

IFHA QUARTERLY

*The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
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Longines World Racing Awards to be held at the Savoy in London

The 2023 Longines World Racing Awards will be held on 23 January 2024 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 the famed Savoy Hotel.

The ceremony will honour the highest-rated horse in the 2023 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.

The importance of the Horse Welfare Committee

by Amanda Duckworth

There is no question that the equine athlete should be treated properly throughout the course of its life. In 2010, the Executive Council of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) established the Horse Welfare Committee, and due to its leadership and composition, this fundamentally important group has adapted to encompass not only general equine welfare but other such critical topics as doping control, movement of horses, training, and aftercare.

Jamie Stier was appointed chairman of the committee in 2015, and the mission of the group he oversees is to promote best practices, harmonisation, and information exchange across racing nations in all matters as they relate to the welfare of the horse. This included establishing general guidance on and standards for the care and safety of horses.

“During the eight years I have been with the Horse Welfare Committee, I would like to think that we have been an efficient and productive committee that has furthered the welfare of racehorses through being willing to challenge the status quo,” Stier said. “While the membership is majorly made up of experienced regulatory veterinarians, it has benefited greatly from the input of other administrators, including extensive support from the IFHA Executive Office and Dr. Craig Suann, a member of the committee who also acts as our secretary.”

Stier, who is Racing Victoria’s executive general manager, integrity services, has a truly international background. Prior to his current position, he was the chief regulatory officer at the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), and



Jamie Stier has been the chairman of the HWC since 2015

he also was the chief stipendiary steward for the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC). Meanwhile, Suann, who is also the Senior Technical Advisor for the IFHA, was the chief veterinary officer of Racing New South Wales (NSW) for decades.

“I have been extremely fortunate to have had some influential professional mentors who have played a vital role in helping steer me through my career,” said Suann. “One of those mentors has been Dr. Roland Devolz, who was my predecessor in the role of IFHA’s Senior Technical Advisor. Over many years, Dr. Devolz has made an extraordinary contribution to the integrity of international horse racing through his involvement in a number of IFHA committees and advisory groups, displaying vision, a sharp intellect and a genuine commitment to improving the welfare of horses and the integrity of the Thoroughbred breed.

“I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Devolz during my career as a racing regulatory veterinarian through my involvement with the IFHA, and so I was honoured to be considered to succeed him when he decided to retire after many years of outstanding service. The other attraction of the position was the

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demonstrated commitment of the IFHA Chair, Executive Council and Executive Office to horse welfare, and I was keen to contribute to the endeavours of the IFHA in this area.”

Recent achievements of the committee include developing and producing the “[IFHA Principles of Good Practice](#)” as guidance on standards for the care and safety of horses in key areas relating to welfare as well as creating the “[IFHA Minimum Horse Welfare Guidelines](#)” document as guidance for the care and welfare of horses at different times of their lives.

Additionally, the committee has done reviews on a number of timely topics including the status of bisphosphonate drugs in horse racing as well as clenbuterol. It has also developed a formalised process of review of treatments, practices and procedures to which horses might be subjected, to determine whether or not such practices or procedures could be considered acceptable within the industry and by the broader community. The committee’s work covers a wide range of areas and goes beyond just the years a horse might be expected to race.

“The relatively recent addition of the International Stud Book Committee to the membership of the Horse Welfare Committee is another demonstration of the IFHA’s commitment to the care and welfare of our horses at different times of their life,” said Stier. “The committee has also benefited from input from the IFHA Advisory Council on Equine Prohibited Substances and Practices through joint meetings of the two groups.

“All of this has meant that the committee has been able to promote best practice, harmonisation, and exchange information across international racing jurisdictions on matters relating to the welfare of our horses.”

Stier and Suann have dedicated their professional lives to the well being of racehorses. Although their decisions to do so came about in different ways, both point toward mentors as a pivotal reason they ended up on the paths they did.

“I had a great interest in horses and racing from a young age,” said Stier. “My parents were farmers, and we did all our stockwork on horseback. Because of this we were taught to ride at a very early age and horses were a part of life for us. My family also dabbled in racehorse ownership, with mixed success, which led to us attending the races frequently as we grew up.”

During university, Stier rode trackwork while studying financial administration. It was at this time he realised that his passions and his education were not heading in the same direction.

“As I was progressing through the degree, it became apparent that a career in accounting was not what I was looking for,” he said. “With that realisation, I successfully applied for a position as a Cadet Stipendiary Steward with the Australian Jockey Club in Sydney.

“I was fortunate because at that time the Australian Jockey Club had an enormously experienced and respected panel of Stewards under the chairmanship of John Schreck. The grounding I received in my formative years has enabled me to fill a number of integrity related positions around the world, so I consider myself very fortunate and put a lot of that down to the introduction I was given into the sport.”

In his current role at Racing Victoria, Stier was involved in the decisions made around the effort to increase equine safety during the Melbourne Cup and the Spring Carnival, and a

The HWC cont.

number of new safety protocols have been put into place in recent years.

“Following the 2020 Melbourne Cup, in which there was a fatal injury, an extensive review was undertaken to identify risk factors which we believed could be mitigated,” Stier said.

“Pleasingly, the three Spring Carnivals held since the introduction of the protocols have been run free of fatal, or major injury, to the horses.

“So, while there was criticism when the protocols were announced the early indications are positive. With that, and increased awareness of what the protocols entail, together with an increased focus on communication with connections of the horses, there was a lessening in criticism during the recently completed Spring Carnival.”

As for Suann, he credits the late Professor David Hutchins, who was the superintendent of the University of Sydney’s then Rural Veterinary Centre, a primary care and referral centre for horses around NSW, for helping him discover his passion for racetrack veterinary work. Hutchins was Suann’s first boss during an internship in his first year after graduation.

“I was exposed to a racing and breeding clientele and found great satisfaction working with their magnificent Thoroughbreds under Prof’s guidance,” said Suann. “This internship was



Dr. Craig Suann is a member of the HWC and also serves as its secretary

followed by a residency in large animal surgery at the Ontario Veterinary College in Canada, during which I undertook graduate training in pharmacology and respiratory physiology, as well as refining skills in lameness evaluation and being exposed to a range of equine surgical and medical cases.”

After returning to Australia, Suann worked as the equine registrar at the University of Sydney city clinic before applying for the position of Official Veterinarian with the Australian Jockey Club. He was offered the job in 1985, and the position evolved to become the Chief Veterinary Officer of Racing NSW. It was a role he stayed in until 2018.

“Throughout my tenure with Racing NSW, Prof Hutchins continued to be a most valuable mentor and was part of a wonderful collaborative team of veterinarians who have assisted me over the years, contributing to the great satisfaction of working as a racing regulatory veterinarian,” said Suann.

In addition to having held major roles in racing, both Stier and Suann have long had an interest in improving the sport on a global level, leading to their efforts with the IFHA.

Stier first became involved with the IFHA in 2003. He initially was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee, and he has also served on the Harmonisation of Raceday Rules Committee.

“I became involved in the IFHA, as I could see the ongoing development of international racing, and I was also aware of the, often, significant variation in the rules, practices, and policies in the various jurisdictions,” he said. “I felt that I could contribute to the growing success of racing globally by being involved in having the sport coming closer together through developing consistencies in these

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The HWC cont.

areas, which would make it more understandable and relatable to participants and fans around the world.”

Suann’s work with the IFHA began in 1996 when he was appointed as a member of what is now known as the IFHA Advisory Council on Equine Prohibited Substances and Practices.

“The Advisory Council has broad terms of reference which focus on providing veterinary and scientific advice for improving the integrity of racing, particularly on the relevant parts of the IABRW governing doping control, and to liaise with the IFHA Executive Council in relation to regulatory matters concerning equine prohibited substances and practices,” said Suann. “I am still a member of the Advisory Council in my current capacity as Senior Technical Advisor to the IFHA.

“Further involvement with the IFHA was cemented when I was invited to join the Horse Welfare Committee when it was established. The work of the committee has assisted the IFHA in raising awareness of horse welfare amongst racing authorities and industry participants as well as the community more generally, especially as societal values and expectations regarding the use of horses in sport have changed over recent years.”

While Suann made being a racing regulatory veterinarian his life’s work, an area of concern for the sport worldwide is the lack of veterinarians in the pipeline for the future. There are no easy answers for a question that could have long-lasting repercussions.

“For a variety of reasons, there is a worldwide shortage of equine veterinarians generally, and problematic for the racing industry, a shrinking pool of veterinarians suitably qualified and experienced for the role of racing regulatory veterinarian,” he said. “This will place ever-increasing demands on the present cohort of regulatory veterinarians, and the industry will need to ensure that incentives are in place to

attract the next generation of veterinarians so that equine welfare is not compromised.

“As the demographic profile of students undertaking a degree in veterinary medicine has changed over the years, the majority of recent and current students have had no connection at all with the racing industry or, for that matter, with horses. In order to recruit future veterinarians into the sport, one useful initiative would be to conduct information and interactive sessions at veterinary colleges and at the track (both during racing and training) to spark the interest of veterinary students.”

Looking ahead, the Horse Welfare Committee is enthusiastic about continuing in its mission. This includes working with the International Thoroughbred Breeders’ Federation (ITBF) on the adoption of the work the committee is doing in developing IFHA Minimum Welfare Guidelines for Thoroughbred Breeding; continuing to consider the use of medications, drugs, and practices to establish if such use poses any threat to the welfare of horses; the consideration of exercise-associated sudden death of horses; and assisting the IFHA Executive Council in identifying and developing strategies to address equine welfare related traceability matters to ensure the well being of racehorses.

“I think it is well understood that for racing to be sustainable and grow, it must maintain acceptance and relevance not only to those directly involved in the sport but also the wider community,” said Stier. “It must be able to demonstrate the level of care provided to racehorses at different stages of their life. Loss of such acceptance and relevance should feature prominently on any racing authority’s risk register. The Horse Welfare Committee plays an important role in assisting the IFHA developing and implementing frameworks, and providing guidance to members to protect the welfare of racehorses, and through that, maintain community acceptance.”




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武 道

The Spirit of BUSHIDO.
 Courage, Respect, Integrity, and Honor.
 With Honesty and Sincerity, we hone our spirit to a winning edge.
 The way of BUSHIDO runs straight and true.

THE SOUL OF RACING

 JRA

Ryan Moore takes the 2023 Longines World's Best Jockey title

Celebrating an exceptional racing season, accomplished English jockey Ryan Moore clinched the Longines World's Best Jockey title for the fourth time. This prestigious recognition unfolded at the Longines Hong Kong International Races Gala Dinner on 8 December.

At the age of 40, Moore's illustrious career includes numerous victories that have solidified his status as one of the greatest jockeys of his time. This season, his prowess was on full display, making him the undisputed

Longines World's Best Jockey once again, following his victories in 2014, 2016, and 2021. He has now tied Frankie Dettori for the most wins.

To claim the title, Moore won eight of the world's Top 100 Group or Grade 1 races, with his qualifying victories coming in the Longines Hong Kong Sprint (Wellington), Tattersalls Gold Cup (Luxembourg), Betfred Derby (Auguste Rodin), St James's Palace Stakes (Paddington), Coral-Eclipse (Paddington), Qatar Sussex Stakes (Paddington), Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (Auguste Rodin), and Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (Auguste Rodin).

In recognition, Moore was presented with an elegant Longines timepiece from Longines Vice President Marketing Bernardo Tribolet and the iconic crystal vase by Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

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Ryan Moore was honoured earlier this month as the 2023 Longines World's Best Jockey by Longines and the IFHA

World's Best Jockey cont.

“I want to thank the IFHA, I want to thank Longines, and I want to thank the Hong Kong Jockey Club and Winfried for everything he does,” said Moore. “Racing is very much a team sport. Having the right horse and getting it there is a big effort. You only win because of the people you have behind you.

“I am very fortunate. I get to ride some really good horses for great owners and trainers. When I started, the aim was to ride in the best races on the best horses. That’s what it really is always about.”

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.

Moore won this year’s award by a comfortable margin of 36 points. The scoring process rewards jockeys for finishing in the top three, giving Moore a total of 156 points on the year.



Moore has won the Longines World’s Best Jockey title four times

Dettori was second with 120 points, while James McDonald, who won the competition in 2022, was third with 116 points.

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 10 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, and Moore was the inaugural recipient of the award. Dettori’s victories came in 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2020, while Hugh Bowman won the award in 2017.

LONGINES World's Best Jockey Leading Jockeys	
*** as of 26th November 2023	
Jockey	Total Points
Ryan L. Moore	156
Lanfranco Dettori	120
James McDonald	116
Christophe Patrice Lemaire	98
Zac Purton	86

Ryan Moore, the 2023 Longines World's Best Jockey, on the horses he rode to win the title

Ryan Moore is one of the most renowned jockeys in the game. In 2014, he became the inaugural recipient of the Longines World's Best Jockey Award, and this year he won the title for the fourth time, tying Frankie Dettori. Moore is based in Europe, but he routinely rides in major races all around the globe. He recently sat down to discuss his continued success as well as the horses who he partnered with this season to win eight of the Top 100 Group/Grade 1 races in the world.

Q: How are you able to stay at the top of your game, year in and year out?

A: I suppose the key is to try and give every horse you ride the best possible chance you can. You take it step by step, race by race, and day by day. Sometimes you get it right and sometimes you get it wrong. I try to keep myself as fit as I



Ryan Moore accepted the Longines World's Best Jockey trophy from IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges

can because things can work against you sometimes, and it is easier to come back if you are in good shape.

When you are dealing with horses, things can happen outside of your control no matter what you do. Fitness is important, but what is most important is the race riding, it's riding the horses. The focus is always the horse, really.

Q: Your victories came in four different places: Hong Kong, Ireland, England, and America. What is it like riding in so many different jurisdictions?

A: It's just race riding. You have to ride the horses. Mentally, you're only ever really thinking about the horses in the race. It didn't really matter to me if it was Sandown or Sha Tin or Bath or wherever I was going to. You focus on the race, you focus on the horse, and doing what you can.

I think most riders now are very well experienced at traveling everywhere. There are no real secrets anymore, I don't think. Everything is available. It is always really about what horses you are getting on.

Q: You won eight of the Top 100 G1 races in the world during this season's Longines World's Best Jockey competition. Can you tell us about each of the horses you partnered to these victories, starting with Wellington in the 2022 Longines Hong Kong Sprint (G1)?

A: I was fortunate to pick up the ride on him last year. Alexis (Badel) had some bad luck. The race set up really well for him. He was a horse who had already won two or three Group 1s in Sha Tin. He was a pleasure to ride, very straightforward. Everything worked out very well for him on the day.

It's a great week. I love the international race

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Ryan Moore cont.

day there. It's the end of the year, really, and it's always very, very competitive racing. It's never easy to win. If you come away with something, it's a big achievement.

Q: Next you took the Tattersalls Gold Cup (G1) with Luxembourg. Tell us a little bit about him?

A: He is a high-class horse. He is a Group 1 winner at 2, 3, and 4. He was good in the Tatts, and beat a good field, and he has run some good races since.

Q: With Auguste Rodin, you took three qualifying races: the Betfred Derby (G1), Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (G1), and Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (G1). What is he like?

A: He is now a dual Group winner as a 2-year-old, and this year he has won two Derbies, a Champion Stakes, and the Breeders' Cup Turf. He's a very high-class horse. We have had a lot of fun with him this year.

It always comes back to pedigree and the breeding, and obviously, he is a grandson of Sunday Silence. He has very similar markings, and I would like to think he probably has similar characteristics mentally as well. It's great that he's staying in training, and hopefully we will have a good year with him, wherever it leads us.

BONUS CONTENT:

To watch the celebration video of Ryan Moore, the 2023 Longines World's Best Jockey, please visit the [IFHA's YouTube page](#).



Moore rode Auguste Rodin to top level victories in three different countries this year

Q: You also won three qualifying races with Paddington in the St James's Palace Stakes (G1), Coral-Eclipse (G1), and Qatar Sussex Stakes (G1). What was he like to ride this season?

A: He was a real tough horse. He had a lot of racing very quickly, and he won four Group 1s back-to-back. He beat the older horses at 10 furlongs and a mile. Unfortunately, the ground was against him at York, and things weren't right at Ascot, but he won some real nice races for us. He was a very, very good horse.

Q: Of these Top 100 Group/Grade 1 races, is there one that stands out to you the most this season?

A: I suppose winning the Derby is always the most important race of the year, but all of those races were important at the time. That's the thing with racing. There are a lot of big days, and I touched on it earlier, but sometimes it doesn't always go for you. It's great to win any one of them. It is always important, and we appreciate them all.



Elegance is an attitude
JENNIFER LAWRENCE



MINI
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WORLD RANKINGS

As he has for most of the year, Japan's Equinox maintains the top position in the latest edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2023.

Equinox, who is currently rated at 129, began his season with a powerful victory the Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) in March before returning to Japan to win the Takarazuka Kinen (G1) in June.

Following that score, Equinox took the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) on 29 October before closing out his career with a victory in the Japan Cup in association with Longines (G1) on 26 November.

LONGINES
World's Best Racehorse Rankings
Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2023 - 5th November 2023

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Equinox (JPN)	129	JPN
2	Ace Impact (IRE)	128	FR
2	Mostahdaf (IRE)	128	GB
4	Big Rock (FR)	127	FR
4	Hukum (IRE)	127	GB
6	Westover (GB)	126	GB
7	Golden Sixty (AUS)	125	HK
7	Lucky Sweynesse (NZ)	125	HK
7	Paddington (GB)	125	IRE



Equinox has been the highest rated horse in the world for most of 2023

Two horses currently share second position in the rankings. Mostahdaf dominated the Prince Of Wales's Stakes (G1), while Ace Impact easily won the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1).

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 2023 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, which will be released on 23 January 2024.