Hello, and welcome to the latest Anglo German Racing Newsletter of 2018! In this edition, we look back on the 149th running of the German Derby, and preview a Group 2 race over a mile at Cologne.

Further afield, we review the Serbian Derby, whilst looking ahead to the Swedish and Slovakian versions of the classic. We also report on a return to steeplechasing for one of Russia’s top courses.

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Darren Thrussell, Editor

Dutch jockey ADRIE de VRIES, who rode WELTSTAR, one of three runners in the race for trainer Markus Klug, to victory in the 149th running of the German Derby at Hamburg on Sunday. There is a report and video of the race on the next page of this newsletter (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
WELT THE STAR IN GERMAN DERBY

The Markus Klug-trained WELTSTAR, one of three runners in the race for the trainer, has won the 149th running of the German Derby at Hamburg on Sunday, emulating his half brother Windstoss, who won the race last year.

Having raced mainly in sixth place during the 650,000 Euro contest, Weltstar made his move in the home straight, but was made to battle every inch of the way by stablemate Destino under jockey Martin Seidl, with only a neck separating them at the finish. Royal Youmzaim, sent off the 29:10 favourite, was back in third.

Although the victory was a third German Derby success for trainer Klug, it was a first ever win in the race for Dutch jockey Adrie de Vries. Having won his home Derby in Holland five times during the 1990’s, 48 year old de Vries, German champion jockey in 2014, was adding to his growing list of Group 1 victories, having already won races at that level in Germany, Italy, France, Bahrain and Qatar.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iun5vRXH98k

Photo left: Trainer MARKUS KLUG, who saddled WELTSTAR, one of three runners in the race for the trainer, to victory in the 149th running of the German Derby at Hamburg on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
A field of six go to post for the big race in Germany this Sunday, the Group 2 Meilen Trophy at Cologne over the metric mile, 1600 metres.

Although the winner of last year’s race, Dragon Lips, never raced in Germany after the race having been sold to Hong Kong, WONNEMOND (second), MILLOWITSCH (third) and DIPLOMAT (fourth) all do battle again here. However, despite passing the post first on his first two starts this year, Wonnemond was subsequently disqualified after testing positive for a banned substance, and was a somewhat disappointing seventh in the Badener Meile at Baden-Baden last time out having met some trouble in running in the home straight.

Following Wonnemond’s disqualification in the Group 3 Henkel Europa Meile at Düsseldorf in April, DEGAS, who finished second, was awarded victory. A winner on his own merits at Dortmund last time out, the Markus Klug-trained Degas is very closely matched with stablemate MILLOWITSCH on all known form, however slight preference between the two is for Millowitsch, a model of consistency having never been out of the first four in all seventeen of his races to date.

PALACE PRINCE was only half a length behind Degas in the aforementioned Dortmund race but is now two kilos worse off with the winner here, whilst DIPLOMAT, fifth in that contest, is winless in his last nineteen races, and looks to be up against it.

The only three year old in the race is also the only filly in the race. However MALAKEH was second in the German 1000 Guineas at Düsseldorf last time out, and although the form of that race hasn’t worked out too well, the Henk Grewe-trained filly receives at least 5½ kilos from all her rivals here, which could help her sneak into the places here. However, despite having to give weight way to all his rivals here, WONNEMOND is tipped to give trainer Sascha Smrczek and Mongolian-born jockey Bayarsaikhan Ganbat a big race success here.

PREDICTION: WONNEMOND - MILLOWITSCH - DEGAS - MALAKEH

Photo left: Mongolian-born jockey BAYARSAIKHAN GANBAT, who rides the well fancied WONNEMOND in the Group 2 Meilen Trophy at Cologne on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
ENGLISH IMPORT IN SHOCK SERBIAN DERBY VICTORY

English import MISS MAZZIE, who was winless in seven races for trainer Mick Easterby, was a surprise winner of the 96th Serbian Derby at Belgrade on Sunday.

The race, which was run over the standard Derby distance of 2400 metres, albeit on a sand surface, carried local Group 1 status, and featured the best current crop of Serbian three year olds. Miss Mazzie didn’t feature among the favourites before the race, being sent off at 26-1 by the local bookmakers. However, thanks to a positive ride from Slovakian born jockey Josef Parigal, who is now based in Hungary, the filly led all the way for a comprehensive six length victory over Hungarian import Smiling, who just got the better of race favourite Atil Trlic in a photo for second.

By French Group 3 sprint winner Mazameer out of dual selling plate winner Fizzy Lady, Miss Mazzie changed hands for just 1,000 Guineas at the Tattersalls Autumn Sales last year, and was a first big race success for her owner-trainer Vladimir Mladenovic, who at 25, is believed to be the youngest trainer ever to win a national Derby.

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

Anglo German Racing would like to thank Aleksandar Radovanovic for all his help with the above article.

STEEPLECHASING RETURNS TO TOP RUSSIAN COURSE

After an absence of many years, steeplechasing returns to the Russian course at Krasnodar on Saturday with the Sergei Nikolayevich Steeplechase, named in honour of one of the top Russian jockeys and trainers in the 1980s and 1990s, who died last year at the age of 55.

The 4000 metre course has fifteen various obstacles to be jumped, as well as some tricky twists and turns to negotiate. Five runners line up for the race, four of which have been regulars in hurdle races at Krasnodar recently. ILOIDA lit up the hurdles scene last year, winning four times, however was only fourth in a hurdle race here in May, where DODI, who re-appears again here, was second. CENTURION MAXIMUS was well beaten in both his runs over hurdles and looks to have plenty to find on the form book, however FANTASTIC has lived up to his name this year, winning both his hurdle races by a distance, (DODI back in fourth last time out), and looks to be the pick of the hurdlers here.

However, with those hurdle races having been staged at distances between 1800 and 2400 metres, Saturday’s 4000 metre steeplechase is a real step into the unknown, and it may pay to go with the one experienced steeplechaser in the race. SBRAK has been running in steeplechases in Rostov over the last 12 months, winning over 3600 metres in September. A Budenny (also known as Budyonny) breed horse, Sbrak was third over Saturday’s distance last time out, and although not quite in the same class as Russia’s top steeplechaser Vika Star, Sbrak’s experience over fences and distance makes him the logical choice here.

PREDICTION: SBRAK – FANTASTIC – ILOIDA
ENGLISH JOCKEY MARQUAND IN SWEDISH DERBY CHALLENGE

With prize money of 3,000,000 SEK (approx. 291,630 EUR), it’s no surprise that this year’s Swedish Derby has attracted a high class turnout of fifteen horses from all across Scandinavia, as well as a rare runner in Sweden from France, with one of England’s top young jockeys also making the journey to the Jägersro course in Malmo on Sunday.

Despite being French-bred, BARADE actually started his career in Sweden with trainer Fredrik Reuterskiöld, winning a maiden race at Jägersro in October. However, having switched to French trainer Nicolas Clement during the winter, Barade was an instant success in France, winning a Listed race at Chantilly on her debut for her new trainer. Despite being slightly disappointing in subsequent efforts at Longchamp and Lyon, Barade could well be one to watch here.

English jockey TOM MARQUAND rode a double in Madrid last month, and goes in search of more European glory here when he takes the ride on BUDDY BOB, one of two runners in the race for Norwegian trainer Wido Neuroth. However, Buddy Bob, like fellow Norwegian-trained raiders NORDIC DEFENSE and SQUARE DE LUYNES from the Niels Petersen yard, is unproven at the 2400 metre distance of Sunday’s race. Neuroth does however also have I AND I in the race, however although this Irish-bred colt won over 2160 metres at Ovrevoll in May, his one run on dirt saw him a disappointing fifth, and with Sunday’s race also being run on Jägersro’s dirt surface, I and I might not be encountering his favourite surface here.

Although King David, arguably Scandinavia’s best middle distance three year old at present, doesn’t run here, his Danish trainer Marc Stott is represented with GEMSTONE, who earned a wild card for this race when a runaway winner of the Bro Park Derby Trial, form which given him a big chance here.

However, SEA LIEUTENANT, trained at the Jägersro course by Chilean-born Francisco Castro, has been a revelation this year, completing a hat trick when landing the Svenskt Derby Trial over Sunday’s course and distance last month, with ARCTIC WALTZ (second), MIINTAKA (third), SHOWY SHAUN (fourth) and JOHNNYBEGOOD (eighth), all of whom reappear here. With the form of that race working out well, Sea Lieutenant could be the one to beat here.

PREDICTION: SEA LIEUTENANT – BARADE – GEMSTONE – ARCTIC WALTZ

Photo above left: Danish trainer MARC STOTT, who saddles the fancied GEMSTONE in Sunday’s Swedish Derby at Jägersro on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
DERBY WINNERS SET FOR SLOVAKIAN SHOWDOWN

The Hungarian-trained ESTI FENY aims to win his second Derby in the space of two weeks when he takes on thirteen rivals in the 64,000 Euro Slovakian Derby at Bratislava on Sunday.

Having already secured victory in the Hungarian Derby at Budapest earlier this month, Esti Feny is looking for a quick Derby double here, how the Csaba Zala-trained colt will not have it easy here against some decent opposition from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Austria, whose sole representative is the Tamara Richter-trained GUGUS DES BRIERES, who has actually done all of his racing in Slovakia. Gugus des Brieres won the Stanislav Rudu Memorial over Sunday’s course and distance last month, seen as a major trial for this race, but is 4 kilos worse off here with second placed RISK, who, having been beaten in a photo, can be expected to turn the form over here.

Gugus des Brieres’ only defeat in his three races came when sixth in the Slovakian 2000 Guineas, where DARKOLVA, one of nine Czech-trained raiders in Sunday’s contest, was third. Darkolva went on to contest last month’s Czech Derby finishing fifth behind BLESSED KISS, the only filly in Sunday’s race. MON CHERI, RES JUDICATA, FOREVER DRY, BLACK BARD, ORIENTAL GLORY, and THIS IS THE KEY, third, seventh, ninth, tenth, twelfth and fifteenth in the Czech Derby respectively, take on Blessed Kiss again here. The mount on Sunday (as she was in the Czech Derby) of Russian-born but German-based jockey Vladimir Panov, Blessed Kiss, bred in France but trained by Russian-born Igor Endaltsev, could be the one to beat again here, and is tipped to beat Esti Feny in the battle of the Derby winners.

PREDICTION: BLESSED KISS – ESTI FENY – MON CHERI – RISK – GUGUS DES BRIERES

Photo above left: Russian-born jockey VLADIMIR PANOV, who partners BLESSED KISS, trained by his countryman Igor Endaltsev, in the Slovakian Derby at Bratislava on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).