



JUMPING INTERNATIONAL OFFICIEL DE FRANCE 2005

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CSIO***** SUPER LEAGUE

5, 6, 7, 8 May

NEWS LETTER

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● LA BAULE KICKS OFF THE THIRD SUPER LEAGUE SEASON ●

[A refocused and condensed programme](#)

Eleven classes, 320,000 euros, four days of competition, such is the concentrated programme suggested by the "Jumping International Officiel de France" 2005 at La Baule, from 5-8 May next, the weekend of Ascension.

This first stage of the Samsung Super League, reserved for the best eight CSIO***** events* on the jumping planet, (only one CSIO per year for each country), announces the opening of the 2005 outdoor season. A return for the major teams at the forefront following a winter season left to the individual course qualifiers in the best of cases, for the World Cup final at the end of April.

The best eight teams make their comeback on grass to dispute the king of tests, the Samsung Nations' Cup on Friday, 6 May. Saturday is reserved for those horses who will challenge the course for the 'jumping cross-country' provided by the Derby of the Pays de la Loire region.

And finally, a place for the individual performers in the Grand Prix Longines of the Town of La Baule, which will conclude these four feast days bringing together the best of the world's showjumping. In the end, the programme could thankfully be reviewed thanks to the abandonment of the classes reserved for seven-year-old horses.

**Studies conducted over all eight stages of the SSL in 2004 ranked the French stage at La Baule second in this premier division of jumping behind the German event at Aachen, in terms of coverage by written media as well as TV.*

See the detailed programme herewith.

[Timetable](#)

Below you will find the timetable for the three major classes that dictate the entire programme for the French CSIO at the François André stadium :

- Nations' Cup, Friday, 6 May : first horse on course at 3:00 p.m. (eight teams of four riders for each of the two rounds);
- Derby, Saturday, 7 May : first horse on course at 1:15 p.m. (note the new starting time)
- Grand Prix, Sunday, 8 May : first horse on course at 12.15 p.m. (first round), and 3:45 p.m. (reserved for the top 18 riders qualified from the first round).

Images of all three classes will be broadcast on the small screen: France 3 national, Eurosport, Equidia, and Sport+. The complete timetable can be found on internet site: www.labaule-cheval.com

Note: The starting time for other classes will be around 9:00 a.m. each day.

● ECHOES FROM THE SUPER LEAGUE

[Towards a french triple !](#)

The Samsung Super League kicks off in La Baule for its third year. Two French victories in 2003 and 2004. What will happen in 2005? The answer will come next September in Barcelona, at the conclusion of the eighth and final stage of the 2005 edition of the Samsung Super League.



Chronométrage et traitement des données par Longines

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2005 Calendar of the CSIO***** SSL

- La Baule, France: 5-8 May
- Rome, Italy: 26-29 May
- St. Gallen, Switzerland: 2-5 June
- Rotterdam, Netherlands: 16-19 June
- (European Championship, San Patrignano, Italy: 20-24 July)
- Hickstead, Great Britain: 28-31 July
- Dublin, Ireland: 3-7 August
- Aachen, Germany: 23-28 August
- Barcelona, Spain: 15-18 September

The arrival of the Swiss

Having remained outside the door of the Super League since its creation, the Swiss team has finally earned its ticket to run with the members of the major teams (those that are) after winning Division II last year, tweaking respectively the noses and the beards of the Swedish women and men, and replacing the relegated Italians. Markus Fuchs the 'veteran', and Steve Guerdat, the 'rising star', will thus form the heart of the Swiss team. The following nations will make up the Super League in 2005: Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States.

The 60 listed riders

In addition to the five official riders for each one of the eight SSL teams, there will be a squad of individual riders taking to the arena for the Official International Jumping of France, including:

- 15 French riders
- Spain: two riders
- Belgium: Judy-Ann Melchior, in addition to the Belgian team
- Italy: one rider
- Israel: Sonia Finquel

The names of the complete list of riders will be announced following the closure of entries on Tuesday, 30 April next.

● FRENCH ECHOES

Group I, and the others

At the beginning of March, the Committee for High Level Sport (CSHN), recently created by the French Equestrian Federation (FFE), and chaired by Christian Paillet, issued a list of the 12 combinations of which it is composed (in alphabetical order) :

- Florian Angot / First de Launay HN
- Eugénie Angot / Cigale du Taillis
- Gilles Bertran de Balanda / Crocus Graverie
- Hubert Bourdy / Eve des Etisses
- Patrice Delaveau / Envoyé Spécial
- Laurent Goffinet / Flipper d'Elle HN
- Michel Hécart / Kannan
- Christian Hermon / Ephebe For Ever La Silla
- Jean-Marc Nicholas / JPC Modesto
- Philippe Léoni / Cyrenaïka
- Michel Robert / Galet d'Auzay
- Philippe Rozier / Heritière d'Adriers

This leading group for the French team will be revised three or four times throughout the year. If one combination is promoted to Group I, another must vacate their place. From now on, this strictly numbered system thus imposes an element of competition even within the French team. The national trainer, Jean-Maurice Bonneau, shouldered by the 12 members of the CSHN, will only be able to draw 'his selections' for the major events – Nations' Cup Super League and European Championships in Italy at the end of July – from this Group I. The first revision will be made at the conclusion of the Official International Jumping of France at La Baule, the first major rendezvous outside the highest level.

The 'Blue Jackets' know, therefore, what is to come. A 'conquest' in the Grand Prix of the François André stadium could half-open, or open the access door to GI. Indeed, as host country, France has the right to line-up not only its Super League team, but 15 supplementary couples. An opportunity that only arises once each year for the 'blue jackets' on the occasion of the CSIO of France.

Among those on the list of 12 who will be absent, foreseen as of right now:

- Philippe Léoni, who has remarkably qualified himself in the list of 18 Europeans who will dispute the World Cup final in Las Vegas (20-24 April), and taking into account the close proximity of dates, the chairman of Spir Communication (Groupe Ouest France, editor, among other things, of the free daily newspaper '20 Minutes'), could be in La Baule but will be resting **Cyrenaïka** at his stables in Aix-en-Provence.



- Hubert Bourdy will perhaps be in the same position as his fellow countryman Philippe Léoni. Currently (as at the end of March), he is first reserve on the list of qualifiers for La Vegas, so **Eve des Etisses** may or may not delay her outdoor comeback depending on the possible American journey for this couple from Bourg-en-Bresse.
- **First de Launay HN**, who makes up half of one of the most regular couples on the French team with Florian Angot, will take a break from high-level jumping arenas for a few weekends in order to establish his career this year as a reproducer.

Finally, from among the other absentees of the French team who contested the major events of last season, of whom two were members of the Athens team at the Olympic Games:

- **Dilème de Cèphe** : injured at the Olympic Games in Athens, will not return for a few months yet in order to continue his convalescence. His stable companion, Hooligan de Rosyl, will carry Bruno Broucqsault in order for him to defend his World Cup title in Las Vegas at the end of April. The latter will therefore be taking a well-earned break during Ascension weekend.
- **Dollar du Mûrier** : also injured during the Olympic Games in Athens will not be returning from the stables of Eric Navet. The stallion's owner has decided otherwise! Will he once again rediscover jumping arenas? Who will ride him? Those are the questions. For the moment, Mr. Philippe Bodinier's stallion is servicing mares!
- Finally, in terms of bad news, and a 'notable absentee', the desertion of **Tlaloc M**, the stallion of Reynald Angot, who underwent emergency colic surgery (twisted intestine) in the middle of March, so the horse of Gregory Mars, having recovered from an enforced break since last year, and who made his comeback in competition last January, can only ponder a probable return to the French team.

Work is progressing, though you wouldn't think so to look at it, as three out of the four couples who comprised the Olympic quartet, accompanied by the 100% feminine partnership of Eugénie Angot and Cigale du Taillis, will not be at La Baule for the opening of the Super League season.

According to Jean-Maurice Bonneau, "*this third campaign for the Super League is rather delicate. The triple is always playable, but from bases appreciably renewed. I have three SL events to prepare for the European Championships. That's not much.*"

On the other side, I will profit from La Baule for preparing my selection in view of the Mediterranean Championships in Almeria (Spain) at the end of June. Over there I want to play the card of couples which have true potential without yet having experience of the very high level, but who one can imagine as tomorrow's relief in terms of the Olympic Games for Beijing. For La Baule 2005, my selection will draw from the French fishpond."

Who will thus be the new pillars of the French team for 2005, and in the future? The Official International of France should already give us some indication in the face of adversity, with seven other teams for reference.

The complete document on the presentation of the new high-level policy of the French Equestrian Federation :

<http://www.ffe.com/accueil/documents/certificat.pdf>

● ECHOES FROM THE COURSE

A duo of course designers

Serge Houtmann and Frédéric Cottier will be the two who will design the courses for the Official International Jumping of France 2005. No talent will be overlooked when it comes to the question of preparing the French elite for their major event of the year, namely the European Championships at San Patrignano (Italy) at the end of July.

In Italy, Frédéric Cottier, former pillar of the French team during the eighties with Flambeau C, will assume the very official position of technical delegate named by the International Equestrian Federation. A role that consists of controlling and validating the courses designed by the actual course designer. Ahead of this role, he will hold the position of official course designer alongside Serge Houtmann. This position was held by the latter in 2004 alongside Germany's Olaf Petersen, course designer for the Olympic Games in Athens.

Work on the ground

The beautiful ground, newly remade last year is doing well. Manuring, resowing in certain places, cutting, and general maintenance has given an exquisite end of winter appearance to the turf of the François André stadium. Freshly sown last year, one knows that the grass did not really have the time to deeply root itself. It has now become so that the turf is the desired softness for under the horses' hoofs.



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[Veterans and youngsters to follow](#)

The elite (CSIO****SL) will start the season (5-8 May), followed by the international veterans (27-29 May), then the young horses (21-23 June), and national riders on two other summer occasions: 23-24 July and 17-18 September. Other cultural events initiated by the municipality will also occupy the François André stadium.

[The myna bird of the microphone](#)

André-Jacques Le Goupil, who responds to the nickname of the 'Gascon-Breton myna bird' will ensure for the fifteenth time the precise, enthusiastic, and competent commentary for the Official Jumping of France. He will form a duo with Britain's Alison Drummond, in order to deliver announcements in two languages.

● ECHOES FROM THE MEDIA

All the broadcasts and precise schedules will be updated on the internet site of the CSIO of France: www.labaule-cheval.com

[F3 confirms the trial](#)

Following the arrival of the national sports service last year in order to retransmit the second round of the Grand Prix, F3 has confirmed its wish to broadcast a trial. The second round of the Grand Prix Longines of La Baule will therefore be broadcast live during the afternoon of Sunday, 8 May, around 4.00 p.m.

[Eurosport, live for the Nation's Cup](#)

The Samsung Super League has become THE CIRCUIT that TV wants to follow: thanks to the simplicity of these eight rendezvous each year which structure the outdoor season for the best teams in the world, the media, and more precisely TV is finally in line, finding its place in the bulging and chaotic international calendar. This premier division of world jumping will be followed live by Eurosport. It will, therefore, be broadcast on Friday, 6 May on your screens, in France and abroad.

[Equidia](#)

Alongside the French CSIO of La Baule, the horse channel will ensure the retransmission of the three major classes: the Samsung Nations' Cup SL, the Derby of the Pays de la Loire Region, and the Grand Prix Longines of the Town of La Baule. Nearly 15 hours of programming: live, replays, and magazine broadcasts.

All the programming will be announced by day and hour, in particular on the internet site of the Official International Jumping of France.

[Sport +](#)

From the sound of the alarm clock, the telespectators can, from 8:00 a.m. each morning, follow the three major classes from the CSIO of France; namely the Nations' Cup on Saturday morning, the Derby on Sunday for a lie-in, and finally the Grand Prix on Monday.

[France Info](#)

In order to follow the up-to-the-minute exploits of the 60 riders will evolve on the lawn of the François André stadium, Jean-Pierre Laborde will turn on his microphone several times each day, from 5-8 May, live from the tribunes.

[France Bleu Loire Océan](#)

Christophe Delacroix, faithful among the devoted journalists of the CSIO of France, will do the same for the listeners of one of the regional stations of the Radio France group. For one weekend he will be unfaithful to the stadiums of football, basketball, rugby – Nantes will be welcoming the Welsh for the rugby World Cup – and other games using more or less round balls!

[Quest France](#)

For the last arrival among the media partners of the Official Jumping of France, the 2005 edition is happy to welcome the appearance of the large French national daily (with a run of close to 800,000 copies) among the media pool, who are not only promoting but also disseminating quality information to the general public, thanks to a group of journalists who carry the equestrian cause in high regard: Max Fougery, Guy Fichet, and Vincent Besnard.

[Echo de la Presqu'île](#)

Finally, the weekly regional magazine, directed by Eric Lechat, signed up for the fifth consecutive year to do the official programme of the event. With a run of 35,000 copies, the 16-page programme, treated like a 'newspaper', will be distributed in the François André stadium and at the Nantes-Atlantique airport for eight days, in the hotels of La Baule, thanks to the support of the Office of Tourism for La Baule, and inserted in the Echo of the Presqu'île the week before the CSIO of France.



● ECHOES FROM THE SPONSORS

PMU

The 2005 edition of the CSIO of France is rich with the quality of new partners who have come to join it. After Longines, the PMU has, at the beginning of March, signed up to sponsor a class, take an exhibition space dedicated to visitors in the commercial gallery, and finally manage a public relations area.

In the first row

The 'VIP' space has redrawn its floor plan, like last year. The first row will thus be occupied by the guests of the prestigious partners of the 2005 edition: the Barrier Group, Samsung, Longines, PMU, the HEBEL delicatessen, and SAUR. Local manager for water, SAUR discovered the La Baule event via endurance. In the absence of this event, this sponsor reported its partnership with the Official Jumping of France.

Pommery

The private Club Pommery will provide the riders' bar, installed opposite the public tribune. This grand covered space is special to them, reserved for their companions and owners. Sheltered from the glances of the curious, peace assured, the riders feel at home throughout each long day, equally finding their own private restaurant, coffee and other beverages from the beginning of the first morning class. Large Samsung screens are also provided, ensuring first class equipment for the riders.

A salon for the « heads » of the best

The heads of our riders have changed during these past years due to new safety requirements.

Strong experience in motorcycles and formula one, and with the attachment to horses of its leader, Michel Finquel, GPA has practically claimed a quasi-monopoly in terms of head protection worn by the world's elite in showjumping. They will be present in the wings of La Baule with a salon of relaxation open to competitors. Biological drinks, fruit, and raw vegetables to nibble will supplement the gourmet range offered during break times, a calm between two rounds, a shelter from inquisitive eyes, all at the edge of the paddock.

The French pavilion for the horse network

A grand marquee of 200 square metres will be provided for all the partners of the horse network, particularly alive and active in the Pays de la Loire region. The French Equestrian Federation will be the leader of this space in company with the breeders, FIVAL (inter-profession), the National Stud, and the PMU, with interactive terminals to seduce the public with equestrian sport.

Trade village

Forty spaces have been reserved right now. Installed under the large tribunes along Rosières Avenue, which will welcome the public, this commercial road of the CSIO of France will accommodate new arrivals:

- Longines will welcome the public to the François André stadium who will vote for the horse and rider who will receive the 'Elegance Prize' awarded on Sunday afternoon;
- Samsung and the full range of their domestic products;
- Konica and Minolta will do the same;
- Five artists will exhibit their work, including Agnès Roy;
- Saddlers and other sportswear boutiques will delight everyone who has a heart for window-shopping.

* LEXICON

- CSIO*****SL: Official International Showjumping Competition of the Super League.
- CEIO***: Official International Endurance Competition.
- The label 'O' for Official: authorises the organisation of two classes in the Olympic format of classification for teams and individuals. Each country can only organise one 'official' competition per year and per discipline.
- The stars: The hierarchy of international competitions (outside of the Olympic Games, World or European Championships) has been established according to a system of stars, from one, to five for the major events.
- SL for Super League: an elite global circuit for international showjumping created in 2003. A global challenge disputed between eight teams during the outdoor season (May to September), according to the results of the qualified best eight nations from the previous year. At the end of each season, the team that finishes last in this league, run over eight Nations' Cups (by team), is relegated to the lower division called the Samsung Nations' Cup Series. The team that wins this Series is promoted the following year to the Super League.