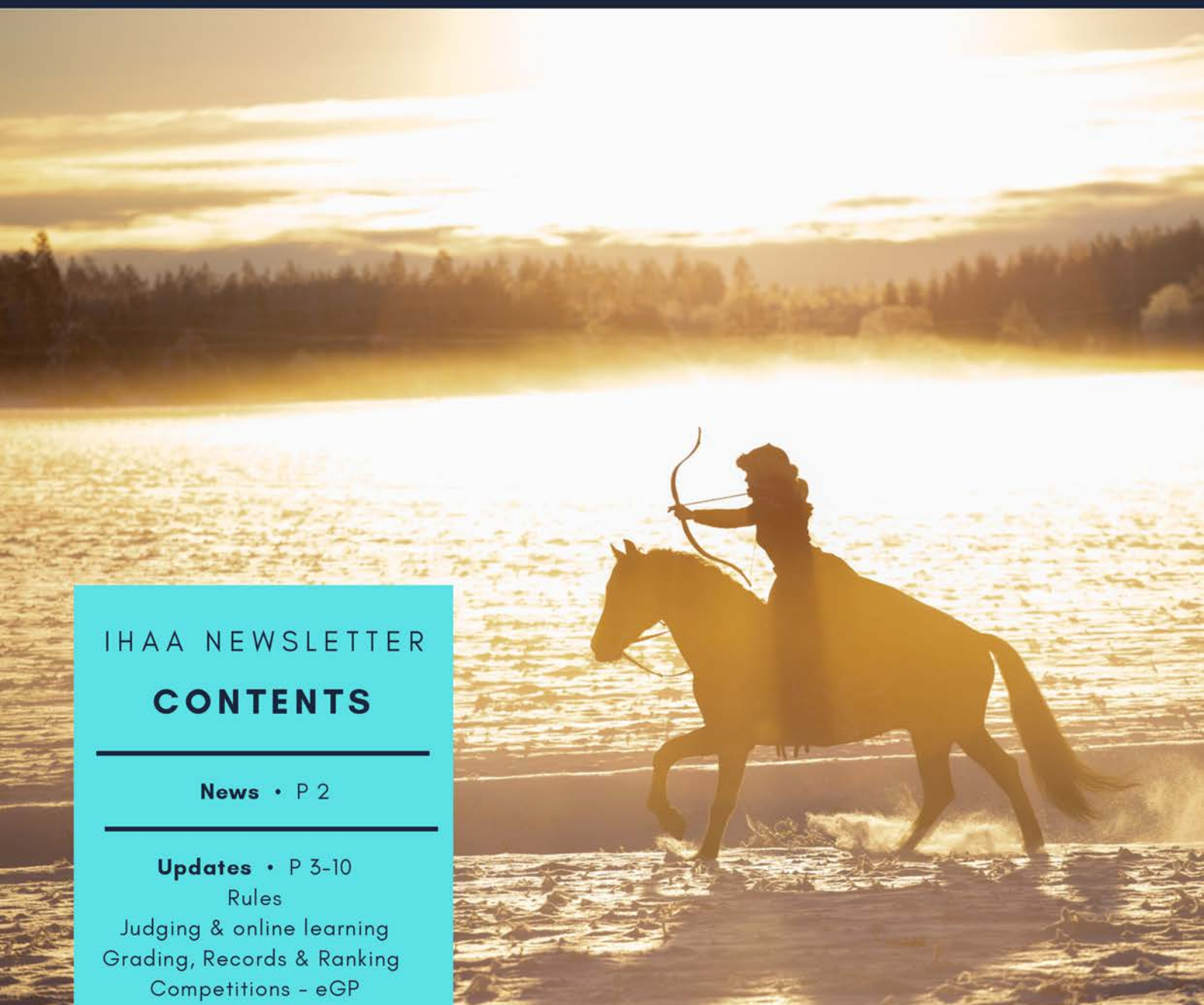




IHAA REVIEW

ISSUE 6 • FEBRUARY 2025



IHAA NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

News • P 2

Updates • P 3-10

Rules

Judging & online learning

Grading, Records & Ranking

Competitions - eGP

Regional updates • P 11-14

Features • P 15-18

Horses, our partners

• *Editor: Claire Sawyer* •

© Niklas Häggblom

Happy New Year!

We wish all members of our international horseback archery community very best wishes for 2025!

Whether you are heading to Tennessee for the World Champs or enjoying your horseback archery closer to home, we wish you quality time with your horse and happy shooting...



NEWS

Welcome to our new members

- Egypt with member association Forsan Egyptian Archers and rep Marwa Hegazi
- Kyrgyzstan with the Salbuurun Federation
- A new member association in Portugal with rep Flora di Martino
- Nepal with rep Niroj K.C

We also offer our congratulations to the BHAA, one of our seven founding members, who have become members of the British Equestrian Federation.

Annual meeting

This year the IHA split its AGM into 2 meetings, one in December and the second in January. We continue to hold virtual meetings

to maximise access to our national reps who join the meeting, at all times of day and night, from across the world. As a democratic organisation we place great importance on the contributions of all our reps and try to ensure that our rules and processes suit all our members; with their different locations, cultures, association sizes and duration of operation.

Looking forward to the World Championships, and other events...

WC

All member nations are eligible to send a national team to USA to compete in the Worlds. As we start to see teams being announced we remind all competitive horsearchers that access to this competition is only via selection by your national IHA member body.

And what an event it is shaping up to be... Tennessee Valley Archery is one of the prominent competition venues on the American continent and promises a new challenging Hunt Track for the WC and 2 straight tracks that will allow Raid and Tower to run concurrently.

eGP

European Grand Prix Series

- Group A countries are Finland, France, Switzerland, Poland and Turkey. Their 1st stage will be Turkiye in June and the 2nd stage will be Switzerland in October.
- Group B countries are Germany, Sweden, Italy, UK, Netherland and Spain. Their 1st stage will be Barcelona in March and the 2nd stage will be Italy in June.
- In each stage 3 riders from each team will compete on Raid, Tower and Hunt track. Team scores earn team GP points which accumulate towards an overall team total.

AsianNC

Asian Nations Cup

- This is the inaugural national teams competition in Asia, similar to the eGP.
- We are currently finalising hosts and participatnts... Watch this space!



RULES UPDATE

This winter our annual rules review took place and a new Rulebook was recently published. Some of the main rules are summarised below. We hope that no further changes will be necessary for some time.



Helmets

- After a year long introductory period, it is now mandatory for riding helmets to be worn by riders of all ages, whenever they are mounted for horse trials, warm-up or competition at an event.

Headphones

It is not permitted for competitors to wear headphones (of any type, including over ear, in ear, bone conduction) or to play music through portable speakers while mounted, during horse try-outs, in the warm-up area and during competition. This is due to concern about riders managing to be fully aware of what is going on around them, or to hear instructions from Competition Officials, if they're playing music.

Pre-nocking on the Raid track (HBAE raid and IHAA Standard Raid tracks)

- It is now permitted to start the run nocked for all of the Raid track set-ups.
- The "no pre-nocking" rule had become increasingly difficult to police and rarely impacted on results as athlete skills and nocking speed have improved over time. So the rule has been removed.

Hunt track - the rules have been tidied up to make it easier for you to find what you need... Many rules are the same but please be aware that some rule numbers have changed. The main items of note are:

- Rules for carrying arrows at the start have been simplified. You may start with one arrow nocked or in the hand, then can retrieve more arrows from the quiver after passing the startline.
- The 5 point "near miss" has been reintroduced for the long-distance shots. The size of the "near miss zone" has been defined for various standard target sizes.
- Obstacles may be up to 50cm, with a 5cm measuring tolerance.
- On Terrain technical elements that have a Route B option (ie. obstacles, banks / steps / ditches and water features), if you refuse on the first attempt on a competition run, you must then take Route B.
- Open Zones (as described for the Gauchoux HT in the last newsletter) have been added to the recognised list of Equitation technical elements.
- Qabaq is now permitted on Hunt Tracks and must be paired with a Kikac shot. There will be an arrow pick-up station to get the blunt flufu to shoot the qabaq with.
- There is now an allowance for Merida targets to be shot with a blunt flufu or a sharp flufu fletched arrow, according to the target material and the specific track design. Organisers will advise competitors what they must use (blunt or sharp).

Age categories

- It is no longer permitted to move up an age category.
- 3* and 4* competitions will recognise the overall winner of all athletes as the highest accolade, then recognise age group winners too (with the existing categories, according to an athlete's year of birth)



JUDGING UPDATE

& ONLINE LEARNING

The Judging courses in the online learning system have all been updated following the recent rules changes. The review of the Ground Crew courses is also nearly completed.

The Judging Panel requests that judges please keep on top of their judging logbooks both when progressing up through the judging levels, and also once established as they are required to maintain your judging level too.

The Welfare eLearning will be published soon and we expect to launch the exam for that, alongside the refresher test, in April.



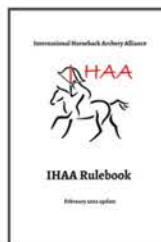
© Jacomina Schoeman

An assistant judge of the covid-kind in South Africa.

Note: He only assisted during the ground archery games, so no horses were at risk of being alarmed by the staffing in the judges tent...

The route of progression from L2 Full to L3 has been updated. Although we hope that the HTCD course will be completed soon we have adapted the L3 rules so that judges can access this level now, if they have the necessary judging experience. You can read more in the IHAA [Supplementary Rules](#).

- **Rulebook PDF** - is free to download, on the IHAA website & [via this link](#)
- Quick and easy to check on the [PDF viewer](#)
- There is a link to buy a paper copy of the rulebook on the [Rules page](#) of our website



L4 JUDGES

Anders Wredendal (Sweden) *
Elizabeth Tinnan (USA) *
Gabi Osiecka (Poland) *
Alan le Gall (France)

L3 JUDGES

Appointed since 28th Sept

Radosław Kożuch (Poland)

L2 (FULL) JUDGES

Appointed since 28th Sept

Kateřina Kozák (Czechia)
Олеся Сенкевич (Russia)
Екатерина Невмержицкая (Ru)
Rebecca Sweetman (UK)
Amy-Louise Evans (Australia)
John Goodwin (UK)
Tomasz Domagała (Poland)

L2 (ST) JUDGES

Appointed since 28th Sept

Ross Baugh (UK)

* L4 judges on the Judging panel
List correct as of 14th February '25

You can find out more about the IHAA on our [website](#) www.ihaa.info

How to contact us... horsebackarchery.info@gmail.com (general)
newsletter.ihaa@gmail.com (newsletter / advertising)



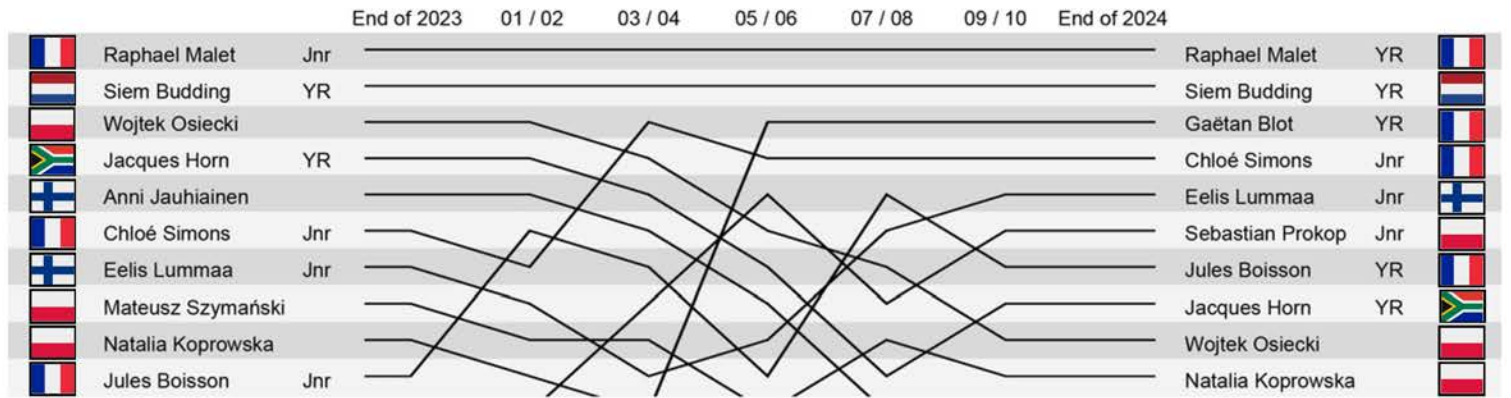
OTHER UPDATES

HBAE World Ranking

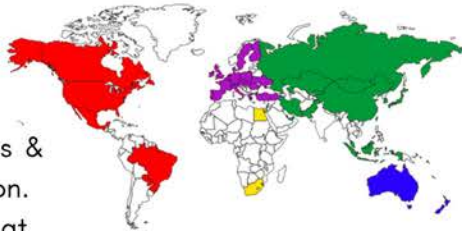
Horseback Archery Eventing World Ranking: 2024 summary

Who are the top ranked riders in the world? How much movement has there been at the top? Which countries are the strongest forces in the IHAA's HBAE ranking list? We did the analysis... Find out below!

	1st	2nd	3rd
Juniors	Chloé Simons (4) France	Eelis Lummaa (5) Finland	Sebastian Prokop (6) Poland
YRs	Raphael Malet (1) France	Siem Budding (2) Netherlands	Gaëtan Blot (3) France
Seniors	Natalia Koprowska (10) Poland	Anni Jauhainen (12) Finland	Anna Minkkinen (14) Finland
Masters	Wojtek Osiecki (9) Poland	Lukas Novotny (16) USA	Roger Ittig (20) Switzerland



Regional round up...



See the top athletes & nations in each region. The ranking position at the end of 2024 is in brackets. The national ranking is the total score of all ranked athletes from that country.

818 athletes. 37 countries.

Top athletes		Top countries	
1st	Elizabeth Tinnan (15) USA	1st	USA (1st)
2nd	Lukas Novotny (16) USA	2nd	Brazil (23rd)
3rd	Greg Ogburn (29) USA	3rd	Canada (25th)

Top athletes		Top countries	
1st	Bexsauty Batyr (31) KAZ	1st	Mongolia (7th)
2nd	Mahmoud Qalyoubi (115) JOR	2nd	Kazakhstan (15)
3rd	Yeralkhan Aikoz (184) KAZ	3rd	Russia (16th)

Top athletes		Top countries	
1st	Jacques Horn (8) SA	1st	South Africa (5)
2nd	Deirdre J v Rensburg (36) SA	2nd	Zimbabwe (30)
3rd	Abdullah Safodien (47) SA	3rd	Sudan (37th)

Top athletes		Top countries	
1st	Raphael Malet (1) FRA	1st	Poland (2nd)
2nd	Siem Budding (2) NL	2nd	France (3rd)
3rd	Gaëtan Blot (3) FRA	3rd	Finland (4th)

Top athletes		Top countries	
1st	Liberty Deaman (133) AUS	1st	Australia (18th)
2nd	Rodney Deaman (223) AUS	2nd	New Zealand
3rd	Don Woods (252) AUS	3rd	(28th)



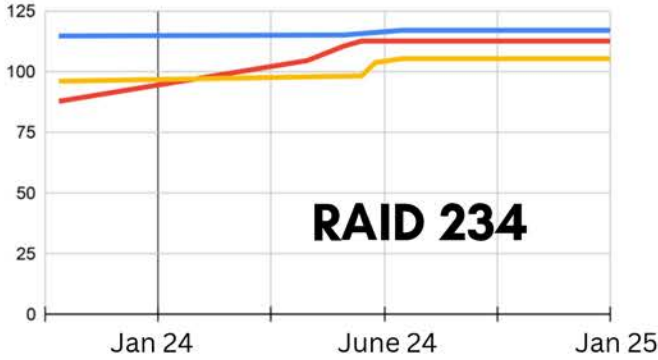
OTHER UPDATES

World Records

World records through 2024

Track the changes in the WRs through the year...

Current Age group
World Record Holders



Eelis Lummaa
FIN (Jnr)

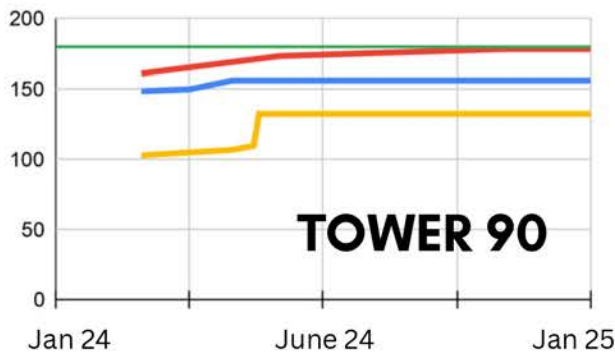


Gaëtan Blot
FRA (YR)



Natalia Koprowska
POL (Snr)

The French were quick off the blocks and kept pushing up the standard through the season with 7 French athletes holding age group records at one point or another. There have been no further gains since the eGP in June where Eelis and Natalia took their records.



Chloe Simons
FRA (Jnr)

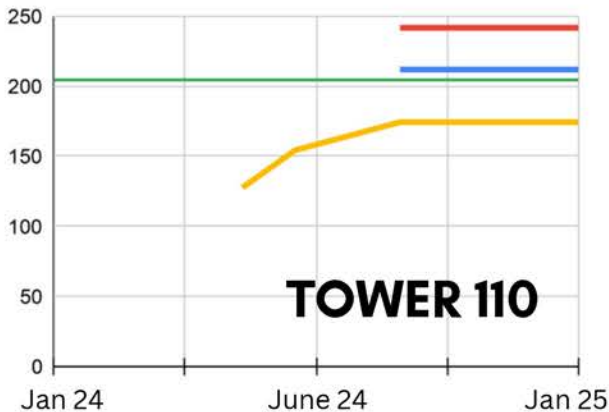


Raphael Malet
FRA (YR)



Levente Maucha
HUN (Snr)

Chloe has been dominant on the Tower track setting a T90 junior WR in February then bettering it twice. Raphael is within 2pts of Mihai Cozmei's [old-rules T90 record](#), with his score from Oct. What will 2025 bring?



Chloe Simons
FRA (Jnr)



Raphael Malet
FRA (YR)



Wojtek Osiecki
POL (Snr)

The new-rules T110 WR has finally broken the [old-rules T110 WR](#) that Daniel Strömberg Håkans set in 2021.

- There have been no changes to the Raid 233, Raid 235, Skrimish 90 or Tabla 4 records during 2024.



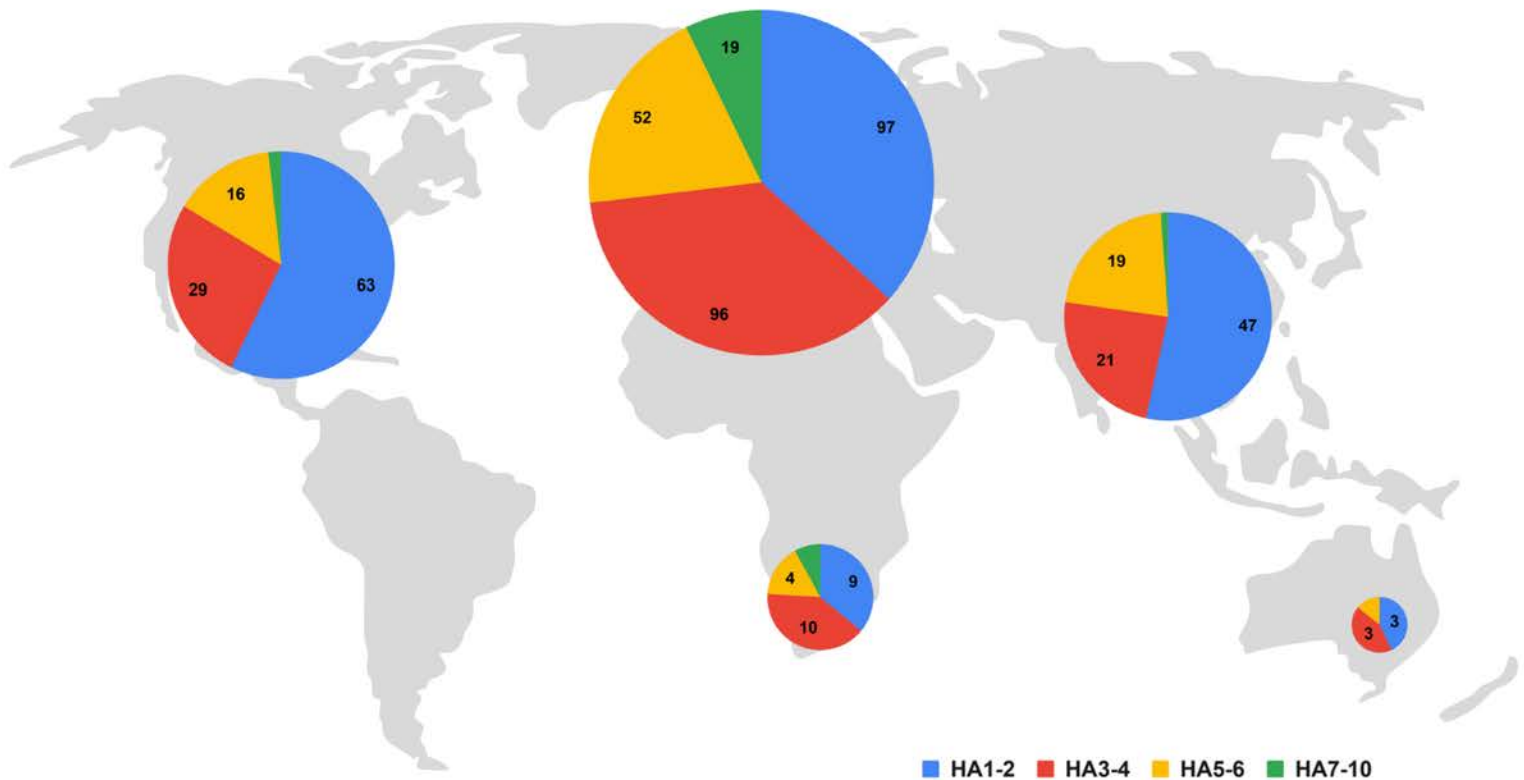
OTHER UPDATES

*IHAA
Grading*

IHAA Grading system. The story so far...

The IHAA's grading system has been in use for 12 years, it actually pre-dates the formal start of the IHAA. This is a popular system the world over with athletes being able to challenge themselves to personal goals and assess their progress quantitatively against a set structure. 1400 athletes from 18 countries are involved!

There is a place within the grading system for everyone. The WalkTrot grades reward progress at grass roots level and WT4 & 5 provide a higher level challenge to iHBA (para-) athletes who are restricted to walk hba. The student grades are very popular with 470 athletes at this level. There is no reward for speed in the student grades, only a simple requirement of canter, so athletes succeed entirely through the accuracy of their archery.



There are 500 HA graded horsearchers all over the world.

The IHAA's HA grades require an athlete to score four scores of a sufficient standard, two in Raid and two in Tower, within a 2 year period. The HA1 & 2 scores (blue) may be shot at home with 2 witnesses or in your club. HA3 & 4 grades (red) must include some scores gained in competition. Grade HA5 and higher requires all scores to be achieved under the pressure of competition.

Only 11 athletes hold the HA8 grade or higher:

HA 9 : Mihai Cozmei (Romania)

Eelis Lummaa (Finland)

Raphael Malet (France)

Chloé Simons (France)

Wojtek Osiecki (Poland)

HA 8: Anna Minkkinen (Finland)

Gaëtan Blot (France)

Jacques Horn (South Africa)

Anni Jauhainen (Finland)

Jules Boisson (France)

Siem Budding (The Netherlands)



COMPETITIONS

EuroGP

European Grand Prix Series 2024 - Group A

June 2024 seems a long time ago now, however that was the first chapter of the story for Group A within the eGP. You might recall our review of the Battle of little Mohorn in Issue 4 of the newsletter. Indeed this competition in the Brandenburg region of eastern Germany was the host to 33 athletes from both group A and group B of the GP Series.

The straight track and 640m Hunt track with its 15 targets and challenging winding track, were all set within a beautiful, secluded grassy area surrounded by mature forest.

STAGE 1 - GERMANY



[Above L] Eelis Lummaa [FIN] & Chief's Smokey Black

[Above R] Davut Çakır [TUR] & Chief's Smokey Black



[L] Cesar Vassallucci [FRA] & Hazmat de Bonneval

[Above] Maciej Tomikowski [POL] & Santos

Many thanks to hosts & organisers Andrea Seidel & Katja Doering, organisers Jens Schubert & Hannah Erndl, judges Gabi Osiecka (right), Lilianne d'Allens & Norma Lindemann, and helper Christoph Nemethy





COMPETITIONS

EuroCYP

STAGE 2 - SWITZERLAND



The final IHA competition of the year, and the conclusion of the 2024 eGP series took place at Visp, in Switzerland, in the first week of October.

The competition enjoys a remarkable setting. Located in the middle of the Alps, the scenery and mountains are breath-taking. Zermatt with the Matterhorn is only about 45 minutes away!

The hunt track was an absolute pleasure to ride, between trees and bushes, and past a pond. 23 targets, mostly 3D animals, were located within the natural setting along the 1300m long track.

- [L] Keona Ertmer [CH] & Carino
- [R] Selina Ittig [CH] & Udama
- [R] Samuel Gugolz [CH] & Cala



Andri Marugg [CH] & Paloma
Anna Sokólska [POL] & Ronja



Many thanks to organisers Janusch Ittig, Valentina Schmitter, Nicole Glanzmann & Roger Ittig and special thank to Marco & Stefanie Gentinetta from Gentinetta stables for hosting





COMPETITIONS

EuroGP

Place	Country	1 - T%	1 - R%	1 - HT%	2 - T%	2 - R%	2 - HT%	Total %
1	Poland	88.78	88.94	100	97.51	97.88	88.75	561.85
2	Finland	100	100	74.92	71.86	98.12	100	544.90
3	Turkey	96.92	94.98	68.01	100	86.57	92.86	539.33
4	Switzerland	82.00	74.25	53.57	77.93	100	81.04	468.80
5	Sweden	41.93	48.94	30.88	44.63	66.21	10.56	243.15

Above:
Overall results of eGP
2024 for Group A
nations

Right: The podium for
final eGP placings at
the conclusion of stage
2 in Switzerland

Below: Breakdown of
team scores from
Stages 1 & 2, with top
team scores highlighted



© Valentina Mariana

STAGE 1

Place	Country	Tower 90	Tower %	Raid 234	Raid %	Hunt track	HT %	Total %
1	Poland	266.74	88.78	252.62	88.94	350.00	100	277.72
2	Finland	300.46	100	284.04	100	262.20	74.92	274.92
3	Turkey	291.20	96.92	269.78	94.98	238.03	68.01	259.90
4	Switzerland	246.39	82.00	210.91	74.25	187.49	53.57	209.83
5	Sweden	125.99	41.93	139.01	48.94	108.09	30.88	121.76

STAGE 2

Place	Country	Tower 90	Tower %	Raid 233	Raid %	Hunt track	HT %	Total %
1	Poland	295.37	97.51	247.24	97.88	181.42	88.75	284.13
2	Turkey	302.91	100	218.68	86.57	189.82	92.86	279.43
3	Finland	217.69	71.86	247.85	98.12	204.43	100	269.98
4	Switzerland	236.06	77.93	252.60	100	165.67	81.04	258.97
5	Sweden	135.18	44.63	167.24	66.21	21.59	10.56	121.40

TEAM LISTS

Poland: Maciej Tomikowski , Natalia Koprowska, Wojtek Osiecki, Alicja Dryl, Anna Sokólska, Natalia Koprowska

Finland: Eelis Lummaa, Einari Pänkäälä, Jenni Tommila, Anna Minkinen, Roope Malinen

Turkey: Davut Çakır, Sümeyye Kinacı, Yiğit Kerem Kekeç, Alperen Alptekin, Arda Erhan, İsmail Asiler

Switzerland: Janusch Ittig, Samuel Gugolz, Sebastian Scheifele, Andri Marugg, Céline Casutt, Roger Ittig

Sweden: Anders Jönsson, Isabel Ahrnborg,
Mimmi Fagrell, Ann-Sofie Wredendal,
Camilla Linderberg, Martin Grundström

*Congratulations
to the Polish team*



REGIONAL UPDATE - THE AMERICAS



Mexico wrapped up 2024 with the first ever Hunt track in the country. Hosted by the Club de Arqueria Ecuestre Mexico, the Posada Hunt was a 1500m Christmas themed course through fields and pine forest at an elevation of approximately 3000m in the conservation area of Mexico City. On December 22nd, participants gathered to ensure the piñatas were broken in Merida shot fashion and that Christmas was saved from the Grinch. We hope that the Posada Hunt will become a yearly tradition.



To kick off 2025, horse archers from Mexico City and Queretaro came together in February for the Childrens and Youth Jan-Feb Postal Match & Grading competition, held in Queretaro at the Academia Ecuestre Izathi. With new faces joining the sport and our more experienced youth riders moving up in their grading levels it was a full day of horses, arrows and smiles.



[Alison Acosta]

II Torneio Brasileiro de Arqueria Montada

Write-up: Onon Elorza

In December 2024, Brazil hosted a national championship, bringing together archers from all over the country for two days of intense competition. The tournament had 24 participants, including for the first time an advanced group of athletes ranked HA3 and above. The event spanned over two days and featured both Raid 233 and Tower 90 tracks.

Among the competitors, four archers were ranked above HA3, highlighting the increasing skill level within the Brazilian community. A particular mention goes to Luca Valcarcel, the overall tournament champion who achieved an exceptional feat by earning HA6 in both of his ranked runs, cementing his position as number one in the national rankings.

As the sport continues to grow in Brazil, this tournament highlighted individual performances and set the stage for future international events.



© Christian Agabiti



REGIONAL UPDATE - EUROPE



The beautiful landscape of Alfiano Natta, in the province of Alessandria (Piedmont - **Italy**), was the ideal setting for the Samhain 2024 Ranking & Record event on 1-2 November 2024. With its lush greenery and mild climate, the Marere equestrian centre created an inviting atmosphere for competitors and spectators alike. The event included three courses: Tower 90, Raid 234 and Tabla 4. Each course tested the athletes' skills, but Tabla 4 in particular was an electrifying first experience for many of those present.

The participants showed significant improvements, highlighting how constant training and dedication bears fruit. The horses also showed significant progress, testifying to the success of the training practices.

The event concluded with interesting results, in particular for Giacomo Grego (L) and Silvia Fagioli (R) who exceeded 100 points on Tower 90 and Tabla 4 respectively. This gathering fostered camaraderie and enthusiasm among the participants, strengthening the sense of community within our beloved sport. *[report: Frederik Durand]*

© Fabio Grego



© Fabio Grego

Stamperop Cup 2024 was a thrilling 2-star records & ranking event in **the Netherlands**, organized by Jose and Marleen. The competition gathered juniors and seniors from diverse skill levels, resulting in personal records for some and valuable first-time experience for others. The local community provided horses and support, contributing to a warm, enthusiastic atmosphere. This Cup showcased the growing potential of Mounted Archery in the Netherlands, and we look forward to more opportunities to expand our sport nationwide. *[report: Marleen van der Schalie]*



© Jouke Boerma

The weather is always likely to be challenging at this time of year and it was no different in **France** at the Gauchoux Samain competition in late October. 32 athletes enjoyed the Tower, Raid, Skirmish and Hunt classes nonetheless. Raphael Malet & Ritano secured another World Record, this time on the T90!



REGIONAL UPDATE - AFRICA



Introduction to horseback archery in Egypt

[Marwa Hegazi]

Archery in Egypt is relatively a new sport. We started in August 2020 with a small team of 10 beginners, by 2024 this had grown to 60 players all over Egypt. Horseback archery was introduced in 2024 - now we have 15 athletes all over Egypt on various teams. Forsan team is located in 3 main districts: the capital Cairo, Alexandria, and Mansoura. In addition we have many small teams around the country. The first official championship was held on July 2024 with 60 archers and 4 horseback archers. We plan to host an international horseback archery event in May 2025.



In January 2025, four of the Forsan team passed the exams held by the Egyptian ministry of Youth and Sports to have an official trainer license. An official horseback archery committee has been accepted by the national Egyptian Equestrian Federation, and is pending ministry approval.

Sayed el Shoura The 2020 ladies: one team one passion



REGIONAL UPDATE - AUSTRALIA & NZ



NSW & ACT State Championships, Australia

Write-up: Rodney Deaman

In October 2024 Australia held its NSW and ACT State Horse Archery Championships as a Records and Ranking event just outside the capital city of Canberra. The event was attended by 8 riders in the canter class and also held trot and walk grades. Whilst not the largest competition in Australia, it continues a growing trend of the post-covid recovery of the sport with reliable numbers of competitors attending events despite the geographical challenges, The event featured a particularly fun and challenging hunt track which incorporated lots of horsemanship elements with open field spaces and lead changes being required throughout, as well as the regular fun hunt elements of jumps, long shots and a variety of targets.

The event was won by Petra Wilson of NZ, and the Reserve Champion was Stephanie Batterham. Rodney Deaman was the highest placed NSW Resident (3rd) and thus took the State Champion title. Amelia Deaman was the Junior Champion. Stephanie Batterham also took the Trot Champion title, and Sandy Robertson was the Walk Champion.



[L] Petra & Chief [] The winners





REGIONAL UPDATE - ASIA



Malaysia

In late December 32 horseback archers competed in the 2nd part of the Battle of Horseback Archers series - BOHA 2.0.

The main event was the Tabla 4 track which was contested by riders from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore. There was also a ground archery event and Judge training run by IHAA rep and qualified judge Samsudin Bin Mohd Baharund.



[R] Sultan Shadiq & Sky Saville

© Dein MB, paduphotoagency & gambarsukan

UAE

In late January the "Mamluk Games 2025" was hosted by Mahmoud Qalyoubi, the IHAA UAE representative. 14 talented competitors from 7 different countries showcased their skills in Horseback Archery, Target Archery, and Flight Archery.

In this extraordinary competition, athletes combined their scores across all three disciplines to revive the legendary abilities of a true Mamluk warrior.

For the first time in modern history, a single event united all major archery disciplines; the Mamluk Academy is thrilled and honored to have established a new tradition that celebrates both history and skill.



Arsa Wening Arrosyad & Santi



© Adam Galaskov



Indonesia

At the end of December, 38 horseback archers gathered for the 3rd IEA GP competition of the year. They competed in T90, R234, Skirmish and Zhamby style. Prizes were awarded in the senior, junior, kids and ladies categories.

In the senior category four different athletes placed first in the four events, however Arsa Wening Arrosyad ranked top once the scores were combined.



Feature

HORSES, THE ESSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

BY GIULIA PICCA

The discipline of horseback archery demands a harmonious blend of skills from the rider: the coordination to shoot arrows and the balance to ride without reins. Central to this art is the necessity to forge a profound connection with the horse, attuning oneself to its rhythm in a dance of unity.

Are some horses better than others? Which characteristics or breeds are most suitable for equestrian archery?

Currently, no specific breed is deemed superior for use in our sport. Every horse holds the potential to become an exceptional partner in archery! However, certain traits can enhance the duo's performance:

- A stable gallop.
- Medium height, as targets are typically at an intermediate level.
- Power for acceleration, especially in specific events (like covering 90 meters in 7 seconds).

Let's recall the small yet mighty Mongolian ponies.

- Flexibility and stability in curves, turns, and abrupt descents.

Parallel to these qualities is the bond between rider and horse, which is unique. A horse may be ideal for one person but less so for another.

Attitude: The Essential Element

What is indispensable is the horse's nobility and spirit. Whether mare or stallion, purebred or mixed, young or old, attitude is paramount. A horse must accept the sound of arrows and the rider's movement while shooting at a gallop. He must advance without reins through a course with targets of different appearances, at varying distances, sometimes on the ground, and he may even need the confidence to jump obstacles or traverse a body of water. This requires courage, trust, and dedication.

Rescues that Change Lives

The global horseback archery community doesn't focus on specific breeds. On the contrary, inspiring stories have emerged of rescued horses finding their purpose in this discipline.

Nazy & Claire Sawyer (United Kingdom):

Nazy was discovered by her previous owner tied to a tractor, unwanted and awaiting the truck that would take her to the slaughterhouse. Some years later, when Nazy's young rider outgrew her, she acquired a new sharer - Claire. Naz took to archery very quickly and after three 20-minute training sessions, she revealed her potential to be a champion, already comfortable to jump and shoot. She competed in the British National Championships and in the 2020 & 2021 World Grand Prix Internationals, with both Claire and her young son Charlie.



© Helen Barnes

What is indispensable is the horse's nobility and spirit



Feature

HORSES, THE ESSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

BY GIULIA PICCA

Sebastian & Emily Massey (United Kingdom):

Emily adopted Seb, a school horse rejected by the riding school where she taught for repeatedly bucking and throwing children to the ground. Seb discovered his talent with Emily, proving to be very fast (8-9 seconds over 90 meters). Together, they won the title of British National Champions, and he has twice secured Reserve Champion with another rider. He is so very content in his new career that you would never believe how he behaved before....



© Carolina Equine

Ginevra & Francesco Maria Bei (Italy):

Ginevra, a Murgese mare, was rescued from being taken to the slaughterhouse. Unfortunately, the mare's first trainer had started her training in a completely wrong way, attempting to break in a green filly with increasingly harsh coercive methods: a severe bit with long shanks, a head-lowering device, a whip, and spurs. Luckily, Ginevra later encountered the gentle hand of Manuele Gualdana, who restarted her training from scratch using a bitless approach and an extra dose of kindness and patience. He transformed an abused and rebellious mare into a war machine. She went from living in a field, completely untrained, to being a valued partner for her owner Francesco in horseback archery competitions and demonstrations in Italy.

[Right] Ginevra & Francesco (L)

Geremia & Giorgio (Italy):

Geremia, is a gold Appaloosa who suffered with laminitis. He was rescued by Giorgio and after a few years of careful management, he regained his health and is now a champion in archery and also performs vaulting with children.



© Patrizia Vitanza





Feature

HORSES, THE ESSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

BY GIULIA PICCA

Kalin & Dimitar Trukanov (Bulgaria):

This story started between 2008 and 2010. During this period I rented a horse base on the Black Sea coast. One day the owner of the base told me that I must take in the horse of a prominent local businessman, which had been a gift to him from business associates. The horse they brought me was not big, and it was very lively. However, he showed a lot of fear, apprehension and even aggression. He had apparently been treated abusively at the place where he was previously kept, and then had been banned due to his worsening behaviour. The man left the horse and disappeared for almost two years. When he eventually showed up again he simply stated that they had no interest in the horse nor in his fate.... I had three options: 1) sell the horse, but who would want to buy a horse with his problems, particularly his aggression towards humans; 2) sell the horse for meat; or 3) adopt the horse myself. Although times were hard and I didn't need any more horses, I decided to keep him.

I let Kalin out with a herd of free-living horses and went to live among them myself, giving him lots of support and protection in his new environment where he was bottom of the hierarchy. With time and a lot of work, we built a strong bond of trust and he changed his attitude towards me.

One day I said to my son, who was then 4 years old, "Talk to him. Tell him how your day went." After a while, I saw my son climb the fence and from there sit on the horse's back. Kalin never once put my son in danger.

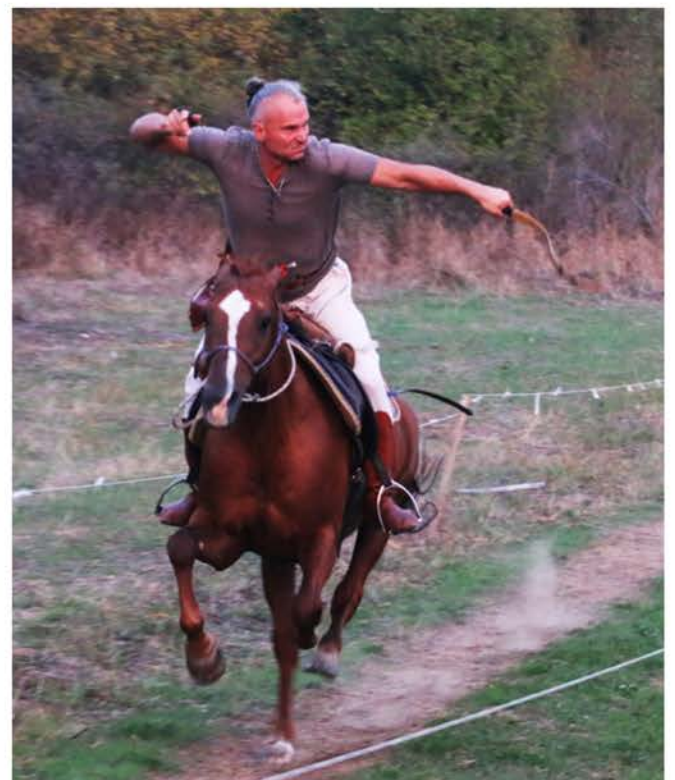


After a while I decided to start teaching Kalin archery and historical fencing on horseback. He turned out to be very hearty, very willing, with great dynamics and manoeuvrability.



We have been together 16 years now and I can say that Kalin is my best horse for riding lessons with children and beginners. He is also a willing and very able partner for mounted archery and historical fencing on horseback for me and my advanced students.

DT.





Feature

HORSES, THE ESSENCE OF PARTNERSHIP

BY GIULIA PICCA

A promising development in Spain:

In Spain we have started to explore the potential of horseback archery as a new career for horses rejected by their previous owners and trainers.

In Catalonia they breed Arabs for endurance, those which demonstrate potential are sold to UAE, those who don't achieve sufficient scores are unwanted. You can see an example below of a failed endurance horse that is now excelling in horseback archery.

Since the summer of 2024, the Hipódromo de la Zarzuela in Madrid has shown interest in horseback archery as a possible outlet for retired racehorses. Last July, we conducted a demonstration riding English thoroughbreds from Pablo Gredilla's estate (see photos on the right). These horses performed excellently, revealing themselves as great candidates for the sport. If developed, this project would be a noble and exciting initiative for the entire country.

... courage, trust, and dedication



© Salva Maroto



© Salva Maroto



In the world of horseback archery, it's not about the breed or origin of the horse, but the heart and connection shared between horse and rider. Together, they embark on a journey where trust and mutual respect lead to extraordinary feats, turning stories of abandonment into tales of triumph.

We hope that you have enjoyed the news and features within this newsletter.

If you wish to have IHAA Review arrive directly in your email inbox then you can [subscribe here](#).

