

1 24:: THE NEWS

[ANTI-DOPING]

SUSPECTED DOPING AFFAIR:

Just over a week ago, the largest "clean hands" operation in French racing was launched. Given the scale of the operation, we expected (and are expecting) more or less rapid responses. A big week later, the operation and the affair raise questions like those raised by those who demonstrated their support for Yannick-Alain Briand in Salon-de-Provence on Wednesday.

A case of unprecedented scope for results and for the example

he exceptional resources deployed in France and abroad

organisation, the Justice Department also lifts the veil explaining that the judicial police operation was carried out "by the central racing and gaming department of the D.C.P.J. (central directorate of the judicial police) and the D.Z.P.J. Sud-Ouest (zonal directorate of the judicial police) under the direction of the magistrates of the JIRS of Bordeaux (specialised inter-regional jurisdiction)".

A reminder of the facts

22 March: searches in 30 locations in France and Europe

In Tuesday 22 March and the sprawling dimension of this case place it, from the outset, in the context of major news stories. The police and judicial steps are there to achieve concrete results but also to strike a chord. We are on the double register of an affair and its exemplary nature for the whole sector. The press release from Frédérique Porterie, public prosecutor of the Bordeaux court, on Thursday 24 March, is clear on this subject. On the means, the document details: "More than 80 police officers, a dog team from the gendarmerie, Basque police and carabinieri from Bologna were involved, alongside veterinarians from the F.N.C.H. (National Horse Racing Federation), and pharmacist inspectors from the ARS (Regional Health Agencies)." On the

(Italy and France)

23 March: 21 people held in custody in France, 2 instructions abroad (Italy and Spain)
24 March: 3 indictments. 5 other persons are subject to a warrant to be interviewed in Bordeaux with a view to a possible subsequent indictment
25 March: products found are disclosed; a foreign supply

25 March: products found are disclosed; a foreign supply chain enters the case with the arrest in Italy of a Maltese
26 March: Jean-Laurent Dubord, one of the three accused, speaks out in Jour De Galop and defends his innocence
28 March: 5 new indictments bring the total number of people charged in France to 8.

Intense communication to set an example

The judicial process was accompanied by a strong desire to communicate on the actions and facts, by allowing names to be published very early on. Consequently, as in major public affairs and news stories with extensive media coverage, the notion of presumption of innocence was largely ignored, or even flouted. The same applies to the secrecy of proceedings. Here we find the will of the judicial and police apparatus to make this case a strong marker in the fight against doping. The approach displayed is proactive and affirmed as such by Stéphane Piallat, head of the Central Race and Games Department, who declared on 22 March in Le Parisien: "We have to stop with the nonsense 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.*" The following day, he told *Jour de Galop*: "We are faced with a situation where people have not behaved in an acceptable way with regard to the sincerity of racing and animal welfare. We are not at war with the racing system. We want to work to make it cleaner and more respectable."

Timing in line with the rise of doping poison

The desire appears understandable in terms of strategy at a time when racing is marked by the (unbearable and equally destructive) rumour of doping. For several months now, the evil (that of the rumour) has been corroding racing, particularly trotting, from within. In response, the parent company has set up actions to promote greater transparency and to assess the results of the fight against doping, as well as a campaign to present the issues and resources of the fight against doping to trainers in the regions.

Surprising names

Labelled as closed and hermetic, the world of racing (like others, of course) is very prone to all kinds of rumours. We heard everything last Tuesday about names, products and quantities. As soon as the names were confirmed by the courts (with all the reservations mentioned above about the presumption of innocence), things changed. The endorsement of the search for cheats came with a big "but". The names in question caused more surprise and amazement than anything else. In trotting, the names of Yannick-Alain Briand and Sophie Blanchetière provoked numerous reactions of disbelief. The same applies to thoroughbred racing with Jean-

Laurent Dubord.

Last Wednesday: a large operation in support of Yannick-Alain Briand and the defence of the presumption of innocence

The beginning of the GNT meeting in Salon-de-Provence saw a demonstration by many local professionals in support of Yannick-Alain Briand and Sophie Blanchetière (photo below). In the name of all, Jean Uroz spoke on *Equidia*: "We are here to show our support for Yannick-Alain Briand who is at the centre of a very important case. He is a boy with values, who started from nothing and who owes his success to his work and not to cheating and doping. He is an example for our federation and was unanimously elected to represent us. You can imagine that he is not a thug, a crook or a cheat. He is a boy who has been banned from working. The fact that he can no longer practise his profession is a stain on him, on his family and on the whole profession. As long as there is no trial, he is innocent and we must let him work. If they (the police and judicial authorities) want to look for dopers and cheaters, they have aimed the wrong target. That's why we support Yannick. He is honest and professional. We can't deprive him of his job while he is still innocent."

Doubtfulness sets in

How can we not correlate such investigations and accusations with the analysis of the results of the accused? For Yannick-Alain Briand, the annual results are marked by great consistency. His last season was slightly behind the previous ones (132 victories in 2021 against more than 160 successes in the four previous seasons). At the beginning of the week, a few days before the demonstration in support of Yannick-Alain Briand, this Wednesday in Salon-de-Provence, Romuald Mourice, coach in the same region of the South-East, had declared to us: "We are all a bit shocked, surprised. In this kind of affair, we are obliged to trust the justice system and our leaders but, for my part, like the majority of professionals, I am one of the people who trust Yannick-Alain Briand. He is a very respected person in the profession, that's for sure. I have always been in his shadow in terms of results but I never thought for a second that I would be beaten by someone who doped his horses. He doesn't have abnormal statistics, his horses are at fault or don't make the finish like everyone else. He shouldn't have to pay for others."



The 8 people indicted in France (presumed innocent)

Luc Gabeur (thoroughbred trainer), Baudouin Gabeur (son of Luc Gabeur), Benoît Gabeur (veterinarian), Jean-Laurent Dubord (thoroughbred trainer), Yannick-Alain Briand and his companion Sophie Blanchetière (trotting trainers), Bertrand Franquet (veterinarian), Michel Crommer (pharmacist)

Placed under judicial supervision, these people can no longer carry out a professional activity related to racing. This explains why Yannick-Alain Briand has lost his trainer's licence.

Abroad: a vet in Spain, a pharmacist in Italy and Nicholas Cachia, a Maltese trotter owner arrested in Italy.

So will there be a before and after to 22 March as was claimed last week?

Because of its sheer scale - let's not forget that some thirty sites were visited, with ramifications in Italy and Spain - this operation seemed to constitute a turning point in the fight against doping in equestrian sport. One week later, the before and after 22 March 2022 that we legitimately imagined does not seem to be as clear-cut as the first information that has come to light and the disclosure of the names of products such as HEMO-15 or DMSO that were found during several searches.

These are known products, the first of which no longer has a marketing authorisation in France, but is still sold freely in the European Union. Their revelation did not fail, if not to challenge, at least to question a number of professionals. The scope of this affair has prompted certain professional representatives to advocate a change in practices in the interests of greater transparency. The statements made by Stéphane Meunier for the SEDJ and François-Xavier de Chevigny for the Thoroughbred Trainers' Association on the Equidia programme "Le Grand Débrief" last Sunday point to a desire to change certain practices. "In the work we have been doing for months, there is an important subject that is a daily battle: it is the image of racing and its attractiveness," defended Stéphane Meunier. "At the beginning of the year, we talked about the fact that we were having trouble getting employees and that we had to give a good image. We need new customers for the PMU."

Three days later, on Wednesday, three trainers' associations (two in the thoroughbred sphere and the SEDJ in trotting) issued a press release confirming their commitment to the fight against doping: "Our associations have always considered that people whose actions show a desire to cheat should be punished with the utmost firmness. Our associations have always campaigned for clean and regular races. And we will continue to do so." But also that they do not comment on an ongoing case: "We wish to leave it to the investigators and the courts to carry out their investigations. The secrecy of the investigation does not allow us to know exactly what they are accused of." On the subject of the boundary between care and doping, the associations state: "We must define with these actors (mother societies, police and justice), simply but precisely, the boundary between the care that every animal

needs and doping."

The birth of a dissensus between the judicial and police authorities and the equestrian world

After the initial reactions of applause for the principle and the foundations of the operation, several sources of unease emerged. The professionals feel persecuted for false reasons, with the search for "light" evidence. And in two main registers.

■ Has the evidence of the eavesdropping (words, phrases, etc.) been analysed with discernment (ability to understand the meaning of actions or words in a particular context with particular data and specific to the system under discussion)? In *Jour de Galop*, Jean-Laurent Dubord argues in favour of a misunderstanding linked to a misinterpretation of his words by the interviewers.

■ The judicial authorities rely on a list of potentially different doping products from the racing community. HEMO-15 is not approved but it is not formally prohibited either. The racing world, in its day-to-day life, has engaged in certain interstices. Its practices do not or no longer coincide with a literal and rigorous reading of the laws. The meeting between theory and practice does not take place completely, revealing areas of overlap where the legal ban becomes everyday practice. The risk revealed by this survey is that the observed environment (racing) and the judicial authority do not share the same codes and the same frames of reference.

Respecting the law, yes, but in order to make it evolve better towards practices?

At the heart of the "clean hands" operation, it is now the subject of the pharmacopoeia that becomes central. Perhaps the racing world has taken certain liberties with the legislation (see below) or the regulations as they stand are inapplicable in the day-to-day reality of a racing team, given the demands of competitiveness and expected performance? *"To treat is not to dope"* defended this Wednesday the supporters of Yannick-Alain Briand in Salon-de-Provence.

The judicial control: a conviction of offence?

By prohibiting the practice of their profession to people who have been indicted but presumed innocent before a possible conviction (or acquittal), it is an automatic conviction that is imposed on racing professionals. Here again, the supporters of Yannck-Alain Briand are up in arms against this decision. A decision which is however one of the foundations of the judicial system to allow an investigation in serenity. The independence of justice is one of the cardinal values of our democracy. Races cannot be avoided under the pretext of personal rules that are not understood and therefore of a justice system that is specific and derogatory. But Justice must also be accountable to society and not condemn the innocent by blindly walking. The Outreau case is of course a sad reference in this matter and is now cited by several actors in the races as a danger in the making.

STEPHANE PIALLAT: "THERE IS VERY CLEAR **EVIDENCE**"

Stéphane Piallat is the head of the central racing and gaming department. He played a central role in the operation and was also the interlocutor of the media. We asked him to give us an initial view of the operation and to react to the disbelief expressed by some of those involved in racing.

24H au Trot - What is your current assessment of the 22 March operation in which your departments played an important role?

Those who were brought before the magistrates have been indicted. There are eight of them, including one who is in prison, Michel Crommer (a pharmacist). The others are free but are under supervision and are subject to a ban on their professional activity. There will be more presentations in the future which could lead to further indictments. The analysis of the products taken is ongoing and will take time. **Reactions from professionals have mentioned products** cited in your searches that they do not consider to be prohibited, pointing to a discrepancy between the evidence accumulated and the practice of the profession. What do you think?

I think people should look more closely at the list of banned products. It's worrying that professionals don't know what is banned. Someone will have to explain to me how it can be said that HEMO-15 is not prohibited. Professionals cannot be unaware of what is prohibited and what is not. The products that have been found are prohibited products, the practices are prohibited practices and there are a number of people who have admitted these facts. There is very clear evidence. When you present eight people before the magistrates and everyone is indicted, it means that the work has been well done.

So what can you say to those racing professionals who say they are surprised and worried?

The socio-professionals may be emotional, they may be doubtful, they may say: "You have caught some but they are not the right ones". The fact remains that the result is there and, if there are others that need to be caught, I am open to information and elements concerning other people. We worked in collaboration with racing experts, including the horse racing laboratory - which, incidentally, is often criticised for not seeing doping. In this case, they saw it clearly. There is really no doubt about the quality of our work.

TRIBUNE: DID YOU SAY "OUTREAU"? by Thibault Lamare

t seems to me to be a perilous task to write about a subject as hot as doping and the current affairs. It would be easier and quieter to keep quiet, but can we do so when we fear that the escalation of a system will have irreparable consequences on the lives of colleagues, whether they are trotting or galloping, before any judgment is passed? The question is simple: can one "kill" without judging?

I have no close friends or particular interests threatened by what is happening and the questions I am sharing here are objective. The aim is not to give an opinion on cases of which I do not have a quarter of the elements, but the feeling that the coach would be exempt from the presumption of innocence is not acceptable to me.

I want a relentless and radical fight against doping. The provision of significant resources by the public authorities to add investigation to the traditional testing component is very good news. But the tougher and more radical we want to be, the fairer we have to be.

Is it fair to impose professional disappearance before any possibility of establishing proportionality between offences and sanctions, between offences and penalties?

Is it fair to impose professional death before any possibility of defence and before the degrees of intentionality and responsibility have been established?

Could any of us today suffer the same fate if we were the victim of a breach of trust by a vet or a nutritionist, an employee or a partner?

Should this right to eliminate a company exist to strengthen the fight against doping, on what expertise would it be based and would it be the best way to target and eradicate any proven doping?

I do not know and I do not prejudge the answer.

Building an attractive reputation, a competitive workforce and a competent team can take a lifetime and my guestion is simple: can a racehorse trainer's business be irretrievably dismantled and delivered to the media court before a belated judgement finally concludes that lesser sanctions would have been fairer and more proportionate? Defending our industry requires us to place the cursors in the legal errors.

right places in close collaboration with our supervisory ministries. Failure to do so would expose us to irreparable

ALEXANDRE ABRIVARD MAN IN A HURRY

Alexandre Abrivard has had the best first quarter ever. On the evening of 31st March, he was not only leading the Sulky d'Or ranking with 58 victories, i.e. ten ahead of the double title holder, Eric Raffin, but also the Combined ranking with 73 successes. This last figure puts him six units ahead of Raffin's score last year, when he broke the record (351) in one year.

owever, the 28 year old, who, by the way, won his 900th victory in harness racing, says he does not want to rush into the title race. It is true that the year is long, but his

stats after three months clearly point to a season that will leave its mark on his career. In particular, they show a remarkable success rate in winning, whether in harness or mounted. In other words, when Alexandre Abrivard races, it is more than ever to win! A sure sign is that he has been racing more. He has run around a hundred more races than his average over the first three months of his last seven years. As a result, he has also travelled more, even if it is the commitments of the horses of the family stable that guide his programme. In this context, the role of his new agent (Enzo Bodineau) consists in completing the rides of his meetings but not only. Proof of this is his trip on Wednesday to Salon-de-Provence where he signed a new double win without horses stamped "L.-C. Abrivard". But he knows he can count on his father's boarders,

who are also having a very good start to the season. Nearly 40% of his races this year were won by horses from the family stable, with 34 victories, i.e. 46.5% of his total. Since the beginning of the year, Alexandre Abrivard has won for 28 different trainers.

His first quarter figures

<u>Harness</u>

- 274 races / 58 wins / 50 places / €1,379,220
- Winning success: 21.1
- Successful place finish: 18.2
- Success on the podium: 39.4
- Golden Sulky ranking: 1st
- <u>Mounted</u>

- 75 races / 15 wins / 12 places / €460,030
- Winning success: 20
- Successful place finish: 16
- Success on the podium: 36
- Golden Stirrup Ranking: 2nd

<u>Combined</u>

- 349 races / 73 wins / 62 places / €1,839,250
- Winning success: 19.2
- Successful place finish: 17.7
- Success on the podium: 38.6
- Combined ranking: 1st



INTERVIEW Alexandre Abrivard: "We'll talk about goals later"

24 Heures au Trot: A first quarter with more than 70 victories on the momentum of a good winter meeting in Vincennes, with three wins and double wins in quick succession. How do you see the beginning of the season? Alexandre Abrivard. It's absolutely crazy! It just has to last. The horses are good, my drives and rides are good. Now, we know that this job is made up of ups and downs. You have to try to stay on top as long as possible.

Your results have been regular for several seasons but it is clear that this year you are on quite exceptional bases. Yes, but for the moment it's anecdotic in my opinion. We've only done one quarter. If, at the end of August, I am told that I am on a record basis, I would say that it is starting to be serious. After that, it's very good to record such results. But you have to remain lucid, not stall and continue to perform well. We'll talk about objectives later in the year. I'm lucky to be going through a good period. The longer it lasts, the better! I'm going to the races more than in previous years because I'm in good shape and our team is asking for it. Nine out of ten trips there is a horse from the stable in the meeting. My start to the year means that I am one of the most sought-after drivers, even though I will not give up riding for anything in the world. I also became a father. So yes, it's a bit of a mixed bag. The kids are fine when I get home at night and my wife pushes me to go to the races and pushes me to be stronger. My father trains a hundred horses for his success and mine. I don't have any obstacles in my way.

For a few seasons now, you have also been working with a mental coach. What does this bring you? I've been working this way for more than two and a half years, and I think I've found a good balance in my professional life. We talk on the phone two or three times a week and in person twice a month. It's about debriefing and having more cross points of view with someone who has a more novice eye on the profession and a sharper eye on the sports side. It is quite difficult to explain, it is pedagogy, sports psychology. I have matured over the years but this has been an additional help.

When you are in such a good period, do you feel more inspired? When you are in good shape, the decision you make on a course is often good, the courses are luckier, the horses don't gallop. But it's still difficult to explain. When you are in good shape, when you win, you are also more in demand and when your agent calls a trainer, he often gets positive feedback.

Spring is often a good season for the family stable. Will you be able to count on good cards in the coming weeks? We have a magnificent team that has been in good shape since the meeting. Without naming names, there are 3 year olds who are still in the pits and who will be started in the spring; they have talent. As a result, I will be able to rely on a good panel of youngsters to start throughout the season, which also allows me to know where we are going from one Sunday to the next. I know that on Sundays I will go to the place where there will be a 3-year-old to start. For the organisation it's a plus. If the horse entered on Sunday has worked well at the beginning of the week, we know where we are going to go.

At the end of the winter meeting, you announced that you were changing agents. It has been effective for a few weeks with Enzo Bodineau. How did it come about? He had heard the rumours that I was going to change agent and he made me a proposal. I've known him for a long time, he has pretty good results with his other jockeys. At the beginning of March I got a lot of offers and let's say he ticked the most boxes. Our association took immediately. He's happy because trainers often respond positively when he contacts them; he was able to pick up the clientele I had right away. And as the feedback from the new clientele is positive, the start of our collaboration is therefore good.

It feels like everything is coming together now that you are 28 years old. Do you also feel that way? When I was young, I was very successful right away. So I had to be a bit lenient with myself to give myself time to mature. What do you think of the recent news that has shaken the racing world? I prefer not to say too much. Nevertheless, I think that by arresting people who bought products illegally abroad but without improving the performance of their horses, we didn't hit the right spot even if these people deserve to be punished. The real doping substances are not found. There's a lot of noise but maybe we didn't hit the right

WORKING WITH A MENTAL COACH The result is only the consequence of what you put in place

This is a first for us in the world of racing. For more than three years, Alexandre Abrivard has been using the advice and services of a mental coach. An osteopath by training, Jean-Michel Jarry created and manages the MAM team (My Athlete Management), which puts a team of experts from different worlds at the service of the athlete's performance. These are very high-level sportsmen and women, as the Manceaubased athlete has worked, for example, with Yohann Diniz, world walking champion, and Kevin Mayeur, Olympic decathlon vice-champion. "Within my team, our aim is to make the most of all the tools of performance, describes Jean-Michel Jarry. Performance is technique, but it is also mental, dietary and environmental. I know all the difficulties in this field because athletes are often under so much pressure that it is not always easy. My role is to make them understand, to exchange and to verbalise." He knew the Abrivard family through his work as an osteopath. "One day, Valérie (his mother) told me that it would be good for me to follow Alexandre, who was not at his best at the time," he says.

"At that time, Alexandre was questioning a lot of things, including his future career," continues the mental coach. "He agreed to work together but, at the beginning, he didn't really know what I could offer him, simply because I realised that, in the equestrian world, nobody was working on mental preparation. For this mental work, the priority is to install a climate of trust."

Since then, the dynamic has continued to grow. "With Alexandre, we made it a rule to verbalise things, to give ourselves up," he explains. There is a lot of talk about stress among sportsmen and women, but I think that stress is mainly positive, it is pressure that is negative. We have exchanged a lot of ideas. Our sessions range from sophrology to hypnotherapy, including visualisation, work on emotions, selfknowledge and also physical preparation with a programme established by a physical trainer."

For Jean-Michel Jarry, it was also a first in the sense that he had never worked with a jockey-driver before. "When I started working with Alexandre, I didn't know the horse world," he says. "But every time I start a contract with someone, I want to



An expected evolution

Alexandre Abrivard's results since the beginning of the year do not surprise his mental coach. "I was convinced that we would reach a phase like this, he confides. But until this year, I don't think he's had the means to do it. You can see that he is running more than in previous seasons. It also means a change in his life rhythm. At the beginning of the year, we said to ourselves: 'what if we gave ourselves all the means to go out and win.' For all that, there is no defined objective. Whatever the sport, I ask the athletes I work with never to have a result objective," says Jean-Michel Jarry. This may seem paradoxal because if you are looking for performance, you are looking to win. But in fact, in my conception of mental preparation, we cannot have a result objective, we can only have a process and means objective. The result is only the consequence of what we put in place."

The requirements of top level sport

"For any athlete who wants to compete at a high level, there are three main areas: a technical area, which is the priority, a physiological area to ensure that the body is ready (physical preparation, diet, etc.) and the mental area. At the top level, it is very often the mental aspect that makes the difference", defines Jean-Michel Jarry. "And for that, the athlete must be in harmony with himself as much as possible. So we worked a lot on Alexandre's knowledge of himself to be more serene, more at peace. The insidious work we are doing is paying off. But I'm a very small link in the chain, it's Alexandre who is in the sulky or in the saddle, it's up to him to perform."

go and look at the train. One of the things that struck me the most when I went to Vincennes for the first time was the impression that the riders go from one horse to another, not counting the changing room and the weighing. They put themselves in a rhythm of stress and excitement which is not always very good." Through his training, Jean-Michel Jarry had already had the opportunity to work with riders: "I am lucky enough to have also trained in equi-therapy. So I know the relationship between man and horse. That's why I told Alexandre that we were already going to work on his calmness and serenity because that's the message he has to send to his horse so that it trusts him".

DIVINE MONCEAU WINS SECOND GNT STAGE

Delayed by half an hour due to a demonstration in support of Yannick-Alain Briand and Sophie Blanchetière, the second stage of the Grand National du Trot (Gr.3) went to the unstoppable Alexandre Abrivard. He gave the perfect race to his partner Divine Monceau who set the new course record in 1'12''9.

A lexandre Abrivard didn't need much time to find his feet on the Salon-de-Provence track. He discovered it this Wednesday and won on his first attempt! He had a good idea of the opposition and the profile of the ring to offer the perfect stayer race to his partner **Divine Monceau** (Uniclove), explaining on Equidia: "I suspected from the starters that it would be a brutal race, with train. I had said that I would drive to be fourth or fifth and it worked out perfectly. The home straight is long and I had time to come back on **Dottarus**."

driver of the moment and that changes everything. My mare is not better than the others but she is a brave mare. She has three hearts and four lungs. I'm coming on a long journey even though I know I can't win. I come for a good place and she wins. It's fabulous. Then I wanted to take my mare to Corsica but this victory puts everything in question. I am very moved. This victory is even out of proportion with all that it brings me." In 1'12''9, Divine Monceau clearly surpassed the previous record for the 3,000 metre course, held by Nino Le Blond in 1'14''4 since 2011, or that of Désir Castelets over 3,025 metres in 1'13''7. She also beats Farah des Caux at the top of the GNT ranking with 20 points.

morning, had a thrill of his own (remarks on *Equidia*): "This is one of the most beautiful victories of my career. I have the best

ScoopDyga pho

GRAND'

RESULTS AND VIDEO

		LOOK DE STAR 1'12''7	COKTAIL JET 1'11''2
	UNICLOVE 1'10''9	LOOK DE STAR I IZ /	CORTE 1'13''6
		LINDA SOMOLLI 1'15''9	WORKAHOLIC (US)
DIVINE MONCEAU		LINDA SOMOLLI I IS 9	OPHELIA 1'18''0
		HETRE VERT	SABI PAS
	ORTIE D'ERABLE 1'24''6		VERTE CAMPAGNE
		HELENE D'ATOUT 1'18"2	AND ARIFANT 1'16''5
		TILLENE D'ATOUT I 10 Z	CHIMENE D'ATOUT 1'20''3



It was in an armchair that Victoriane Goetz's pensioner crossed the wire first in this 1st stage of the Green Trophy.

his first stage of the Green Trophy ('Trophée Vert') circuit was run on a real "billiard table", reinforcing a little more, if that were needed, the feeling of the quality of grass tracks in France.

On this 1,230-metre track, with a very winding layout, the horses starting from the front post had a good advantage. **Eight** (Kool du Caux) took full advantage of this, winning with extreme ease.

After having travelled in the wake of the leader, **Genêt de Boitron**, the 8 year old gelding signed the twelfth victory of his career, the first on grass. Without his shoes, and almost without any leg protections, he did not see his blinkers lowered to win, very detached from his opponents.

His driver, Nicolas Ensch, enjoyed himself: "The course was perfect, it was like a dream. Congratulations to his surroundings who made a long journey from Normandy. It took courage." Victoriane Goetz (27) and her father, Valéry, who was present on Sunday, did indeed travel across France for this engagement, with the most beautiful victory of the young woman's career at stake. The sixteenth after starting to practice in 2019.

Epico Blue, **Fossoyeur** and **Easton of My Life** were very much in the spotlight, the latter not being able to distinguish himself after having waited at the back of the field. The second place finally went to **Guevara du Pont** (Tabler). "*I am fully satisfied*", said his trainer-driver David Békaert. "*I would have signed up for this ranking before the ride. The horse did what I expected of him.*"

Completing the podium, **Express Evening** (Nahar de Béval) made a superb comeback after breaking stride at the end of the opposite stretch. "It was a bit of a surprise," admitted Virgile Foucault. "My horse was shod, but the impression is good!"

RESULTS AND VIDEO

		BIJOU DU BIGNON 1'14''0	RAINBOW RUNNER 1'14''1
	KOOL DU CAUX 1'09''8	BIJOU DU BIGNON I 14 U	DANY KOV
		VENUS DE LA BONDE	JAMES PILE 1'17''8
EIGHT		VENUS DE LA BONDE	INES DE LA NOE
		JAIN DE BEVAL 1'13"6	COKTAIL JET 1'11''2
	REFERENCE 1'15"9	JAIN DE DEVAL I IJ O	TOUTA 1'15''3
		KOSETTE 1'14''7	CAPRICCIO 1'12''3
			TARENTELLE 1'19''3



GRAND NATIONAL LEADERBOARD

The Grand National is a circuit comprising 14 stages held all over the country. The final is always held at Paris-Vincennes in December. Each race is Gr.3 grade, except for the final which is Gr.2 event.

After the 2nd stage at **Salon-de-Provence**:

Horse | Points | Participations

1 DIVINE MONCEAU | 20.00 | 2 2 FARAH DES CAUX | 15.00 | 1 3 DJANGO DU BOCAGE | 12.00 | 2 4 DOTTARUS | 10.00 | 1 5 EDEN BASQUE | 8.00 | 1 5 EIRE D'HELIOS | 8.00 | 1 7 CALIMERO DU THIOLE | 6.00 | 1 7 EBERTON | 6.00 | 1 9 FESTIF CHARMANT | 5.00 | 2 9 DIXIT DANICA | 5.00 | 1 12 CAMPIONE MIO | 4.00 | 1 13 CRACK MONEY | 3.00 | 2 13 DAY DE BELLOUET | 3.00 | 1

Upcoming stages:

Wednesday 13 April REIMS



GREEN TROPHY LEADERBOARD

The Green Trophy (or 'Trophée Vert' in French) is similar to the Grand National, except that all the stages are raced on turf tracks. All races are Grade-A events except for the final in Craon which is a Gr.3 race.

After the 1st stage at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue:

Horse | Points | Participations

1 EIGHT | 15.00 | 1 2 GUEVARA DU PONT | 10.00 | 1 3 EXPRESS EVENING | 8.00 | 1 4 FLORINE DE VIETTE | 6.00 | 1 5 CAGNOISE D'AGON | 5.00 | 1 6 GENET DE BOITRON | 4.00 | 1 7 EASTON OF MY LIFE | 3.00 | 1 8 EPICO BLUE | 1.00 | 1 8 ECHEC ET MAT | 1.00 | 1 8 FALCO DE VANDEL | 1.00 | 1 8 FELTENA DE LUBEL | 1.00 | 1 8 FOSSOYEUR | 1.00 | 1

Upcoming stages:

Sunday 17 April ECOMMOY Sunday 1 May BERNAY Sunday 15 May EAUZE Sunday 29 May LANDIVISIAU Sunday 12 June ALENCON Sunday 19 June ERBRAY Sunday 26 June LE TOUQUET Sunday 26 June LE TOUQUET Sunday 3 July SABLE-SUR-SARTHE Sunday 17 July ROYAN-ATLANTIQUE Sunday 17 July CARENTAN Sunday 31 July CARENTAN Sunday 7 August AIX-LES-BAINS Sunday 21 August MONTIER-EN-DER Monday 5 September CRAON (Final)

Wednesday 27 April CHATEAUBRIANT
Wednesday 25 May LE CROISE-LAROCHE
Wednesday 8 June LAVAL
Wednesday 22 June TOULOUSE
Friday 15 July CABOURG
Wednesday 10 August SAINT-MALO
Wednesday 7 September MESLAY-DU-MAINE
Wednesday 28 September VIRE
Wednesday 19 October FEURS
Wednesday 9 November NANTES
Wednesday 23 November MAUQUENCHY
Sunday 4 December VINCENNES (Final)

JAGUAR MARANCOURT FROM STRENGTH TO **STRENGTH**

fter showing a bit of character at the beginning of his career, Jaguar Marancourt (Cristal Money) keeps on showing his talent to the great pleasure of his driver Jean-Philippe Monclin with whom he remains unbeaten in three attempts together: "I really think that he is a very good colt. Today I started in a back, so that he wouldn't be tense and then I came to my hand. He does it easily and he can go with the good ones". This cousin of champion Saxo de Vandel now has €97,800 in earnings and will have to face the best of his generation in the coming weeks with legitimate ambitions. Thirty minutes earlier, the very good **Jessie Jet** (Love You) signed a fourth victory in as many public outings, her first at Vincennes, making a very good impression: "a formality" summarised her driver Alexandre Abrivard.

		COKTAIL JET 1'11''2	QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14''2
	CRISTAL MONEY 1'13''2		ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)
		MAKING MONEY	HIMO JOSSELYN 1'13''3
JAGUAR MARANCOURT		1'23''3	DOLLY DU BUISSON
		DEFI D'AUNOU (US)	ARMBRO GOAL (US)
	REINE DE VANDEL 1'16''1	1'11''3	NESMILE 1'17''4
		ELLEN DE VANDEL 1'21''4	SANCHO PANCA 1'15''2
			NOTE DE VANDEL 1'25''6

7^e | PRIX PENTHESILEA

Att - 2700 m - Groupe 3 - 70 000 €

JAGUAR MARANCOURT 1'15"4



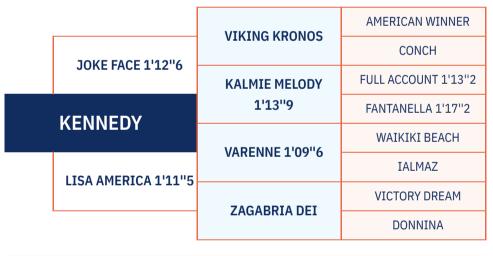
Acheté aux ventes Argana Trot 20 000 € par Gaetano PEZONE pour CHELSEA SRLS

Cristal Money x Reine de Vandel (Defi d'Aunou) Driver : J.-Ph. Monclin - Entraîneur : F. Souloy Propriétaire : Tramontom Srl - Eleveur : S.C.E.A. de Marancourt



KENNEDY AWAITING THE GROUPS

n Friday night at Vincennes, despite his number 10 on the second line behind the mobile gate, Erik Bondo's pensioner has long battled at the back before finishing strong to beat Eileen (Royal Dream) and Farah des Caux (Isigny de Montfort). He wins in the kilometre rate of 1'12"2, over 2100m. Gabriele Gelormini, driver of Kennedy (Joke Face) went through all the emotions during the course, "at the halfway point of the final turn I didn't see myself better than 4th or 5th" said the Italian driver to Equidia Racing before adding: "There wasn't any three wagon and when Nicolas (Bazire) came we didn't advance. He sprinted really well, he is still behind in terms of earnings. He's a complete horse, he does all distances and also goes under saddle. He's not going to stop there." A return to foreign countries is not excluded: "We might be tempted by the Sweden Cup which takes place during the Elitloppet weekend. He knows the races there well and running in a heat will not be a problem for him." His champion dam Lisa America (Varenne) had competed in the Elitloppet as had his sire Joke Face. Kennedy could feel at home in Solvalla.



3^e | PRIX AMALTHEA

Att - 2100 m - Course C - 65 000 €

KENNEDY 1'12"2



3^e

Joke Face x Lisa America (Varenne) Driver : G. Gelormini - Entraîneur : H. E. Bondo Propriétaire : St. Panamera Racing - Eleveur : Fonds de Courses





2^e Dundee As 1'15"6 Maharajah x

3e	Jakartas des Pres 1'15"6 Scipion du Goutier x Union des		
3	Pres		

4^e: Jorgos de Guez - 5^e: Just For Lova - 6^e: Jaguar Wit - 7^e: Javanais Delo

2^e Eileen 1'12"2 Royal Dream x Liberation

Farah des Caux 1'12"2 Isigny de Montfort x Ossiliana

4^e : Forbach - 5^e : Vicki Laksmy - 6^e : Heading Reference - 7^e : Vlad Del Ronco

JOUR JOYEUX MAKES DISCOURS JOYEUX SHINE, OPENING HIS RECORD AS A STALLION

e is a good colt who can win in Paris." Thierry Raffegeau was delighted on Sunday at Pontchâteau, with the victory of his pensioner, **Jour Joyeux**, who opened his palmares under Eric Raffin's grip, and for whom he has a great respect. "It was rolling and the time is good (1'16"5) and he put a good backstroke. He is going to improve and progress further", continued the man from Argentré-du-Plessis at the microphone of Equidia Racing. While defending his silks, this colt is out of **Discours Joyeux**, of which he is the first winner, who had won the 2017 Prix de Sélection (Gr.1) for his training and Jean-Yves Rozé's colours. With twenty products in this first generation, **Discours Joyeux** has eight qualifiers. **Jour Joyeux** is a full brother to **Solidor**, who had made headlines with his success as a 2-year-old. He has a sister named **Kyriana**.

		GOETMALS WOOD 1'11''9	AND ARIFANT 1'16''5
	DISCOURS JOYEUX 1'11''2		TAHITIENNE
		QUELLE COPINE	ACHILLE 1'15''1
JOUR JOYEUX		1'11''2	HAIE 1'16''5
		JET DU VIVIER 1'18''5	SABI PAS
	LA ZOLA 1'19''2	JET DU VIVIER I 10 5	UA UKA
		SAFRA 1'25"5	TONY M
			GOUFRA 1'23''7

4^e | PRIX DU PMU "LE VINCENNES" PONTCHATEAU

Att - 2200 m - Course E - 19 000 €

JOUR JOYEUX 1'16"5



Discours Joyeux x La Zola (Jet du Vivier) Driver : E. Raffin - Entraîneur : Th. Raffegeau Propriétaire : Ec. Th. Raffegeau - Eleveur : E.A.R.L Blondy



HOLLY MADRIK WINS THE PRIX PASCAL JOLY: BETWEEN EMOTION AND PROFESSIONALISM

ne could have believed it. Halfway down the straight line at Pontchâteau on Sunday, Richard Joly was battling for victory, driving his horse Hizia Marandaise (Bilibili), in the Prix Pascal Joly, the first race to pay tribute to his father, who died last November after a fall in the race at Nantes. But, in a last move, Holly Madrik (The Best Madrik) and Eric Raffin came to adjust them.
 As soon as the post is crossed, the Vendéen offers his hand to

As soon as the post is crossed, the vendeen offers his hand to Richard. It was a time of emotion until the prize-giving ceremony, which was also attended by his mother, Nathalie. For the winner, author of a three-shot, words were not easy to find. "I had to do my job. I put myself in his place in this fight, it wasn't easy to be in that position." Then returning to his race: "I started calmly and then we had the right run taking the third layer. The mare did it pleasantly."

		COKTAIL JET 1'11"2	QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14''2
	THE BEST MADRIK 1'10''1		ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)
			BIESOLO 1'16''3
HOLLY MADRIK		LADY MADRIK 1'14''5	ELITE GEDE
		KOREAN 1'12''6	DAHIR DE PRELONG 1'14''2
	TALINA MADRIK 1'12''8		CALMNESS 1'16''0
		KETTY D'OCCAGNES	WORKAHOLIC (US)
	1'16''6	UNE FALAISIENNE 1'21''5	

5^e | PRIX PASCAL JOLY

Att - 2800 m - Course E - 22 000 €

HOLLY MADRIK 1'15"7

The Best Madrik x Talina Madrik (Korean) Driver : E. Raffin - Entraîneur : J. M. Baudouin Propriétaire : Ec. J.-M Baudouin - Eleveur : Ch. Simplice



2^e Jacomo des Bots 1'16"6 Saxo de Vandel x Snow des Bots

3^e Javelot 1'16"9 Timoko x Carmen

4^e : Jahina Vita - 5^e : Jaya Saint Clair - 6^e : Jerrywella du Poto - 7^e : Jalie de Bolero

2^e Hizia Marandaise 1'15"7 Bilibili x Sidra de Beylev

3^e Hoco Meslois 1'15"8 Timoko x Very Nice Girl

4^e : Hysope du Bocage - 5^e : History Family - 6^e : Hidalgo Herblinaie - 7^e : Honey de Touchyvon

13 **24:** THE WEEK IN BRIEF

HAVANAISE QUITS THE TRACKS

F rançois-Pierre Bossuet informed us this Monday that his champion **Havanaise** (Ricimer) would not be seen on the track again. His resident is a victim of tendonitis and, after consultation with the various partners (Ecurie Ténor, Geneviève Robert and Justine Dosso, all of whom are cobreeders of the mare), it was decided to stop her racing career. It is now her only life at stud where **Havanaise** will of course be a broodmare. The trainer told us: *"There is no question of taking any risks or trying anything with a mare of this level. We have not yet decided on the stallion she will meet this spring."*

The five-year-old mare has raced 37 times and has a Group 1 win to her name, the Sulky World Cup 5-Year-Old last January. She retires with eight wins and \in 530,710 in earnings. With her, François-Pierre Bossuet was aiming for the Critérium des 5 Ans (Gr.1) next September but also the Prix Ténor de Baune at the end of the year. On the subject of the race named after the great family crack, the professional declared in the last issue of *360 le Magazine: "I would dream of winning the Prix Ténor de Baune with Havanaise."* The hard law of racing did not allow him to fulfil his dream.

AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL FROM 2- TO 5-

ualified early, on 4 June as a 2yo in 1'18"6 at Meslaydu-Maine, Havanaise made her debut in October (2nd at Cabourg) but had to wait for her last race of the season to win, at Vincennes. She had proved that she was one of the best juveniles by taking 2nd places in the Prix Marcel Dejean (Gr.3) and Vourasie (Gr.3). After several Gr.2 successes at 3 (2nd in Prix Uranie, Ozo and Roquépine), she took 2nd place in the Critérium des 3 Ans (Gr.1) behind Hanna des Molles (Village Mystic). In the spring of her 4th year, she was again placed in a Gr 2, but failed to shine in the Critérium des 4 Ans (Gr 1) at the end of the summer after having finished second again in the last elim'. Success at the highest level came the following winter. After having won the first semi-classic of her career in the Prix Ariste Hémard, she could not do well with her n°2 behind the gate in the Critérium Continental. She will then be the strongest in the Sulky World Cup 5-Year-Old Prix Bold Eagle. On the 2,700 m course of the big track, the daughter of Ricimer, to whom she gave her first victory at this level, was strongest in what will remain her masterpiece of her career, which ends with 8 victories, a record of 1'12" and €530,710 in earnings.

	HERMES DU BUISSON 1'14''0	BUVETIER D'AUNOU (US) 1'14''4
RICIMER 1'12''0		NEUILLY 1'16''1
RICIMER I IZ U	GYKA DE LA CHAISE 1'20''5	OREGON 1'17''9
HAVANAISE		ALIKA DE LA CHAISE
ΠΑνΑΝΑΙΣΕ	PHILOTENOR 1'14''4	TENOR DE BAUNE 1'14''3
VERSION PHILO 1'14''4		AGRIPPA MESLOISE 1'16''8
VERSION PHILO I 14 4	LAIS DE VANDEL 1'15''8	PODOSIS 1'16''1
		COLOMBIA DE VANDEL





STALLIONS: A FIRST QUARTER IN LINE WITH 2021

he change of year has not really impacted the leaders of our national stallion ranking. The most notable fact remains the reduced domination of **Ready Cash** (Indy de Vive) [photo] who nevertheless remains the undisputed number one. Of the top ten of 2021 according to cumulative earnings (in order: **Ready Cash, Prodigious, Love You, Royal Dream, Village Mystic, Timoko, Niky, Un Mec d'Héripré, Booster Winner** and **Bird Parker**), only **Un Mec d'Héripré** is out this first quarter to make way for the veteran **Jag de Bellouet**.

Sires of 5-yo's: the impact of the tenors on the rankings

There is a clear correlation in the 5yo ranks between the rankings of the sires of the winners and the top performers of the generation. The leader of the stallions, **Royal Dream** (Love You), is the sire of **Hohneck**, the richest competitor in his class since 1st January (with 194,000 \in). The same applies to **Booster Winner** (Love You), sire of **Hooker Berry** (\in 171,600 since 1st January). **Ricimer**, sire of **Havanaise** (\in 175,500 earnings in 2022) is well placed in this table but relegated to sixth place due to a much lower number of representatives (four in total).

In the battle between the male branches **Ready Cash** and **Love You**, we can conclude that there is a form of equality here. **Love You** is indeed represented twice (against four for **Ready Cash** and his sons **Bird Parker**, **Brillantissime** and **Bold Eagle**) but thanks to the two leaders of the table: his sons **Royal Dream** and **Booster Winner**.

SIRES OF 3-YO'S: BETTER TO BE YOUNG

T he top-10 fathers of 3-year-olds have a younger profile than the tables for the other generations. The average age here is between 11 and 12 years. Seven of the ten stallions we are interested in are 11 years old or younger.
Django Riff (Ready Cash) has taken the throne thanks to Jazzy Perrine, the richest representative of the "Js" since January 1st with €158,000. The stallion has two other winners for a total of four victories. The second richest "J" is Just a Gigolo with €144,000 and brings with him his sire Boccador de Simm (Rieussec) on the second step of the podium. Eridan (Ready Cash) is in seventh place with his first crop.

From the point of view of victories, the two veterans of the table, **Love You** and **Prodigious**, lead the debates and are the only ones to have exceeded 10 victories within the 3 year old generation alone.

SIRES OF 4-YO'S: BIRD PARKER ON THE SUMMITS OF THE IZOARD

T he only stallion to exceed €400,000 in the 4yo table, Bird Parker (Ready Cash) capitalises on his two promotion leaders, Izoard Védaquais in the harness race and Idéale du Chêne in the mounted race. Sévérino (Gobernador) is fifth thanks to his champion son Idao de Tillard.

From the point of view of renewal, the presence of **Dollar Macker** (Saxo de Vandel) and **Django Riff** (Ready Cash), represented here by their first production, are the most visible signals of the youth who are trying to make a place for themselves in the sun.



ARQANA SPRING SALE

If the weather was quite wintry outside on Thursday at Deauville, the temperature was more pleasant closer to the ring with an activity similar to that of last year in relation to the number of horses presented: the average price passed the €12,000 mark and the median reached €6,000 thanks to a better rate of sales: +5 points compared to last year.

<u>Figures for 2022 (2021)</u> Presented: **93** (87) Sold: **68** (60) Sold : **73,12%** (68,97%) Average price: **€12,257** (€12,658/ -3.17%) Median: **€6,000** (€5,500) Total: **€833,500** (€759,500 / +9.74%)

The top-price is signed by Trotting Bloodstock, purchaser of Insurrection (Prodigious) who will soon be covered by an American stallion, Florent Fonteyne told us: "I really like her pedigree and she was my priority of the day. It was important for my client to have a mare by Prodigious, a well-known sire of dams, in his meadows. She ticks a lot of the boxes to be a good broodmare so we are very happy with this purchase." **Insurrection** is a sister to **Clarabelle** (Ready Cash), who sired the US top performer Cuatro de Julio when she was married to **Trixton**, a stallion high on the shortlist to be presented to Insurrection. Jetlag d'Amour (Uniclove) and Invictus Mencourt (Uriel Speed) attracted high bids and confirmed the international interest of this sale, being respectively purchased by Abraham Hubertus Post for Haras Arctic and Gerhard Mayer for Franz Hofers.

long bidding battle for €86,000 to Arnaud Ledoyen who was acting on behalf of Eric Bee, the manager of Ecurie du Damier who had acquired the promising **Justin Bold** during the last Prix d'Amérique sales.

Below are the 4 best sales of this spring sale

Lot n°42 - INSURRECTION - Female - Horse in training

PRODIGIOUS - REBEL Presented by Beauvoisinière Sold - SARL Trotting Bloodstock - €100,000

Lot n°49 - JETLAG D'AMOUR - Male - Horse in training

UNICLOVE - VIE D'AMOUR Presented by Réduction d'Effectif Sold - Abraham Hubertus POST for HARAS DU ARCTIC -€90,000

Lot n°56 - HELLO PANAME - Gelding - Horse in training

Much awaited following his impressive success at Enghien on March 18th, **Hello Paname** (Let's Go Along) was sold after a LET'S GO ALONG - PILAR

Presented by Dissolution of association

Sold - Arnaud LEDOYEN for SCEA ECURIE DU DAMIER - €86,000

Lot n°45 - INVICTUS MENCOURT - Gelding - Horse in training

URIEL SPEED - QUEREN OR Presented by Desmet Yannick Sold - Gerhard MAYR for Franz HOFERS - € 80,000 ■



ENINO DU POMMEREUX REQUALIFIES AT CAEN

N ot seen since June 2020, the champion Enino du Pommereux (Coktail Jet), associated with his trainer Sylvain Roger, requalified on Thursday morning at Caen, completing his 2000m in 1'13''9, alone. Noël Lolic, his owner, was present at the Prairie to see his Critérium des 4 Ans winner pass this exam successfully: *"We had stopped him in time after a small touch to a tendon. After two years of absence, it will take him a few races before he is back on track. Sylvain will advise on his future programme, especially as he is doing the breeding season in parallel, which is going well with mares that fill out well." He is entered in several races (Vincennes - 9/04, Argentan - 30/04 and Caen - 15/05) but nothing is decided yet as Sylvain Roger says in our report to be found by clicking on the image above. ■*

E82,000 FOR JASMIN D'AVE AT AUCTAV

T he 30 March sale organised by Auctav, according to a now well-known mixed and online principle, was marked on the trotting side by the purchase of Jasmin d'Ave (Prodigious) by the Écurie des Ludels. This grandson of the classic Hazarina and member of the maternal family of the champion Gelati Cut is unprecedented and had just qualified at Le Mans: he was sold for €82,000. Écurie des Ludels also bought Jetstar de Vrie (Look de Star) for €35,000: he had also recently obtained his passport for racing at Le Mans. Gardon (Rolling d'Héripré) was bought for €66,000 and Quadra Sport (dam of Jack Reacher who won at Reims at the same time as the sale) was bought for €44,000: both are still available for bidding on the website www.auctav.com

SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINIANS CAN ALSO MEAN EMPLOYMENT

■ he Conseil des Chevaux de Normandie, Equi-Ressources and Ifce have been very active in the field of solidarity since the beginning of the war in Ukraine and have informed us of a new way to support the Ukrainians: recruiting refugees. The details are given in the following press release: "The Ukrainian equine professionals who have left their country now need to find other jobs in the European Union countries in order to regain a semblance of normal life. Thanks to the "temporary protection" status, they can work in France. If you have a job to fill and the capacity to integrate a professional of the Ukrainian equine sector in your team, please send us an email. Your proposals will be forwarded to the Ukrainian Equestrian Federation Charity Foundation."

		QUOUKY WILLIAMS 1'14''2	FAKIR DU VIVIER
	COKTAIL JET 1'11''2	QUOURT WILLIAMS I 14 Z	DOLLY WILLIAMS
	CONTAIL JET I II Z	ARMBRO GLAMOUR (US)	SUPER BOWL (US)
ENINO DU POMMEREUX		ARMORO GLAMOOR (03)	-
		HALIMEDE 1'16"2	BUVETIER D'AUNOU (US) 1'14''4
	NOUNE DU POMMEREUX 1'13''7		UDAMES
		DOLLY	PODOSIS 1'16''1
		DOLLI	TULIPE DU BRAUD 1'18''3