

## This is One World Cup Birthday Bash that Won

Written by Lynndee Kemmet for DressageDaily.com

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The World Cup is about world-class competition, but it's also about parties. And when Charlotte Bredahl-Baker, with the help of her husband, Joel Baker, threw a 50th birthday party, it drew a prestigious crowd that included such guests as Princess Diana, President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jackie, Robin Williams and a host of other celebrities and a number of America's founding fathers. Joining them were several of the world's top-ranked dressage judges and riders who spent an evening hilariously entertained by Charlotte's version of American Idol.

Yep, some of the more famous "guests" were not live, but wax, as the party was held at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in Las Vegas on the Thursday evening of the week of World Cup competition. Well, Robin Williams was live, but he also turned out to be an imposter. But then, there were lots of those at the party. That nasty American Idol judge Simon Cowell attended but then turned out to be Guenter Seidel. Sonny and Cher were also there, but were later revealed to be Jan and Amy Ebeling.

Called "the party of the century" by many who attended, those lucky enough to have been there won't soon forget the hilarious antics they witnessed. In fact, there's a lot of snickering going on as party-goers run into one another at post-World Cup horse shows and reminisce about the evening.

What made it so fun was that Charlotte managed to lure several of the best-known dressage judges and riders into participating in her very own birthday American Idol. The panel of judges featured Steffen Peters, Guenter Seidel, Anne Gribbons and Debbie McDonald, all of whom had way too much fun portraying characters from the same named television show. Guenter often seemed to enjoy his role as Simon Cowell just a tad too much, exhibiting no qualms in telling the "entertainers" just how bad he thought they were. "Painful" is how he described David Wrightman's solo performance of A Hard Days Night. "I hope never to go through this again," Guenter said.

It was also Guenter who was quick to eliminate Charlotte and Axel Steiner in the pas de deux competition organized by Mariette Whittages for failing to follow instructions and performing movements not allowed. He was outvoted by the other four judges who dubbed them the winners.

As the saying goes, 'a picture is worth a thousand words' so let the photos speak for themselves. And DressageDaily wishes Charlotte a very, very happy birthday.