



# 48H DE L'OBSTACLE THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE HIGHEST BAR

FRANCE  
GALOP

SATURDAY 12 AND SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER

AUTEUIL RACECOURSE

RESERVE ON 48HOBSTACLE.COM



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Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 November 2022 – Hippodrome d'Auteuil

## Les 48H de l'Obstacle : Figuro exceptional in Prix La Haye Jousselin success

The biggest jumping weekend of the winter, the '48H de l'Obstacle', took place this weekend at Auteuil racecourse in Paris. The feature race of the weekend and one of the season's most prestigious steeple chase, the Prix La Haye Jousselin, was dominated by the Francois Nicolle trained Figuro, with jockey Angelo Zuliani sporting the colours of Jacques Détré, who owns the gelding in association with his breeder Thierry Cyprès.



The '48H de l'Obstacle' got off to a rough start for the champion trainer François Nicolle, whose base is at Saint-Augustin (Charente-Maritime). With two favourites, Hermès Baie and L'Autonomie, beaten on Saturday, in the Group 1 hurdle, the Grand Prix d'Automne, which was won by the Arnaud Chaille-Chaille trained Theleme. On Sunday, he was also beaten in the Group 1 Prix Maurice Gillois with the short-priced favourite Diamond Carl, who finished second.

#48hObstacle

With five runners in the feature, the Prix La Haye Jouselin, it was going to be difficult to not hit the target. Recent winner of the Prix Héros XII, Figuero sailed to a three-length success over Grandeur Nature, who is trained by Arnaud Chaillé-Chaillé. Completing the podium was another Nicolle representant, last year's winner of the race, Poly Grandchamp.

Having suffered a fall on Saturday, the winning jockey Angelo Zuliani managed to guide the gelding to success despite suffering a large haematoma on his knee, therefore proving that jockeys are indeed a breed!

## Reactions from Connections

**François Nicolle (trainer of Figuero, 1st, Poly Grandchamp, 3rd and Starlet du Mesnil, 4th) – Based in Saint-Augustin (Charente-Maritime)**

"The wait for a winner this weekend was long, and the horse has really come back to his old self. Figuero is a champion; we all know that! Today he was great, he was concentrated and really wanted to get out there. Poly Grandchamp has ran another fine race. Starlet du Mesnil needs to learn her job over these distances still. She is a very, very good mare and she will run in the Grand Steeple Chase de Paris next year if she is still in training."

**Thierry Cypès (breeder and co-owner of Figuero, 1st) – Nièvre**

"We work hard all our lives to experiences days like this Sunday. This horse really is close to our hearts, and we had some fantastic days with him when he was a four-year-old. His form dropped slightly after, but we have got him back and he is thriving. He is a real champion."

**Angelo Zuliani (jockey of Figuero 1st)**

"This horse really means a lot to me. This weekend has been difficult, and it has been long, but he has given us all a real moment of pleasure! It's true that he found last year difficult, but we worked on him, found the old Figuero and now he is better than ever, he's a crack!"

**Nicolas de Lageneste (owner and cobreeder of Grandeur Nature, 2nd) – Allier**

"He has had a few problems, but we have always held him in very high regard. He was impressive in his victory here as a four-year-old. He was supposed to run in the Grand Steeple Chase de Paris in the spring, but he got a niggle. It is the first time he has attempted this level and we can now make a plan for the Grand Steeple Chase in 2023, we will keep our fingers crossed that everything goes well until then."

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