

WORLD THOROUGHBRED RANKINGS 2012

CO-CHAIRMEN'S PREFACE

A significant initiative undertaken by the World Rankings Supervisory Committee (WRSC) during 2012 was the culmination of a process commenced in 2009 whereby the constituent countries of the South American governing body, OSAF, have combined to prepare the groundwork with a view to having their horses included in the WTR for the first time in 2012.

SOUTH AMERICA

BACKGROUND:

The involvement of three countries (Britain, France, Ireland) at the commencement of the International Classifications in 1977 had gradually mushroomed in the interim to the extent that a total of 14 countries were involved as voting members at the inauguration of the World Thoroughbred Rankings in 2004, with additional countries attending as non-voting observers. In terms of global representation of significant racing nations, the only glaring anomaly in the creation of a truly global Classification of the best racehorses in the world was the absence of horses from South America. The immediate impetus towards the incorporation of South American countries into the WTR process was the determination of the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC), the IFHA committee to which the WRSC reports, to establish a consistent method of assessing the standard of Group and Graded races worldwide. IRPAC considered that it would be appropriate for the races in South America to be assessed by means of the World Thoroughbred Rankings, as was already the case in the other principal racing jurisdictions, and therefore urged OSAF to establish ratings systems within their member countries, which would facilitate their integration into the World Thoroughbred Rankings. IRPAC's role is to make recommendations to the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers (SITA) in relation to which races from which countries warrant 'black type' in bloodstock catalogues. IRPAC's concern in relation to the OSAF countries related to the absence of a regional quality control Pattern Committee and the inability to verify independently the level of ratings of South American racehorses so as to be reassured that the present provision of 'blacktype' is appropriate from a quality control point of view.

PRESENT SITUATION:

The OSAF countries have shown an impressive zeal in creating a regional Pattern Committee and convening bi-annual meetings of the region's domestic handicappers with a view to creating a Continental classification as a springboard for inclusion in the WTR proper. Former WRSC Co-Chairman Mr Ciaran Kennelly, in his new role as IFHA Consultant, has been a regular attendee of these bi-annual Handicapper meetings and has played an important role in the integration process with WTR given his long involvement as a Senior Handicapper on behalf of Ireland and Hong Kong between 1989 and 2007. In turn, Mr Miguel Careri,

Senior Argentinean Handicapper (assisted by Ms Gabriela Alonso) has attended the last three annual WTR meetings in Hong Kong in addition to the last two WRSC annual meetings in Paris as part of the integration process. As a consequence the 2012 deadline for the integration of the OSAF countries into the WTR as laid down by IRPAC has now been met and the 2012 WTR therefore sees the inclusion of nine horses from South America with three from Argentina, three from Brazil, two from Chile and one from Peru, with the Brazilian three year old colt, Going Somewhere the highest rated of the OSAF contingent on 119. A truly global representation of the world's best racehorses has been born.

The WRSC would like to pay tribute to the efforts of the South American Handicappers in making this integration possible, in particular Mr Miguel Careri, the co-ordinator of the South American Handicapper Meetings, ably assisted by Ms Alonso, and also the invaluable advice from Mr Kennelly and Mr Melvin Day, Emirates Racing Association Senior Handicapper, who has also attended a South American Handicappers meeting as part of the integration process.

Nigel Gray / Garry O'Gorman
Co Chairmen
World Rankings Supervisory Committee

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