



MOUNTED GAMES

2009 Web Awards

Best Team (Club / County)

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1

18.28% Bedfordshire Gold (ENG) (6)

2

17.91% Equigames (BEL) (-)

3

12.69% Sandefjord (NOR) (2)

4	We Hope (FRA)	11.19%	(3)	
5	Shropshire (ENG)	10.45%	(10)	
6	Speeds of Bruille (FRA)	8.96%	(1)	Winner 2008
7	Mugnano (ITA)	6.34%	(-)	
8	Sussex (ENG)	5.22%	(4)	Winner 2007, 04, 03, 02, 01
=9	Pony Material (FRA)	4.48%	(-)	
=9	Preetz 1 (GER)	4.48%	(7)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Traditionally this award tends to go to a British county team. Last year this pattern was upset by the victory of the Speeds of Bruille team from France. This year sees a return to form, however, as Bruille switch positions with last year's 6th place finishers, the all-conquering Bedfordshire Gold team. Without doubt a deserved victory, Bedfordshire have now racked up a record breaking 4 consecutive victories at the Inter-County Championships, making them the most successful team in the history of that famous competition.

Second place goes to the Equigames team from Belgium. This is a new name on the Web Awards leader board but after having polled 17.91% of the vote and only narrowly finishing behind Bedfordshire, they certainly are not lacking in support. In third place, slipping one place from last year are the Norwegian champions Sandefjord who last year successfully retained the title they won in 2008.

Best Team (International)



1

21.38% Wales (9)
Winner 2003, 02



2

20.69% England (2)
Winner 2007, 06, 05, 04, 01, 00



3

19.66% Belgium (-)

=4	France	11.72%	(1)	Winner 2008
=4	Luxembourg	11.72%	(-)	
6	Italy	6.90%	(-)	
7	Norway	2.76%	(5)	
=8	Germany	2.41%	(8)	
=8	Northern Ireland	2.41%	(10)	
10	New Zealand	0.34%	(3)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Oh! Controversial result here. Last year Wales only came in 9th in this poll. That must have stung the Welsh vote into action because they now once again proudly sit top of the pile for the first time since winning the World Championships in Kentucky in 2003.

England were pipped to the post in the Web Awards last year by France but this year, not even regaining the World title lost to New Zealand in 2008 was enough to move them from second place. Should make for an interesting battle next year.

In third we have Belgium, who I think we can all agree put in a real blood and guts performance at the World Championships in England last year and are well deserving of their podium finish ahead of last year's winners France in fourth place.

Best Pair



1

30.08% Quentin Voetzel & Alex Franklin (FRA / ENG) (-)



2

15.79% Anaïs Vandael & Dimitri Dekdouk (BEL) (-)

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3

11.28% Gaetan Sejalon & Florian Pépin (FRA) (-)

4	Pierre Alexandre Maury & Camille Pinson (FRA)	10.53%	(-)
5	Karen Houge & Lillan Akselsen (NOR)	7.89%	(-)
6	Robert Leese & Dee Cherrington (ENG / NZL)	6.02%	(9)
=7	Lotte Hansen & Lene Graver (NOR)	4.89%	(4)
=7	Widukind Moormann & Svea Hensel (GER)	4.89%	(-)
9	Federico Gozzi & Federico Tullio de Donato (ITA)	4.51%	(-)
10	Mathilde Hevin & Vincent Leroy (FRA)	4.14%	(-)

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

No doubting the winners here. By a clear margin the gold medal goes to Quentin Voetzel (France) and Alex Franklin (England). They poll almost twice as many votes as the second place pairing from Belgium, Anaïs Vandael & Dimitri Dekdouk, who in turn just edge out their French neighbours Gaetan Sejalon & Florian Pépin. Looks like there's going to be a lot of French spoken on that podium, better start brushing up Alex!

Again, spare a thought though for Dee Cherrington and Robert Leese. Last year they became Pairs World Champions and only came 9th, this year they retain their title but it's only enough to elevate them into 6th place. I suppose if this trend continues and they complete a hat-trick of World titles in 2010, they will just creep onto the podium next year. Come on guys, surely this pair are deserving of a few more votes!

Best Individual Rider



1

40.79% Quentin Voeltzel (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008



2

15.52% Dimitri Dekdouk (BEL) (-)



3

9.39% Widukind Moorman (GER) (3)

=4	Andrea Farinetti (ITA)	5.78%	(-)
=4	Janey Surman (ENG)	5.78%	(-)
=6	Eddie Surman (ENG)	5.42%	(-)
=6	Ludovic Pépin (FRA)	5.42%	(-)
8	Julien Brun-Cosme-Gazot (FRA)	5.05%	(2)
9	Julien Marsille (BEL)	3.61%	(-)
10	Vincent Leroy (FRA)	3.25%	(-)

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

The last category was a clear victory but this one is even more convincing. With a massive 40% of the vote, Quentin crushes all others and retains his title to complete the Pairs and Individual double.

In second place we have Dimitri Dekdouk from Belgium. This member of the Equigames team is a newcomer to this poll but has managed to attract sufficient votes to leave 2008 World Individual Champion Widukind Moorman in 3rd position.

Best Trainer

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1

23.44% Jacques Cave (Italy) (9)

2

14.65% Clive Jones (USA / Sussex) (1)
Winner 2008, 07, 06, 05, 1999



3 =

14.65% Jens Martin (Luxembourg / Sandefjord / Modum) (4)
Winner 2004, 03, 02, 01



3 =

14.65% Joel Pépin (We Hope) (2)

5	David Leese (Bedfordshire Gold)	8.79%	(-)
6	Audrey Vetrain (White Farm)	8.42%	(-)
7	Imke Knaak (Germany Junior)	4.03%	(-)
8	Alberta Gambigliani Zoccoli (Mugnano)	3.66%	(-)
9	Tommaso di Paolo (Mugnano)	3.30%	(-)
10	Signe Sehested (Denmark)	2.20%	(3)

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Well, this really is a turn up for the book. The one longest standing rules of the Web Awards has been that the best trainer category is always won by the trainer of the Norwegian national team. For nine years in a row this was always the case and now that run has finally come to an end. From out of nowhere, Jacques Cavé takes the title this time around. The French trainer of the Italian national team has been on the MGA scene for a number of years now, and this year the Italians have really got behind him to push 5 time winner Clive Jones down into 2nd place. The third spot on the podium is shared this year between Joel Pépin, the trainer of the "We Hope" team from France, and Jens Martin, trainer of the Luxembourg national team as well as Norwegian champions Sandefjord.

Loudest Trainer or Supporter



1

25.74% Huw Whitney (WAL) (-)



2

**20.68% Joel Pépin (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008**



3

15.19% Eddy Potier (BEL) (-)

4	Karen Houge (NOR)	11.81%	(3)	
5	Judith Moormann (GER)	7.59%	(6)	Winner 2007, 06
6	Steven Chorley (SCO)	7.17%	(-)	
=7	Clive Jones (WAL)	3.80%	(2)	
=7	Signe Sehested (DEN)	3.80%	(4)	Winner 2003
9	Tina Johansen (NOR)	2.95%	(8)	
10	Lillann Aklsen (NOR)	1.27%	(-)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Huw Whitney has been an integral part of the international Mounted Games community his entire life and whilst this popular character may have now retired from competitive competition, he features very heavily in this year's set of Web Awards results. Here he takes first place in the loudest trainer / supporter category for the first time. Maybe it's that vocal support that has propelled the Welsh team into the forefront of everybody's minds.

In second place we have last year's winner Joel Pépin with Eddy Potier from Belgium in third. All three of these gentlemen achieving the extraordinary feat of demoting the traditional heavyweights in this category, Judith Moorman and Signe Sehested, down to the lower positions.

Best Competition 2009



1

19.62%% Welsh Championships (Builth Wells / WAL)



2

15.38% European Team Championships (Marseille / FRA)



3

14.62% Royal Welsh International Friendly (Builth Wells / WAL)

4	Nocturne Logis du Poney (FRA)	13.46%
5	World Team Championships (Broadlands / ENG)	11.15%
6	Peter Dale Challenge Cup (Various)	10.77%
7	Challenge des Ch'tis (Bruille / FRA)	8.08%
8	World Pairs Championships (Newark / ENG)	3.46%
9	Scandinavium International Friendly (Gothenburg / SWE)	2.31%
10	Challenge du grand ouest de Corné (? / FRA)	1.15%

Well, we seem to be breaking with tradition this year as another long standing Web Awards rule falls by the way side. Best competition of the year is almost always won by the World Team Championship, being as it is the blue ribbon event of the international calendar. This year however the World Team Championship only make it into 5th place in what was a pretty tight category.

In what is shaping up to be a very successful year for Wales, it was the Welsh Championships that came out on top this time around and the International competition at the Royal Welsh Show also coming in third. Sandwiched in between them is the European Team Championships which was held in France this past year.

Best Competition Ever



1

**44.36%% 2008 World Team Championships (Sydney / AUS) (1)
Winner 2008**



2

**15.27% 2007 World Team Championships (Brugelette / BEL) (4)
Winner 2007**



3

8.00% 2009 Nocturne (FRA) (-)

4	2009 European Team Championships (Marseille / FRA)	6.91%	(-)	
5	2008 European Team Championships (Verden / GER)	6.55%	(7)	
6	2009 World Team Championships (Broadlands / ENG)	5.82%	(-)	
7	2004 World Team Championships (Saumur / FRA)	5.45%	(3)	Winner 2005, 04
8	2009 Royal Welsh International Friendly (Builth Wells / WAL)	5.09%	(-)	
9	2008 Nocturne (FRA)	2.55%	(2)	
10	2005 World Team Championships (Bridgend / WAL)	0.00%	(8)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

If you want to look for a clue as to why last year's World Team Championship did not top the poll of the year's most popular competitions then maybe it was down to the fact that it simply didn't compare favourably in people's minds with its predecessor? The 2008 World Team Championships in Australia win this category by a country mile. A massive 44.36% of you still being of the opinion that that was as good as it gets.

In second place and holding firm in people's memories is the same competition from a year earlier. The 2007 version of the World Team Championship which was held in Belgium. Rounding off the top three we have last year's Nocturne competition held in France. This is a very popular show in France and may well be one to watch for the future.

Best Looking Rider (Male)



1

**34.42% Gaetan Sejalon (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008**



2

**14.86% Jens Martin (LUX) (3)
Winner 2006, 05, 02, 01**



3

13.04% Dimitri Dekdouk (BEL) (-)

4	Peter Walters (ENG)	7.61%	(4)	Winner 2007
5	Alexis Henrotte (BEL)	7.25%	(-)	
6	Tommaso Di Paolo (ITA)	5.80%	(-)	
7	Ryan Davis (AUS)	5.43%	(8)	
8	Dee Cherrington (NZL)	4.71%	(2)	
9	Aron Tyler (ENG)	3.62%	(-)	Winner 2004
10	Andrew Jordan (NIR)	3.26%	(-)	Winner 2000

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

No change in the best looking male rider category which is once again won, by a large margin by Gaetan Sejalon from France. Second place goes to Jens Martin from Luxembourg, whilst third goes to Dimitri Dekdouk, his third top 3 finish in this year's results. Quite an international top 10 here with 8 nations represented.

Best Looking Rider (Female)



1

29.69% Valy Schmartz (LUX) (-)
Winner 2000



2 =

12.11% Anaïs Vandael (BEL) (-)



2 =

12.11% Mathilde Hevin (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008

4	Camille Pinson (FRA)	10.94%	(-)
5	Karen Houge (NOR)	8.20%	(4)
6	Katie Hardy (ENG)	7.81%	(-)
7	Chloe Golding (ENG)	6.25%	(3)
8	Lotte Hansen (NOR)	5.08%	(2)
9	Hollie Rauch (WAL)	4.69%	(-)
10	Katrine Petersen (DEN)	3.13%	(5)

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

There was a time when if you didn't come from Scandinavia you didn't stand a chance in this category. That run was finally broken last year when Mathilde Hevin from France took the title. This year she slips to third and you have to go all the way down to 5th to find our first Scandinavia beauty. My, how times have changed.

In second place we have Anaïs Vandael from Belgium who, we are reliably informed is the better half of the aforementioned Dimitri Dekdouk (at least that's what it says on Facebook).

In first place it's quite a story. They say that everybody loves a comeback and this is certainly one of those. The winner of this category in 2000 comes storming back to take the title once again 9 years later. Valy Schmartz from Luxembourg is of course also the significant other of our best looking male winner, Gaetan Sejalon!

Best Referee



1

22.96% Huw Whitney (WAL) (4)
Winner 2007, 06



2

20.74% Peter Dale (WAL) (2)



3

16.30% Jens Martin (LUX) (3)
Winner 2004

4	Pierre-Luc Portron (FRA)	12.22%	(1)	Winner 2008
5	Mark Devitt (IRE)	8.89%	(-)	
6	Dirk de Clerq (BEL)	7.04%	(-)	
=7	Dieter Birreck (GER)	3.70%	(-)	
=7	Jean-Michel Leroy (FRA)	3.70%	(-)	
9	Mike Dyke Garfield (ENG)	2.59%	(-)	
10	Pete Daniels (ENG)	1.85%	(-)	Winner 2005

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Oh dear, poor Peter Dale, what does he have to do? The man who seemingly is now destined to referee every major championships for the next 10 years has finished as runner-up for the past 2 years, and now makes it three in a row. In 2007 he lost out to Huw Whitney, then last year Huw fell off the radar a bit and he was pipped to the post by Pierre-Luc Portron, and now Huw is back on form and takes this title for the third time, holding off his illustrious compatriot. Third place remains, as he was last year, Jens Martin from Luxembourg.

Best Commentator



1

**38.24% Huw Whitney (WAL) (2)
Winner 2007**



2

**20.17% Steeven Née (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008**



3

12.18% Shane Voigt (AUS) (3)

4	Mappy France (FRA)	8.40%	(-)	
5	Jean-Hervé Ameller (FRA)	7.98%	(5)	
6	Christophe Guillou (FRA)	5.04%	(-)	
7	Tim Pinney (ENG)	4.20%	(7)	
8	Per Iver Lande (NOR)	1.68%	(10)	Winner 2006, 04, 03
9	Atle Johansen (NOR)	1.26%	(-)	
10	Tina Johansen (NOR)	0.84%	(9)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

We said he was going to feature heavily this year and with this one Huw Whitney picks up his third gold medal of this year's results. Once again, it's been quite a year for the Welsh. Second place goes to last year's winner Steeven Née from France, whilst Shane Voigt, still desperately trying to regain his voice following the 2008 World Team Championship, remains in third.

Four Frenchmen and three Norwegians in the top 10! Do the other countries not have any commentators? Also, a top 10 without Mary Worth?? We demand a recount!

Most Improved Team



1

21.48% New Zealand (2)



2

15.23% Equigames (BEL) (-)



3

**12.11% We Hope (FRA) (1)
Winner 2008**

4	Belgium	11.72%	(-)	
5	Sandefjord (NOR)	11.33%	(3)	
6	Denmark	9.77%	(-)	Winner 2003
7	Mugnano (ITA)	8.20%	(-)	
8	Les Speeds (FRA)	7.03%	(-)	
9	Bedfordshire Gold (ENG)	2.34%	(-)	
10	AGMGA (NOR)	0.78%	(-)	

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

Rather curious result this one. In 2008 New Zealand memorably and spectacularly won the World Team Championships but, sadly for them, this past season they had to make do with 9th place. As a result, they were not the favourites to win the most improved team category. However, as they were robbed of the World title this year it's only fair that they take this one. Equigames from Belgium finish second with last year's winner We Hope rounding off the podium places.

Best Pony



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1

**30.71% Spy (Quentin Voeltzel / FRA) (1)
Winner 2008**

2

14.23% Hot (Dimitri Dekdouk / BEL) (-)

3

11.61% Red (Pete Walters / ENG) (-)

4	Sheena (Camille Pinson / FRA)	10.49%	(-)
5	Navajo du Pous (Florian Pépin / FRA)	8.61%	(3)
6	Poppy (Janey Surman / ENG)	6.37%	(-)
7	Wilja (Widukind Moorman / GER)	5.62%	(-)
8	Pikatchou Delamotte (Nicolas Kiss / FRA)	4.49%	(7)
9	Rory DK (Kristine Nystuen / NOR)	4.12%	(5)
10	Willow (Katie Hardy / ENG)	3.75%	(-)

The (number in brackets) is last year's placing

The top two spots here go to the two ponies that have been largely responsible for Quentin Voeltzel and Dimitri Dekdouk having such a successful year in these Web Awards. Quentin's Spy retains the title won last year whilst Hot finishes some way behind him but still in a more than respectable second place. Third spot goes to Pete Walters' pony Red who will be remembered with a great deal of fondness by so many.