

THE FRENCH TROTTING WEEK

BY 24 AU TROT

1 24 THE NEWS

[VINCENNES CLOSES WITH STYLE]



THE TRIUMPHANT
YOUTH!

The Prix de Sélection (Gr.1) and Prix des Centaures (Gr.1) were won by Idao de Tillard and Granvillaise Bleue. They also rewarded two young professionals, Clément Duvaldestin and Camille Levesque.

The last two Group 1s of the Vincennes winter meeting produced great sensations. The Prix de Sélection (Gr.1) was flown over by **Idao de Tillard** (Sévérino) whose final flight will remain in the memory. A great moment of sport which propels the 4yo trained by Thierry Duvaldestin into the big league. It also allowed his driver Clément Duvaldestin, 23, to register his name in a first Group 1. The Prix des Centaures went to **Granvillaise Bleue** (Jag de Bellouet). Here again, youth is at the helm with Camille Levesque, 33, second Group 1 in the pocket. The mare gets a fair reward after four first places in the ultimate category. On the sporting side, she sets the new record of the event in 1'10"5.

Prix de Sélection (Gr.1)

BREATHTAKING IDAO DE TILLARD

It's the great class. **Idao de Tillard** won the Prix de Sélection (Gr.1) like a champion. He left all his rivals at a distance, including his elder **Hohneck**, after having animated the race. His acceleration at the exit of the last turn is one of the great visual moments of the meeting.

There are some impressions that remain in the memory. The exceptional last turns of **Face Time Bourbon** (Ready Cash) are one of them. In his own way, **Idao de Tillard** (Sévérino) also created a feeling of super power in the last turn. Clément Duvaldestin was then comfortably installed behind a colt with perfect, flowing and powerful gaits. Behind him, the drivers' positions were not the same. They were leaning forward, including François Lagadeuc who had hoisted **Hohneck** (Royal Dream) in progression almost on the line of the leader. Behind

him, Benoît Robin was no better installed at the controls of **Hussard du Landret** (Bird Parker). Normally, in such a scenario, the elders take the lead at the intersection of the tracks and/or in the last turn on the 4yo. Usually it is the latter who have the heavy legs. Here, not at all, **Idao de Tillard** is the strongest and accelerates strongly at the end of the curve to break away. According to the Tracking data available, it is him who is in the top four in the last 500 metres: 1'08"2 against 1'09"1 to **Hohneck**, 1'09"5 to **Italiano Véro** (Ready Cash) and 1'08"6 to **Hussard du Landret**.

Clément Duvaldestin confirms: *"He was just asking to go forward in the last turn, he was in a small trot. He broke away easily before catching up with a hundred metres to go but the difference was made. On an acceleration, he goes fast. I knew that if I started first, it would be difficult for the others. Before, nobody attacked us and we didn't go too fast. I'm also trying to keep him as safe as possible. **Idao de Tillard** could obviously have gone even faster and his final kilometre reduction of 1'12"0 does not document the quality of the winner."* On the question of his partner's potential, Clément added: *"I think he is an extraordinary horse. He is capable of doing everything: coming from behind, going in front, short or long distance. He has everything. We don't know his limits. If everything goes well, we have a great future together. Last summer, he won in Montignac on grass and it was the most difficult race to win. After that it clicked."*

A first Group 1 at 23

Clément Duvaldestin won his first Group 1 race here after taking a second place at the same level at the end of January in the Gr 1 Sulky World Cup 4 Years Old with the same partner. The driver is modest about it and admits: *"I don't realize it yet."* Like his brother Théo, third in the Prix d'Amérique (Gr.1) at 21 with **Flamme du Goutier**, Clément Duvaldestin had a great meeting.

APRH photo



Cyril Sevestre: "For me, it's unimaginable"

His hat appeared in 2012 on the programmes. Ten years later, Cyril Sevestre became a classic owner. He told us: *"It's sensational. It's a dream I wish I didn't wake up from. With him, it seems easy. Let's hope it lasts a long time. We are aware of his (immense) possibilities and he never makes us tremble. I'm a turf player and I'm passionate about trotting. When I was young, I used to come to Vincennes every Friday evening after work. My dream was to buy a horse and I took the step. In agreement with my wife, I set myself a budget and it worked straight away. I started with Matthieu Abrivard. First we had Vinci Pierji and a great adventure. I reinvested everything in the races. The aim is to enjoy myself. Idao had caught the eye of Thierry Duvaldestin at the yearling sales in Caen and I followed him. I quickly got good feedback but then the horse had to progress and everything had to follow. We are here today. When my horse is running, I am no longer a turfman. The priority is elsewhere. I never bet on my horse. I'm normally stressed, but since I've had Idao, I'm less stressed, strangely enough. We have a lot of trust with him. I can't believe what's happening to me. Group 3, Group 2 and Group 1 this winter is unimaginable. I know I'm very lucky."*

A sleeping champion

Thierry Duvaldestin tells us a little more about the temperament of his trainee: *"It might just be a real one. Now we have to keep our fingers crossed. Clément drove well: he delayed downhill and at the beginning of the climb before accelerating at 800 metres from the goal. This horse gives off*

something. He is easy to train and goes very fast. We don't have to work with him. He's a sleeper, we train him with his ears open. He was born to trot."

A wise purchase that owes nothing to chance

Thierry Duvaldestin explains: *"I had spotted him at Madame Chaunion's before the Caen sales. He moved very well and I went especially for him to the sales. For me, it is important to find good horses at the sales. In the last few years I have won some good races with horses I have bought but I have also made some bad purchases."*

Exemplary runners-up

The hierarchy behind **Idao de Tillard** is very logical. **Hohneck** managed to take the measure of his training companion **Italiano Véro** while **Hussard du Landret** resisted the excellent final effort of **Hokkaïdo Jiel**.

A closing meeting at almost €20m

A total of €19.6m was gambled on the last meeting of the Vincennes winter meeting. Of the 10 events on offer, 7 generated more than €1m.



IDAO DE TILLARD	SEVERINO 1'11"2	GOVERNADOR 1'11"0	BUVETIER D'AUNOU (US) 1'14"4
			TANGALA 1'23"1
		KATIA DE TILLARD 1'20"3	MON TOURBILLON 1'14"1
			ELITE DE TILLARD 1'20"5
		FIRST DE RETZ 1'11"8	PODOSIS 1'16"1
			BALLERINE DE RETZ
	AMERICA DE TILLARD 1'16"0	CLASSE DE TILLARD 1'12"3	WORKAHOLIC (US)
			OLYMPE DE TILLARD 1'19"3

Prix des Centaures (Gr.1)

GRANVILLAISE BLEUE WINS SPECIAL MERIT AWARD

She made it. With style and brilliance, and a record for the event. **Granvillaise Bleue** won the Prix des Centaures (Gr.1) as boss of the event. She also recorded her first Group 1 title after four places in the category. A title which also rewards a whole career.

In all the declarations of the winners' camp, it is the relief which expresses itself with the end of a long wait which finds its epilogue this Saturday. Granvillaise Bleue (Jag de Bellouet) had indeed taken part in four Group 1 races to date, finishing second each time! This series includes the Prix de Normandie, des Elites, de Cornulier and de l'Île-de-France.

An expected reward

Her breeder and owner Michel Gallier sums up his expectations as follows: *"For a long time we had been saying that we were going to win a Group 1 race without actually doing it. Her defeat in the Prix des Elites was a disappointment because she lost two or three lengths on the last turn."* For the winning jockey, Camille Levesque, the impression is the same: *"Finally, she has her Group 1. It's deserved after her four places at this level. I had already won my Group 1 with Dexter Fromentro but with her there was a frustrating side. We mustn't forget that she had a cough before the Prix de Cornulier and we'll never know if she couldn't have won if she was at her best. She is a mare with an extraordinary temperament. When she arrives at the races, she is very cool. She is a fighter. She's really a champion. The outcome turned in her favour on Saturday after she had dominated her subject all the time."*

Patron and record of the event in 1'10"5

The feverishness at the start, which plays an essential role at this short distance (2,200m) with a 25-metre advantage for 4-year-olds, resulted in two false starts. At the effective start,

Ici C'Est Paris (Dollar Macker) quickly set a high pace, playing his 25-metre initial advantage card. The 4yo was overtaken at the top of the climb by the future winner, who brought along her two most formidable rivals, **Georgica Gédé** (Atlas de Joudes) and **Hirondelle du Rib** (Rolling d'Héripéré). Camille Levesque said: *"I didn't think I would be so far behind in the first part of the race. I was behind some horses that were not moving and I had to come but I knew that behind me there were some good ones that I was bringing back. When I saw Georgica Gédé coming up to the finish line, I thought that she would beat us. But Granvillaise just kept on going at the end, especially after I gave her a little slap. The longer the race went on, the more distance she gained. This victory is a lot of pride. It's something we share as a family. I had my best meeting, I won four Groups including a Group 1. I've always said that this mare is my Normandy mare. She is even better than that."* By signing the kilometre reduction of 1'10"5, **Granvillaise Bleue** erased the record of the event set last year by **Flamme du Goutier** in 1'10"8.

Michel Gallier's 13th Group 1 in France

After Jag de Bellouet's eleven Group 1 victories in France, including the Prix d'Amérique and three Prix de Cornulier, Vittel de Brévol's title in the Prix de Normandie, this is Michel Gallier's thirteenth Group 1 victory as owner.



JAG DE BELLOUET 1'09"9	VIKING'S WAY 1'15"6	MICKEY VICKING (US)
		JOSUBIE 1'19"1
GRANVILLAISE BLEUE	VAUNOISE 1'26"0	NICOS DU VIVIER 1'18"6
		QUENAVORA
LADY DE BREVOL 1'21"8	CAPRICCIO 1'12"3	SHARIF DI IESOLO (IT)
		QUAMARIA 1'16"1
	FOLIE DE BREVOL	JET DU VIVIER 1'18"5
		TOUPIE DE BREVOL 1'18"2



THE WINTER MEETING SEEN BY THOSE WHO DID IT

What can we learn from this 2021/2022 meeting at Vincennes? There are the figures, of course, but also the people and their impressions, which are necessarily more personal and subjective.

Behind the numbers, there are women, men and horses. This is why we interviewed a dozen or so people involved in the meeting to find out their impressions and feelings. We asked each of them the same questions: who do they think the trainer, the driver, the jockey and the horse of the meeting are? What event, what favourite moment would they like to highlight during the period? And finally, we asked them what they particularly succeeded in doing this winter and their great disappointment. In the applause of the successes of the winter, two come back in almost all the mouths. The Prix d'Amérique firstly for its spectacular finale, the coronation of a youngster (Nicolas Bazire) and the return of the public and the constant quality of the track.

François Lagadeuc: "The chance to drive Hohneck"

Meeting trainer: As usual, it's Jean-Michel Bazire. It's beautiful to see what he does. His horses are natural, with no tricks and when he prepares something he often hits the nail on the head.

Driver of the meeting: Éric Raffin because he has been at the top for three years. When I look at him as a driver, I see that he is never badly taken and always gives his horses good runs.

Jockey of the meeting: It's not easy because there are many very talented riders. I would say my two friends Mathieu (Mottier) and Alexandre (Abrivard).

Horse of the meeting: This winter I loved **Galius**, he was magnificent. Of course he was beaten by a whisker in the Prix d'Amérique. On the last turn when I watched the race afterwards, he gave me the shivers even though I knew the result.

Event of the meeting: Nicolas Bazire who wins the Prix d'Amérique. At his age, it's beautiful.

Favourite of the meeting: I would say **Hohneck**, I was lucky enough to meet him and I won two Group 2s and a Group 1 with him.

Satisfaction of the meeting: The successful sequence of events. I found good horses like **Hohneck** at the beginning of the winter. Then I had the horses trained by Nicolas Bridault

with whom it went well.

Disappointment of the meeting: There are always plenty of them. But I would say **Elie de Beaufour** who has only one false note in the winter and that was when I rode him.

François Lagadeuc's meeting stats : n°6 of the drivers in terms of number of victories with 31 (and 1.495.560 €) of which 20 in harness (and 1.058.110 €).

Paul Ploquin : "The return of the public was good".

Trainer of the meeting: Julien Le Mer. When we went to the racecourse, we were very often at the finish. He has worked very well this winter, his percentage of success must be very good.

Driver of the meeting: François Lagadeuc, he won his first Group 1 and asserted himself this winter. We're next door to each other and we have the same agent so I follow what he does and I think it's very good.

Jockey of the meeting: We've all won races, I don't mind. There is the Etrier d'Or Mathieu Mottier, there is Eric Raffin but also the return of Yoann Lebourgeois. We were all good.

Horse of the meeting: **Idéale du Chêne**! But if we're talking about a horse I haven't ridden, I'd say **Freeman de Houelle** because it's beautiful what he's done this winter.

Event of the meeting: The Prix d'Amérique with this magnificent straight line, the return of **Davidson du Pont** on **Galius**, it was beautiful to see. It's a shame for Yoann Lebourgeois but good for Nicolas Bazire.

Favourite of the meeting: The return of the public for the Prix d'Amérique. Even if it was limited. In addition, the finish line carried away the public who pushed. You could feel that there were people there. I also want to underline the good general atmosphere, it was a very nice day for me.

Satisfaction with the meeting: I would say the whole meeting. I was associated with some very good horses like **Idéale du Chêne**, **Juninho Dry** and **Bolero Gar**.

Disappointment of the meeting: The Prix de Calvados with **Fado du Chêne**. This winter he could have done great things but he had his little problem which prevented him from showing his best.

Paul Ploquin's stats: n°9 of the pilots in number of victories with 20 successes (and 1.078.350 €) of which 13 in the monté (and 740.200 €). ■

Eric Raffin: "The end of the year was exciting"

Meeting coach: It's hard to single out any of them. Many did their best with the staff they had. I'm thinking of Jean-Michel Bazire as usual, the Abrivard family, whether Laurent or Matthieu, the Duvaldestin family. We must also mention Jean-Michel Baudouin, Philippe Allaire. I'm forgetting some of them, of course, and I apologise for that.

Driver of the meeting: I think that a young driver did a great meeting, it is François Lagadeuc. He won a Group 1. He's really the young driver on the climb.

Jockey of the meeting: Mathieu Mottier was once irreproachable but Camille Levesque also had an excellent meeting. She didn't make any mistakes. In fact, I'll detach her in relation to her success (11 wins in 37 races).

Horse of the meeting: Maybe Havanaise who was splendid. I also found **Idao de Tillard** excellent and of course my partner **Izoard Védaquais**.

Event of the meeting: I thought there was a very nice staging on the day of the Prix d'Amérique. It really looked like a big party with many champions on the same day. It was one of the great moments of the winter.

Favourite moment of the meeting: A very special moment for me was the victory with **Farah des Caux** which allowed me to equal my record of 2019. This 345th win of 2021 was a great moment. The end of the year was exciting.

Satisfaction of the meeting: **Izoard Védaquais** and **Epsom d'Herfraie** with whom I won four Quinté+. I was once again privileged this winter. We can also add that the track was very good during this meeting and that the return of the public was great news. Even with a gauge, we felt a fervour during the Prix d'Amérique.

Disappointment of the meeting: **Face Time Bourbon** obviously. I was going into the winter thinking that maybe I was going to live a daydream and unfortunately we didn't get to the big race. That's my real downfall of the winter.

Eric Raffin's meeting stats: n°1 of the drivers in terms of number of victories with 83 (and €3,746,585) including 65 in harness (and €2,732,125).

Benjamin Rochard: "The withdrawal of Face Time Bourbon was a blow".

Trainer of the meeting: Philippe Allaire because we always see him in the good races with good horses.

Driver of the meeting: Jean-Michel Bazire because, even if he has reduced his presence, he still managed to do well and has race tactics that are always exemplary. I would like to know how he thinks because he always gives the impression of placing as he wants, of going out when he wants or needs to. In short, he is well placed most of the time. He seems to be at home at the races.

Jockey of the meeting: Mathieu Mottier because he's been at the top level for three years and he doesn't often miss a beat.

Horse of the meeting: Surprisingly, he did beat **Face Time Bourbon** before being beaten afterwards. That day it was a nice surprise and he did it nicely. I think he made a big impression on everyone because he wasn't necessarily expected to perform at this level in front of such a horse.

Event of the meeting: I would say that **Face Time Bourbon's** career was stopped, which we didn't necessarily expect. It was like a blow. To suddenly find ourselves without the favourite of the Prix d'Amérique, it took away a bit of the show I think. He was the attraction every time he was on the track and to know that his career is over was difficult news for everyone.

Favourite of the meeting: I would say the Prix d'Amérique with the grandstands filled to the scale of the gauges imposed but it was crowded and the show was great to see.

Satisfaction of the meeting: I would say **Icare Williams** because even if he didn't run much, he was always in the finish and I wasn't disappointed with his races.

Disappointment of the meeting: No, on the whole I don't have any big disappointment.

Stats of Benjamin Rochard : n°13 ex aequo of the pilots in number of victories with 11 successes (and 565.020 €) of which 7 with the mount (and 318.330 €). ■



“A VERY SPECIAL MOMENT FOR ME WAS THE VICTORY WITH FARAH DES CAUX WHICH ALLOWED ME TO EQUAL MY RECORD OF 2019”

ERIC RAFFIN

■ **Jean-Michel Bazire: "I knew the Grail with my son's victory in the Prix d'Amérique".**

Trainer of the meeting: Laurent Abrivard because he has horses that are not easy but are well trained and go fast. He has had great success with his two sons. You can see that everyone is focused on their work and it pays off.

Driver of the meeting: I liked François Lagadeuc who drove some great races and who was in good form all winter. There is also Eric Raffin who dominated us all.

Jockey of the meeting: As usual, Alexandre Abrivard, of whom I am a fan.

Horse of the meeting: **Izoard Vedaquais**. He was beaten by a nose once but he also won a lot. His overall record is impressive with 13 wins already. I think he's a leader of his generation.

Event of the meeting: The quality of the track because I am always worried about my horses and those of others. This winter at Vincennes, there were hardly any false notes. I would also like to thank those in charge of track maintenance, both at Vincennes and at Grosbois.

Favourite of the meeting: My son Nicolas' victory in the greatest race in the world. It will stay with me for life. I am privileged in this discipline because I have won everything in France, I have won all over the world but this is the grail. It's more than 10/10, it's 12/10.

Satisfaction of the meeting: The exemplary meeting of **Farrell Seven**. The horse belongs to my girlfriend who came to each of her races with her friends. There was always a good atmosphere with these wins. We enjoyed it.

Disappointment of the meeting: The meeting was ruined by the cough of **Ganay de Banville**. It disturbed me. But everything is fine, you have to put it into perspective. We don't live in Ukraine.

Jean-Michel Bazire's meeting stats: No. 1 trainer in terms of wins and earnings with 50 successes (and €2,426,010) - 44 titles as a driver (No. 2).

■ **Christian Bignon: "All my horses have raced well".**

Trainer of the meeting: Jean-Michel Bazire of course. He won a lot of races again, a little less than last year but with a smaller team.

Driver of the meeting: Éric Raffin, as good as ever. He did his meeting like his year, that is to say perfect.

Jockey of the meeting: Alexandre Abrivard. He is on the rise, he has had a superb winter!

Horse of the meeting: For me, it's **Hip Hop Haufor**!

Event of the meeting: I would rather talk about an event that is currently being decided. We can remember that French trotter breeding is currently in danger. I am thinking of projects such as the transport of semen which will inevitably lead to the opening of the studbook and consequently to a huge increase in the number of European races. French trotter breeding is in peril.

Favourite of the meeting: First of all, the track was in perfect condition throughout the winter, even if the weather was mild. As a favourite, we can talk about the victory of a youngster like Nicolas (Bazire) in the Prix d'Amérique.

Satisfaction with the meeting: My meeting as a whole went well. All my horses did their races. But obviously, the horse of the future is **Hip Hop Haufor**. He has made steady progress this winter, all his races are good and he won't be far from the next good ones.

Disappointment of the meeting: **Face Time Bourbon** was missed by everyone in the Prix d'Amérique. For me he was the best horse ever. He would have been favourite for the Prix d'Amérique and it would have been nice to see. As far as the atmosphere is concerned, it's not the same as before. There is a lot to do in this area.

Christian Bignon's meeting stats: n°1 owner in number of wins with 20 victories.



“ YOU HAVE TO PUT IT INTO PERSPECTIVE. WE DON'T LIVE IN UKRAINE ”

JEAN-MICHEL BAZIRE

■ **Séverine Raimond : "We went through all the states in the Prix d'Amérique".**

Trainer of the meeting: Jean-Michel Bazire as usual. He is always there in the good races. Who wins in the end? It's Jean-Michel!

Driver of the meeting: We saw François Lagadeuc assert himself more in the driving. There is also Benjamin Rochard who has shown himself. These youngsters are pushing behind the ultra-consistent Eric Raffin and Franck Nivard.

Jockey of the meeting: I didn't see any real revelation. The best jockeys were present.

Horse of the meeting: **Galius** of course! I think **Hohneck** had a great meeting. I also loved **Havanaise** at the end of the meeting. She is a good mare who can become a big name in the future.

Event of the meeting: To see the public again and the enthusiasm of the stands, it's very pleasant. Empty stands are sad.

Favourite and satisfaction of the meeting: **Galius** gave us the shivers. First in the Prix Ténor de Baune. We didn't know then if we would run the Prix d'Amérique because we didn't think he had come too far yet. We said to ourselves that he would be better next year. And then we said to ourselves that next year he might be less fit. With horses, it's so random. The finish line of the Prix d'Amérique was horrible. The post should have been one metre before, it was great for us (laughs). We don't regret anything.

Disappointment of the meeting: With the second place of **Galius** in the Prix d'Amérique, we went through several phases. We went through all kinds of states. At the entrance and halfway through the finish line, we thought we were going to win. We are beaten, we say to ourselves at the time, it doesn't matter. And then eight or ten days later, we say to ourselves "a nose for such a race, it's a bit annoying". These are races, it's serious and not serious at the same time.

Séverine Raimond's meeting stats: n°39 (ex aequo) of the trainers in terms of number of wins with 4 successes - 16th trainer in terms of earnings (438,800 €).

■ **Yves Dreux: "the very young podium of the Prix d'Amérique is an event".**

Trainer of the meeting: Jean-Michel Bazire was equal to himself, achieving another very good winter.

Jockey/driver of the meeting: For me, there is a driver/jockey who has exploded, it is François Lagadeuc. He is not necessarily the one who has won the most races but he is the one who has climbed the most in the hierarchy.

Horse of the meeting: If it's one of my own, I'd say **Impérial Mabon** because he met my expectations. If we are talking about an outside horse, I would say **Hohneck**.

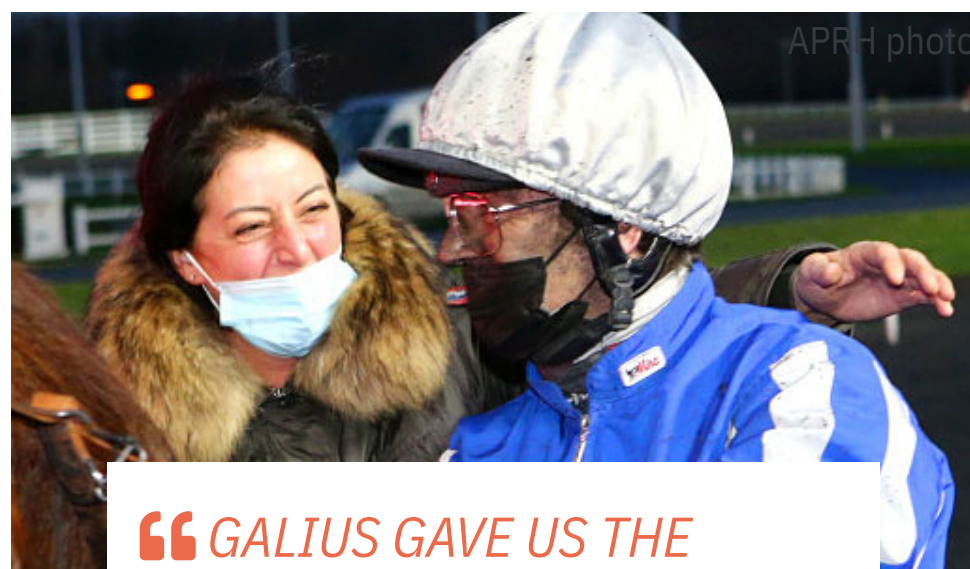
Event of the meeting: That a 21 year old (Nicolas Bazire) wins the Prix d'Amérique. If the second **Galius** had won, it would also have been an event with a woman, Séverine Raimond, who won the race as a trainer. I think the event is also a podium that has never been so young with two 21 year old drivers and Yoann Lebourgeois who is not even 40. We've never seen that before.

Favourite of the meeting: The podium of the Prix d'Amérique again because it represents the youth of the meeting. Of course, there is a kind of passing of the baton. These youngsters represent the future of racing. We can also talk about the Vincennes track which is in very good condition thanks to the favourable weather conditions but also thanks to the skills of Julius Le Tutour and his team.

Meeting satisfaction: November and December were very good. After a complicated January, it started again in February. This meeting is still correct.

Disappointment with the meeting: I had a break in January when I had some sick or injured horses. **Hacker Boy** had a problem with his leg, **Imagine Girl** with her neck. Then it started again in February (see above). If we talk about the meeting as a whole, I would say that the big disappointment was the lack of attendance at the Prix d'Amérique because of Covid. With three days to go, with the weather we had, there would have been between 35,000 and 40,000 people at Vincennes.

Yves Dreux's meeting stats: n°18 (ex aequo) of trainers in terms of number of wins with 7 successes (and 290.975 €) - 2 titles as a driver (n°45 ex aequo).



“GALIUS GAVE US THE SHIVERS.”
SÉVERINE RAIMOND

Franck Nivard: "It was a great satisfaction to win the first edition of the Prix Bold eagle with Havanaise".

Trainer of the meeting: Jean-Michel Bazire who had a great meeting like every year. I also think of Laurent and Matthieu Abrivard who also had a great winter.

Driver of the meeting: I would say Eric Raffin. He shone again in all categories, won his Group 1 and many other races. He didn't miss a beat!

Jockey of the meeting: There are many. Mathieu Mottier, Éric Raffin and Alexandre Abrivard still stood out.

Horse of the meeting: I like Thierry Duvaldestin's horse **Idao de Tillard**. I really liked him and I think he has a great future ahead of him.

Event of the meeting: The track was perfect, we were spoiled this winter. The manager Julius Le Tutour is great and took care of the track with his team.

Favourite of the meeting: I was very happy to win the Prix Bold Eagle on the Prix d'Amérique day with **Havanaise** for Écurie Ténor. I was very moved because I spent seven and a half years there, serving the Bossuet family.

Meeting satisfaction: **Ampia Mede Sm.** We had a great meeting. We won everything except the Prix Ténor de Baune, but that's just a rematch.

Disappointment of the meeting: **Gu d'Hérigné** because he was not up to it this winter. We thought he would come back to his level. Maybe we were a bit quick, he had a fracture and it takes time to come back. I hope he will be back in the spring.



“IT WAS A GREAT SATISFACTION TO WIN THE FIRST EDITION OF THE PRIX BOLD EAGLE WITH HAVANAISE”
FRANCK NIVARD

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CHAMPIONS CEREMONY ON SATURDAY EVENING AT VINCENNES

In the wake of a superb meeting on Saturday at Vincennes, many trotting professionals stayed on for the LeTROT Arqana Trot Champions Ceremony with the participation of the SEDJ and the UNAT. The 2021 champions in all categories were rewarded in turn, starting with Éric Raffin for his third Sulky d'Or and a record-breaking overall title with 349 wins. It was Jean-Michel Bazire who presented him with the trophy. For Mathieu Mottier, it was a second Étrier d'Or. The great winners of the meeting were also rewarded as well as the budding drivers (pony races) and, as a novelty, the most successful trainers in the declaration of emojis (in % of success when the emoji is green). ■

JEAN-MICHEL BAZIRE STABLE WINS AGAIN

Elie de Beaufour (Royal Dream) brought a fifty-second victory to Jean-Michel Bazire's training on Saturday during this meeting, which she concluded in the lead. With a less exceptional total than in the last seasons but also with the number 1 place in the earnings. With 239 starters in total, the success coefficient is also very good as it is close to 50% (wins + places): 48,5%. Laurent Abrivard (who would have liked to win a nice race as he told us on Saturday) and Matthieu Abrivard complete the podium in this category. ■

WHO'S WHO MAKES A WINNING START IN SWEDEN

The Scandinavian millionaire winner of **Who's Who** (Maharajah) made a winning return to the Kalmar track on Saturday. The eight year old multiple Group 1 winner had not been seen since last September and found a very favourable engagement which he did not miss. He left a good impression on his driver Orjān Kihlstrom. ■

ERIC RAFFIN #1 DRIVER

Rewarded on Saturday evening during the Ceremony of Champions for his 3rd Golden Sulky and for his new title in the combined event, Eric Raffin also concludes as the number one driver of the meeting in terms of wins and earnings. Sixty-seven of his eighty-five successes have been in harness: he is also the number one driver. His runner-up in the general ranking opposite, Alexandre Abrivard, is the number one jockey with twenty-two winners. Jean-Michel Bazire, who only rides harness, completes the podium with forty-five achievements, enough to overtake Matthieu Abrivard. Franck Nivard is the fifth rider to have reached the 40 success mark. ■

