

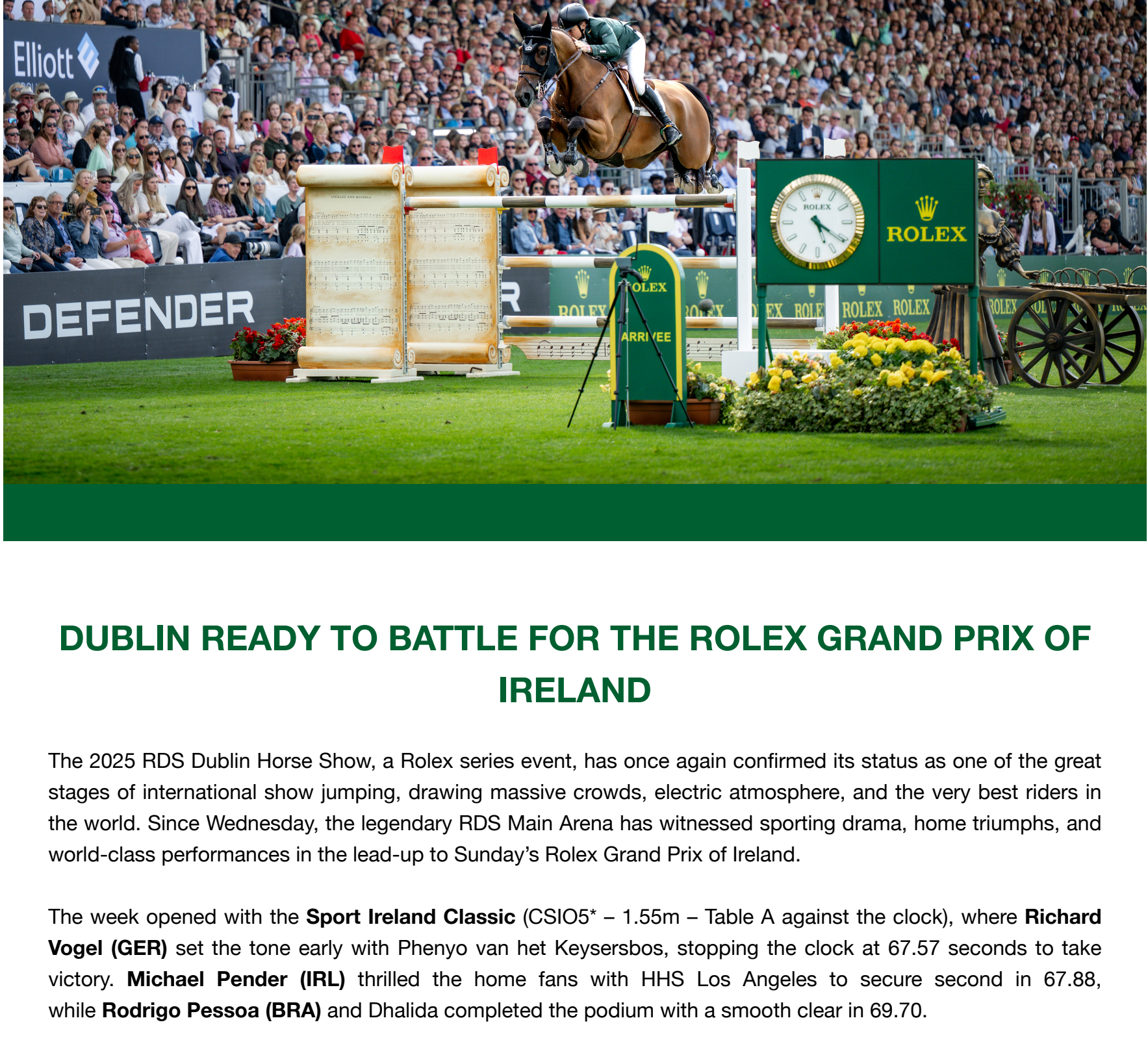
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DUBLIN'S MOMENT OF TRUTH : ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND AWAITS

Rolex Series, Dublin 9 August, 2025



DUBLIN READY TO BATTLE FOR THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND

The 2025 RDS Dublin Horse Show, a Rolex series event, has once again confirmed its status as one of the great stages of international show jumping, drawing massive crowds, electric atmosphere, and the very best riders in the world. Since Wednesday, the legendary RDS Main Arena has witnessed sporting drama, home triumphs, and world-class performances in the lead-up to Sunday's Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland.

The week opened with the **Sport Ireland Classic** (CSIO5* – 1.55m – Table A against the clock), where **Richard Vogel** (GER) set the tone early with Pheryo van het Keyserbos, stopping the clock at 67.57 seconds to take victory. **Michael Pender** (IRL) thrilled the home fans with HHS Los Angeles to secure second in 67.68, while **Rodrigo Pessoa** (BRA) and Dhalida completed the podium with a smooth clear in 69.70.

Thursday brought the **Cashel Palace Hotel Stakes** (CSIO5* – 1.60m – Table A with Jump-Off), the second qualifier for the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland, and an afternoon to remember for the home crowd. **Jordan Coyle** (IRL) and Chaccolino delivered a fearless jump-off in 37.19 seconds to take the win, ahead of **McLain Ward** (USA) with Imperial HBF (38.56) and **Rodrigo Pessoa** (BRA) with Major Tom (41.18).

Friday was all about team spirit in the iconic **Nations' Cup of Ireland for the Aga Khan Trophy**. In front of a roaring Irish audience, **Team Netherlands** emerged victorious with a perfect score of 0 penalties with a combined time of 213.69 seconds, edging out **Team Germany** (4 penalties, 209.73 seconds) and **Team Ireland** (4 penalties, 215.84 seconds) in a thrilling contest that went down to the wire.

Saturday's highlight came with the **Dublin Stakes for the Wylie Perpetual Trophy** (CSIO5* – 1.50m – Table A with Jump-Off – €56,800), where Ireland celebrated another home victory. **Niamh McEvoy** (IRL) and *Flora du Mesnil* flew to the win with a lightning-fast double clear in 35.75 seconds, ahead of **Willem Greve** (NED) and *Pretty Woman van't Paradis* (0/0 – 37.08) and **Jason Smith** (NZL) with *Picobello van't Roosakker* (0/0 – 37.19). The challenging course saw only seven combinations qualify for the jump-off, with McEvoy's precision and speed sealing a memorable Irish triumph on the eve of the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland.

THE 40 RIDERS READY TO BATTLE

With all qualifying spots now decided, the line-up for Sunday's **Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland** will feature **40 of the best combinations in the sport**. Among them are some of the biggest names in international show jumping:

- **Aaron Vale** (USA) — Rolex Grand Prix Ville de Dinard 2025 champion, aiming to repeat his French heroics.
- **Harrie Smolders** (NED) — runner-up in Dinard and Nations Cup double-clear hero in Dublin.
- **McLain Ward** (USA) — Olympic team gold medalist, master tactician, and Thursday's jump-off runner-up.
- **Richard Vogel** (GER) — reigning European Champion and Wednesday's lightning-fast winner.
- **Sandra Auffarth** (GER) — Rolex Grand Prix of Falsterbo 2024 winner.
- **Kevin Staut** (FRA) — Rolex Grand Prix Ville de Dinard 2024 winner.
- **Rodrigo Pessoa** (BRA) — Olympic champion and triple World Cup Final winner.
- **Willem Greve** (NED) — Rolex Grand Prix of The Dutch Masters 2024 winner.
- **Cian O'Connor** (IRL) — Olympic bronze medalist and home favourite.
- **Seamus Hughes Kennedy** (IRL) & **Tom Wachman** (IRL) — just 20 and 22 years old, both contributed to Ireland's third-place finish in yesterday's Nations Cup of Ireland.
- **Laura Kraut** (USA) — Olympic team silver medalist and one of the most experienced in the field.
- **Marco Kutscher** (GER) — double European Champion with a wealth of 5* experience.
- **Carlos Hank Guerreiro** (MEX) — a consistent contender on the global stage and current No. 2 in the FEI Jumping U25 Ranking.

From seasoned champions to young prodigies, this star-studded roster promises an epic battle in Dublin.

THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND

The **Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland** — set for Sunday, August 10 at 3:00 PM in the legendary **RDS Main Arena** — will be designed by Ireland's own **Alan Wade**. Known for his ability to craft courses that balance technical difficulty and fairness, Wade's track is expected to demand absolute precision, exceptional scope and bold decision-making from the world's best. With a star-studded line-up and a passionate Irish crowd, the stage is perfectly set for an unforgettable finale to the 2025 Dublin Horse Show.

START LIST OF THE ROLEX GRAND PRIX OF IRELAND

ALL RESULTS

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TOM WACHMAN : “DUBLIN HORSE SHOW IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL WEEK”

As a proud Irish rider, Tom Wachman holds a special connection with the Dublin Horse Show. His first memories go back to 2015, when he debuted in the small and historic class, marking the beginning of his journey on the prestigious grounds of the RDS Main Arena.

"The first time I rode here was in 2015, in the small class. That's probably my first real memory. It was a great class, very fast and competitive," he recalls. Tom competed in that class three times, each occasion strengthening his bond with the home crowd and the atmosphere that makes Dublin so unique.
"It's a home show, with an incredible public here, and everyone's supporting the Irish. You meet a lot of people you mightn't see all year, but you meet them in Dublin—that's how it has always been since I started coming here. It's a special week, and I always look forward to it."

That bond with the home crowd was on full display yesterday, when Wachman delivered two flawless rounds in the Nations Cup of Ireland, helping his team secure a podium finish. "Jumping a double clear in the Nations Cup here is something I'll always remember. The atmosphere was unbelievable, and to do it in front of the Irish fans makes it even more special," he says with a smile.

Now, his focus shifts fully to the Rolex Grand Prix of Ireland on Sunday. Aware of the level of excellence required in such a star-studded field, he approaches the challenge with determination. "I think I have a nice group of horses here, so we'll try our best and see how it goes. The level is very high, so it's difficult to win or even to place, but we'll give it a go and hopefully deliver a great performance."

The Dublin Horse Show is a key event in the Rolex Series, a collection of the most prestigious shows in equestrian sport. "The Rolex Series label is amazing. It's all the best shows on the calendar, very traditional, always with top competitors and great crowds. It's super serious."

For Tom Wachman, Dublin is more than just a competition; it's a celebration of Irish equestrian tradition, where memories are made, ambitions grow, and dreams take shape.

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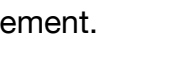
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ROLEX SERIES EVENTS

- **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 prestigious 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.