

Witness Stand causes 25/1 shock in HKJC World Pool Lennox Stakes

Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole registered their first major victory on the Flat as Witness Stand sprung a 25/1 surprise in a dramatic G2 HKJC World Pool Lennox Stakes.

There was drama even before the gates opened when two-time Lennox Stakes winner Kinross was withdrawn after being kicked by Audience, while soon after the start, Royal Ascot winner Noble Champion was pulled up by Kieran Shoemark.

The seven-furlong contest was run at a searching gallop, with three horses going clear from an early stage. One of those was Witness Stand, who travelled up strongly over two furlongs out and never looked in any danger afterwards under Hollie Doyle.

Lake Forest (11/1) fared best of those from off the pace as he went down by almost three lengths in second, while last year's winner Audience (3/1JF) was third having been unable to go with the winner in the straight.

It is a breakout success for Newland & Insole, who started training in partnership in 2023. Insole was formerly assistant trainer to Charlie Hills.

Jamie Insole said: *"I have been involved in a lot of big winners, and to actually train one myself is pretty special. My grandad was a jockey and a trainer, and my uncle Will Kennedy was a National Hunt jockey. So racing is in the blood and I did them all proud today."*

"We bought Witness Stand for 100,000gns at the horses-in-training sales. He went under the radar and we immediately had offers of more money for him. I already had this race in mind and he ran a great race at Chester last time, when they broke the track record. The bit of ease in the ground helped him and he looked pretty good."

"I wouldn't have run him if we didn't think he had a good chance. The Chester run gave us confidence to come here. It is lucky that I put him in the Group One Prix de la Foret this morning. That is looking like a pretty good idea now. He is in the Hungerford Stakes but will have to carry a penalty in that now, so we will see."

"We have had an amazing season. That is 27 winners now. We have a really good team. Hopefully we can keep going and keep getting these big winners."

Doyle said: *"A great training performance by Jamie Insole and Dr Richard Newland, plus everyone back at home, to get this horse back on track, not winning in handicap company but in Group company."*

"He has some really good form, is a Listed winner and, on ratings, he wasn't far behind Audience. He had quite a lot to prove but he stood up. It is a bit of a shock to the system but Jamie wasn't shocked."

Lake Forest's rider Tom Marquand said: *"We were always going to be reliant upon the second wave getting up to the first wave, and they just lost touch with them, which made it tough work for us. You can only go as fast as you can go in mid-race, and this fellow wasn't really travelling. I opted to go back inside to see if I could save a bit of ground but ultimately it made no difference. The winner had gone, he'd sailed, and it's tough to bridge those gaps on a track like this."*

Robert Havlin, rider of last year's winner Audience, said: *"That was a step back in the right direction, and he probably wants quicker ground than today. I was trying to give myself a bit of space in the straight and Quinault kept coming with me, but he finished his race off and in the last furlong he was coming back again. I think the cheekpieces helped, as that was better than he had been doing this year."*

Audience's co-trainer John Gosden added: *"That was a good run. He did everything great, but he just found the ground a little loose down the hill and then stayed on well on the flat. We'll go to York now."*

Rossa Ryan said of withdrawn 3/1JF Kinross: *"I was nowhere near Audience and he kept backing up. He backed up and let fly at me. I just want to say a big sorry to everyone involved. It was a bit of a freak thing, but he seems fine. It happened that fast, it took me by surprise. It's one of those things."*

Witness Stand after winning the HKJC World Pool Lennox Stakes (credit: Goodwood Racecourse)

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

2.30pm HKJC World Pool Lennox Stakes (Group 2)

1 Witness Stand (Scott Turner & partner) Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole 4-9-06 Hollie Doyle 25/1

2 Lake Forest (Tony Bloom & Ian McAleavy) William Haggas 4-9-06 Tom Marquand 11/1

3 Audience (Cheveley Park Stud) John & Thady Gosden 6-9-06 Robert Havlin 3/1JF

10 ran 3/1JF Kinross (withdrawn at start)

Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole – 1st Qatar Goodwood Festival winner

Hollie Doyle – 7th Qatar Goodwood Festival winner

Tickets

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The Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar is one of the undisputed highlights of the British flat racing season. The world-famous five-day festival is a sporting and social occasion like no other, unrivalled style, superb racing, and hospitality experiences to savour mean it's not to be missed. The 2025 Qatar Goodwood Festival takes place from Tuesday 29 July to Saturday 2 August. The week is headed by three Group 1 races, including the £500,000 Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup (2m), the £1 million Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes (1m), and the £600,000 Qatar Nassau Stakes (1m2f).

About Goodwood Racecourse

Introduced to the Goodwood Estate in 1802 by the 3rd Duke of Richmond, the Goodwood Racecourse has long been steeped in horseracing heritage. From Lord George Bentinck's winning horse in the 1836 St Leger, which was transported in secret from Goodwood to Doncaster, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's horse Love Affair taking its final win, the racecourse has been home to some significant moments in horseracing history.

Situated on the South Downs and hosting 19 race days from May through October, thousands of racegoers flock to one of the world's most beautiful racecourses each year to enjoy a season of top-class racing and entertainment. With a varied calendar of fixtures, race day highlights include Three Friday Nights, the May Festival, the Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar - more affectionately known as Glorious Goodwood - and the Season Finale, to name a few.