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Past Winners Return To Galway Downs International Horse Trials

Temecula, Calif., March 25, 2013 – If the horse racing theory that there are “horses for courses” is true, then Jumbo’s Jake and Tivoli are the horses to beat in the CIC3* at the Galway Downs International Horse Trials on March 28-30.

James Alliston will be riding both horses once again in the premier event of the West Coast spring eventing season, at the Galway Downs Equestrian Center, just east of Temecula.

In the six international events held at Galway Downs in the last three years, Alliston and Jumbo’s Jake have finished first three times, second once, third once and sixth once. “Jake likes Galway Downs for sure – he always goes really well there,” said Alliston, 28, with his usual understatement.

Jumbo’s Jake, 15, won this CIC3* in 2011 and in 2012, and he also won the Galway Downs CCI3* in November 2011. Last November Alliston rode Tivoli, 12, to the top prize in the Galway Downs CCI3*, with Jumbo’s Jake finishing second. Tivoli also finished second, to Jumbo’s Jake, in the March 2012 CIC3*.

“The cross-country courses that Ian Stark designs for Galway Downs are set with forward distances between the jumps, and Jake really likes to go that way. It gives him confidence,” said Alliston, of Castro Valley, Calif. “Plus, I get really pumped up when I ride Jake, and he likes that too.”

The biggest challenge for Jumbo's Jake and Tivoli may come from Gin 'N Juice, the World Championship and Olympic partner of Canadian Hawley Bennett-Awad, whose training stable is located across the street from Galway Downs. Gin 'N Juice, a Thoroughbred mare who was bred by Terry and Linda Payne of Temecula, likes the Galway Downs course too. Gin 'N Juice placed third in the CIC3* in 2010 and second in 2011, and she has won both of her starts this season.

A total of 16 horses are entered to start in the CIC3*, while 18 horses are entered in the CIC2* and 29 horses are entered in the CIC1*.

Previous Galway Downs winners look like the favorites in the CIC2* and CIC1* too. Ballingowan Ginger and Lauren Billys grabbed first place in last November's CCI2* and are seeking to do it again in this CIC2*. And Ping Pong and Julie Flettner will also seek to add this CIC1* to last November's CCI1* victory.

Each of the 63 horses entered to start in the three international divisions will perform their dressage tests on Friday morning and then negotiate the demanding show jumping course in the late afternoon. Then, on Saturday, they'll gallop over the more than 30 jumps on the cross-country course designed by Ian Stark of Great Britain, who's designed the Galway Downs course to great acclaim since 2007.

The Galway Downs event will continue on Sunday, with the more than three hundred horses in the five national divisions competing on either the show jumping or cross-country courses.

Talented local musicians will be playing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, headlined by Tony Suraci's "The Highwayman Show" on Saturday night and climaxed by teenager Jillian Calkins on Sunday afternoon, after the conclusion of show jumping. The kids will also enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

For the complete musical line-up and to buy tickets visit the Galway Downs website (www.galwaydowns.com).

The CIC3* division of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials is one of 15 member events of the Adequan/USEA Gold Cup/PRO Tour Series for 2013. Riders in each of these events aim for top prize money and prizes while seeking to qualify for the series final at the American Eventing Championships, where the purse is \$40,000.

Equine Insurance of California, the Adequan/USEA Gold Cup, and the PRO Tour are the Presenting Sponsors of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials.

The Gold Medal Sponsors of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials are: The *California Horsetrader*, Professional's Choice, MD Barnmaster and Sunsprite Warmbloods.

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General admission for the Galway Downs International Horse Trials is only \$12 per day in advance, \$15 at the gate, with children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Patron's passes – which include seating in the ringside tent, lunch and a full selection of beverages – are also available for \$55 per day or \$150 for the weekend in advance. For advance reservations, go to www.galwaydowns.com.

For more information on the Galway Downs International Horse Trials, visit www.galwaydowns.com or call 951-303-0405. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website (www.useventing.com).