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TRC Global Horse Rankings launch special

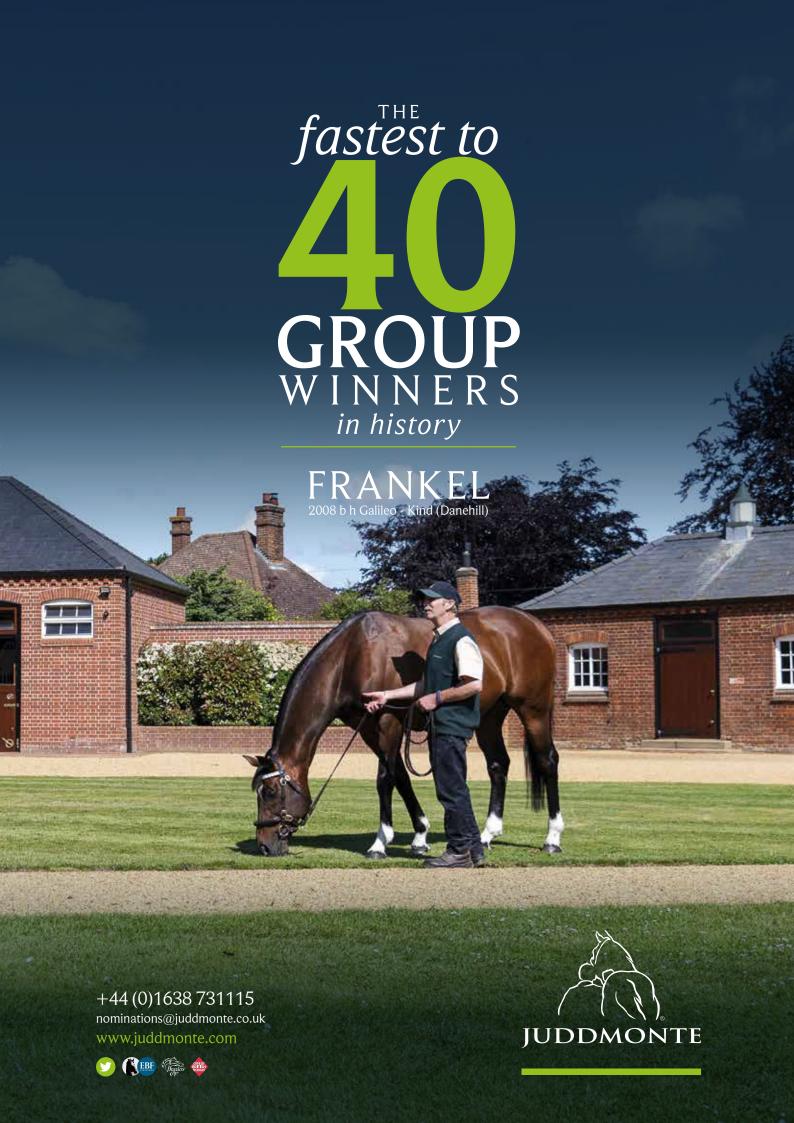


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TRC Global Horse Rankings: the Winx vs Enable era

James Willoughby | August 31, 2020

The TRC Global Horse Rankings — representing a new approach to ranking racehorses — were launched last week. We believe it is a fairer and more accurate system than the others out there, which all use the traditional pounds-per-length-style ratings method of classifying racehorses. Here, in the second of two articles looking back at how our rankings would have looked in previous years in the TRC era, James Willoughby examines the quality-laden years of 2016-18, which were dominated by two super-fillies.

We left the history of TRC Global Horse Rankings at the end of 2015 as the mighty American Pharoah wrapped up his historic campaign and earned the first ratings index of 1500+ with his dominating win in the G1 Breeders' Cup Classic.

Well, it's a sure bet he would have stayed at #1 for much of 2016 also, had connections kept him in training. But, inevitably he was retired to stud and left a hole at the top of the rankings. Under our 200-day rule, however, it wasn't until May 2016 that a new name appeared at #1, a name who was to remain there on-and-off for better than three years. (Table 1)

 $Table\ 1: TRC\ Horse\ Ranking\ of\ May\ 22,2016: Winx\ moves\ up\ a\ place\ in\ the\ wake\ of\ American\ Pharoah's\ departure$

| Rank | Last | Name | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|----------------------|---------|------|------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | Winx AUS | 1 | 17 | 7.50 | 128.5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1418 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | Chautauqua AUS | 1 | 17 | 7.38 | 122.5 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1325 | 0 |
| 3 | 5 | Tepin USA | 1 | 14 | 5.92 | 125.9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1325 | 0 |
| 4 | 8 | Runhappy USA | 1 | 5 | 8.64 | 120.1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1267 | 0 |
| 5 | 6 | Nyquist USA | 1 | 8 | 8.75 | 117.7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1263 | -12 |
| 6 | 9 | Songbird USA | 1 | 6 | 8.17 | 119.3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1255 | 0 |
| 7 | 7 | Found IRE | 1 | 12 | 3.28 | 126.4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1246 | -28 |
| 8 | 10 | Beholder USA | 1 | 15 | 5.33 | 121.3 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 1235 | -1 |
| 9 | 11 | Vazirabad FR | 1 | 4 | 9.25 | 116.8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1233 | 0 |
| 10 | 11 | Cirrus Des Aigles FR | 1 | 36 | 3.35 | 124.8 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1232 | -1 |

To this point, Winx had run in 17 Group races and won 11 of them. She had earned an index of 1418pts after winning the G1 Doncaster Mile by two lengths from Happy Clapper. This was her ninth Group race win in a row, but it turned out we were only seeing the start of what she could do: her winning sequence was never broken.

Winx would go on to spend 134 weeks at #1 which, at the end of her career, gave her 210 weeks in the Top Ten and 216 weeks in the Top 50. All these numbers are the best in rankings history.

Between the rankings above and those of April 9, 2017, less than a year later, Winx went on to win eight more times. The last two of those were among her most imperious wins: the 2017 G1 George Ryder at Rosehill (by seven lengths from Le Romain) and the 2017 G1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (by five from Hartnell). Hartnell was world #33 for a time, yet Winx earlier beat him by eight lengths in the 2016 G1 Cox Plate at Moonee Valley. Only a brilliant runner could do that.

It was Winx's win in the Queen Elizabeth referred to above that propelled her to her highest ever rankings index of 1523. This is narrowly the highest index of any horse, making Winx by a small margin our #1 racehorse of the TRC Global Rankings era (Table 2).

But, as we shall see, her standing at the top of the tree depends on exactly how the coefficients that determine TRC Global Rankings are tuned by the data, and in earlier iterations of rankings history she wasn't at the very top but fractions behind.

With reference to the rankings caption above, it is worth restating what TRC Global Rankings is trying to achieve; this is the ethos of what makes them different (and, we would venture, superior) to other classifications which use only a horse's best performance to establish its place in the hierarchy.

By contrast, TRC Global Rankings uses every run in a Group or Graded race to rank a horse. What we are looking to capture is the value of a career in the round, taking into account its depth and breadth as well as just its height. Ranked second to Winx above is a horse who himself has strong claims to be regarded as one of the most extraordinary in

the remarkable recent history of Thoroughbred racing, the American dirt superstar Arrogate, who raced for Prince Khalid Abdulla's Juddmonte Farms and was trained by Bob Baffert.

Arrogate won the first four Graded races of his career: the 2016 Travers Stakes at Saratoga (by more than 13 lengths), the 2016 Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita (by half a length, from California Chrome), the 2017 Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream (by nearly five lengths) and the 2017 Dubai World Cup at Meydan (by better than two lengths, from Gun Runner).

Surely no horse has ever achieved as much as that in the same space of time! Arrogate's highest ranking index of 1490pts ranks #4 all-time with us and is higher than the careerbest of six of the ten horses who, unlike him, made it to world #1 (more of that in the next and final part of this series). Amazingly, however, Arrogate was never #1 himself - partly because he lost the last three races of his career (two of them badly) and partly because of the competition he was forced to keep at the top of TRC Global Rankings.

So, what are we implying by those rankings of April 9, 2017? What should be inferred from these indices – Winx with 1523pts and Arrogate with 1489pts? As with all our rankings, this is not just an exercise in playing with numbers. In effect, we are quantifying the rarity value of a horse's record, assuming this is a proxy for the difficulty of its attainment and therefore a correate for the true, unknown merit that a racehorse possesses.

There is a need to take opportunity into account. It is by no means a knock on Winx, but her outstanding aggregate was a function of greater time in the batter's box than most hitters. Would it be possible to do what she did, had she have been trained in Europe? No, definitely not. There just isn't the same number of races open to her, and, in any case, the level of competition in Europe at middle distances would make things harder for her - no winning on the bridle and turning out fresh again next time, in all probability. So, we have to discount

her environment when placing her record in the same, neurtral context needed to truly compare horses around the world.

All this is, of course, just splitting hairs. Winx's record of 25 Group 1s (not to mention 33 consecutive wins) is unparalleled in the modern era and likely to remain that way for a long time. It is a shame she did not race outside of Australia, but we know from a detailed analysis of her times and sectionals that she was extremely special as an athlete.

Winx might not have met her equal on the track, but she was to encounter another of her sex at the top of TRC Global Rankings who certainly would have had claims to defeat her in a match race, for all that we can estimate about the two. For, while European superstar Enable will never match Winx's aggregate of success, the record she was about to start compiling, starting in 2017, featured much deeper competition and afforded her far fewer races where she had a huge class edge. She, too, is an all-time great racemare.

Enable's career in Group races started with the 2017 Oaks at Epsom, which she won by five lengths. Further successes followed in the Irish Oaks at the Curragh (by nearly six lengths), the King George at Ascot (by better than four, from Ulysses), the Yorkshire Oaks at York (by five lengths) and, most notably, her first Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Chantilly (by two and a half lengths, from Cloth Of Stars). See Table 3 for how the rankings looked after that.

This is heady stuff. The gap from Enable in second to Arrogate in third is 118pts. Yes, to Arrogate, he of the widemargin wins in the world's top races (by this stage, he had suffered two defeats, however). Winx may be #1 and Enable #2 but they are really #1 and #1A – two all-time great horses in a class of their own.

If you wonder how Winx's rating has slipped from the 1523 cited earlier to 1503 without her suffering defeat, this is our ageing curve at work again. As Winx got older, she kept winning and winning but, through no fault of hers, the quality of the opposition dropped off a little, so we could not be quite as confident in her otherworldy level of talent as before. (This is ranking semantics, but it is worthy of a mention as an explainer.)

Table 2: TRC Horse Ranking of April 9, 2017: Winx earns the highest ratings index of the TRC era

| Rank | Last | Name | Modal Country | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | Winx AUS | Australia | 1 | 25 | 7.93 | 13.9 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 1523 | 4 |
| 2 | 2 | Arrogate USA | USA | 1 | 4 | 12.00 | 130.7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1489 | 0 |
| 3 | 3 | California Chrome USA | USA | 1 | 18 | 5.28 | 130.3 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 1372 | -1 |
| 4 | 4 | Songbird USA | USA | 1 | 11 | 6.61 | 125.3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1328 | 0 |
| 5 | 5 | Almanzor FR | France | 1 | 7 | 7.04 | 124.0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1312 | 0 |
| 6 | 6 | Tepin USA | USA | 1 | 18 | 5.91 | 124.4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1304 | 0 |
| 7 | 7 | Minding IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 10 | 6.79 | 122.7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1298 | 0 |
| 8 | 8 | Found IRE | Ireland | 1 | 19 | 2.69 | 130.5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1291 | -1 |
| 9 | 9 | Santono Diamond JPN | Japan | 1 | 7 | 10.61 | 117.6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1283 | 0 |
| 10 | 10 | Beholder USA | USA | 1 | 30 | 4.58 | 124.4 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 1262 | 0 |

Table 3: TRC Horse Ranking of October 1, 2017: Enable wins her first Arc and puts the heat on Winx

| Rank | Last | Name | | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | Winx AUS | Australia | 1 | 28 | 8.11 | 132.0 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 1503 | -1 |
| 2 | 3 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1 | 5 | 10.60 | 130.9 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1495 | 130 |
| 3 | 2 | Arrogate USA | USA | 1 | 6 | 6.67 | 130.1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1377 | -2 |
| 4 | 4 | Gun Runner USA | USA | 1 | 15 | 5.33 | 127.3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1324 | -1 |
| 5 | 5 | Songbird USA | USA | 1 | 14 | 5.88 | 124.4 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1298 | -1 |
| 6 | 6 | Minding IRE | Ireland | 1 | 11 | 6.68 | 121.6 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1281 | -1 |
| 7 | 7 | Highlad Reel IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 22 | 3.92 | 124.8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1249 | -1 |
| 8 | 68 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 5 | 6.48 | 121.7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1248 | 146 |
| 9 | 8 | Ribchester IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 13 | 4.9 | 122.2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1236 | -1 |
| 10 | 10 | WinterIRE | Great Britain | 1 | 7 | 6.04 | 120.6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1232 | 8 |

Table 4: TRC Horse Ranking of October 7, 2018: Enable finally hits the front after her second Arc win

| Rank | Last | Name | Modal Country | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|--------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1 | 7 | 10.86 | 127.9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1482 | 62 |
| 2 | 1 | Winx AUS | Australia | 1 | 36 | 8.27 | 129.4 | 21 | 8 | 1 | 1474 | .1 |
| 3 | 3 | Justify USA | USA | 1 | 4 | 11.25 | 120.1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1312 | 0 |
| 4 | 4 | Alpha Centauri IRE | Irelans | 1 | 8 | 5.69 | 125.0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1291 | 0 |
| 5 | 6 | Cracksman GB | Great Britain | 1 | 8 | 5.31 | 123.3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1255 | 0 |
| 6 | 7 | Stradivarius IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 8 | 7.88 | 118.1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1253 | 0 |
| 7 | 5 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 10 | 6.05 | 121.1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1251 | -9 |
| 8 | 8 | Accelerate USA | USA | 1 | 15 | 3.30 | 125.0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1225 | 0 |
| 9 | 9 | Imperial Hunt USA | USA | 1 | 9 | 5.06 | 121.4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1216 | -1 |
| 10 | 10 | Redzel AUS | Australia | 1 | 19 | 4.56 | 121.2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1213 | -2 |
| 11 | 11 | Roaring Lion USA | Great Britain | 1 | 9 | 4.94 | 120.9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1211 | 0 |
| 12 | 53 | Sea of Class IRE | Ireland | 1 | 3 | 7.55 | 119.2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1210 | 98 |

In Australia, Winx continued to win and win, but, for the technical reasons just stated, her rating dropped off a bit in 2018. Meanwhile, Enable was kept off the track that year, not reappearing until the G3 September Stakes on the all-weather surface at Kempton Park in which she defeated a G1-quality horse in Crystal Ocean in a manner that made him look like a G3-quality horse.

That race was the perfect set-up for Enable's bid for a second Arc. And she duly delivered, albeit narrowly, holding on by a short-neck from the upstart Sea Of Class, who some believed should have won. Still, two Arc wins and a record of seven wins

from seven Group races was enough to see Enable topple Winx for the first time in the post-2018 Arc figures. (Table 4)

We have included a Top 12 in Table 4, rather than just a Top Ten because it is illustrative to see that Arc runner-up Sea Of Class gained 98pts to Enable's 62pts. This highlights another important point about TRC Global Rankings: a competitor's change in points is relative to their own record previously and not relative to other runners in the race. In other words, the greater the statistical shock caused by a performance, the greater the change in ranking points – up or down.

Winx's record of
25 Group 1s (not
to mention 33
consecutive wins)
is unparalleled in
the modern era and
likely to remain that
way for a long time.

Table 5: TRC Horse Ranking of October 28, 2018: Not so fast, my friend! Winx reclaims her throne in the Cox Plate

| Rank | Last | Name | Modal Country | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|----------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | Winx AUS | Australia | 1 | 37 | 8.26 | 130.3 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 1488 | 16 |
| 2 | 1 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1 | 7 | 10.86 | 127.7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1479 | -1 |
| 3 | 3 | Justify USA | USA | 1 | 4 | 11.25 | 120.1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1312 | 0 |
| 4 | 4 | Cracksman GB | Great Britain | 1 | 9 | 5.63 | 126.0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1309 | 0 |
| 5 | 5 | Alpha Centauri IRE | Ireland | 1 | 8 | 5.69 | 124.9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1291 | 0 |
| 6 | 6 | Stradivarius IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 9 | 7.78 | 118.3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1259 | 0 |
| 7 | 7 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 10 | 6.05 | 121.0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1249 | -1 |
| 8 | 8 | Beauty Generation NZ | Hong Kong | 1 | 14 | 5.27 | 121.5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1240 | 0 |
| 9 | 9 | Roaring Lion USA | Great Britain | 1 | 10 | 5.58 | 121.3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1238 | -1 |
| 10 | 10 | Accelerate USA | USA | 1 | 15 | 3.30 | 124.9 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1224 | 0 |

Table 6: TRC Horse Ranking of November 4, 2018: Right back at you, Winx! A Breeders' Cup win restores Enable's #1 spot

| Rank | Last | Name | Modal Country | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|----------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1 | 8 | 11.12 | 129.4 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1521 | 42 |
| 2 | 1 | Winx AUS | Australia | 1 | 37 | 8.26 | 130.3 | 22 | 8 | 1 | 1487 | -1 |
| 3 | 3 | Justify USA | USA | 1 | 4 | 11.25 | 120.1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1312 | 0 |
| 4 | 4 | Cracksman GB | Great Britain | 1 | 9 | 5.63 | 126.0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1308 | -1 |
| 5 | 5 | Alpha Centauri IRE | Ireland | 1 | 8 | 5.69 | 124.9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1291 | 0 |
| 6 | 14 | Roy H USA | USA | 1 | 9 | 5.19 | 124.7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1270 | 66 |
| 7 | 6 | Stradivarius IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 9 | 7.78 | 118.3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1259 | 0 |
| 8 | 10 | Accelerate USA | USA | 1 | 16 | 3.75 | 125.8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1253 | 29 |
| 9 | 7 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 10 | 6.05 | 121.0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1249 | 0 |
| 10 | 8 | Beauty Generation NZ | Hong Kong | 1 | 14 | 5.27 | 121.5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1239 | -1 |

But Enable did not last long at the top. Later the same month, Winx won again. And, crucially for us, her G1 Ladbrokes Cox Plate victory provided a link to European form; this is the kind of statistical connection that makes our algorithm a lot more confident about a horse's true standing globally. Winx's victim, by an easy two lengths, was Godolphin's then world #29 Benbatl (later as high as #8), the winner of three Group 1s and six Group races in all, at that point in time. (Table 5)

But Enable was to have her chance for a swift return. Liberated by her

light campaign, trainer John Gosden shipped her to California for the Breeders' Cup Turf at Santa Anita. In a thrilling duel of the very highest standard, she defeated Aidan O'Brien's Magical by under a length, the pair drawing a mile clear in the stretch. Enable was top again just one week later! (Table 6)

This performance precipitated the highest TRC ranking index of Enable's career to date, 1521. This is just 2pts below Winx's career-best effort, but nothing should be read into this fine margin whose magnitude is insignificant. Regardless, it is some tribute to the scope of Enable's win in California that both she and Magical are still in the Top Ten in this week's rankings, some 21 months later. (Table 7)

And that was it for 2018, for our money the most quality-filled and top-class year of racing during the TRC era. It was a tale of two top distaffers who alternated at the top throughout the campaign. Either could be considered #1 because both are all-time greats, and there was plenty more to come in their stories, which we will cover in the final part of this series.

Table 7: TRC Horse Ranking of August 23, 2020

| Rank | Last | Name | Modal Country | Runners | Runs | IV | tRPR | G1 Wins | G2 Wins | G3 Wins | Points | Change |
|------|------|----------------------|---------------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1 | 1 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1 | 14 | 8.20 | 125.0 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1388 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | Ghaiyyath IRE | France | 1 | 10 | 5.76 | 125.4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1306 | 38 |
| 3 | 2 | Maximum Security USA | USA | 1 | 8 | 8.53 | 120.4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1297 | 14 |
| 4 | 3 | Tiz The Law USA | USA | 1 | 6 | 6.52 | 123.2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1269 | 0 |
| 5 | 5 | Stradivarius IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 18 | 6.78 | 119.6 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1266 | 0 |
| 6 | 6 | Almond Eye JPN | Japan | 1 | 11 | 11.04 | 113.6 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1263 | -1 |
| 6 | 17 | Love IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 7 | 6.53 | 121.7 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1263 | 67 |
| 8 | 7 | Nature Strip AUS | Australia | 1 | 14 | 5.29 | 123.1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1261 | 0 |
| 9 | 8 | Magical IRE | Ireland | 1 | 22 | 3.74 | 125.5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1253 | -4 |
| 10 | 10 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1 | 18 | 6.83 | 118.3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1248 | 12 |



The sad history of racism in American racing

Carly Silver | September 07, 2020

The lawn jockeys of Saratoga: What message does their

Racism is in sharp focus in all areas of life at present, and horseracing is no exception - witness the decision that 'My Old Kentucky Home', a song associated with slavery, should not be sung but just played by a solo bugler before Saturday's Kentucky Derby. But how much racism has there been in the sport in the past? And how much still exists? Here, in the first part of a two-part report, renowned historian Carly Silver lays out the facts ...

presence at the entrance to racocourses send to black visitors?



When spectators first enter many racetrack entrances in the United States, they are met by caricatures of Black men: lawn jockeys.

David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at Ferris State University in Michigan and founder of the Jim Crow Museum, noted lawn jockeys began as depictions of Black servants in subservient poses and caricatured faces.

Thus, by displaying lawn jockeys — many of which have been painted white in an attempt to literally whitewash their history — a racecourse is sending a message to black visitors: "You are not welcome here"

Jamaica Miles (pictured), cofounder of the All of Us organization, advocates for racial justice across the Capitol region of New York. She wondered rhetorically of these lawn jockeys, "What does it mean for people of color to see themselves represented in that way?"

She recalled, "In recent years, we've seen, even before the death of George Floyd, we've seen people push back on what seemed to people of color an obvious offensive figure on the lawns of white America, and white allies and accomplices standing up and saying, 'Oh, my gosh, even if I didn't realize this before, I'm going to end this now.'

"And not just in Saratoga but across the greater Capitol region, there's been some call for that to end."

Yet Saratoga is the scene of the same systemic anti-Black violence seen elsewhere in America.
Miles added, "While the murder of George Floyd seemed to be a catalyst for what happened across the country, the reason we've been able to sustain this fight locally, as well as across the nation, is because there were local murders that happened in every single community. And, for Saratoga, it was the murder of Daryl Mount in 2018 that people are still calling for justice ..."

When Saratoga Race Course opened in 1863, Black racegoers were not allowed in. As the wealthy white elite flocked to the town each summer, gambling abounded, providing job opportunities; as the status of gambling fluctuated in New York State, however, Black Saratogians found themselves once again sidelined in poorpaying jobs and segregated from white workers.

But each summer, one place did take Black workers aplenty: the racetrack. Many Black men were employed primarily working for white owners and trainers as grooms, stable hands, hostlers, hot walkers, and everything in between. In fact, during the 18th and 19th centuries, Black jockeys dominated racing, winning every major race from Latonia to Saratoga — first while they were enslaved, then as emancipated men.

For centuries, enslavers utilized the enslaved as stable boys and grooms, regarding them as possessions trained to take care of other highly-prized creatures: their expensive steeds.

And the same realities still pervade horseracing today. Miles summarized, "The labor is done by people of color and those that reap the rewards are white men. It is the history of America that this country was built off the free labor of Black people and white people — specifically heterosexual, cisgendered white men — were the ones that received all the profits. The reason America is the wealthiest nation in the world is because of the history of free labor. Saratoga racetrack is not different."

Then, enslavers chose certain men as their jockeys — the best riders, the smallest men. After all, as Katherine Mooney noted in Race Horse Men, "a jockey could be starved down to an exact weight that suited his owner's purpose" (Mooney 49). Sometimes, enslaved individuals were promoted to be trainers, but they were still commodities, just ones carrying 'commensurately high price tags' appropriate to their skill sets (Mooney 40).

"In recent years, we've seen, even before the death of George Floyd, we've seen people push back on what seemed to people of color an obvious offensive figure on the lawns of white America"



The more things change, the more they stay the same

A disturbing article in The Brooklyn Daily Eagle of August 24, 1871, amply illustrates the contemporary prejudice levied against Black riders.

That summer, a standout racehorse named Longfellow, had won fans' hearts, earning the nickname 'King of the Turf'. When Longfellow lost a match race to old rival Helmbold, the Eagle claimed, "Longfellow was ridden and overworked by his negro jockey. Helmbold's white jockey virtually finessed him into victory."

Of Longfellow's Black rider, the commentator added, "He can run a plain race with many contestants well enough. But he cannot do the head work of a white man, except in the abstraction of chickens and the destruction of bacon. The South has lost about all of her champion races, simply because the superb riding of the n***** is relied upon, instead

of the capacity for strategy that his white rival invariably exhibits and utilizes."

Once emancipated, Black men continued to dominate the sport as trainers and jockeys. Ansel Williamson trained horses for his enslaver, Robert Alexander, and continued to do so after emancipation. Williamson is perhaps best known for sending out Alexander's Aristides — with young Black jockey Oliver Lewis aboard — to win the inaugural Kentucky Derby. Williamson also trained two Travers winners.

Another individual initially enslaved by Alexander's family earned acclaim on and off a horse.

Edward Dudley 'Brown Dick' Brown blazed a path of wins aboard Asteroid and scored in the 1870 Belmont Stakes aboard Kingfisher (who won that year's Travers for black trainer Raleigh Colston) for Daniel Swigert, then transitioned to training. This bronze of the first Kentucky Derby winner, Aristides, stands in Churchill Down's courtyard, just behind the Twin Spires grandstand. The horse was trained and ridden by black men. Photo courtesy Deborah Mac

Brown sent out Kentucky Derby winner Baden-Baden and two Kentucky Oaks winners.

At only 18, Isaac Burns Murphy won four races in one day. He came east that summer of 1879, pointing towards the race that still crowns the Saratoga meet — the Travers Stakes. The big favorite that day was Spendthrift, "the new prize of New York financier and turfman James R Keene," noted the late Pellom McDaniels III, Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Emory University, in his excellent biography of Murphy, The Prince of Jockeys.



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Instead, Murphy beat Spendthrift aboard Falsetto.

After his Travers triumph, Murphy was unstoppable. In 1883, he won an astounding 11 of 28 starts at the Saratoga meet. He won three Kentucky Derbys (1884, 1890 and 1891), four of the first five American Derbys, a heart-stopping edition of the Suburban Handicap in 1890 on Salvator, and seven races on the Dwyer brothers' grand Kingston.

There were few obstacles he could not conquer. According to some calculations, Murphy won 628 of his career 1,412 starts — an astounding 44 percent.

Murphy didn't just triumph in his sport, he served as a role model for other young Black jockeys.

Jimmy Winkfield replicated Murphy's feat of back-to-back Derbys, landing the 1901 Derby aboard His Eminence and the 1902 Derby aboard Alan-a-Dale.

Many young Black jockeys also excelled at Saratoga. James 'Jimmy' Lee rose to fame after sweeping all six races on a single Churchill Downs card in 1907, an American first. Contemporary newspapers dubbed him "a real sensation", while also demeaning the talented athlete as "the colored boy".

Heading east to Saratoga the next summer, Lee captured the 1908 Travers aboard Dorante. The Buffalo Morning Express of August 12 praised Lee for a "perfect ride".

In 1892, Azra's win in the Kentucky Derby made 15-year-old Alonzo 'Lonnie' Clayton the youngest rider to ever win that Classic. That record still holds today. The pair, who had annexed the 1891 Champagne Stakes, polished off their Derby win with triumphs later that year in Churchill's Clark Handicap and Saratoga's Travers, adding the Alabama Stakes at Saratoga aboard Ignite for a remarkable double. In 1895, Clayton won the Saratoga Flash Stakes aboard Onaretto.

Prominent black jockeys Jimmy Winkfield (left) and Isaac Murphy. Images provided by the Keeneland Library

Another young trailblazer was James 'Soup' Perkins. In 1894, the 14-yearold jockey won five out of six races in a single day at Saratoga, plus the following year's Derby aboard Halma. Willie Simms rode two of Edward Brown's former trainees, Ben Brush and Plaudit, to Derby wins in 1896 and 1898 respectively; he added the Preakness aboard Sly Fox in 1898.

Isaac Lewis, who piloted Montrose to victory in the 1887 Run for the Roses, won the 1891 Saratoga Cup aboard Los Angeles. Ed West and John 'Stokes' Stoval each won the Spinaway and Alabama with two different horses, while George 'Spider' Anderson garnered his own Alabama win in 1891 with Sallie McClelland. Shelby 'Pike' Barnes won

There had been "a quietly formed combination to shut him out", and "horse owners who expected to win races would find it to their advantage to put up the white riders".

the 1890 Alabama on Sinaloa II, plus the 1889 Travers Stakes on Long Dance; Roy 'Tiny' Williams won the Midsummer Derby in 1891 on Vallera.

Segregation survives and thrives

By the turn of the 20th century, white authorities began to systematically exclude Black men and women from sports in which they'd long excelled. In Black Collegiate Athletes and the Neoliberal State: Dreaming from Bended Knee, Albert Bimper Jr, Senior Associate Athletic Director for Diversity and Inclusion at Colorado State University, noted the postemancipation successes of Black athletes were soon countered by organized racist suppression. He referred to examples of how "anti-Black beliefs were met with an institutional structure advancing anti-Black policy to functionalize racism and normalized racist beliefs" (10).

Jamaica Miles remembered of her own childhood, "My father used to take me to the racetrack, and I can remember as a child wanting to see the horses — your typical little girl with her dad, wanting to see the horses." As a child, she wondered if all jockeys were Latinx, not knowing about the great Black jockeys of history or the "colorism and degrees of separation from whiteness" those riders had to navigate historically.

Historian John Drobnicki noted that, when praising Lonnie Clayton, publications emphasized the lightness of his skin — associating his abilities with a lighter skin tone.

Lithographs, cartoons, and articles began to circulate depicting black

men as "common stereotypes", aimed at humiliating them and supporting the myth of white supremacy (McDaniels 391). Black riders were denied work; the change to white riders was regarded as the natural order of things. The Courier-Journal of January 21, 1912, claimed waspishly that "three decades ago the negro was in his zenith" as a jockey.

A July 29, 1900, New York Times piece entitled Negro jockeys shut out: Combination of white riders to bar them from the Turf discussed the paucity of Black horsemen. At each successive New York meet. the author noted, fewer and fewer Black riders rode in each race while "comparatively newcomers monopolize[d] the riding".

Why? There had been "a quietly formed combination to shut him out", and "horse owners who expected to win races would find it to their advantage to put up the white riders".

Who organized this blockade? Rumor had it the culprits were white jockeys, supported by white owners, trainers and venerated horsemen. Black jockeys not only stopped getting hired to ride horses but even began meeting with accidents on the track and interference; any owner or trainer wanting to win a race put up a white rider. And, indeed, owners were "content to accept the new order" of things.

Such efforts to exclude Black jockeys proved sadly effective.

Jimmy Winkfield was forced to move overseas to get work, where he thrived. John Stoval was demoted to exercise rider after he shot a white man in apparent self defense. Lonnie

Clayton was arrested in 1901 for striking a spectator, a German-born man named Henry or 'Harry' Bolomey, with his whip. He was pulled from the race and a white man, John Bullman, got the mount instead.

Some reports indicated Bolomey verbally assaulted Clayton first. Bolomey took the case to court and requested the equivalent of \$300,000 in damages. He made a habit of suing wealthy companies for cash.

Even Murphy was targeted. When he collapsed after losing the 1890 Monmouth Handicap, reports began circulating, in person and in publications, that he'd been drunk. The track's executive committee found no evidence to support that conclusion. In fact, much evidence suggested that either Murphy's severe jockey's diet took its toll, or he had been poisoned.

Still, "because of his color", Murphy "had become a pariah to whites", who didn't "empathize with the treachery of the situation nor endorse an investigation into the facts" (McDaniels 364).

An associate editor at HarperCollins, Carly Silver, whose writing on Thoroughbred racing has appeared on TRC, the Blood-Horse, Thoroughbred Daily News, America's Best Racing and New York Breeder, has been writing for Turf publications for 16 years. Also an authority on ancient history, Silver has written for Smithsonian, Narratively, The Atlantic, Atlas Obscura, Archaeology magazine, JSTOR Daily, and History Today, among others.



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The meteoric rise of Hollie Doyle: is she set to become the world's #1 female rider?



And this after a year - 2019 - in which she set a new record for the number of wins by a female rider in a calendar year, with 116. That was a superb achievement, but what she's done in 2020 has blown it out of the water.

The winners have been flowing for Doyle ever since the UK's post-lockdown restart in June. Later that month she became only the third woman to ride a winner at Royal Ascot - after Gaye Kelleway in 1987 and Hayley Turner in 2019 (Turner rode a second this year).

Doyle rode her first Group winner at Newmarket on July 9 on Dame Maillot in the G2 Princess of Wales's Stakes for trainer Ed Vaughan, and got the job the same month as retained jockey for Imad Al Sagar, whose silks were carried to victory in the Epsom Derby by Authorized in 2007.

Then, at Windsor, on Saturday, August 29, she became the first female to ride five winners on a single card in the UK - and she followed that up with three winners the following day, guaranteeing her the award of British Jockey of the Month for August.

Doyle now sits fourth in the British championship with 64 winners. She's well adrift of title leader and defending champ Oisin Murphy, but she's the first female in Britain ever to figure prominently in the higher reaches of this particular set of statistics.

Of course, Doyle is now called upon by many leading British trainers, including elite operators Sir Michael Stoute, Richard Hannon and Charlie Appleby, which means her opportunities, and therefore her level of achievement, are growing exponentially - witness her progress in the TRC Global Rankings.

Until this year, she had been unable to make a mark in our standings, which measure success only in Group and Graded races worldwide. The reason was lack of opportunity rather than lack of talent. Doyle was notable by her absence from our top 500, which typically includes between 15 and 25 females, most of them from Australia and New Zealand, where women jockeys thrive - and are given far more chances to ride in Group races.

Summer 2020 has not only brought Doyle's debut in the rankings, it has seen her rise swiftly - she is now world #146, which, as the table below shows, makes her the third highest-ranked female rider on the planet, behind only Australians Jamie Kah and Linda Meech.

Doyle moved up to #3 two weeks ago on the back of three G3 wins in August, and she cemented her climb last Saturday aboard 25/1 shot Glen Shiel, runner-up in the Betfair Sprint Cup for trainer Archie Watson, a regular employer. It was her first ride in a Group 1.

Kelleway, long a successful trainer, reckons Doyle is a potential British champion, but before that she looks good value to become the world's highest-ranked female jockey.

Kah, though, will take some shifting from that spot. Herself only 24, she is enjoying increasing success on the

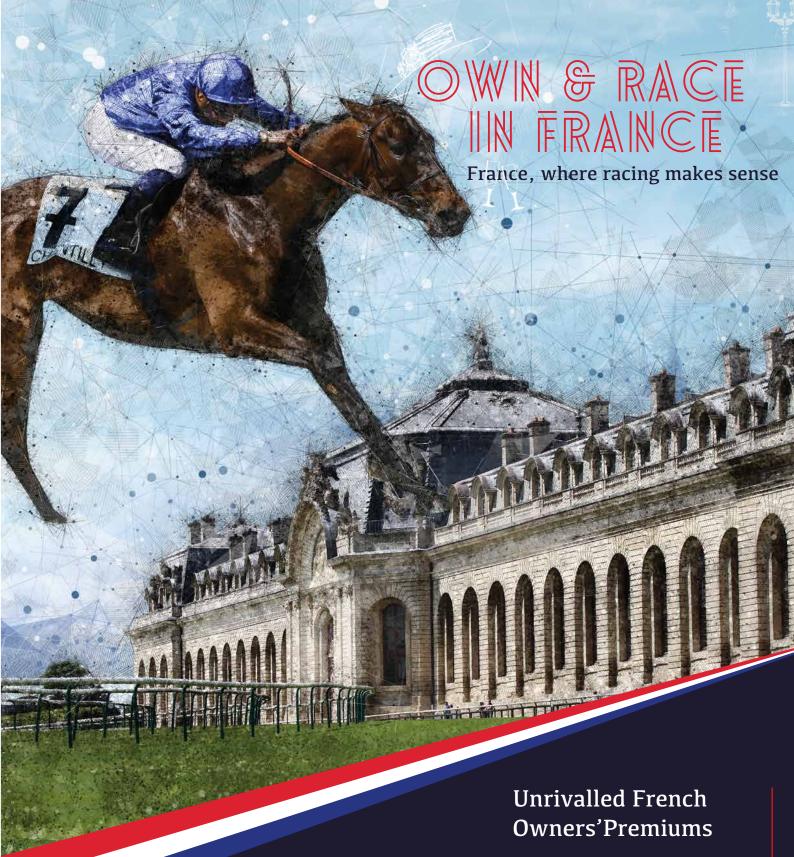
Melbourne circuit. Indeed her standing was bolstered on Saturday with a G2 win aboard Bella Vella at Moonee Valley.

Neither Kah nor Doyle was the biggest climber in the rankings among female jockeys last week, however. That honour goes to Switzerland's Sibylle Vogt, who is based in Germany. She landed a Group 3 at Baden Baden on Wai Key Star to gain six points and move up 98 places to #272. She is now the 11th highest-ranked woman jockey in the world.

Vogt, remember, was the winner of the international jockey challenge on the eve of the Saudi Cup in Riyadh in February, outpointing six of the finest male riders in the world, and five of the finest females.

| Rank | World Rank | Name | Modal Country | Points |
|------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | 101 | Jamie Kah | Australia | 943 |
| 2 | 141 | Linda Meech | Australia | 932 |
| 3 | 146 | Hollie Doyle | Great Britain | 931 |
| 4 | 179 | Rachel King | Australia | 926 |
| 5 | 198 | Georgina Cartwright | Australia | 922 |
| 6 | 212 | Samantha Collett | New Zealand | 920 |
| 7 | 222 | Lucy Warwick | Australia | 919 |
| 8 | 243 | Sophie Doyle | USA | 917 |
| 9 | 262 | Danielle Johnson | New Zealand | 915 |
| 9 | 262 | Kathy O'Hara | Australia | 915 |
| 11 | 272 | Sibylle Vogt | Germany | 914 |
| 12 | 299 | Samantha Spratt | New Zealand | 912 |
| 12 | 299 | Trudy Thornton | New Zealand | 912 |
| 14 | 351 | Raquel Clark | Australia | 909 |
| 14 | 351 | Clare Lindop | Australia | 909 |
| 16 | 375 | Kayla Crowther | Australia | 908 |
| 16 | 375 | Emma-Jayne Wilson | Canada | 908 |
| 18 | 399 | Lisa Allpress | New Zealand | 907 |
| 18 | 399 | Jade Darose | Australia | 907 |
| 18 | 399 | Mickaelle Michel | Italy | 907 |
| 21 | 455 | Skye Bogenhuber | Australia | 905 |
| 21 | 455 | Hayley Turner | Great Britain | 905 |

Doyle now sits fourth in the British championship with 64 winners... she's the first female in Britain ever to figure prominently in the higher reaches of this particular set of statistics.



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The opulent decadence of **Agua Caliente** - and how it was doomed to fail inside a decade

Sacha Lloyd Rutherford and Paul Roberts | August 23, 2020

On December 28, 1929, a steady stream of cars made the journey across the Californian border into Mexico. Trains arrived from Los Angeles and San Francisco, and even some private planes could be seen coming into land. They were all here for the same reason. It was the opening of an 81-day racing season at the newly constructed Agua Caliente Racetrack in Tijuana, just south of the U.S. border in the Mexican state of Baja California.

Hotels had been fully booked for weeks in anticipation. Yet, construction had barely been completed and, while the festivities were taking place, worker unrest was being settled with union leaders behind the scenes.

To the patrons, this went unnoticed. A sea of 20,000 spectators burst from the 5,600-capacity grandstand, flooding out onto the lawn in front. Trackside, the buzz was palpable. Impeccably dressed guests floated around the exclusive Jockey Club, catching the action from the well-appointed terrace or holed away in the upstairs gaming parlour, where track winnings could be lost at the spin of a roulette wheel. An infectious joy came over the crowd as they absorbed the opulence of their surroundings - though it could also have been the freely-flowing champagne taking effect.

Exquisite: The Jockey Club terrace. Photo: Mott-Merge Collections, California History Room, California State LibraryExquisite: The Jockey Club terrace. Photo: Mott-Merge Collections,

California History Room, California State Library

Against the backdrop of splendour and decadence, it was near impossible to comprehend that the stock market crash had occurred just three months prior. Agua Caliente offered an opportunity to escape reality.

The inaugural season was marked with seven staked races and culminated in the running of the Agua Caliente Handicap on March 30, 1930. With a prize pot of \$140,000, it was the richest race in the world.

Forget the Sport of Kings, at Agua Caliente horseracing was the Sport of Barons. The racetrack was the brainchild of four so-called 'Border Barons': Wirt Bowman, James Crofton, Abelardo Rodríguez and the aptly named Baron Long. In 1925, the businessmen pooled their respective knowledge on gaming, racing and hospitality, and took advantage of their political favour to set about building a sumptuous resort.

A desert site with a natural hot water spring was chosen. It was three miles

south of Tijuana's centre and just 21 from San Diego. Due to its proximity to the border, the constitution dictated that only a Mexican buyer could acquire the land. Rodríguez, who was by then the Governor of Baja California, stepped up. The land was secured, and building could begin.

Long took on design. He hosted a competition among well-known Southern Californian architects, but their creations in concrete did not resonate with the romantic image Long had envisioned. Instead, an unknown was offered the job. Wayne McCallister, self-taught and just 19 years old, conjured a Mission Revival scheme with Art Deco detailing to be set within a Mediterranean landscape. Decorators and expert craftsmen added further flair to the interiors, taking influence from the tastes of French and Moroccan kings.

The 500-guest hotel and lavish casino were completed in ten months, opening to excitement in June 1928.

The resort was glamour epitomised and irresistible to the influential elite.



Agua Caliente soon became the reserve of film stars, British aristocracy and business moguls. William Randolph Hearst, Jean Harlow, Bing Crosby and Charlie Chaplin all frequented it. Agua Caliente even helped launch the career of Marguerita 'Rita' Cansino (later Hayworth). She was 'discovered' by the head of Fox Studios, Winfield Sheehan, while working as a dancer at the tender age of 16.

Overwhelming success

Agua Caliente reputedly earnt the Barons \$5 million in its first year. By the first anniversary celebrations, the Barons had extended the hotel by 116 rooms, built an 18-hole golf course and planted hundreds of palm trees. Constructing a racecourse would be the crowning glory of the resort.

James Crofton alongside resident architect Wayne McAllister, investor and developer John Mills, and respected racing official Marshall Cassidy, toured famed America's racecourses to ensure that their new track would rival the best. The \$2 million budget matched the Barons' ambition and the resultant complex was fit for nobility.

The left-handed dirt track sat on a hill above the rest of the resort.

Three million cubic metres of earth were shifted in order to level the site.

McAllister's little secret, however, was that, despite this mammoth effort, the racecourse was actually still tilted on completion. The two-metre discrepancy had an impact on running times, but, as no one caused a fuss, the architect got away with it.

Mirroring the wider resort, the accompanying buildings – including the grandstand and the adjacent Jockey Club – had white stucco walls with red-tile roofs. The grandstand was impressive, but the Jockey Club was exquisite. The asymmetric structure incorporated a tower and a great striped canopy to shelter spectators as they sat out on the tiered patio. Inside, ornate detailing could be found at every turn. Horses' heads carved in wood framed the bar; geometric representations of a

Infectious joy: an early race in front of the magnificent grandstand and Jockey Club at Agua Caliente captured on a postcard. Credit: The Print Collector/Heritage Images

race in action adorned the foyer ceiling; and intricate metalwork, following art deco motifs, decorated the ticket windows.

Ornate interiors. Photo: Mott-Merge Collections, California History Room, California State LibraryOrnate interiors. Photo: Mott-Merge Collections, California History Room, California State Library

The first season was an overwhelming success. Weekend numbers at the racecourse regularly reached 125,000 during the first year of operation. Alongside more ordinary fans, celebrities were a steady feature.

By the time the second season began again on Thanksgiving in 1930, however, the Depression had taken hold and the crowds of the previous year did not materialise. By mid-December, the racetrack had lost \$100,000 (equivalent to at least \$1 million today).

After being dealt another blow by the Mexican government in the form of increased taxes, Crofton suspended operations. Six hundred people suddenly lost their jobs, two days before Christmas.

Crofton managed to negotiate tax relief from the government, and Long donated \$100,000, which Bowman later repaid. The racecourse reopened on New Year's Day and stumbled along until the end of the season.

Desperate to avoid such disaster again, the Barons regrouped. They already understood the effectiveness of publicity stunts, having regularly drafted in Hollywood stars, such as Clark Gable and Ruby Keeler, to crown race winners and appear on marketing materials. This

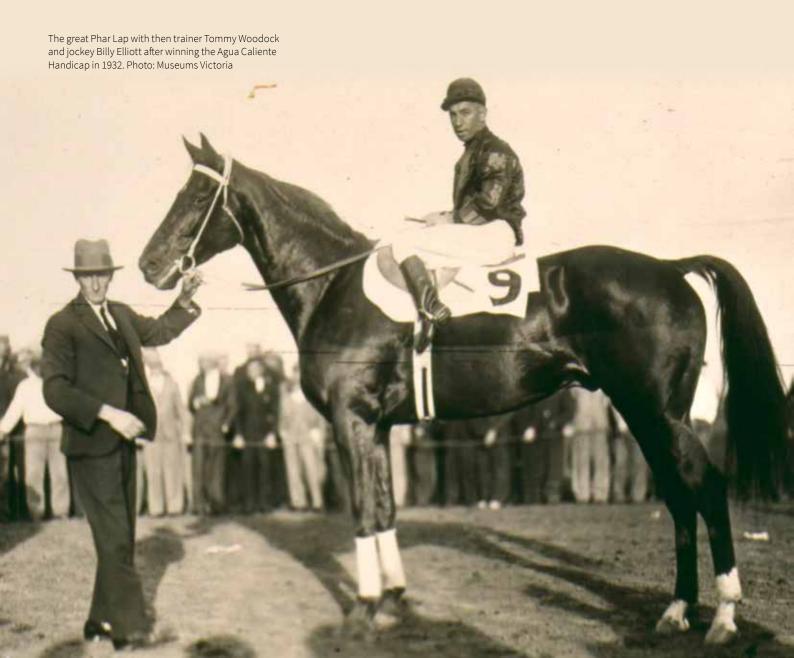
time, if a single act was going to save the racecourse, it needed to be special. In a bid to build interest and boost revenue, Crofton booked a headline act to close the season.

On March 20, 1932, the great Australian Phar Lap was one of the last out of the starting gate. Cut off, he dropped to the back of the field as they passed the stand. His jockey, Billy Elliott, manoeuvred him to the outside so he could get a clear run. Committed to moving up, by the back stretch, Phar Lap was in the lead. The 5-year old gelding had won 22 of the 25 races he'd run, and his winning streak was not over yet. Never relinquishing his hard-fought lead, Phar Lap won the Agua Caliente Handicap by almost three lengths setting a track record. The crowd were euphoric. As the resort celebrated that evening, Al Jolson's voice rang out to the melody of It's a long way to Tipperary:

It's a long way to Caliente, It's a long way to go. It's a long way across the ocean, For the richest purse I know... It's a long way to Caliente, And Phar Lap knows the way

This would be Phar Lap's final hurrah. Within weeks, he was dead – an allegory for Agua Caliente's fate. While the 1931-32 season was moderately successful, it could not change the racecourse's declining fortunes. The books showed a profit, but it was not enough to pay off the vast debt accumulated in the previous years. Then, after a horrific plane crash in July that year, Crofton left.

The situation went from bad to worse. In April 1933, California rescinded its anti-liquor law (nine months before the rest of the U.S.). Sixty of the 100 saloons in Tijuana had closed by June. Then, in



July, the Californian electorate went to the polls and voted on a constitutional amendment that would legalise horseracing and racetrack betting in the state. It passed with 62.7 percent of the vote. In their time of need, Agua Caliente had offered sanctuary to exiled drinking and racing. Now, as much fun as it had been, it was time to return home.

Politics was also conspiring in Mexico. The country had seen four presidents during Agua Caliente's short life – one of whom had been 'Border Baron' Abelardo Rodríguez. However, the rise of Rodríguez's successor would have huge ramifications for the resort.

In his inaugural address on December 1, 1934, the new President, Lázaro Cárdenas, promised radical reforms to target vice. Within a month, Cárdenas had banned casinos across the country – with the exception of Baja California Norte. Agua Caliente had escaped the

initial cleanse, but, seven months later, the ruling was extended.

Although corruption had compromised profits, the casino had been propping up the rest of the resort since its opening. Without its gaming revenue, Agua Caliente could not survive. The Barons emptied the vaults and employees took home the food from the stores. The casino, hotel and golf club closed their doors. Racing was suspended and 600 horses were prepared for shipment.

Agua Caliente racecourse was to give a final encore, however. On March 27, 1938, 5-year-old Seabiscuit took an early lead to secure a two-length win in the Agua Caliente Handicap. An impressive crowd of 20,000 spectators turned up to see the victory.

But it was missing the Hollywood superstars and the grand prize money, which had dwindled to \$10,000. The Barons were gone, and the racecourse was faltering. Despite the valiant effort, it wasn't sustainable. The racecourse had lost its lustre and, soon after, the curtain fell. Agua Caliente's golden moment was truly over.

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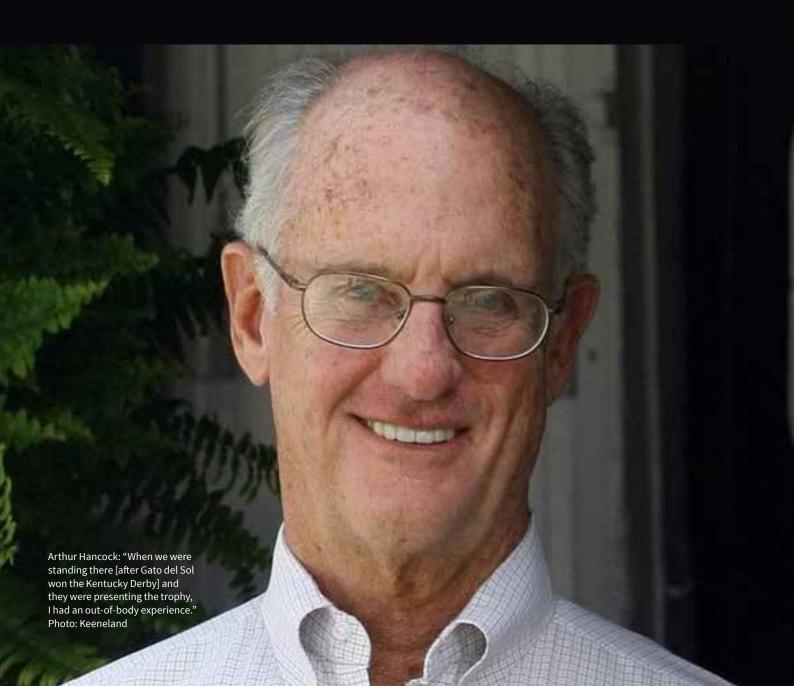


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What They're Thinking Arthur Hancock: One day a jockey will be going wham, wham, wham with the whip and it will be on every TV channel

Amanda Duckworth | September 01, 2020



Arthur B. Hancock III owns Stone Farm in Kentucky and hails from one of the most prominent racing families in America, as his grandfather, the original Arthur Hancock, founded the famed Claiborne Farm.

Hancock became the first member of his family to win the Kentucky Derby thanks to Gato del Sol's efforts in 1982. He bred and raced Gato del Sol in partnership with Leone J Peters, and the pair also bred Risen Star, who won Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes in 1988. Hancock also raised and raced 1989 Horse of the Year Sunday Silence — who won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Breeders' Cup Classic over his rival Easy Goer — and went on to become a breed-shaping stallion in Japan. And he co-bred 2000 Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

Recent stars raised on Stone Farm include 2019 American Horse of the Year Bricks And Mortar, who was bred by George Strawbridge, and Air Force Blue, who was bred by Stone Farm and went on to earn the 2015 European champion 2-year-old colt title for Coolmore.

Who do you believe is the most important figure in the history of racing around the world?

I wouldn't think you could really name any one person. There have been so many on the team, so to speak, and everybody has contributed their portion, whether it's in breeding, racing, or training. There is a team of people who have really worked hard to keep the industry above board and honest. So many people have dedicated their lives and hearts to it. It would be hard to pick any one person because, while maybe some have achieved greater things, others have worked just as hard and been right there fighting the battle.

Which is your favorite venue and race?

My favorite racetrack, because I was raised in it, would be Keeneland. If we are talking about two of them, it would be Keeneland and Saratoga, to me.

My favorite race is the Kentucky Derby, and it always has been, really. As I was growing up, my father always wanted to win it. That was his life dream. He had about four or five horses who could have done it, but something happened to them before they could. I would listen to it all as a child, and it was the race I wanted to win, too. That was my goal.

I remember thinking after I left Claiborne that this is what I would like to hopefully accomplish, and I said, "Maybe I will be 75, even if I am lucky enough to have a horse in it.' But we got lucky early, so that's my favorite race. I am a Kentuckian. It's what I wanted to do.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

When Gato del Sol won the Kentucky Derby. When we were standing there and they were presenting the trophy, I had an out-of-body experience. It's hard to describe, but it's like I just floated up in the air and was looking down on everything from 15-20 feet off the ground. It was surreal. It's what they call an out of body experience, and it's the only time I've ever had that. I just sort of floated up, and I couldn't believe it.

We had won the Kentucky Derby at 21/1. Nobody gave us any chance. We were the first horse to ever win from the outside gate, but it didn't matter about all that. It was my dad's dream and it was my dream, and it came true. I was sort of in shock. I really don't know how to describe it. I was watching everything from 15 feet up in there for maybe 30 seconds.

His retirement is a story in and of itself. We had sold him to Germany, and

he didn't do any good as a stud over there either. My wife, Staci, got worried about him after what happened to Exceller in Sweden. We were able to make arrangements to re-purchase him and fly him back over here. He lived happily ever after here on the farm, and now he's buried in our backyard. You know you are a redneck when you bury your Kentucky Derby winner in your backyard.

What do you see as the biggest challenge racing faces today?

Drugs and thugs. In America, it is the proliferation of race-day medication, performance-enhancing drugs, and whips. I have been fighting the drugs for 30 years. We are the only country that allows it. We are a rogue nation in that regard, and it's ridiculous. The problem is every other country is a country. We have these states, and that's the problem. They are these fiefdoms with the racing commissioners and governors. In France or England or Germany, they have one centralized government.

With whips, I was watching a race from Saratoga, and the horse was two lengths on the lead, near the finish, and the jockey hit him five or six times. It was needless. The horse won, but he was being hit needlessly. They need to limit hitting a horse to maybe three times and only if necessary, then. It's inevitable that they are going to have a camera on one of them where the jockey is going wham, wham, and something terrible is going to happen. It will be all over every news channel. You just don't need it.

Most every other country has whip rules. I used to ride myself, and I understand some horses do need to be popped to get them going, but when they are two lengths on the lead so close to the finish line, they don't need to be hit like that. It's a changed world, and you just don't need to do that.

If you could change one thing in racing, what would it be?

I would change the drug rules, and I would change the whip rules. I would try to make America uniform with the rest of the world. We are an outlier, and there is no sense in it. It's bad for the fans, it's bad for our reputation, and it's bad the health of the horses. That would be what I would change.

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in association with



27 September 2020

Horses

| Rank | Name | Country | Points |
|------|----------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Enable GB | Great Britain | 1384 |
| 2 | Magical IRE | Ireland | 1294 |
| 3 | Ghaiyyath IRE | France | 1291 |
| 4 | Contrail JPN | Japan | 1272 |
| 5 | Maximum Security USA | USA | 1267 |
| 6 | Love IRE | Great Britain | 1261 |
| 7 | Almond Eye JPN | Japan | 1260 |
| 8 | Stradivarius IRE | Great Britain | 1257 |
| 9 | Tiz The Law USA | USA | 1250 |
| 10 | Battaash IRE | Great Britain | 1244 |
| 11 | Beauty Generation NZ | Hong Kong | 1233 |
| 11 | Nature Strip AUS | Australia | 1233 |
| 13 | Persian King IRE | France | 1224 |
| 14 | Mohaather GB | Great Britain | 1218 |
| 15 | Improbable USA | USA | 1217 |

Jockeys

| Rank | Name | Country | Points |
|------|-----------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Frankie Dettori | Great Britain | 1101 |
| 2 | William Buick | Great Britain | 1067 |
| 3 | Christophe Lemaire | Japan | 1058 |
| 4 | Ryan Moore | Great Britain | 1057 |
| 5 | Joel Rosario | USA | 1049 |
| 6 | Flavien Prat | USA | 1046 |
| 7 | Irad Ortiz Jr | USA | 1045 |
| 8 | Zac Purton | Hong Kong | 1043 |
| 9 | James McDonald | Australia | 1039 |
| 10 | Pierre-Charles Boudot | France | 1029 |
| 11 | Javier Castellano | USA | 1028 |
| 12 | Mike E Smith | USA | 1026 |
| 13 | Jim Crowley | Great Britain | 1023 |
| 14 | Mickael Barzalona | France | 1022 |
| 15 | Jose L Ortiz | USA | 1018 |

Trainers

| Rank | Name | Country | Points |
|------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | John Gosden | Great Britain | 1079 |
| 2 | Charlie Appleby | Great Britain | 1075 |
| 3 | Chad C Brown | USA | 1071 |
| 4 | Aidan O'Brien | Ireland | 1050 |
| 5 | Bob Baffert | USA | 1025 |
| 6 | Brad H Cox | USA | 1021 |
| 7 | James Cummings | Australia | 1012 |
| 8 | Chris Waller | Australia | 1007 |
| 9 | Steven Asmussen | USA | 1000 |
| 10 | Andre Fabre | France | 996 |

Owners

| Rank | Name | Country | Points |
|------|---|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Godolphin | Australia | 1082 |
| 2 | Coolmore Partners | Ireland | 1064 |
| 3 | Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum | Great Britain | 1051 |
| 4 | Silk Racing Co Ltd | Japan | 1030 |
| 5 | Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla | Great Britain | 1027 |
| 6 | Madaket Stables Et Al | USA | 1019 |
| 7 | White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al | USA | 1018 |
| 8 | Gary Barber Et Al | USA | 1014 |
| 8 | Peters Investments Et Al | Australia | 1014 |
| 10 | Sunday Racing Co Ltd | Japan | 1012 |

Sires

| Rank | Name | Country | Points |
|------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Galileo | Ireland | 1082 |
| 2 | Dubawi | Great Britain | 1079 |
| 3 | Sea The Stars | Great Britain | 1042 |
| 3 | Shamardal | Great Britain | 1042 |
| 5 | Lord Kanaloa | Japan | 1041 |
| 6 | Deep Impact | Japan | 1037 |
| 7 | Frankel | Great Britain | 1026 |
| 7 | Lope De Vega | Australia | 1026 |
| 9 | Uncle Mo | USA | 1021 |
| 10 | Street Cry | Australia | 1020 |