

## Bajan equestrian rider makes history

BARBADIAN Heather Walker has made history in the annals of equestrian.

She is currently leading in the Zone 10 rankings in the **International Equestrian Federation (FEI) World Eventing Challenge Category C** as well as the **FEI Jumping World Challenge Category C**.

The 28-year-old Walker not only triumphed locally in both the 2024 **FEI Jumping World Challenge Category C** and the 2024 **FEI Eventing World Challenge Category C**, but also emerged with the best score in the international Zone 10 in this category for eventing.

At present, Walker's score of 31.3 is also the highest across all developing countries worldwide that participated in the **FEI Eventing World Challenge Category C**.

competition for 2024.

Walker, who has been riding with Big C Stables since childhood, is an attorney who has been called to the Bar in England and Wales, as well as Barbados.

### Achievement

In a media release, president of the Barbados Equestrian Association, Monique Archer, lauded Walker for her achievement.

"It is wonderful to see such talent in our small island. Heather is extremely dedicated and has worked very hard to achieve these outstanding results. We are all very proud of her and her mount **Nobleux** and her team for these achievements," Archer said.

She also noted that Walker was continuing to achieve new heights of excellence in the

sport and is proving herself a force to be reckoned with locally, regionally and internationally.

"Walker is the definitive embodiment of the principles of the **FEI's International Challenges**, which were created to provide an inclusive space for riders from all countries to compete internationally and improve their skills without having to leave their own country," the Equestrian Association said. **(Ezs)**

**HEATHER WALKER is leading the FEI Eventing World Challenge Category C. (FP)**



# Criterionum on 2025 calendar

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**THE BARBADOS CYCLING UNION (BCU) is set to host its inaugural Criterionum Championships as the 2025 calendar sees local cycling enter a new phase.**

At present, the Cycling Union doesn't have the required facilities to execute the traditional track championships due to the lack of a proper velodrome on the island. However, the organisation has managed to create a championship that offers a slice of everything for junior and senior cyclists.

With Barbadian professional cyclist Amber Joseph making the switch to shorter events like the criterium, the new championships are set to create more riders who are likely to follow in her footsteps.

The first round of the championships takes place on the Waterford, St Michael circuit on March 30 and is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. The cyclists return for the second round at Warrens, St Michael, on April 27, also at 2 p.m., and then the short championships conclude with a final round on the Fontabelle, St Michael circuit on Sunday, May 4.

In addition, the Cycling Union also has two more criteriums scheduled away from the championships, with a criterium to be held at the **Garrison Savannah** on July 20 and a final one on September 14. In the wake of this announcement, BCU president Charles Lynch explained the reasoning behind the championships.

"The BCU has planned the **Criterionum Championships** this year for 2025 because it's a very exciting category in cycling generally. It is a shorter race, but it is faster and it keeps you on

your toes. Really and truly, in the criterium series, you have to be at your best all the time and not get caught napping. Otherwise, you will lose your position."

"This criterium series will also have several races on the given day with cyclists vying for points and then, whoever has the most points, obviously, will be the champion at the end of the series," Lynch noted.

The marquee event for cyclists from Barbados and abroad will be the **Tour De Bim International Tour Of Barbados** from September 26 to 28 at Warrens and the **Garrison Savannah**. There will also be a point-to-point race on the final day.

In addition, the junior cyclists are set to travel to Apeldoorn, Netherlands, for the **Junior Track Championships** from August 22 to 24 and, a week later, the juniors tackle the **Caribbean Cycling Union (CCU) Junior Championships**, slated for August 30 and 31 on the ABC Highway.

The cyclists will travel once more as they head to Belize for the **CCU Championships** from October 9 to 13.

The **National Road Cycling Championships Individual Time Trial and Road Race** are scheduled for the last weekend in June on the Mighty Grynner Highway and ABC Highway.

The track cyclists also head to Trinidad from February 27 to March 2 to compete at their velodrome in Couva, Trinidad.

Meanwhile, the year starts February 9 with the **Don Stoute And Percival Niles Memorial Race** at Long Bay, St Philip, and closes with the **BiiG/BOA Independence Event** with the date and location to be confirmed.



**BARBADOS CYCLING UNION president Charles Lynch. (FP)**

## Jabeur fights back to beat Collins

ADELAIDE – Ons Jabeur of Tunisia overcame an early deficit to record a 7-6 (6), 6-2 win against fourth-seeded Danielle Collins yesterday in a first-round match at the **Adelaide International** in Australia.

Jabeur rallied from a 5-3 deficit in the first set and finished with five aces to dispatch Collins in 90 minutes.

Sixth-seeded Diana Shnaider of Russia had two aces and overcame five double faults in a 6-3, 0-6, 6-0 win over Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic.

No. 8 seed and defending champion Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia overcame losing the first four games of her match to secure a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Magdalena Frech of Poland.

### First serve

On Monday, Canada's Denis Shapovalov struck nine aces and won 31 of 32 points on his first serve in a swift 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 9 seed Zhizhen Zhang of China.

Australians Thanasi Kokkinakis and Christopher O'Connell also advanced. Kokkinakis was a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 winner over Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka and O'Connell posted a 7-5, 7-6 (5) win over France's Arthur Rinderknech. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina eliminated fellow Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 7-5, 6-2.

At the **Hobart International**, Dayana Yastremska of the Ukraine rallied to a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Katie Volynets in a first-round match in Australia. Yastremska registered two aces to win the match in one hour and 58 minutes.

Second-seeded Elise Mertens of Belgium posted a 6-3, 6-1 win over Nuria Parrizas Diaz of Spain, third-seeded Amanda Anisimova notched a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Daria Saville of Australia, and fourth-seeded Magda Linette of Poland recorded a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 win over Varvara Gracheva of France. **(Reuters)**