



Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic Interview with Eric Hasbrouck

*Ring 2 Course Designer and International Show Jumping
Competitor*

Who designs those challenging and interesting jump courses at the Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic? There are two course designers – Linda Allen, who will be designing the courses in the Grand Prix field, and Eric Hasbrouck, who will be the course designer for Ring 2, adjacent to the Coldwell Banker Previews Grand Prix Field, where the classes will be varied and appeal to a wide range of riders and horses. There is also a schooling ring at the show this year.

Eric has served on the Olympic Selection Committee for the past two Olympic Games and as Chef D'Equipe for the 2008 Super League Team. He has successfully competed in Europe and Canada, won major Grand Prix competitions throughout the United States, and represented his country in World Championships. As a trainer, working out of Diana Walters' The Pavilion Farm in North Salem, New York, he helps young riders develop their full potential in the sport. He has designed jump courses for the past 30 years.

Eric will design courses for the smaller open jumper classes, the modified child/adult division, and young jumper classes on all weather footing in a 155' x 350' arena throughout the week. This year the class offerings have been expanded at the Fidelity Investments Jumper Classic, and his role is all the more important.

Here, Eric has taken on the task of creating a combination of technically challenging courses for exhibitors and will nicely prepare those going on to the bigger classes on the weekend. As the open jumper division has been expanded at the Jumper Classic this year, the importance of Eric's role is magnified.

Q. What kind of courses are you planning?

A. Eric said he plans to incorporate colorful new jumps into "smooth riding technical courses" that will challenge both horse and rider with gymnastic combinations. He will also be planning courses that will prepare the upper level riders for the next levels in the Grand Prix field. He always takes into account the level of the horses that are competing. Then he watches carefully to be sure the course stays exactly the same for each ride, and he



makes note of the results. When asked what the equine and human athletes come away with after riding one of his courses, he replied, "Hopefully confidence."

Q. What is your job after the course is set up and the class is underway?

A. "To make sure that the course stays the same throughout the class, and watch the results. Course designers don't normally discuss how the course rode or offer a rider any constructive criticism."

Q. How and when did you become interested in course designing, and what are the requirements to be course designer?

A. "I just wanted to do it and got started in the late seventies. I still ride full time and design courses part time. You need to have a USEF license, and, no, you don't need to be particularly good in math or geometry!"

Q. How do you think course design has changed since the earlier days of show jumping?

A. "The jumps are made of lighter material and there are more good horses and riders."

Q. Have you ever been to the Jumper Classic?

A. Hasbrouck is no stranger to the Jumper Classic, which has been held in New England since 1989. He himself has been an exhibitor at the show. "I'm excited to be a part of this quality event that show management works hard to make even better every year," he said. "The show is supported by a historically strong horse community and local show jumping fans that have followed the event over the state line to its new home in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire," he said.