

IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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Next ICHSWJ to be Held in Hong Kong

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) is pleased to announce that the next International Conference for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) will be held in Hong Kong on 11-12 December 2025.

Proudly supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), the conference, themed Performance Medicine in Racing – Developing and Protecting the Jockey Athlete, will take place between the International Jockeys' Championship and the Longines Hong Kong International Races. Various racing and social events will form part of the programme for ICHSWJ 2025.

For more information please visit the [ICHSWJ website](#).

City of Troy, Laurel River, and the Juddmonte International Celebrated during Longines Awards

Swiss watch brand Longines and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) proudly hosted the 2024 Longines World Racing Awards ceremony in London on 21 January. City of Troy and Laurel River shared the 2024 Longines World's Best Racehorse title, while the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1) was named the 2024 Longines World's Best Horse Race.

The elite of the horse racing world came together in London to celebrate the 12th time Longines and the IFHA have honoured the top Thoroughbred racehorses of the previous year. Additionally, the Longines World's Best Horse Race was celebrated for the 10th time.

“As a longstanding partner of the IFHA, Longines would like to take this opportunity to strengthen its support for the horseracing community,” said Bernardo Tribolet, Longines Vice President Marketing. “We’ll continue to share with our partners a deep passion for common values: Tradition, performance and elegance.”

During the Longines World Racing Awards ceremony, which was held at The Savoy, City of Troy and Laurel River were named the 2024 co-Longines World's Best Racehorses with an equal rating of 128. Although both horses were bred in the United States, City of Troy ruled in Europe, while Laurel River dominated in Dubai. This is the first time since 2019 that there has been a tie for the Longines World's Best Racehorse title.

City of Troy earned his rating in the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1), which he won in front-running fashion. He also won the Betfred Derby (G1) and Coral-Eclipse (G1) in 2024. Laurel River received his rating after taking the Dubai World Cup Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) by 8 ½ lengths. His other victory this past season came in the Burj Nahaar Sponsored by Emirates SkyCargo (G3).

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City of Troy (left) and Laurel River shared the title of 2024 Longines World's Best Racehorse

Longines Awards cont.

The winning connections of both horses were presented with elegant Longines watches as well as a replica of the Longines World's Best Racehorse vase, named Equus, by representatives of Longines and IFHA. The Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are established by international handicappers according to the performance of the horses in top races.

Additionally, the Juddmonte International was honoured as the Longines World's Best Horse Race with a rating of 124.25. This is the second time York Racecourse's premier race has won the title, having also been celebrated for its 2020 edition.

The Longines World's Best Horse Race Award recognises the best-rated race of the highest-rated Group/Grade 1 international races as established by a panel of international handicappers. The ratings of the top four finishers in each race serve as basis for the assessment.

William Derby, York's Chief Executive and Clerk of the Course, was in London to accept the award. He received an elegant Longines timepiece as well as a replica of the trophy, representing a proud horse head, on behalf of York.

"The IFHA is dedicated to advancing and



The Juddmonte International was named the 2024 Longines World's Best Horse Race

improving our sport globally in a wide range of areas," said IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges. "We also believe it is important to take time to reward and celebrate the best of what racing has to offer, and the Longines World Racing Awards allow us to do that in a meaningful way. On behalf of the entire IFHA, I want to congratulate our very deserving winners."

Overall, 273 horses, trained in 15 different countries, were rated 115 or higher in 2024.

In association with the Longines World Racing Awards, the IFHA also published its annual list of Top 100 Group 1 and Grade 1 races.

Following the Juddmonte International, the remaining Top 10 rated races are the DraftKings Travers Stakes (123.75), Queen Elizabeth Stakes (123.00), King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Qipco Stakes (122.75), Japan Cup in association with Longines (122.50), Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (122.50), Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (122.50), Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (122.25), Winx Stakes (121.50), James Squire T. J. Smith Stakes (121.25), and the Ladbrokes Cox Plate (121.25).

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LONGINES WORLD'S BEST RACEHORSE 2024			
RANK	HORSE NAME	TRAINED	RATING
1	CITY OF TROY (USA)	IRE	128
1	LAUREL RIVER (USA)	UAE	128
3	VIA SISTINA (IRE)	AUS	127
4	GOLIATH (GER)	FR	126
5	CALANDAGAN (IRE)	FR	125
5	DO DEUCE (JPN)	JPN	125
5	PIERCENESS (USA)	USA	125
5	ROMANTIC WARRIOR (IRE)	HK	125
5	SIERRA LEONE (USA)	USA	125
10	CHARYN (IRE)	GB	124

#LONGINESWORLDRACINGAWARDS

Longines Awards cont.

Because of a tie for the 10th position, there are 11 races in the 2024 Top 10.

The top rated races in the five respective distance categories are the James Squire T. J. Smith Stakes (121.25-Sprint); Winx Stakes (121.50-Mile); Juddmonte International Stakes (124.25-Intermediate); King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Qipco Stakes (122.75-Long); and the Gold Cup (118.50-Extended).

The Qatar Prix Vermeille (117.50) is the highest rated race for fillies/mares, while the highest rated 3-year-old race is the DraftKings Travers Stakes (123.75).

Eleven countries comprise this year's list, representing the foremost racing events throughout the world across 41 different racecourses. Australia leads all countries with 30 total races, followed by Great Britain (20), Japan (13), France (11), United States (11), Hong Kong SAR, China (8), Germany (4), Ireland (4), United Arab Emirates (3), Saudi Arabia (1), and South Africa (1).

BONUS CONTENT:

To watch the Longines World Racing Awards as well as multiple features on the winners, visit the [IFHA YouTube channel](#).

Because of a nine-way tie for the 98th spot on the list of Top 100 G1 races, the 2024 edition consists of 106 races.

The 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey Award will be based upon performances in these 100 highest-rated Group 1 and Grade 1 races from 1 December 2024 until 30 November 2025. Jockeys accrue 12 points for a win, 6 points for placing second, and 4 points for placing third.

The full list and further information on the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are available on the IFHA website ifhaonline.org.



LONGINES WORLD'S BEST HORSE RACE 2024

RANK	RACE	TRACK		RATING
1	JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES	YORK	GB	124.25
2	DRAFTKINGS TRAVERS STAKES	SARATOGA	USA	123.75
3	QUEEN ELIZABETH STAKES	RANDWICK	AUS	123.00
4	KING GEORGE VI & QUEEN ELIZABETH QIPCO STAKES	ASCOT	GB	122.75
=5	JAPAN CUP IN ASSOCIATION WITH LONGINES	TOKYO	JPN	122.50
=5	LONGINES BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC	DEL MAR	USA	122.50
=5	QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE	PARISLONGCHAMP	FR	122.50
8	ROYAL BAHRAIN IRISH CHAMPION STAKES	LEOPARDSTOWN	IRE	122.25
9	WINX STAKES	RANDWICK	AUS	121.50
=10	JAMES SQUIRE T. J. SMITH STAKES	RANDWICK	AUS	121.25
=10	LADBROKES COX PLATE	MOONEE VALLEY	AUS	121.25



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Japan's legacy of beauty lives in all we do.
Rare sensibilities and breathtaking skill
show the way to the finish line.
That beauty and that power take you to another world.



Longines World Racing Awards in Photos



City of Troy was honoured as the co-2024 Longines World's Best Racehorse

Left to right: Henri Pouret, Ryan Moore, Masayuki Goto, Sam Pearson, Horacio Esposito, Aidan O'Brien, Bernardo Tribolet, and Christy Grassick



Laurel River was honoured as the co-2024 Longines World's Best Racehorse
(L to R) Bernardo Tribolet, Bhupat Seemar, and Douglas Erskine Crum



The Juddmonte International was the 2024 Longines World's Best Horse Race
(L to R) Anthea Leigh, Bridget Guerin, Bernardo Tribolet, and William Derby

Awards photos cont.



Bernardo Tribolet of Longines celebrated the honourees along with IFHA Vice Chairs Henri Pouret, Horacio Esposito, and Masayuki Goto



Trainers Aidan O'Brien and Bhumat Seemar along with jockey Ryan Moore were all smiles as their horses were honoured



Dominic Gardiner-Hill and Nigel Gray are the co-chairmen of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee



The team from York Racecourse made for proud winners of the 2024 Longines World's Best Horse Race

Awards photos cont.



The Longines World's Best Racehorse trophy is a crystal vase named Equus



Horse racing presenter Francesca Cumani served as the master of ceremonies for the awards



The Savoy in London provided an elegant venue for the 2024 Longines World Racing Awards ceremony



The Longines World's Best Horse Race trophy represents a proud horse head

Riyadh Workshop Advances Horse Movement in Gulf Region

Riyadh recently hosted 20 global experts for a workshop focused on improving temporary international horse movement in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Jordan and Syria.

Initiated by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), the event brought together representatives from veterinary authorities, equestrian federations, and racing bodies to explore ways to enhance the efficiency of horse transport for competitions and events across the Gulf region. The IHSC is a collaboration between the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

“As demonstrated by the successful examples of major racing and equestrian events, safe horse movement has been, and can continue to be, achieved in the region,” said Dr. Jenny Hall, FEI Vice President and Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee, in her opening remarks. “However, to truly advance equestrian sports and their associated industries, we must ensure the efficient movement of horses at all levels, particularly through safe and reliable road transportation, which should mirror the successful air transport systems already in place.”

Hosted by the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Plant Pests and Animal Diseases (Weqaa Center), sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation and Saudi Equestrian Authority, and supported by



the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, the workshop was held in Riyadh following the successful Saudi Cup 2025 carnival.

“Achieving efficient and effective horse movement within the Gulf region, and in and out of the region, is the foundation to the success of racing and equestrian events being held here, for example the Saudi Cup carnival which currently holds the richest Thoroughbred race in the world,” said James Ogilvy, Director of the IFHA. “It is therefore significantly important to not only identify the challenges on movement of horses currently faced by the industry, but to discuss and formulate agreed action plan to enhance the current horse movement system in the region.”

In the discussion sessions, moderated by FEI Veterinary Director Dr. Göran Åkerström, the group addressed the following key topics:

- The challenges to horse movement in the subregion and explored potential solutions;
- The establishment and application of an Equine Disease-Free Zone;

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Riyadh workshop cont.

- An examination of the current GCC health certificate for temporary horse movement, as well as the status of infectious diseases globally and within the region;
- New technological advancements, including the FEI's digital passports, that could improve the movement of horses.

“The Gulf region is rapidly becoming a central hub for international equestrian sport, making it was vital that we brought together the experts to address the critical need for safe and efficient cross-border transportation of horses,” Åkerström said. “As stewards of their wellbeing, we must take full responsibility for improving horse movement in order to reduce their stress, minimise their health risks, and ensure they receive the highest standard of care throughout their journey.

“These efforts are fundamental not just to the welfare of the horses but also to their success as equine athletes. Just as with human athletes, efficient transportation is crucial to enabling

them to perform at their best and continue to thrive in the world of global equestrian sport.”

A key outcome of the event was the decision to establish a working group aimed at fostering ongoing collaboration and ensuring continued progress in enhancing horse movement across the region.

It followed an initial meeting in 2019 in Rabat, Morocco, where a roadmap for improved horse movement within FEI Group VII was developed. A subsequent workshop, held in Abu Dhabi on 9 February 2024, focused specifically on the Gulf region, which has become an increasingly influential hub for international horseracing and equestrian sports.

Workshop participants also had the opportunity to hear from several distinguished speakers, including Sultan Al Yehyaee, representative of the UAE National Federation, FEI Board Member, and Chair of FEI Group VII; Dr. Ahmad Al Majali, WOAHS Regional Representative for the Middle East; and Dr. Sanad Al Harbi, WOAHS Delegate for Saudi Arabia.



The workshop was held in Riyadh following the successful Saudi Cup 2025 carnival

Olympian Boyd Martin Announced as IFAR 2025 Keynote Speaker

The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) has announced that four-time Olympian Boyd Martin will be the keynote speaker during its upcoming conference, which is scheduled to take place April 24-26 in Lexington, Kentucky.

The IFAR 2025 gathering will focus on aftercare organizations. The three-day event will be comprised of a traditional conference at Spy Coast Farm's Equine Education Center as well a multitude of on-site visits, which will take place at accredited aftercare facilities in the area, and a social gathering during the cross-country portion of the Defender Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by MARS Equestrian, one of the world's premier equestrian 5* events.

It is expected that Martin will be competing on multiple horses at the event, and he is teaming up with SmartPak for a cross-country course walk that Friday after dressage. IFAR attendees will have the chance to join Martin at the Head of the Lake, the event's most iconic water obstacle, as he previews key cross-country combinations.

Martin, who will deliver the conference keynote address via video, began riding at a young age in his native country of Australia. He made his debut at the CCI5*-L with a win at the 2003 Australian International Three-Day Event riding the Thoroughbred gelding True Blue Toozac.

In 2007, Martin moved to the United States to further his career as an eventing professional, serving as the assistant trainer to Olympian Phillip Dutton for two years before starting his own business. He began riding for the U.S. in 2009. He is a four-time Olympian, having



Olympian Boyd Martin will be the keynote speaker at IFAR

represented the U.S. in London 2012, Rio de Janeiro 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024. Martin's mount in Rio was Blackfoot Mystery, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, and he has partnered with other such notable Thoroughbreds as Neville Bardos and Ying Yang Yo.

"I'm honored to be the virtual keynote speaker for this year's International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses conference," said Martin. "Thoroughbreds have played a huge role in my career, and I've seen firsthand the incredible second careers they can have with the right care and training. Aftercare is essential to ensuring these amazing athletes have a bright future beyond the track, and I'm excited to be part of the conversation with IFAR."

Topics that will be covered during the conference portion of IFAR 2025 include sustainable business practices in aftercare; engaging equestrian communities; challenges in aftercare: on-track to second careers; post-racing veterinary evaluations; raising awareness through events; and connections through Thoroughbreds. To see the planned schedule of events or to register, click [HERE](#).

Elegance is an attitude



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WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 128, Forever Young leads the first edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2025 following his impressive victory over Romantic Warrior in the Saudi Cup (G1).

In a dramatic finish to the race, Forever Young ran down Romantic Warrior to win by a neck. Ushba Tesoro was 10 ½ lengths back in third. Forever Young was making his first start of 2025, while Romantic Warrior came into the dirt race off of a victory in the Jebel Hatta Presented by Longines (G1) on turf.

Two horses are in the co-third position. Ka Ying Rising has continued to dominate the sprinting scene in Hong Kong with victories in the Centenary Sprint Cup (G1) and Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup (G1), while in the United States, White Abarrio took the Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1) in his seasonal debut.

In the Pegasus, White Abarrio defeated Locked, who rounds out the Top 5. Locked went on to win the Santa Anita Handicap presented by Yaamava' Resort & Casino (G1) in his next start.

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 10th of April.



Forever Young defeated Romantic Warrior in the Saudi Cup (G1)

LONGINES World's Best Racehorse Rankings Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2025 - 9th March 2025

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Forever Young (JPN)	128	JPN
2	Romantic Warrior (IRE)	127	HK
3	Ka Ying Rising (NZ)	124	HK
3	White Abarrio (USA)	124	USA
5	Locked (USA)	123	USA