

# IFHA QUARTERLY

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



## IN THIS ISSUE

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**VALE:  
DR ROLAND DEVOLZ  
PAGE 2**

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**IFHA CHAIR HONOURED  
WITH “THE ORDER OF  
THE RISING SUN,  
GOLD RAYS WITH  
NECK RIBBON”  
PAGE 6**

---

**GLOBAL SUMMIT ON  
EQUINE SAFETY AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
PAGE 7**

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## **ILAC and IFHA Sign Memorandum of Understanding**

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) have formalized their longstanding collaboration, recently signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

ILAC is the specialized body administering a global multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement among accreditation bodies responsible for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, including testing laboratories.

The [full MoU](#) is available on the IFHA website.

# A Tribute: Dr Roland Devolz (1940-2024)

by Howard Wright

Turn the corner at any international horse racing, breeding, or veterinary conference, seminar or gathering, and you would come across a diminutive figure at the centre of attention, his audience hanging on his every, carefully curated word.

Dr Roland Devolz, who died in April at the age of 84, was someone whose opinion everyone wanted to hear, and he was never afraid to speak it.

A statement from the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), for which he played a pivotal role for almost 30 years, noted: “Roland was a legendary veterinarian who made a remarkable contribution to our sport in France and internationally.

“He was extraordinarily passionate, dedicated and effective at addressing any challenges in relation to racing integrity, horse welfare and the international movement of horses. His devotion and passion for the Thoroughbred breed, for the sport of racing, and for other equestrian sports, informed everything he did to improve and develop international standards.”

Devolz was appointed as Technical Advisor in 1994 at the first IFHA Executive Council meeting after the establishment of the Federation. Through his deep technical knowledge, wise counsel, lifelong commitment, and passion to ensure fair competition and improving the Thoroughbred breed, Roland played a pivotal role in guiding the Federation across a wide spectrum of racing and breeding issues.



Dr Roland Devolz was respected across the globe

In recognition of his contribution, Roland was presented a gift by IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges at the IFHA General Assembly held in Paris in October 2023.

Devolz was born in Paris in 1940 and studied at the Veterinary School in Lyon, writing his doctoral thesis on the French saddle horse stud book. In 1970, he was recruited by the Societe d'Encouragement (now France Galop) and remained until his retirement in 2002.

“The practice of his profession was his everyday passion, and he always felt invested with a very important mission among all the fields of his expertise,” said Henri Pouret, the Chief Operating Officer of France Galop. “Roland had a very complete character, of great perspicacity, very demanding to obtain decisions that seemed essential to the realisation of his projects related to horse racing and concerning the Thoroughbred.

“He was very attached to the breed selection, thanks to the integrity of all his interlocutors, without ever giving in to pressure. He was also very generous and loyal in his friendship.”

*Continued on page 3*

## Dr Roland Devolz cont.

Devolz was also a long-standing member of the International Horse Sports Confederation Expert Committee, where he shared his wisdom and knowledge in collaborative work with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

“Roland was a true patriot, but at the same time a great internationalist, co-operating and communicating easily with people of different countries,” said Dr Alf-Eckbert Fuessel, former European Commission directorate-general for Health and Food Safety (DG Sante). “He was a passionate veterinarian with a profound knowledge about horses and the horse industry. Occasionally he was tough on the issue, but always honest and with respect for the opinion and the reasoning of his counterpart.

“He was dedicated to his work and with his problem-solving attitude assisted many countries and organisations to improve the Thoroughbred breed, to ensure fair competition, and to maintain the integrity of horse racing, while promoting the welfare of the horses.”

Among those who worked closely with Devolz on stud book matters was Simon Cooper, director of the General Stud Book and vice-chairman of the International Stud Book Committee (ISBC), who recalled his meticulous pursuit of accuracy.

“He was a real evangelist for the rules,” Cooper said. “We have so much to thank him for and there were no grey areas. I remember receiving an email from him following an application to the ISBC from the Slovenian Stud Book, that contained a fax in which the corrections he scribbled in the margins pulled no punches.

“I also recall an ISBC meeting where he took off his shoe and hit the table in frustration because one country could not make a decision there

and then, although it was obvious everyone was in agreement.”

His deep-seated belief in fair play was observed by all who knew him, including Dr Terry Wan, chief advisor, doping control, Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), and chairman of the IFHA’s Advisory Council on Equine Prohibited Substances and Practices.

“Roland was passionate about the integrity and welfare of racehorses,” said Wan. “A true legend, he was genuine, wise, always willing to share his insight, and resolute in what he believed was right.

“With his deep knowledge and appreciation for equine welfare, he had made substantial contributions to the work of the IFHA, particularly in the Advisory Council and in the

*Continued on page 4*



**Dr Roland Devolz was admired for his intelligence and his passion**



## Dr Roland Devolz cont.

international harmonisation of rules concerning the biological integrity and welfare of horses. He will be greatly missed.”

There are a multitude of examples which highlight that Devolz’s reach extended far beyond his native France. Dr Craig Suann, IFHA senior technical advisor and former chief veterinary officer of Racing New South Wales, reflected upon the great man.

“My first impressions of Roland’s sharp intellect, eloquence and passion for racing could not be ignored,” he said. “I observed him make an extraordinary contribution to international horse racing through his involvement in a number of IFHA committees and advisory groups, displaying vision, persistence and a genuine commitment to improving the welfare of horses, the integrity of the sport and the integrity of the Thoroughbred breed.

“Roland was a larger-than-life and legendary character who had an enormous influence on the international racing regulatory veterinary profession, and a great inspiration to all those

who knew him.”

Last word must go to IFHA Chair Emeritus Louis Romanet, whose father, Jean, recruited Devolz for the Societe d’Encouragement and who worked with him when he occupied senior positions with that organisation, its successor, France Galop, and finally the IFHA.

“My father understood that for the racing and breeding industries to grow internationally, they needed to streamline the movement of horses worldwide, with skilled veterinarians in key positions to facilitate that movement,” said Romanet. “Roland was the embodiment of that vision. One key result of his work was the development and use of equine passport books to facilitate moving horses around the world. He also felt very passionately about the need for racing to take place in a clean and safe manner, without the use of prohibited substances, and promoted that message around the world.

“He was relentless and would never give up unless he was certain a positive outcome or action would result from his and others’ efforts, and he was willing to go anywhere and at any time to fulfill these missions. He was completely dedicated to the racing and breeding industries, devoting his entire life’s work to the sport.”



Inaugural meeting of the International Stud Book Conference held on 21 October 1976. Dr Devolz is second from the right, top row



IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges with Dr Roland Devolz in October 2023



# JAPAN AUTUMN INTERNATIONAL 2024

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY OF EUR 12.5 Million



2023 JAPAN CUP  
[The 2023 Longines World's Best Horse Race]  
Winner : **EQUINOX**



## Japan Cup (G1)

BONUS UP TO  
\$3,000,000 USD

24th Nov 2024 Tokyo 2,400m Turf 3yo & up  
Total Value: JPY 1,085,000,000 / EUR 6,781,000  
NOMINATION: FREE OF CHARGE Close: 8th Oct 2024

## Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1)

10th Nov 2024 Kyoto 2,200m Turf 3yo & up Fillies & Mares  
Total Value: JPY 281,800,000 / EUR 1,761,000  
NOMINATION: FREE OF CHARGE Close: 24th Sep 2024

## Mile Championship (G1)

17th Nov 2024 Kyoto 1,600m Turf 3yo & up  
Total Value: JPY 388,800,000 / EUR 2,430,000  
NOMINATION: FREE OF CHARGE Close: 24th Sep 2024

## Champions Cup (G1)

1st Dec 2024 Chukyo 1,800m Dirt 3yo & up  
Total Value: JPY 259,200,000 / EUR 1,620,000  
NOMINATION: FREE OF CHARGE Close: 8th Oct 2024

Exchange rate : EUR1.00=JPY160 (As of April 2024)



Japan Racing Association  
<https://japanracing.jp>



HorseRacingInJapan  
@HorseRacing\_JPN

YouTube  
JRA CHANNEL





## IFHA Chair Bestowed with “The Order of The Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon” at Conferment Ceremony

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon” was bestowed upon IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges by the Government of Japan at a Conferment Ceremony hosted by Ambassador Okada Kenichi, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong on 2 July 2024.

Engelbrecht-Bresges is the second-ever non-Japanese racing figure to be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, following Louis Romanet, IFHA Chair Emeritus, who received the same award in 2010.

The Conferment published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on 29 April 2024 highlighted that the decoration is in recognition of his contribution to promoting the international development of Japanese horse racing and Thoroughbred breeding.

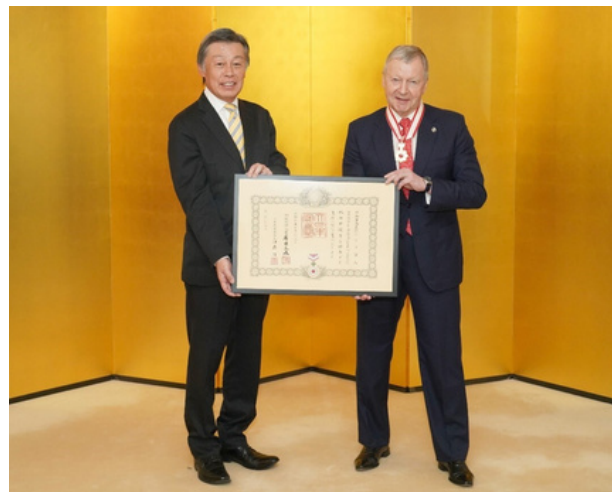
Delivering remarks upon receiving the honour,

Engelbrecht-Bresges said: “I am deeply humbled and grateful to receive this honour as a recognition of my contributions to the Japanese Racing and Breeding industry. The strength and continued development of the Japanese industry has been extremely rewarding not only for Japan, but also for the global equine sport and breeding industry.”

He also paid special tribute to IFHA members, The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), and the Japan Racing Association (JRA).

“I would like to reiterate how much everyone at The Hong Kong Jockey Club appreciates the strong partnership we have developed with the Japan Racing Association over many years,” said Engelbrecht-Bresges. “Our shared commitment to world-class racing, protecting the welfare of the equine and human athlete, and growing racing’s global social and economic significance has contributed extensively to the objectives of the IFHA.

“I sincerely hope that through our partnership, Hong Kong and Japan, along with other IFHA members, can continue to advance racing and contribute to the betterment of the industry globally.”



Ambassador Okada Kenichi, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong, presenting “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon” and the Diploma of Decoration to IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges

## Global Summit on Equine Safety and Technology Highlights Recent Research

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Global Summit on Equine Safety and Technology took place from 12-14 June in Toronto, Canada, at Woodbine Racetrack. The Summit was attended by approximately 90 world-leading research scientists, clinicians, veterinarians and racing regulators from at least 13 countries.

“The Summit has been a major achievement for the Federation and our ongoing commitment to improving equine safety and welfare,” said IFHA Executive Council Member Jim Lawson, who delivered the Summit’s closing remarks.

“Scientific research and technology are cornerstones of the IFHA’s efforts to protect our equine athletes, and this Summit has provided the industry the opportunity to discuss and build upon the significant body of research that has been carried out around the world.”

Leading scientists, veterinarians and regulators participated in dedicated workshops throughout the three-day event to investigate critical issues relating to, and recent technological advances in, fracture prevention and exercise associated sudden death (EASD).

This is an important first step in enabling us to go even further in detecting horses that are at risk of injury,” said Dr Christopher Riggs, Director of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Equine Welfare Research Foundation, who chaired the Summit’s fracture prevention workstream. “We are appreciative of the IFHA’s support in

encouraging collaboration between scientists, scholars, veterinarians and administrators in the global racing industry.”

Dr Celia Marr, Associate Veterinary Specialist at Rossgales Equine Hospital and Diagnostic Centre and Chair of the Summit’s EASD workstream, was similarly cognizant of the event’s significance. “The Summit has generated and refreshed collaborative efforts to address the most critical horse welfare issues,” said Marr. “We are energised by the innovative research that has been presented, and optimistic of its potential to positively impact equine welfare going forward.”

The outcomes from the Summit will be analysed by the IFHA Executive Council, with a view toward developing recommendations for the IFHA membership on addressing the risk of fractures and EASD in the future.

The IFHA is grateful for the support of Cornell University’s Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Equine Welfare Research Foundation, and Woodbine Entertainment Group, for the successful staging of the Summit.



The Global Summit on Equine Safety and Technology was held this June

*Elegance is an attitude*



**LONGINES**  
Winged Hourglass Logo



CONQUEST



# LONGINES



# WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 128, Laurel River currently leads the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2024. He earned his rating following his easy victory in the Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1). City of Troy and Rebel's Romance are the co-second highest rated horses in the world with a rating of 123. City of Troy earned his rating in the Betfred Derby (G1), while Rebel's Romance took the Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1).

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 8th of August.

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

for 3yos and upwards which raced between  
1st January 2024 - 7th July 2024

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Laurel River (USA)	128	UAE
2	City of Troy (USA)	123	IRE
2	Rebel's Romance (IRE)	123	UAE
4	Auguste Rodin (IRE)	122	IRE
4	Rosallion (IRE)	122	GB

### LONGINES World's Best Jockey Leading Jockeys \*\*\* as of 13th July 2024

Jockey	Total Points
James McDonald	116
Ryan L. Moore	90
William T. Buick	62
Craig A. Williams	46
Yuga Kawada	38

James McDonald has dominated the first half of the 2024 Longines World's Best Jockey competition. He currently has 116 points, while Ryan Moore sits in second with 90 points.

McDonald's qualifying victories thus far include the Longines Hong Kong Mile (Romantic Warrior), Stewards' Cup (Voyage Bubble), Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (Romantic Warrior), Ranvet Stakes (Via Sistina), FWD Queen Elizabeth II Cup (Romantic Warrior), and Yasuda Kinen (Romantic Warrior).