

IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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Longines World Racing Awards to be held at the Savoy in London

The 2025 Longines World Racing Awards will be held on 20 January 2026 in London, England. The event, which is organised by the Swiss watch brand Longines and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), will once again take place at the famed Savoy Hotel.

The ceremony will honour the highest-rated horse in the 2025 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.

International Jockeys Conference Held in Hong Kong

The 2025 International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) was held 11-12 December in Hong Kong.

Themed Performance Medicine in Racing – Developing and Protecting the Jockey, the two-day conference took an applied, evidence-based approach featuring presentations and panel discussions with leading experts in the field.

“This conference represents one of the most important conversations taking place within the racing industry today,” said Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). “For too long, jockey safety and wellbeing have been discussed with admiration for the resilience of the athlete rather than with the structured, systematic, and scientifically informed approach required of a modern, high-performance sport.

“This conference marks another step in changing that, and ensuring that our riders receive nothing less than the highest standards of care, the strongest protections available, and the most rigorous pursuit of knowledge that contemporary sports science and medicine can offer.”

Participants included William Audland, Michael Caulfield, Andrew Coonan, Hollie Doyle, Gavin Egan, Jeff Gomez, Danny Hague, Peta Hitchens, Suzannah Hoult, Rosy Hyman, Chris Kamper, Michaela Keener, Phil Kinsella, Kylie Legg, Karen Lo, Ciara Losty, Daloni Lucas, Dan Martin, Tarryn



Darragh O'Loughlin, Chair of the IFHA Jockey Health and Wellbeing Committee, and Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, IFHA Chair

Mason, James Murray, Siobhan O'Connor, Gillian O'Loughlin, John O'Reilly, Jennifer Pugh, Richard Pugh, Bill Riddiford, Megan Roberts, Tom Scudamore, Lisa Stevens, Matt Stewart, Paul Struthers, Giles Warrington, and Keith Yeung.

Across the two days, speakers took part in 13 sessions, including:

- Inside the Mind of the Jockey: Performance, Wellbeing, and Lessons from the Field
- Entrapment Protocols
- Fuelling the Ride: Practical Insights and Evolving Strategies in Jockey Nutrition
- Poster Presentations: Developing and Protecting the Jockey
- On the Turf: Live Outdoor Simulation of Raceday Medical Practice and Entrapment Protocols
- Minimum Riding Weights: Towards a More Individualised and Evidence-Based Approach
- From Turf to Recovery: The Concussion Journey in Horse Racing

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Jockey conference cont.

- Fit to Ride: Physical Preparation and Rehabilitation for Jockey Performance
- Concussion litigation in England: the Going and the Odds
- Advancing Safety in the Saddle: Injury Surveillance, Prevention, and Protective Innovations
- Strong in the Saddle: Managing Jockey Performance, Injury, and Wellbeing in Hong Kong Racing
- Beyond the Finish Line: Supporting Jockeys' Careers and Transitions into Retirement
- Themed Table Discussions: Cultivating Connections and Collaborations

The 2025 ICHSWJ was organised by the Jockeys Health and Wellbeing Committee of the IFHA and proudly supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC).

“Our theme this year, Performance Medicine in Racing – Developing and Protecting the Jockey, reflects how far the conversation has come,” said Darragh O’Loughlin, Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Horseracing

Regulatory Board (IHRB) and Chair of the IFHA Jockey Health and Wellbeing Committee. “No longer focused solely on injury response, we now look more broadly at what it truly means to support a jockey—before, during, and after their time in the saddle.

“This conference is built around real-world practice, scientific evidence, and shared insight. It brings together doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, lawyers, researchers, regulators, nutritionists, current and former jockeys, and racing professionals from over a dozen countries. We are not just here to talk about jockey health. We are here to build the systems, culture, and knowledge base that can sustain it.”

The conference also featured multiple opportunities for networking, fostering connections and collaborations, and sharing valuable resources.

The ICHSWJ was last held in October 2023 in conjunction with the 57th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities and other associated meetings around the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe weekend.



The 2025 International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) was held 11-12 December in Hong Kong

The ICHSWJ Conference in Photos



The 2025 ICHSWJ was organised by the Jockeys Health and Wellbeing Committee of the IFHA and proudly supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC)



Over 100 attendees took part in the two-day conference



The event took place at Happy Valley Racecourse

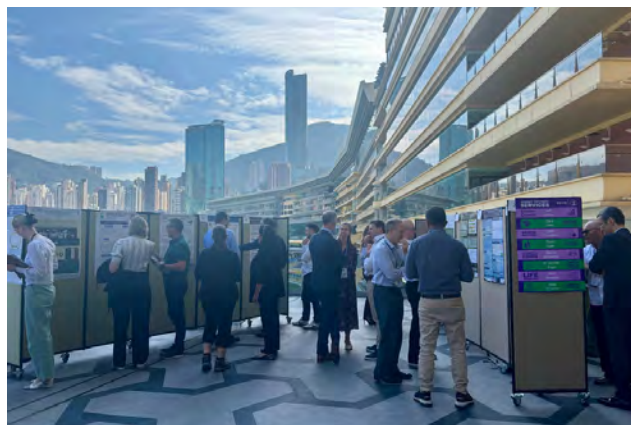
Conference photos cont.



The Chair's Address was given by Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)



Participants got to observe live simulated events



Poster presentations focused on developing and protecting jockeys



An applied, evidence-based approach featured throughout



The conference featured 13 unique sessions



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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.



James McDonald named 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey

For the second consecutive year and third time overall, James McDonald has claimed the Longines World's Best Jockey title.

The New Zealand-born, Australia-based jockey was recognised for his accomplishments during the Longines Hong Kong International Races Gala Dinner on 12 December.

After dominating the competition throughout the year, McDonald was honoured with the 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey Award. He first took the title in 2022 and was also celebrated last year.

McDonald accumulated 184 points throughout the 2025 competition. He won 12 of the world's Top 100 Group or Grade 1 races, with his qualifying victories coming in 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), Ladbrokes Cox Plate (Via Sistina), and TAB Champions Stakes (Via Sistina).

"It was remarkable, unthinkable, in terms of the year we had," said McDonald. "Voyage Bubble, Via (Sistina), and Romantic (Warrior) have accumulated all these points, and it's basically a reflection on them. The three horses who have been hugely a part of this have been special to ride. It's obviously an honour for sure, but I am

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James McDonald was honoured earlier this month as the 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey by Longines and the IFHA

World's Best Jockey cont.

more proud of the three that I am riding. They have been so special to us.”

In recognition, he was presented with an elegant Longines timepiece from Longines CEO Patrick Aoun and the iconic crystal vase by Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

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. The scoring incorporates races from December 1st of the previous year until November 30th of the current

LONGINES World's Best Jockey Leading Jockeys *** as of 30 November 2025	
Jockey	Total Points
James McDonald	184
Mickael Barzalona	132
William T. Buick	114
Ryan L. Moore	102
Oisin Murphy	78

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McDonald has won the Longines World's Best Jockey title three times

World's Best Jockey cont.

year. Jockeys accrue 12 points for a win, 6 points for placing second, and 4 points for placing third.

McDonald held a sizeable lead throughout much of the 2025 competition. An incredible 144 points of his 184 total points came from winning rides. He also earned points from four seconds and four thirds.

Finishing in second was Mickael Barzalona, who earned 132 points, while William Buick was third with 114 points.

The Longines World's Best Jockey Award was established in 2014 by Swiss watch brand Longines and the IFHA to 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. Previous winners include Hugh Bowman, Frankie Dettori, and Ryan Moore.

"Since this award was introduced, we have acclaimed the finest jockeys in the world for their skill, horsemanship, athleticism and bravery, and this year's winner epitomises all these qualities," said Engelbrecht-Bresges. "I congratulate James on his incredible season, which featured Group 1 victories on Hong Kong champions Romantic Warrior and Voyage Bubble as well as Joliestar, Sunshine in Paris and Via Sistina in Australia.

"In 2022, we honoured James for the first time. With his victories in 2024 and this year, he is now just one win away from tying both Ryan and Frankie, who have each won this coveted award four times."

The full and final standings for the 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey competition can be found at www.ifhaonline.org.



Longines CEO Patrick Aoun joined in the celebrations

BONUS CONTENT:
To watch the celebration video of James McDonald, the 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey, as well as a feature piece on his background, please visit the [IFHA's YouTube page](https://www.ifhaonline.org).

HENRY CAVILL

Elegance is an attitude
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MASTER COLLECTION

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WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 130, Calandagan is currently the highest rated horse in the world in the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2025.

A multiple Group 1 winner this season, Calandagan earned his rating in the Qipco Champion Stakes (G1) at Ascot.

Ombudsman is currently the second highest rated horse in the world. He earned his rating of 128 in the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1).

Meanwhile, Daryz, Field of Gold, Forever Young, and Sovereignty all share a rating of 127 and are in co-third place. Among their victories this season, Daryz won the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

LONGINES World's Best Racehorse Rankings Leading Horses

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

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Calandagan (IRE)	130	FR
2	Ombudsman (IRE)	128	GB
3	Daryz (FR)	127	FR
3	Field of Gold (IRE)	127	GB
3	Forever Young (JPN)	127	JPN
3	Sovereignty (USA)	127	USA



Calandagan leads the 2025 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings

(G1); Field of Gold took the St James's Palace Stakes (G1); Forever Young proved victorious in the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1); and Sovereignty claimed the DraftKings Travers Stakes (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 2025 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, which will be released on 20 January 2026.