

IFHA QUARTERLY

*The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
newsletter in partnership with the Japan Racing Association*



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Longines World Racing Awards return to London in January

The 2022 Longines World Racing Awards will be held in-person on 17 January 2023 in London, England. The event, which is organised by the Swiss watch brand Longines and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), will take place at Banqueting House.

The ceremony, now in its 10th year, will honour the highest-rated horses in the 2022 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings as well as the Longines World's Best Horse Race.

The Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are established by international handicappers according to the performance of the horses in top races. The highest rated race is determined by averaging the rankings of the first four placed horses.

Goto and his life-long dedication to the Japanese Thoroughbred

by Amanda Duckworth

For more than four decades, Masayuki Goto has worked on behalf of the Japan Racing Association (JRA) in a multitude of roles. Throughout his time at the organization, he has had an eye toward the importance of international racing and constantly works to raise the global profile of Japanese Thoroughbreds.

Like many in the sport, Goto realized he had an interest in horse racing from a young age, and his life-long dedication to the industry has not gone unnoticed. In September 2014, he was appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the JRA, and he also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Asian Racing Federation (ARF). Most recently, in October 2021, he was elected as one of the four Vice Chairs of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

“My father was an official veterinarian at the JRA, and since I was a child, I was surrounded by horse racing naturally,” Goto said. “I noticed that I liked watching races on TV in my younger years.

“It is not uncommon in Japan to work for one company for one’s entire life. Therefore, since I came into the JRA, I’ve always thought that I would spend and end my working career here. I dare say that I never have had time to get tired of my assignments at the JRA.”

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the JRA, anyone who has met Goto knows he has a deep



Masayuki Goto was elected as one of the IFHA’s Vice Chairs in 2021

fondness for music, especially that of The Beatles. Much like he will defer answering about having a single favourite horse, and simply say he prefers a bay that is really horse-like, Goto’s appreciation of The Beatles keeps him from having one favourite song.

“I am at a loss for the answer,” he said. “Because every time I am asked the question, the answer is different. That is to say, the sound of The Beatles is full of diversity. If you compare their debut album *Please Please Me*, and their last one *Let It Be*, do you think they are the works of the same artist?”

Horse racing is not entirely dissimilar in that its many different parts work together to create one whole, and Goto’s ability to appreciate and understand something for all of its many facets has served him well over the years. He started his tenure with the JRA in 1975, and he has held a number of management positions, including Chief Representative of the JRA New York Office, Manager of International Strategic Planning Section, Deputy General Manager of Customer Services Department, and General Manager

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Goto and the JRA cont.

of Corporate Strategies Planning Department. His time in New York, which lasted from 1995-1998, especially affected him both on personal and professional levels.

“My experience in New York had a strong impact not only on me, but also on my family,” said Goto. “It was three years full of immeasurable worth in our lives. I met many warm friends, like Mr. Hans Stahl and Mr. Carl Hamilton of the United States Jockey Club. These three years also taught me again that the most important things in our lives should be the kindness of people and the bonds of family.



Goto and Hans Stahl pictured together in 1996

“Above all, it was there that I was taught that the Thoroughbred is a common asset in the world that needs to be maintained and developed by all concerned parties working together.”

In 2006, Goto was appointed to the JRA Board of Directors where he was responsible for corporate planning and finance. In 2011, he became the Executive Director before going on to be named the President and CEO three years later. Improving both the quality and the reputation of horse racing in Japan has been a cornerstone of his vocation.

“Through working at the JRA New York office, I was aware that Thoroughbred racing has no national borders, and I wanted to be able to

discuss Japanese racing at the same global level,” Goto said. “As one of the management models of racing, I could make the value chain of ‘breeding, breaking, training, racing, and the back to breeding’ clearer and more visible.

“And I believed it could attract the interest of many racing fans to the racing segment, which is our commercial product. In the past, unfortunately, Japan was derided as a ‘graveyard of stallions,’ but now the bloodlines of the Japanese-breds are expanding all over the world.”

The passion that Japanese racing fans have for the sport combined with Japan’s success on some of the biggest international stages in recent years would seem to be clear indications that Goto is succeeding. He is a big believer in data as a way to drive interest, and the JRA has invested in creating access to information on a local level so those gambling on the sport are also learning about its players.

“The JRA conducts race meetings every weekend throughout the year,” Goto said. “A lot of racing information—such as the condition of the horses, state of training and comments from the connections—is distributed through racing media, including newspapers, TV, and the internet. Based on all this various information, punters can make predictions about racing and bet at the racecourse, at their OTB, or via the internet.

“It is very essential for racing operators to place an emphasis on the fun of the prediction itself and educate about how interesting it is to predict winners, rather than just the gambling aspect. Through this process, the punters can become more familiar with the factors which horse racing is composed of, such as the bloodlines, jockeys, and trainers.”

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Goto and the JRA cont.

Two of the biggest races on the Japanese autumn calendar, the Japan Cup in association with Longines (G1) and the Arima Kinen (G1), come at the end of November and the end of December, respectively. Both are important and points of pride, but in different ways, which is intentional.

“The racing operators can provide attractive race planning for fans only if the process is clearly defined,” said Goto. “The Japan Cup and the Arima Kinen are truly the pinnacle of championship races of different generations in Japan. The Japan Cup is a race in which the best horses from Japan and other countries compete together, and the Arima Kinen is a dream race in which the runners are determined by fan votes, just like the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

“I will continue to do my best until these races bring foreign tourists to visit Japan to watch them at Tokyo and Nakayama Racecourse, as if they came to look at beautiful Mt. Fuji!”

While enticing the racing world to come to Japan is still a work in progress, helping Japanese fans wager on the biggest international races has been a success. A change six years ago in Japanese law has had a major international impact, after legislators lifted the ban on wagering on races from outside of Japan and selected international races are now being simulcasted. This began with the 2016 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1), and the \$40 million wagered in Japan on that single race surpassed the total handled in France on the entire race program.

Goto has presented at multiple international conferences on how the JRA is looking to expand its fan base through international simulcast and how this helps to promote horse racing as a whole. In recent years, the JRA has also partnered with a number of organizations, including the IFHA and the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR), in an effort to

further enhance and improve the sport.

“It is because Thoroughbred racing is something we all have in common,” Goto said. “In particular, the profits earned from racing are derived from the gambling by punters. I believe it is necessary to contribute to various public efforts. This includes things like livestock development, social welfare initiatives, betterment of the environment around racecourses, and measures to combat gambling problems, etc.”

Last year, Goto began serving as the IFHA's Vice-Chair for Asia. It was not a decision he took lightly, and it is a position for which he has a great deal of respect as he continues to build the reputation of Japanese racing.

“When I first received a phone call from Mr. Louis Romanet, who was the Chairman of the IFHA at the time, I was very hesitant whether I should accept his proposal,” said Goto. “However, I considered the meaning of Mr. Romanet calling me. It was a great honour, and so I accepted to be the IFHA Vice Chair. As I have said before, I would like to maintain and develop Thoroughbred racing as a common asset throughout the world, and it would be good to introduce and share Japanese racing as one of the models to the other IFHA members.”



Goto's love of The Beatles is well known within racing circles



*Happy
Holidays &
Best Wishes For
The New Year*



James McDonald crowned 2022 Longines World's Best Jockey

James McDonald dominated the Longines World's Best Jockey competition throughout the 2022 racing season, ultimately winning the title by a wide margin. The New Zealand-born jockey is the second Australian-based rider to win the Longines World's Best Jockey Award, following Hugh Bowman's victory in 2017. McDonald was recognised at a ceremony held during the Longines Hong Kong International Races Gala dinner on 9 December 2022 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), and Cecilia Kwok, Vice President of Longines Hong Kong and Macau, presented McDonald with an elegant Longines timepiece as well as a crystal vase

"It's been an amazing year," said McDonald. "Consistency all the way through has probably been the biggest thing: getting on really good horses and having a great association with them. It's a massive honour to be named Longines World's Best Jockey, and I am extremely proud of it."

McDonald won nine of the world's Top 100 Group and Grade 1 races, with his qualifying victories coming in the Black Caviar Lightning Stakes (Home Affairs), TAB Chipping Norton Stakes

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Earlier this month, Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the IFHA, presented James McDonald with the trophy honouring the Longines World's Best Jockey

World's Best Jockey cont.

(Verry Elleegant), Sky Racing Active Rosehill Guineas (Anamoe), Furphy T J Smith Stakes (Nature Strip), Schweppes All Aged Stakes (Cascadian), Winx Stakes (Anamoe), Fujitsu General George Main Stakes (Anamoe), Neds Might And Power Stakes (Anamoe), and Ladbrokes Cox Plate (Anamoe).

After finishing third in the 2021 competition, McDonald won this year's award by an impressive margin of 46 points. The scoring process rewards jockeys for finishing in the top three, giving McDonald a total of 142 points on the year. Ryan Moore, who has won the Longines World's Best Jockey title three times, was second with 96 points, while William Buick was third with 78 points.

The awarding of the Longines World's Best Jockey title is based upon performances in the 100 highest-rated Group 1 and Grade 1 races as established for the year by the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee.



McDonald won nine of the Top 100 Group/Grade 1s in the world

LONGINES World's Best Jockey Leading Jockeys

*** as of 27 November 2022

Jockey	Total Points
James McDonald	142
Ryan L. Moore	96
William T. Buick	78
Jim Crowley	72
Mark Zahra	70

The scoring incorporates races from 1 December of the previous year until 30 November of the current year. Jockeys accrue 12 points for a win, 6 points for placing second, and 4 points for placing third.

The Longines World's Best Jockey Award was established nine years ago by Swiss watch brand Longines and the IFHA as a way to quantitatively recognise a jockey as the best among his or her global peers. It marked the first time a rider was honoured in such a way.

Moore was the inaugural recipient of the Longines World's Best Jockey Award, which was established in 2014, and he also won in 2016 and 2021. Frankie Dettori has won the award four times, with his victories coming in 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

James McDonald on winning the Longines World's Best Jockey title and the importance of international racing

James McDonald, who was crowned as the 2022 Longines World's Best Jockey, keeps adding to his already impressive resume. At only 30-years-old, McDonald has already won more than 70 Group 1s in his career and is truly a star within the industry. In 2021, he became the youngest person ever inducted to the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame and won the Lexus Melbourne Cup (G1), Australia's most famous race. This year, in addition to winning the Longines World's Best Jockey competition, he also traveled to England to pilot Nature Strip to victory at Royal Ascot and capped his season with a win aboard Romantic Warrior in the Longines Hong Kong Cup (G1). He recently discussed his successes and the horses who have taken him to winner's enclosures around the world.

Q: You dominated the 2022 Longines World's Best Jockey competition. How would you describe the year you have had, and what do you credit for your ongoing success?

A: I am very proud of it, but it comes nothing short of getting on the right horses on the right day and having consistency throughout those big races. It's a massive honour, and I am extremely, extremely proud of it. I can't wait to see what the next 12 months and four or five years bring.

It's a huge honour to join those unbelievably good jockeys on the list of previous winners. I am very proud of the year I had and very proud to be receiving this award. It's a great reflection of the quality of horses and their amazing attributes to win the big races. All of them are outstanding in their own right. I couldn't do it without them. It's hugely humbling.

Q: How important do you think this award is to the overall promotion of the sport and moving it forward on a global scale?

A: It's incredible. I think they do it so well. How they scout it out from the Top 100 Group/Grade 1s around the world gives everyone an opportunity. We have seen Ryan Moore from the United Kingdom, Hugh Bowman from Australia, myself from Australia, and Frankie Dettori, who is internationally renowned. It is only going to grow, and it is going to be such a time-honoured award that every jockey who is competing at any level is going to strive for. I'm immensely proud for myself, and hopefully, it's not a fluke, and I can win again.



James McDonald joins Hugh Bowman as Australia-based jockeys to win the title

To be honest, I never thought I would ever win it. It's dominated by the best. It's a great reflection on the quality of horses I have been riding for several of the best trainers in Australia. I am in a very lucky position to be able to ride those horses and to have a bit of luck as well. To be competing on the international stage, like Royal Ascot and the Hong Kong International Races meets, it's a dream come true. As a Kiwi kid growing up on a farm, riding ponies, and becoming a jockey, I never thought I would be the world's best jockey.

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James McDonald cont.

Q: Nature Strip is currently the third highest rated horse in the world and the highest rated sprinter. What makes him so good?

A: He's a powerhouse, isn't he? He makes his own luck up on speed. He doesn't die wondering. He wears his heart on his sleeve, so to speak. He is just very honest. He's an old marvel. When you present him on race day, you know what you are going to get: you are going to get a horse that is up on speed and fighting out the finish. Whether he is beaten or winning, he's never far away. Again, consistency the last two years for that horse has been the key for him. He goes on any ground, any track. He's just a beautiful horse.

It was awesome to win the King's Stand Stakes (G1). It was one of the highlights for sure. As a 17-year-old, when I first went to England and experienced Royal Ascot, it was just the pinnacle. But to get on a really good horse with a live chance in a Group 1 race there and dominate like he did, it was the best feeling for sure. I would love to go back, maybe with a middle-distance sort of horse. That would be an awesome feat as well.



Nature Strip was the first Australian-trained horse to win at Royal Ascot since Black Caviar in 2012

Q: Of your qualifying victories, the majority of them have come through your partnership with Anamoe. Can you tell us more about him?

A: We have had a great ride. Anamoe has been a phenomenal horse to me. He has taken it all before him this spring, obviously culminating in the Ladbrokes Cox Plate (G1), which was just a phenomenal race. He's an absolute star, and he's very uncomplicated. He's an absolute winner. He's a lion chaser. Hopefully he's not done yet. Hopefully he trains on, and we might see him overseas.

He's won Group 1s at 2, 3, and 4, which is huge. Obviously, for a colt of his stature, he is a very valuable commodity now, and a lot of these colts don't really stay in training, as everyone knows. For them to take the risk and be rewarded for it, I think is a marvelous achievement, not only for the horse but the stud as well. Godolphin is obviously a global racing operation, and we would love to see him overseas. I am sure he would showcase to the world how good he is.

Q: Your other qualifying wins have come with Cascadian, Home Affairs, and Verry Elleegant. What skills help a jockey both with different race distances and different equine temperaments?

A: It's adapting to the racing conditions. The horses I won on in this competition are all phenomenal horses, and they are all very uncomplicated horses as well.

Obviously, we need a little bit of luck in the running. Especially here in Australia, it is very crucial to get positions and attack in the right areas. They are all self-explanatory sort of horses. They put themselves in good spots, and they are the best in their field.

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James McDonald cont.

Home Affairs up the straight that day was phenomenal. Cascadian has been a beautiful old horse who just competes at the highest level all the time. Verry Elleegant, obviously you don't need to say too much more about her.

Q: You join Hugh Bowman as the only Australia-based jockeys to win this award. What would you like people to know about racing in Australia?

A: It's one of the most competitive jurisdictions in the world. Our horses are extremely talented, and that has been showcased with Nature Strip going to Royal Ascot, and Anamoe hopefully taking on overseas competitors. Our jurisdiction is extremely competitive, and the prize money is outstanding here. We have some fantastic jockeys and trainers. I think the horses that are on show at the moment is a great demonstration of how good they are.

Q: How satisfying was your 4 ½-length victory in the Longines Hong Kong Cup (G1) with Romantic Warrior?

A: I promise you, that was really as good as it looked. He was perfect from start to finish, and



McDonald capped off the year with a win in the Longines Hong Kong Cup (G1)

BONUS CONTENT:

To watch an interview with James McDonald, the 2022 Longines World's Best Jockey, please visit the [IFHA's YouTube page](#).

he's right up there with any of the other really good ones I've ridden. I didn't think he would do that to that sort of field, but it shows the quality of the horse. His great racing style—his great attributes to settle and his turn of foot—is incredible. He has everything that a good horse has, and he has it in spades. That's the one that I wanted. This was the race I wanted to win before I went home. I was lucky enough I was on a really good horse, and he did the rest.

Q: In general, how do you feel about the value of international competition?

A: It's the best. You have to do it, and I think our horses have to do it. Our jockeys do it. We have the opportunity to go everywhere. You have to showcase the horses. Obviously if you are a world class jockey—the Frankie Dettori, Ryan Moores, William Buicks of the world—they travel everywhere and compete and consistently ride well. I think it needs to be done to show off how good you are.

It's marvelous to compete against the jockeys I have just mentioned. It's something that you cherish, and you should be very proud of competing against them. If you are lucky enough to get a result, that's obviously so much the better. It puts you on a bit of pedestal in terms of competing against those guys because they are the best in the world.

IFAR releases 2023 program



The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) has announced the program for its seventh conference, which will take place in conjunction with the 39th Asian Racing Conference (ARC), organized by the Asian Racing Federation (ARF). The ARC is scheduled for 14-19 February 2023, in Melbourne, Australia, and will be hosted by Racing Victoria (RV). The IFAR conference will be held on Tuesday, 14 February, and for the first time, it will offer a full day program incorporating the forum and an aftercare facility visit.

The morning session will feature a visit to Spring Creek Equine, which is located in the Yarra Valley, approximately 50 kilometers from Melbourne. Founders Samantha Cesnik and Chris Height are RV Acknowledged Retrainers and are also involved in RV's RESET (Racehorse Evaluation Support Education and Training) Program. Following the on-site visit, the formal program will commence in the afternoon at the Crown Conference Centre in Melbourne. The keynote address will be delivered by Tim Gilbert, Australian sports media personality and host of *Racing Dreams*, a program focused on Thoroughbred horse ownership and the racing industry. The entire conference program is available here.

ICRAV set for 2023 in Hong Kong

The Organising Committee is most pleased to announce that the 23rd International Conference of Racing Analysts & Veterinarians will be held from 17 to 23 September 2023 in Hong Kong at the Kerry Hotel - the conference and official accommodation venue overlooking the bustling Victoria Harbour and scenic Hong Kong Island.

The conference theme is Sustaining the Integrity of Racing, with joint sessions featuring gene doping detection and OMICS; the legal minefield, which will address issues of defending drug cases in court; pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of medications and doping agents; sustainability of racing integrity; as well as the continuous professional development of regulatory veterinarians and racing analysts.

The conference website, www.icrav2023.com, will be launched in January. Delegates can then register, submit abstracts and apply for Young Scientist Award (YSA)/Travel Grant (TG) opportunities. Abstracts and applications for YSA/TG will be accepted until the deadline of 31 March 2023. Please visit the website for further information and stay tuned for the latest updates.



**23rd International Conference of
Racing Analysts and Veterinarians**

Hong Kong, China



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WORLD RANKINGS

Flightline, who closed out his undefeated career in the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), has maintained his commanding lead in the most recent edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2022. In the Breeders' Cup Classic, the colt pulled away from the field to win by a record 8 ¼ lengths. He was subsequently retired to Lane's End Farm in Kentucky where he will stand for \$200,000 in 2023.

Flightline previously won the TVG Pacific Classic Stakes (G1) by 19 ¼ lengths to raise his rating to 139 from 127. This mark is the highest earned by a dirt horse and only 1lb below Frankel's benchmark rating of 140 under the current system.



Flightline won the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) in his final career start

LONGINES
World's Best Racehorse Rankings
Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2022 - 6th November 2022

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Flightline (USA)	139	USA
2	Baaeed (GB)	135	GB
3	Nature Strip (AUS)	126	AUS
4	Epicerter (USA)	125	USA
4	Life Is Good (USA)	125	USA
4	Vadeni (FR)	125	FR
7	Kyprios (IRE)	124	IRE
7	Olympiad (USA)	124	USA
7	Pyledriver (GB)	124	GB
7	Titleholder (JPN)	124	JPN
7	Torquator Tasso (GER)	124	GER

It has been a remarkable year, as Flightline was not the only horse to achieve a historically high rating. Baaeed raised his rating to 135 from 128 in the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1). It is the highest rating given on turf since Frankel received his 140 in 2012 and is one below the 136 Baaeed's own sire, Sea the Stars, earned in 2009.

The full list and further information on the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are available on the IFHA website. The next edition of the rankings is the year-end 2022 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, which will be released on 17 January 2023.