



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE

CSIO***** SUPER LIGUE

LA BAULE, DU 5 AU 8 MAI 2005

Press release n°4, 5 May 2005

THE RETURN OF FLIPPER

Laurent Goffinet and Flipper d'Elle HN line up again in the Super League.

So, it's two years since this couple enchanted spectators of the Samsung Super League. Flipper, stallion, bay, very small, a comic-strip head. His rider, tall, long legs, frankly disproportionate physically compared to his horse with whom he maintains a magic relationship.

Laurent has already appeared in the photograph of the victorious French team of 2003 in Barcelona. He smiled. However, he now chuckles, all of it unforgettable, undoubtedly, between ourselves: he was thrown into the melting pot at the time of this final by the trainer, and a few the great bath at the time of this final by the trainer and a few minutes before climbing into the saddle for the Grand Prix, realized that it had been stolen. On the edge of the paddock. A made-to-measure saddle to fit the small round Flipper, who loses traditional saddles. No problem, Laurent tightens his legs, grits his teeth, and launches himself into battle. Despite a dubious score, and last place in the class, France won the Super League. He is there. As of the following season, the couple were essential to the French SSL selections. He does Rome (0+4), Rotterdam (0+0, French win), Hickstead (4+0, France 2nd), Dublin (0+8, France 2nd) and finally Barcelona (8+0) where the French team, after a terrible score in first round (8+4+8+21), notches up just three faults in the second, to finish first in the SSL general classification, and second in the class. He smiles frankly on the photo of the 2004 victory in Barcelona.

Today, Laurent feels justifiably ready to be launched into the SSL. With his National Stud stallion, who has been covering all winter and only competed in four Grand Prix classes at an intermediate level since the beginning of the season (Auvers, Ste Mère l'Eglise, Hardelet and Le Mans which they gain), his is not entirely sure that Flipper has completely returned to an optimal level of preparation.

On the moral side, all is set fair in the boxes of La Baule for the Goffinet stable. Flipper plays with his pal Flanagan, who himself tries to him to steal a brush or a sponge from the grooming rack suspended from the



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines



neighbouring door. Lets it drop. Tries to pass under his chain. Gives up. Seduces a photographer and extorts some carrots. Does the pockets of his groom. Teases his buddy. Closes his eyes and takes a sun bathe.

"I live in Trelly, close to Coutances in Normandy. Every day the horses are ridden in the sea. Especially Flipper who is lazy and wants to do at the house. But they need to be together, the two stallions. When Flanagan left for the vet check a few moments ago, Flipper cried: it whinnied, calling his buddy. Last year, Flanagan tore his shokulder and Flipper had to go all alone to Dublin. He was so unhappy. I had the impression of riding just half a half horse."

In La Baule, this Flanagan is now a player going in the direction of small events, and history will tell whether there is anything still wrong with his shoulder.

As for Flipper, topping out at just 1m60, he will continue his ascent towards the European Championships, and will try to defend French honour which, on home ground at the beginning of the season, is a little sparse!

*La Baule's press office
Nathalie Fey*

