

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 18, 2024



**CONTACT** Kate Boggan Director of Marketing kate@aikenhorsepark.org

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA: The 2024 \$100,000 Conceal Grand-Prix Eventing Showcase at Bruce's Field, presented by Taylor, Harris Insurance Services (GPE) Organizing Committee and the Aiken Horse Park Foundation are thrilled to announce 2023 Maryland CCI 5\* winner, <u>Austin O'Connor</u> (IRL), is scheduled to compete at the March 1 & 2 event, in Aiken, SC.

O'Conner bases his program at <u>Alderbrook Stud</u> in England, and will be making the trip across the pond to catch ride at #AnEventLikeNoOther.

US Eventing fans will likely recognize world #22, Austin O'Connor, as they witnessed him win the 2023 Maryland CCI5\* this past October, becoming the first Irishman to win a 5\* in 58 years! 2023 was a big year for O'Connor, as he also took 3rd at the

Badminton CCI5<sup>\*</sup> back in the spring, also aboard Maryland winner Colorado Blue. O'Connor has represented Ireland at 7 championships and 13 CCI5<sup>\*</sup> competitions thus far in his career (<u>fei.org</u>).



Carlson 119 & Amanda Beale Clement at the 2023 Showcase Photo by Christine Quinn Photography

O'Connor will be teaming up with showcase veteran, Carlson 119. The 14 yo German Sport Horse gelding, owned by Micheal Dell'Angelo, Reese Dell'Angelo, & Elizabeth Bales, was the long time partner of Amanda Beale Clement until just this past year when Amanda handed the reins over to student Reese Dell'Angelo, who is now learning from the experienced schoolmaster. "Carl" and Amanda have had some very impressive results throughout their career together, including several top 5 finishes at the CCI3\* and CCI4\* level. The pair competed at both the 2022 & 2023 Showcase. Amanda and Carl were the top placed Young Rider pair in 2023, scoring a 27.7 in the first phase. If O'Connor and Carlson 119 can repeat that success in 2024, they'll be well placed heading into the jumping phases with a good shot at the top of the leaderboard.

On attracting such an impressive, international rider to the GPE, event director Joanie Morris commented:

"We love that there is this kind of buzz about this event. It is the only eventing showcase of its kind and that lends itself to great interest from overseas riders. It is a huge testament to our sponsors who stepped up and allowed us to increase our prize money to \$100k, and to the team at the Aiken Horse Park Foundation that continues to raise the bar across the board. We look forward to welcoming Austin to Aiken, in addition to the best riders in North America."



Will Austin O'Connor be able to carry over his US soil success to the #GPE2024 Photo by Sally Spickard for Eventing Nation

### VIP & General Admission tickets available online

There are several General Admission ticket options available. Exclusive online purchase options include:

One *Full Event Pass* which grants access to Friday, March 1st Dressage & Show Jumping AND Saturday, March 2nd Cross-Country

• Full Event Pass \$30.00 (Friday, March 1st & Saturday, March 2nd)

Two *Single Day Pass* options, which grant access to one day's activities respectively

- Friday, March 1st Only Pass **\$20.00** (Dressage & Show Jumping)
- Saturday, March 2nd Only Pass **\$20.00** (Cross-Country)

These General Admission ticket options are only available online. General Admission tickets will be available at the gate for **\$25.00** per day, **CASH OR CHECK ONLY!** 

VIP tickets include:

- Invitation to the Thursday evening, February 29th, Welcome Party
- Ring side for the Friday evening, March 1st, Show Jumping
- Prime viewing locations for the Saturday, March 2nd, Cross-Country
- Access to all VIP areas (VIP tent & Chalets) for the entire event
- Food & Beverage served
- VIP Parking

VIP tickets start at **\$1,000.00**. For more information on Reserved Tables, Chalets, or Tailgate Parking Spots, please contact kate@aikenhorsepark.org

Sponsors

Tickets

Press

Want to be a part of #AnEventLikeNoOther? Perspective sponsors may contact AHPF Director of Marketing & Communications <u>Kate Boggan</u> for more information.

**Conceal** is at the forefront of defending against web-based attacks, using innovative technology to detect, prevent, and shield businesses and individual users from ever-evolving online threats. ConcealBrowse operates on the principle of proactive protection. Its AI-powered intelligence engine, ConcealSherpa, runs at machine speed with virtually zero latency to identify potentially harmful webpages autonomously, stopping cyber-attacks that take advantage of weaponized links.

An **Eventing "Showcase"** is a unique version of Eventing competition that condenses the traditional country-side Eventing environment into a spectator friendly venue. The showcase format allows the general public the chance to be up close and personal, right next to the galloping lanes and massive fences, and experience the thrilling sport of Eventing in a whole new way. This equestrian triathlon presents a prime opportunity for top eventing riders to kick start their competition season, and to welcome the public to an exciting fast-paced equestrian event.

## We hope you'll join us for #AnEventLikeNoOther



With the increase in prize money for the **2024 \$100,000 Conceal Grand-Prix Eventing Showcase at Bruce's Field, presented by Taylor, Harris Insurance Services**, we have revamped our sponsorship opportunities and added more deliverables and more levels! Please review the 2024 Sponsorship Deck and consider giving your support to #AnEventLikeNoOther

Interested sponsors should please contact AHPF Director of Marketing & Communications, Kate Boggan.

#### email: kate@aikenhorsepark.org

2024 Sponsorship Deck

**Become a Sponsor** 



# MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT THE 2024 SHOWCASE



From <u>Culver Academies</u>, an independent, college-preparatory school in Culver, Indiana, we're excited to announce that the Black Horse Troop and Equestriennes will be making their debut at the **\$100,000 Conceal Grand Prix Eventing Showcase at Bruce's Field, presented by Taylor, Harris Insurance Services** in 2024. An escort to presidents,

Services in 2024. An escort to presidents, emperors, kings, and queens, Culver's Black Horse Troop and Equestriennes are mounted drill teams that have represented Culver Academies to the world for nearly



130 years, having appeared in more Presidential Inaugural Parades than any other private or public high school contingent. These talented young riders will be presenting the colors on Friday, March 1 and performing a demonstration on Saturday, March 2.



For more information on Culver Academies and their Black Horse Troop, visit: <u>culver.org/culver-life/horsemanship</u>



#### **KIDS 12 YO & UNDER GET IN FOR FREE!**

#### **AHPF PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

In order to protect the business of our official show photographers, the AHPF has established this photography policy. In this social media, smart phone, day and age, capturing and sharing images from events has never been easier. We want to encourage all our guests at Bruce's Field to fully enjoy their experiences here and treasure the special memories for generations to come. However it is still extremely important that we protect and respect the contracted show photographers that make their livelihoods providing high quality, professional images for our exhibitors.

The following guidelines are expected to be abided by ALL visitors to Bruce's Field:

- Visitors, spectators and exhibitors at Bruce's Field are permitted to take photographs and record video for **personal use only**
- Only our official appointed event photographers are allowed to take competitor images and sell them to the public
- No other individual or company has permission to take images of **multiple competitors** and sell them to members of the public or **publish online/on social media**
- Professional photography equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras with lenses longer than 4 inches, tripods, monopods, or any video camera mounted on a tripod or other stabilizing device are not permitted under any circumstances
- Media representatives with approved credentials are the only exception

• "Private" photographers must go through the proper channels for approval to be on premises PER EVENT. Please contact **<u>kate@aikenhorsepark.org</u>** for further details

Any individual found in violation of these guidelines will be asked to leave the premises and could be subject to bans from future Bruce's Field events.

**Press Application** 

#### The deadline for press applications is February 19, 2024.

Approved applicants may pick up their credentials at the Bruce's Field office after February 28, 2024, prior to the start of competition. Media information will be emailed to all approved applicants no later than February 26, 2024.



Official Photography of the 2024 \$100,000 Conceal Grand Prix Eventing Showcase at Bruce's Field, presented by Taylor, Harris Insurance Services





### **THANK YOU 2024 SPONSORS**

**TITLE SPONSOR** 





#### **2024 Park Partners**



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