



L'ANNÉE HIPPIQUE AWARDS 2015

Once again, Best Communications and Management (BCM), publisher of L'Année Hippique, is proud to announce the annual Awards. Members of the International Riders Clubs and the readers of Horse International voted for the Best Events (indoors and outdoors) and the Best Riders of the Year in the three Olympic disciplines of Jumping, Dressage and Eventing.

Best Riders 2015:

- Steve Guerdat (SUI) Show Jumping 44% of the votes
- Carl Hester (GBR) Dressage 15% of the votes
- Ingrid Klimke (GER) Eventing 43% of the votes

Best Events 2015:

- Geneva (SUI) Show Jumping 46% of the votes
- Aachen (GER) Dressage 19% of the votes
- Luhmühlen (GER) Eventing 29% of the votes

HRH PRINCESS HAYA HONoured WITH GIGLIO D'ORO AWARD

Honorary FEI President HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein has received the prestigious 2015 Giglio d'Oro Award at a ceremony held in Florence, Italy. The Giglio d'Oro is awarded annually by the Italy-based Galileo 2000 Foundation to individuals who make significant contributions to peace, music and art. Princess Haya, wife of Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was presented the award for her outstanding contributions in the humanitarian field. HRH Princess Haya was FEI President for 8 years, but decided not to extend her term in office as she wanted to focus on her goal of helping to address the conflicts in the Middle East. In her acceptance speech, Princess Haya paid tribute to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed: "The recipient should have been my husband, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed - without his loving support and generosity, I would not have been able to do nearly so much. I am deeply honoured by this recognition of my humanitarian work I do on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and the United Nations. I will treasure this award, not as a reminder of all that has been done, but as a reminder of all there is still to do." It is not the first award the Princess received. In September of 2014 she received the French 'Legion of Honour' award as well as the Longines Ladies Award for her accomplishments in the equestrian world last June. Finally, last December the Trophy of the Olympic Committee was dedicated to Princess Haya, who is a UN Messenger of Peace, as well as the chairwoman of the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, and a former World Food Programme (WFP) Ambassador Against Hunger.

VALEGRO TO RETIRE AFTER 2016 OLYMPICS???

Double Olympic Champion Charlotte Dujardin announced the retirement of her legendary mount after the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. "This will be Valegro's retirement after Rio so I want to go out there and want to enjoy every last minute," Dujardin told BBC Points West. "He's got to stay fit and healthy and get ready for the flight. It's a 16-hour flight and he needs to acclimatise. I'm really, really excited heading towards Rio. We get to go out in February and have a look around and fingers crossed it all goes well." Shortly afterwards however, mentor and joint owner of Valegro (along with Roly Luard and Anne Barrott) Carl Hester spoke up and disputed Dujardin's claim. "It's the first I've heard of it," Hester said to Horse&Hound, adding that he has not made any new decisions about the horse's future and that Charlotte "got a bit carried away" while filming for Road to Rio with the BBC. "As far as I'm concerned, nothing's changed," Hester explained. "It's just Charlotte and her big mouth. The plan is still for him to go to the Olympics and, even if he did retire after Rio — which is not definite — he would do Olympia in December as another show before retiring properly. That's the plan we've had all along, and we're sticking to it. I've spoken to Charlotte and mentioned that it would have been nice of her to consult me!" Hester would prefer the 13-year-old wonder horse to be retired in a special ceremony in front of his home crowd at Olympia — if he is indeed retired at all in 2016. We are all curious to see what happens...

Stateside by Nancy Jaffer

The air cargo import and export of horses at JFK airport in New York is scheduled to become horse-friendly and state-of-the-art by the middle of 2016, with completion of the ARK at JFK.

While horses arriving from abroad at JFK currently have to be trucked to quarantine in upstate Newburgh, N.Y., a van ride of two hours or more, the ARK will have direct airside access to loading docks, enabling horses to step off the plane and into a screened stall without touching the tarmac. There will be 48 stalls for horses imported to the U.S., and 30 for horses being exported. Newburgh, which only handles horses being flown into the U.S., will continue to operate. Architect Lachlan Oldaker, whose current projects also include the Hong Kong Jockey Club's thoroughbred race training center, is geared toward making the travel experience as peaceful as possible for the horses. She observed, "Most international transport of horses and livestock occurs at night, so the darkness along with strange smells, noisy airplanes and equipment, being carted around in crates or jet stalls and handled by strange people, can make any animal anxious and nervous." She added, "They can be very stressed and unpredictable and could injure themselves and/or their handlers."

Francois Mathy Jr. of Belgium, whose father is a major importer of competition horses, noted that for the animals, "the least stress on the horse is the flight. All the rest — the shipping, loading, waiting, paperwork — that's all the stress on the horses. So if you can skip that by getting them to the airport and putting them in the stable, it's a great improvement. For sure it's much better." The ARK, which will accommodate a variety of livestock, pets, birds and other animals as well as horses, is going to have a veterinary hospital and diagnostic laboratory. It also is geared to improving the lot of the grooms and other personnel. Bastian Schroeder, who manages New Jersey-based Trans World Equestrian (better known as horseflight.com), noted grooms currently have nowhere to go at JFK during the five hours that horses destined for export have to

stay there to get paperwork completed before they can fly out.

The ARK will have a departure lounge for them where they can get coffee and relax, as the horses get respite in climate-controlled stalls with polyurethane flooring that extends four feet up the walls. Mesh sliding doors allow for better ventilation and greater visibility of the animals. In terms of amenities, each stall will have an ante room where supplies and feed can be kept, and there will be an area for hand-walking called the 'raceway.'

When it is time for the horses to leave, they can be loaded directly onto the airplane without having to go outside on the ramp. Regarding equine comfort, "it's safer and cleaner, especially in the snow in the winter, you don't have to be running around the tarmac. It will make things smoother, and hopefully quicker and more efficient. It's a nice update," said Bastian, noting the current facility is 'past its prime'. Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine is consulting on the project through the planning and operational development stages. Dr. Linda Mittel, a Cornell veterinarian, commented about the need for the ARK concept as opposed to bringing a horse on and off a plane and a van through the arrival and quarantine process. "Any time you change or stress a horse by doing something like that, it's additional fatigue and weariness for them," she said. "It's one less stress for them that can be changed by being able to be unloaded immediately into a facility where they go straight into quarantine," she commented, noting they can be in their own stall within a half-hour of arrival. She estimated imported horses would have to stay 72 hours, depending on how fast their blood can be analyzed. As show jumper and show organizer Derek Braun put it, "I personally, as well as competitors for my shows, ship so many horses from Europe each year that having the peace of mind that one step of the travel process will be eliminated is a big relief because it eliminates part of the risk of injury."

