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The Grooms Award, Ltd. Opens 2021 Season with Gifts to Grand Prix Grooms at Winter Equestrian Festival

Non-Profit Organization Continues to Recognize Professional Grooms' Contributions

Foxborough, MA — March 16, 2021 — The Grooms Award, Ltd., a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization that recognizes and rewards professional grooms, presented gift bags to the grooms of the horses that competed in the \$401,000 FEI CSI 5* Fidelity Investments Grand Prix at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington FL, on March 13.

“It was very exciting to be back in action and provide recognition and support to the hardworking grooms in Wellington,” said Andrea Mewhinney, Director of The Grooms Award, Ltd. “We thank the Winter Equestrian Festival for allowing us to present gifts to the grooms of the Grand Prix horses and recognize them for all they do to keep horses healthy, fit and ready to compete.”

Abdel Saïd of Egypt piloted Bandit Savoie to victory in the \$401,000 FEI CSI 5* Fidelity Investments Grand Prix becoming the first Egyptian rider to win a CSI5* Grand Prix at WEF. Sharing in the victory was groom **Sofija Lavrinovica** who received an embroidered canvas tote bag from SmartPak that included a \$50 gift certificate from EquiFit, a tack room pillow from Haygain, a salt lick holder from Got Salt?, a custom belt from Boy-O-Boy Bridleworks, leather cleaner and conditioner from Sterling Essentials, a yoga mat, Busy Buddy, insoles and a gift card from ThinLine, WEF souvenirs and a cash prize courtesy of The Grooms Award Ltd.

Grooms Award representatives **Corinne Doubleday, Elsie Connick and Jimmy “Bones” Herring** also presented gift bags to grooms of all the horses entered in the Grand Prix. Those bags from SmartPak included snacks, drinks, an EquiFit facemask, entry into a drawing for a for an HG One Hay Steamer from Haygain valued at \$999, a \$10 gift card for Starbucks, a gift card from ThinLine, Tate’s cookies and an assortment of Grooms Award items including a lanyard, a pen and a decal!

The Grooms Award Ltd. thanks all of the following sponsors and supporters:

Boy-O-Boy Bridleworks, EquiFit, Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP), Friends of Moira and George, GC Ponies and Robin Greenwood, GotSalt?, Haygain, Morrissey Management Group (MMG), Sterling Essentials, ThinLine, West Palms Event Management, SmartPak, and all other supporters of The Grooms Award!

Upcoming events at which The Grooms Award, Ltd. is scheduled to participate in 2021 include:

- Devon Horse Show - Devon, PA - June 3
- Upperville Colt & Horse Show – Upperville, VA - June 13
- Lake Placid Horse Show – Lake Placid, NY - July 4
- American Gold Cup – Traverse City, MI - Sept 19
- Pennsylvania National Horse Show – Harrisburg, PA - Oct 23
- Riders Cup - Del Mar, CA - October 24
- Las Vegas National Horse Show – Las Vegas, NV - Nov 21

Created to recognize the workers “behind the scenes,” the Grooms Award was established in honor of Moira Caffarey (who unexpectedly passed away in 1997) and later George Hennessy (transporter for the USET). Friends of Moira donated a trophy for the first-ever grooms’ award at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in Harrisburg where individuals and companies donated prizes to be given to the winning groom. As donations increased each year, it was decided that each of the Grand Prix grooms deserved a “Thank You” for their efforts and professionalism. A tote bag was awarded to each Grand Prix groom, filled with goodies and gift cards from generous sponsors.

The Grooms’ Award, Ltd. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization, recognizing professional grooms at select major horse shows each year. The Grooms’ Award, Ltd. welcomes donations and sponsorships; those interested should contact Marty Bauman at 508-698-6810 or marty@classic-communications.com.

For more information, or to donate, please visit www.groomsaward.org. The Grooms Award, Ltd. is also on Facebook and Instagram. #groomsrock