

THE FRENCH TROTTING WEEK

BY 24 AU TROT

1 24: THE NEWS

[ANTI-DOPING]



WIDEST ANTI-DOPING OPERATION EVER

With people involved on several sites in France and even in Europe, the operation carried out this Tuesday morning, which according to information from the daily newspaper *Le Parisien* mobilised a hundred people from the Games Police with the support of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police, is on a scale never before seen. A huge net, a huge pressure, a huge thunderclap.

There will certainly be a before and after 22 March 2022. The size of the operation carried out by the police this Tuesday morning, in a coordinated manner on the territory but also in the Spanish Basque Country and in Italy according to *Le Parisien*, leaves no room for doubt: the cheats who manage to slip through the net of the anti-doping fight that we will call "traditional" (blood and urine tests) will be tracked down to their establishments, whether they are stables or pharmacies. Stéphane Piallat, Head of the Central Service for Races and Games, told us: "This operation concerns the identification of doping networks and the various players involved. This case was set up more than a year ago with an investigation opened in August 2021 by a specialised authority called the JIRS (Specialised Interregional Jurisdiction) of Bordeaux which deals with organised crime and which considered that it was a serious enough case to

merit treatment. We worked on a rogatory commission from an examining magistrate in charge of the case at the JIRS, who referred the case to the Service central des courses et jeux and the Bordeaux judicial police for operational coordination. On Tuesday, we launched a simultaneous operation at almost thirty points in France and Europe to arrest the people involved in our case. There was also European judicial coordination to carry out the operations outside France." The fact that Stéphane Piallat is speaking publicly on the subject is a clear indication of the scale of the operation as well as the determination shown by the police, even telling our colleagues in *Le Parisien*: "We have to stop playing the little tune that we are dealing with practices that border on irregularity. We are dealing with totally forbidden products and not just a few days before the race."

■ Some thirty searches (all in the racing sector) ■ Reasons: equine doping, organised fraud, criminal association. 21 people were taken to custody: ten or so from harness and galloping stables (taken together), the rest being veterinarians, pharmacists and people involved in distribution networks. ■ 1 in custody in Spain, 1 in Italy

The request made by some professionals (and not only) to strike hard seems to have been heard: this operation is the consequence of a long investigation, wiretapping and shadowing, according to a timing that may sometimes seem long but which is that of justice.

An operation with a European dimension

In total, twenty-three people were taken into custody from the thirty sites searched on Tuesday morning. Stéphane Piallat said: *"There are 21 people in custody in France and two abroad, one in Spain and one in Italy. The investigation is based on a number of charges: prescription, session, offering substances for doping, aiding the use of doping procedures, swindling in an organised gang and others. In custody are several professions: veterinarians, pharmacists, trainers, owners/trainers of trotting and galloping horses. We didn't go looking for them by chance, it's the result of a very long process. We used all the classic means of judicial investigation, such as surveillance."* The purpose of the police custody that took place on Tuesday afternoon was to compare the different versions and it was learned at the end of the afternoon that new police custody could follow in the coming days. As for the procedure, Stéphane Piallat recalled: *"The examining magistrate will, at the end of the forty-eight hours of police custody, make proposals on what to do. Some police custody may be continued in the form of a deferral with an indictment."* No list has been published but according to several media, the names of Yannick-Alain Briand, Junior Guelpe and Philippe Rouer have been confirmed.

Communication from the parent societies

At the beginning of the afternoon, the parent companies issued a press release commenting on the "22 March operation": *"Sharing with the State the responsibility of ensuring the regularity of horseracing, the parent societies France Galop and LeTrot are following with the utmost attention the ongoing investigations made public today into suspicions of doping, which are taking place in several parts of France. They condemn in advance with the utmost firmness any manipulation that may be revealed on this occasion. They commend the efficiency of the Service central des courses et jeux (SCCJ) of the judicial police in the preliminary investigation that led to these operations, for which the resources of the Fédération Nationale des Courses Hippiques were requisitioned. They will give their full support to the exploitation of all the information or data that will be collected."*

The position of the SEDJ

President of the Syndicat des Entraîneurs et Drivers-Jockeys,

Stéphane Meunier had the opportunity to express himself on the subject of the fight against doping. He explained to us that he collaborates fully with the police services: *"For several months now we have seen a real awareness on the part of our authorities and we underlined this in your columns in the autumn. And those who were present in Caen last week at the conference on the fight against doping confirmed to me the feeling of a real change in position. On our side, we had a lot of feedback from the field on the existence of product supply networks. We have also worked with the police to inform them of these presumptions for several months, even years. And as my colleagues from the gallop trainers' union did in the Marcialis and Marseille cases, the SEDJ is a civil party in the trotting cases."*

The sequence

This impressive raid comes 48 hours after the publication of the tribune published on Sunday in the columns of the *Journal Du Dimanche* signed by the two presidents of the parent societies "For clean horse racing". If the timing of the publication was surprising, everything is now clearer: it was also there to introduce this unprecedented and crucial sequence.



IDÉAL DU POMMEAU WINS 7TH RACE IN A ROW AND REMAINS UNBEATEN

He is still unbeaten. **Idéal du Pommeau** (Ready Cash) continued his progress and signed a seventh victory in as many outings in competition. The Bivans defender was going down a category, but he had to stay focused. He did so, winning more surely than the gap at the finish indicated, with his driver content to accompany him. *"It wasn't easy to render twenty-five metres to a 5-yo beforehand, but he did it well,"* explained Eric Raffin. *"We got off to a good start and at the first 'brake' I didn't hesitate to get closer. It's good for this kind of horse to change tracks, especially as he turns well to the right."* This descendant of **Dimitria** was qualified at Caen (photo) at 3- and started his career at Vire, before winning at Bordeaux. ■

JUST A WINNER, EXCELLENT

There was a parisian-level lot in the opening race at Bordeaux last Monday with the 3-year-olds. If the unbeaten **Jodie d'Albret** (Roc Meslois), a good finisher for her comeback, and **Java des Augeries** (Amstrong Jet) suffered their first defeat, they did not lose out, dominated by two elements who distinguished themselves this winter at Vincennes. The only tackled competitor of the race, **Just A Winner** (Un Amour d'Haufor) showed himself to be the strongest, returning to success after a promising start, repelling **Jeegha Pride** (Charly du Noyer) with application. *"He did it well",* Alexandre Abrivard told *Equidia Racing*. *"We had to take the lead and he contained the attacks until the end."* If he does not physically resemble his brother, **Excellent** (Real de Lou), **Just A Winner** is a promising element. The future belongs to him. ■

5° | PRIX DE LISIEUX

Att - 2650 m - Course D - 26 000 €



IDEAL DU POMMEAU 1'15"3

Ready Cash x Aime Moi (Love You)
Driver : E. Raffin - Entraîneur : S. Guarato
Propriétaire : Sc. Bivans Srl - Eleveur : Ec. J. Pichon



2^e Invictus Mencourt 1'16"2 Uriel Speed x Queren Or

3^e Hydromel 1'15"5 Atlas de Joudes x Twiska

4^e : Ivanka de Jilme - 5^e : I Alone - 6^e : Idee Fixe Breizh - 7^e : Instant Grave



1^{ère} | PRIX ROQUEPINE

Att - 2650 m - Course C - 26 000 €



JUST A WINNER 1'16"8

Un Amour d'Haufor x Udine d'Odysee (Ipson de Mormal)
Driver : A. Abrivard - Entraîneur : L. Cl. Abrivard
Propriétaire : J. P. Romet - Eleveur : L. Cl. Abrivard





HARAS D'HAUFOR
06 28 03 00 47

UN AMOUR D'HAUFOR

2^e Jeegha Pride 1'17"1 Charly du Noyer x Bagheera Pride

3^e Jodie d'Albret 1'17"3 Roc Meslois x Vingtieme Lune

4^e : Javanaise de Fars - 5^e : Java des Augeries - 6^e : Judiciousness - 7^e : Joyau du Benjo



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JESSIE JET'S GOOD VIBRATIONS

Acquired for €67,000 at the Arqana Trot yearling sales, Jessie Jet (Love You) remains unbeaten after her three public outings, this time at Enghien on Wednesday.

This time, she posted a kilometer rate of 1'15"9 over 2,150 metres mobile-start, her new personal record.

Spotted during her qualification at Grosbois in May 2021, Laurent Abrivard's pensioner is progressing according to her driver Alexandre Abrivard: *"Today, she made two accelerations during the race. I'm curious to see the tracking figures because I have a feeling of speed in the sulky. I think we have a good filly."*

Her partner adds: *"I don't know if she is as good as **Just Love You** (6 races for 5 wins including a Group 3) but they are identical in their behaviour (Editor's note: cold fillies). The long distance won't be a problem for her because when you are able to accelerate twice in the course and then trot off again in the straight line, it's a sign of a good filly."*

This offspring of **Unlimited Jet** (Orlando Vici) is a sister to **Going Jet** 1'13 (Very Nice Marceaux), holder of €87,750 in earnings.

[Watch the race here.](#)

LOVE YOU 1'10"2	COKTAIL JET 1'11"2	QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14"2
		ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)
JESSIE JET	GUILTY OF LOVE 1'17"1	AND ARIFANT 1'16"5
		AMOUR D'AUNOU (US) 1'15"3
UNLIMITED JET 1'13"3	ORLANDO VICI 1'12"7	QUADROPHENIO 1'13"9
		IRLANDE DU NORD
	NO LIMIT JET 1'17"8	DEFI D'AUNOU (US) 1'11"3
		IT'S MY HOPE 1'15"4



J'AIME LE FOOT WHISTLES KICK-OFF OF THE HAWAS/ALLAIRE PARTNERSHIP

One of the five Prix de Saint-Wandrille novices, J'Aime le Foot (Boccador de Simm) did not miss his debut on Thursday at Caen.

Well qualified last May in 1'18"4 on this same track at Caen (see his qualification by this [link](#)), the representative of Patrick Hawas, who is the breeder, won as a perfectible element.

This son of **Boccador de Simm** is trained by Philippe Allaire, who is also co-owner.

Patrick Hawas explained the story of this unprecedented association on *Equidia*: "All the credit for this victory goes to Philippe (Allaire). I presented the colt to him and told him he was a son of **Boccador de Simm** with a dam by **Ready Cash** and he took him. I'd rather be associated with him than a competitor. He has beaten me so often in the past! With **Holly du Locton** when I had **Habitat** for example. Those are obviously good memories."

BOCCADOR DE SIMM 1'12"6	RIEUSSEC 1'12"9	GOETMALS WOOD 1'11"9
		IRONIE JET 1'15"0
J'AIME LE FOOT	POUPEE CHARMEUSE 1'14"4	HETRE VERT
		ERIKA CHARMEUSE
ELEGANTE DE FOOT	READY CASH 1'10"3	INDY DE VIVE 1'11"9
		KIDEA 1'18"2
	PRINCESS FOOT 1'12"3	ARNAQUEUR 1'13"4
		HASE DE LA MERITEE



HUB PUTS ON THE TURBO AND SIGNS A NEW RECORD

He has always been valued by Sébastien Guarato but has not always responded. Maybe Hub needed time and at 5 years old he made a great start to the year. He was again in the lead on Thursday, clocking a top time of 1'11"1.

He only gained ground on the others in the final. **Hub** (Booster Winner) won the Prix de Frenouville solo in a kilometer rate of 1'11"1. This is quite simply the new course record (2,200 metres mobile start) for a 5yo. It erases the 1'11"7 of **Gold Mencourt** (Bird Parker) set last May. Commenting on the time, the winner's trainer Sébastien Guarato said: "This time doesn't surprise me because, at the moment at Vincennes or Caen, you have to go very fast."

Limits still unknown

The trainer analyses further: "He is a classy horse who has a

very big engine and shows it today. He had to make a hell of a shot to take the lead and I was a bit worried that it would take a long time to get to the post but he did it well." There was indeed a battle in the opposite line between **Hub** and **Hipster de Cahot** (Niky) from which **Hub** emerged victorious to take the lead. After being able to breathe on the last turn, he stretched out before entering the finish line to finally break away. On the future, Sébastien Guarato explained: "On left-handed tracks, he doesn't go at all and I don't want to untangle him. So he will stay on right-handed tracks and next time, in April, he should race on the mile at Argentan. He's not going to run too much this year. I'm going to give him a little bit of earnings and then stop him. I think he's a top horse who can make a GNT horse later on. He's got something, he's beautiful, powerful. We don't know too much about his limits."

BOOSTER WINNER 1'10"2	LOVE YOU 1'10"2	COKTAIL JET 1'11"2
		GUILTY OF LOVE 1'17"1
HUB	QUILLE VIRETAUTE 1'13"8	ELVIS DE ROSSIGNOL 1'13"0
		AUBE ET VIRE 1'23"4
UGLY 1'15"5	EXTREME AUNOU (US) 1'13"7	BALTIC SPEED (US)
		NESMILE 1'17"4
	IMA DU HOUX 1'15"0	VIKING'S WAY 1'15"6
		VALSE DU NORD 1'29"8



CE BELLO ROMAIN DOESN'T FAIL

He did not spare his desire to go fast. Ce Bello Romain won the Prix de Cauvicourt Thursday at Caen after having quickly taken the lead and having drawn a lot during most of the race. He nevertheless found the resources to contain all the pressures in the final, confirming his status as a favourite and Group 1 horse against rivals who were certainly very good but less experienced than him.

This is another good timing in this meeting. 1'11"2 for **Ce Bello Romain** (Jam Pridem). This time in this category is obviously less exceptional than the 1'11"1 achieved by **Hub** in the previous race but remains nevertheless very respectable. Slightly caught at the start by Anthony Barrier, **Ce Bello Romain** took the lead in the first turn and was always brilliant afterwards, forcing his driver to a show strength with him. For the driver, this was the effect of the closed hood that his partner was wearing on Thursday: "It

boosts him. We weren't going too fast so I slowed him down more than he wanted. The hood is good but he might be better racing behind the others. In fact, it was a trial to see what we can come up with over the summer with him."

In fact, **Ce Bello Romain**'s performance becomes excellent when you consider that he probably didn't breathe normally for part of the race. He narrowly resisted **Carnaval du Vivier** (Ni Ho Ped d'Ombree) and **Cash du Rib** (Ready Cash), the best finisher among the first of the race (1'09"7 his last 500 meters against 1'11"5 for the winner). The future programme of **Ce Bello Romain** is known and for Anthony Barrier: "Everything looks good. He came back in good condition. He will be fine. He hasn't lost any of his superbness with an extra year but he has to work harder because he can do better than that."

JAM PRIDEM 1'11"8	COKTAIL JET 1'11"2	QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14"2
		ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)
CE BELLO ROMAIN	KRILLE	CALINO
		CORALIE
MISS ECHO BELLA	ECHO 1'11"8	QLOREST DU VIVIER 1'17"8
		JOLIE PERLE 1'18"8
	BELLA CALONNA	LANDOAS 1'13"3
		NATSILIA 1'26"2



STILL LESS STARTERS AT CAGNES-SUR-MER

The winter meeting of Cagnes-sur-Mer closed its doors last Sunday with, in apotheosis, its great meeting of the Critérium de Vitesse de la Côte d'Azur won by Etonnant. After a 2020-2021 edition largely affected by the health crisis, the 2021-2022 exercise was able to find more room for manoeuvre while still taking place under constraints linked to Covid. At the time of the assessment, the indicators linked to the number of starters are down, in the continuity of the observation made last year.

If the size of the Cagnes-sur-Mer winter meeting has not changed (29 meetings as in 2020-2021 and an identical number of races at 227), the number of starters is down. There were 155 fewer starters this year (2,560 compared to 2,715) which automatically impacts the average number of starters per race, which drops to 11.28, compared to 11.86 twelve months earlier. These indicators are in line with the same downward trend as the previous meeting.

KEY FIGURES

- 29 meetings (same as 2020-2021)
- 227 races (identical to 202-2021)
- 2,560 (vs 2,715 starters last year, i.e. -155)
- 11.28 starters/race (vs 11.86 last year or -0.58)
- 5 Quintés+ (vs 3)

The downward trend continues

At the 2020-2021 winter meeting, the indicators were already down on the previous one (2019-2020) with:

- 145 fewer starters (2,715 compared to 2,860 in 2019-

2020),

- 11.86 starters/race compared to 12.47 in 2019-2020.

Over two years (between 2021-2022 and 2019-2020), the Cagnes winter meeting has therefore lost :

- 300 starters (-10.5%),
- 1.19 starters/race (11.28 against 12.47).

Decline in the number of starters, a concern for organisers

Administrative Director of the Société des courses de la Côte d'Azur, Thomas Roucayrol is *"attentive to these declining indicators. There are fewer professionals taking part in our meeting and participating in the meeting itself by reserving boxes. They explain to us that this is part of a logic of controlling their costs. They prefer to run less, to target their races better and to go back and forth. The competition is also important and we had a very good meeting. In these difficult times, the professionals tell us that they are looking closely at all their costs"*.

Racecourse attendance

Compared to the last meeting not impacted by the Covid (before 2020), the drop in public attendance is close to 25%. The onsite stakes amounted to €2.8 million (all disciplines combined) and held up better than public entries. The regional Quarté+ is doing well with total stakes of €1.4m (against €1.3m last year).

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Organisational satisfaction

From an organisational point of view, Thomas Roucayrol draws *"a positive balance sheet. The professionals congratulated us for the welcome and the state of the training tracks. The fact that we have lost horses and starters in the meetings is our main concern. We are thinking about how to reverse the downward trend we are experiencing."*

TRAINERS: THE GREAT EDITION OF NICOLAS ENSCH

In the trainers' table, the big winner was Nicolas Ensch. Both in terms of earnings and number of wins, the professional from Villeneuve-Loubet dominated this 2021-2022 meeting head and shoulders.

The seven trainers with more than 10 wins

Trainer: wins / places (2nd-3rd) / earnings (€)

1. Nicolas Ensch : **26** / 38 / 632.820 €
2. Jean-Marie Roubaud: **21** / 25 / 437,090 € 3.
3. Romuald Mourice: **18** / 55 / € 501,435
4. Yannick Alain Briand: **17** / 31 / 436,515 €.
5. Romain Derieux: **14** / 17 / 267,030 €.
6. Vincent Martens: **14** / 16 / € 280,515
7. Jean-Pierre Ensch: **10** / 11 / 228.105 €

The first four professionals are "locals" while Romain Derieux and Vincent Martens can be labelled as visitors. For the Martens brothers, the Cagnois meeting is nevertheless an important moment, so much so that they still own the records for the number of victories, set twelve months ago. Vincent Martens had 35 wins last year as a trainer and Christophe 37 as a driver. Nicolas Ensch, leader in both tables, did not succeed in dispossessing them of their records.

The most successful trainers of the meeting

When analysing the rankings in terms of success (rate of starters who reach the podium) or earnings per starter, one name stands out. It is Romain Derieux, n°1 according to both approaches.

Trainers with more than 40% success on the podium

Trainer: wins / podium (1-2-3) / % podium

1. Romain Derieux: 14 / 31 / 63%.
2. Sylvain Roger: 1 / 7 / 50% 3.
3. Tony Le Beller : 3 / 13 / 45
4. Jean Uroz : 4 / 12 / 43
5. Pascal Lelièvre : 3 / 11 / 42%.
6. Eric Ohanessian: 2 / 20 / 42%.
7. Louis Baudron : 8 / 20 / 41

Trainers with more than 4.000 € of earnings/starter

Trainer : horses / starts / earnings (€) / earnings/starter

1. Romain Derieux : 29 / 49 / 267.030 € / 5.450 €
2. Louis Baudron: 16 / 49 / 225.100 € / 4.594 €
3. Sylvain Roger: 12 / 14 / 58.130 € / 4.152 €

a distance and has a score almost double to David Bekaert and Romain Derieux, 14 victories each.

Top-10 drivers with 5 wins or more

Driver : nb of starters / wins / earnings (€)

1. Nicolas Ensch : 142 / **27** / 596,140 €
2. David Bekaert : 121 / **14** / 299.360 €
3. Romain Derieux: 53 / **14** / 295.120 €
4. Christophe Martens: 93 / **13** / 294,220 €
5. Steve Stefano: 78 / **10** / 277.990 €
6. Jean Charles Féron 86 / **10** / 259,090 €
7. Yannick-Alain Briand: 98 / **8** / 296,500 €
8. Gwenn Junod: 51 / **7** / 172,840 €
9. Pierre Vercruysse: 28 / **5** / 126,640 €
10. Romuald Mourice: 118 / **5** / 203,520 €

Top-3 jockeys

Jockey : nb starters / wins / earnings (€) / % podium

1. Quentin Seguin : 15 / **5** / 100.230 € / 67 % (1)
2. Thomas Dromigny : 7 / **4** / 62.250 € / 71 %
3. Eric Raffin : 4 / **1** / 32.470 € / 75 %

Six other jockeys have scored a victory with a lower success than Eric Raffin.

OWNERS: THE BEAUTIFUL WINTER OF ROMUALD MOURICE

Romuald Mourice's hull has been particularly active this winter at Cagnes. It is the one that has presented the most runners (114), clearly ahead of the second one, Sylvain Roubaud's (51 runners). They occupy the first two places by earnings. In total, six owners have exceeded €100,000 in earnings this winter at Cagnes.

Like last year, Village Mystic (Love You) dominates the stallion rankings but without achieving the same level of performance. He had recorded 24 winners at the previous meeting but only 12 this time.

Top-3 stallions

Stallion: starters / winners / earnings (€)

1. Village Mystic : 88 / **12** / 403.230 €
2. Love You: 57 / **11** / 188.215 €
3. Prodigious: 55 / **8** / 178,705 €

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DRIVERS: NICOLAS ENSCH MAKES THE DOUBLE OF HIS RUNNERS-UP



HOW THE HORSE INDUSTRY IS ENGAGING WITH UKRAINE

The conflict unleashed by Russia on its Ukrainian neighbour has repercussions in all spheres of society in Ukraine. How can one imagine that in times of invasion, certain activities can be protected from the fighting and the transformation of daily life? The Ukrainian horse industry is suffering. All over the world, many actions are being organised to help the people in the industry and the horses. Here are some of them. [Pictured: Kiev racecourse, Ukraine]

When we talk about the horse industry, we are talking about all its components and families. From the leisure horse to the working horse, from the sport horse to the race horse. The Conseil des Equidés de Normandie (CCN) has just committed itself in favour of the Ukrainian equine sector and *"wishes to set up as soon as possible, with the support of its members, the coordination of actions and to be the relay of the solidarity impulse"*. In France, a collection network is being organised with the transport of goods to the Ukrainian border provided by STC Horse France trucks.

The context of the solidarity presented by the Conseil des Equidés de Normandie

The reasons for the Conseil des Equidés de Normandie's (CCN) commitment to solidarity with the Ukraine are set out in its latest newsletter: *"There are over 100,000 horses in the Ukraine, many of them trapped in the war, with no way to escape, sometimes without food or shelter. Horse owners, riding schools, athletes, breeders and professionals are in*

desperate conditions with no resources to save their horses. This is about supporting them and giving them a note of hope for a better future."

Several networks and solidarity actions have been organised in France in recent weeks.

1. Coordinator: Conseil des Chevaux de Normandie

The CCN has gathered on its website information on several actions that can be taken to help Ukrainian horse owners. These include:

- hosting people,
- employing a Ukrainian national,
- donations in kind,
- financial donations (in particular via a crowdfunding),
- hosting horses...

2. STC Horse France collects and sends

The horse transport company STC Horse France has committed itself to an operation of solidarity with Ukraine by putting itself at the service of the APS Solidarity association. The initiative has had such an echo in the horse world that the company is now transporting goods to Romania, a few kilometres from the Ukrainian border. STC tells us: *"A lorry came back last night (Wednesday) and another one is leaving tomorrow (Friday). There is a huge surge of generosity. Two STC drivers are taking over for the next trip."* A semi-trailer is due to leave in the next few hours, loaded with donations (clothes, medical equipment, food, etc.), some of which will come from French racing teams.

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First concrete feedback at Mauquenchy

The Mauquenchy Racing Society, which is involved in the initiative coordinated by the SCC, is receiving the first feedback from its efforts. A flyer explaining the main needs (hay or fodder, food, litter, financial donations) was distributed last Monday during a Premium meeting. The president of the racing society, Jean Fournier, tells us: *"Our information operation on the needs for Ukraine was also relayed by Paris-Normandie. We have since collected 10 pallets of bedding and one pallet of feed. We have also received calls for cash donations. We are now working on the delivery with the SCC. This is obviously a source of satisfaction."*

SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS**Olga Bondar, an amateur on the front line in Kiev**

She is based in Kiev and is on the front line in the care and maintenance of the almost 400 horses gathered at the racecourse of the Ukrainian capital. Olga Bondar is an amateur driver in Ukraine and trains on her own account. She came to France as part of an international exchange programme, driving in Vincennes, and has also been to Sweden. With her, there are 25 people who look after the 400 horses at the Kiev racecourse, including 125 trotters. Concerning the horses, Olga Bondar explained to Travronden: *"I can't leave the horses. As vice-president of the track, I feel responsible for all the horses that are here."* She added: *"The owners have left town and we can't reach them. We, who are in charge of the horses, can buy food and so far we can feed the horses but we don't know how long we can stand it. Soon, moreover, we will miss the shavings and straw in the boxes."* Regarding aid, Olga Bondar added: *"There was some food sent from Poland and Germany but the trucks were stopped at the border. Therefore, money is better than hay because we still have the possibility to buy fodder by ourselves."*

THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF AMATEURS IS MOBILISING

Olga Bondar has been vice-president of FEGAT (European Federation of Amateurs). The current president of the association, the Swede Claës Ljung, has just announced that FEGAT and STAR (Swedish Amateur Association) have

made a donation of €1,400 to the Kiev racecourse bank account.

The UET releases an emergency budget of €30,000

At its General Assembly on Saturday 12th March in Cagnes-sur-Mer, the European Trotting Union (UET) released a budget of €30,000 to set up actions with Ukraine. *"We have been in touch with our contacts on the spot and are waiting to know what they want: to stay or to go to Poland? How do they want to go? We will do what we can and we are very worried"*, summarised Marjaana Alaviuhkola, the President of the UET. Among the main interlocutors of the UET is Oleksandr Vorobiy, president of the Ukrainian trotter owners. The possibility of sending funds directly to the Kiev racecourse is being studied, given the risks of seeing the transport of feed or straw blocked at the border.

The International Equestrian Federation's commitment

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) is relaying the requests of the Ukrainian Equestrian Federation Charity Foundation, whose Secretary General Mykhaylo Parkhomchuk has just launched an appeal for international aid in the following terms: *"Help us to defend our country and our values! Being 'equestrian' means a unique bond between horse and man based on trust. Our commitment to the welfare of our horses is strong at all times and without compromise."*

TWO AMERICAN THOROUGHBRED OWNERS TRAVELED TO THE UKRAINIAN BORDER

Two leading American thoroughbred owners and breeders, Peter Brant and Earle Mack, are back in Florida after a humanitarian mission to the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. *Jour de Galop* has just reported on their journey, as reported by TDN. There, they helped refugees fleeing war. Earle Mack is a grandson of a Ukrainian who came to the United States at the beginning of the last century. He convinced former New York State Governor George Pataki to support the mission. Last Thursday, Mack and Brant left Florida in a plane loaded with clothes, medicine and first aid kits. Peter Brant told TDN: *"The Ukrainian people need our help. Anything we can do, on a large or small scale, we need to do now."* The two owners have returned to the US but have left behind a team of professionals who will work with local leaders and health operators helping the refugees. ■



ENINO DU POMMEREUX PRACTICES AT CAEN

After the fourth race this Thursday at Caen, Enino du Pommereux (Coktail Jet) has been practising for a future requalification, driven by his trainer Sylvain Roger. The winner of the Critérium des 4 Ans (Gr.1) 2018 has not been seen in competition since June 2020. His last performance took place in the Prix René Ballière (Gr.1) - Face Time Bourbon's record edition in 1'09"4 - where he finished sixth. Enino du Pommereux completed a 2,450m course in progress on Thursday. He is not yet committed to a requalification session. ■

PMU AWARDED FOR ITS ONLINE CUSTOMER RELATIONS

PMU is the winner of the Qualiweb 2022 award for the best online customer relations in the leisure category. This is the fourth consecutive year that the horse betting operator has been awarded in this category. Fatima Bouayad, PMU's e-commerce director, tweeted about this performance: "Congratulations to the @SebPasse teams for their daily commitment to serving our customers. This is also what being a real e-merchant is all about!" For her part, Emmanuelle Malecaze-Doulet, Deputy Managing Director, issued a message reminding us that "the quality of the #onlinecustomerrelationship is a fundamental element of the success of our #ecommerce transformation." ■

MOBILE GATE SERVES RECORDS AT MAUQUENCHY

Kennedy's (Joke Face) record time of 1'11"0 (1:53.3 MR), last Monday at Mauquenchy, deserves a special mention. It was achieved on a course with a mobile start, a piece of equipment recently acquired by the racing society at the beginning of the year. The previous general record at Mauquenchy already referred to the use of the gate. This was in fact a meeting moved from Vincennes in May 2020 when the races could not be held in the Paris region due to Covid. **Dorgos de Guez** (Romcok de Guez) and **Ticket To Ride** (Ganymède) had won their respective events, the Prix du Crépuscule (Gr.3) and Mutus, in the same 1'11"8 mile reduction over the 2,150m Mauquenchy course with a mobile start. It is in the same exercise that Kennedy achieved 1'11"0 last Monday. ■

COKTAIL JET 1'11"2	QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14"2	FAKIR DU VIVIER
		DOLLY WILLIAMS
ENINO DU POMMEREUX	ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)	SUPER BOWL (US)
		-
NOUNE DU POMMEREUX 1'13"7	HALIMEDE 1'16"2	BUVETIER D'AUNOU (US) 1'14"4
		UDAMES
	DOLLY	PODOSIS 1'16"1
		TULIPE DU BRAUD 1'18"3

ANTOINE WIELS ROLLS-UP THE STIRRUPS

He is the winner of the Prix de Cornulier (Gr.1) riding **Flamme du Goutier** (Ready Cash). Antoine Wiels has not won on saddle since this great title and has just announced to *Le Parisien* that he was stopping performing in the speciality. It is his weight that was the trigger for his decision. To win in January, he had to follow a strict diet, as he said: *"I am proud of myself because I dried myself out during the last two weeks. I had put on three kilos during a week's holiday and went up to 68.5 kg. As the base weight is now 65 kilos, I had to dry out. I did sport every evening and I went up to 66 today (Editor's note: Sunday 23 January)"*.

The professional confirmed: *"I can no longer play yo-yo with my weight. It's too complicated. With my saddle, I'm approaching 70 kg on the scales."* Antoine Wiels' mounted counter therefore stops at 387 (out of a total of 1.137). Nevertheless, it is on the mounted circuit that he recorded his greatest titles with four Group 1 victories (Prix de Cornulier, de l'Île-de-France, des Centaures and de Normandie), all with **Flamme du Goutier**.

The first rider in Jean-Paul Marmion's stable, Antoine Wiels will of course still drive but will have to be replaced in the saddle. The trainer from Angers has already called on Florian Desmigneux, 27, several times and this collaboration could continue according to Wiels. ■

EARL SIMON RETURNS TO VICTORY

His comeback at Caen has certainly been good for him and on Tuesday at Mons (Belgium), too. With a plus today: **Earl Simon** (Prodigious) wins by managing to counter the attack of the in-form **Cyriel d'Atom** (Otello Pierji) who came to take the advantage with 150m to go. In their immediate wake, **Go On Boy** (Prodigious) finishes on their backs (literally and figuratively) and signs a very interesting comeback. ■

BILLIE DE MONTFORT RETIRES FROM RACING

There was still a possibility of seeing **Billie de Montfort** (Jasmin de Flore) on track again. Sébastien Guarato had indeed mentioned an Italian Gr.1 race that the champion had won last year and in which she could have defended her title in April. But the Italian regulations decided otherwise by closing these events to mares over 10 years old. It is therefore the stud farm and **Billie de Montfort**'s second career that now begins. The calendar does things well. While the champion's entourage confirms that she will not be able to take part in the Gran Premio Costa Azzurra (Gr.1), a certain **Bold Eagle** (Ready Cash) celebrated his 11th birthday on Tuesday 22nd March. Those who had the same trainer, Sébastien Guarato, and frequented the same training facilities will soon meet again since **Billie de Montfort** is promised to **Bold Eagle** to start her career as a broodmare. The mare with 23 wins and over €2.5m in earnings is retiring from racing with a third place in the Gr.1 Grand Critérium de Vitesse de la Côte d'Azur. ■

9 TROTTERS ON TAP AT AUCTAV ONLINE SALE

Auctav Agency's monthly March sale, which takes place on 30 March from 6-7pm, features nine trotters, six of which are qualified and unseen 3yo's:

- **Jeu Célèbre** q. 1'18 (a3) (Repeat Love), lot 1,
- **Jéloura** q. 1'19 (a3) (Goetmals Wood), lot 4,
- **Jaling** q. 1'19 (a2) (Love You), lot 7,
- **Junon d'Orgères** q. 1'18 (a2) (Timoko), lot 8,
- **Jetstar de Vrie** q. 1'18 (a3) (Look de Star), lot 11,
- **Jasmin d'Ave** q. 1'18 (a3) (Prodigious), lot 12.

The other three lots consist of two horses in training (**Hiver d'Authise** and **Gardon**, a full brother to **Dijon**) and a broodmare (**Quadra Sport**) in foal to **Face Time Bourbon**. ■

HORSE INDUSTRY ASKS TO BENEFIT FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE PLAN

Presented on 16 March by Prime Minister Jean Castex, the economic and social resilience plan puts in place economic support actions in the context of the consequences of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on energy costs and raw material prices. The agricultural sector is a beneficiary of several parts of this plan (notably energy and animal feed). Three representatives of the horse industry, including the SEDJ (Syndicat des Entraîneurs, Drivers et Jockeys du Trot), have just written to the Minister of the Economy and Finance to obtain confirmation that the horse industry also benefits from the aid allocated to the agricultural sector. The signatories are also asking for "concrete economic measures" for the industry and a rapid return to reduced VAT rates. ■