



MOUNTED GAMES

2004 Web Awards

Best Team (Club / County)



1

17.58% Sussex (ENG)



2

11.54% Wallaos in the Baba (FRA)



3

10.99% Søndre Ski (NOR)

4	Hurlumhei Mix (NOR)	8.24%
5	Middlesex (ENG)	5.49%
6	Preetz 2 (GER)	4.95%
7	Alleby Ridklubb (SWE)	4.40%
8	AGMGA (NOR)	3.85%
9	Powys (WAL)	3.30%
10	Peillard Mounted (FRA)	2.75%

Not a great deal of surprise in this category. Once again Sussex tops the charts for the 5th time in 6 years. The team itself may have changed somewhat over the past couple of years but their popularity, it seems, endures.

Behind them Wallaos in the Baba climb one place over last year to second, leaving Norwegian champions Søndre Ski in third place.

Best Team (International)



1

27.33% England



2

22.36% Norway



3

14.91% Wales

4	France	6.21%
5	Australia	5.59%
6	Denmark	4.97%
7	Canada	4.35%
8	Sweden	3.73%
9	Northern Ireland	3.11%
10	USA	2.48%

Well, who else? A deserved win here for England after the dominant display at the World Championships last summer. That put an end to the two years of Welsh domination in this category and puts the cross of Saint George back at the top.

The Welsh dragon actually slips to third place, with Norway taking a strong second.

Notable by their absence are Belgium who managed to finish second at the World Championships but can't even make the top 10 here? Come on, what happened to the Belgian vote?

Best Pair



1

20.11% Kaja Lande & Lene Graver (NOR)



2

11.17% Paul Williams & Gemma Thomas (WAL)



3

6.70% Nicolas Deforges & Nicolas Mauny (FRA)

4	David Mawby & Cecilia Adolfsson (ENG / SWE)	6.15%
5	Mark Devitt & Adam Adcock (IRE / ENG)	5.59%
6	Valentin Vieilledent & Beaudouin Yoann (FRA)	5.03%
7	Helene Therese Moe & Ditte Christensen (NOR / DEN)	4.47%
8	Jojo & Maxi Franke (GER)	3.91%
9	Julien Brun-Cosme Gazot & Antoine Sejalon (FRA)	3.35%
10	Sofie Ennis & Ditte Christensen (DEN)	2.79%

Once again we have a different winner in this category making this the 6th different pair in 6 years to walk away with this title.

In terms of numbers there was no doubt about it, with Kaja and Lene from Norway polling almost twice as many votes as World Champions Paul and Gemma from Wales in second.

The French vote also secures a good third spot for Nicolas Deforges and Nicolas Mauny.

Best Individual Rider



1

13.95% Lene Graver (NOR)



2

13.37% Elaine Trevor-Jones (ENG)



3

9.3% Kaja Lande (NOR)

4	Ditte Christensen (DEN)	6.40%
5	Valentin Vieilledent (FRA)	5.23%
6	Paul Williams (WAL)	4.65%
7	Helene Therese Moe (NOR)	4.07%
8	Jojo Franke (GER)	3.49%
9	Katie Hardy (ENG)	2.91%
10=	Cecilia Adolfsson (SWE)	2.33%
10=	Mark Skubatz (GER)	2.33%

This one was a real battle that went down to the last day of voting.

In the end Lene added the Web Awards title to her Norwegian Individual Championship title by just the one solitary vote ahead of World Individual Champion Elaine Trevor-Jones.

Kaja's third place finish means Elaine becomes the meat in a Norway sandwich.

The whole top 10, however, seems to be a very female dominated line up this year.

Best Trainer



1

24.71% Jens Martin (Norway)



2

9.77% Clive Jones (Wales / Sussex)



3

8.05% Christophe Guillou (Walloos in the Baba)

4	Signe Sehested (Denmark)	7.47%
5	Nisse Adolfsson (Sweden / Alleby)	6.90%
6	Michael Hern (Middlesex Red)	5.17%
7	Susanne Franke (Preetz 2)	4.60%
8	Colin Carson (Northern Ireland)	4.02%
9	Philippe Gargallo (Switzerland / Peillard Mounted)	3.45%
10	Peter Dale (Powys)	2.87%

Naturally this is the one that I am always personally most interested in and this year was no exception.

The Danish challenge appears to have faded in this category as well but Clive Jones is on the comeback trail. Third last year, second this year.

Looks like I'm going to have some work to do during 2005 to ensure this trend does not continue.

In third place Christophe Guillou also climbs one place from fourth to third this year.

Loudest Trainer or Supporter

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1

13.99% Benoit Snoeck (BEL)

2

11.89% Signe Sehested (DEN)

3

7.69% Michael Hern (ENG)

4	Kristine Gyberg (NOR)	6.99%
5	Colin Carson (NIR)	6.29%
6	Sharon Taverner (ENG)	5.59%
7	Alan Scott (NIR)	4.90%
8	Maren Lande (NOR)	4.20%
9	Birgitte Solrud (NOR)	3.50%
10	Nisse Adolfsson (SWE)	2.80%

This just goes to show that there really are no voting patterns in these awards. Last year I made reference to Barb Bent who had been slowly creeping up the table each year and finished second last year. This year she polled no votes at all!!

Instead it's one of the biggest winners of the year with Benoit Snoeck moving from 5 th last year to top the pile. Personally I am not familiar with the volume of Benoit's support but I'm told it is considerable.

Breathing right down his neck, however, is last year's winner, Danish trainer Signe Sehested, who would give most a run for their money when it comes to a screaming contest.

In third place it's Michael Hern who must also have made himself heard over the past 12 months having moved up from 7th to 3rd in the polls.

Best Competition 2004



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1

28.85% World Team Championships (Saumur / FRA)

2

8.97% Scandinavium International Friendly (Gothenburg / SWE)

3

7.69% Inter-county Championships (Stonleigh / ENG)

4	Spektrum International Friendly (Oslo / NOR)	7.05%
5	World Pairs Championships (Newark / ENG)	6.41%
6	Peter Dale Challenge Cup (Various)	5.77%
7	Norwegian Team Championships, 3rd Leg (Bjerke / NOR)	5.13%
8	Welsh Championships (Builth Wells / WAL)	4.49%
9	Norwegian Team Championships, 1st Leg (Nesodden / NOR)	3.85%
10	World Individual Championships (Newark / ENG)	3.21%

Well, there wasn't much doubt about this one. Once again, the World Team Championships prove to be the most popular competition of the year. No surprise there really and really this is as it should be.

The Scandinavium international friendly also maintains its high popularity by being confirmed as the best of the rest.

The Inter Counties was third on your list of places to be seen in 2004.

Best Competition Ever



1

18.18% World Team Championships (Saumur / FRA)



2

10.00% Scandinavium International Friendly (Gothenburg / SWE)



3

9.09% Spektrum International Friendly (Oslo / NOR)

4	World Team Championships (Guelph / CAN)	8.18%
5	Scandinavium International Friendly (Gothenburg / SWE)	7.27%
6	Spektrum International Friendly (Oslo / NOR)	6.36%
7	World Team Championships (Bremen / GER)	5.45%
8	Norwegian Team Championships (Nesodden / NOR)	4.55%
9	Inter-county Championships (Stonleigh / ENG)	3.64%
10=	Welsh Championships (Builth Wells / WAL)	2.73%
10=	World Individual Championships (Newark / ENG)	2.73%
10=	World Team Championships (Fontwell / ENG)	2.73%

Well, either the 2004 season was the greatest ever spectacle of mounted games or the voting public all have extremely short term memories. Once again the top two are this year's World Team Championships and the international friendly at Scandinavium.

Bizarrely enough, the Spektrum International friendly in Oslo finished third in the list of the best competitions ever even though it could only manage 4th in the same list for 2004!!

Best Looking Rider (Male)



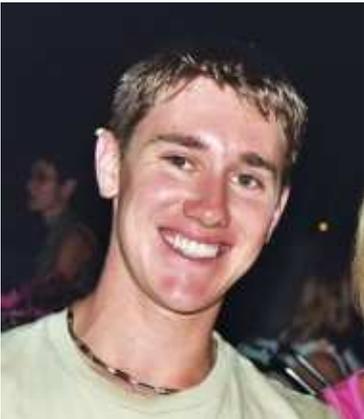
1

10.56% Aaron Tyler (ENG)



2

9.86% Nicolas Mauny (FRA)



3

9.15% Ben Logue (AUS)

4	Jens Martin (NOR / LUX)	8.45%
5	Andrew Jordan (NIR)	6.34%
6	Andrew Horscroft (ENG)	5.63%
7	Valentin Vieilledent (FRA)	4.93%
8	Ben Ebrey (ENG)	4.23%
9	Choc Adcock (ENG)	3.52%
10=	Brent Couch (CAN)	2.82%
10=	Jojo Franke (GER)	2.82%
10=	Kyle Eddy (AUS)	2.82%
10=	Shawn Dunn (CAN)	2.82%

It would appear that the advancing years are taking their toll and that after the glory years my slide from grace is now complete, as I finish outside the top 3 for the first time.

The top prize however goes to Aaron Tyler who has never even figured in this poll before this year, but some concerted support (from Norway in particular I notice) has ensured that he can claim bragging rights for the next 12 months.

Hot on his heels, however, were Nicolas Mauny who appears to be the darling of France, as well as Aussie boy Ben Logue.

Best Looking Rider (Female)



1

11.61% Kaja Lande (NOR)



2

7.74% Lene Graver (NOR)

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3

7.10% Charlotte Heiselberg (DEN)

4	Helene Therese Moe (NOR)	6.45%
5	Malin Martinsson (NOR)	5.81%
6	Julie Marsille (BEL)	5.16%
7	Harriet Cole (ENG)	4.52%
8	Beeke Holm (GER)	3.87%
9	Madeleine Moe (NOR)	3.23%
10	Natasha Hopkins (WAL)	2.58%

This category has long been the domain of the Scandinavian girls in MGA. This year was a battle between last year's winner Charlotte Heiselberg from Denmark, the 2002 winner Lene Graver from Norway, and the 2001 winner Kaja Lande also from Norway .

In the end though it was Kaja who became the first to take this title twice and officially becomes the fairest of them all for this year.

Her pairs partner Lene finishes in second, just edging last year's winner from Denmark into third.

A further 3 Norwegians also within the top 10 officially make me the luckiest trainer in MGA!!

Best Referee



1

25.00% Jens Martin (LUX / NOR)



2

14.52% Pete Daniels (ENG)

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3

13.71% Roger Sykes (ENG / SWE)

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4	Peter Hern (ENG)	7.26%
5	Dirk de Clerq (BEL)	6.45%
6	Philipp Preugel (GER)	5.65%
7	Phillipe Permingeat (FRA)	4.84%
8	Dee Tordoff (ENG)	4.03%
9	Doug McVittie (CAN)	3.23%
10	Bill Fogerty (NZL)	2.42%

For the past two years I have finished second in this category, so it's nice to have finally made the step up the podium.

I'm not sure it's entirely justified, however.

Pete Daniels take the second spot just ahead of Roger Sykes.

Best Commentator



1

29.92% Per Yver Lande (NOR)



2

18.11% Mary Worth (ENG)



3

7.87% Tim Pinney (ENG)

4	Tilo Donner (GER)	7.09%
5	Ingvar Oldsberg (SWE)	6.30%
6	Geoff Turkington (ENG)	5.51%
7	Kalle Hufnagel (GER)	4.72%
8	Crawford Logan (SCO)	3.94%
9	Rose Dunn (CAN)	3.15%
10	Phillipe Permingeat (FRA)	2.36%

Retaining his title for another year here is Per Yver Lande who is really starting to get the hang of this now. Quite a mild mannered individual really, but put the microphone in front of him and there's no stopping him.

Behind him are the MGAGB commentating duo of Mary Worth and Tim Pinney who also took over commentating duties at the World Team Championships in France.

I should also put in a mention for Crawford Logan who finished in a shocking 8th spot but who's commentating skills really need to be experienced!!

Most Improved Team



1

16.13% Norway



2

9.68% Australia



3

9.39% New Zealand

4	Hurlumhei Mix (NOR)	7.10%
5	Denmark	6.45%
6	Middlesex Red Juniors (ENG)	5.81%
7	Preetz 2 (GER)	5.16%
8	Belgium	4.52%
9	AGMGA (NOR)	3.87%
10	Powys (WAL)	3.23%

Again here I would have expected Belgium to be hot favourites for this title but no, they finish only in 8th with less than 5% of the vote!!

Instead, Norway take this title for the 3rd time in 4 years (keep going like this and we'll be World Champions in no time).

Australia's march to the A final of last year's World Championships ensure they are recognised in this category, along with New Zealand who scored an impressive C final win in France last summer.

Best Pony



1 =

8.77% Flying Lillie (Kaja Lande / NOR)



1 =

8.77% Karinka (Lene Graver / NOR)



3

8.19% Zico (Helene Therese Moe / NOR)

4	Imola (Charlotte Heiselberg / DEN)	6.43%
5	Manouk (Ditte Christensen / DEN)	5.85%
6	Rusty (Ben Thornton / ENG)	4.68%
7	Helegan (? / FRA)	4.09%
8	Astra (Andrew Horscroft / ENG)	3.51%
9	Ecoisaise 2 (Sophie Normand / FRA)	2.92%
10	Spikey (Jojo Franke / GER)	2.34%

Same old story here. Last year we had 53 ponies nominated in this category, this year it was 61, as everybody pretty much votes for their own ponies.

That is of course all except, yes you guessed it, the Norwegians who's allegiance appears to have been split right down the middle between Kaja Lande and Lene Graver once more.

Kaja may have come out on top in the looks department, Lene may have been nominated best individual but when it comes to their ponies, Karinka and Flying Lily, there was nothing to choose between them and it's a dead heat.

Completing the Norwegian clean sweep however is also Helene Therese Moe's old campaigner Zico who takes third spot.