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Media Release

White Turf 2020 - 113 years of international horse racing on snow in St. Moritz

Samurai wins the shortened Grand Prix

St. Moritz, 2nd February 2020 - **In front of 8000 spectators, the first Race Sunday over the shortened distance offered some exciting sporting moments: The question regarding the role of favourite in the final LONGINES 81st Grand Prix of St. Moritz was settled in today's GP LONGINES with the victory of Samurai from the Belmond Racing Stables. The stables of 23-time champion trainer Miro Weiss provided a second winner in the final race in the shape of Strade Kirk. In the trotters Vladimir de Ginai with Evelyne Hirt in the sulky proved to be too strong for the competition.**

Shortened racecourse and cancellation of the skjoring

Since the snow cover could not withstand the spring-like temperatures of the last few days and water had formed in several places on the track, the bend after the finish line was no longer passable. Even though the ice cover remained consistently stable, there was a danger of slipping on an icy patch, so all original distances (between 1300m and 2700m) were shortened to 800m for safety reasons. The skjoring, which could not be carried out on this course for practical reasons, was replaced by a flat race without further ado.

Surprise winner in the first race of the season

The race day began with a sensation, probably not least because of this change in distance. The first race of the new season, a trotting race, was won from the front by the 70:1 outsider Classic Chrono, beating both the favourite Ugo de Tortière as well as Anshy. It was the first victory for the young driver Romina Knecht, who used to ride pony races and switched to trotting two years ago.

Changing of the guard at the GP LONGINES

At the most important preparatory test for the final LONGINES 81st Grand Prix of St. Moritz, the former GP winners Berrahri and Nimrod could not prevail over Nimrod's stable mate Samurai over the 800m. Since his original jockey Antoine Coutier had to cancel his further participation after the first flat race due to feeling unwell, Cheryl Schoch stepped up and took her chance: With the protégé of champion trainer Miro Weiss, she had an excellent start and did not give up her leading position until the race was over. Samurai won easily against the lightweight Torochica from England, as well as the grey mare Fiesta, who again proved her preference for the white surface.

Elmejor lives up to his role as favourite

In the sprint race the shortened distance proved to have the least drastic effect. Elmejor, who has already won twice this year, started as favourite and did justice to this ranking under Kieran O'Neill. The four-year-old, owned by White Turf Racing UK and trained in England by John Best, easily repulsed the attack from top weight Zock.

Taron wins the substitute flat race

The flat race, which was held instead of the Credit Suisse skjoring, but was nevertheless sponsored by the latter, was won by Taron under Lucas Delozier. German coach Peter Schiergen had nominated Taron for entry after the former Trophy winner Uzbekia had to be put down last week after suffering from colic.

Vladimir de Ginai in the trotting Grand Prix

Although Kurt Schlatter's Vladimir de Ginai had won the Trotter Grand Prix on the third Race Sunday of 2019, he was a 9.50:1 outsider this time. But Theo Fankhauser's protégé started quickly and with Evelyne Hirt easily beat Sonny Club and Super Berry Chenou.

Varied supporting programme of art, culinary delights and concerts

While excitement was provided on the racetrack, the tent city once again offered attractive experiences for around 8000 spectators. The commitment of the sponsors, exhibitors and hoteliers ensured a colourful bouquet of top-class events. These included the "Dynamic Focus" photo exhibition by Rolf Sachs in the BMW exhibition tent, which will also be open to the public on the next two Race Sundays.

Tickets:

Tickets for White Turf St. Moritz 2020 are available online at <https://www.whiteturf.ch/en/tickets/>, as well as the extensive VIP package at <https://www.whiteturf.ch/en/vip/>

Accreditation:

Journalists, media professionals and bloggers or influencers are requested to obtain accreditation via <https://www.whiteturf.ch/en/accreditation-journalist-white-turf-2020/>

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About White Turf

White Turf, held annually since 1907, is a top-class event: it combines exciting horse racing, diverse catering options, attractive entertainment with live music and various exhibitors, all staged on the frozen Lake of St. Moritz with a unique mountain backdrop. White Turf 2020, with prize money totalling around 400,000 Swiss francs, will take place on February 2nd, 9th and 16th. 35,000 visitors from all over the world are expected. The event is organised by the St. Moritz Rennverein, the main sponsors being Credit Suisse (Schweiz) AG, BMW (Schweiz) AG and Longines.

<https://www.whiteturf.ch/en/>

CREDIT SUISSE 



LONGINES 

Credit Suisse (Schweiz) AG – Main sponsor of White Turf

White Turf celebrates winter sports in a special way: Tradition meets innovation, as horse racing takes place over an icy course and enthusiastic spectators witness a truly impressive spectacle. Because this combination is as fascinating as it is unique, Credit Suisse has been involved with White Turf for more than 40 years.

Credit Suisse has awarded the ceramic cup created by the Swiss artist duo Aubry/Broquard to the three daily winners since 2016. The combined winner from all three racing Sundays will receive the Credit Suisse Skikjöring Trophy, the 30th time it has been awarded. To mark this anniversary, the artist duo Aubry/Broquard have come up with something really special, which means that the 2020 King or Queen of the Engadine can look forward to being the first recipient of the new bronze perpetual trophy.

BMW (Schweiz) AG – Main sponsor of White Turf

Thanks to its commitment as a principal sponsor, BMW ensures year after year a successful performance on ice and snow at the White Turf in St. Moritz. Equestrian sports are part of the selected sports events that BMW supports with its sponsoring activities. The support of top performances at the highest level matches the ethos of BMW because as a premium automobile manufacturer, the company offers products to its clients that are renowned throughout the world for their quality and efficiency. Equestrian sports and the BMW brand values share the same essential core attributes of dynamic force, aesthetical sense and performance.

Longines – Main sponsor of White Turf

Longines has been based at Saint-Imier in Switzerland since 1832. Its watchmaking expertise reflects a strong devotion to tradition, elegance and performance. Longines has generations of experience as official timekeeper of world championships and as partner of international sports federation. Known for the elegance of its timepieces, Longines is a member of the Swatch Group Ltd, the World's leading manufacturer of horological products. With the winged hourglass as its emblem, the brand has outlets in over 150 countries.