

Ben Maher Victorious Over Eric Lamaze in Battle of Olympic Gold Medalists at Royal Horse Show



Great Britain's Ben Maher and Tic Tac won the \$85,000 Big Ben International Challenge on Thursday evening, November 7, at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

Toronto, ON – It was a true battle of excellence as Olympic team gold medalist Ben Maher of Great Britain nudged Canadian Olympic individual gold medalist Eric Lamaze for victory in the \$85,000 Big Ben International Challenge on Thursday night, November 7, at the Royal Horse Show, held as part of the 97th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON.

Canadian course designer Michel Vaillancourt set a testing track that allowed the best horses and riders in the world to showcase their skills in front of a packed house in the Coca-Cola Coliseum. A total of 15 riders qualified for the jump-off, setting the stage for a battle of epic proportions.

As the 10th rider back for the jump-off, Lamaze set a blistering pace in front of the home crowd, slicing and dicing around the shortened track before galloping through the timers in 37.17 seconds.



Canadian Olympic gold medalist Eric Lamaze finished in second in Thursday night's \$85,000 Big Ben International Challenge. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

Mahe used Tic Tac's huge stride to his advantage. When the clock flashed 36.75 seconds, Mahe moved to the top of the leaderboard and remained there to take the win for owner Jane Clark.

"I think a lot of people didn't like me in the stadium here this evening to beat Eric, but it's sport; I always try my best!" said Mahe, 34, who won a team gold medal as a member of the British team at the 2012 London

Olympics. "[Tic Tac] deserved this win," continued Mahe of the 16-year-old Belgian Sport Horse stallion. "He's been knocking at the door. He didn't jump many shows, but he had a

Continued on Page 26.

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Section 2

INSIDE

Ben Maher	25	Polo with Ruth Armstrong	34
Once Bitten, Twice Shy	26	Royal Horse Show	36
Between The Ears	27	Isabelle Lapierre	36
Equi-Cup	27	CRHRA News	37
Lynn Palm	28	Para-Dressage	37
Grey Bruce Farmers' Week	29	Classifieds, Directory Ads	38-43
Biotensity	29	OFA AGM	43
Horse Listening	30	Real Estate	44
Ian Millar Visit WHHRC	32	Royal Photos	45
Kendal Lahari	33	Rider Fitness	47

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Eric Lamaze

Continued from Page 25.



Daniel Coyle of Ireland raced to victory riding Farrel in the \$37,000 Brickenden Trophy on Thursday afternoon, November 7, at the Royal Horse Show. Photo by Jump Media

couple of second places, so it's nice to win a class with importance like this evening."

While Lamaze, 51, was forced to settle for second with Fine Lady 5, he currently leads both the GroupBy Leading International Rider and Leading Canadian Rider standings, helped by a win in the \$37,000 Jolera International Strength and Speed Challenge on Wednesday, November 6.

Third place in Thursday night's class went to Margie Goldstein Engle, 61, of the United States who stopped the jump-off clock in 37.61 seconds riding Dicas, owned by

Gladewinds Partners, LLC.

Earlier in the day, Daniel Coyle of Ireland claimed the win in the afternoon's featured \$37,000 Brickenden Trophy. Riding Farrel for owner Ariel Grange, Coyle topped a 12-horse jump-off after posting the winning time of 31.85 seconds. Next into the Coca-Cola Coliseum, 18-year-old Brian Moggre of the United States made a valiant attempt to catch the leading time riding MTM Flutterby, but he settled for second place when the clock flashed 32.28 seconds. Australia's Rowan Willis took third place with a time of 33.29 riding Cal-

isto 26, while Lamaze and his mount, Chacco Kid, were fourth with a time of 33.68 seconds.

For more information, visit royalfair.org/horse-show. Funding support for The Royal has been provided by the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.

\$85,000 Big Ben International Challenge – Final Results
Thursday evening, November 7

- | Rider/ Nation/ Horse/ Faults/ Time |
|---|
| 1. Ben Maher, Great Britain, Tic Tac, 0:0, 36.75 |
| 2. Eric Lamaze, Canada, Fine Lady 5, 0:0, 37.17 |
| 3. Margie Engle, United States, Dicas, 0:0, 37.61 |
| 4. Jos Verlooy, Belgium, Varoune, 0:0, 38.59 |
| 5. Laura Kraut, United States, Confu, 0:0, 38.65 |
| 6. Beezie Madden, United States, Garant, 0:0, 38.83 |
| 7. Mario Deslauriers, Canada, Amsterdam 27, 0:0, 39.06 |
| 8. Ali Ramsay, Canada, Lutz, 0:0, 39.63 |
| 9. Brian Moggre, United States, MTM Vivre le Reve, 0:4, 37.20 |
| 10. Rowan Willis, Australia, Cartouch III, 0:4, 38.08 |

\$37,000 Brickenden Trophy – Final Results

- | Rider Nation Horse Faults Time |
|---|
| 1. Daniel Coyle, Ireland, Farrel, 0:0, 31.85 |
| 2. Brian Moggre, United States, MTM Flutterby, 0:0, 32.28 |
| 3. Rowan Willis, Australia, Calisto 26, 0:0, 33.29 |
| 4. Eric Lamaze, Canada, Chacco Kid, 0:0, 33.68 |
| 5. Shane Sweetnam, Ireland, Karlin Van't Vennehof, 0:0, 34.24 |
| 6. McLain Ward, United States, Cadans Z, 0:4, 31.79 |
| 7. Erynn Ballard, Canada, Fellini S, 0:4, 34.46 |
| 8. Bertram Allen, Ireland, GK Casper, 0:4, 36.31 |
| 9. Kent Farrington, United States, Jasper, 0:4, 36.44 |
| 10. Daniel Bluman, Israel, Gemma W, 0:4, 37.21 |



Margie Engle, Ben Maher, and Eric Lamaze stood atop the podium as the top three in the \$85,000 Big Ben International Challenge, held on Thursday, November 7 at the Royal Horse Show. Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

Once Bit, Twice Shy is not the case according to research study

Story by: Jackie Bellamy-Zions

In 2015, Lara Genik and Dr. C. Meghan McMurtry from the University of Guelph's Department of Psychology conducted a survey at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, looking into the prevalence and impact of less studied painful incidents among children while handling and riding horses. Some of the results may surprise you.

"There hasn't been much work conducted about less serious incidents", says Genik. "When I looked at the literature that did exist, I found that it has primarily focused on serious injuries that led to hospitalization. For example – we don't know much about how often less serious incidents are occurring, when or where they are occurring, and what the impact is on youth and their parents." Genik's research survey set out to understand common painful incidents associated with riding and to gain insight that could potentially lead to intervention through safety and educational programming.

With the help of Equine Guelph and their EquiMania! youth display, data was collected at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. 120 children aged 8-18 (who participated in riding at least once per week) and a parent completed brief questionnaires about their riding habits including helmet use, supervision, painful incidents that have occurred, and their impact.

A startling result indicated that 75% of the children surveyed had experienced at least one type of painful incident more than once, yet only 7.3% said they had modified their behavior (e.g., keeping fingers away from the horse's mouth after having been bitten). "We were quite surprised that these incidents had little impact on children's behavior around horses," says Genik. "This implies that the incidents may continue to occur even if they could be prevented – and we know from recent work that many incidents around horses may actually be preventable."

Responses from parents and children were quite consistent and revealed regular and consistent helmet use and supervision were more commonly endorsed when riding horses compared to handling them on the ground. There were just a few responses that differed; specifically, parents believed children's helmet use occurred more frequently when handling horses on the ground compared to their children's reports. The same was true for the answers regarding supervision when working around horses from the ground.

When incidents did occur, it was mainly parents and coaches who addressed them. Therefore, a proactive suggestion would be for both coaches and parents to have current first aid training and knowledge about concussions. The study also identified many benefits associated with riding, which Genik identified with, having been involved with horses since a young age herself. "It is a fantastic sport and there has been many positive changes in regards to safety around horses over recent years," says Genik, "but we still need to do more. Specifically, we think there would be value in learning more about how and what is happening when these incidents occur – this could allow us to more specifically inform, develop and implement targeted interventions to relevant stakeholders."

Genik hopes future research into the relatively unknown prevalence of minor incidents around horses will help parents and riding coaches supervise and educate children in proactive ways, as well as work through incidents and talk about prevention strategies. The development of problem-solving skills was one of the benefits of riding, according to survey participants. This is a great opportunity for parents to apply these problem-solving skills with children.

Future studies collaborating with stables could provide a better understanding of incidents to tailor and update safety programming. Detailed incident reporting and real-time reporting are just a few of the items cited for potential research that could contribute to education influencing behavioural change.

Read the full research paper at ScienceDirect.com

Equine Guelph has been happy to support this important research. With the same goals for increasing safety through education, Equine Guelph offers online courses benefitting anyone who handles horses. Visit TheHorsePortal.ca for the next offering of Horse Behaviour & Safety. This short course is available for both Adults and Youth (age 13 – 17) and our students say, "I recommend this course for everyone involved with horses to gain a better understanding of their behaviour and how we can make safety our top priority."

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