

Press release for Herald Journal
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HORSE SPORTS!! WORLD CLASS SHOW JUMPING AT FENCE

Few will dispute that Grand Prix show jumping is the most exciting aspect of the sport of horses. Both horse and rider must be world class athletes! City League International is bringing this level of the sport to FENCE on October 10, 2009. Teams from all over the Southeast will be vying for top honors throughout the City League event which begins with team classes on October 8. All of the classes leading up to the Grand Prix are free to the public and the schedule can be found on the City League website.

The main event, the one that is a “must see”, is the \$25,000 Grand Prix. The excitement of the evening begins with a trainer’s medal class which showcases the lighter side of the sport with costumed professionals and their horses riding over a hunter course. This class is being presented by Progressive Show Jumping, Inc. out of Aiken SC and will begin at 6:00 PM.

The Grand Prix will begin at 7:00 PM. These jumps will reach nearly five feet in height and width. And there is one jump in the ring, the Lucky High Jump, which is six feet in height, that the crowd can entice any horse/rider combination to attempt if they have incurred a penalty. If they clear it, they receive bonus prize money!

A Grand Prix has two rounds. If the horse and rider “go clear” in the first round, they move on to the jump-off. The jump-off is a short course where speed REALLY counts! The horse and rider who clear the jumps, keeping the rails up AND have fastest time are crowned the winner!

The entertainment never stops at a City League Grand Prix. In between the first course and the jump-off, the fans will get to see a hunt team exhibition ride. Clemson University and Converse College will challenge each other to see who has the best show hunter team. What are show hunters? This is a horse sport of style; more like ballet. Speed is not the goal, but accuracy and form are key. The best part about hunt teams is the choreographed last jump where a team of three riders jump the last fence together.

All of these events on October 10 are accompanied by The GreenGate Gala. When City League was first formed, organizers Vick Russell and Jimmy Gibbs made a decision to be more than just a sports organization. They chose to use City League as a vehicle to raise money for cancer diagnosis and treatment. The charitable dollars that are raised at

each City League Event go to helping those who are financially challenged in the face of a cancer diagnosis.

Want to go?

When: Saturday, October 10, 2009

- Trainer's Medal Class at 6:00 PM
- \$25,000 Grand Prix (First Round) at 7:00PM
- Clemson University/Converse College hunt Team Challenge at approximately 8:30
- The Jump-Off at approximately 8:45
- Meet the Team riders and autograph signing after the jump-off

Where: Foothills Equestrian Nature Center, Tryon, NC (for directions, go to FENCE.org)

Tickets for the **Whole** event: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children age 15 and younger. Tickets may be purchased off of the City League website, or at the gate.

Tickets for the **Green Gate Gala fundraiser:** Single ticket \$85; Table of 8 \$600 – Tickets include ringside dinner, live music by Motherlode, and admission to the Grand Prix. Call 828.863.4472 for more information.

For more information: Call city League International at 828.863.4472, or go to cityleagueinternational.com