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TRC



What price Accelerate being Horse of the Year now?

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‘Accelerate is special. He’s danced every dance. This is Horse of the Year. It’s a body of work.’

Bob Ehalt | November 04, 2018



Cover photo: Candice Chavez/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM

Just too strong: Accelerate is clear of third-placed Thunder Snow (nearside) in the closing stages with the partly hidden Gunnevera finishing strongly to take second. Photo: Scott Serio/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM

For a while now, Kosta Hronis been hearing a particular line of thinking that did not sit well with him. But there was little he could say in response. All of his contentions were cloaked with the highly meaningful word “if”.

Then on Saturday, at the 35th Breeders’ Cup World Championships, after his 5-year-old champion-in-the-making delivered rather a statement about who should be the 2018 U.S. Horse of the Year, Hronis was in a mood for some chatter.

No longer can people discuss Accelerate’s Horse of the Year

possibilities with the words “if he wins the Breeders’ Cup Classic”.

Now it’s a done deal.

Accelerate did his part to fuel some debate about Horse of the Year as he registered a one-length victory over Gunnevera in the \$6 million BC Classic (see video below), which closed out the Breeders’ Cup’s two-day run at Churchill Downs during its 35th season.

Notching five G1 wins in a single year, capped by the BC Classic, is usually game, set and match when it comes to Horse of the Year. Yet 2018 is not your typical year. It’s one of those 13 times when a horse achieves legendary status by winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes in one fell swoop.

To many, Justify wrapped up Horse of the Year honors on June 9 when he crossed the finish line in the Belmont Stakes to complete the sweep and push his record to a perfect 6-for-6.

There’s a strong sentiment that little has changed since June, but Justify’s retirement in late July has emboldened some cynics to voice contrarian viewpoints.

All of which leads us back to Hronis.

“I think he’s done something no-one has done before. He swept all the California Grade 1s and he was undefeated (4-for-4) at a mile-and-a-quarter,” he said after the Classic. “I read somewhere where it said maybe he did all of this in the wrong year, well, maybe Justify won the Triple Crown in the wrong year.”

Clearly, it’s the wrong year for someone, and while Accelerate faces tough sledding in the Horse of the Year race, he surely helped his cause in front of 70,423 fans on Saturday at Churchill Downs.

Breaking from post 14, having never won outside California, being trained by someone who was 0-for-44 in the Breeders’ Cup before the race and lost with a 4/5 favorite earlier in the card, were probably the main reasons why Accelerate (\$7.40) was a luke-warm 5/2 favorite instead of a much lower price based



Enjoying the moment: Kosta Hronis with winning jockey Joel Rosario after Accelerate’s victory in the Breeders’ Cup Classic. Photo: Bill Denver/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM

strictly on his past performances. Yet that didn’t matter in the least to Accelerate, who is a no-brainer to be named the champion older male.

He simply went out and beat a collection of the world’s best horses in the richest of the 14 stakes that comprise the Breeders’ Cup to win for the sixth time in seven starts this year.

“This horse is special,” Hronis said. “He showed up every time. He’s danced every dance. He’s

been solid. This is Horse of the Year. It’s a body of work, what he has done in the last 12 months. I think he’s well deserving to be of that honor. There’s no doubt.”

Trainer John Sadler, when asked for his thoughts, admitted he’s quite biased.

“That’s for sportswriters. But for me, I’m prejudiced. To me, he’s Horse of the Year, no doubt,” Sadler said. “He’s won all those great races. For me, to win the Santa Anita Handicap was probably one

“To me, he’s Horse of the Year, no doubt,” Sadler said. “He’s won all those great races. For me, to win the Santa Anita Handicap was probably one or two on my bucket list. I’ve been a California guy my whole life. The Classic is a newer race but a great race, and he won that so smashingly. He’s just a great horse and had a great year.”

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But was it the kind of campaign that can obscure a Triple Crown sweep?

That’s the question that Eclipse Award voters will have to answer for themselves. Accelerate is expected to race for the final time on Jan. 26 in the Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park before retiring to Lanes End Farm in Kentucky – exiting the stage much like Gun Runner did earlier this year. So, all of the evidence is in.

In one corner, there’s Accelerate, with the five G1s topped by a victory at the World Championships over 13 rivals whose past efforts include wins in the Dubai World Cup, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Travers, Pennsylvania Derby, Woodward, Stephen Foster, Golden Shaheen and runner-up finishes in the Pegasus World Cup and Dubai World Cup.

In the other, there’s the history and tradition of the likes of Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Affirmed and American Pharoah and nine other horses, all of whom have plaques in the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga.

The money line favors Justify, but a sneak peek of what to expect in January could come tomorrow (Monday), when the final National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) Top Ten poll is released.

With the “if” about winning the Breeders’ Cup Classic removed from the equation it could offer some insights into the way voters are looking at the Justify vs. Accelerate debate.

Last week’s poll had Accelerate on top, even though Justify had a 27-6 edge in first-place votes. Several voters have been leaving Justify off their ballot because of his retirement in the summer and a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 sliding point scale explain how the points and the first-place votes tell such a different story.

So, in the final poll, it will be interesting to see if Accelerate’s heroics allow him to close the gap in first-place votes by an appreciable margin.

What should we expect?

Justify will probably win. There’s nothing wrong with considering Accelerate and taking a long look at his resume. Yet when you consider how the sport in America is built around the Triple Crown and the quality of the horses who have pulled off the spring classics trifecta, he gets the nod. Even if he raced only from mid-February until early June, what he did in those 111 days-plus, has been accomplished only once before. Seattle Slew emerged from the 1977 Triple Crown undefeated, but then he lost in his very first race after the Belmont Stakes.

That’s definitely historic and quite compelling.

On Friday, this TRC story addressed the Horse of the Year question and found that several prominent members of the racing industry had already made up their minds about how they intend to vote.

Justify an all-time great?

One astute thought came from Justin Zayat, the President and CEO of Racing and Bloodstock for Zayat Stables. Not surprisingly, since his father owned American Pharoah, he’s in the Justify camp, yet his reasoning seemed quite fair and logical.

“You have to respect Accelerate, but if he wins the Breeders’ Cup Classic it’s not like you are going to rate him among the sport’s all-time greats. He’s a very, very good horse. I’m taking nothing away from him. But a case can be made that Justify is one of the all-time greats because he is an undefeated Triple Crown winner. To me, the case is closed,” he said.

Perhaps it is. Time will indeed tell.

Yet, as the 35th Breeders’ Cup World Championships is now a part of history, there was indeed something entirely new for the sport. Never before had there been a Breeders’ Cup without the current year’s Triple Crown winner in it.

This year broke that mold and may have turned the Breeders’ Cup Classic, a race that often crowns or derails a champion, into an afterthought in that regard.

In January, we’ll know for sure “if” that is the case.

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Winx's Cox Plate: cherish and respect this utterly special moment

Amanda Duckworth | October 28, 2018



Hugh Bowman salutes the crowd as he parades Winx before her ecstatic fans after the race. Photo: Sharon Lee Chapman

About an hour after Winx made history by winning her fourth consecutive Cox Plate, her strapper, Umut Odemislioglu, led her out of Moonee Valley to head home. As they left her stall, Odemislioglu stopped Winx by the gate so that fans could pet her.

During their walk to the exit, the pair paused several times to let spectators have a quick but special moment. As they disappeared out of sight, a little girl, possibly even younger than the 7-year-old mare herself, frantically waved while yelling out, “Goodbye, Winx, goodbye!”

It was a moment so pure that it served as a reminder to take a minute to respect what Winx has done —



True love: a picture that says it all (top). Tributes: neither big companies (middle) nor obsessed fans (bottom) held back when it came to on-track signs of affection for the great mare. Photos: Amanda Duckworth

without worrying about what she hasn't. There's plenty of time for debate in the aftermath, but it's also important to appreciate a special moment while it's happening.

Build-up

At its heart, horseracing boils down to "I think my horse is faster than your horse". Way back when, this conversation took place between neighbors who could simply saddle up their horses and get an answer. Now, the debates span the globe and are fed by keyboard warriors, which makes for fascinating conversation but rarely garners conclusive results.

Leading up to the Cox Plate, there was endless discussion about the mare's career and what her place in the history books will be. This year's main competition came in the form of European invader Benbatl, which opened up the us-versus-them can of worms even more than normal.

On the day, Benbatl ran valiantly, but Winx beat him with relative ease as she continued to rewrite the history of the Australian turf. Decades from now, that's what will be remembered, but the details might fade in time.

Cox Plate Day was a sold-out affair at Moonee Valley, as 40,000 or so eager fans filled the place to capacity. Because of the overwhelming interest in the race, a viewing party was also held in downtown Melbourne for those who missed out on tickets but wanted to share the moment with others.

When Winx arrived in her stall at the track, racegoers stood ten deep just to get a look at her. Probably the horse who enjoyed this the most was fan favorite Happy Trails, a multiple G1 winner who ran in five Cox Plates and was there representing retired racehorses. Happy Trails was directly across from Winx and was brought out for the crowds to pet. He happily obliged and seemed to bask in the attention.



Just too good: Winx is comfortably in command ahead of Benbatl at the line. The crowd not only cheered her, they cheered the runner-up as well. Photo: Sharon Lee Chapman

Major race days around the world all feature their own special traditions, and, as I discovered, the Cox Plate's comes via a power ballad released in 1990. As an American, I am used to the concept of a song being sung before the feature, but while the Kentucky Derby turns to the emotional historical tune *My Old Kentucky Home*, the Cox Plate features *The Horses* by Daryl Braithwaite.

I learned this the night before, after the running of the Manikato Stakes. When racing concluded, I was surprised to see a music video up on screen featuring a man passionately belting out his love while walking on a beach.

When I commented on it, my Australian companions all schooled me in the importance of *The Horses* to the Cox Plate and told me I needed to get the lyrics down by the next afternoon. I looked around and realized most of the remaining crowd was singing along, and

some were even dancing.

Sure enough, on Saturday, per tradition, Daryl Braithwaite himself appeared just before the race, and the crowd lovingly sang the words back to him.

Before he started, though, he dedicated the beloved song to Winx.

In addition to a full house of racing spectators, many of the jockeys not riding in the Cox Plate came out and lined up to get a prime view of what was about to happen. One, still in his riding gear, had arranged to get a photographer's vest and ran across the track with a professional camera in hand to join those documenting the race.

As soon as Winx stepped on course, the crowds cheered for her, and on the final turn, when she started to make her move, they started cheering again and didn't stop until well after she crossed the finish line in front.

Aftermath

Given some of the vitriol that had occurred leading up to the race, what was nice is that when Benbatl made his way back in front of the stands, the crowd cheered for him as well.

This year, Benbatl has won at the highest level in Dubai, Europe and Australia. Sending him to run in the Cox Plate was sporting of Godolphin, and it was good to see his efforts recognized.

It wasn't just the fans showing appreciation. While Benbatl was being tended to, he happened to be stopped in front of Debbie Kepitis, one of Winx's co-owners, and she was clapping for him, too.

The argument surrounding Winx usually focuses on the fact that she hasn't raced outside of Australia, and at this point, it seems unlikely that she will. It's a fair conversation to have. So is where she ranks among the greatest of all time.



Something to tell your grandchildren about: they will remember forever the moment they got up close and personal with the icon that is Winx. Photo: Amanda Duckworth

When it comes to the second point, everyone has their own opinion and seems unlikely to change it. What makes a horse great depends on what you value the most, and everyone has their own take on that.

In and amongst the arguments before and after the Cox Plate, however, two things did ring false.

Depending on which side of the aisle they were coming from, those attacking and name-calling Winx or Benbatl did a disservice to the sport. Winning any race at all is a hard thing to accomplish, and both of these horses are multiple G1 winners. Disparaging them is wholly unnecessary. It's one thing to discuss ability, it's another to actually mock the animal in question.

Racehorses run because it is what they love to do, but they do it in front of thousands of people because we ask them to. Respect that.

Then there are some who still deny Winx is special, and at this point, after 29 consecutive wins, that's just a bit delusional. Our sport is always trying to figure out ways to grow, but nothing garners attention like a superstar. Winx undeniably is one.



Basking in the attention: retired five-time Cox Plate contender Happy Trails. Photo: Amanda Duckworth

People show up to watch her run, and she has delivered every single time since May 2015. Think about that. One of the most common complaints about horse racing is that our champions don't stick around. Winx has, and the crowds have followed.

Like other champions before her, the what-ifs surrounding Winx will

always be debated. It's good, it's healthy, and it is part of what makes racing great. Just don't get so bogged down in what Winx hasn't done that you miss out on what she has.

Winx is a racing icon, she will go down as a legend, and in the words of Daryl Braithwaite's earworm, "That's the way it's gonna be, little darlin'."

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3	DEEP IMPACT	25	23
4	DUBAWI	30	18
5	SCAT DADDY	25	16
6	QUALITY ROAD	22	14
7	KODIAC	21	12
	TAPIT	22	12
	WAR FRONT	26	12
10	DARK ANGEL	18	11
	INTO MISCHIEF	31	11
12	INVINCIBLE SPIRIT	18	10

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Will racing learn to love the new Longchamp?

Paul Roberts | October 05, 20188



Sunday Silence: "No one wanted him," says Arthur B. Hancock III, who raised him at Stone Farm in Kentucky. "When he [started] his stallion career, I called everybody in the world and no one wanted shares"

Racing may have been taking place at the newly redeveloped Longchamp - or ParisLongchamp as it is now known officially - since April, but its first big test comes on Arc day on Sunday, when most of the vast crowd will be experiencing the new set-up for the first time. How are they likely to react to a design that some will see as radical? What do the experts who have already seen Longchamp 2018 make of the changes?

There are few with the same level of expertise as Paul Roberts, an advisor specialising in development strategy with a particular focus on sport. Roberts, of London-based Turnberry Consulting, was a key part of the team involved in the redevelopment of Ascot, and has advised on major works at some of the world's other leading tracks, including Saratoga, Flemington and York. He visited Longchamp last month. Here is his assessment.

The new Longchamp is Version 4 of a racecourse that is one of the four elite tracks of Europe (it is a curious



The new layout: the parade ring is on the right of the picture. Photo: France Galop

fact that the majority of black-type races in Europe take place at either Ascot, Newmarket, Longchamp or the Curragh).

Of these, Longchamp and the Curragh have had much troubled journeys to renewal. I will see the Curragh for the first time next year.

My first trip to Longchamp came in the late 1990s as part of the Ascot programme. At that time there was confidence that the Longchamp redevelopment would be completed before Ascot's had started - not 13 years later.

Longchamp Version 1 (1857)

This was the original, built in 1857 during the reign of Napoleon III (1851-70), on the large plain at the west of the Bois de Boulogne, the city's newly-created park. Following the template established at Chantilly a decade earlier, its buildings were a sphere of exclusivity, built by the elite for the elite.

It included five separate stands capable of accommodating nearly 5,000 spectators. At the centre of the ensemble was the Loge d'Empereur, the imperial pavilion. It was the tallest



The Tribune Presidentielle in 1922. Photo: Bibliothèque

and grandest of the structures. Rising five storeys, with a central belvedere tower, the lavishness of its fittings left little doubt as to the importance of its intended occupant. To either side of this stood a pair of identical stands – the Tribunes Réservées – one for Société d'Encouragement members

and the other intended for the imperial family, ministers of state and army leaders.

The two timber public tribunes were the simplest of the architectural grouping; racegoers were provided with basic tiered wooden benches.



The Longchamp stands in 2014 - still the design from the 1960s. Photo: Copyleft

Longchamp Version 2 (1904)

Nearly 50 years later, the racecourse replaced the original collection of stands with a gleaming new ensemble, a long line of new stands with a small, stand-alone Tribune Présidentielle as its centrepiece. They shared common architectural features with their predecessors, notably stair towers and balconies on the rear façade. However, they were realised on a far larger, more commodious and majestic scale. There were two grandstands, each possessing two tiers of raked steppings overlooking the course, while the rear elevation was three storeys tall.

Longchamp Version 3 (1965/6)

Come the 1960s, Longchamp's picturesque 1904 grandstands were no longer spacious enough to accommodate the crowds.

The buildings were demolished and supplanted by three new stands, within the October 1965 to April 1966 interval between racing seasons. The new stands sacrificed much of the elegance and intimacy of the turn-of-the-century Longchamp. The modular buildings were large and functional, but ultimately lifeless and commonplace. The delicate presidential stand was replaced by 'a sort of air traffic control tower', bemoaned one commentator.

Improvements and missed opportunities

The 1960s were not kind to many courses. Poor development schemes, lacking in ambition and in a period of unrefined design, were widespread post-war, notably at Ascot, Doncaster, York and Sandown - and Longchamp.

The schemes at Ascot and Doncaster have already been replaced. Sandown has survived as one of the better schemes. Bits of Haydock and Newbury linger on, now even more stark with more recent additions. So it was with great interest that I travelled to Paris on a quiet race day in September. The 1960s version was a poor solution to the trail-blazing 1904 scheme. What had 2018 brought?

The main structuring elements have been maintained. The parade ring is in a similar location, with a podium between it and the main grandstand, but the main change is the replacement of the two previous buildings, which were interrupted by the presidential tower, with a single new building.

The setting and viewing are similar, with the upper-tier views



Looking out over the parade ring from the rear of the new grandstand. Photo: ScoopDyga



The new main entrance, with a statue of the legendary champion Gladiateur at the top of an ascending staircase. Photo: APRH



The runners are driven out up the home straight in front of cheering racegoers. But is the crowd so far from the action that the atmosphere appears muted? Photo: ScoopDyga

equally spectacular. However, they are now enhanced by additional terraces facing the home bend end and to the rear overlooking the parade ring - less real estate, but similar in approach, especially at the upper levels. The style is orthogonal and modern, with long, sweeping lines and a cantilever at one end. This will be attractive to some and an anathema to others, but that is always the case in matters of style. It will be a few years before we get to know if it has been accepted.

The track side has been softened with some wood, and this carries through to the parade ring.

Arrival at the racecourse can be confusing, and a little low-key. I went in by a side entrance off the public highway, as I'm sure many will do, because I didn't see the

new grand entrance, which has an ascending staircase presided over serenely by the statue of the legendary champion Gladiateur. This is a distinct improvement and no doubt will be impressive on Arc day, but when I was there I only found it later.

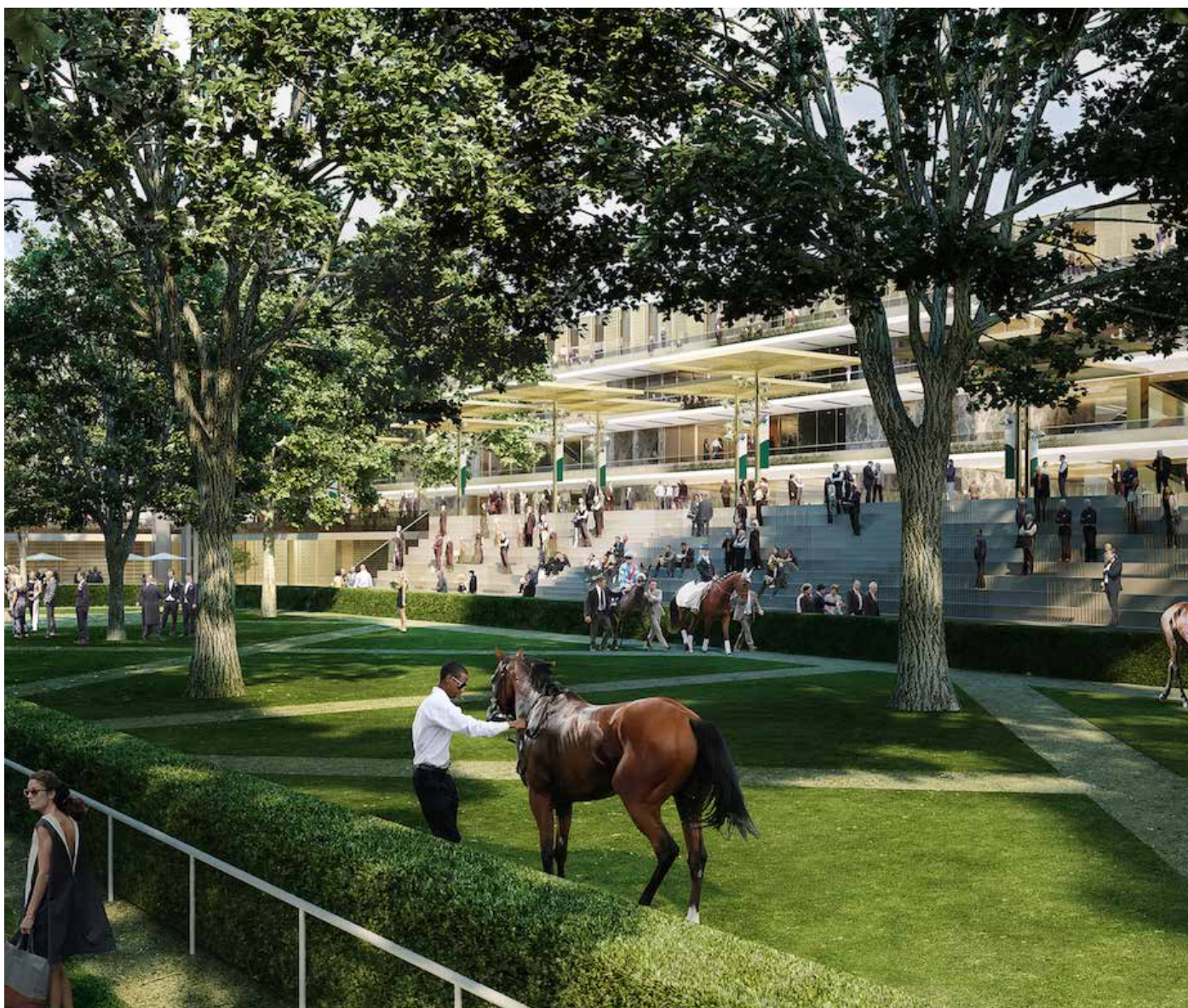
There is an interesting area past the finishing post that will be dressed for larger meetings but, as with the prior schemes, the lawns fail to connect with the racecourse as well as they do at other venues, and the track itself remains broad and wide.

A great failing that has not been addressed arises because of the width of the track - I don't know of one anywhere that is wider. Inevitably the runners race up the far rail away from the stands in the home straight. Even when the rail is moved closer, as on Arc

Weekend, the horses are so far from the stands that what should be an electric atmosphere is severely reduced.

In other areas, there are major strides. The stables are excellent, and a new walking ring close to the parade ring is a positive addition that will help anxious horses. The rebuilding of the grandstand means a new weighing room has been built to international standards. However, the jockey exit and the scope for theatre have been missed both with this and the horse walk. The potential opportunity that has been grasped at Goodwood, for instance, has been missed, although that can be fixed.

A joy, however, is the impressive bistro, which now flanks the parade ring. It is well appointed and well positioned and particularly effective for a small day. On larger



The new parade ring: the impressive new bistro is towards the left. Photo: DPA Architecture / Studio Explore

days it will be a popular spot. It provides some containment to the parade ring.

By the parade ring, there is the curious experience of the service road, which runs along the rear of the stand. I wasn't looking for it, but I ended up walking along it almost by accident. This is the above-ground

equivalent to what is underground at Ascot.

Overall, France Galop have modernised Longchamp – a difficult task. The update is refreshing, but it has been developed along similar lines to the old structure. It is much awaited and needed.

The key thing is what is done from

here. It takes five years or so to get the programming of a new racecourse settled and effective. The change is so dramatic in what is a conservative sport that it is unrealistic to expect perfection in the short term.

There are many improvements here, but will racing learn to love Longchamp Version 4? Only time will tell.

The key thing is what is done from here. It takes five years or so to get the programming of a new racecourse settled and effective.

The ten magnificent horses who made this perhaps the greatest Breeders' Cup Classic ever

Amanda Duckworth | October 21, 20188



Eventual fifth Coronado's Quest, who had won both the Travers and the Haskell that year, leads the all-star cast round the final bend. He was to finish a close fifth. Apologies for the poor quality of this shot, which is a still from the video below. You'll see when you watch it why there are only nine of the runners in this picture - the eventual fourth, Victory Gallop, was well behind even at this stage

Even at the time, there was a feeling that the 1998 Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs was one of the greatest fields ever assembled. Twenty years later, the gift of hindsight only strengthens the argument.

Ten horses took part in the Classic that year. Heading into the race, between them they had won 69 stakes races and 31 of them had come at the G1 level. Their collective earnings sat at just below \$30 million, nine of them were G1 winners, and eight of them were millionaires.

A total 80,452 people were on hand that day, which is still a record

attendance for the Breeders' Cup. The betting public didn't know what to do with such a bounty of riches, and eight of the horses went off at odds of less than 9/1. The only non-G1 winner, Running Stag, a multiple Graded stakes winner who would retire with more than \$1.6 million in earnings, went off at 104/1.

Between them, the field had conquered each leg of the Triple Crown, competed at the best race meets around the world, and won championship titles on three continents, as they represented not only North America's best, but Europe and South America's finest, too.

Less than a length would separate the top four finishers.

Ahead of this year's Breeders' Cup, which returns to Churchill Downs, it seems appropriate to pay tribute to the horses who showed up 20 years ago. Especially as the top three finishers are all still with us, enjoying the rolling hills of Kentucky — even though as it happens, none of them were born there.



Awesome Again is still an active stallion at Adena Springs in Kentucky. His progeny include Ghostzapper, who was to win the BC Classic six years later. Photo: Adena Springs

Winner: Awesome Again

With his win in the Breeders' Cup Classic, Awesome Again finished his season a perfect six-for-six, with five of those victories coming in Graded company. It was the final race of his career, and although he won nine of 12 career starts, he was never named a champion.

That did not stop him from leaving his mark on the breed. A homebred for Frank Stronach, Awesome Again, an Ontario-bred, took up stallion duties at Adena Springs in Kentucky and has sired the earners of over \$90 million.

Among his four Breeders' Cup champions is another Stronach homebred, Ghostzapper, who won the 2004 Breeders' Cup Classic.

More heralded than his father, Ghostzapper was crowned Horse of the Year that season and has also been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Awesome Again is still an active stallion at Adena Springs in Kentucky. His progeny include Ghostzapper, who was to win the BC Classic six years later. Photo: Adena Springs

Awesome Again is the only Classic winner to sire a Classic winner. Father and son are both

at Adena Springs, as is one of Ghostzapper's sons, G1 winner and millionaire Shaman Ghost. Furthermore, Awesome Again's half-brother, Macho Uno, is also at Adena. He won the 2000 Breeders' Cup Juvenile and was named champion 2-year-old colt. His son Mucho Macho Man, also standing at Adena, kept the family legacy alive by winning the 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic.

Now 24, Awesome Again is still an active stallion.

"Awesome Again is such a unique, special horse," said Ben Walden, Adena's director of marketing and bloodstock consultant. "He's about to be 25, but he's not lost a step



Silver Charm is now an equine ambassador at Old Friends in Kentucky. "We have a lot of stars, but we only really have one superstar, and it's him," said Michael Blowen, who founded Old Friends. Photo: Amanda Duckworth

physically, and he's not lost a step from a libido standpoint. He just has an amazing vitality. His fertility is not what it once was, but it's incredible how he embraces life. He looks like he's 14.

"Mr. Stronach is so dedicated to all of his horses, but obviously he wants this horse to have the very best of life right on through. The family legacy is special, and it's a privilege to be connected to it."

Second: Silver Charm

Although he briefly led in the Classic, Silver Charm had to settle for second, three-quarters of a length behind Awesome Again.

The Florida-bred champion's resume included winning both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in 1997, and he returned as a 4-year-old to take the 1998 Dubai

World Cup. When he retired in 1999 with earnings just shy of \$7 million, Silver Charm had won 12 of 24 starts and was second or third in nine more. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007.

Silver Charm did not prove as successful as Awesome Again did in the breeding shed. After standing in both Kentucky and Japan, he was pensioned from stud duties in 2014.

The Lewis family, who campaigned him during his career, had always said Silver Charm would return to Kentucky for his retirement. Now 24, Silver Charm is an equine ambassador at Old Friends Farm outside of Lexington, which features a mix of big-name runners (who are often sponsored by their past connections) and smaller names who needed a safe place to land.

Silver Charm is now an equine

ambassador at Old Friends in Kentucky. "We have a lot of stars, but we only really have one superstar, and it's him," said Michael Blowen, who founded Old Friends. Photo: Amanda Duckworth Silver Charm is now an equine ambassador at Old Friends in Kentucky. "We have a lot of stars, but we only really have one superstar, and it's him," said Michael Blowen, who founded Old Friends. Photo: Amanda Duckworth

"We have a lot of stars, but we only really have one superstar, and it's him," said Michael Blowen, who founded Old Friends. "To me it's like the difference between having Jerry Lee Lewis and Buddy Holly and having Elvis. Ever since we got him, tourism has grown at least 30 percent, and I think that's a conservative estimate.

"All I can say is, if you think



Swain pictured earlier this year at Shadwell Farm in Lexington, where he is spending his retirement. He is the only horse to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes twice (the other was Dahlia in 1973/4). Photo: Shadwell

Silver Charm looked good on the track, wait until you see him now. He's unbelievable. He's so nice to people, and he's so kind. I think during all parts of his career — racing, breeding, and retirement — he has always taken everything in stride. He is extremely patient with all of our visitors. If they gave out Eclipse Awards for retirement, he would be at the head of the class because he is great with everybody.”

Incidentally, Touch Gold, the horse who denied Silver Charm the Triple Crown, also ran in the 1998 Classic. The previous year's Belmont winner came home eighth that day. He too is retired at Old Friends, and his paddock is just across the way from Silver Charm's.

“Touch Gold is doing great, but he's the antithesis of Silver

Charm,” said Blowen. “He doesn't suffer fools gladly. It's his way or the highway. As much as I have always seen Touch Gold as Silver Charm's nemesis, in retirement, with them right across from each other, there has never been a cross word between them. I think people are the only ones holding grudges about that Belmont.”

Additionally, Alphabet Soup, the 1996 Classic winner, is among the stars who now call Old Friends home.

Third: Swain

Swain provided more than a dash of international intrigue to the Classic field. A champion in Europe, the Irish-bred had become just the second horse to ever win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes twice. He also had

competed in the Breeders' Cup before, finishing third in the 1996 Turf.

Although a champion on the grass, Swain proved his ability on dirt when he finished second by a head to Silver Charm in the Dubai World Cup. In the Classic, he infamously went extremely wide in the final stages of the race and finished behind Silver Charm again, this time by a neck.

The Classic was Swain's final race, and the globetrotter bowed out from the track with 20 top-three finishes from 22 starts and earnings of over \$3.7 million. Bred by Sheikh Mohammed and campaigned in the Godolphin silks, Swain retired to stud in Lexington at Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Farm, and he was best represented by G1 winner Dimitrova.

“He’s up on the hill in our retired horse barn, and he’s such a nice horse to work around. He’s so calm and laid back. He’s an easy-going horse.”

Swain eventually was relocated to Ascot Stud in Canada, but, when he was pensioned in 2011, it was announced he would return to Shadwell for his retirement.

Swain pictured earlier this year at Shadwell Farm in Lexington, where he is spending his retirement. He is the only horse to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes twice (the other was Dahlia in 1973/4). Photo: Shadwell
Swain pictured earlier this year at Shadwell Farm in Lexington, where he is spending his retirement. He is the only horse to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes twice (the other was Dahlia in 1973/4). Photo: Shadwell

“We still get a fair number of visitors who want to see Swain, especially Europeans who are in town for the sales and remember him on the track,” said stallion manager Kent Barnes. “He’s up on the hill in our retired horse barn, and he’s such a nice horse to work around. He’s so calm and laid back. He’s an easy-going horse.”

Now 26, the son of Nashwan shares the pensioners barn at Shadwell with Dumaani, Kayrawan, and Intidab. As it happens, plans call for a Breeders’ Cup Classic winner to eventually take up residence there as well.

“They have nice paddocks, they come inside twice a day, and they are basically treated the same as the active stallions,” said Barnes. “We have the facilities, the room, and the people here,

so we want all of our stallions to come back and finish out their final days here. When they go to regional places, they are nice facilities, but it is hard to beat the Kentucky bluegrass, so that’s the plan with all these guys. Even Invasor, when he is finished in South America, will come back here to retire.”

While racing for Shadwell, Invasor was named the 2006 Horse of the Year after his victory in the Classic. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013.

Fourth: Victory Gallop

Best known for denying Real Quiet the 1998 Triple Crown, Victory Gallop finished a nose behind Swain in the Classic. He returned to the races in 1999 and won the Eclipse Award for champion older horse. He began his stallion career at WinStar Farm in Kentucky and currently resides in Turkey.

Fifth: Coronado’s Quest

The winner of both the 1998 Haskell Invitational and Travers Stakes, he originally retired to Claiborne Farm. Coronado’s Quest was later sold to Japan and died of heart failure in 2006.

Sixth: Skip Away

Skip Away was the 1996 champion 3-year-old colt, the 1997 champion older horse, and although he was sixth the Breeders’ Cup Classic in his final career start, he was named 1998 Horse of the Year. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004. Skip Away, who won the 1997 Classic, stood at Hopewell Farm from 1998

until his death from an apparent heart attack in 2010. He is buried at Old Friends.

Seventh: Running Stag

Multiple Graded stakes winner Running Stag continued to run around the world, but he never did win his G1. His closest effort was a second-place finish in the 1999 Hong Kong Cup. He was relocated several times during his stallion career and ultimately died in South Korea in 2012 after a long illness.

Eighth: Touch Gold

As mentioned, Touch Gold is now retired at Old Friends. The multiple G1 winner was a successful stallion at Adena Springs before being pensioned at the end of 2015.

Ninth: Arch

Arch’s biggest victory came in the 1998 G1 Super Derby, and the Classic was his final start. He stood at Claiborne Farm and sired numerous G1 winners before his death in 2016 of an apparent heart attack. Blame, Arch’s champion son, also retired to Claiborne. In 2010, Blame defeated Zenyatta in the Breeders’ Cup Classic. It was her one and only loss.

Tenth: Gentlemen

Gentlemen was a champion in his native Argentina before coming to the United States. Also a multiple G1 winner in America, Gentlemen bled during the Classic and was eased in the stretch. He began his stallion career in Kentucky before transferring to Louisiana, where he died several years ago.

Tattersalls

SALES DATES

2019

February Sale

January 31 & February 1
Broodmares, Fillies/Horses
in Training & Yearlings

Craven Breeze Up Sale

April 15 - 17
Europe's Premier Breeze Up Sale

Guineas Breeze Up & Horses In Training Sale

May 2 & 3
Two Year Olds & Horses In Training

July Sale

July 9 - 12
Horses/Fillies In Training,
Broodmares, etc.

*All dates may be
subject to alteration*

October Yearling Sale

Book 1 October 8 - 10
Europe's Premier Yearling Sale
*Featuring the £25,000 Tattersalls
October Book 1 Bonus*

Book 2 October 14 - 16

Book 3* October 17 - 18

Book 4* October 18 - 19

**Featuring the £150,000 Tattersalls
October Auction Stakes*

Autumn Horses In Training Sale

October 28 - November 1
The World's Largest Horses In Training Sale

December Sale

Yearlings November 25

Foals November 27 - 30

Breeding Stock December 2 - 5
Broodmares, Fillies/Horses In Training, etc.



Tattersalls

What They're Thinking: Simon Bazalgette – let's work together to engage fans worldwide

Simon Bazalgette | October 16, 2018



Frankel returns in triumph at British Champions Day in 2012. His performances in the first two editions of Champions Day played a huge part in establishing it as a major occasion. Photo: British Champions Series/racingfotos.com

As chief executive of the Jockey Club and its commercial arm, Jockey Club Racecourses, for the past ten years, Simon Bazalgette has been described as the most powerful figure in British racing. He was previously founding executive chairman of Racing UK and of Racecourse Media Group, of which he remains non-executive board director. Bazalgette (pictured below) holds a similar position with the British Champions Series, so it's hardly surprising that British Champions Day this Saturday features prominently in his answers here.




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

One of the most important people on a global basis has to have been Henry Rous. Admiral Rous was one of the most formidable members of the Jockey Club and established the handicapping process for racing that has shaped the sport worldwide until today. He was also pivotal in getting a grip on integrity standards and rules for the sport that again we see

the modern day versions of today. But I do think one of racing's great strengths is that ultimately we're a huge team sport, all in this together.

Which is your favourite venue and race (anywhere in the world)?

We [the Jockey Club] run 15 racecourses, so it's a little like being asked to choose your favourite child! However, I'm yet to experience an atmosphere that beats Cheltenham Gold Cup Day. Seventy thousand people are focused on the championship race for staying chasers. They enjoy and indeed are part of creating a fantastic experience in first-class facilities and the natural amphitheatre of the Cotswold hills.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

Frankel winning the Qipco 2000 Guineas at Newmarket's historic Rowley Mile was very special (see video above). No racing fan could forget that simply incredible performance, and I was very pleased for Sir Henry Cecil, who was a great man. In fact the whole Frankel story has been brilliant

for the sport, both through his racing career and now at stud.

I'm also fond of the starring role Frankel played in the first two Qipco British Champions Days, which we helped to establish at Ascot to provide Britain with a fitting flat racing finale.

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

The fight for relevance in a world full of competition for our time and interest.

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

I would like to see racing nations working together on fan engagement. The fan is the centre of everything – if we have more engaged and knowledgeable racing fans, that leads to more racehorse owners and therefore more horses, more viewers, more spectators, bigger commercial partnerships, more bet on the sport and more merchandise sales.

Increased revenues help to sustain a healthy sport, including investing in prize money, facilities for participants and customers and innovations to keep us moving forwards.

TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



The Thoroughbred Racing Industry's ranking system

Available at thoroughbredracing.com

Thoroughbred racing has its rankings of the world's leading horses and the world's best races, but the sport is devoid of meaningful classifications of the humans involved, the jockeys, the trainers, the owners.

After two years in development, Thoroughbred Racing Commentary (TRC) filled that void with the creation of TRC Global Rankings. Updated weekly, this is the only system in the world that assesses the accomplishments of every jockey, trainer, owner and sire.

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TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



28 October 2018

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1118
2	Mike E Smith	USA	1074
3	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1063
4	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1060
5	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1053
6	William Buick	Great Britain	1052
7	Mirco Demuro	Japan	1051
8	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1047
9	Javier Castellano	USA	1033
10	Joel Rosario	USA	1030
11	Oisin Murphy	Great Britain	1026
12	Flavien Prat	USA	1023
12	Kerrin McEvoy	Australia	1023
14	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1022
15	Florent Geroux	USA	1019

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1098
2	Godolphin	Australia	1077
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1046
4	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1044
5	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	Great Britain	1034
6	WinStar Farm Et Al	USA	1024
7	China Horse Club Et Al	Australia	1019
8	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1017
9	Hajime Satomi	Japan	1014
10	Head of Plains Et Al	USA	1013
11	H H Aga Khan	France	1008
12	Lloyd Williams Et Al	Australia	1005
13	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1003
13	Patrick Kwok Et Al	Hong Kong	1003
15	Al Shaqab Racing	France	1001

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	A P O'Brien	Great Britain	1088
2	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1075
3	Bob Baffert	USA	1073
4	Chad C Brown	USA	1071
5	John Gosden	Great Britain	1062
6	Darren Weir	Australia	1041
7	Saeed bin Suroor	Great Britain	1035
8	Chris Waller	Australia	1027
9	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1025
10	A Fabre	France	1024
11	J Size	Hong Kong	1012
12	John Moore	Hong Kong	1005
13	Mark Casse	USA	1004
14	Todd Pletcher	USA	1003
15	Steven Asmussen	USA	1002

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1092
2	Galileo	Ireland	1082
3	Frankel	Great Britain	1056
4	Scat Daddy	USA	1054
5	Deep Impact	Japan	1047
6	I Am Invincible	Australia	1045
7	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1036
8	Kitten's Joy	USA	1034
9	Quality Road	USA	1026
9	Snitzel	Australia	1026
11	Curlin	USA	1024
11	Dark Angel	Great Britain	1024
13	Nathaniel	Great Britain	1022
14	Fastnet Rock	Australia	1021
14	Lookin At Lucky	USA	1021