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FEI Eventing Nations Cup of Le Pin (FRA): great sport ahead!

Everyone hoped for it and this is confirmed... The CCIO4*-S of Le Pin (FRA), aka Le Grand Complet, promises to be an exceptional edition on the sports side! A month away from the FEI Eventing World Championships, and a year away from the European Championships on this same site of the Haras national du Pin, the best riders and horses in the world will meet from August 11 to 14. There will be GREAT sport!

Each week brings its share of good news to the organizing team. First of all, all the French riders hoping to join the French team at the FEI Eventing World Championships in Pratoni del Vivaro (Italy, 15 to 18 September 2022) are asked by national selector Thierry Touzaint to line up at the start of the FEI Eventing Nations Cup (CCIO4*-S), the main class of this 26th edition. Facing them will be the best European nations of the discipline, there to prepare for Italy as well as to take their marks for 2023 since the Haras national du Pin will host the European Senior Championships. Germany - eager to regain its position as the world leader, which has been ceded to Great Britain for four years now -, Switzerland - very successful this season -, Italy and Sweden will rely on their team #1.



Other eventing stars have already announced their parti-

cipation. Starting with the Price, Tim and Jonelle, faithful to the Grand Complet, respectively 3rd and 2nd in the world ranking, and their Australian «neighbour» Andrew Hoy, double Olympic medallist in Tokyo (silver per team, individual bronze), who should ride his fabulous French Anglo-Arabian horse Vassily de Lassos. Others will join them, especially as many will want to «taste» the tracks of the historical course designer of Le Grand Complet, Pierre Le Goupil, who will officiate not only at the European Championships 2023 but also at the Olympic Games in Paris 2024. It promises suspense to the end!

Michel Asseray, Deputy National Technical Director in charge of the eventing department confirms these perspective.

So will Le Grand Complet be the last test for candidates for a selection in the French team?

All the riders had a programme à la carte, either for questions of qualifications (these are necessary to reach the highest level, editor's note), or to claim a selection. We've arranged to meet them at Le Grand Complet.

Does this mean that all potentially selectable couples for the World Championships will participate in Le Grand Complet?

Unless there is a physical problem that would prevent a horse from running, yes, all the horses will compete for the FEI Eventing Nations Cup at Le Pin. On the next day, we will carry out a veterinary check in Saumur on seven to eight horses, then we will announce the selection.

Why did you choose Le Grand Complet?

The date is ideally scheduled in our program, fifteen days before our preparation which will take place in St Martin de Bréhal



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in Normandy, as usual.

What makes Le Grand Complet so special?

It is hilly as it will be in Pratoni del Vivaro (place of the World Championships, editor's note). We generally have a good test designed by the cross country course designer Pierre Le Goupil. We planned that long ago.

Do you already have names in mind?

No, it is the fitness of the couple at the right moment that matters. If the rider is ready for a deadline, she or he can claim a selection. It's important to have as many people as possible dreaming. Keeping the door open helps feed the pool of potential couples. Thierry Touzaint has always taken the best, including those who didn't necessarily have a great record.

Nicolas Touzaint and Christopher Six seem to remain the leaders, do you confirm that?

The couples present at the Olympic Games in Tokyo have been somewhat protected since the beginning of the year. They will have to behave well during the last selection of Le Grand Complet. They are experienced couples, and it is important to have a solid base.

THE SCHEDULE

Considering the heavy works on site at Haras national du Pin, the Ustica team has chosen to limit the number of classes to three (five usually): the FEI CCIO4*-S Nations Cup, a CCI3*-S and a CCI2*-L (in descending order of level). Below is a provisional schedule (subject to changes).



