lead. The Cross-Country phase, brought to you by the City of Aiken, was run in reverse order of standing, so Tamie & Mai Baum were the last pair out on course. They knew they had 6 seconds to spare to stay in the lead. *"Lexus' was completely wild and crazy at the beginning of the course, but he finally settled in and we managed to make the time!"* said Tamie after her "wild ride".



GPE 2020 Champions, Liz Halliday-Sharp & Deniro Z

Right behind Smith all weekend were GPE 2020 Champions, Liz Halliday-Sharp & Deniro Z, owned by Ocala Horse Properties. The pair finished on their dressage score of 25.8. Liz also won 3rd on her 2019 GPE Champion mount, Fernhill By Night (28.4), owned by Deborah Halliday, and 5th on Cooley Quicksilver (30.0), owned by The Monster Partnership.

On finishing three horses in the top 5, Liz said, *"I'm thrilled with my horses! I knew coming here, Tamie's horse is a freak of nature and I knew that if Deniro did his best he'd be close, but that horse [Mai Baum] is one of the best dressage horses in the country and one of the best jumpers. Though I'd like to think mine are not far behind! But honestly my horses were absolutely outstanding today, I couldn't have asked for more!"*

It was tough this year to make time, a lot tougher than previous years so kudos to Mark Phillips for giving us a real challenge. And yeah, like I said I'm not disappointed to finish all my horses in the top 5, it's super cool. This is such a great event, it's always a pleasure to be here. I'm happy for Tamie that she came over here and had a great run and like I said I couldn't have asked for any more from my horses, they gave me everything this weekend."

The rest of the top 10 shook out as follows:

Advanced Level Grand Prix														Eventing Grand-Prix at Bruce's Field		
#	Rider Horse	Jdg @ H	Jdg @ C	Jdg @ B	Dress Score	To Date Place	Stad Jump	Time Pen	To Date Score	To Date Place	XC Jump	XC Elapsed	XC Time	Final Score	Final Place	
42	Tamra Smith Mai Baum	23.65	23.08	23.27	23.3	1	0.0	0.0	23.3	1	0.0	03:48	0.0	23.3	1	
33	Liz Halliday-Sharp Deniro Z	26.15	26.92	24.42	25.8	3	0.0	0.0	25.8	2	0.0	03:46	0.0	25.8	2	
45	Liz Halliday-Sharp FERNHILL BY NIGHT	28.46	24.04	25.58	26.0	4	0.0	0.4	26.4	3	0.0	03:54	2.0	28.4	3	
3	Boyd Martin Long Island T	26.35	28.85	29.62	28.3	7-T	0.0	0.0	28.3	4-T	0.0	03:52	1.2	29.5	4	
20	Liz Halliday-Sharp Cooley Quicksilver	28.46	31.92	29.62	30.0	11	0.0	0.0	30.0	8	0.0	03:42	0.0	30.0	5	
32	Bruce Davidson Jr. Erroll Gobey	30.00	31.15	30.58	30.6	15-T	0.0	0.0	30.6	9-T	0.0	03:49	0.0	30.6	6	
12	Doug Payne Quantum Leap	31.15	30.19	30.77	30.7	17	0.0	0.0	30.7	11	0.0	03:50	0.4	31.1	7	
26	Doug Payne Starr Witness	30.00	31.35	32.31	31.2	19	0.0	0.0	31.2	12	0.0	03:48	0.0	31.2	8	
17	Boyd Martin Luke 140	27.50	29.23	28.27	28.3	7-T	0.0	0.0	28.3	4-T	0.0	03:57	3.2	31.5	9	
16	Sara Kozumplik Murphy Rubens D'ysieux	29.04	29.81	30.38	29.7	10	0.0	0.0	29.7	7	0.0	03:56	2.8	32.5	10	

[Click HERE for full results](#)



3rd Liz Halliday-Sharp & Fernhill By Night



4th Boyd Martin & Long Island T



5th Liz Halliday-Sharp & Cooley Quicksilver



6th Buck Davidson & Erroll Gobey



7th Doug Payne & Quantum Leap



8th Doug Payne & Starr Witness



9th Boyd Martin & Luke 140



10th Sara Kozumplik Murphy & Rubens D'ysieux

**2021 \$5,000 RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT
HIGHPOINT THOROUGHBRED AWARD**



Top: Holly Jacks-Smith & More Inspiration
Bottom: Colleen Rutledge & Confidence Game

The 2020 LiftMaster GPE debuted the \$5,000 Highpoint Thoroughbred Award and the 2021 event continued the tradition, proudly awarding 1st place to Holly Jacks-Smith & the 16-year-old gelding More Inspiration, owned by Holly.

Colleen Rutledge & the 11-year-old stallion Confidence Game, owned by Colleen Rutledge and FSG, Inc, took 2nd place.

Executive Director of the Retired Racehorse Project, Jen Roytz said, *"The Retired Racehorse Project is proud to support this year's Highpoint Thoroughbred Award, along with Dr. Kevin Pfiester of Hagyard Equine Medical Institute; Dr. Stuart E. Brown of Brownstead Farm, Dr. Andy Clark and Kathleen Sullivan and Dr. Rebecca Newell and William Griffin.*

The Retired Racehorse Project exists to increase demand for Thoroughbreds after racing and works to empower equestrians with the skills and education to be successful with them as sport horses. The RRP is the flagship organization behind the annual Thoroughbred Makeover, the largest and most lucrative Thoroughbred training competition in the world. For more information, visit theRRP.org."

2021 \$5,000 RIDE FOR CHARITY & POPULAR VOTE



Top 3 team captains with representatives of their charities (L-R):
Liz Halliday-Sharp & Tri-Development Aiken County, Doug Payne & Brothers & Sisters of Aiken County,
Allison Springer & Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County

A feature of the showcase since the inaugural event in 2019, riders competing in the LiftMaster GPE are sorted into teams and paired with local charitable organizations. The top three finishing teams earn a check for their respective charity. The 2021 teams were structured and placed as follows:

1st Team Orange – Tri-Development Center of Aiken County

Captained by: Liz Halliday-Sharp

Nilson Da Silva

Clayton Fredericks

Karl Slezak

Jules Ennis

2nd Team Yellow – Brothers & Sisters of Aiken County

Captained by: Doug Payne

Colleen Rutledge

Tamie Smith

Missy Miller

3rd Team Red – Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County

Captained by: Allison Springer

Dana Cooke

Sara Kozumplik-Murphy

Sharon White

4th Team Blue – Great Oak Equine Assisted Programs

Captained by: Phillip Dutton

Amanda Beale-Clement

Sydney Elliot

Valerie Vizcarrondo-Pride

Annie Goodwin

5th Team Green – Megiddo Dream Station

Captained by: Emily Hamel

Buck Davidson

Holly Jacks-Smith

Ashlynn Meuchel

Waylon Roberts

6th Team Purple – Alzheimer’s Association – South Carolina Chapter

Captained by: Boyd Martin

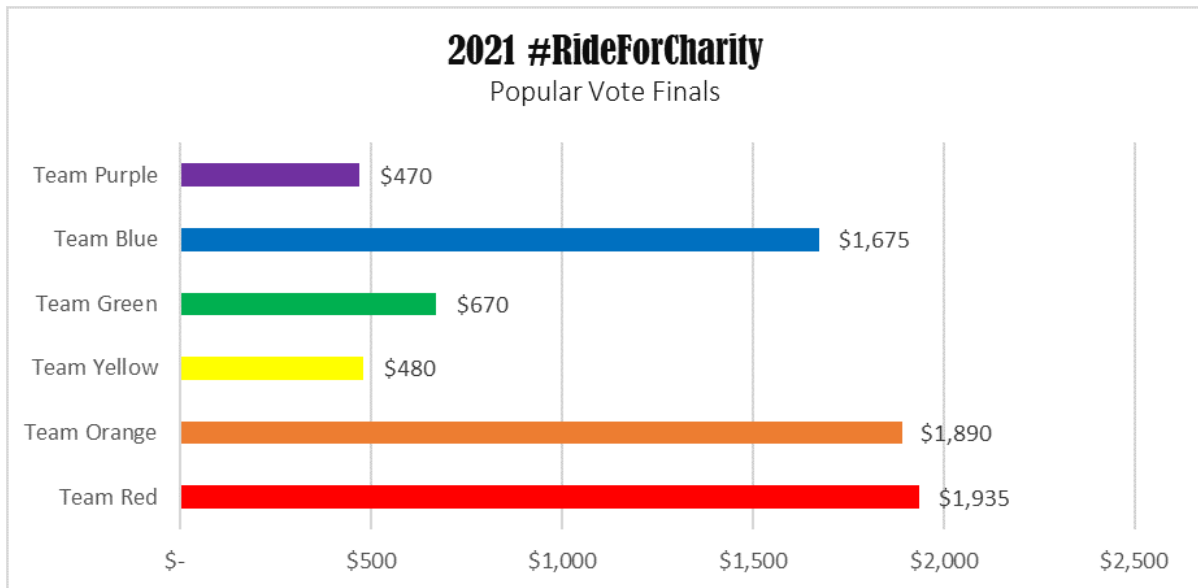
Alexandra Baugh

Lillian Heard

Jenny Caras

Mike Pendleton

NEW IN 2021, in addition to the traditional Ride for Charity competition, we added an online popular voting platform so YOU the fans could vote for your favorite team. At \$5/vote the 2021 #RideForCharity popular vote raised \$7,120! 100% of the proceeds go directly back to the represented charitable organizations. Thank you to everyone who voted and participated in this incredible event!



2021 TRIPLE CROWN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD



Aiken's own Nilson Da Silva was awarded the 2021 Triple Crown Sportsmanship Award. He was unanimously nominated by his fellow competitors after graciously retiring during Friday's Show Jumping when his horse Magnum's Martini just wasn't going right. We applaud Nilson for his horsemanship and sportsmanship and always placing his horses' well being above all.

"We are proud to support such a prestigious, competitive equestrian showcase here in Aiken," said Triple Crown Representative Kelly Payne. *"We appreciate the opportunity to help grow the sport and strengthen our long-term relationships with some of the best riders in the world while also supporting the Aiken community."*

2021 SHAPLEY'S BEST TURNED OUT AWARD



The 2021 Shapley's Best Turned Out Award was given to Annabelle Nieman & Alyssa Dobrotin, grooming for Tamie Smith and keeping her horses in incredible condition during their long visit from the West Coast

"Shapley's, trusted by horsemen worldwide for over 80 years for their horse's shine and health, is pleased to support the 2021 LiftMaster Grand-Prix Eventing at Bruce's Field. Shapley's is proud to support the grooms with our 'Best Turned Out' award and applaud all their hard work and dedication to the horse. Shapley's has a wide range of equine products with something for every horse.

Shapley's loves not only the sport of eventing but the grooms who work tirelessly for their horses. To honor their contribution we want to bring attention to these dedicated individuals. With our own history in the town of Aiken, sponsoring the Best Turned Out at the LiftMaster Grand-Prix Eventing at Burce's Field, is a special thrill for us," says Sally Stith

2021 TOP YOUNG RIDER & TOP AMATEUR



Craig Duchossois presents two new awards for 2021. Alex Baugh won the Top Young Rider and Top Amateur aboard Altorac Farm's Mr. Candyman.



LiftMaster Representative Rob Guerrero (far left), AHPF President Jack Wetzel (second to right), & Craig Duchossois (far right) all present the 2021 LiftMaster GPE Championship to Tamie Smith (center) and owner Eric Markell (second to left)

On behalf of the GPE Organizing Committee and the Aiken Horse Park Foundation, we would like to thank everyone involved with this year's event! The only way 2021 was able to happen was because of the huge team effort from our sponsors, volunteers, riders, officials, staff, fans, and of course the beautiful equine athletes. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! See you in 2022!

The **VISION** of the LiftMaster GPE is to showcase the best of the sport of eventing. It will demonstrate the highest quality and innovation in competition, attracting top horses and riders internationally. Its prestige and format will make it the ideal venue to provide an engaging event drawing a wide variety of spectators from all over. Highlighting the history and character of Aiken throughout the event and involving many local charities of Aiken will exhibit our pride in our community, and fulfill the mission of making the horse park a central fixture which "promotes Aiken's equestrian way of life and supports the community's civic, educational and charitable endeavors".

For information about the 2021 \$50,000 **LiftMaster Grand-Prix Eventing at Bruce's Field** , visit aikenhorsepark.org

To relive all the action from #AnEventLikeNoOther visit horseandcountry.tv/en-us/



THANK YOU 2021 GPE SPONSORS

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2021 RIDE FOR CHARITY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Thank you to everyone who voted and participated in this year's #RideForCharity. Your online contributions raised over \$7,000 and 100% of those proceeds go directly back to the charitable organizations you voted for.





Alzheimer's Association of South Carolina

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS PARK SPONSORS



A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Promoting Aiken's equestrian way of life and encouraging the community's civic, educational, and charitable endeavors

Aiken Horse Park Foundation | 931 Powderhouse Road, PO Box 1951, Aiken, SC 29802

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