

**SHANGHAI SWANS SAIL TO THE LEAD IN FIRST ROUND OF  
THE GCL OF SAINT TROPEZ/ RAMATUELLE**



**RAMATUELLE, FRANCE**—Clear rounds were hard to come by in the GCL of St. Tropez Round 1 on Thursday, May 31, at the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show. But that didn't stop the Shanghai Swans' veteran riders Pedro Veniss (Uccello de Will) and Daniel Deusser (Tabago Z) from galloping to the top of the leaderboard on a zero score and a time of 156.03.

Nearly the entire class—a full 16 teams of riders—had gone before Deusser and Veniss pulled off back-to-back clears on course designer Uliano Vezzani's challenging track. Both opted for swift-yet-steady rounds that



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allowed them to meet the relatively tight 83-second time allowed while managing the more difficult elements of the course.

“It’s not a big class today, but it’s really tricky,” commented Niels Bruynseels of Belgium after his own ride for the Prague Lions. Bruynseels noted that shorter-length poles and lightweight building materials used on the course, combined with the track’s length and various, eye-catching elements, proved to be the undoing of many pairs. As with all GCL competitions, the team setting and zero margin for error also adds an extra degree of pressure for the riders.

“[In this format] every fault counts. It’s not like the Nations Cup, where the low score falls away,” Bruynseels explained.

The Miami Celtics, made up of Shane Breen (Ipswich van de Wolfsakker) and

Jessica Springsteen (RMF Swinny du Parc), finished just behind the Shanghai Swans, becoming the only other team to end their day with a fault-free score. Simon Delestre and Jérôme Guery of the Monaco Aces finished in third place with 4 faults moving into the second round on Saturday.

In the individual competition, the victory went to Darragh Kenny aboard Babalou 41 on a time of 73.37. The 13-year old Oldenburg mare is a relatively new ride for the Irishman, who took over for the U.S.A.’s Todd Minikus last year. Second place went to Deusser and Tabago Z for Germany on a time of 73.87 seconds; third went to France’s Simon Delestre aboard Hermes Ryan with a time of 74.69.

This is the first year in its five-year history that the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show has joined the ranks of the prestigious Longines Global Champions Tour (LGCT) and Global Champions League (GCL), becoming the sixth stop in the 17-leg series. The GCL Final of Saint-Tropez / Ramatuelle will take place on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 14:00.

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### **ABOUT THE LONGINES ATHINA ONASSIS HORSE SHOW**



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The event is labeled 5-stars (CSI5\*), a pledge of excellence and athletic performance and is organized by Athina Onassis. The Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show moved to France in 2014, to the beautiful Pampelonne Beach in Ramatuelle, associated with international jet-setters and the "Saint-Tropez Legend".

From May 31 to June 2, 2018, the Longines Athina Onassis Horse Show will feature two different levels of competition for a total of € 617,000 in prize money. The world's best riders / horses will compete in the 6 classes of the CSI5\*, all valid for the Longines world ranking - including the leading event, the Longines Global Champions Grand Prix of Saint-Tropez, with €300,000 in prize money - and the new Global Champions League, where the best riders from the different countries will participate in teams for incredible competition during the championship season.

The 9 classes of the CSI2\* will be reserved for amateur riders who will have the privilege of competing in the same arena as the best riders. A total of one hundred riders and nearly 200 horses are expected in Ramatuelle, representing more than twenty countries.

For more information, visit our website: [www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com](http://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com)

### ABOUT LONGINES - TITLE PARTNER FOR THE EVENT

Based in Saint-Imier, Switzerland, since 1832, the Longines watch making expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has a legacy of many years of experience as a timekeeper for world sports championships or as a partner with international sports federations, developing strong, lasting ties with the world of sports. Famous for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd, the world's leading manufacturer of watch making products. The brand, known for its winged hourglass logo, has outlets in over 150 countries.

For more information, visit our website: [www.longines.fr](http://www.longines.fr)

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