

# Review 2015

## MARCH

### ESSA Driving Cup: State Studs started series in international driving sport

In March five partner studs of the European State Studs Association announced to host a joint series, the *ESSA Driving Cup*, to point out the significance of the state studs for the breeding of horses especially suitable for driving, as centres of education and as places of top sport in the special atmosphere of the historic stud premises.

Driving is the only discipline in horse sport that involves different horse types and breeds up to international championship level. This aspect needs to be recognised and supported, with regard to tradition, the diversity of breeds and the development of modern driving sport. The national studs contribute significantly to the preservation of breed and type diversity and can give important impulses. Breeding institutions which since many generations breed horses especially for driving purposes are able to present horses successfully on top level and thus combine cultural heritage and world class sport.

Thus, it is not surprising, that some national studs have become centres of international driving sport and organise first class competitions. The series was integrated in the CAI3\* competitions for pairs at the driving events of the partner studs. To participate in the series, pairs needed to have successfully completed at least three of the five competitions. The three best final results of all competitors of the individual competitions were added. In connection with the final prize giving ceremony at the CAI Piber on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the pairs with the best total result were honoured.



#### Events of the series:

- 16.04. - 19.04.2015: National Stud Kladruby nad Labem, Czech Republic
- 29.05. - 31.05.2015: National Stud Topolčianky, Slovakia (had to be cancelled)
- 02.07. – 05.07.2015: National Stud Lipica, Slovenia
- 16.07. – 19.07.2015: National Stud Mezöhegyes, Hungary
- 06.08. – 09.08.2015: Bundesgestüt Piber, Austria

## APRIL

### ESSA Driving Cup celebrated premiere at Kladruby nad Labem

The driving series of the European State Studs started as part of the international driving event at the Czech National Stud Kladruby nad Labem from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. 18 pairs of six countries collected points for the five parts of the series. Winner at Kladruby was Sandro Koalik from Germany with his KWPN-horses. In second position was the Czech driver Martin Gössel with two Lipizzaners of the Pluto-Line. Zoltán Nyúl representing Hungary is in third position followed by Josef Hrouda from the Czech Republic. A special highlight from stud perspective was the fifth rank of Miroslav Matúška, who presented Lipizzaners of the Slovakian National Stud Topol'čianky.

A huge thank you to stud director Jiří Machek, event president Zuzana Šancová their organising team at Kladruby nad Labem for their support in organising the ESSA Driving Cup and for giving Alexandra Lotz the opportunity to present ESSA during the welcome evening.



ESSA banner at the marathon course, Photo A.Lotz



Miroslav Matúška with Lipizzaners of Topol'čianky



Gabriela Pilařová © citaria.rajcc.net



© SÁRKA VEINHAUEROVÁ

Winner of the pair competition: Sandro Koalik, Germany

## ESSA conference at the Polish State Stud Sieraków

From April 22nd to 24th the representatives of the European State Studs met for their annual conference in the Polish State Stud Sieraków. The breeding institution, founded as Royal Prussian Stud Zirke and neighbouring Sieraków Castle provided an ideal environment to discuss the historic, current and future role of the traditional studs of Europe. Marian Pankowski, president of the agricultural enterprise Galopol, to which Sieraków stud is attached, and stud director Pawel Wojtowicz invited numerous guests from Poland, who are interested in the developments in other European countries and gave insights into the Polish horse sector. The Agricultural Property Agency (APA), being responsible for the Polish State Studs, was represented by section manager Aneta Burghardt and the horse breeding specialist Anna Stojanowska, for the Polish Horse Breeders Association spoke president Prof. Zbigniew Jaworski.



Participants of the ESSA conference at the Polish State Stud Sieraków, Photo: ESSA Archive

Highlight of the two day event was a show programme in the stud hippodrome, for which horses, riders and drivers of the whole country gathered. The studs Bialka, Janów Podlaski and Michalów presented their famous Pure Bred Arabians, Michalów also sent a five-in-hand with the stud's special appaloosa breed. Racot and Pepowo showed Wielkopolskie and Polish Sport Horses, from Prudnik Malopolskas (Polish Anglo-Arabians) came. Ksiaz stud enchanted the audience with Slesian Warmbloods, which were skilfully presented as excellent carriage horses. The diversity of Polish breeds was completed by draft horses from Nowe Jankowice, Huculs from Gladyszow and the Konik Polski horses from hosting Sieraków. A festive evening with regional music and dance rounded the event off. *"We are very impressed by the hospitality, the fascinating tradition and the high standard of Polish horse breeding, which doesn't need to fear international comparison in the sport horse sector and is absolute world class in Pure-Bred Arabian breeding. Especially in the current situation of crisis in the European horse sector the state studs stand for continuity"* concludes ESSA manager Alexandra Lotz. The next ESSA conference will take place from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Portuguese National Stud Alter Real.



Pure Bred Arabian mare of Michalów

Slesian Warmblood stallion Lokan with Bartolomej Kwiatek

Photos: Alexandra Lotz and Tadeusz Andrzejewski

## JULY

### ESSA Driving Cup at Lipica

From July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> the international driving event of Lipica National Stud took place. 19 pairs collected points for the ESSA Driving Cup. Jozsef Dobrovitz jr. (Hungary) took the victory of the second leg of the series, followed by Vilmos Lázár (Hungary) and Gerald Rössler (Austria). Miha Tavcar, representing Lipica National Stud, achieved rank four, his colleague Mitja Mahorcic ended on rank 11. Topol'čianky National Stud was represented by two Lipizzaner pairs as well. Miroslav Matúška reached 9<sup>th</sup> position, Jozef Masir finished on rank 13.

Congratulations to Lipica National Stud and thank you for hosting the ESSA Driving Cup!



Mitja Mahorcic in the marathon



Miha Tavcar during the cone driving



Vilmos Lázár in the cone competition



Jozsef Dobrovitz jr. during the dressage test

All photos kindly provided by Krisztina Horváth (hoefnet.nl)

## JULY

### ESSA Driving Cup at Mezöhegyes

From 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of July the top-drivers of Hungary and participants of the neighbouring countries skilfully demonstrated the beauty of driving at the first international driving competition at the Hungarian State Stud Mezöhegyes. Many different breeds showed their suitability for modern driving sport, including the old Austro-Hungarian Nonius and Lipizzaner horses. Mezöhegyes hosted the third part of the ESSA Driving Cup for pairs. The winner of the CAI3\* was Zoltán Lázár, followed by Vilmos Lázár. Rank three saw again Zoltán Lázár with his second pair in front of Kristof Osztertág, Márk Osztertág und Jozsef Dobrovitz Jr. The Nonius pair of Mezöhegyes with János Papp reached a good 17th place and convinced with a clear cone parcours.

The event will find its place in the memories of everyone involved as a weekend with Sahara-like atmosphere. Despite extreme heat it was a very pleasant event. The team around stud director István Pap created perfect conditions for horses, drivers, spectators and officials. The racecourse of Mezöhegyes proved to be a very nice setting with different grass and sand arenas, the grand stand and an observation tower. New marathon obstacles have been created, fair for the horses and easily accessible for spectators. The driving scene can look forward to the World Championships for young driving horses at Mezöhegyes in September!



Vilmos Lázár entering the arena. Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Jozsef Dobrovitz Jr in the water obstacle  
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Prize-giving ceremony with winner Zoltán Lázár  
Photo: István Vida-Szűcs



Thank you to the horses and grooms  
Photo: István Vida-Szűcs



Janós Papp with the Nonius pair of Mezőhegyes  
Photo: István Vida-Szűcs



Vilmós Lázár in the lap of honour  
Photo: István Vida-Szűcs



Stud director István Pap with ESSA manager Alexandra Lotz  
Photo: István Vida-Szűcs

## AUGUST

### Final event of the ESSA Driving Cup at Piber

The final event of the first driving series of the European State Studs took place as part of the international driving competition at the Austrian Federal Stud Piber from August 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Winner of the *ESSA Driving Cup 2015* is Miroslav Matúška. With his Lipzzaner mares he represented the Slovakian National Stud Topol'čianky. Wolfgang Binder from Austria achieved the second rank with his Trakehner/Hannoverian horses. During the course of the season 60 competitors from twelve nations participated in the series at the events of Kladrubby nad Labem (Czech Republic), Lipica (Slovenia), Mezöhegyes (Hungary) and Piber (Austria).



Miroslav Matúška in the marathon  
Photo: Alexandra Lotz



Congratulations by ESSA manager Alexandra Lotz  
Photo: Sandra Hoffmann

The *ESSA Driving Cup* was created to point out the significance of the state studs for the breeding of horses especially suitable for driving, as centres of education and as places of top sport in the special atmosphere of the historic stud premises. Breeding institutions which since many generations breed horses especially for driving purposes are able to present horses successfully on top level and thus combine cultural heritage and world class sport. The victory of the Topol'čianky employee Miroslav Matúška with the Lipzzaner mares of the stud brilliantly illustrates this connection. Congratulations!





## ESSA publications

Besides publications of press releases about the ESSA activities, stud portraits by Alexandra Lotz have been published in different equestrian magazines in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Portugal. From January to August 2015 the following articles appeared:

***Nationalgestüt Le Pin: wie die „Grande Nation“ ihre Pferde ehrte***

Kavallo, 6/2015

***Pferdezentrum in hohen Norden: das Equine College Ypäjä***

Magazin Hofreitschule, 2/2015

***Hauptgestüt Altefeld: in der Tradition Trakehnens***

Kavallo, 5/2015

***Mezőhegyes: Geburtsstätte dreier ungarischer Pferderassen***

Kavallo, 3/2015

***COUDELARIA NACIONAL SIERAKÓW: UMA HERANÇA PRÚSSIO-POLACA***

REVISTA EQUITAÇÃO, 2/2015

***Ypäjä -Vom Nationalgestüt zum Equine College***

Kavallo, 2/2015

***Im polnischen Staatsgestüt Sieraków wird das preußische Erbe gepflegt und weiter entwickelt***

Magazin Hofreitschule, 1/2015

***Staatsgestüt Sieraków: ein preussisch-polnisches Kulturerbe***

Kavallo, 1/2015

***COUDELARIA NACIONAL BÁBOLNA: BERÇO DO SHAGYA ÁRABE***

REVISTA EQUITAÇÃO, 1/2015

Alexandra Lotz also wrote

***European Stud Culture – values, significance, potential***

Published in: Jahrbuch Forschen Bauen & Erhalten 2013/2014

Edited by Alexandra Skedzuhn and Leo Schmidt, Westkreuz Verlag, Germany 2015