Hello, and welcome to the fourth Anglo German Racing Newsletter of 2016! In this issue, we look back on jumps racing at Zweibrücken and flat action from Cologne, which featured the Fegentri World Amateurs ladies race and a Group 3 fillies race. We also preview Tuesday's evening meeting at Cologne, and report on a big name from the world of football who is seeking success in the racing world at Mulheim on Saturday. We also preview big races in Krefeld and Hoppegarten, and further afield, we report on history being made in the Spanish 2000 Guineas. There are also previews of upcoming races in Italy and Poland.

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Action from the steeplechase course at Zweibrücken, where the third chase of the German season took place last Sunday, and there is a race report on the next page of this newsletter. (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
The eleven year old mare INDIAN SUN rolled back the years to win the Preis der Landesbausparkasse Rheinland-Pfalz steeplechase at Zweibrücken on Sunday afternoon. Ridden by Slovakian jockey Matej Rigo, Indian Sun was regarded as the top steeplechaser in Germany a couple of seasons ago, but had been bitterly disappointing in her last four races over the last 12 months, including a well beaten fifth in the race last year. However, given an aggressive ride this time around, with jockey Rigo managing to avoid the riderless Ronnie Rockcake on two potentially tricky situations, Indian Sun was somewhere near to her best as she got the better of the former Willie Mullins-trained Midnight Game by a neck in a terrific finish with Belgian raider Coyaique running on for third under jockey Mario Waterschoot, riding in his first ever steeplechase at the age of 42.

There was however a sting in the tail for winning jockey Rigo, who received an eight day ban running from May 1st until May 8th inclusive. This means that the jockey will miss the Listed Badenia steeplechase at Mannheim on May 8th, regarded by many as the biggest steeplechase in Germany

You can see Sunday’s race here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZwWhYu3WUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZwWhYu3WUw)
EARLY ON TIME IN LADIES FEGENTRI RACE

The Kerstin Hartmann-trained EARLY GUEST, ridden by French jockey Lara Le Geay, was an easy winner of the Excelsior Preis - Longines World Fegentri Championship for Lady Riders at Cologne on Sunday, the first Fegentri Ladies race to be held in Europe this year. The seven year old Early Guest, who finished fourth in the Fegentri Gentlemen’s race at Baden-Baden last year, was an easy eight length winner of Sunday’s event ahead of Faytosa under Austrian rider Hana Jurankova, with Red Runner under Italian jockey Debora Fioretti just getting third in a photo from favourite Dance With Me and German rider Larissa Biess.

You can see the race here: https://www.racebets.com/en/horse_racing/race/details/id/1865699/external/7721

Sunday’s victory lifted winning rider Le Geay to third place in this year’s Longines Fegentri Ladies World Rankings, only three points behind current joint leaders in the ladies championship, Austrian jockey Hana Jurankova and Swiss rider Celina Weber.

PARVANEH FLIES TO GROUP 3 SUCCESS

Sunday’s Group 3 Karin Baronin von Ullmann Schwarzwald Rennen at Cologne saw one of the most amazing finishes one is likely to see this season anywhere on a racecourse!!

Despite being TENTH of the eleven runners as the field entered the final furlong, the Waldemar Hickst-trained PARVANEH stormed through the field to land the 55,000 Euro contest under French jockey Marc Lerner by ½ length from La Mercéd, with the well fancied Dhaba the same distance back in third. Parvaneh, whose name means ‘butterfly’ in Farsi, is now 9-1 with bookmakers Racebets for next month’s German 1000 Guineas.

You can see Parvaneh’s stunning performance here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZwMqzIBTrE

Elsewhere at Cologne, the stars of the show were trainer Markus Klug and stable jockey Adrie de Vries, who completed a four timer with La Dynamite, Degas, Antalya, and Dynastie, the last named scoring on her debut for new owners Galopp Club Deutschland.

Dutch jockey Adrie de Vries, who rode four winners at Cologne on Sunday for his main retainer, trainer Markus Klug (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
CLASSIC CREDENTIALS TESTED IN KREFELD TRIAL

The Group 3 Dr. Busch Memorial, sponsored this year by SWK Stadtwerke Krefeld, is regarded as one of the main Classic trials in Germany, with several recent winners if the race having gone on to big race glory. Eight horses go to post for this year’s renewal, the possible favourite being NOOR AL HAWA from the stable of Andreas Wöhler, one of three trainers with two horses in the race. The choice of stable jockey Eddie Pedroza, Noor Al Hawa went into many people’s notebooks after a six length victory in a Listed race at Düsseldorf in September, and although the form of that race hasn’t worked out too well, the manner of the win means that Noor Al Hawa must be respected here. Wöhler also runs the Swiss-bred VOLCANCITO, a winner at Munich last time out. However, the horse was well beaten in a 200,000 Euro contest at Baden-Baden before that, which was won by MILLOWITSCH, trained by Markus Klug, currently leading the trainer’s championship. However, despite winning three of his four races, Millowitsch was beaten in his only race at Group level at Baden-Baden in September, and is unproven at this distance, unlike stablemate EL LOCO, who lost out in a photo finish over Sunday’s course and distance last November to PARTHENIUS, who is trained at Krefeld by Mario Hofer. A winner at Munich in October before his Krefeld success, Parthenius is a full brother to 2012 German Derby winner Pastorius, and although Pastorius was only fourth in this race four years ago, Parthenius is taken to win this, with El Loco once again making him fight all the way for victory.

PREDICTION: PARTHENIUS – EL LOCO – NOOR AL HAWA

BROTHERS DO BATTLE IN COLOGNE SHOWDOWN

The first evening turf racemeeting of the year in Germany takes place at Cologne on Tuesday, with a very interesting duel in the first race, the Jakob Isola Rennen, a conditions race over 2200 metres (about 1 mile 3 furlongs). Although only having four horses presently in training, Mannheim-based owner-breeder Gabriele Gaul sees two of her horses, 2014 German Derby fourth ERIC, and EASTSITE ONE, who at four is a year younger, do battle in the race. Both horses are out of ERICARROW, who landed a Listed hurdle race for owner Gaul at Baden-Baden back in 2009. Eric, by Tertullian, and Eastsite One, by Mamool, are up against seven other runners, the pick of which may well be the Markus Klug-trained SPACE COWBOY, last seen when fourth in a Group 3 contest at Frankfurt in May last year.

Gabriele Gaul, owner-breeder of ERIC and EASTSITE ONE, who do battle in the Jakob Isola Rennen at Cologne on Tuesday evening (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).
GERMAN QUARTET AMONG ROYAL ASCOT ENTRIES

Entries have been released for the top races in this year’s Royal Ascot meeting, one of the most famous and celebrated racemeetings in the world. As well as entries from France, the USA, Japan and Australia, this year’s meeting sees four entries from Germany, two from the top stable of Andreas Wöhler. Both ALEX MY BOY and WASIR are entered in the Ascot Gold Cup, the feature race on Ladies Day, Thursday 16th June, whilst the Jean-Pierre Carvalho-trained ITO, winner of the Group 1 Grosser Preis von Bayern at Munich in November, holds an entry in the Prince of Wales Stakes on Wednesday 15th June. The final German-trained entry hails from the stables of Markus Münch, a former professional footballer who now trains in Frankfurt. Despite having only a handful of horses in his yard, Münch sent out the three year old Siyouni filly SPECTRE to win a Group 3 contest at Maisons Laffitte earlier this month, a performance which now sees the horse earn an entry in the Coronation Stakes on Friday 17th June.

BREEDERS CUP ANNOUNCES GERMAN RACES

Two German races are part of this year’s Breeders’ Cup Challenge series featuring 77 races from racetracks around the world, the Group 2 T. von Zastrow Stutenpreis, and the Group 1 Longines Grosser Preis von Baden, a race which is also part of the German Racing Champions League. Both these races take place during the ‘Grosser Woche’ racing festival at Baden-Baden in September.
SPAIN: PORTUGUESE RUNNER CREATES CLASSIC HISTORY

The English-bred gelding FLANDERS FLAME, formerly trained by Richard Fahey, was a phenomenal winner of the Gran Premio Cimera (Spanish 2000 Guineas) at the La Zarzuela course in Madrid on Sunday. Despite being sent off a 19.8-1 outsider on the local tote, Flanders Flame stormed clear in the closing stages for a 7½ length victory from favourite Arguero, with Irish-bred Ombos back in third.

You can see the race here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCFGGSgGCR4

What makes the victory even more amazing is that Flanders Flame is believed to be the first ever Classic winner trained in Portugal. Despite having no horseracing as such in their home country, trainer Helder Pereira and jockey Ricardo Sousa teamed up to win the 51,000 Euros contest with the horse, who Pereira bought for just 2,000 Guineas at the Tattersall’s Autumn Horses In Training auction last year.

ITALY: JOCKEY LEGEND GOES FOR CLASSIC GLORY

Eleven fillies go to post for the Premio Regina Elena, the Italian 1000 Guineas at Rome on Sunday, with the only overseas runner coming from the French stable of François Rohaut. AL HAYYAH, who came out worst in a three way photo at Fontainebleau last month having won on her debut at Cagnes-sur-Mer in February, will be partnered by legendary jockey Frankie Dettori, who is riding for his retaining owner, Qatari-based Al Shaqab Racing. However, the French-trained raider has to overcome the unbeaten local hope VICTIM OF LOVE, who racked up her third victory with an eight length success at Rome earlier this month, and represents the all-conquering combination of trainer Stefano Botti and jockey Fabio Branca.

POLAND: JUMPS ACTION STARTS AT WROCLAW

Wroclaw in south-west Poland stage their first meeting of the year with an eight race card comprising of three flat races, three steeplechases and two hurdle races, one of which, the Dr. Aleksander Falewicz Hurdle, could well be the best race on the card, as it brings together two of Central Europe’s potentially exciting jumps horses. INFERNA, trained locally by Robert Swiatek, was an impressive winner of a steeplechase at Krefeld in Germany last month, whilst CHEEKY CHAPPIE, winner of the Czech Derby and St. Leger in 2014, was awarded a race on his debut over hurdles at Pardubice in October after Laurian, first past the post, was disqualified after his jockey Pavel Kasny weighed in light. Dusan Andres will once again be in the saddle of Inferna, as he was at Krefeld last month, whilst Cheeky Chappie will be ridden as he was at Pardubice by Marek Stromsky, who has gone back on his decision to retire back in January, and returned to the saddle at Bratislava earlier this month.

Krefeld chase winner INFERNA, one of the favourites for the Dr. Aleksander Falewicz Hurdle at Wroclaw on Sunday (Photo copyright Stefanie Ihlenburg / Anglo German Racing).