

The Royal[®] HORSE SHOW

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Contact: Jennifer Ward
jward@jumpmediallc.com

Daniel Bluman Wins for Israel at Royal Horse Show

Toronto, Ontario – Israel’s Daniel Bluman won the \$85,000 GroupBy “Big Ben” Challenge on Thursday night, November 8, at the CSI4*-W Royal Horse Show, held as part of the 96th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON.

Twenty-two of the world’s top show jumping athletes entered the Coca-Cola Coliseum in the hopes of scoring victory in the \$85,000 GroupBy “Big Ben” Challenge, a sentimental favourite at the Royal Horse Show named for Ian Millar’s former mount. Eleven mastered the track set by 2018 World Championship course designer, Alan Wade of Ireland, to advance to the jump-off.



Daniel Bluman had the crowd cheering as he won the \$85,000 GroupBy “Big Ben” Challenge riding Ladrivano Z on Thursday night, November 8, at the CSI4-W Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.*

Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

In the tie-breaker, Bluman saved the best for last, cruising to a clear round in a time of 32.34 seconds riding Ladrivano Z, a 10-year-old Zangersheide gelding owned by Alexa Schwitzer and Blue Star Investments. As the final challenger, Bluman knew the victory was his, and celebrated along with the packed house. Devin Ryan,

who recently helped the United States become World Champions, rode his top mount, Eddie Blue, to a clear round in a time of 32.53 seconds to finish runner-up.



2018 World Championship team gold medalist Devin Ryan of the United States took second in the \$85,000 GroupBy “Big Ben” Challenge riding Eddie Blue. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

“I had the advantage of going last,” said Bluman, who represented the Israeli Show Jumping Team in its first World Championship appearance in September. “Devin’s horse is a very fast horse. It has pretty much the same weapons that mine has to win a class like this one. I won by a fraction of a second. I got lucky also. I could have been second place, but it was meant to be for me tonight.”

At 28 years of age, Bluman has been competing at the Royal Horse Show for several years and appreciated the crowd’s support as he went for the win.

“My first year competing here was 2011; Eric Lamaze got me an invitation,” said Bluman. “I’ve come almost every year since then. I really, really love it. It’s a fantastic city, and it’s a fantastic crowd. When you jump in a place that has a crowd and has an atmosphere, the whole energy changes and your desire to win also changes. We go to a lot of competitions, but when you’re at a show like this, every class you compete in, you want to perform. Forget about the prize money, forget about the world ranking points, forget about anything else; you just want to be the best that you can be for the crowd. That’s what makes it fun!”

Catherine Tyree of the United States took third place with a clear round in a time of 33.32 seconds riding Bokai while Australia’s Rowan Willis and Blue Movie were fourth after crossing the timers in 34.52 seconds. Canadian Olympian Beth Underhill of Schomberg, ON, set the pace as the first to go in the jump-off, delivering a fantastic clear in 35.26 seconds aboard Count Me In, owned by Sandy Lupton, to round out the top five.

Captain Brian Cournane Captures \$36,000 Brickenden Trophy Victory

Captain Brian Cournane of Ireland enjoyed a win in the \$36,000 Brickenden Trophy International Jumpers riding Penelope Cruz on Thursday afternoon.

From a starting field of 19 entries representing eight different countries, nine combinations advanced to the jump-off over Wade's course. The leading time continued to get progressively faster throughout the jump-off, with the final entry of Cournane and Penelope Cruz, his 10-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare, stopping the clock in 28.69 seconds to take the win.



*Ireland's Captain Brian Cournane rode Penelope Cruz to victory in the \$36,000 Brickenden Trophy on Thursday afternoon, November 8. **Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography***

“She’s naturally a very quick horse, so I knew that if I could do the distances and be tight, she covers the ground very quickly,” said Cournane, who acquired the mare from fellow Irishman Darragh Kerins a year ago. “I had to have a lot of confidence in her to do the tight turns and trust that those jumps would stay up and that we’d be fast.

“I’m so honoured to be here,” continued Cournane, who is competing at The Royal for the first time. “It’s a wonderful show, and I’ve heard so many great things about it. I was first reserve on the invited riders’ list for a couple of weeks; I was really hoping I’d get in and, at the end, I did!”

While Cournane is new to the Royal Horse Show, he’s very familiar with this year’s Royal Horse Show course designer.

“It’s very funny; when I was a kid doing hunter trials in Ireland, I was 16 or 17, and Alan was building the courses back then,” said Cournane, 36. “Now we’re at The Royal, and he’s building! It’s incredible.”



Kean White of Rockwood, ON, took second in the \$36,000 Brickenden Trophy riding Tahior.

Photo by [Ben Radvanyi Photography](#)

With less than a second separating the top four finishers, second place with a time of 29.09 seconds went to Canada’s Kean White aboard Tahior while third place was awarded to Daniel Bluman of Israel with a time of 29.18 seconds riding Colestina H. Rounding out the top four with a time of 29.58 seconds was Kent Farrington, the defending champion of the Royal Horse Show’s marquee event, the \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto, riding Daddy Cool.

Sam Walker Rides Winning Streak Into Royal Horse Show

Also claiming a major victory on Thursday afternoon was 16-year-old Sam Walker of Nobleton, ON. Fresh off a win in the prestigious ASPCA Maclay Final at the National Horse Show in Lexington, KY, on Sunday, November 4 – where he became only the fourth Canadian winner in the event’s storied history – Walker returned home to Canada to also top the Running Fox CET Medal National Final.

“It feels a little bit surreal!” said Walker of his dual wins, first aboard Waldo on Sunday at the National Horse Show and then four days later riding Willem, a mount owned by Nicole Loochtan that was a last-minute ride for Walker after his intended mount for the final was sold.

“He came up here for the CET from Castlewood Farm in Wellington, FL,” said Walker, who trains with his parents, Scott and Dee Walker of Forest Hill Farm, and John Brennan and Missy Clark at North Run. “He was amazing this week; I couldn’t be happier with how he performed. I’m just really, really grateful that I got the opportunity to ride him.”

Reserve Champion in the Running Fox CET Medal National Final was Beatrice Daviault of Saint-Damase, QC, riding Lia; third place went to Mackenzy Nadeau of Carleton Place, ON, aboard Ferraro K, owned by Brookstreet Stables. Rounding out the top four was Kyara Semrau of Foothills, AB, with Cori Coletta.



*Hot off his victory in the ASPCA Maclay National Final, Sam Walker of Nobleton, ON, won the Running Fox CET Medal with Willem at the Royal Horse Show. **Photo by Jump Media***

Competition at the Royal Horse Show continues through Saturday with show jumping highlights including the \$50,000 Weston Canadian Open on Friday night and the highly-anticipated conclusion, the \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto, presented by GroupBy, on Saturday, November 10.

More than 1,000 horses from around the globe are competing for \$980,000 in prize money during the 10-day CSI4*-W Royal Horse Show. VIP Platinum and Gold seating, as well as group and individual tickets, are selling quickly. All Royal Horse Show tickets include general admission to the Fair.

For more information on the Royal Horse Show, the marquee event of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, please visit www.royalfair.org/horseshow.html.

Funding support for The Royal has been provided by the City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario.

\$85,000 Groupby “Big Ben” Challenge – Final Results Thursday, November 8

	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Faults/Time</u>
1.	Daniel Bluman	Israel	Ladriano Z	0:0/32.34
2.	Devin Ryan	Long Valley, NJ	Eddie Blue	0:0/32.53
3.	Catherine Tyree	Chicago, IL	Bokai	0:0/33.32
4.	Rowan Willis	Australia	Blue Movie	0:0/34.52
5.	Beth Underhill	Schomberg, ON	Count Me In	0:0/35.26
6.	Nicole Walker	Aurora, ON	Excellent B	0:0/35.46

7.	Sharn Wordley	New Zealand	Barnetta	0:0/35.89
8.	Ali Ramsay	Victoria, BC	Hermelien vd Hooghoeve	0:4/34.40
9.	Conor Swail	Ireland	Rubens LS La Silla	0:12/35.33
10.	Amanda Derbyshire	Great Britain	Cornwall BH	0:16/54.12
11.	Amy Millar	Perth, ON	Heros	0:19/49.41
12.	Molly Ashe Cawley	Wellington, FL	D'Arnita	0:4/61.71

\$36,000 Brickenden Trophy International Jumpers – Final Results
Thursday, November 8

	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Faults/Time</u>
1.	Capt. Brian Cournane	Ireland	Penelope Cruz	0/0/28.69
2.	Kean White	Rockwood, ON	Tahiorn	0/0/29.09
3.	Daniel Bluman	Israel	Colestina H	0/0/29.18
4.	Kent Farrington	United States	Daddy Cool	0/0/29.58
5.	Karen Polle	Japan	Sari	0/0/30.04
6.	Nicole Walker	Aurora, ON	Falco Van Spieveld	0/0/30.67
7.	Ian Millar	Perth, ON	Truman	0/0/31.96
8.	Catherine Tyree	United States	Catungee	0/4
9.	Rowan Willis	Australia	Shark	0/8
10.	Amanda Derbyshire	Great Britain	Roulette BH	4
11.	Molly Ashe Cawley	United States	Cat Ballou	4
12.	Adrienne Sternlicht	United States	Fantast	5

About The Royal

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the world's largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian event. This year marks the 96th anniversary of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Exhibition Place in Toronto, Canada, from November 2-11, 2018. For competition schedules, live webcasting, results, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.royalfair.org.