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KARL COOK AND CARACOLE DE LA ROQUE TRIUMPH IN FALSTERBO'S ROLEX GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY AGRIA

Rolex Series, Falsterbo July 13, 2025



Under newly returned sunshine and in front of a sold-out crowd, the **Rolex Grand Prix presented by Agria** offered an unforgettable display of elite sport at the **Falsterbo Horse Show**, now a proud stop on the prestigious **Rolex Series**. With **50 of the world's best riders** on the start list and a nation passionately cheering for its heroes.

From the very first round, the course set by **Frank Rothenberger (GER)**, with **Fredrik Malm (SWE)** and **Philipp Schwender (GER)**, demanded complete focus. With 14 obstacles and 17 efforts, the challenge was clear — and the pressure, immediate.

Argentina's **José María Larocca**, first to go, picked up 8 faults, highlighting the course's complexity. Then came a wave of brilliance, second to go: **Sanne Thijssen (NED)** with **Con Quidam RB** posted the first clear in a sharp 83.83s, setting the pace. Soon after, **Max Kühner (AUT)** and **Eic Daloubet** went clear in 86.91s, followed by **Pius Schwizer (SUI)** and **Jason R** in 86.86s. **Simon Crippen (GBR)** and **Handsome** kept the clear rounds coming in 87.87s, before **Trevor Breen (IRL)** raised the stakes, flying through in 82.99s to take the early lead.

The crowd erupted when **Amanda Eriksson** became the **first Swede to go clear with Folsom**. But the grandstands truly exploded for national icons **Rolf-Göran Bengtsson** and **Henrik von Eckermann**. The latter, paired with **Minute Man**, delivered a flawless round in 83.90s, igniting thunderous cheers — especially as this pair had already won Thursday's opening qualifier. Additional faultless rounds followed: **Matias Larocca (ARG)** with **Patron van de Dweerhoeve** (84.30s), **Pedro Junqueira Muytlaert (BRA)** with **Quax 76** (85.32s), and **Steve Guerdat (SUI)** with **Dynamix de Belhème**, the Paris 2024 Olympic silver medalists, in a strong 83.75s. Then came the standout round of the day: **Karl Cook (USA)** and his phenomenal **Caracole de la Roque** — winners of the Rolex Grand Prix of Rome 2024 — who soared into the lead with a blazing 77.69s. Rounding out the clear rounds were **Peder Fredricson (SWE)** on **Alcapone des Carmille** (81.61s), **Andreas Schou (DEN)** on **Darc de Lux** (84.84s), and a superb effort from **Malin Baryard-Johnsson (SWE)** and **H&M Indiana**, who thrilled the home crowd with a lightning-fast clear in 80.18s. Fourteen riders produced faultless rounds, but only 13 could return — **Amanda Eriksson**, just outside the time cut, was heartbreakingly eliminated.

The final phase promised fireworks — and delivered. **Simon Crippen** opened the second round but collected 4 faults, before **Max Kühner** laid down the first double clear in 49.40s. **Andreas Schou** followed, tightening every turn to stop the clock in a bold 47.03s. **Matias Larocca** rode with purpose and style, finishing clear in 50.30s. Then **Sanne Thijssen**, full of confidence, stormed the arena and produced an electrifying round in 43.74s — fast, fluid, fearless. It looked unbeatable. But champions don't fold easily: **Steve Guerdat** came close in 44.20s, and **Malin Baryard-Johnsson**, under intense pressure from her home supporters, delivered yet another superb clear in 45.64s, briefly climbing to third.

All eyes turned to the final rider: **Karl Cook**. Cool-headed and razor-sharp, he and **Caracole de la Roque** executed the perfect round — tight, efficient, and fast. The clock stopped at **43.28 seconds**, just enough to clinch **victory** in one of the most thrilling Rolex Grand Prix finishes to date. A triumph of calm under pressure, and a worthy addition to his growing list of international successes.

As the dust settled on one of the most dramatic Rolex Grand Prix in recent memory, emotions ran high, and reflections from the riders revealed just how much this moment meant.

Steve Guerdat, who claimed third place aboard *Dynamix de Belhème*, spoke with heartfelt satisfaction after his performance:

"I'm very, very happy today. Of course, sometimes you feel disappointed to not win — but today I'm proud of this third place. I gave my mare a great ride, and she was phenomenal in both rounds. We're still missing just a bit of speed, but it was definitely our best second round together. It gives me confidence for the future, and that's a big win in itself."

A longtime admirer of Falsterbo, Guerdat also praised the evolution of the event and the support it receives:

"This is one of my absolute favourite shows. The crowd is unbelievable — they bring so much joy and energy. There's no better place to do what we love. And now that Rolex is involved, I'm confident this show will only continue to grow. It's what our sport needs."

Sanne Thijssen, who finished second with a brilliant double clear aboard *Con Quidam RB*, expressed mixed emotions after a spectacular performance that only narrowly missed out on victory:

"To be honest, I was actually really happy Karl was faster — because he truly deserved it. I've never been so happy with second place. My horse is 19 years old now, and every time we go into the ring, it could be the last at this level. Today he felt amazing, and that means everything."

The young Dutch rider also reflected on her long-standing partnership with her horse:

"We've been together for 12 years. I've done everything with him — my first 2, 3', 4", and 5" wins. He's my teacher, my teammate, my everything. So today is special because we did it together, again."

And then there was the winner — **Karl Cook**, who delivered a masterclass aboard *Caracole de la Roque* to take the title. The American rider remained humble in victory, acknowledging the energy that surrounded him and the importance of crowd support:

"The crowd here is a gift to the sport. They love horses, they understand the competition, and they bring so much passion. It makes you ride better."

Cook explained the strategy behind his victory:

"Thankfully, Caracole was very fast in the first round, so I didn't need to take risks. I could ride our own pace and see what others did in the second round. I knew the six strides after the double would be tricky for us because of her big stride, so I tried to make up for it on the turns and just stay out of her way. She did the rest."

Final Results – Rolex Grand Prix presented by Agria

- Karl Cook (USA)** – *Caracole de la Roque* – 0/0 – **43.28s**
- Sanne Thijssen (NED)** – *Con Quidam RB* – 0/0 – **43.74s**
- Steve Guerdat (SUI)** – *Dynamix de Belhème* – 0/0 – **44.20s**
- Malin Baryard-Johnsson (SWE)** – *H&M Indiana* – 0/0 – **45.64s**
- Andreas Schou (DEN)** – *Darc de Lux* – 0/0 – **47.03s**
- Max Kühner (AUT)** – *Eic Daloubet* – 0/0 – **49.40s**

FULL RESULTS



The **Rolex Grand Prix presented by Agria** closed a breathtaking chapter in Falsterbo's long sporting legacy — one that had it all: technical brilliance, roaring crowds, national pride, and a champion's ride to remember.

The excitement now shifts to the next event of the **Rolex Series**: 🇫🇷 **Jumping International de Dinard**, set against the stunning backdrop. From **July 24 to 27, 2025**, this legendary venue will welcome the sport's elite for another unforgettable week of top-level competition, elegance, and intensity — where tradition meets world-class performance, and where a new champion will write their name into history.

JUMPING INTERNATIONAL DE DINARD

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PRESS CONTACT

Noémie Renard | +33 (0)7 83 07 19 18 | press@rolexseries-equestrian.com

ROLEX SERIES EVENTS

- Wellington International - Rolex Finale Week, March 25-30, 2025
- CSIO Roma Piazza di Siena, May 21-25, 2025
- Jumping International de La Baule - Officiel de France, June 5-8, 2025
- Falsterbo Horse Show, July 10-13, 2025
- Jumping International de Dinard, July 24-27, 2025
- RDS Dublin Horse Show, August 6-10, 2025
- Brussels Stephex Masters, August 27-31, 2025



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ABOUT THE ROLEX SERIES

The Rolex Series brings together seven of the world's most respected equestrian competitions, each supported by Rolex. These seven historic events are now united under the banner of the Rolex Series and all share several distinctive qualities, with each globally recognized event offering some of the finest infrastructures and facilities, centuries-old traditions, the highest level of competition, and have been won by the greatest riders in the history of the sport.

Each of the Rolex Series competitions reflects Rolex's unwavering commitment to excellence, all having a deeply rooted history in equestrianism, capturing the tradition of the sport while embracing innovation with a continuous drive for improvement.

The introduction of the Rolex Series reflects the brand's ongoing support for equestrianism and its mission to unite and inspire. By being part of the group of competitions that make up the Rolex Series, each event will be distinguished as one of the best competitions in the world while also maintaining their unique and historic identities.

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