Hello, and welcome to the third Anglo German Racing Newsletter of 2016! In this issue, we look back on Group action from Düsseldorf, jumps racing from Slovakia and Sweden, and the first Classic of the season in Spain. There are in-depth horse by horse previews of a competitive steeplechase at the small south-west German course at Zweibrücken, and also of the Fegentri World Amateurs ladies race at Cologne. We also preview Group action in Cologne, the first weekend of the racing season in the Czech Republic, and the Spanish 2000 Guineas.

Darren Thrussell, Editor

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Action from the steeplechase course at Zweibrücken, where the third chase of the German season takes place this Sunday, and there is a race preview on page 4 of this newsletter. (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
LION'S ROAR SILENCED BY GUILIANI

The Jean Pierre Carvalho-trained GUILIANI defied a 3 kilo penalty to win the first German Group race of the 2016 season, the XTIP Fruejahrsmeile (Spring Mile) at Düsseldorf on Sunday. Having finished second in this corresponding race last year, Guiliani came with a perfectly timed run under jockey Filip Minarik to deny favourite Lucky Lion by ¾ length, with early leader Diplomat back in third.

'I wasn’t sure he could defy his penalty, but he’s put in an excellent performance. The jockey knows the horse well, and he did a great job’, said trainer Carvalho after the race, adding that the Group 1 Dallmayr Preis at Munich in July, a race Guiliani won last year, remains the main target at the moment. Carvalho did however add that the horse may also have an entry in another Group 1 contest, the Prix d'Ispahan at Chantilly next month.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EocHsV7DiiY

DUKE THE KING IN DERBY TRIAL

The Markus Klug-trained SWINGING DUKE displayed a terrific turn of foot to win the Listed XTIP Derby Trial at Düsseldorf on Sunday, in the process earning a quote of 120:10 with bookmakers Racebets for the German Derby itself at Hamburg in July.

Having won his only race as a two year old, Swinging Duke was a well-fancied 41:10 shot to win Sunday’s race, but a victory looked unlikely as the Duke of Marmalade colt was soon driven along by jockey Adrie de Vries entering the straight. However, Swinging Duke showed acceleration and stamina to sweep past favourite Zirconic Star in the closing stages for a 1¼ length victory.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1TdsdayP3c

Filip Minarik, who rode GUILIANI to win the first German Group race of the 2016 season, the XTIP Fruejahrsmeile (Spring Mile) at Düsseldorf on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).

Dutch jockey Adrie de Vries who took Sunday’s XTIP Derby Trial at Düsseldorf on the impressive SWINGING DUKE (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
FILLIES ON TRIAL IN COLOGNE

Ten fillies go to post for Sunday’s Group 3 Karin Baronin von Ullmann Schwarzgold Rennen, regarded as one of the top trials for this year's German 1000 Guineas and German Oaks. The contest carries 55,000 Euros in total prize money, and although there are no foreign challengers in the line up, it still promises to be a competitive affair.

Trainer Andreas Woehler has won the last two runnings of this race with Meerjungfrau and La Saldana, and has both QUIDURA, winner of her only race at Baden-Baden last September, and DOUBLE DREAM, fourth in the Group 3 Preis der Winterkönigin at Baden-Baden in October, the top race for two year old fillies. Since that race, Double Dream has been sold to the big spending Australian Bloodstock, for who she made a mightily impressive debut at Cologne last month. Another trainer doubly represented is Peter Schiergen, with Italian listed third LA MERCED possibly the pick of his two runners over BASTILLE, still a maiden after five races. DRAMATIC LIPS and TICKLE ME BLUE are slightly harder to assess, each having won their only race to date, whilst PARVANEH comes into the reckoning on the back of a third place against the colts in a Group 3 race at Krefeld back in November. WHOLE LOTTA ROSIE was two lengths behind Double Dream at Cologne in September, having previously finished fifth in a hot Group 3 contest at Baden-Baden earlier that month.

However, DHABA, one of two runners in the race for trainer Markus Klug (photo right, copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing), looks the one to beat here after winning a 52,000 Euro sales race at Dortmund in September, and following that up with victory in the Group 3 Preis der Winterkönigin at Baden-Baden in October (Double Dream back in fourth). This form looks a cut above her rivals here, and she is tipped to give trainer Klug and Dutch jockey Adrie de Vries their second Pattern winner of the German season after Swinging Duke took the Listed XTIP Derby Trial at Düsseldorf on Sunday.

PREDICTION: DHABA – DOUBLE DREAM – PARVANEH – WHOLE LOTTA ROSIE
1. COYAIQUE (ARG) 408F-24  
Jockey: Marco Waterschoot  
Trainer: Thierry de Vlaminck (Belgium)  
Suffered an injury in Mannheim last May that kept him off the track for several months, but returned to action with a fine second place finish in the Krefeld steeplechase last month. Followed that up with a good fourth in a very decent chase at Mannheim two weeks ago. Looks certain to go close here and give jockey Mario Waterschoot, who returned to the saddle earlier this year after retiring as a flat jockey several years ago, a great ride round in his first ever steeplechase.

2. MIDNIGHT GAME (GB) 4543P6  
Jockey: Vlastislav Korytar  
Trainer: Christine Paraknewitz-Kalla  
Was previously trained on France, England and Ireland, where he developed into a decent hurdler for top trainer Willie Mullins, getting within a few lengths of world class stars such as Hurricane Fly and Un De Sceaux, form which earned him a rating 150 at his peak. Spent last season with English trained Brian Ellison and mixed hurdling and chasing with varied results, however his second place finishes in very decent hurdle races at Newcastle and Ayr last year show that he still retains some ability, and could well be the one to beat here on his German debut.

3. SUPERVISOR (GER) 3343P-7  
Jockey: Julian Marinov  
Trainer: Cornelia Schmock  
Has been a regular feature in German steeplechases over the years, and put up some decent performances last season, particularly when second in the Listed Badenia Steeplechase at Mannheim in May, one of Germany’s biggest jumps contests. May well find this twisty course to his liking, but was well beaten on his seasonal reappearance at Mannheim earlier this month, and maybe at the age of 12, is finally catching up with this grand old servant of German steeplechasing.

4. INDIAN SUN (GER) 4FP/587-  
Jockey: Matej Rigo  
Trainer: Joerdis-Ina Meinecke  
Was widely regarded as the best steeplechaser in Germany a few years ago, however the form of this eleven year old mare seems to have been on the decline recently, and he was well beaten on all three starts last season. Needs to find her old form to figure here, which looks unlikely.

5. FLOROSSO (GER)  
Jockey: Dirk Fuhrmann  
Trainer: Klaus Kogler (Austria)  
Has yet to race over obstacles, however this is hardly surprising given that the horse is trained in Austria, a country that hasn’t staged jumps racing for over 10 years now. Does however possess some fine German flat form, and won three decent handicaps last year. Has an experienced jockey in the saddle who has ridden at the top level in Europe, and could go well if taking to the fences.

6. GELONA (GER)  
Jockey: Cevin Chan  
Trainer: Elfi Schnakenberg  
This half-bred mare has put up some decent performances in races for her own breed, winning at Bad Harzburg last July. Has struggled in thoroughbred flat races however, and despite the German champion jumps jockey in the saddle, looks unlikely to feature on her jumping debut here.

7. RONNIE ROCKCAKE (GB) 7-06770/  
Jockey: Paul Johnson  
Trainer: Christian von der Recke  
Didn’t achieve much in three bumper and four hurdle races in England a couple of years ago, but won a flat race at Sonsbeck last month, and is sure to have been schooled well by his trainer. A very interesting contender, and not one to be dismissed lightly.

8. SAOLA (GER) 3P5/78/  
Jockey: Sonja Daroszewski  
Trainer: Elfi Schnakenberg  
Started her career with Munich based Irish trainer John Hills before being sold to race in the Czech Republic, where she ran five time over jumps, the best result when third in a hurdle at Pardubice. Has since returned to Germany, but despite winning at Hamburg last July, has finished last in four of her last five races, and is passed over here.

9. TINKERS LANE (IRE) 24/7466-  
Jockey: Lukas Sloup  
Trainer: Christine Paraknewitz-Kalla  
Didn’t really perform as well as expected following his move from England to Germany last year, has been well beaten in all four of his jumps races in Germany, and was a tailed off seventh in this race last year.

10. NASUADA (FR) 21-FPPP  
Jockey: Fabian Xaver Weissmeier  
Trainer: Regine Weissmeier  
This four year old French import won a hurdle race at Cagnes sur Mer in December, form which gives her a big chance here. Did however take a crashing fall at the same course in January, and has been pulled up in all three of her subsequent starts. Has a major shout on her old form, but confidence must be taken on trust.

VERDICT:  
An excellent turnout for the first of two steeplechases at Zweibrücken this year. Coyaique was fourth in this race last year, but comes into Sunday’s race in arguably better form this time round. Several horses make their chase debuts here, with English import Ronnie Rockcake and Austrian raider Florosso possibly the pick, whilst the ex-French trained Nasuada has a chance on her old form, but has failed to finish in her last four races. However, MIDNIGHT GAME has decent English and Irish jumps form over the last couple of seasons, often runs well fresh, and is taken to land the spoils here.

PREDICTION:  
1st – 2 MIDNIGHT GAME  
2nd – 1 COYAIQUE  
3rd – 7 RONNIE ROCKCAKE  
4th – 5 FLOROSSO
RACE PREVIEW – LONGINES WORLD FEGENTRI CHAMPIONSHIP FOR LADY RIDERS
COLOGNE, GERMANY – SUNDAY 17TH APRIL 2016 – CLASS 4 HANDICAP, 2400 METRES

PREVIEW (Also available in the Fegentri section of our website at http://anglogermanracing.com/en/?page_id=40)

1. BIN MANDURO (GB) 2000-77
Jockey: Alice Bertiaux (Belgium)
This English import had some fine form at the start of last year, filling the runner up slots in three handicaps at Mannheim, Zweibrücken and Saarbrücken. Has however been really disappointing since then, appears out of form at present, and also has to carry top weight here.

2. CATTERMOLE (GER) 94-3
Jockey: Josephine Chini (Sweden)
Has been largely disappointing in three races so far, last time out when a well beaten third of four runners at Sonsbeck last month. However, makes his handicap debut here, and trainer Christian von der Recke won this corresponding race last year with a similar unexposed type. Could well be open to improvement, and in a race where there are question marks about several of these, Cattermole could be one to watch here.

3. DANCE WITH ME (FR) 5212-71
Jockey: Larissa Biess (Germany)
Was an impressive winner on the all weather course at Dortmund last time out, following up on some equally good performances at the same course over the winter season. Does however also have decent turf form, most notably when second at Krefeld in April last year. Is a horse in form right now, and is the logical choice here.

4. PRINCESS DUMONT (GER) 424-785
Jockey: Silja Storen (Norway)
Another horse who has been running on the all weather courses recently, this eight year old mare's best recent performance would probably be her second place finish in a Neuss handicap back in November. However, has been very disappointing in three races at Cologne, and does seem to save her best turf form for the smaller courses. Also seems badly handicapped at present.

5. MOYA (GER) 0078-70
Jockey: Celina Weber (Switzerland)
This Dutch-trained raider represents the in-form stable of Christian Wolters, who had a winner on Sunday at Zweibrücken, but Moya has been well beaten in all six of her races so far, finishing last in three of them. Is easily passed over here.

6. EARLY GUEST (GER) 8-84119
Jockey: Lara Le Geay (France)
Notched up a couple of victories on the all weather surface at Neuss in February this year, and also ran well in two Fegentri races last year when second at Düsseldorf in May and fourth at Baden-Baden in August. Dropped out very tamely as if something was amiss at Dortmund last time out, but is proven at this level, and can be relied upon to put in another consistent performance here.

7. FAYTOSA (GER) 344-079
Jockey: Hana Jurankova (Australia)
Finished fourth in this corresponding race last year when ridden by French representative Marie Rollando, and has some fine form over this course and distance, particularly when third here in a decent handicap in May. Has been disappointing in three runs this year, but could run well at a decent price if rediscovering her old form.

8. RED RUNNER (GER) 52-8495
Jockey: Debora Fioretti (Italy)
Put up some decent performances when joining trainer Marco Klein’s yard last year. Was a shade disappointing this year, but put up a fine performance when fifth on his home course at Mannheim last time out, only losing third in a photo finish. Had Faytosa behind that day, and although cheekpieces worn that day are left off here, Red Runner could go well off joint bottom weight.

VERDICT:
A typically open and trappy handicap for this year’s Fegentri Ladies race at Cologne. Early Guest and Faytosa are becoming regulars in these kind of races, and merit respect at the bottom of the handicap, along with Red Runner. Cattermole represents last year’s winning trainer and has a similar profile to Vabinsaru, who took this race last year. However DANCE WITH ME won last time out, has been largely consistent recently, and looks the one to beat here.

PREDICTION:
1ST – 3 DANCE WITH ME
2ND – 2 CATTERMOLE
3RD – 6 EARLY GUEST
4TH – 8 RED RUNNER
5TH – 7 FAYTOSA
CZECH RAIDER TAKES SLOVAKIAN CHASE

The racing season in Slovakia started last Sunday at the Petrzalka course in Bratislava, with the highlight of the nine race card the 43rd running of the Jarna Cena Petrzalky steeplechase. Whilst chasing in Slovakia is nowhere near as big as in the neighbouring Czech Republic, Sunday’s race was a competitive affair, with victory going to the British-bred Czech-trained MANIFESTATION under jockey Dusan Andres, who took up the running from long time leader Vanalco as the race entered its closing stages, and came away on the bridle for an easy win with fellow Czech raiders Pareto and Prvni Laski in second and third respectively.

You can see the race here: http://www.metoo.sk/dostihy?relacia=43-jarna-cena-petrzalky-7

SWEDEN: FAVOURITE ROCK SOLID IN STEEPLECHASE

The Dennis Persson-trained ROCKINGER has won the first steeplechase of the Swedish racing season, the Blommerod Steeplechase held the small provincial track at Blommerod, some 50 kilometres north east of Malmo last Saturday. Third last time out in a decent steeplechase at Krefeld back in November, Rockinger and stable jockey Niklas Loven won the 3700 metre event from stablemate Torres and jockey Christopher Roberts, with English import The Scarlett Woman, bought at the Doncaster Sales in January by trainer Anders Herlin, back in third under Kim Stern.

The course at Blommerod is one of the lesser known in Sweden, and has a feel and style more akin to an English point to point course, as the racing takes place in open country with no rails. This is a unique spectacle that is worth watching and you can see Sunday’s race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSgoMeANgJY

SPAIN: AVENUE STREETS AHEAD IN FILLIES CLASSIC

The French-bred AVENUE DARGENT got up in the final strides to take the first classic of the year in Spain, the Gran Premio Valderas (1000 Guineas) at the La Zarzuela course in Madrid on Sunday. Ridden by jockey Borja Fayos Martin, Avenue Dargent denied long time leader Miss Moneypenny in a terrific finish, with Bruneta back in third under English-based Italian jockey Andrea Atzeni.

You can see the race here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28qnJtT84t0

Swedish rider Niklas Loven, who rode the Dennis Persson-trained ROCKINGER to victory in the first steeplechase of the Swedish season at Blommerod on Saturday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
MAJOR RACES – WROCLAW, POLAND

Sunday, 7 June

1. NAGRODA PREZYDENTA MIASTA WROCLAWIA
   (Category A)
   Entry fee 1650zł. Entry date 28 May 2015 by 9.00am.

2. NAGRODA PREZYDENTA MIASTA SOPOTU
   18000 zł (7500-3750-3000-2250-1500) International steeplechase for five year olds and upward. Weights: 5yo 68kg, 6yo+ 69kg. Penalties: for each 12,000 zł above 48,000 zł won in a chase since 1 July 2014 – 0.5kg. Allowances: horses which have run in a chase – 2kg, horses which have won 2,500 zł in a chase – 2.5kg, for each additional 2,500 zł – 0.5kg. Allowances: fillies – 2kg. No allowances for rider category. (4000m).
   Entry fee 380zł. Entry date 28 May 2015 by 9.00am.

3. STEEPLECHASE 18000 zł (7500-3750-3000-2250-1500) A series for 4-year-olds under the patronage of the Lower Silesia Horseracing Society International steeplechase for four year olds. Weights: 63kg. Penalties: horses which have run in a chase – 2kg, horses which have won 5,000 zł in a hurdle since 1 July 2014 – 3kg, 8,000 zł – 2kg, 16,000 zł – 1kg, 4yo fillies and 5&6yo mares – 2kg. No allowances for rider category. (3600m).
   Entry fee 380zł. Entry date 28 May 2015 by 9.00am.

4. HURDLE 14400 zł (6000-3000-2400-1800-1200) International hurdle for four year olds and upward. Weights: 4yo 66kg, 5yo+ 69kg. Allowances: horses which have not won 5,000 zł in a hurdle since 1 July 2014 – 3kg, 8,000 zł – 2kg, 16,000 zł – 1kg, 4yo fillies and 5&6yo mares – 2kg. No allowances for rider category. (3200m).
   Entry fee 350zł. Entry date 28 May 2015 by 9.00am.

Throughout 2016, Wroclaw is staging several high quality racedays featuring both jumps and flat racing, and on Sunday 19th June is proud to stage the first ever Crystal Cup cross country race to be held in Poland, with the view to becoming a full member of the series in 2017.

For more information on all the races at Wroclaw this year, as well as race entry forms, please go to http://www.torpartynice.pl/english/race-conditions/

CZECHS BOUNCE INTO ACTION ON SATURDAY

After a delay which saw the first two meetings of the season cancelled, racing in the Czech Republic finally begins this season with a nine race card at Mimon on Saturday, where the feature race is the Cena Firmy Michlovskeho Protlahy hurdle, where the Filip Neuberg-trained ILLUMINATI looks the one to beat.

The action moves to the Velka Chuchle track at Prague on Sunday, where the eight race all flat card is headed by the Memorial Rudolfa Deyla class 1 race for three year old fillies, a race that is often seen as a pointer to next month’s Czech 1000 Guineas.

FRENCH ACES BID FOR SPANISH CLASSIC GLORY

Eleven horses go to post for the second classic of the year in Spain, the Gran Premio Cimera (2000 Guineas) at the La Zarzuela course in Madrid on Sunday. Favourite looks to be the home-bred Diktat colt ARGUERO, who completed a four timer in a trial for this race last month, and had three of Sunday’s rivals well behind, including third placed MAHON, who will be ridden of Sunday by top French jockey Vincent Cheminaud. Another Frenchman, Stephane Pasquier takes the ride on the grey colt MALTE BRUN, who must have a big chance here after victory last time at Cagnes sur Mer back in February.