

IFHA QUARTERLY

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



IN THIS ISSUE

**THE 60TH IFHA
CONFERENCE
PAGE 2**

**THE 60TH IFHA
CONFERENCE IN
PHOTOS
PAGE 5**

**IFHA'S INAUGURAL
CLIMATE CHANGE &
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT
PAGE 9**

**GLOBAL ACI AND IFHA
SIGN MOU
PAGE 11**

Replay and Presentations Available from the IFHA Conference

The PowerPoint presentations and video replay from the 60th 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 5 October in Paris, France at Le Méridien Paris Arc de Triomphe.

This year's milestone Conference reflected on the major achievements of the IFHA across six decades before focusing on the future of racing worldwide.

60th IFHA Conference Looked Toward Racing's Future While Reflecting on Past

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) held the 60th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities (ICHA) in Paris, France at Le Méridien Paris Arc de Triomphe on 5 October.

Throughout the course of the day, over 150 delegates from about 40 countries heard from leaders from around the globe on the sport's most pressing issues.

This year's milestone Conference reflected on the major achievements of the IFHA across six decades before focusing on the future of racing worldwide.

The Conference's keynote address by Princess Zahra Aga Khan, whose Daryz was a repeat winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) the day before, received a standing ovation.

"That horse [Daryz] represents what we do as breeders," she said. "We are trying preserve the genetic diversity of the families. A horse like Calandagan is probably not something everyone wants to breed at this point in time. It is not necessarily fashionable, but it is necessary."

She went on to discuss ways to improve the sport, including making it easier for new fans to understand and promoting the amount of care and work that goes into getting horses to the races.



Princess Zahra Aga Khan delivered the keynote address

"It's important for the people in this room to solve the misconceptions in racing," she said. "Everyone sees the racing part of things, but they don't see the industry, the number of people employed, and every link in the chain."

"From the covering shed to Longchamp yesterday, that represented literally hundreds of people who had influenced that horse's life. That is something we need to carry in our hearts, always: the people who are not seen, the people who are not on the racecourse, the people who work behind the scenes."

Andrew Harding, Executive Director of the IFHA, then presented on the origins and evolution of the IFHA over the past 60 years.

Among other topics, he highlighted how racing led human sports on anti-doping including the IFHA's work to confront gene doping, the development of the International Agreement to shape a harmonised regulatory approach, and the IFHA's focus on using science and

Continued on page 3

IFHA Conference cont.

technology to improve equine welfare globally.

“Self-evidently, the challenges and opportunities facing our sport are not static,” said Harding.

“They are constantly evolving. So too has the range of the IFHA’s efforts. The ICHA, then the IFHA, created the international architecture that has allowed racing to function as a global sport rather than a collection of separate national sports.”

Following Harding’s presentation, Murray Acklin, former Chair, Asian Racing Federation provided pre-recorded video remarks ahead of a panel discussion which traced major developments throughout the IFHA’s history and the organisation’s impact on racing domestically and internationally.

Harding was joined on the panel by Jim Gagliano, President and COO, The Jockey Club (US) and IFHA Vice-Chair; Brian Kavanagh, CEO, The Curragh and former IFHA Vice-Chair; Simon Cooper, former Vice-Chair, International Stud Book Committee; and Frances Nelson, former Chair, Racing Australia.

IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges then led the second session of the Conference with an address exploring the IFHA’s transition to become a more active global leadership organisation, as well as the major challenges currently facing the sport. Topics he covered included widening the sport’s fanbase, the sustainability of the Thoroughbred, and tackling threats to racing’s funding structure.

“In this time of great social, political and economic uncertainties, and significant challenges to our sport’s relevance and sustainability, it is more important than ever that we unite as an international racing

community,” said Engelbrecht-Bresges. “The future of horse racing can only be secured by working together to address the key challenges that we face, and the IFHA is at the heart of that coordinated, collective action that we must pursue.”

Engelbrecht-Bresges then took part in a panel discussion focused on leading racing toward a strong and sustainable future.

The other panelists were Masayuki Goto, Executive Advisor, Japan Racing Association and IFHA Vice-Chair; Guillaume de Saint-Seine, President, France Galop; Everett Dobson, Chair, The Jockey Club (US); Suzanne Eade, CEO, Horse Racing Ireland; Felicity Barnard, CEO, Ascot; Teddy Grimthorpe, Chair, International Thoroughbred Breeders’ Federation; and Vee Moodley, CEO, National Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa.

To close the Conference, Engelbrecht-Bresges honoured the late Louis Romanet, Chairman Emeritus of the IFHA, who passed away in March.

“Ultimately, the Federation exists because racing authorities recognise that, although our jurisdictions may be different, the future of the sport is a shared responsibility,” said Engelbrecht-Bresges. “That principle was at the heart of Louis Romanet’s work. Louis will be missed dearly, but his legacy will endure throughout the global racing community that he worked so tirelessly to unite.”

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.

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



The 60th IFHA Conference in Photos



The Conference's keynote address by Princess Zahra Aga Khan was warmly received



Session 1: Major Developments Throughout the IFHA's History and the Organisation's Impact on Racing Domestically and Internationally

Conference photos cont.



Frances Nelson, former Chair, Racing Australia



Jim Gagliano, President and COO, The Jockey Club (US)



Andrew Harding, Executive Director of the IFHA, led the first session



Simon Cooper, former Vice-Chair, International Stud Book Committee



Brian Kavanagh, CEO, The Curragh and former IFHA Vice-Chair

Conference photos cont.



IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges led the second session



Felicity Barnard, CEO, Ascot



Everett Dobson, Chair, The Jockey Club (US)

Conference photos cont.



Masayuki Goto, Executive Advisor, Japan Racing Association and IFHA Vice-Chair



Guillaume de Saint-Seine, President, France Galop and
Teddy Grimthorpe, Chair, International Thoroughbred Breeders' Federation



Vee Moodley, CEO, National Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa



Suzanne Eade, CEO, Horse Racing Ireland



Session 2: Leading Racing Toward a Strong and Sustainable Future

IFHA Holds Inaugural Climate Change and Sustainability Summit

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) held its inaugural Climate Change and Sustainability Summit 13-14 July in Porto, Portugal. The event brought together approximately 50 international delegates comprising global racing leaders and sustainability experts.

The summit focused on sharing good practices, exchanging insights, and fostering collaboration aimed at advancing the climate change and sustainability agenda across horse racing and beyond. Henri Pouret, a Vice-Chairman of the IFHA, provided opening remarks for the two-day gathering.

“Today marks an important milestone, not only for the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, but for the sport of Thoroughbred racing as a whole,” said Pouret. “This is the first time that the global racing community has come together in a dedicated forum to focus exclusively on climate change and sustainability. And that, in itself, tells a powerful story: that the challenges we face are real, they are urgent, and they demand collective action.

“Sustainability is not a one-off initiative or a single project but, rather, a long-term commitment that requires leadership, innovation, investment and, above all, collaboration. It will inevitably involve difficult decisions and trade-offs, but it will also unlock new opportunities for efficiency, resilience, and growth.”

Following Pouret’s opening remarks, a leadership panel explored the challenges and

opportunities racing faces including in relation to its social licence to operate, welfare expectations, and the power of stronger partnerships.

Participants included Brant Dunshea, the Chief Executive Officer of the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) who is also an Executive Council Member of the IFHA and Vice-Chair of the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF); James Gomme, Senior Director, Education at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); and Filippo Veglio, Chief of Social & Environmental Sustainability of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Four dedicated sessions then took place throughout the first day. The first session, titled Prevalence and Impact of Extreme Weather Events, provided an overview of climate change and extreme weather events on racing and other sports as well as the responses to mitigate the impacts on the hosting of global sporting events including the Olympics and Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Equestrian events and racing operations. Speakers included Katie Carr, Head of Environmental Sustainability for the BHA, and James Mizzi, Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Regulation, Welfare and Biosecurity Policy for The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC).

The second session, Horse Welfare and Sustainability, highlighted the importance of the management of land to support the raising of healthy foals and the practical solutions available to support stud farms to integrate environmental sustainability into their operations. Additionally, the session explored

Continued on page 10

Climate Change cont.

the impacts of climate change on the potential spread of infectious diseases into different regions and the need for racing to support enhanced surveillance and the development of vaccines. The session also looked at the link between ground conditions and injury prevalence in horses, and how more severe climatic conditions will present increased challenges to prepare safe racing surfaces.

Speakers included Alan Creighton, Head of Environment & Nutrition at the Irish Equine Centre (IEC) and a member of the Farm Efficiency & Sustainability Committee of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association; Richard Newton, the Director of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance, Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance, University of Cambridge; and Chris Riggs, Director, Equine Welfare Research Foundation and Chief Advisor, Mainland Veterinary Engagement, HKJC.

The Sustainable Sporting Venue: Energy, Land, Water and Biodiversity was the focus of the third session. It looked at major racing and sporting venues around the world including Belmont Park and Ascot Racecourse and how they have incorporated environmental sustainability initiatives within their infrastructure and operations. The session also highlighted the opportunity for racing to contribute to biological diversity within racecourse and other land holdings. Speakers included Will Aitkenhead, Head of Corporate & Industry Affairs for Ascot Racecourse; Russell Galt, Head of Science & Natural Capital at Nature Broking; Glen Kozak Executive Vice President of Operations & Capital Projects for the New York Racing Association (NYRA); and Sarah Wynn, Managing Director for ADAS Climate Change and Sustainability.

The final session, Engaging Stakeholders, Fans and the Public in Racing's Sustainability

Journey, examined the importance of communication and behavioural change. Key topics included communicating sustainability authentically amidst heightened societal expectations and the power of social media. Speakers included Jeanne Ng, Executive Manager, Club-wide Sustainability for the HKJC, and Victor Quinlan, Head of Capital Projects and Environmental Sustainability for Horse Racing Ireland (HRI).

The second day of the summit featured an Industry Collaboration Workshop, moderated by World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), which combined strategic simulation, facilitated discussion, and collaborative exercises designed to move participants from awareness toward shared understanding and practical action.

Closing remarks were then provided by Brant Dunshea, who also spoke during the opening leadership panel.

"The conversations over the past two days have shown that while racing jurisdictions face different environmental challenges, we share a common ambition: to safeguard the long-term future of our sport," said Dunshea. "None of us has all the answers, but every one of us has something to contribute. If every organisation leaves Porto committed to taking practical action and sharing what it learns with others, this Summit will have achieved something truly valuable.

"Climate change does not recognise borders, and neither should the solutions. By continuing to collaborate internationally, we can strengthen the resilience of racing worldwide and ensure our sport continues to thrive for generations to come. This Summit should not be remembered as the end of a conversation, but as the beginning of a lasting international collaboration."

Global ACI and IFHA Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Global Accreditation Cooperation (Global ACI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) have formalised their continuing collaboration, recently signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Global ACI is the successor to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The organisation began operations on 1 January 2026, becoming the sole international authority on the accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, validation/verification bodies, reference material producers and biobanks.

Global ACI has assumed all former activities of IAF and ILAC, including the maintenance of a global Multilateral Recognition Arrangement among accreditation bodies responsible for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, including testing laboratories. Further information on Global ACI is available at: global-aci.org.

The IFHA is the global leader for the international sport of Thoroughbred racing. It seeks to promote all facets of the sport; protect the welfare of the equine and human athletes; and protect and grow its global social and economic significance for current and future generations.

Major areas of the IFHA's activities include making and amending the International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering, policy development relating to welfare and safety of horses and riders, international race planning and grading, world rankings, the fight against equine prohibited substances and practices, harmonisation of racing rules,

certification of IFHA reference laboratories, and fostering commercial development of the racing industry globally. The IFHA is also a foundation member with Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) of the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) and is affiliated to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

For more than 30 years, the use of ILAC G-7 document Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories has helped achieve greater consistency across horse racing laboratories, particularly in the area of anti-doping efforts. This document has been updated and reissued as Global ACI TECH-1-001(G), Accreditation Requirements and Operating Criteria for Horseracing Laboratories v1.0, and is available for downloading [here](#).

Both organisations look forward to continuing their collaboration for the ongoing maintenance of Global ACI TECH-1-001(G) as an independent, third-party guidance document for horse racing laboratories. It is further envisaged that under the MoU the collaboration be extended to:

- Related activities such as education regarding accreditation of horse racing laboratories and sharing of experience among assessors involved in the assessment of horse racing laboratories, when applicable;
- The facilitation of interlaboratory comparisons/Proficiency Testing programs;
- Encouraging the development of reference materials for drugs; and
- Continual updates for the accreditation community regarding changes to the allowed limits/thresholds of prohibited substances as defined by the IFHA.

You can view and download the MoU [here](#).

HENRY CAVILL



Elegance is an attitude
LONGINES




THE LONGINES
MASTER COLLECTION

LONGINES



WORLD RANKINGS

With a rating of 135, Ka Ying Rising currently leads the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2026. This year, he has won the Centenary Sprint Cup (G1), Queen's Silver Jubilee Cup (G1), Sprint Cup (G2), Chairman's Sprint Prize (G1), and HKSAR Chief Executive's Cup (G3) to push his winning tally to 21 consecutive races. His rating of 135 is the highest rating a sprinter has received under the current system. The previous record was held by Black Caviar, who achieved a rating of 132 in 2011.

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday, the 12th of November.

LONGINES World's Best Racehorse Rankings Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2026 - 4th October 2026

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Ka Ying Rising (NZ)	135	HK
2	Ombudsman (IRE)	131	GB
3	Daryz (FR)	128	FR
4	Bow Echo (IRE)	127	GB
5	Item (GB)	126	GB
5	Romantic Warrior (IRE)	126	HK

LONGINES World's Best Jockey Leading Jockeys

*** as of 4 October 2026

Jockey	Total Points
Ryan L. Moore	134
James McDonald	130
Mickael Barzalona	106
William T. Buick	86
Jose L. Ortiz	72

Ryan Moore has a slight lead over James McDonald in the 2026 Longines World's Best Jockey competition. Moore currently has 134 points, while McDonald is in second with 130 points. Both of them have won the Longines World's Best Jockey title multiple times.

Moore's qualifying victories thus far include the Tattersalls Irish 2000 Guineas (Gstaad), Qatar Prix du Jockey Club (Constitution River), Gold Cup (Scandinavia), Coral-Eclipse (Constitution River), Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup (Scandinavia), and Prix de la Foret (True Love).