

GRAND-PRIX EVENTING AT BRUCE'S FIELD

\$50,000 INVITATIONAL

March 1 - 2, 2019

AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA – The Aiken Horse Park Foundation is pleased to introduce Aiken's first Eventing Showcase, to be held at Bruce's Field in the winter of 2019. Invitations will be extended to the top 40 riders in the world to compete. Grand-Prix Eventing is a spectator friendly two-day competition, featuring a morning of Dressage, an evening of Stadium Jumping, and an afternoon of running Cross Country. This equestrian triathlon presents a prime opportunity for internationally ranked riders to kick start their competition season, and to welcome the public to an exciting fast-paced equestrian event.

"The Grand-Prix Eventing Showcase will be a great addition to the Eventing calendar and the Aiken horse community. Added to this – Bruce's Field is a world class venue to host this exciting new event."

Phillip Dutton, chair - organizing committee

(above - Phillip Dutton and the Z Partnership's Z navigating the water hazard at Ocala Jockey Club CIC3*)

Phillip participated in 5 Olympic games resulting in multiple team gold medals and most recently an individual bronze medal in Rio. He is the veteran of the team and is a highly respected leader in the sport throughout the world.

"We are extremely lucky to have such a prestigious competition that will draw the best international horses and riders to Aiken. The shortened format and the great atmosphere will make it a fabulous opportunity for spectators and riders alike. The unique layout allows people to get up close to all the action and to appreciate the sheer athleticism and speed of the horses. Certainly this will be a can't miss date on everyone's calendar."

Doug Payne, organizing committee

(above Doug Payne competing in the \$25,000 City of Aiken Grand-Prix this past May)

Doug has represented the U.S. on a number of Nations Cup teams and is a licensed USEF Judge and Technical Delegate in addition to being a USEA ICP certified instructor. He is also an author, holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from Rochester Institute of Technology, and is an avid Pilot.

With its long history as the winter training grounds for many of the sport's top riders, Aiken makes an ideal host for this exciting new format, bringing the story of Aiken's eventing roots full circle, to Bruce's Field. Olympic veteran and long-time winter resident, Phillip Dutton discovered Aiken when he prepared for the 1996 Olympic Games here, as a member of the Australian Team. Just as Aiken

embraced Phillip and his Aussie teammates, Bruce Duchossois generously opened his stables to the team, initiating what became a long and deep friendship between the two. Phillip's many successes on the world stage and his commitment to Aiken have had an extraordinary impact on Aiken's economy. Each year, the town's population swells throughout the three winter months, as the international eventing community focuses on Aiken, South Carolina.

Event Information

Grand-Prix Eventing At Bruce's Field is an eventing showcase run at the Advanced Level with a shortened cross-country course approximately 2500 meters long featuring 25-30 jumping efforts.

Organizing Committee

Phillip Dutton - Chair, Doug Payne, Mike Laver, Evie Dutton, Jack Wetzel, Fernanda Kellogg, Shelley Page, Tara Bostwick

Course Designers

Captain Mark Phillips - Cross Country **Michel Vaillancourt** - Stadium Jumping

Competition Manager

Shelley Page - president, 5*Equestrian Events

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Aiken Horse Park Foundation

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