

By hosting the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final

CSIO Barcelona becomes the world's most important jumping competition



September, Barcelona will host the great world final of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™. The signing of a contract between the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona confirmed a few months ago that this upcoming September, from the 26th to the 30th, CSIO Barcelona will host a competition, the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final, the most important jumping competition in the world, with the highest prize money in history: two million three hundred thousand euros. CSIO Barcelona, the oldest international sporting event in Spain, returns this year having led the most important team in the international circuit to the program. During the four days of the event, which will once again be played out at the same time as the celebrations of la Mercè, a total of 11 competitions will be run. One of them, such as the Queen's Cup or the LONGINES 'Trofeu de Barcelona', will be a traditional and totally independent event. The Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final. Every day there will be two or three competitions with jumps ranging from 1.45 to 1.65m. The great final of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Series will take place on the last day of CSIO Barcelona.

A new formula

Last year, the FEI approved a new formula for the Nations Cup World League, Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Series, so named because of its new sponsor, a Saudi Equestrian fund. Furusiyya is a term which in Arabic, encompasses the idea of horseback riding, gentlemanship and equestrian knowledge in general. Throughout this inaugural season, a total of twenty-two events will be hosted and 18 teams will compete in the great final. These teams come from the different world leagues: nine from Europe, two from North and Central America, South America, the Middle East and Asia, and one from Africa. If Spain does not qualify for the Final, it will be able to compete as the host country. Longines, the Swiss watchmaker and official time keeper of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™, will also be the official timer keeper of the great final in Barcelona. Four months after this profound reform in the competition, the FEI announced that the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona would be the host of this event, the most important one within the international equestrian competition. The Federation evaluated the capacity and organizational quality of the

Barcelona club, supported by the organization of the Samsung Super League World Final during six seasons and subsequently the Meydan FEI Promotional League Final, in addition of being the venue for the show jumping competitions during the Olympic Games of 1992 in Barcelona.

Development of the great final

The format of the Final will be over three competitions and all the teams will compete in the first round not against the clock. The eight best will qualify for the final day, while the rest of the teams, ranked 9 to 19, will compete in a Consolation Final the following day. The great Final is open to teams placed 1-8 in the first competition. This competition is run with an initial round not against the clock with a jump-off in case of equality of penalties for the first place.

Village and show

At the same time as the sporting competition, CSIO Barcelona offers an exciting equestrian spectacle which will be shown three times: Friday night, after the LONGINES City of Barcelona Grand Prix; Saturday evening, following the Queen's SM Cup and Sunday morning. In this edition, the protagonist will be Santi Serra of

SercamShows who, with four horses, a mule and two dogs, will put on a natural dressage show that will capture everyone's attention. CSIO Barcelona's Village is another of its main attractions. With more than 40 stands, in two differentiated areas, the first located along the entrance passageway and the second behind the main stands, the visitor will be able to enjoy shopping or taste all kinds of culinary delights. To complete this offer, CSIO Barcelona will also have a magnificent panoramic restaurant. An attractive menu will be offered daily, which may be enjoyed while following the competition from the main tribune and in the tent installed next to the Olympic arena. Also during this edition, the now traditional black-tie dinner will be held on Friday night, September 27th, coinciding with the only night time competition, the LONGINES City of Barcelona. All those who are interested should make their reservations at the Club's restaurant (Telephone: 0034 93 448 02 09 – subject to availability). The Pony Park, located at the entrance of the premises of CSIO Barcelona, will complete the fun offer of the event. Specialized monitors will help the smallest ones establish an initial bond with the ponies from the Horse Jumping School of the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona. It is an activity that is being conducted in conjunction with the Sant Joan de Deu Hospital, the objective of which is to raise funds for the young patients of the Cuidam program. <<

Tickets to the CSIO Barcelona can be purchased through Ticketmaster.es, by accessing the competition's website, www.csiobarcelona.com, or at the ticket windows of the Real Club de Polo de Barcelona during the days of the event. For more information, please check the CSIO Barcelona webpage, as well as on Facebook and Twitter.