

## Sales News

**ARGANA** has put together an 81-lot catalogue of the crème de la crème of purebred Arabians for their sale, the most prestigious in the world for the breed, which will take place at Saint Cloud two days before Arc weekend on **THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER**. Purebred Arabians now form an integral part of French racing's flagship weekend as thanks to the sponsorship of the **QATAR RACING AND EQUESTRIAN CLUB**, the **QATAR ARABIAN WORLD CUP** will be contested at Longchamp on the same card as the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. With total prize money of €450,000, this race is the richest in the world for purebred Arabians. Last year's sale broke both turnover and top price records, with the champion **DAHES** (4 times Gr 1 winner) sold for €1.05 million to Jean-Pierre Deroubaix. Other graduates to have excelled since passing through the Saint Cloud ring are **NO RISK AL MAURY**, **QUAOLINA** and **OUASSILA THABET**, all Gr 1 winners in England, €60,000 purchase **WALL STREET** who is a Gr 2 winner and second in both the French Arabian Breeders' Cup and Qatar Derby and **KARME DU FAUST**, knocked down for €72,000 to MAB agency in 2006, he is now unbeaten in six outings in Russia including the recent Russian Derby. Among the 30 horses in training featured in the catalogue are **AL FATIH**, winner of the Gr 1 Qatar Total French Arabian Breeders' Cup Classic in 2007, who is entered to defend his title in this year's race two days after the sale. Other noteworthy lots are Group placed **ADJINN D'AROCO**, **CHINESE DREAM** and **GHADJANI**. 51 two-year-olds, yearlings, broodmares and foals from leading Arabian families are also due to go under the hammer during the afternoon's proceedings.

## French man of the week

### ETIENNE LEENDERS

This trainer from the Sarthe region in the West of France is something of a specialist at the racecourse of Craon, and especially in its most taxing event, the Grand Cross. Leenders registered his first victory in the 6km Listed cross-country race in 1985 thanks to **ALL READY (FIN BON)** and he recorded an emotional double last Sunday. He saddled 12-year-old **AQPS ICLAN DES MOLIÈRES (CHEF DE CLAN)** to regain his crown in the race three years after his first victory in 2005, the stable star heading home stable-mate **CHRISSETI (APRIL NIGHT)** by a length. A third representative of Etienne Leenders, six-year-old **DJURJURA (AKARAD)**, ridden by the trainer's son Gregoire, was forced out of the race by a loose horse to end dreams of a 1-2-3 for the team. Iclan des Molières' victory is a tribute to the patience of his handler as the gelding was injured in 2006 and finished second in last year's edition. The latest horse to record a double in the Grand Cross was **FUJIYAMA (LUTE ANTIQUE)** in 2002 and 2003, while the ultimate record is held by **ARCHY BALD (CARMONT)** winner of no less than



Etienne Leenders and Iclan des Molières

## Racing News

Congratulations to **FREDDY HEAD** who, not content with dominating the Deauville scene this August, made a perfect start to the autumn season thanks to **GOLDIKOVA's** victory in the Gr 1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp. The daughter of **ANABAA** has now won a pair of top-level successes to bring her trainer's count to six for the season. Goldikova is destined to travel to Santa Anita for the Breeders' Cup in October, where her objective could be either the Mile or Filly and Mare Turf.



**GOLDIKOVA**, winner of the Gr 1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp

## Industry News

The FRBC enjoyed a successful venture into sponsorship during Turkey's richest-ever international race meeting this weekend. The Gr 2 France Galop Istanbul Trophy, worth a total of €297,000, went to **BERRAKSU (SRI PEKAN)** who headed a locally trained first three home. French visitors **SAN SICHARIA (DAGGERS DRAWN)**, **KAYABA (ANABAA)** and **EIRE (MEDICEAN)** finished fourth, fifth and seventh respectively.

## Coming Up

The build-up for Arc weekend begins in earnest this weekend with the Qatar-sponsored trials day at Longchamp. Highlight will be the Gr 1 **QATAR PRIX VERMEILLE** which will see the reappearance of the Aga Khan's Prix de Diane heroine **ZARKAVA (ZAMINDAR)**. Prix du Jockey-Club hero **VISION D'ETAT (CHICHICASTENANGO)** should be seen out in the Qatar Prix Niel while the Qatar Prix Foy may well be the first occasion that Japanese hope **MEISHO SAMSON (OPERA HOUSE)** is seen competing on foreign soil.