

# IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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## IFHA Climate Change and Sustainability Summit

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) is pleased to announce that registration is open for the Climate Change and Sustainability Summit, set to take place 13-14 July 2026 in Porto, Portugal.

This event will bring together global racing leaders and sustainability experts to share good practices, exchange insights, and foster collaboration aimed at advancing the climate change and sustainability agenda across our sport and beyond.

Each IFHA member can nominate up to two representatives to attend and each representative is required to complete registration using the [link here](#). For any inquiries, please contact us at [intfed@hotmail.fr](mailto:intfed@hotmail.fr).

# IFHA Council on Anti-Illegal Betting & Related Crime Expands Membership

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) announced that its Council on Anti-Illegal Betting & Related Crime (IFHA Council) has expanded its membership to include three additional experts to support integrity in racing and other sports:

J Curtis Linnell is the Executive Vice President, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, based in Maryland, USA. He has significant experience in racing bet monitoring for integrity purposes from a North American perspective and has held senior operations management positions responsible for racing offices, pari-mutuel departments, simulcasting, off-track betting, and advance deposit wagering.

Louis Weston is a Barrister, Recorder (part time civil and criminal judge) and arbitrator qualified in England and Wales who has practised internationally. He has international experience as a leading legal counsel focused on integrity in racing as well as legal and governance activity in other sports.

Vincent Ven is a Swiss/Hong Kong sports lawyer with more than a decade of experience in integrity, governance, and regulatory matters

within international football. He has strong experience in integrity management in football, both for UEFA and previously for FIFA, and an extensive network of integrity professionals across sports globally.

“The three new members expand further the intellectual capacity of the Council,” said Martin Purbrick, Chair of the IFHA Council.

“Curtis has been with the TRPB since the inception of its Wagering Integrity Unit in 2003, and has been instrumental to rolling out the Bureau’s Wagering Analysis and Security Platform, which provides unparalleled transparency on almost all the racetrack networks in the USA and Canada.

“Louis has specialised in sports law for over 15 years, with a particular focus on corruption and match manipulation. He has acted for the governing bodies of racing in Britain, Ireland and Saudi Arabi in fixing, doping and welfare cases.

“Across football’s governing institutions, Vincent has developed expertise in match-fixing prevention, integrity policy, and investigative frameworks. As UEFA’s Head of Anti-Match-Fixing he has designed and overseen the organisation’s strategic response to one of football’s most significant integrity risks.

“All three are global leaders in racing and sports integrity and will contribute significantly to the evolving work of the IFHA Council to protect racing and other sports from illegal betting.”

## Greg Carpenter on Ka Ying Rising and the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings

Greg Carpenter is the co-chairman of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee as well as the Head of Racing Product at the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC).

Carpenter recently explained how the monthly interim ratings differ from the end-of-year Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings. He also discussed Ka Ying Rising's rise to the top and the historical context of a sprinter being rated 130.

**Q: What is the difference between the interim monthly ratings and the final year-end Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings?**



Greg Carpenter is the co-chairman of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee

A: The interim ratings come out every month on the second Thursday of every month. All of the handicappers don't come together at this time. I have the privilege of being co-chair of the committee with Dominic Gardiner-Hill, who is the head of handicapping at the British Horseracing Authority (BHA). We collate the ratings that all the handicappers have put into the system for that previous month.

We have a look at the majority view, we discuss that view, and we send it out for discussion. Then we publish what we believe are the correct marks at the time.

What happens in December is that the committee comes together for a week of intense review, intense discussion, and intense advocacy for the horses.

That is when we go through in fine detail and finally arrive at the number that is published in January. It also determines the Longines World's Best Racehorse of that year. From there, it also determines the Top 100 Group/Grade 1 races.

Last year it was Calandagan on 130 ahead of Forever Young, Ka Ying Rising, Masquerade Ball and Ombudsman, who all richly deserved their 128.

**Q: In April, Ka Ying Rising achieved a rating of 130. Why is that notable?**

A: It is a very high benchmark for a horse to make this early in the calendar year. If you think all of the horses racing in the world, the number that make it to 115, then 120...130 is a watershed mark that really reflects championship qualities, and he deserves it.

*Continued on page 4*

## Greg Carpenter, cont.

It's not a ceiling, but he has to take on the world's best, and he has to beat them by dominant margins. He is already doing that, and I think that you will see that he will continue to grow and get the acknowledgment and ratings that he deserves.

**Q: Can you discuss how Ka Ying Rising has progressed through the rankings during his career?**

A: He commenced his dominance of sprint racing in 2024, and at the end of that year was 121. He continued unabated through 2025, eight starts and won them all. He went to Australia and beat the best of Australian sprinters in the Everest (G1). At the end of 2025, he was 128. Four runs into 2026, he's 130.

That came in the month of April. So, what happened between March and April that got him from 128 to 130?

I think if we were talking about human athletic excellence, you would look at times. It's not quite as evidentially relevant in horse racing, but there is no doubt that he is running faster and faster. He broke the track record in the Sprint Cup (G2) on April 6th, and then he broke the track record again on April 26th in the Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1).

Who did he beat? He beat the best of Hong Kong sprinters and he beat Satono Reve, who had reestablished himself as the dominant sprinter in Japan the start before. Ka Ying Rising beat him and beat him easily.

He's running faster; he's taking on the best

*Continued on page 5*



Photo HKJC

**Ka Ying Rising currently leads the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings on a mark of 130**

## Greg Carpenter, cont.

sprinters the world can put before him; and the other thing that has been important in his move from 128 to 130 is that the margins he is winning by have increased as well.

He could have always won by six lengths, but at least (jockey) Zac Purton didn't throttle him down to the extent that the opposition were aggressively eating into the margin.

He's won in quicker times, he's won in bigger margins, and it has been able to get him to 130.

### **Q: What is the historical context of a sprinter being rated at 130?**

A: It's been back to 2013 since Black Caviar was 130 and Lord Kanaloa was 128. So Ka Ying Rising, no doubt, is a generational sprinter. He is the best of his generation, he is the best of our time, and it will be interesting to see what he can achieve in the rest of the year.

Since the World's Best Racehorse Rankings became truly international in 2005, Black Caviar is the only sprinter who has been rated 130 or higher (she reached 132 in 2011). Lord Kanaloa, for the male sprinters, was 128.

For me, and I think this is very important to stress, racing fans around the world will see Ka Ying Rising at 130 and still don't believe he is getting the value that he deserves. I want to make the point that getting him to 130 does not represent a ceiling. It doesn't represent the end of the journey.

A lot of people felt he had to prove himself to be rated more highly than Lord Kanaloa, and he's now achieved that. But I see that the

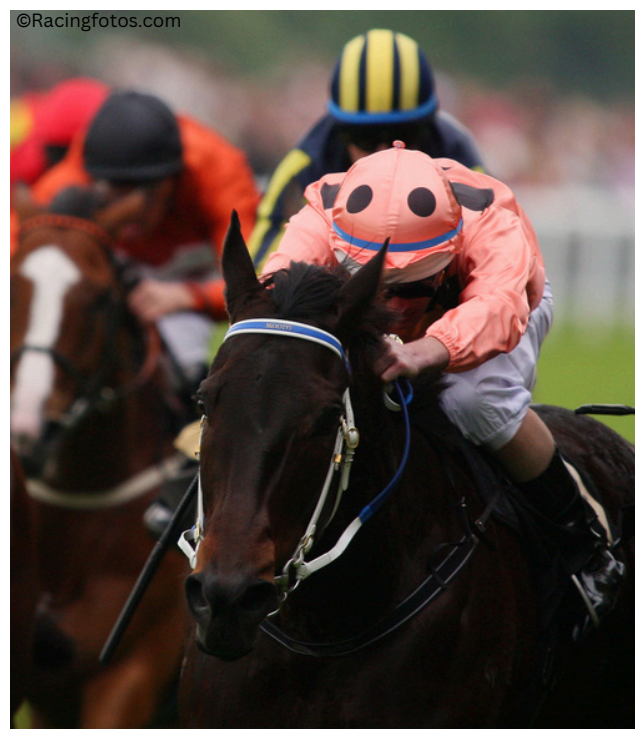
circumstances can come together through 2026, and then 2027, that he can go beyond 130 and challenge Black Caviar as the highest rated sprinter of all time.

He is already the highest rated male (sprinter) and the highest rated horse Hong Kong has ever produced.

### **Q: What do you think the rest of 2026 holds?**

A: To be rated at 130, in itself, is a remarkable achievement. Very few horses have gone beyond that. There's never more than one or two a year.

There's a lot to play out. Ka Ying Rising has put the mark in the ground, and I hope he goes higher, but there are a lot of emerging stars in world racing. I think we are in for a vintage year in 2026, and we will see all of that unfold before our eyes over the next six months.



Black Caviar was the co-2013 Longines World's Best Racehorse

*It's the Journey*



# JAPAN CUP

2025 WINNER CALANDAGAN

It's waiting. The roar. The passion. The unparalleled frenzy. The JAPAN CUP is waiting.

29TH NOV 2026



# Cheval Grand Finds New Path in Third Career

In 2017, Cheval Grand played a notable role in deciding the Longines World's Best Jockey Award. That season, the competition came down to the Japan Cup in association with Longines (G1), the final Top 100 G1 race which helped determine the winner that season.

Cheval Grand carried Hugh Bowman to victory in the Japan Cup, and in doing so, Bowman became the first Australian to win the title of Longines World's Best Jockey. The award 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.

In total, Bowman won 10 of the world's Top 100 Group or Grade 1 races in 2017, with six of them coming aboard the legendary Winx, but it was his win aboard Cheval Grand that clinched the Longines World's Best Jockey title.

Cheval Grand would continue racing through 2019, but the Japan Cup remained his crowning glory. During his racing career, he was owned by Kazuhiro Sasaki, a former closer for the Seattle



Mariners. By the time he retired, the chestnut had finished first, second, or third in 21 of his 33 career starts. Cheval Grand retired with earnings of ¥1,000,697,000 (about \$10.1 million).

Beginning in 2020, Cheval Grand stood as a stallion at the Breeders Stallion Station in Japan. He was retired from stud duties in 2025, and he was sent to Northern Horse Park in Hokkaido, where he began a third career as a riding horse. Other famous horses retired to the Northern Horse Park include Hong Kong's multiple champion Golden Sixty as well as Wind in Her Hair, the dam of Deep Impact.

In April, Cheval Grand made his debut in show jumping at the "Thoroughbred Horse Show 2026 – The Second Career." This event drew particular attention as it was strongly supported by Cygames, with related Uma Musume Pretty Derby content featured on-site. As Cheval Grand is also represented as a character in Uma Musume, he attracted not only racing fans but also a broader fan base.

# Hong Kong Meeting Advances Landmark Equine Health Center Proposal

A major step forward for the safe international movement of competition horses in the Asia-Pacific region was announced in Hong Kong in April, with a plan to establish the first World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Collaborating Centre for Equine Health and Movement.

The proposal was unveiled during a high-level regional workshop on public-private partnerships for equine health and horse movement, bringing together around 80 representatives from veterinary authorities, equestrian federations, and racing bodies from 17 countries and regions.

Initiated by WOA and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), with support from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government (AFCD), the workshop which was hosted by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), focused on strengthening public-private cooperation to improve the safety, efficiency, and coordination of cross-border horse movement.

Principal Veterinary Officer of the AFCD, Dr. Michelle Yeung, said Hong Kong's long-standing role in international horse movement had positioned the city to take a leading role in equine health cooperation. She described it as a vision to establish a WOA Collaborating Centre for Equine Health and Movement, contributing Hong Kong's expertise in harmonised health certification, equine disease testing, and

research.

The WOA-IHSC collaboration has resulted in the development of tailored practical and science-based tools such as The High Health, High Performance (HHP) Framework, and the Equine Disease-Free Zones (EDFZs), which have been implemented in many places," said Dr Hirofumi Kugita, former WOA Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, in his opening remarks.

Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, Vice-President of the IHSC, Chair of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), and Chief Executive Officer of the HKJC, highlighted the AFCD's "regulatory expertise and world-class oversight", which he said had helped establish Hong Kong as "a global leader in biosecurity". He added that collaboration between WOA, the AFCD, and the HKJC would play an important role in supporting the development of the equine industry in Mainland China.

Describing the broader mission behind the initiative Engelbrecht-Bresges said, "This is more than a logistical goal; it is a commitment to ensuring that international competition remains the pinnacle of our sport, underpinned by the highest standards of equine health."

Discussions throughout the workshop focused on strengthening regional cooperation to support the safe international movement of horses, with participants examining priorities including harmonised health certification, horse traceability, laboratory capacity, equine disease surveillance, and preparations for upcoming major equestrian events.

Representatives from 12 countries and regions

*Continued on page 9*

## Health Center, cont.

also shared updates on recent developments in horse movement and equine disease management across their regions.

Participants reviewed progress achieved through key public-private partnership initiatives, including the HHP Framework and EDFZs, while discussions also identified future priorities for further harmonising international horse movement systems.

A key highlight of the workshop was an update from FEI Director of Veterinary & Equine Welfare Dr Göran Åkerström on the FEI Equipass system, an innovative digital solution designed to improve horse identification, traceability, and the efficiency of international horse movement.

“This workshop offers a vital platform to share knowledge and experience in equine disease risk management, particularly in the safe movement of sport horses across borders,” said Mr Mickey Lai,

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation of the HKSAR Government. “We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the equine industry in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and across the Mainland China.”

Dr Jack Huang, FEI Vice President, underscored the importance of continuity in regional collaboration, building on progress achieved through earlier engagements across the region. “Today, we consolidate progress, review outcomes and chart next steps amid evolving challenges.”

The workshop concluded with focused group discussions to refine a regional roadmap for future cooperation, with participants reaffirming their shared priorities and next steps.

The next regional meeting will be held in Thailand in 2027, hosted by the Thailand Equestrian Federation.



HENRY CAVILL



*Elegance is an attitude*  
**LONGINES**  




HYDROCONQUEST

# LONGINES

# WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 130, Ka Ying Rising currently leads the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2026. He began the year with victories in the Centenary Sprint Cup (G1), Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup (G1), and Sprint Cup (G2). Ka Ying Rising then broke his own track record again in the Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1) to push his winning tally to 20 consecutive races.

Bow Echo, Daryz, and Romantic Warrior currently share the second position on a rating of 126.

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 9th of July.

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

for 3yos and upwards which raced between  
1st January 2026 - 7th June 2026

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Ka Ying Rising (NZ)	130	HK
2	Bow Echo (IRE)	126	GB
2	Daryz (FR)	126	FR
2	Romantic Warrior (IRE)	126	HK
5	Notable Speech (GB)	125	GB
5	Nysos (USA)	125	USA
5	Ombudsman (IRE)	125	GB

**LONGINES**  
**World's Best Jockey**  
**Leading Jockeys**  
**\*\*\* as of 20 June 2026**

Jockey	Total Points
James McDonald	112
Zac Purton	70
Ryan L. Moore	66
William T. Buick	60
Ryusei Sakai	50
Craig A. Williams	50

James McDonald, who was crowned the 2024 and 2025 Longines World's Best Jockey, already has a generous lead in the 2026 competition. He currently has 112 points, while Zac Purton is in second with 70 points.

McDonald's qualifying victories thus far include the Longines Hong Kong Cup (Romantic Warrior), Stewards' Cup (Romantic Warrior), TAB Verry Elleegant Stakes (Autumn Glow), Agency George Ryder Stakes (Autumn Glow), Kia Tancred Stakes (Aeliana), Asahi Super Dry T. J. Smith Stakes (Joliestar), FWD Queen Elizabeth II Cup (Romantic Warrior), and Standard Chartered Champions & Chater Cup (Romantic Warrior).