

Press release,
Ramatuëlle/Saint-Tropez, Var, 27 May 2021

THE SHANGHAI SWANS TEAM, ALREADY IN THE LEAD IN THE OVERALL STANDINGS
PROVISIONALLY AFTER TWO LEGS, WIN THE FIRST ROUND
OF THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE OF RAMATUELLE/SAINT-TROPEZ

The Shanghai Swans team, already in the lead in the overall standings provisionally, after two legs of the Global Champions League, thanks to its second place in Doha and its victory in Madrid last weekend, got off to a great start in the League's first round in Ramatuëlle/Saint-Tropez. The team, made up of Germany's Christian Ahlmann on Solid Gold Z and Austria's Max Kühner with EIC Caleo, didn't waver in light of the competition and above all their main challenger, Valkenswaard United, represented on the French Riviera by Sweden's Peder Fredricson on H&M and Australia's Edwina Tops-Alexander with Identity Vitseroel, second in the overall standings before this weekend, and also second in this first round in Saint-Tropez. Both of these teams jumped clear on the perfectly balanced course, designed by France's Grégory Bodo, while five other teams finished with only four faults. Let's just say that suspense will be at its height on Saturday afternoon during the second round of the Global Champions League where absolutely anything could happen! The St. Tropez Pirates, the 'local team' made up of France's Olivier Robert (Ilena de Mariposa) and Belgium's Pieter Devos (Claire Z), only finished thirteenth out of the sixteen teams competing in this first round with seventeen faults.

Outcome of the Global Champions League of Ramatuëlle / Saint-Tropez on Saturday 29 May, at 2pm.

The French riders performed brilliantly in the individual competition, occupying three of the class's top four places. Edward Levy, who already performed particularly well in the previous class was the winner with Rebeca LS, ahead of Lorraine's Simon Delestre, who was slower than Levy and his loyal Hermès Ryan. Rhône Alpes' Olivier Perreau and his GL events Venizia d'Aiguilly were fourth, behind Colombia's Carlos Enrique Lopez Lizarazo, (who has made France his home!), riding Evita SG Z.

Free admission every day except on Saturday.

Seats in the grandstands on Saturday 29 May 2021: 40 euros for adults and 20 euros for children under 14.

The Global Champions Lounge: 150 euros per person (minimum 2 people), which includes a welcome drink, a 3-course meal (excluding wine and drinks), and a seat on the edge of the ring in the heart of the action.

Bookings: <https://shop.ticketing.cm.com/longines-athina-onassis-horse-show/>

The LAOHS website: <https://www.athinaonassis-horseshow.com/>

The LAOHS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LonginesAOHS/>

The LAOHS Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/longines_aohs/

All the classes will be broadcast live on GCTV: <https://gctv.gcglobalchampions.com/>

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WHAT THE RIDERS HAD TO SAY

Christian Ahlmann (Shanghai Swans)

Both my horse and Max's jumped really well and the competition and the Global Champions League couldn't have got off to a better start for us. The ring is very different from the one we jumped in last week in Madrid. We need to stay focused and give it our all in the second round on Saturday. I don't know which horse I will be riding on Saturday for the moment; they are all in great shape and I still have a day to make up my mind.

Max Kühner (Shanghai Swans)

Although I might have made it seem like the course was easy, believe me it was anything but. And even more so, as it was a new experience for me with this horse which had never competed in such big classes. It's always really exciting the first time, especially in a team competition: you need to give it your all for the team! In the end, time wasn't an issue for me: admittedly I started off slowly, but I managed to make up it at the end of the course!

Edward Levy

It's always great to win a class like this at home in France. Rebeca was amazing today. She is really quick when she is in the ring: my mare is naturally fast and by riding that line in seven strides, where the other riders took eight, I managed to save a lot of time. My mare is really careful, which allows me to take this kind of risk. We are really lucky to be able to participate in a show like Saint-Tropez; this win naturally makes me feel confident, and even more so as my other horse is in great shape and was third in the other 5* class. So I'm feeling positive about the weekend.

