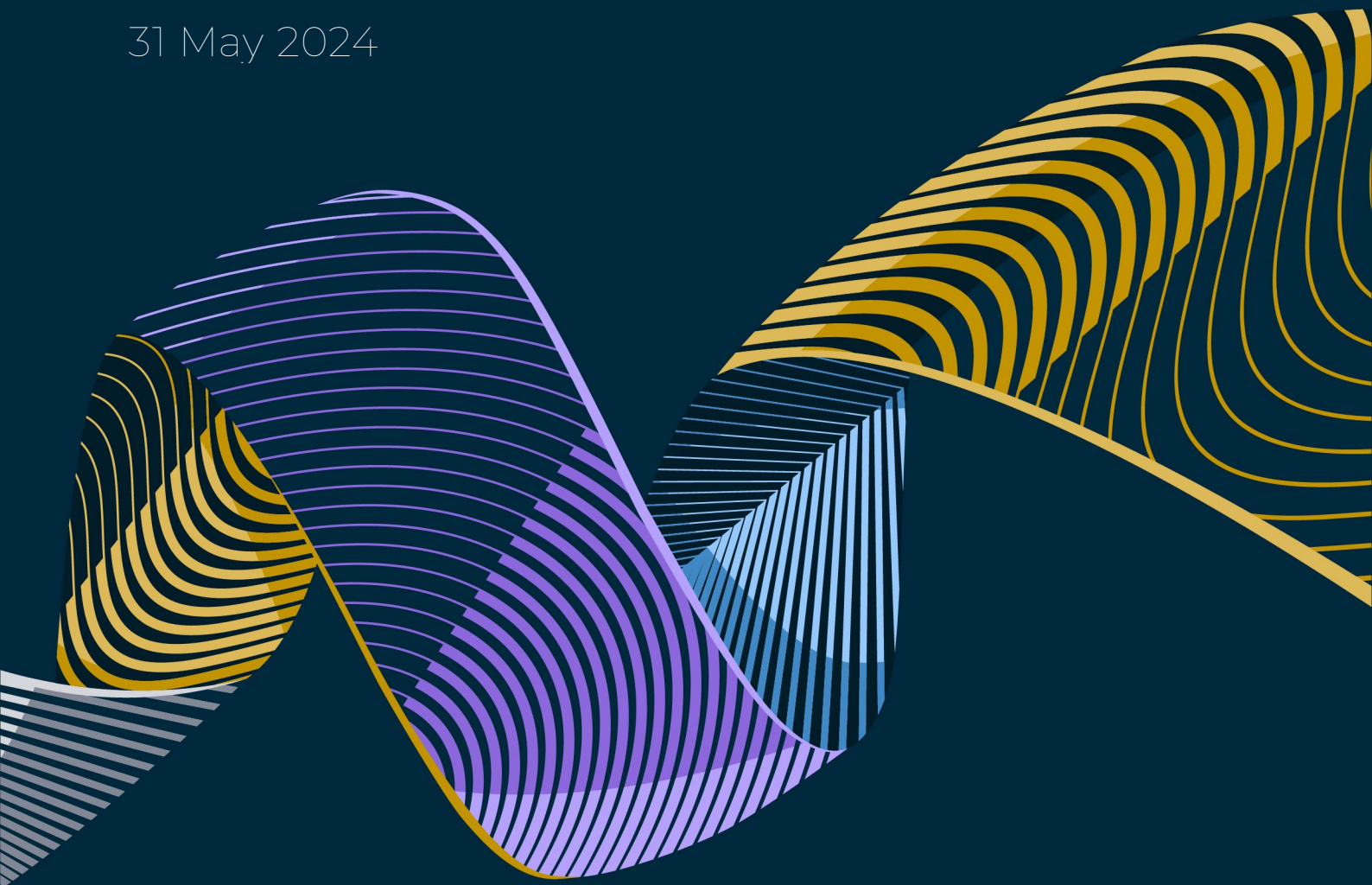




**LONGINES
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS™**

St. Gallen (SUI) - Press Kit

31 May 2024



Foreword

By the FEI President

On behalf of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to St. Gallen, for the third leg of the prestigious Longines League of Nations™. This new series features a unique, unified and global format where the top ten teams compete at four qualifying events around the world, with the top eight making it through to the Final and the opportunity to secure the ultimate honour for their nation.

As the excitement of the next few days unfolds, we will once again be reminded of what makes Jumping one of the most remarkable of sports. Fully immersed in the action, we will witness first-hand, the fantastic bond between horse and human; the trust, communication, hard work and patience involved. It is this bond which enables impressive feats of athleticism to be achieved and the core around which the whole FEI community revolves.

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to discovering who the laureates here in St. Gallen will be. Our journey with the Longines League of Nations™ started out in Abu Dhabi (UAE), continued in Ocala (USA), and is yet to take us to Rotterdam (NED), before we have our eight finalists who will battle it out at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona (ESP) from 3 to 6 October for the ultimate team title in Jumping.

I would like to thank the organisers, as well as all those who have dedicated their time and support to the successful running of this event. I would also like to thank Longines, Title Sponsor and Official Timekeeper of the Longines League of Nations™ for their unwavering loyalty and willingness to drive our sport forward in an innovative way. Together, we mark a new chapter in the history of Jumping, which will allow us to continue to raise the profile, visibility and reach of equestrianism around the world.

I wish all athletes, their invaluable support teams and nations present here in St. Gallen the best of luck! And to the fans, I hope you will enjoy every moment of the best of what our sport has to offer.



Ingmar De Vos
FEI President



Longines League of Nations™

The Longines League of Nations™ (LLN) is an exciting new chapter in the history of the Nations Cup, equestrian sport's oldest and most prestigious series which as a concept - the nation vs nation competition- has existed since 1909!

The Longines League of Nations™ represents the best of equestrian sport featuring a unified and global format, unique to the series, where the top 10 nations compete at 4 qualifiers in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Ocala (USA), St. Gallen (SUI) and Rotterdam (NED) in order to secure their spot at the Final in Barcelona (ESP), where the best 8 teams go head-to-head for the highly coveted Longines League of Nations™ Trophy!



In short, it's the best 10 teams, competing over 4 qualifiers, with the top 8 teams from the qualifiers competing in 1 Final.

Qualification of Teams

The best 10 Teams of the Longines League of Nations™ Ranking established based upon the Longines Ranking will be qualified to participate at the LLN Qualifying Events. The Qualification Ranking used for qualification for the LLN will be calculated based on the combined points of each NF's 6 best Athletes of whom at least 1 must be an Athlete under the age of 25 (U25) in the Longines Ranking.

Competition Format

The LLN Competition is run over two rounds, with identical courses. Both rounds are run according to Table A against the clock.

The starting order of the first round of the first LLN Competition of the Season will be the reverse order of the Qualification Ranking for the LLN Series; from the 2025 season onwards the winner of the LLN Final of the preceding LLN Season (if eligible to participate in the LLN Season) will go last.

For the subsequent LLN Competitions, the starting order of the first round will be the reverse order of the LLN Standings established after the previous LLN Competition.

You can check the full Longines League of Nations™ Rules [here](#)



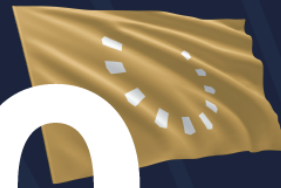
LONGINES LEAGUE OF NATIONS™

FEI Series

1 GLOBAL
TEAM JUMPING
SERIES



10 BEST NATIONS
IN THE WORLD



4 ATHLETES
& HORSES
PER TEAM



4 QUALIFIERS

QUALIFIERS

ABU DHABI (UAE)
SUN 11 FEB 2024



OCALA, FL (USA)
SAT 23 MAR 2024



ST. GALLEN (SUI)
FRI 31 MAY 2024



ROTTERDAM (NED)
FRI 21 JUN 2024



8

BEST TEAMS
QUALIFY FOR
THE FINAL

1 FINAL

BARCELONA (ESP)
SUN 6 OCT 2024



The City

St. Gallen, nestled in the northeastern corner of Switzerland, exudes a unique charm blending history, culture, and natural beauty. This picturesque city is renowned for its rich heritage, notably the Abbey of St. Gall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting a stunning library and baroque cathedral.



St. Gallen's old town captivates visitors with its cobblestone streets, adorned with medieval buildings and quaint squares. The city's vibrant cultural scene is evident in its theatres, museums, and galleries, offering a diverse array of artistic expressions.

Known as a hub for education and commerce, St. Gallen is home to the University of St. Gallen, a prestigious institution renowned for its business programs. The city's economy thrives on industries such as textiles, finance, and technology, reflecting its status as a dynamic business centre.



LONGINES
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS™



SWITZERLAND

The Venue

Equestrian sports boast a rich tradition in St. Gallen, the foremost city of Eastern Switzerland. The Gründenmoos stadium, accommodating up to 24,000 spectators, stands as one of the epicentres for equestrian activities in the country. Dating back to 1884, St. Gallen hosted its inaugural equestrian event, while 1978 marked the inception of the esteemed Nations Cup in the city. Notably, in 1987 and 1995 the prestigious FEI Jumping European Championships were also held here.



Beyond its role as a venue for equestrian competitions, Gründenmoos serves as a vibrant community centre for equestrian enthusiasts, offering training facilities, clinics, and events throughout the year. Whether for leisurely rides or serious training sessions, equestrian enthusiasts flock to Gründenmoos to indulge their passion for horses and equestrian sports.

LLN St. Gallen line-ups



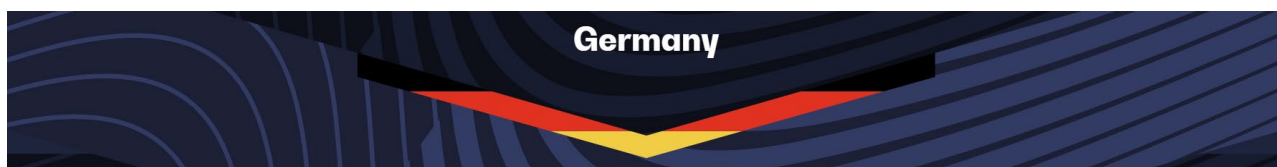
<u>Bertram</u> ALLEN	<u>Dennis</u> LYNCH	<u>Cian</u> O'CONNOR	<u>Mark</u> MCAULEY
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<u>Natalie</u> DEAN	<u>Katherine</u> A. DINAN	<u>Callie</u> SCHOTT	<u>Spencer</u> SMITH
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<u>François X.</u> BOUDANT	<u>Olivier</u> PERREAU	<u>Marc</u> DILASSER	<u>Aurelien</u> LEROY
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<u>Hans-Dieter</u> DREHER	<u>Andre</u> THIEME	<u>Richard</u> VOGEL	<u>Jana</u> WARGERS
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Switzerland

Martin
FUCHS

Steve
GUERDAT

Pius
SCHWIZER

Alain
JUFER

Great Britain

Harry
CHARLES

Tim
GREDLEY

Ben
MAHER

Robert
WHITAKER

Netherlands

Willem
GREVE

Harrie
SMOLDERS

Leopold
VAN ASTEN

Mathijs
VAN ASTEN

Belgium

Abdel
SAÏD

Gilles
THOMAS

Koen
VEREECKE

Niels
BRUYNSEELS



Sweden

<u>Wilma</u> HELLSTRÖM	<u>Fredrik</u> SPETZ	<u>Amanda</u> LANDEBLAD	<u>Henrik Von</u> ECKERMANN
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Brazil

<u>Yuri</u> MANSUR	<u>Pedro</u> JUNQUEIRA MUYLEAERT	<u>Santiago</u> LAMBRE	<u>Pedro</u> VENISS
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Longines League of Nations™ Standings

	UAE Abu Dhabi 08 - 11 Feb 2024	USA Ocala, FL (WEC) 19 - 23 Mar 2024	SUI St Gallen 30 May - 02 Jun 2024	NED Rotterdam 20 - 23 Jun 2024
1.  Ireland Total: 190 pts	Rank 2 Pts. 90	Rank 1 Pts. 100	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
2.  Germany Total: 160 pts	Rank 1 Pts. 100	Rank 5 Pts. 60	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
3.  Switzerland Total: 150 pts	Rank 5 Pts. 60	Rank 2 Pts. 90	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
4.  United States of America Total: 135 pts	Rank 6 Pts. 55	Rank 3 Pts. 80	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
5.  Brazil Total: 125 pts	Rank 4 Pts. 70	Rank 6 Pts. 55	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
6.  Sweden Total: 120 pts	Rank 3 Pts. 80	Rank 9 Pts. 40	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
7.  Netherlands Total: 115 pts	Rank 8 Pts. 45	Rank 4 Pts. 70	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
8.  Belgium Total: 85 pts	Rank 10 Pts. 35	Rank 7 Pts. 50	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
8.  France Total: 85 pts	Rank 9 Pts. 40	Rank 8 Pts. 45	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -
8.  Great Britain Total: 85 pts	Rank 7 Pts. 50	Rank 10 Pts. 35	Rank - Pts. -	Rank - Pts. -

LLN St. Gallen Preview

THE 2024 LONGINES LEAGUE OF NATIONS™

By Louise Parkes



They've had it all their own way at the last two editions of CSIO St Gallen, but Team Switzerland face a mighty task in their quest to make it a hat-trick of victories on home ground when the third leg of the brand new Longines League of Nations™ 2024 gets underway in ten days' time.

The ten competing countries are battling it out for the eight places on offer at the inaugural Final which will take place at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain on 6 October. And after two thrilling legs so far, the leader board is headed by Ireland, winners in Ocala, USA in March while Team Germany who came out on top in the opening leg of the iconic new series at Abu Dhabi, UAE in February lie close behind in second place.

Switzerland lies third ahead of USA, Brazil, Sweden and The Netherlands. But already battling it out for that eighth and last place with only two more legs to go are Belgium, France and Great Britain. Just ten weeks ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games every nation wants to look strong, so it's no surprise that amongst the athletes signed

up for next week's penultimate qualifier are the top three in the world rankings who, between them, hold the individual Olympic, World and European titles.

Selection

The British selection includes Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Ben Maher along with Harry Charles, Tim Gredley and Robert Whitaker, and they know they have a job to do to move their country off that bottom end of the LLN leader board.

The same applies to Team Belgium, and Chef d'Equipe Peter Weinberg sends out a sharp side with Abdel Saïd joined by rising star Gilles Thomas and the experienced duo of Koen Vereecke and Gregory Wathelet, the latter a member of the bronze-medal-winning team in Tokyo three years ago.

The French meanwhile are also sharing that eighth and last place with just 85 points racked up to date, and Henk Nooren has chosen Francois Xavier Boudant, Marc Dilasser, Aurelien Leroy and Olivier Perreau to buoy up their chances at the next leg.

The Dutch need to add to the 115 points they have collected in order to stay well out of the danger zone and with Willem Greve, Harrie Smolders and the Van Asten brothers Leopold and Mathijs on call-up this time around they look well set to do just that.

Just five points ahead of The Netherlands are Team Sweden who finished third in the opening leg of the series but ninth last time out. World number one, double World Champion and the man who collected his second successive Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ title in thrilling fashion in Riyadh, KSA last month, Henrik von Eckermann was on both of those teams, jumping double-clear in Abu Dhabi but picking up eight faults in Ocala where Henrik Ankarcrona's side failed to make it into the second round. They'll be expected to be back to their normal level of brilliance in St Gallen where von Eckermann will be joined by Wilma Hellström, Amanda Landeblad and Fredrik Spetz.

Fifth

In fifth place on the leaderboard are Team Brazil, and although St Gallen is known as something of a fairytale town in Swiss folklore it was no fairytale for the South American visitors last year when they lost out to the hosts in a two-way third-round jump-off against the clock. They'll be wanting to put that to rights this time out, and with Luciana Diniz, Santiago Lambre, Yuri Mansur and Pedro Veniss saddling up they look ready to present powerful opposition to the rest of the field.

The Swiss are taking no chances either however. It was Martin Fuchs who clinched that 2023 victory, all the more sweet for the fact that it was two-in-a-row after a drought of 22 years for the host nation. And the world number five rider is backed up by 2012 Olympic gold medallist, multiple World Cup champion and reigning individual European champion Steve Guerdat once again next week along with Alain Jufer and the rock-solid Pius Schwizer. The home team won't be giving anything away easily that's for sure.

They lie a comfortable third on the leaderboard, with a 15-point advantage over the fourth-placed Americans who carry 135 points. Robert Ridland's US team consists of

Natalie Dean, Katie Dinan, Callie Schott and Spencer Smith who will be aiming to improve on that running tally.

At the top

At the top of the League table the Irish have a 30-point advantage over Germany in second place, but German team manager Otto Becker is bringing out more of his big guns in an effort to alter that. His very much on-form foursome of Hans-Dieter Dreher, Andre Thieme, Richard Vogel and Jana Wargers are a formidable force, and Michael Blake's Irish side of Bertram Allen, Denis Lynch, Mark McAuley and Cian O'Connor will probably need to be at their very best to keep them from moving ahead before the final qualifier in Rotterdam in The Netherlands at the end of June.

Of course the format for the newly minted Longines League of Nations™ adds a whole new level of pressure for every team, with only the top eight sides and only three of the four team members returning to decide the result in the second round.

Tense, fiercely competitive, fascinating and completely unpredictable the series has already produced superb sport, and you can watch it continue to unfold in St Gallen on Friday 31 May when the excitement begins with the Parade of Nations at 15.30 local time.

Don't miss a hoofbeat.....

What happened in Ocala?

Team Ireland are the stars at second leg in Ocala

by Louise Parkes



In a competition that was as unpredictable as it was exciting, Ireland came out on top with a superb team effort at the second leg of the Longines League of Nations™ staged at the World Equestrian Centre in Ocala, Florida (USA) tonight, where Switzerland finished second ahead of the American hosts in third place.

The 10 best teams in the world are battling it out over four qualifying events for the eight places on offer at the series Final in Barcelona (ESP) in early October, and today's line-up included eight of the top 10, and 16 of the top 20 riders in the world rankings. With the Paris 2024 Olympic Games just around the corner all were out to impress, and when nine of the 10 team pathfinders jumped clear over Alan Wade's 12-fence track it looked like a very even contest.

But then the surprises began to unfold, with the Olympic and World champions from Sweden missing the cut into the second round along with the British. In contrast the Dutch, the Irish and the American hosts all went through on a zero scoreline.

Drama and tension

The new format, with just three of the four team members returning for round two in which every score would count, again produced plenty of drama and tension. Lying

eighth, Brazil led the way in round two, and their final tally of 26 faults still saw them move up two places to sixth place in the final analysis.

The Swiss, carrying eight faults, then solidified their position when both Steve Guerdat and Is-Minka and Martin Fuchs with Leone Jei posted double-clears while Pius Schwizer was foot-perfect this time out with Just Special VK.

Team Germany, winners at the series-opener in Abu Dhabi last month, added 12 for a total of 20 faults, and when Kevin Staut had a fall from Beau de Laubry Z who stopped at the third fence then that was elimination for the French. Meanwhile the Belgians, in fourth after round one on just four faults, dropped right down to seventh place when Niels Bruynseels' Delux van T&L ducked out at the penultimate narrow vertical located close to the in-gate, incurring 21 faults.

The Dutch lost their grip when the very much on-form partnership of Willem Greve and the mighty stallion Highway TN NOP left three on the floor second time out. The pair who shone so brightly on home ground at 's-Hertogenbosch just a few short weeks ago ran into trouble at the line from the open water at fence four to the following vertical and then the oxer at fence six, picking up 12 faults. This section of the track was hugely influential all day, and when the first element of the double at seven and the triple bar at fence nine were raised in round two they also influenced the final result.

On the sidelines

Shane Sweetnam and his 10-year-old Otis Blue had produced one of Ireland's three first-round clears but team manager Michael Blake decided to leave this pair on the sidelines second time out and to bring in Cian O'Connor whose services hadn't been required first time out because Sweetnam, Darragh Kenny (Amsterdam 27) and Daniel Coyle (Legacy) had all jumped clear.

But his side began to look vulnerable when second-round pathfinders Kenny and Amsterdam 27 clipped that first element of the double at seven before American star Laura Kraut brought Baloutinue home for a brilliant double-clear. However Coyle and Legacy put Ireland back on the map with their second clean sheet of the day, so when Kent Farrington's Landon racked up eight faults then suddenly the Irish had a one-fence advantage.

As last Irishman O'Connor rode into the ring he knew a fence down could lead to a jump-off with the US if last-line American McLain Ward followed with a clear from Callas. And nobody was betting against that.

O'Connor's horse, Maurice, had not jumped the first round so hadn't seen the arena which was now under lights, and the 12-year-old gelding looked a little unsure as the Irish pair set off. But he grew in confidence as his round progressed and the only thing showing on the scoreboard as he crossed the line was a single time penalty to bring the Irish tally to five. That would prove plenty good enough to win the day when Ward's mare, Callas, hit the middle element of the triple combination in an otherwise foot-perfect run.

Second place would go to Switzerland on eight and third to the USA who finished on 12 faults along with The Netherlands, the Americans getting the edge when their combined times left them almost a second faster.

Tactics

Irish team manager, Michael Blake, talked about the tactics he employed on his way to victory today.

“We always knew if things went according to plan we would go with the three (riders) we went with in the second round. And with Shane, Darragh and Daniel giving us the clear rounds (in the first round) we had a short discussion whether we would jump Cian or not, and the horse having jumped so well under lights in Wellington we decided to go with the fresh horse”, he explained. He was very grateful to Sweetnam for bringing the 10-year-old Otis Blue into the team at the last minute.

“Shane was really good to step in when Bertram (Allen) took a fall last week, Shane was riding a horse that had never done a Nations Cup before, so we are really thankful to him and his owners for making the horse available to us”, he said.

Sweetnam described the grey as “a very talented horse, but he’s only really started doing anything near this level in the last couple of months and I said to Michael he has the ability to do it but I don’t know does he have the experience yet. But he showed he had today and we got the job done and got us into a good position for the second round”.

Kenny said today’s class was super-competitive. “This is a fantastic new idea with the Longines League of Nations, and everyone was trying to win. My horse (Amsterdam 27) has been jumping great in Wellington, and the first round felt super. He’s an older horse and he’s done a lot in his career but I’m still getting to know him myself and it feels like every round is getting better and better”.

Extraordinary

Coyle and Legacy have been enjoying an extraordinary run of form of late. “This was always Legacy’s plan after the World Cups earlier in the year, I talked to Michael and he said he’d select her for here if everything goes well. It has taken years to get to the bottom of Legacy and maybe to the bottom of me and how we work best together. I’m happy with how it worked out today, delighted with the way she jumped”, said the 29-year-old who has been blazing a trail at the highest level of the sport with the 14-year-old mare.

O’Connor was delighted to have sealed the win today. “You can only deliver when last to go if the team have done their job, and my job was easy riding with these three guys, they had amazing clear rounds and they set the whole thing up for me!”, he said.

Chef d’Equipe Blake told O’Connor he could afford a time fault, “but I didn’t really want to ride for a time fault at the beginning of the course because if you have a fence late then you miss out on a jump-off. But when he jumped out of the combination I just started to take a breath and I had an extra stride to the last and I gave the horse a

moment and we picked up a fraction of time but I was happy, we had the job done!", he said.

With 190 points now on the board after their runner-up finish in Abu Dhabi and today's victory, Team Ireland now head the Longines League of Nations™ leader board ahead of Germany in second with 160 while Switzerland has moved into third with 150 points.

Next stop in the series is the third leg at St Gallen (SUI) on 31 May, so don't miss a hoofbeat....



The Longines League of Nations™ Trophy



Find out more about the Longines League of Nations™ Trophy [here](#)

The Longines League of Nations™ Anthem



The Series anthem has been written by Portuguese composer Rui Ribeiro, who has made a name for himself in the world of classical crossover music with his compositions that are often based on the sounds of nature.

Ribeiro's anthem for the equestrian Series primarily revolves around a horse's footfall, which refers to the pattern in which a horse moves its feet when it walks, trots, canters and gallops.

With a duration of 5 minutes and 11 seconds, the anthem will serve as a basis for shorter adaptations which will accompany TV and web spots. Parts of the anthem will also be used in-venue to highlight different aspects of sports presentation and will be produced by Ricardo Ferreira who co-owns Lisbon based BLIM Records with Ribeiro.

Listen to the full anthem [here](#)

[Listening guide to the Longines League of Nations™ anthem](#)

FEI Online Pressroom

The FEI has the pleasure of announcing that the new [FEI Online Pressroom](#) is now available. This innovative platform offers comprehensive resources, all in one convenient place, to help with remote journalistic coverage of all qualifiers and the grand final of the Longines League of Nations™ series 2024.

Features include:

- **Free livestream access to the competition**
- **Press Conference Livestream:** Watch livestreamed post-competition press conferences, where you can submit questions directly to the participants.
- **Key Documents:** Find essential documents such as course plans, starting lists, previews, etc. conveniently located in one place and downloadable as PDFs.
- **Participant Biographies:** Access detailed information about all participating athletes in each qualifier.
- **Full Results and Standings:** Stay informed with competition results and the latest standings in the series.
- **Photo & Video Resources:** Discover a collection of high-quality images for use in your reports and coverage of the Longines League of Nations™.

In order to be eligible for access, each applicant must be a reporter, photographer, editor, or influencer for a recognised news outlet, news service, newspaper, website, radio, or television station. You can register for the FEI Online Pressroom [here](#). Please, follow these steps (In case you already have an FEI ID, you can directly go to Step 3):

1. Fill up the self-registration form. Please, be sure you register under the "Press" category.
2. You will receive your FEI ID.
3. Once you have received your FEI ID, you need to send an email to usersupport@fei.org with your FEI ID and the Media Outlet you work for.
4. After reviewing your details, you will receive a confirmation email to access the FEI Online Pressroom.

Once you have been granted access, this will be for all Longines League of Nations Qualifiers and Final. In case you encounter any issues, please send an email to usersupport@fei.org



FEI Online resources

Keep up to date with the latest news from the Longines League of Nations™ leg in St. Gallen (SUI) [here](#).

Schedules and results will be available [here](#).

You can register for the FEI Online Pressroom [here](#)

The League of Nations™ qualifier in St. Gallen (SUI) will be broadcast live on [FEI TV](#), the FEI's official broadcasting platform.

Free images for editorial purposes are available from the [FEI Flickr account](#) in the photostream and in the dedicated [album](#)

Biographies from the main participants are available [here](#).

You can find the Longines League of Nations™ on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

The "*Non-Rights Holders' Guidelines for publishing on Social Media at FEI-named events*" have been updated and are available [here](#)

Join the action on Social Media by using the hashtags #LonginesLeagueOfNations #LLN and #Jumping

Get all the info about the Longines League of Nations™, including venues, rules, participating teams, etc. on the [Longines League of Nations™ Hub](#)

Find historical info from past editions of the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™ [here](#)

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