

LE PRINTEMPS DES SPORTS ÉQUESTRES

LE GRAND PARQUET - FONTAINEBLEAU

16 - 19 AVRIL 2026
22 - 26 AVRIL 2026



Press release
Fontainebleau, 17th April 2026

LE PRINTEMPS DES SPORTS ÉQUESTRES – CSI5* SHOW JUMPING'S LEADING NAMES IN FONTAINEBLEAU'S LEGENDARY MAIN ARENA

Speed, precision and adrenalin: it's time for show jumping! After the first week where dressage and para-dressage were in the spotlight, Le Printemps des Sports Équestres will pick up the pace.

Show jumping will have pride of place at the Grand Parquet from 22nd to 26th April, and return to the prestigious and entirely renovated Main Arena. This legendary grass arena, renowned in the world of international equestrian sport, will rightly play host to a CSI5*, a major happening on the calendar.

This competition at the Grand Parquet will be a key event for some of the world's best riders, just a few months before the World Championships in Aachen. Nearly half of the world's Top 50 will come face to face in the iconic Main Arena, which has born witness to so many great victories and memorable showdowns. They will all be chasing the same goal: to add their name to this historic venue's winners' list in what promises to be a fiercely contested competition.

Whose name will go down in history in this legendary Main Arena? Who will overcome the challenges of the course designed by France's Gregory Bodo?

Suspense. Speed. Intensity.

Welcome to Fontainebleau for a week of show jumping at the highest level.

Scott Brash: an obvious choice...

Among the potential riders on the winners' list in Fontainebleau, Scott Brash's name immediately comes to mind. The British rider seems invincible. Week after week, whether in Geneva, Doha or, more recently, at the Grand Prix Hermès at the Grand Palais, the World No.1 has continued to notch up victories, adding some of the sport's most prestigious titles to his record with remarkable consistency. Today, it seems that almost nothing can stand in his way.

But in Fontainebleau, his position as the world's leading rider doesn't guarantee victory, and the competition remains wide open.

In this first-rate line-up, many other riders could still come out on top. More than ever, the competition feels like a full-scale rehearsal, ahead of the World Championships. The riders' aim here is to fine-tune their horses' performances on demanding courses, but also to make an impression on their countries' selectors.



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59 quai Rambaud
69002 Lyon
France

Tél. : +33 (0)4 78 176 250
Fax : +33 (0)4 78 176 345

SAS AU CAPITAL DE 1 000 000 €
TVA : FR55453100562
SIREN 453 100 562 RCS LYON
SIRET : 453100562 00033

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Defending his title and aiming for a repeat performance

Yuri Mansur, the winner of the 2025 Grand Prix, is back in Fontainebleau and aiming to repeat last year's performance. He will be facing an impressive line-up, which could prove to be a real challenge, but the Brazilian rider has already demonstrated he can rise to the occasion at this type of event. All the more so as the competition is being held in the Main Arena this year. *"If you perform well at Le Printemps des Sports Équestres, you know you can set your sights higher for the rest of the season. Overall, I always feel more comfortable on grass footings! I come from a country where we learn to ride in large grass arenas, so it's more natural for me,"* says the rider with the yellow jacket.

But before thinking about victory, Yuri Mansur will have to contend with, in particular, Henrik von Eckermann, a leading figure on the world circuit. The Swedish rider, who was crowned world champion in Herning in 2022, will be keen to prove he still has the edge just a few months before defending his title. His experience and riding skills could make the difference at any moment in a ring like Fontainebleau's Main Arena. But many other riders will be going all out for the win at the Grand Parquet.

A competition which remains wide open

These include France's Julien Épaillard, World No.8, and one of the few riders today capable of overturning even the most predictable scenarios. Speed, tight turns and calculated risks make him a force to be reckoned with.

But it will take more than that to daunt Steve Guerdat. As well as his riding skills, the Swiss rider, World No.11 – has an impressive mindset and can deal with pressure at the biggest events, such as the Olympic Games, where he was already crowned champion. When the heat is on, he perfectly analyses the course beforehand, then jumps it precisely, at the right speed, and remains unflappable and not easily unsettled.

But the competition will be coming from all sides, such as Harrie Smolders (NED – World No.13), Max Kühner (AUT, World No.21) and Cian O'Connor (IRL, World No.22), who also intend to shine at Le Printemps des Sports Équestres. They are all highly focused, accurately analyse the course to ride and rack up clear rounds with remarkable consistency. Will that be enough to win, or will they need to take more risks, like Martin Fuchs, for example? The Swiss rider, who is World No.29, will be focusing on a podium finish. He rides direct, doesn't waste time between fences, is almost instinctive, and knows how to immediately turn the slightest opportunity into a victory. Why not in Fontainebleau? However, he will also have to contend with Daniel Deusser (GER, World No.24), who finished second in the Longines FEI World Cup Final a few days ago in Texas.



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French riders competing in their backyard

What if in the end, the dream scenario was a victory for a French rider? Because alongside Julien Épaillard, many French riders will also be competing in Fontainebleau, on a course they perhaps know better than anyone else: Simon Delestre (World No. 23), Kevin Staut (World No. 20 and 5th at the Longines FEI World Cup Final in Fort Worth last Sunday), Marc Dilasser (World No.74), Roger-Yves Bost (World No. 86) and Olivier Perreau, winner of the World Cup leg at Longines Equita Lyon, Concours Hippique International, last November. A younger generation of riders, who are already talented performers, including Antoine Ermann (World No.49) and Jeanne Sadran (World No.121), will be challenging them in the most demanding classes, in one of the most amazing rings in the world, cheered on by the audience in Fontainebleau.

This is one of the reasons that Le Printemps des Sports Équestres has become such a successful event, showcasing an iconic venue, with enthusiastic spectators, and some of the best horses and riders in the world. This unique combination gives rise to timeless moments where sport reaches new heights.

[View the complete list of entries here](#)

#Long Live Sport!

Le Printemps des Sports Équestres will remain free of charge to spectators, in keeping with its philosophy, throughout these two weeks of competition. Entertainment and shows around the competition rings will be interspersed throughout the day, allowing young and old alike to enjoy their visit to the event.

Week of Dressage - from 16th to 19th April 2026
Week of Show Jumping- from 22nd to 26th April 2026

[Read the press release about the CDIO5*-NC line-up](#)
[Fill in your press accreditation request](#)

PRESS CONTACTS

LE PRINTEMPS DES SPORTS ÉQUESTRES

Martine Dolbeau, Astrid Thisse-Prost

presse.gles@gl-events.com,

EL COMM'

Eloïse Lépine - eloise.lepine-ext@gl-events.com - Mob.: +33 (0) 6 15 52 35 28



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About GL events Equestrian Sport

GL events Equestrian Sport, the GL events Group's equestrian department, is renowned for its expertise throughout the world. The GL events Group has been involved in all the Olympic and Paralympic equestrian events since 1992.

From its creation, GL events Equestrian Sport has actively supported equestrian sports, while always prioritising equine welfare. Its team has a long-term involvement in the international promotion of equestrian disciplines, organising and installing the facilities of top-class events.

- It is the organiser of Equita Lyon and Longines Equita Lyon CHI,
- It is the creator of Le Printemps des Sports Équestres in Fontainebleau,
- It is the provider and partner of the Saut Hermès at the Grand Palais for the House of Hermès,
- It works in collaboration with the French Equestrian Federation for the Masters Pro Championships,
- And with the Fédération Équestre Internationale, for the 2014 and 2018 World Cup Finals.

GL events Equestrian Sport also used all its expertise to contribute to the success of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, for the equestrian and para-dressage competitions in the magical setting of the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles.

In 2026, GL events Equestrian Sport will organise the CDIO5, Officiel de France for dressage, at the Grand Parquet in Fontainebleau, as part of Le Printemps des Sports Équestres.*



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