



**Manfred & Hilde  
Swarovski  
Gedächtnisturnier**  
CDI Schindlhof

**23<sup>rd</sup> Manfred & Hilde Swarovski  
Memorial Show  
CDI4\* Schindlhof**  
30 June to 2 July 2017  
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*Media Release*

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2 July 2017

## **In the rain, Isabell Werth and her Johnny danced to 82 percent**

The number 1 in the world was not to be beat in the Freestyle! Isabell Werth won Sunday's Grand Prix Freestyle with Don Johnson FRH with incredible 82.675 percent. The best dressage rider in the world won the Manfred & Hilde Swarovski Challenge Cup for the show's best athlete for the second time in a row.

In spite of rain, the stands around the arena at Schindlhof were crowded; as on Saturday, more than 2,000 equestrian fans had come to see Isabell Werth. It paid off. Isabell Werth and her current number three in the stable, the 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding Don Johnson FRH (current number 8 in the world), showed their full potential in the Freestyle.

With the highest degree of expression and absolute responsiveness the duo rode to the sounds of the cult band Queen to incredible 82.675 percent. The 6-time Olympic champion was the superior winner ahead of her German team colleague and first-time participant at Schindlhof, Fabienne Lütke-meier with D'Agostino FRH (77.825), and the US-American P.J. Rizvi with Breaking Dawn (74.6).

"It is really fun to ride Johnny, he now has the maturity and responsiveness that we can really test our limits. He will have a break now until the European Championships. I hope Weihegold and Emilio will do a similar good job in Aachen and during the European Championships," Isabell Werth said in the winner's interview on ClipMyHorse.TV.

And in the aftermath, she thanked the hosts Evelyn and Klaus Haim-Swarovski, "Here the two make sure all four- and two-legged beings are offered optimal conditions – and then there is still this family environment. I'll be happy to come again!"

Best Austrian (and the only one, because Victoria Max-Theurer hadn't brought her Della Cavalleria to the start) in this world-class field was Renate Voglsang with Royal Happiness OLD, the horse of Tyrolean Stefanie Palm who is currently on maternity leave. The duo received a score of 71.3 percent, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in the final of the top 15.

Before Isabell Werth and the other athletes entered the arena for the Freestyle, the traditional hat competition was held. This time the participants also had to prove their weather resistance. The victory was taken by 15-year-old Theresa Gruber from Kolsassberg with a self-made alpine hat, ahead of Eva Frank (Absam) and Edith Albrecht (Vienna). The competition Hat & Dog was won by three girls from Gnadenwald in blue dresses with the dogs Lara and Molly. The winners received honorary prizes sponsored by D. Swarovski KG, Swarovski Optik, Brennerei Rochelt GmbH and Bodega Norton. All participants received a sweet gift from Sacher Innsbruck.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Manfred & Hilde Swarovski Memorial Show Concours de Dressage International, CDI4\* Schindlhof**

#### **Competition 07 – Grand Prix Freestyle**

*Honorary prizes sponsored by D. Swarovski KG for the top three*

*Honorary gift sponsored by distillery Rochelt*

1. Isabell Werth (GER), Don Johnson FRH | 82.675 percent
2. Fabienne Lütke-meier (GER), D'Agostino FRH | 77.825
3. P.J. Rizvi (USA), Breaking Dawn | 74.6
7. Renate Voglsang (AUT), Royal Happiness OLD | 71.3

Detailed **results** [here](#)

#### **Winner List Manfred & Hilde Swarovski Challenge Cup**

1995 Bianca Kassermann, GER

1996 Austrian Championships Dressage – no CDI

1997 Bianca Kassermann, GER

1998 Christilot Boylen, CAN

1999 Markus Gribbe, GER

2000 Thorsten Dietz, GER

2001 Günther Seidel, USA

2002 Austrian Championships Dressage – no CDI

2003 Anja Plönzke, GER

2004 Rafael Soto Andrade, ESP

2005 Silvia Iklé, SUI

**2006 Victoria Max-Theurer, AUT**

**2007 Victoria Max-Theurer, AUT**

2008 no overall winner, Music Freestyle was canceled due to bad weather

2009 Austrian Championships Dressage – no CDI

2010 Ulla Salzgeber, GER

2011 Carl Hester, GBR

2012 Carl Hester, GBR

2013 Valentina Truppa, ITA

**2014 Victoria Max-Theurer, AUT**  
**2015 Victoria Max-Theurer, AUT**  
2016 Isabell Werth, GER

The Manfred & Hilde Swarovski Challenge Cup is awarded to the most successful pair (percentage of GP and GP Special will be added, the highest score of the Special Tour respectively Freestyle Tour wins) of the CDI4\* Schindlhof. The winner may keep the precious Swarovski crystal trophy for a year. He/she is allowed to keep the beautiful piece for good after winning three times with the same horse. In the year 2014, for the first time, Austria's now 13-time state champion Victoria Max-Theurer achieved this.