# IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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#### Replay and Presentations Available from the IFHA Conference

The PowerPoint presentations and video replay from the 59th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, which was organized by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), can now be found at the IFHA website (ifhaonline.org) or by following the direct link here.

The IFHA Conference took place on 6 October in Paris. France at Le Méridien Paris Arc de Triomphe.

The focus of this year's Conference was on racing betting, both in the legal and illegal markets, along with marketing and customer experience.

### Betting Markets and the Customer Experience Highlighted During 59th IFHA Conference

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) held the 59th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities (ICHA) in Paris, France at Le Méridien Paris Arc de Triomphe on 6 October.

During this year's Conference, there was a particular focus on racing betting, both in the legal and illegal markets, along with marketing and customer experience. Throughout the course of the day, 165 delegates from about 40 countries heard from leaders from around the globe on these pressing topics.

"The International Conference has for many years provided a platform for all of us, the stewards of racing in our respective jurisdictions, to come together and discuss the key issues impacting our sport today and to chart the course for its future," said IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges during his welcome address. "Racing's long-term success is dependent on our ability to not only address the threats that we face today, but moreover to embrace the opportunities they present us."

Sports television presenter Rishi Persad served as the moderator for the Conference, which featured two main sessions.



IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges

The first session of the Conference, Racing Wagering & Marketing – What Today's Customers Want and What the Future Holds, explored the dynamic landscape of horse racing wagering and marketing while also examining how technological advancements and shifting consumer behaviours are reshaping the industry.

Tony Allevato, Chief Revenue Officer and president, NYRA Bets; Felicity Barnard, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ascot Racecourse; Drew Fleming, president and CEO, Breeders' Cup Ltd; Pablo Kavulakian, president, American Racing Channel; and Atsushi Kikuta, director of International Affairs, Japan Racing Association (JRA) all took part.

"I can assure you have that I have absolute faith and optimism in the growth of this sport, and I think there is a huge potential internationally," Barnard said. "I think we are doing lots of things right, but I think we could do a lot of things better, together."

#### IFHA Conference cont.

Allevato echoed those thoughts, saying: "Sometimes, we don't give ourselves enough credit. If we all can: take a step back, look at what we are doing, trust ourselves, and know that we are creative. We can get horse racing to get to the next level. I truly believe that."

Growth of the Illegal Betting Market and Tackling Challenges in Betting Regulation served as the second session. Panelists discussed the immense growth of illegal betting on racing (and other sports) and also examined the impacts of tighter government controls on gambling.

Speakers included Tom Chignell, consultant on Integrity Projects, The Hong Kong Jockey Club; Brant Dunshea, acting CEO, British Horseracing Authority; Luca Esposito, executive director, World Lottery Association; Martin Purbrick, chair of the IFHA Council on Anti-illegal Betting and Related Crime; and Vincent Ven, head of Anti-Match-Fixing, Union of European Football

Associations (UEFA).

Ven discussed how different sports share the same challenges and the importance of educating participants about potential integrity threats as well as working with all different stakeholders.

Ben Cleminson, the CEO of Square in the Air, also presented on growth and innovation in sports and horse racing, while Salem Binmahfooz, chairman advisor and technical committee member of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, provided an overview of the 41st Asian Racing Conference (ARC). The ARC is scheduled to take place in Riyadh in February 2026.

The first International Conference of Horseracing Authorities was organised and hosted by the Société d'Encouragement in Paris, France, on October 9, 1967. Since 1994, the annual conference has been organised by the IFHA. The JRA has been the official partner of the Conference since 2021.



The ICHA drew 165 delegates from about 40 countries



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SUN, 30TH NOV 2025





#### The 59th IFHA Conference in Photos



 $Session \ 1: Racing \ Wagering \ \& \ Marketing - What \ Today \ `s \ Customers \ Want \ and \ What \ the \ Future \ Holds$ 



Tony Allevato, Chief Revenue Officer and president NYRA Bets



Felicity Barnard, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ascot Racecourse

#### Conference photos cont.



Pablo Kavulakian, president, American Racing Channel



Drew Fleming, president and CEO, Breeders' Cup Ltd



Atsushi Kikuta, director of International Affairs, Japan Racing Association (JRA)



Salem Binmahfooz, chairman advisor and technical committee member of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia



Session 2: Growth of the Illegal Betting Market and Tackling Challenges in Betting Regulation

#### Conference photos cont.



Tom Chignell, consultant on Integrity Projects, The Hong Kong Jockey Club



Brant Dunshea, acting CEO, British Horseracing Authority



Luca Esposito, executive director, World Lottery Association



Martin Purbrick, chair of the IFHA Council on Anti-illegal Betting and Related Crime



Vincent Ven, head of Anti-Match-Fixing, Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)



Ben Cleminson, CEO of Square in the Air

#### 41st ARC, 10th IFAR To Take Place in Saudi Arabia

Marking the theme of "Honouring Tradition - Shaping The Future," the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia (JCSA) will welcome delegates from all over the world between 9-14 February, 2026 for the 41<sup>st</sup> Asian Racing Conference (ARC), which is to be held at the Crowne Plaza Riyadh RDC Hotel & Convention Centre.

The 41<sup>st</sup> ARC gathers together leaders, experts and stakeholders from across the racing world to shape global and regional agendas for the benefit of the sport and its participants.

"This occasion marks a significant milestone in the history of the ARC, as the Conference is being staged for the first time in Saudi Arabia, a jurisdiction undergoing transformative developments that showcase the Kingdom as a leading sports destination," said ARF Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges. "The Saudi Cup (G1) – the world's most valuable race – stands as a testament to the Kingdom's dedication to the advancement of racing in the region, having quickly established its place on the international racing calendar in just a few short years.

"In an era where global collaboration is increasingly critical, the challenges that we as an industry face can only be addressed effectively through our collective efforts. With this at its forefront, the 41st ARC will further build on the strong foundations laid by its predecessors and provide a platform for racing stakeholders to come together to exchange ideas, share best practices and forge new connections for the betterment of racing.

The 41<sup>st</sup> ARC Business Programme will feature a number of plenary sessions designed to

address current and emerging challenges and opportunities for racing.

Speakers from diverse fields – ranging from racing and other sports to technology, business, media and broadcasting – will share their insights and engage with audiences through keynote speeches, presentations and panel discussions from February 10 to February 12.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to enjoy, relax and network at a memorable itinerary of social events, including the Saudi Cup.

"I invite all delegates to experience our rich cultural heritage during your time in Saudi Arabia, and join us during conference week as we build towards The Saudi Cup 2026, held at King Abdulaziz Racecourse on 14 February," said HRH Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al Faisal Chairman, JCSA. "The first ARC was staged in Tokyo in 1960 and has subsequently travelled to many countries.

"We are honoured for Saudi Arabia to be firsttime hosts, nearly 20 years since its last visit to the region, courtesy of the UAE in 2007. We thank the Asian Racing Federation for this opportunity and we plan to give this prestigious event the platform it deserves."

Additionally, the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR), which is the leading global platform for bringing together thought leaders, advocates, and stakeholders to share ideas and advance best practices in this vital area, is scheduled to hold its 10th annual conference on 9 February.

It will be held in conjunction with the 41st ARC,

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#### ARC, IFAR cont.

and renowned broadcaster David Eades will serve as moderator for IFAR 2026 and the ARC.

"Our 10th IFAR conference represents a major milestone for the global aftercare community, and we are honoured to convene here for the first time in 2026 on the Arabian Peninsula, a revered place in the history of the Thoroughbred," said IFAR Chair Eliot Forbes. "Hosting IFAR alongside the 41st Asian Racing Conference offers a unique opportunity to honour the roots of our industry while shaping its future. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia and the Asian Racing Federation to continue driving global collaboration and progress in Thoroughbred aftercare."

IFAR 2026 will feature a lineup of international speakers who will address a wide range of topics relating to the aftercare of racehorses. Attendance at the IFAR event is complimentary for ARC delegates.

Attendees of the IFAR conference can expect a thought-provoking programme led by experts and industry leaders, exploring key themes in Thoroughbred aftercare. Through a mix of presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the annual conference fosters global collaboration and encourages practical, forward-thinking approaches to aftercare.

It's a chance for delegates to engage with fresh ideas, share experiences, and take away insights that can help strengthen aftercare practices in their own jurisdictions.

"The IFAR conference represents the global aftercare community uniting in our commitment to ensuring the welfare of retired racehorses," said Natasha Rose, chair of the IFAR Conference

Committee and the executive manager, equestrian affairs projects, at The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC). "As we gather in this vibrant and culturally rich nation, we aim to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders from various sectors, including racing organisations and equine professionals. By exchanging knowledge and experiences, we can inspire actionable change that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of retired racehorses long after their racing days are over."

Established in 2016, IFAR works to advocate for the lifetime care of retired racehorses, to increase awareness within the international racing community of this important responsibility, and to increase awareness in the sport horse world regarding the versatility of the Thoroughbred horse.

The 2026 IFAR conference will also be receiving assistance from the Japan Racing Association (JRA), which has entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement to support the activities of the organisation.

IFAR 2025 was held in Lexington, Kentucky, where the keynote speaker was four-time Olympian Boyd Martin. IFAR has also previously conducted forums in conjunction with the 40th ARC in Sapporo, Japan in August 2024; the 39th ARC in Melbourne, Australia in February 2023; the 38th ARC in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2020; the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation's General Assembly in Oslo, Norway, in May 2019; the 37th ARC in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2018; and the Pan American Conference in Washington, D.C., in May 2017. Virtual conferences were held in 2021 and 2022.

For more information about the 41st ARC visit <a href="https://www.arcriyadh2026.com">https://www.arcriyadh2026.com</a>. For more information on IFAR, visit <a href="https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com">https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com</a>.







## **WORLD RANKINGS**

With a rating of 128, Ombudsman is currently the highest rated horses in the world in the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2025. A multiple G1 winner this season, Ombudsman earned his rating in the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1).

Daryz, Field of Gold, Forever Young, and Sovereignty all share a rating of 127 and are in cosecond place.

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 13th of November.

#### LONGINES **World's Best Racehorse Rankings Leading Horses**

for 3yos and upwards which raced between 1st January 2025 - 5th October 2025

Rank	Horse	Rating Trained	
1	Ombudsman (IRE)	128	GB
2	Daryz (FR)	127	FR
2	Field of Gold (IRE)	127	GB
2	Forever Young (JPN)	127	JPN
2	Sovereignty (USA)	127	USA

#### LONGINES **World's Best Jockey**

**Leading Jockeys** \*\*\* as of 25 October 2025

Jockey	<b>Total Points</b>
James McDonald	168
Mickael Barzalona	120
Ryan L. Moore	102
William T. Buick	96
Oisin Murphy	78

James McDonald, who was crowned the 2024 Longines World's Best Jockey, has a commanding lead in the 2025 competition. He currently has 168 points, while Mickael Barzalona is in second with 120 points.

McDonald's qualifying victories thus far include the Longines Hong Kong Cup (Romantic Warrior), Longines Hong Kong Mile (Voyage Bubble), Stewards' Cup (Voyage Bubble), Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (Voyage Bubble), TAB Verry Elleegant Stakes (Via Sistina), Ranvet Stakes (Via Sistina), Queen Elizabeth Stakes (Via Sistina), Ladbrokes Doomben 10,000 (Sunshine in Paris), Eva Air Kingsford-Smith Cup (Joliestar), Winx Stakes (Via Sistina), and Ladbrokes Cox Plate (Via Sistina).