

IFHA QUARTERLY

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



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55th IFHA Conference Examined Racing's Evolution and Future

The 55th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, organised by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), was held virtually in October and examined global racing's evolution and future challenges. The keynote speech was delivered by IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges, and the Conference featured panels on digitalisation and media; equine welfare; and climate change and sustainability. The Conference concluded with a tribute to Louis Romanet. Video of the Conference is available on the IFHA's website and social media platforms. Podcasts of the speakers are also available. The Japan Racing Association (JRA) was the official partner of this year's Conference.

A Vision for the Future of Racing

by Amanda Duckworth

After Louis Romanet retired in October, Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges became the second Chair in the history of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). He had served as a Vice Chair to the IFHA for more than a decade prior, and this next chapter in his already impressive book of efforts on behalf of global horse racing is not one he takes lightly.

“Following someone as respected as Louis is definitely a significant challenge,” said Engelbrecht-Bresges. “I think leading a federation with this kind of international stature is a huge responsibility, and I am grateful for the opportunity. In the end, you will not be measured for your role, but for what you achieve. It is a tremendous honour for me, and in a way, for the organisation I work for.”

German-born Engelbrecht-Bresges has been the chief executive officer of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) since February 2007. He first joined the HKJC in 1998 as director of racing and was appointed executive director, racing in 2000. It was his passion for international Thoroughbred racing that spurred his move from Europe.

“From a young age, I was fascinated by international racing, and I am always fascinated by new challenges,” he said. “What attracted me was Hong Kong had a unique opportunity with significant resources to become one of the global racing leaders, with the right vision and long-term view.

“Additionally, it was an organization that had a purpose for the betterment of society. I thought there were so many opportunities here, and I



The second Chair in the IFHA's history: Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges

also wanted to live in a different country. I first thought I would go for five years, and I have been gone a little bit longer.”

Ahead of the Longines Hong Kong International Races on Sunday, 12 December, there is no question that the racing industry in Hong Kong now has a seat at the table in terms of international relevance.

“If you look at Hong Kong, when I arrived, we had one horse in the international qualification, and we had no international group races,” said Engelbrecht-Bresges. “You see now that Hong Kong is one of the leaders in the sport in quality, in how we look at the integrity of the sport, and in how we look at horse racing as entertainment for the public. We are definitely proud of our achievements, but I can do this only with a very good team.”

Prior to his move, Engelbrecht-Bresges spent six years as CEO of the governing body of German horse racing and breeding, whose members include the representatives of racecourses, the Trainers and Jockeys Association, and the German Breeders and Owners Association.

“In Germany, one of my challenges was the reunification, to integrate the East and West

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A new vision cont.

German industries, and it was fascinating,” he said. “But also, if you look strategically, there was the integration of the German industry into Europe as well. German racing was completely shut off. How do you become a part of European racing? We developed a strategy for racing and breeding where German Thoroughbreds could be competitive internationally.

“We developed in-training testing and tracking and tracing of horses almost 30 years ago. We wanted to position German racing with a clear statement of integrity and that it was free of prohibited substances. This is what I think has given German racing, on the breeding side, a significant source of top-quality horses. If you go back, Galileo, Sea the Stars, and a lot of others go back to German roots.”

Now, in his new position as Chair of the IFHA, Engelbrecht-Bresges is looking to continue to unify and improve Thoroughbred racing on an international scale. With both short- and long-term goals mapped out, it is a task he is approaching with zeal.

“It is not like an organization with a CEO, where you say, ‘This is my vision’ and that is that,” he said. “You have to work much more collaboratively in a federation like this one. What I want to create first of all is a complete buy-in from all my colleagues on what we think is necessary for the global federation for the development of horse racing and breeding. We have to align everyone. That is my short-term goal in the first year.”

Looking more long-term, Engelbrecht-Bresges has an eye on multiple issues, including climate change and sustainability and how they will impact horse racing a decade from now; global simulcast and global world pools; creating a more sustainable income stream for the federation; and sharing best practices when it comes to the

globalization and promotion of racing.

“It is very important that we consider how we can further get global recognition of horse racing as a sport,” he said. “If you really look at sport, in a changing social environment, if you have not been an international sport, I think your relevance to the consumer will be diminished.”

Engelbrecht-Bresges jokes that since he was born in the Year of the Horse, perhaps his destiny was determined from an early age, and his interest in furthering the well-being of horse racing is not just a professional desire, but a personal one as well. In addition to being a racing executive, he is also an owner and breeder. He aims to keep his horse population at around 10 at any given time, and his horses are trained in Chantilly.

“I breed horses myself, and this is a fascinating aspect of the global community of horse racing,” he said. “You meet like-minded people, people

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Engelbrecht-Bresges is passionate about improving international racing

A new vision cont.

who have the same passion, and that helps to put your daily life in perspective. It drives the industry, and it drives me personally.

"If you breed horses, and one of your horses wins a major race, it is something that gives you a unique excitement. If I wasn't active in an executive position, I probably could expand a little bit, but 10 is a good number for a hobby."



Engelbrecht-Bresges, previously an IFHA Vice Chair, has been the CEO of the Hong Kong Jockey Club since 2007

Engelbrecht-Bresges graduated from the University of Cologne in Economics, Finance, Statistics, Insurance and Business Administration, and in addition to his love for horse racing, he is an avid football fan and played professionally in Germany before graduation. Skills he learned from this other passion still help him today.

"In Germany, it is the number one sport, and my father was a pretty good football player when he was young, so it was naturally in the family," he said. "I think I was seen as maybe not as physically strong, but technically I was really strong."

"I wanted to show people, and this is my always mindset, that I will always try to be the best that I can be and improve myself. I became captain for the first time when I was 9. It gives you extremely good team leadership skills. When I stopped playing professionally, I stopped playing, but it

helps me now too because we manage one of the biggest sports betting football books globally."

While his duties as CEO of the HKJC are wide and varied, Engelbrecht-Bresges remains passionate about horse racing on a grass roots level.

"When I bring people to the races, I take them from our wonderful corporate box to the parade ring, but I also take them to the winning post," he said. "When people get to see this wonderful, powerful animal coming at them with speed and elegance, it creates a sensational feeling."

"I think it is important to get people to the races and get them close to the fence. It is unforgettable when you see, hear, and feel horses coming. They are the most beautiful animal, and in the end, the emotional connection you create is the most important."

It is that genuine love of the horse, combined with the belief that we can all learn something from each other, that are key parts of his desire to succeed as the new Chair of the IFHA.

"We as human beings, we need the social contact and social exchange," Engelbrecht-Bresges. "We need diversity and different perspectives. If you only look through your national lens, you think everything is right. But this gives you another perspective, and I think that is extremely important."

"I am absolutely passionate about and dedicated to horse racing and breeding, and I would really like to make a contribution to improve and ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry."

BONUS CONTENT:

Visit the IFHA's Youtube channel to watch the keynote speech given by IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges during the 55th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, organised by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR



Breeders' Cup Success Complete with International Intrigue

by Andrew Hawkins

The modern racing game thrives on international rivalries. Racing fans, participants, and administrators in each jurisdiction are wildly parochial, firmly believing that their horses are the best in the world.

However, it is when those theories are tested that racing itself emerges as the winner, and, with increasing globalisation, rules harmonisation, and abundant opportunities, it is becoming a more common sight.

A traditional European season may now start in Saudi Arabia or Dubai and end in the United States or Australia, if not pushing on to the year-end gems in Japan and Hong Kong. A top level American season will often include consideration of a foray abroad, whether that be to Riyadh, to Meydan, or to Royal Ascot.

November's Breeders' Cup meeting is billed as

the "world championships" by organisers, who want to attract the best Thoroughbreds to America. The host site for the two-day card rotates, and in 2021, racegoers and horses made a pilgrimage to where the turf meets the surf at Del Mar in California to see some of the leading horses go head-to-head. In fact, a record number of international horses, 56 from seven different countries, were pre-entered for this year's Breeders' Cup.

Several meetings year-round could be considered racing's world championships, with the Dubai World Cup and Royal Ascot particularly noteworthy as rivals. However, a historic Breeders' Cup, which featured a Japanese double, and was the first time ever Japan's white and red flag had been raised at the meeting, cemented its place as a global melting pot, demonstrating that it was more than a Ryder Cup contest between the United States and Europe.

Bettors reacted favourably to the international participation, too, as handle on the meet reached record levels. Additionally, in a move putting it more in line with its international

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Loves Only You became the first Japanese-trained winner at the Breeders' Cup and was joined by Marche Lorraine several races later

Breeders' Cup cont.



Japan's Yoshito Yahagi made history with two winners at the 2021 Breeders' Cup

counterparts, the Breeders' Cup was Lasix-free for the first time in its 38-year history.

"We had an extraordinary two days of racing showcasing the best Thoroughbreds from around the world," said Breeders' Cup president and CEO Drew Fleming. "The Breeders' Cup is a truly global event with winners bred, raised and raced on three different continents."

Few would argue that the Japanese success with Loves Only You in the Maker's Mark Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1) and Marche Lorraine in the Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) added some glamour and gloss to the event, particularly given that both are trained by the engaging, hat-sporting wonder Yoshito Yahagi. The 60-year-old trainer then ended his phenomenal month by returning home to take the Japan Cup in association with Longines (G1) with Contrail.

Internationally, Yahagi had won the 2016 Dubai Turf Sponsored by DP World (G1) with Real Steel, claimed Australia's Ladbrokes Cox Plate (G1) in 2019 with Lys Gracieux, and took Hong Kong's Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1) with Loves Only You earlier this year, proving his mettle on the world stage, but his campaigns at Meydan, Moonee Valley and Sha Tin perhaps pale in comparison to what he achieved at Del Mar.

For Yahagi, racing is far richer and far more accessible to wider audiences when the best race the best, no matter from where they hail.

"It is becoming harder to attract great attention from the public in any sport, including horse racing, if there is no world champion," he said. "Rather than be satisfied with the best in Japan, I believe challenging the world and competing on a global scale will be necessary for entertaining and energising the public."

Not only did both victories add to the Breeders' Cup, though, but Yahagi also feels it was a great demonstration of the Japanese Thoroughbred. While Japanese horses have struck numerous times in big races and had won Grade 1 races stateside before, he said it was another feat entirely to defeat the best American fillies and mares on dirt as Marche Lorraine did in the Distaff.

"Speaking as a Japanese horseman, I feel the international evaluation of the substantial strength of Japanese horses is still low," he said. "I was really glad that we could show the high performance of Japanese horses and contribute to the improvement of the status of Japanese racing by winning at the Breeders' Cup."

"Of course, I was very happy when Loves Only You won at the Breeders' Cup, a first for a Japanese horse, but it was more impressive to see Marche Lorraine win the Distaff. Because there had been a belief that Japanese dirt horses would not be able to compete on dirt tracks in the United States, I was more than happy to break through that wall this time."

One crucial factor in the globalisation of racing is to ensure that the rules of the sport have little variance between jurisdictions, a difficult task when each industry has built up autonomously over a long period of time.

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Breeders' Cup cont.

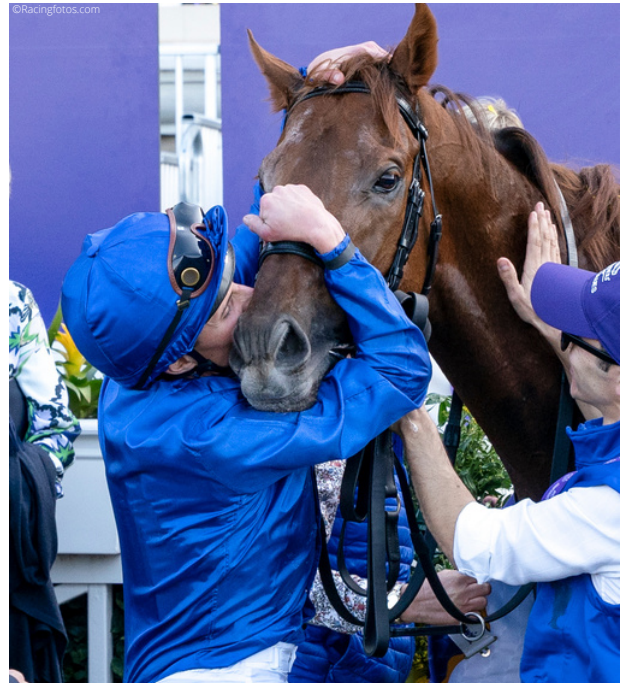
The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), in particular its International Harmonisation of Racing Rules Committee (IHRR), has long been a proponent of harmonisation.

This concept proved significant in 2021, as this year's Breeders' Cup was the first to be run Lasix-free, a huge step in an American industry historically reliant on raceday medication. For Yahagi, that was one of his primary factors in deciding to target the Breeders' Cup at all.

"One of the main reasons that I decided to challenge this year's Breeders' Cup was because it was held on the west coast of the United States, which is a relatively easy trip from Japan, and also because of the suitability of the Del Mar track," he said. "However, the other main reason was the fact it was Lasix-free. In races where Lasix is allowed, almost all American horses use it, and I did not want to send my horses to those races. I respect this major progress towards drug control in the United States, and I am nothing but 100 per cent in support of it."

While Yahagi's success was a major talking point, another big training effort came from Godolphin's Charlie Appleby, who walked away with three victories. On Breeders' Cup Friday, Modern Games took out a controversial Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1), in which he ran for prize money but not for wagering purposes due to a miscommunication between officials which saw him inadvertently withdrawn. Saturday featured a double for Appleby, with Space Blues ending his racing career on a high note in the FanDuel Breeders' Cup Mile presented by PDJF (G1) and Yibir taking out the Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (G1).

Space Blues entered the Breeders' Cup having run during the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting at Longchamp a month earlier, winning the Qatar



Space Blues won in France and the USA in the span of a month

Prix de la Foret (G1). Olivier Delloye, France Galop's chief executive, believes that international participation creates more interest in the biggest meetings, generating storylines that fans all over the world can follow.

"Racing is getting ever more global," Delloye said. "Having the best horses compete against each other obviously adds a lot of excitement for racing fans and helps create stories that generate a larger audience worldwide. It also allows all of us to benchmark the best competitors coming from different regions. The big international race meetings are here to promote the best horses and push owners and breeders to continuously strive to improve."

One of the lingering narratives on the world stage is Japan's perennial quest for success in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, widely considered to be Europe's premier contest and named the Longines World's Best Horse Race in 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The as-yet-unfulfilled dream is something that Delloye believes has only been a positive for the race.

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Niarchos Family Honoured

Surrounded by some of the biggest names in the sport, the Niarchos family received the 2021 Longines and IFHA International Award of Merit, which recognises distinguished horsemen and horsewomen for lifelong contributions to Thoroughbred racing, at a ceremony Friday, 5 November, in Del Mar during Breeders' Cup World Championships weekend.

Maria Niarchos-Gouazé accepted the award on behalf of her family, and representatives from both Longines and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), as well as the Breeders' Cup and The Jockey Club, took part in the celebration.



Maria Niarchos-Gouazé accepted the 2021 Longines & IFHA International Award of Merit on behalf of her family

“On behalf of my brothers and myself, I would like to thank Longines, the IFHA, the Breeders' Cup, and The Jockey Club for this great honour,” said Niarchos-Gouazé. “I would also like to thank all of our horses, the jockeys who mainly found the winning post, our trainers, our veterinarians and farriers, and all of the individuals who have worked on the studs and in our trainers' yards.

“In particular, I would like to thank my home team, Alan Cooper and Karen Clark, who have been with us since inception, for their

dedication and loyalty, and also Jamie McCalmont and Bill Oppenheim, and those who have worked alongside them. Lastly, and the most deserving of all, I would like to thank my father, Stavros, for his vision.”

As the Official Partner and Official Watch of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), Swiss watchmaker Longines and the IFHA conjointly created the International Award of Merit in 2013 in order to honour public figures for their outstanding contribution to the world of horse racing. Longines is also an Official Partner, the Official Timekeeper, and the Official Watch of the Breeders' Cup, as well as the title sponsor for this year's Breeders' Cup Classic, Turf, and Distaff.

“We are delighted to celebrate the Niarchos family, whose strong commitment and dedication to Thoroughbred racing have been rewarded by so many remarkable successes over the years,” said Matthieu Baumgartner, Longines Vice President Marketing. “The history of the family proves that equestrian sport is one of passion, a passion that Longines has been sharing for a century and a half. Today, we are the partner of some of the major international institutions, including the IFHA, and provide our timekeeping expertise to prestigious events all around the world in the disciplines show jumping, dressage, eventing and of course, horse racing.”

Previous winners of the International Award of Merit include John Messara, the owner and chairman of Arrowfield Stud in Australia; the Magnier family and trainer Aidan O'Brien, the driving forces behind Coolmore and the Ballydoyle Racing Stable in Ireland; Yutaka Take, legendary Japanese jockey; the Romanet family, long renowned leaders in both the French and international world of horse racing; Jim Bolger, leading Irish trainer, owner,

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Breeders' Cup cont.

“The continuous Japanese participation to the Qatar Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe (G1) in recent years has definitely reinforced the international status of the race and dramatically enhanced its exposure in Asia,” he said.

An Arc victory is something that Yahagi hopes to achieve in time, with Europe firmly in his sights.

“There is no doubt targeting European Group 1 races is the next step,” said Yahagi. “I think it is important to consider the suitability of each horse to run in overseas races, and the horses that I have trained so far would not have had an aptitude for European turf. But now we have won Group 1 races in four countries, five including Japan, so from next year, considering the aptitude of each horse, we want to try.”

Should Yahagi try, or inspire others to do so, whatever the result, the winner will be racing.

Niarchos Family cont.

and breeder; Alec Head, past champion trainer and patriarch of prominent stud farm Haras du Quesnay; Seth Hancock of historic Claiborne Farm in America; and the late Marcel Zarour Atanacio, former chairman of the South American organisation for the promotion of Thoroughbreds (OSAF).

“I would like to congratulate the Niarchos family as this year’s recipient of the Longines and IFHA International Award of Merit,” said IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges. “Reflecting upon the significance and the values associated with this award, I am struck by the level of success achieved by the Niarchos family in nearly every corner of the globe, spanning multiple generations.

“On racetrack achievement alone, the Niarchos family would be worthy recipients of this Award,



The Longines & IFHA International Award of Merit honours public figures for their outstanding contribution to the world of horse racing

but their steadfast support of our industry is what sets them apart. Their unwavering partnership and development of international racing and breeding is a special feat, and it must be celebrated.”

The late Stavros Niarchos served as a Greek naval officer in World War II and made his fortune in the shipping business. He first became involved with Thoroughbred racing in the 1950s, took a break, and returned in full force in the 1970s.

His daughter Maria took over the family's Thoroughbred business after his death in 1996, and Alan Cooper serves as the family's racing manager.

More than 125 Group or Grade 1 winners have been bred and/or campaigned under their banner. The family has been a long-time supporter of the Breeders' Cup, having won seven Breeders' Cup races with six homebred colts and fillies.

BONUS CONTENT:

Visit the IFHA's Youtube channel to watch the Longines and IFHA International Award of Merit celebration video for the Niarchos Family. Enjoy footage of some of their racing greats, ranging from Nureyev and Miesque to Main Sequence and Alpha Centauri, as well as many more.



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WORLD RANKINGS

As the racing year nears its end, Knicks Go currently sits atop the 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings. After a dominant performance in the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), he raised his rating to 128 to take over the number one position.

Three horses—Adayar, Mishriff, and St Mark's Basilica—are currently joint second with an equal rating of 127. Full rankings are available on the IFHA website.

The next edition of the rankings is the year-end 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, which will be released in January 2022.

LONGINES
World's Best Racehorse Rankings

Leading Horses
for 3yos and upwards which raced between
1st January 2021 - 7th November 2021

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Knicks Go (USA)	128	USA
2	Adayar (IRE)	127	GB
2	Mishriff (IRE)	127	GB
2	St Mark's Basilica (FR)	127	IRE
5	Palace Pier (GB)	125	GB
5	Torquator Tasso (GER)	124	GER
7	Baaeed (GB)	124	GB
7	Nature Strip (AUS)	124	AUS

LONGINES
World's Best Jockey
Leading Jockeys
*** as of 28 November 2021

Jockey	Total Points
Ryan L. Moore	112
William T. Buick	104
James McDonald	96
Christophe Patrice Lemaire	68
Yuichi Fukunaga	66

After winning six different qualifying races on five different horses in four different countries, Ryan Moore has won the title of 2021 Longines World's Best Jockey. Moore, who also was named the Longines World's Best Jockey in 2014 and 2016, will be honoured in mid-January when the 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse and Longines World's Best Horse Race winners are announced.

Moore's qualifying victories came in the Longines Hong Kong Vase (Mogul), Al Quoz Sprint Sponsored by Azizi Developments (Extravagant Kid), Prince of Wales's Stakes (Love), Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Dream of Dreams), Coral-Eclipse (St Mark's Basilica), and Irish Champion Stakes (St Mark's Basilica).