



MOUNTED GAMES

2002 Web Awards

Best Team (Club / County)



1

19.05% Sussex (ENG)



2

13.33% Gloucestershire (ENG)

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3

10.48% Ski (NOR)

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5	7.62%	Northern Ontario Eskimo Pies (CAN)
6	6.67%	Central Warwickshire (ENG)
7	5.71%	Näås (SWE)
8	3.81%	Alleby Ridklubb (SWE)
9=	2.86%	Powys (WAL)
9=	2.86%	Canada Red (CAN)

Not a great deal of doubt here, Sussex retain the title as best club team and actually increase their majority over last year. Second place goes to their inter-county rivals Gloucestershire. A share of third place as the Norwegian vote is split right down the middle between three times Norwegian champions AGR and rivals Ski.

Best Team (International)

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1

33.02% Wales

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2

23.58% England



3

18.87% Canada

4	17.92%	Norway
5	3.77%	Republic of Ireland
6=	0.94%	Northern Ireland
6=	0.94%	Sweden
6=	0.94%	USA

After 2 years at the top of the Web Awards charts, England are finally toppled into second place as new World Champions Wales takes the honours both on and off the field of play this year. It was actually a very close thing until the last week of voting when the Welsh supporters voted in their droves. Canadian voters also just pipped Norway to the final spot on the podium.

Best Pair



1

15.73% Felicity Jones & Christian Jones (WAL / ENG)



2

8.99% Karoline Heen Nilssen & Lene Graver (NOR)



3

8.99% Shawn Dunn & Barbie Bent (CAN)

4=	7.87%	Candace McMahon & Jessica McVittie (CAN)
4=	7.87%	Kaja Lande & Tina Solbakken (NOR)
6	5.62%	Elizabeth Cahill & Tom Clark (?)
7	4.49%	Valy Schmartz & Mickels Schmartz (LUX)
8=	3.37%	Kaja Lande & Helene Therése Moe (NOR)
8=	3.37%	Lester Brown & Hannah Hopkins (ENG)
8=	3.37%	Michelle Gilbert & TJ Radcliffe (CAN)

Always a tough one this category. For the 4th year in a row we have a different winner. Well deserved this time around though as the honours go to Mr and Mrs. Jones. In their wake an almighty Canada v Norway battle with the amazing (but true) situation with both 2nd and 3rd place being shared. Representing Canada in second are Shawn Dunn and Barbie Bent whilst standing shoulder to shoulder with them are inaugural Norwegian Pairs champions Karoline Heen Nilssen and Lene Graver. Right behind them though we have a similar situation with the red and white of Candace McMahon and Jessica McVittie standing side by side with the red, white and blue of Kaja Lande and Tina Solbakken. All in all a very crowded podium here!

Best Individual Rider

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1

10.53% Choc Adcock (ENG)

2

9.47% Shawn Dunn (CAN)



3

8.42% Lene Graver (NOR)

4	7.37%	Younes Ahlbom (SWE)
5=	6.32%	Candace McMahon (CAN)
5=	6.32%	Christian Jones (WAL)
7=	4.21%	Caroline Taylor (ENG)
7=	4.21%	Maria Cerboni (SWE)
9=	3.16%	Alex Jones (WAL)
9=	3.16%	Felicity Hotston (ENG)

In the past the web awards have been quite subjective with the winners rarely being the same as those actually on the field of play. This time around though, people seem to have voted a little more sensibly. Wales were World Team Champions and win their category. Chris and Fliss were World Pairs Champions and win their category and to complete the set, Choc Adcock, World Individual Open Champion also takes the gong for best individual rider. What sensible voters you all are. It was a pretty close run thing though as just behind him were the representatives from Canada and Norway. Second place going to Shawn Dunn and third to newcomer Lene Graver. Anybody see a pattern emerging yet?

Best Trainer



1

27.52% Jens Martin (Norway)



2

13.76% Jim Dunn (Canada)



3

7.34% Michael Hern (Middlesex Red)

4	6.42%	Clive Jones (Sussex)
5	5.50%	Ray Parry (Gloucestershire Minis)
6	4.59%	Younes Ahlbom (Nääs)
7	3.67%	Peter Dale (Powys)
8=	2.75%	Jamie Dunn (?)
8=	2.75%	Kieran Hanlon (Republic of Ireland)
8=	2.75%	Nisse Adolfsson (Sweden)

This is where I have to start making excuses again. What can I say? I have very loyal riders!! Once again it's the same British / Canadian / Norwegian combination here but this time in the reverse order! Gold to the adopted Norwegian, Silver to Mr. Dunn, and Bronze to a new name on the web awards roster, Michael Hern, trainer of Middlesex Red.

Loudest Trainer or Supporter



1

14.89% Matt the Bartender (ENG / NOR)



2

13.83% Maren Lande (NOR)

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3

10.64% Barb Bent (CAN)

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4	7.45%	Michael Hern (ENG)
5=	5.32%	Jens Martin (NOR)
5=	5.32%	Nisse Adolfsson (SWE)
7	4.26%	Frie Martin (LUX)
8=	3.19%	Alan Scott (NIR)
8=	3.19%	Noel Stansfield (ENG)
8=	3.19%	Sharon Taverner (ENG)

You will struggle to find a more deserving winner of an award in this year's line up. Matt the crazy bartender from Fontwell Race Course was undoubtedly the loudest voice at this year's World Championships, even if the lyrics of some of his cheerleading songs left something to be desired. I was going to see what I could do about flying him out to Kentucky for the Worlds this summer but I gather the Americans have already circulated his picture to immigration officials up and down the country. Norway complete a one two in this category with last year's winner Maren Lande bumped down to second place. Barb Bent however is slowly creeping up in the rankings after having finished 7th and 6th in the last two years, she is now making herself well and truly heard and will no doubt be giving the Norwegian supporters association's lungs a run for their money this summer as well.

Best Competition



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**The 16th World Team
Mounted Games Championshi
2002**

1

19.23% Scandinavium

2

18.27% Inter-county Championships

3

14.42% World Team Championships England 2002

4	6.73%	Norwegian Team Championships
5	5.77%	World Individual Championships
6=	4.81%	Builth Wells
6=	4.81%	New Liskeard Pairs
6=	4.81%	North American Challenge Cup
9=	2.88%	Norwegian Pairs Championships
9=	2.88%	Welsh Championships

They're back! The outstanding success of the World Championships in Canada in 2001 meant that the annual Mounted Games extravaganza at Scandinavium missed out on this prize for the first time last year but normal service has now been resumed. It is still the biggest and the best. The MGAGB circuit is making itself known as well though with both the Inter-Counties Championships in second and the World Team Championships at Fontwell in third, making a big impact.

Best Looking Rider (Male)



1

18.18% Jens Martin (NOR / LUX)



2

12.50% Kevin Durwood (CAN)



3

9.09% Shawn Dunn (CAN)

4=	6.82%	Christian Jones (WAL)
4=	6.82%	Younes Ahlbom (SWE)
6=	4.55%	Andrew Jordan (NIR)
6=	4.55%	Ben Ebrey (ENG)
6=	4.55%	Choc Adcock (ENG)
9=	4.55%	Julien Marsille (BEL)
9=	4.55%	Alex Jones (WAL)

OK, I have now never finished outside the top three in this category and have now won two years in a row. Like I said, I have very loyal riders, but this is starting to get a little embarrassing, please don't vote for me next year (unless you really feel you have to 😊). Standing either side of me you will find the best of Canadian, Kevin Durwood in second place and Shawn Dunn, making his third appearance in these awards this year already, in third spot.

Best Looking Rider (Female)



1

13.79% Lene Graver (NOR)



2

9.20% Candace McMahon (CAN)



3 =

8.05% Helene Therése Moe (NOR)



3 =

8.05% Valy Schmartz (LUX)

5	6.90%	Maria Cerboni (SWE)
6	5.75%	Kaja Lande (NOR)
7=	4.60%	Aimee Heroux (CAN)
7=	4.60%	Daloni Lucas (WAL)
9=	3.45%	Amy Guy (ENG)
9=	3.45%	Yvonne Moe (NOR)

Last year this category was won by a Norwegian rider, this year it's no different and in fact, there are two Norwegians in the top 3 and 4 in the top 10. Do I have the best job in MGA or what??? I also know for a fact that these votes are not just coming from within Norway. Remember guys, I know who you have all voted for and I'll be keeping a close eye on some of you this season!! Top award as the sports dazzling beauty goes to a newcomer on the international scene, Lene Graver, who incidentally could probably also scoop the prize for the longest hair in MGA (apart from perhaps "thingy" Draper in his youth). Candace McMahon holds up the Canadian challenge in second place. In third we have a tie between former winner Valy Schmartz from Luxembourg and the by now well known Helene Therése Moe from Norway.

Best Referee



1

27.69% Roy Barclay (ENG)



2

21.54% Jens Martin (NOR)

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3

10.77% Pete Daniels (ENG)

4	6.15%	Klaus Käshammer (GER)
5=	4.62%	Frie Martin (LUX)
5=	4.62%	Pete Williamson (ENG)
5=	4.62%	Roger Sykes (ENG / SWE)
8=	3.08%	Mary Worth (ENG)
8=	3.08%	Peter Hern (ENG)
8=	3.08%	Warren Townsend (CAN)

Roy Barclay is back! Kept off the top spot for 2 years by Roger Sykes, he is once again the toast of the town. Having had a very successful World Team Championships, you the people have voted that his starts are the best, even if we don't all really understand how they work. Just kidding Roy!! You had better watch out though because somehow I seem to have managed to creep up into second spot. A little worrying really as I don't particularly enjoy refereeing. Pete Daniels, always a popular choice also keeping up the pressure in third.

Best Commentator

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1

37.66% Geoff Snell (ENG)

2

25.97% Rose Dunn (CAN)

3

10.39% Mary Worth (ENG)

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4	9.09%	Per Ivar Lande (NOR)
5	5.19%	Geoff Turkington (ENG)
6	3.90%	Ingvar Oldsberg (SWE)
7=	2.60%	Tina Solbakken (NOR)
7=	2.60%	Trine Nilsen (NOR)
9=	1.30%	Aiden Foley (IRE)
9=	1.30%	David Johnson (LUX / CAN)

I mentioned it earlier and now we come to our first posthumous awards for this year. For many, Geoff Snell was the voice of our sport. Many a time we have been woken up at showgrounds by his voice booming across the campsite at some ungodly hour in the morning. He will be sadly missed by one and all. If anybody ever is to fill his shoes then the two young ladies beside him here certainly have a big job on their hands. Rose Dunn from Canada becoming the fourth member of the Dunn family to figure in this year's top 10 lists and the ever present Mary Worth also figuring prominently.

Most Improved Team



1

33.33% Norway



2

11.97% Gloucestershire Minis (ENG)



3

11.11% Northern Ontarion Eskimo Pies (CAN)

4	7.69%	Australia
5	6.84%	Middlesex Red (ENG)
6	5.98%	Näås (SWE)
7	5.13%	Canada
8	2.56%	Sweden
9=	1.71%	France
9=	1.71%	New Zealand

This year's biggest winning margin comes in this category where Norway retain the title they won last year. In my own humble opinion, I think it was well deserved, their displays especially towards the end of last season (Hamburg in particular) paid tribute to that. Here's an interesting fact though, I have either ridden for or trained the winner of this category in every year we have been running the web awards, so why have I only ever won 3 international competitions???

Behind Norway, we find a couple of new names on our leader board. In second place the Gloucestershire Minis team and in third the wonderfully if somewhat bizarrely named "Northern Ontario Eskimo Pies".

Best Pony



1

11.61% Foofi (Amanda Dunn)



2

10.71% Embla (Kaja & Maren Lande)



3

8.04% Merrylegs (Jessica McVittie)

4=	6.25%	Winnie (?)
4=	6.25%	Zico (Helene Therése Moe)
6	5.36%	Blue (Younes Ahlbom)
7	4.46%	Bucks Fizz (Alison Cahill)
8=	3.57%	Dosey (?)
8=	3.57%	Misty Kayla (Aimee Heroux)
10	2.68%	Flying Lillie (Kaja Lande)

As always this was a tough category, with votes spread far and wide. After all, everybody thinks their pony is the best. Coming out on top though, the winner is Foofi owned by Amanda Dunn. As many of you will know however, Foofi is the second posthumous winner this year as she sadly passed away last summer after a tragic accident.

In second place comes Embla owned by Kaja and Maren Lande, a fantastic little pony who understands the games so well, she could teach anybody how to become a top class player. In third, another Canadian representative, Merrylegs, owned by Jessica McVittie.