

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Lexington, VA, October 28, 2016* - The first full day of competition at the Virginia CCI/CIC and Horse Trials at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington saw the completion of FEI dressage and the first of the Area II Championship competitors take center stage.

Jessica Phoenix and Humble GS lead the inaugural VHT CCI2\* after today's dressage competition. The Canadian Rio Olympics rider and 10-year-old Trakehner/Canadian Sport Horse owned by Charlotte Schickedanz scored a 51.4 to take the early lead in the stallion's first CCI2\* event.



*Jessica Phoenix and Humble GS lead the CCI2\* after dressage on a score of 51.4. Photo by Brant Gamma Photo*

Lindsay Kelley and Cooley Cruise Control are close behind on a 51.8, while there is a tie for third place between Ariel Graid riding Monbeg Nola and Kelly Beaver riding Sempre Fino. A mere four points separate the top ten in the CCI2\* after the first phase of competition.

The CIC\* and CIC2\* divisions completed both the dressage and show jumping phases today. Mara DePuy and Congo Brazzaville C led the 38-horse CIC2\* division after this morning's dressage on a score of 46.4. A single rail dropped them to fourth place after show jumping, and Phillip Dutton, who jumped double clear on both Fernhill Revelation and Corazon, moved into first and third place respectively.

Dutton welcomed the 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse Fernhill Revelation to True Prospect Farm earlier this fall. They completed one Preliminary horse trials and one Intermediate horse trials, winning both, before coming to VHT.



*Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Revolution lead the CIC2\* division after dressage and show jumping on a two-phase score of 47.9.  
Photo by Brant Gamma Photo*

“Fernhill Revelation was a little bit tense in the dressage, so he left a few points there, but he couldn’t have show jumped any better,” Dutton said of the gelding owned by the Revelation Group. “He arrived from Ireland a bit late in the season to get ready for Fair Hill (International), so instead our idea was to do horse trials with him and then the CIC2\* here at Virginia. He’ll stay in work through the winter, and in February of next year he should be ready to hit the ground running.”

Corazon, a 9-year-old Dutch Warmblood owned by David Garrett, is a new ride for Dutton. The gelding was previously campaigned at the two-star level by Kelly Pugh and Lucy Jackson (NZL), and Dutton has completed one Preliminary level horse trials with him.

“He’s a very exciting horse—very talented and has a few little quirks. I am getting to know him and he’ll get to know me, and we’ll keep building on our partnership,” Dutton said.

Clear rounds were few and far between in the CIC2\*, with only nine horse and rider combinations finishing the Chris Barnard designed course without jumping penalties. Hannah Sue Burnett was double clear with Cooley Dream, moving into second place between Phillip’s two rides. Boyd Martin and Kyra were also fault free, moving up to sixth from 11th place after the first phase.

The CCI\* divisions are well populated, with 39 entries in the Senior A division and 20 Juniors and Young Riders entered in the B division. Kim Severson with Ringfort Fighting Chance (division A) and Cornelia Dorr and Louis M (division B) are the one-star leaders after dressage scoring 40.6 and 40.2, respectively.

Preliminary and Intermediate kicked off the 2016 Area II Championships today, with

Preliminary completing dressage and all Intermediate divisions doing both dressage and show jumping.

In the Intermediate Championship, Sydney Solomon and Early Review C took the lead in dressage on a score of 41.3 and jumped double clear to hold their position over second place Tracey Bienemann and Geoni.



*Cornelia Dorr and Louis M lead the CC11\* B division after dressage on a score of 40.2. Photo by Brant Gamma Photo*

Rachel Wilks leads the Open Preliminary Championships with her own Irish Sport Horse Great Expectations, scoring a 27.4 to take the lead over Erin Sylvester and Mister Optimistic on a 29.1.

“He’s quite fun on the flat and makes my job easy,” Wilks said. “He did a few Prelims in England and I’ve just been getting to know him. I’m bringing him along with my other horse (River King) and enjoying it.”

Wilks has had Great Expectations for about a year since Sharon White and Buck Davidson sourced him from JP Sheffield in England. The pair has advanced from the Novice to Preliminary level in their time together and recently placed 17th out of 55 starters in the Preliminary Horse division at the Nutrena USEA American Eventing Championships.

Rachel is hoping to do a one-star with Great Expectations in the spring but feels in no rush to move him up to Intermediate. “He’s a nice horse and I want to give him the best opportunities to go well,” she said. “We will see how cross country goes tomorrow. If I give him a good, confident ride and ride him well he should go well. It looks like it will be a good course.”

Katherine Christopher and Frodo of the Shire lead the Junior Open Preliminary Championships by more than 10 points after today's dressage competition.

The Beginner Novice, Novice and Training Championships will begin Saturday, show jumping will continue for the lower levels and cross country will be going on on both

sides of the facility, making for an action-packed day of competition.

Follow Virginia Horse Trials on [Facebook](#) for photos and updates throughout the event. Live Scores for all divisions can be found on [Event Entries](#).

### **About the Virginia Horse Trials**

The Virginia Horse Trials takes place at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia, nestled in the rolling hills of Rockbridge County, where eventers from across the Eastern Seaboard come for a fun and challenging competition at the Beginner Novice through the FEI two-star levels. VHT has hosted two USEA Recognized Horse Trials each year since founders Brian and Penny Ross started the event in 1989. They organized the event through its 25th Anniversary in 2014. Andy Bowles took over the organization of VHT in 2015 and looks forward to maintaining it as a destination for East Coast eventers in the years to come. VHT hosted the inaugural USEA Intercollegiate Eventing Championships in May 2016 and will host an FEI CCI2\* for the first time this October.

**Media Contact:**

*Leslie Threlkeld*

[678-378-0244](tel:678-378-0244)

[leslie.a.threlkeld@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.a.threlkeld@gmail.com)