Hello, and welcome to the latest Anglo German Racing Newsletter of 2019! In this edition, we look back at the first five days of the German Derby Festival at Hamburg, including the unique Seejagdrennen lake steeplechase on Wednesday, and victory for Denmark in a Group 3 race on the flat on Friday. Looking ahead, we preview the 150th running of the German Derby itself.

Further afield, we look back a big day of jumps racing at Merano in the Italian Alps, the Hungarian Derby, and Spain’s richest race of the year, the Gran Premio de Madrid, whilst previewing the Polish Derby.

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Darren Thrussell, Editor
**News Round-Up - Germany**

**GERMAN DERBY FESTIVAL ROUND UP**

**KING REIGNS AGAIN IN GROUP 2 CONTEST**

The French-trained FRENCH KING, winner of the Group 2 Carl Jaspers Preis at Cologne in May, returned to Germany on Sunday to land another Group 2 contest, the pferdewetten.de Grosser Hansa-Preis, the first Group race of this year’s German Derby meeting at Hamburg.

Sent off the 2.6-1 favourite, the Henri-Alex Pantall-trained French King took up the running entering the final furlong of the 55,000 Euro contest as early leader Oriental Eagle weakened, and under top jockey Olivier Peslier came home by 2½ lengths from Royal Youmzain, with Colomano, second in this race last year, third this time round.

You can see Sunday’s race here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkbJ1cFWOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkbJ1cFWOw)

**FAVOURITE AXANA LANDS MONDAY HIGHLIGHT**

The Andreas Wöhler-trained AXANA lived up to her favourite tag when running out a comfortable winner of the big race on the third day of the German Derby festival, the Group 3 100 Jahre Hugo Phohe-Rennen at Hamburg on Monday.

Runner up behind English raider Main Edition in the German 1000 Guineas in May, Axana, ridden as usual by stable jockey Eddie Pedroza, hit the front 300 metres from home when squeezing between rivals Caesara and Peace of Paris, and stayed on in fine style for a 1 ½ length victory ahead of Shalona, who has also followed Axana home when third in the German 1000 Guineas. Madita, running like Axana in the colours of American-based owners Team Valor, was a neck back in third.

You can see the race here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F04snrcM_nQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F04snrcM_nQ)

Photo right: Trainer ANDREAS WÖHLER and jockey EDDIE PEDROZA, who teamed up to land the Group 3 100 Jahre Hugo Phohe-Rennen at Hamburg on Monday with the three year old filly AXANA (Photo copyright Darren Thrussell / Anglo German Racing).
SERIENLOHN TAKES LAKE RACE AS RECKE PAIR CRASH OUT

SERIENLOHN, one of two horses in the race for trainer Pavel Vovcenko, won a dramatic renewal of the Alpine Motorenöl Seejagdrennen lake race at Hamburg on Wednesday evening.

The Seejagdrennen lake race is a steeplechase unique to Germany, where horses must navigate their way through a lake as part of the course. Always a fabulous spectacle, there is usually drama in the race, and this year’s contest was no different as the Christian von der Recke-trained pair Box Office and Captain von Trappe, both carrying the colours of owner Gabriele Gaul, came to grief almost simultaneously in the lake section of the race. With Serienlohn having emerged from the lake relatively incident-free, the way was clear for the nine year old, last seen when winning the Swedish Grand National last month, to rack up another victory here, and under top Czech jockey Jan Faltejsek came home 7½ lengths clear from nearest rival Wutzelmann, with Turfrubin the only other finisher back in third under apprentice jockey Luca Murfuni, having only his second ever ride over jumps.

For jockey Faltejsek, who was also successful in this race last year aboard Peintre Elusif, Wednesday’s victory capped an excellent few days for the rider, who also landed two Group 1 jumps races at Merano in the Italian Alps on Sunday, and you can read about this on page 5 of the newsletter.


*Photo left: Jockey JAN FALTEJSEK, who rode the Pavel Vovcenko-trained SERIENLOHN to victory in a dramatic renewal of the Alpine Motorenöl Seejagdrennen lake race at Hamburg on Wednesday evening (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).*
FAVOURITE WALDPFAD LANDS SPRINT PRIZE

The 2.7-1 favourite WALDPFAD swooped late to lands the Group 3 Sparkasse Holstein Cup at Hamburg on Wednesday.

Settled in fifth of the seven strong field, Waldpfad was delivered with a perfectly timed run from Russian-born jockey Wladimir Panov to overhaul the Swedish-trained long time leader Ambiance, with Clear for Take Off, who like Waldpfad is trained by Dominik Moser for owner-breeder the Brümmerhof Stud, back in third.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxNtgntOs0w

DANISH KING RULES IN GROUP 3 CONTEST

Danish raider KING DAVID, regarded as one of the best middle distance horses in Scandinavia, put in a superb performance to win the Group 3 Grosser Preis von LOTTO Hamburg on Friday.

Held up last of the six runner for most of the 2000 metre contest, the Marc Stott-trained King David was taken to the inside of the course by jockey Oliver Wilson in the home straight, a move that paid dividends as King David pulled clear of his rivals, landing the 55,000 Euro event by 2½ lengths from the high class stayer Nikkei, with the filly Amorella back in third.

You can see the race here: https://www.racebets.com/en/horse-racing/race/details/id/2914015/external/91121

Jockey Wladimir Panov, who rode the Dominik Moser-trained WALDPFAD to victory in the Group 3 Sparkasse Holstein Cup at Hamburg on Wednesday (Archive photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).

MARC STOTT, who trained KING DAVID to win the Group 3 Grosser Preis von LOTTO Hamburg on Friday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
The 150th running of the German Derby takes place at Hamburg on Sunday, with a maximum field of sixteen runners set to take part.

The highest rated runner in the field on official ratings is the Andreas Wöhler-trained LACCARIO following his victory in the Group 2 Union Rennen at Cologne, seen as one of the main trails for this race. Displaying a fine turn of foot in the closing stages of the 2200 metre contest, Laccario sped away from favourite DJANGO FREEMAN to win by 2½ lengths, and both horses are set to be among the favourites on Sunday.

Trainer Markus Klug has won the last two runnings of the race, and the Cologne-based handler saddles five runners here, including Group 3 winner ACCON, maiden DSCHINGIS FIRST, the seemingly exposed SIBELIUS and BEAM ME UP, running right handed for the first time having only previously raced at Munich and Hannover.

A big outsider usually makes the frame in the German Derby, and MOONLIGHT MAN, the fifth of trainer Markus Klug’s quintet, could well fit the bill here. Never nearer that at the finish when second over 1700 metres in the Group 3 Dr. Busch Memorial at Krefeld in April, Moonlight Man was last seen in the Group 3 Iffezheimer Derby Trial at Baden-Baden, where the Reliable Man colt was a staying on fifth after appearing not to handle the left hands turns in the 2000 metre contest. Back to a right handed track and upped in trip, Moonlight Man, whose breeding suggests Sunday’s trip could be perfect for him, could go well at a big price here.

However, with rain forecast to fall at Hamburg, it may pay to follow horses with soft ground form, such as English-trained SURREY THUNDER, who makes the journey over from Joseph Tuite’s yard in Lambourn, A winner on soft ground at Windsor last October, Surrey Thunder showed his liking for testing conditions when second at decent odds in a Listed race at Saint Cloud in March.

Despite being drawn 15 of the 16 runners however, QUEST THE MOON could be the one to beat here. The Sea the Moon colt, trained in Munich by Sarah Steinberg, landed the Group 3 Prix du Lys at Longchamp beating the useful Godolphin pair Khagan and Moonlight Spirit, both of whom have been placed at Group 2 level since. With no runner in this year’s German Derby for trainer Peter Schiergen, his stable jockey Andrasch Starke has been snapped up to partner Quest the Moon, and having already won this race seven times, the rider is tipped for a record eighth victory here.

**PREDICTION:**

1st - 3 QUEST THE MOON
2nd - 1 LACCARIO
3rd - 7 SURREY THUNDER
4th - 5 MOONLIGHT MAN
5th - 2 DJANGO FREEMAN
JAN THE MAN IN GROUP 1 MERANO SUCCESSES

JAN FALTEJSEK proved once again that he was a jockey for the big occasion when riding the winners of both Group 1 races at Merano over the weekend.

The rider’s first victory came on Saturday aboard the five year old STUKE in the Gran Corsa Siepi d’Italia, the Italian Champion Hurdle. One of three runners in the race for Czech trainer Radek Holcak, Stuke burst through the pack approaching the final hurdle to land the 54,000 Euro contest by 2¾ lengths ahead of locally-trained favourite Live Your Life, with Champ de Bataille, winner of this race last year, third on this occasion.

Sunday saw the eleventh running of the Grande Steeplechase d’Europa, the European Grand National, sponsored by Hotel Rossl Merano. Once again, it was Faltejsek to the fore as the jockey rode the Josef Vana Jr-trained NOTTI MAGICHE to a start to finish victory, holding off the challenge of favourite Al Bustan under English jockey Andrew Glassonbury by 2½ lengths.

You can see both races here:

Gran Corsa Siepi d’Italia – Winner STUKE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjxglILnVo

Grande Steeplechase d’Europa – Winner NOTTI MAGICHE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y3hx7R_sEg

Jockey JAN FALTEJSEK, who rode the winners of both Group 1 races at Merano over the weekend, the Radek Holcak-trained STUKE in the Gran Corsa Siepi d’Italia, the Italian Champion Hurdle, and the Josef Vana Jr-trained NOTTI MAGICHE to a start to finish victory in the Grande Steeplechase d’Europa, the European Grand National (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing)
SPAIN: BRITISH RAIDER FOURTH AS LOCAL HOPE LANDS GRAN PREMIO

The Andrew Balding-trained Genetics finished fourth in Spain’s richest race of the year, the Gran Premio de Madrid, sponsored by Mahou, on Saturday evening as HIPODAMO DE MILETO lived up to his billing as Spain’s reigning Horse of the Year when landing the 85,000 Euro contest.

Sent straight into the lead the 2500 metre race by jockey Martin Dwyer, Genetics was bidding to become the first English-trained horse since 1974 to win the race. However, the field were in hot pursuit entering the closing stages, and Genetics’ lead soon evaporated as Hipodamo de Mileto burst out of the pack under French jockey Clement Cadel, powering away for a length victory from last year’s winner Zascandil, with Putomayo just getting the better of Genetics in a photo for third place.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psQGjpatSNg

IRISH-BRED FILLY LANDS HUNGARIAN DERBY

The Irish-bred filly GOLDEN SEA, runaway winner of the Hungarian 2000 Guineas in May, once again left the colts in her wake when winning the 97th running of the Group 1 Hungarian Derby at the Kincsem Park course in Budapest on Sunday.

Fifteen runners contested the 14,000,000 HUF (approx 43,280 Euro) Classic, however history was to be made as Golden Sea, ridden by her trainer Stanislav Georgiev, came home by 1¾ lengths from Lili, who herself won this year’s Hungarian 1000 Guineas, marking only the third ever occasion that fillies had filled the first two positions in the Hungarian Derby. For You, winner of four of his five starts including the Group 2 Alagi Dij before Sunday, was the first colt home in third.

You can see Sunday’s Hungarian Derby here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW1xE1TSKk

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SIDE WITH PRIDE IN POLISH DERBY

SEVENTEEN runners are set to line up for this year’s Polish Derby at the Sluzewiec course in Warsaw on Sunday.

Five of the runners in the 175,000 PLN (approx. 41,150 EUR) contest, which carries Group 1 status are trained by top handler Adam Wyzyk, who saddles GANCEGAL, a very impressive five lengths winner last time out and the mount of top Czech jockey David Liska, duel winner ALEX DREAM, CHAD, still a maiden after six starts, and the French-bred pair SALASAMAN and PLONTIER.

Swedish jockey Per-Anders Graberg won this race back in 2015 with the legendary Va Bank, and the Scandinavian returns to Poland to ride Ophelia’s Aidan, who was second in the Polish 2000 Guineas behind EMILIANO ZAPATA, who also lines up here. However both are unproven over Sunday’s race distance, and on breeding (Ophelia’s Aidan being by sprinter Camacho and a half brother to two sprinters and Emiliano Zapata by Group 1 winning sprinter Kheleyf out of a sprint bred mare), it may pay to look for a runner with proven stamina.

The Sea The Stars filly NEMEZIS stayed on really well over 2200 metres when winning at Warsaw last time out, and has chances here, along with fellow filly PLANTEA, whose winning run came to an end in the Polish 1000 Guineas when second, but despite not being proven at Sunday’s longer distance, breeding suggests Plantea could go well over this extended trip.

However, the Irish-bred Mount Nelson filly PRIDE OF NELSON won the Polish 1000 Guineas in May before landing the Nagroda Iwna last month, the main trial for the Polish Derby, with NOBLE EAGLE (second), SALASAMAN (fourth) ALEX DREAM (fifth) and PLONTIER (tenth) all re-opposing here. Having won her last four outings, Pride of Nelson, the mount on Sunday of top Czech jockey Tomas Lukasek, looks to be the one to beat here.

PREDICTION: PRIDE OF NELSON – PLANTEA – GANCEGAL - NEMEZIS – NOBLE EAGLE