

## JustWorld Ambassador Kevin Babington Claims \$100,000 Cosequin Grand Prix

Ireland's Kevin Babington, a rider representative for JustWorld International, claimed victory on March 14 in the \$100,000 Cosequin U.S. Open Jumper Championship, the final grand prix event held during the Winter Equestrian Festival circuit in Wellington, FL.

Babington was among just three of the original 31 riders who posted clear rounds to advance to the jump-off over a challenging track set by Jose Gamarra of Bolivia. Seven-time Canadian Olympian Ian Millar was the first rider back for the jump-off and went for a slow but steady clear with Promise Me, stopping the clock at 47.62 seconds. Next to go, Babington went all out, speeding over the jump-off track in a time of 42.70 seconds with his partner of five years, Carling King. Last to challenge, McLain Ward of Brewster, NY, had an early rail with his Olympic hopeful, Sapphire, to hand victory to Babington.

"I saw Ian's round and I knew if I gave it a shot, I could beat him," explained Babington, 35, a native of Tipperary who currently makes his home in Gwynedd Valley, PA, with his wife and daughter. "McLain was coming behind me so I knew if I went for a slow clear, I was going to end up third. I gave it a shot and it paid off."

"Carling King has fantastic scope, and I think that is the fastest I have ever gone with him," continued Babington in praise of his 13-year-old chestnut Irish-bred gelding by Clover Hill. "He jumped brilliantly, and I felt so happy for the horse."

Two weeks earlier, Babington and Carling King had won the \$75,000 PDP Capital Masters Cup and have received the

nod to represent Ireland at the 2004 Athens Olympics in August.

To have Babington involved with JustWorld International, a not-for-profit, humanitarian organization whose mission is to prepare and empower students to become visionary leaders and work for social justice, was a natural fit. Respected on the international stage, Babington is one of six JustWorld International rider representatives. Immediately following his win in the \$100,000 Cosequin U.S. Open Jumper Championship, Babington generously donated ten percent of his \$30,000 in prize money to JustWorld International.

"When I was first approached about riding for a Just World, I thought it was a great way for the sport to give something back," states Babington. "When I was asked to play a part as a role model, I was honoured. I thought it was a good way to encourage kids to get involved, and there are many in this sport that need guidance and can benefit from seeing the top riders come together to support a good cause."

"In Ireland, I used to teach a riding program for the handicapped every Wednesday and I really enjoyed that experience, I found it very rewarding," continued Babington.

"For me to be involved in JustWorld and to give ten percent of my prize money is only a small gift back. My owner, Saly Glassman, is happy to do it; she thinks the JustWorld initiative is very exciting and wants to be a part of it."



Photo by professionalphoto.com  
"JustWorld rider representative Kevin Babington and Carling King score a major victory in the \$100,000 Cosequin U.S. Open Jumper Championship."

## JUST WORLD AMBASSADOR KEVIN BABINGTON CLAIMS \$100,000 COSEQUIN GRAND PRIX

...CON'T FROM PAGE 1

All of the customers in my barn are very enthusiastic and are looking for ways to be involved, which is what I hoped to encourage by being involved myself."

JustWorld International Executive Director Jessica Newman could not have been more thrilled by Babington's victory.

"I am ecstatic that Kevin won, especially on the same day of our presentation," noted Newman in reference to the JustWorld presentation held immediately prior to the grand prix to recognize the riders who have supported the JustWorld initiative. "I am honoured that Kevin and his owner believe in our cause and, even in the excitement of their victory, their first thought was to donate ten percent of their prize money to JustWorld International.

"Kevin believes in JustWorld, and wants to make a personal difference and also encourage youth to follow in his footsteps, get involved, and give something back," continued Newman, 28, who, after working with street children in Honduras, sacrificed her own grand prix riding career in order to concentrate on the formation and development of JustWorld International. "It is amazing to have a rider of his quality and integrity representing JustWorld International as a spokesperson. I was so touched by his generous donation. It inspires me and I feel very privileged to work with such great people."

For Babington, having Newman at the helm was an added incentive to become a JustWorld International rider representative.

"I think that what Jessica has accomplished in such a short amount of time is truly remarkable," notes Babington. "She is such a positive person, she has positive energy and when people meet her, they want to be a part of that. I think that the sky's the limit when it comes to ways the equestrian community can support her organization."

## Laura Kraut Wins \$10,000 Classic Hosted by JustWorld International

American Olympian Laura Kraut topped an international field to win the \$10,000 1.50 meter Classic, Hosted by JustWorld International, during the CSIO\*\*\*\* United States Cosequin Finale in Wellington, FL, on Saturday, March 13, 2004.

Four riders bested the tough track set by course designer Jose Gamarra of Bolivia to advance to the shortened jump-off. The first rider into the ring, Norman Dello Joio of Wellington, FL, posted a second clear round in the jump-off riding Peace Train. His time of 38.08 seconds held as fellow American Schuyler Riley clocked in at 39.44 seconds riding South Beach Stables' Nottingham. Canada's Chris Pratt of Terra Cotta, ON, gave it his best shot aboard Susan Grange's Rivendell, a nine-year-old Westphalian gelding, but one rail down ended his bid for the win.

The final rider into the ring, Sydney Olympian Laura Kraut pulled out all the stops to shave almost two full seconds off of Dello Joio's time, clocking in at 36.30 seconds.

"I knew I had to go all out to catch Norman's time, but I had no idea I had gone so fast," said Kraut of Oconomowoc, WI. "My mare is a little small and has a very short, choppy stride, so sometimes you feel like you are going faster than you actually are. I really was surprised, my horse is amazing!"

Kraut was aboard Joyous, a 10-year-old bay Holsteiner mare owned by the Summit Partners. One week earlier, Kraut and Joyous finished as the runner-ups in the same competition.

Ireland's Kevin Babington, one of JustWorld International's rider representatives, also enjoyed a clear trip with Sydney but one time fault for exceeding the 77-second time allowed kept him out of the jump-off. Georgina Bloomberg of New York, NY, posted the fastest four fault round riding Nadia to finish in sixth position.

Working in partnership with Stadium Jumping Inc., organizers of the Winter Equestrian Festival, JustWorld International was proud to host the final 1.50 meter Classic competition of the seven-week Wellington Equestrian Festival winter circuit.

"We saw a great field of international competitors in the JustWorld competition today," noted Newman, 28, who retired from grand prix competition in order to concentrate her efforts on JustWorld International following her experience working with street children in Honduras. "I am so excited to see how this came together, and three of the top six riders have already committed to donating a portion of their earnings to JustWorld. I also think that instead of the usual idea of competing against each other, we saw how this competition could help to bring people together."

"We would like to give special thanks to Gene Mische and the wonderful staff at Stadium Jumping who have been so supportive of our efforts and have allowed us to use their world-class event to showcase the efforts of JustWorld International," added Newman.

Every competitor in the 'Jump for a Just World' event was given a JustWorld t-shirt and many gave a portion of their prize money to JustWorld International. In recognition of Kraut's victory, JustWorld International Executive Director Jessica Newman presented her with a cooler and trophy.

"It is nice to know that Jessica and her organization are doing all of this work in order to help others, and it does make the win more special," noted Kraut.

Following the competition, Belle Herbe Farm, on behalf of JustWorld International, hosted a reception in honour of the international riders, trainers, owners and sponsors participating in the CSIO event. At its first JustWorld International fundraising event, a 'Jump for a Just World' Training Show held in January, over \$97,000 was raised in support of the organization.



"Laura Kraut receives the 'Jump for a Just World' Trophy from JustWorld International Executive Director, Jessica Newman."

Photo by JustWorld International

Photo by justworldinternational.com



**JUSTWORLD RIDER REPRESENTATIVES**

Left to right: Titi Mills, Mauricio Ruiz, Kevin Babington, Jessica Newman, Angela Covert, Eric Navet and Ray Tevel (Absent - Candice King)

Photo by justworldinternational.com



Rider and staff are thanked for their generous donations in front of the JustWorld jump on Grand Prix Sunday during CSO Wellington.

Photo by justworldinternational.com



Hector Loyola and Jennifer Ward



Eric Lamaze, Diane Dubuc, Niccolo Marzichi Lerzi and Keenan White



Howard A. Newman, Jessica Newman and Eric Navet



Gene Misch, Tim Bolton and friend



Maria Newman with Aram and Diane Ampagoum



Angela Covert, Jessica Newman, Hilary Betallic, Christina Ball and Brigitte Bruyez



Dale Rochester and Rosemary Berlin



Tom D'Onofrio, Steve Gogola, Larry Swenson, Marie D'Onofrio, and George Schaller



Chrissie Walsh and Peter Doubleday



Armando Garcia, Mauricio Guevara, Mauricio Ruiz and Monica Bossard

Photos by Cheryl Bender

## 'Kids Helping Kids'

### Jump for a Just World International Team Rider Representatives Initiate Plans for New Project Site in Honduras

'Jump for a Just World' spokesperson and Honduras native, Titi Mills, has initiated plans for a new JustWorld International project site in Honduras. Titi and JustWorld International Executive Director, Jessica Newman, will meet in April with local Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) who work towards improving conditions for abandoned street children in this underprivileged nation.

Later this spring, 'Jump for a JustWorld' Junior Rider Representative, Jessica Speiser, will lead a delegation of other junior riders in visiting this project site. Speiser, who generously donated all her winnings from the Winter Equestrian Festival to JustWorld International, will also be organizing fundraising efforts to launch this initiative.

The Honduras project will mark the first joint initiative undertaken by both equestrian athletes and JustWorld International university student fellows.

#### "Save The Date"

JustWorld International will be hosting a leadership training weekend in Paris, France, on April 30th and May 1st. Leadership training for young equestrians will begin in Wellington during the 2005 Winter Equestrian Festival.

For more information, please contact us at [jwinfo@justworldinternational.org](mailto:jwinfo@justworldinternational.org).



Jessica Speiser and Libidou clear the Just World Jump



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**What is JustWorld International?**

JustWorld International is a not-for-profit, humanitarian organization founded in 2002 to prepare and empower students to become visionary leaders and work for social justice.

**What does JustWorld International do?**

JustWorld International offers fellowship programs for students from around the globe to learn leadership skills, the tools that they can use to make a positive difference in the world. With seven project sites already located in such underprivileged nations as Cambodia, Tanzania and Romania and several other project sites awaiting funding, students have the opportunity to work for change in a wide variety of environments on behalf of JustWorld International.