

IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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Replays & Presentations Available from the IFHA Conference & ICHSWJ

The PowerPoint presentations and video replay from the 57th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, which was organized by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), can be found at [the IFHA website](#).

The IFHA Conference was held on 2 October at Saint-Cloud Racecourse in Paris and was chaired by Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges. This year's gathering focused on safeguarding equine welfare and exploring shifts in societal expectations around the world.

Additionally, the replay of the International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) is also available on [the IFHA website](#). The ICHSWJ was held 28 September at Auteuil Racecourse in Paris.

Equine Welfare Highlighted During The 57th IFHA Conference

The 57th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, organised by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), took place on the 2nd of October in Paris, France at Saint-Cloud Racecourse. The focus of this year's Conference was on safeguarding equine welfare and exploring shifts in societal expectations as well as the sport's response around the world.

"Today we continued what has been a chief mission throughout the life of the Federation: equine welfare," said IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, who delivered the Conference's opening and closing remarks. "This Conference provides an opportunity to focus and build upon the significant body of work which has been carried out domestically and internationally over many years by our members to protect our equine athletes.

"I am energised by the many innovative ideas, initiatives and collaborations that we have heard about over the course of today's Conference. From birth, to training and racing, and onto retirement and aftercare, there is potential to both further enhance welfare at all stages of the Thoroughbred's life and the general awareness of our standards."

The opening session focused on horse racing in a changing society, and acclaimed broadcaster Nick Luck served as the moderator for the Conference. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Natalie Waran, Chair of the



Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the IFHA

the Independent Commission for Equine Ethics and Wellbeing for the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI).

During her speech, Waran presented key strategies for equine sports to proactively consider amidst changing societal expectations. This included increasing continuing education for anyone working hands-on with equine athletes to better their welfare.

"Our changing social values in relation to animals have affected different industries in different ways," said Waran. "It is important to recognise that society does not distinguish between different equestrian sports. There is enough data out there to show that the concerns around horse involvement in sport are rising. The racing world must positively engage with both perception and reality and show real commitment to change to ensure positive welfare."

Following her keynote, a panel of senior racing

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administrators including Lisa-Jane Graffard, General Secretary, Au-Delà des Pistes; Julie Harrington, Chief Executive, British Horseracing Authority (BHA); and Najja Thompson, Executive Director, New York Thoroughbred Breeders' Inc. (NYTB), shared their approaches and strategies to shape the narratives surrounding equine welfare and racing.

After the panel discussion, Charles Scheeler, Chair of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) in the United States, gave an update on the organisation, including a review of the implementation of the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) program and future developments.

“HISA is working under the supervision of the Federal Trade Commission and in partnership with the members of the sport to transform horse racing,” said Scheeler. “The essence of this effort is the creation of an ecosystem of care surrounding horses. We remain excited about horse racing’s future in the United States, and we recognise that we have a rich legacy to protect.”

The afternoon sessions began with a presentation by Hiroshi Ito, Counselor of the Japan Racing Association (JRA), about the upcoming 40th Asian Racing Conference (ARC). The theme of the conference is “Be connected, stride together,” and it will be held in Sapporo, Japan in August/September 2024.

The next panel of the Conference featured leaders from racing administration and veterinary science who explored protecting the sport’s equine athletes. Speakers included James Given, Director of Equine Regulation, Safety and Welfare, BHA; Josh Rubinstein, President, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club; Brian Stewart, Head of Veterinary Clinical Services, The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC); and Sonia Wittreck, Stud Book & Doping Control, Head of Department, France Galop.

“Whilst serious racing injuries and deaths are statistically very, very low, we must reduce them further,” said Stewart. “The racing world has done so much over the past few decades to enhance racehorse welfare and to reduce

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The IFHA Conference convened delegates from about 40 different countries with a number of racing executives also in attendance

IFHA Conference cont.

the rate of injury, but there is still more to be done.

“Getting the balance right is part of training, but it is also something technology can help us with. If we do have a problem, we have to be able to achieve an accurate diagnosis, and that will guide our future management of that horse. Things are now coming together, and I am quite hopeful we might be able to make a significant difference.”

As it was during the morning sessions, the importance of industry-wide education was highlighted throughout the afternoon as well.



“We keep coming back to the word ‘educate,’” said Given. “There is importance in not just making it about technology and abdicating the responsibility of decisions to a computer. You have to have horsemanship. That’s not just the trainer, that’s the veterinarian as well.”

The final session of the Conference looked in-depth at enhancing stakeholder engagement, specifically regarding public engagement and response in relation to equine welfare. Nevin Truesdale, the Chief Executive Officer of The Jockey Club (UK), began the session with a discussion of his organisation’s experiences with effective resolution and communication management.

“We need to operate together on this,” said

Truesdale. “Having a clear set of messages as an industry, everyone singing off the same sheet, became really important for us in the lead up and the aftermath of Epsom. We have to be relentless in continuing to make the sport safer and in telling that story. There is a persuadable audience, statistics show us that, but that will only work for us if we are clear on the changes we are making. Standing still on this is not optional.”

Robert Green of Pierrepont Consulting and Analytics LLC then presented on how racing can leverage data-based insights to develop more proactive policies.

“Surveying the right audience as well as accurate measurement is necessary but not sufficient to provide data-based crisis management insight,” said Green. “It matters to know exactly where you are starting in a situation, but it is also testing all the different ways you can talk about your issue or concern. It is the science of persuasion. If you want a better future, maybe you need to go create it. There are better and worse ways to tell your stories. Look very hard at how you tell your story better.”

The first International Conference of Horseracing Authorities was organized and hosted by the Société d'Encouragement in Paris, France, on October 9, 1967. Since 1994, the annual conference has been organized by the IFHA. The JRA became the official partner of the Conference beginning in 2021. This year’s Conference convened delegates from about 40 different countries, with a number of other racing executives and media members in attendance.

A replay of the live video stream and the PowerPoint presentations from the Conference are all available on the [IFHA website](#).



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THE SOUL OF RACING



The 57th IFHA Conference in Photos



Professor Natalie Waran, Chair of the Independent Commission for Equine Ethics and Wellbeing for the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI), delivered the keynote address



Charles Scheeler, Chair of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) in the United States, gave an update on the organisation



Waran, along with Julie Harrington, Chief Executive, British Horseracing Authority (BHA); Najja Thompson, Executive Director, New York Thoroughbred Breeders' Inc. (NYTB); and Lisa-Jane Graffard, General Secretary, Au-Delà des Pistes, shared their approaches and strategies

Conference photos cont.



Hiroshi Ito, Counselor of the Japan Racing Association (JRA), presented on the upcoming 40th Asian Racing Conference (ARC)



Brian Stewart, Head of Veterinary Clinical Services, The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), shared veterinary advancements



Stewart, along with James Given, Director of Equine Regulation, Safety and Welfare, BHA; Sonia Wittreck, Stud Book & Doping Control, Head of Department, France Galop; and Josh Rubinstein, President, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, discussed protecting the sport's equine athletes



Nevin Truesdale, the Chief Executive Officer of The Jockey Club (UK), covered his organisation's experiences with effective resolution and communication management



Robert Green of Pierrepont Consulting and Analytics LLC presented on how racing can leverage data-based insights to develop more proactive policies

International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys Showcases Recent Research

The International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) returned Thursday, 28 September at Auteuil Racecourse in Paris, following a hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ICHSWJ featured presentations and panels on concussions, spinal injuries, and mental health and psychological fitness before concluding with recently retired third-generation jockey Tom Scudamore providing his reflections on the conference.

“The content today from our presenters has been absolutely superb,” said ICHSWJ Chairman Darragh O’Loughlin. “We are very excited to have the return of the International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys, albeit in a different format to how it previously existed. The steering committee for this conference is eager that, rather than being a standalone event that occurs periodically, it becomes more of a forum for sharing of experiences, sharing of information, and sharing of best practices.”

Presenter Tom Stanley served as the moderator of the conference, which began with a presentation on management of concussion by Dr. Jerry Hill, Chief Medical Adviser, British Horseracing Authority (BHA), and Dr. Jennifer Pugh, Chief Medical Officer, Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB).

Hill began the panel with a review of the recent *Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport*

from the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport, which was held in October 2022, and what it means for horse racing.

“I think the benefit of the statement is that it actually gives you a road map,” said Hill. “We need to make sure that everyone working in our sport has an awareness of concussion. It is not the doctor’s job alone.

“We believe there should be education for all, not just the jockeys. It is the medical staff, the valets, the stewards. We also need to make sure racing’s processes are organised to support assessment, diagnosis, rehabilitation, and return. There are many racing jurisdictions, and there are many jockeys who fall and who get concussed. Let’s get that data together.”

Pugh then spoke on several specific points, including ways to reduce concussion rates with a look at prevention strategies, how to determine when it is time to remove a jockey from competition, and the importance of re-evaluation, rest and exercise, referral for extended care, rehabilitation, and recovery.

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ICHSWJ Chairman Darragh O’Loughlin gave the opening remarks

ICHSWJ cont.

“Every word is very important in the consensus statement,” said Pugh. “For horse racing, which part is most important probably depends on where each jurisdiction is in their journey. It is really important we get the rules correct for racing.”

Daloni Lucas, PhD Candidate at the Centre for Health, and Injury & Illness Prevention in Sport (CHi2PS), University of Bath, then presented the second session via video, and she focused on the exploration and prevention of spinal injuries to jockeys.

For her analysis, Lucas discussed four studies in this area: development and validation of a video analysis framework in horse racing; characterisation of spinal injury events in horse racing; exploring the current use of safety wear in horse racing; and understanding the biomechanical interaction between a jockey and protective garments.

“There is a knowledge gap, and jockeys do need some education to better understand the role of their safety wear,” said Lucas. “Educating jockeys about what their safety wear is for and what it is protecting them from, if we can get them on board, they are going to be more compliant and hopefully we will see racing across all jurisdictions will be safer. I do think we are seeing a new wave of jockeys coming through who are very much looking at the next thing in technology.”

The afternoon session featured a panel discussion on the importance of mental health and the psychological fitness of riders. Participants included Professor Duncan Law, Consultant Clinical Psychologists, Changing Minds UK; Karen Lo, Sports Psychologist, Inner Edge, Hong Kong; and Dr. Ciara Losty, Sports Psychologist, Irish Jockey Pathway.



Daloni Luca led the conversation on prevention of spinal cord injuries

Lo began the presentation with a discussion on what she has experienced with both apprentice and professional jockeys based in Hong Kong.

“There is a huge stigma in mental health, and that’s no surprise,” said Lo. “Athletes are always seen as superhuman. I always feel that I want to take a preventive approach when it comes to working with athletes. It’s about having the tools to prevent you from going to the other end of the spectrum where mental health challenges start to surface.”

Following Lo’s presentation, Losty turned the focus to the mental wellbeing of female jockeys in particular.

“I think sport is a microcosm of mainstream society,” said Losty. “We have the research that shows that when jockeys disclose, and jockeys share their experiences, it does have a positive ripple effect to other jockeys. The sport and mental health and wellbeing are all mutually interdependent. Let’s move toward supporting

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ICHSWJ cont.

the person. Being a jockey is what they do. It is their role and their job. They are people first and athletes second.”

To round out the panel, Law discussed approaches with the Injured Jockeys Fund to provide support in the United Kingdom as well as the mental wellbeing of apprentice and conditional jockeys. He covered four pillars of mental wellbeing strategies: promoting positive mental wellbeing, early identification of need, understanding jockeys’ needs in context, and appropriate and safe responding.

“It is quite clear that these issues are cross countries and cross cultures,” said Law. “They are industry-wide issues, and we need to do a lot of work to address them. We can’t be sure of the exact numbers, but overall, we can be sure that the people coming into racing don’t have the same levels of mental distress as current professionals in the industry. This is anecdotal,

but my experience it that the new cohort of jockeys coming into the industry are much more open to talking about mental wellbeing.”

Following these three panel discussions, Scudamore, who is a member of the Steering Committee, gave his viewpoints on the content of the conference and on the work of the ICHSWJ.

“It has been absolutely fascinating,” said Scudamore. “It has been wonderful to see such diverse panels and to get such an insight into what goes on behind the scenes. You can get very insular as a jockey. There are times when you think you are on your own, and I think today has proven we aren’t on our own. We’ve got a lot of people who want to help.”

A video replay of the conference is available on the [IFHA’s website](#).



Recently retired third-generation jockey Tom Scudamore, who is a member of the ICHSWJ Steering Committee, provided his reflections on the conference while in discussion with moderator Tom Stanley



Elegance is an attitude
JENNIFER LAWRENCE



MINI
DOLCEVITA

LONGINES


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WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 129, Japan's Equinox maintains the top position in the latest edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2023. He began his season with a powerful victory the Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) before returning to Japan to win the Takarazuka Kinen (G1). He is expected to race next in the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) on 29 October. Two horses 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 next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 9th of November.

LONGINES
World's Best Racehorse Rankings
Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2023 - 8th October 2023

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

LONGINES
World's Best Jockey
Leading Jockeys
***** as of 21st October 2023**

Jockey	Total Points
Ryan L. Moore	134
Lanfranco Dettori	108
James McDonald	88
Zac Purton	86
Christophe Patrice Lemaire	68

Ryan Moore has a sizeable lead over Frankie Dettori in 2023 Longines World's Best Jockey competition. He currently has 134 points to Dettori's 108 points. Moore's qualifying victories thus far include 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), and Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (Auguste Rodin).

A three-time winner of the award, Moore took the Longines World's Best Jockey title in 2014, 2016, and 2021.