



# NEWS Ticker

By Ina El Kobbia  
Germany

## Looking Ahead to the Olympics:

This year's International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams (27th April - 1st May 2007) at Kasselmans in Hagen, Germany, carried the motto Horses & Dreams meets China. The Festival was officially opened by the host Ullrich Kasselmann and the Chinese Ambassador to Germany H.E. Ma Canrong on the 27th of April 2007. With spectacular horse shows and presentations from the world famous Chinese Circus, the Festival attracted more than 50,000 visitors. Along with the German Dressage Championships for Professionals and the Nations' Cup in Jumping for the young riders, the Grand Prix Jumping for the best young talents was one of the true highlights; German female rider Anna Kamps won the Jumping Competition in a challenging course with a height of 1.45 m. The only Egyptian participant, young talent Abdul Said, member of the Team Harmony of Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, managed an honourable 5th place. One of the wonderful experiences at Kasselmans is that you can still watch the top riders training in a more family like atmosphere during the warm-up; watching Germany's grand stylist and exceptional rider Marcus Ehning is a most cherishing moment. Like hardly anyone else, Marcus exemplifies perfect elegance and harmony between horse & rider; you never notice any rough behaviour from the rider towards his horse. At the Festival in Hagen he won the Grand Prix of Hagen on his horse 'Sandro Boy'. Next year's Horses & Dreams Festival will carry the motto: Horses & Dreams meets America.



*Horses & Dreams festival 2007 in Hagen with Marcus Ehning.*

*Photo by: J. Beck*

*Young Egyptian Jumping talent, Abdul Said, successfully competing in Hagen.*

*Photo by: J. Beck*



## Tradition since 1920

The Hamburg Jumping Derby took place from the 17th until the 20th of May. Since 1920 the world's longest course (1230 meters!) has remained unchanged, with the same natural barriers and obstacles. It was Edvard Pulvermann who established the original course, consisting of 17 obstacles. The most challenging being the three meter natural barrier, the so called 'Holstein Height,' followed by a 1.60m high plank! The first two clear rounds at the finals were to the British rider Richard Robinson on 'Olli Pop' and the Swedish female rider Linda Heed, followed by the three German riders Thomas Kleis, Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst and Andreas Thieme. The decision came after the jump off, determining German Andreas Thieme and his wonderful 11 year old horse 'Nacorde' as the winners of the Hamburg Jumping Derby 2007.



Two of the world's best at the warm-up in Hagen; Jessica Kuerten and Ludger Beerbaum.

Photo by: J. Beck



## Summer Traineeship from Cairo Ferousia Club to Hagen at Kasselmanns

Laura Lusche, pupil at the German School in Cairo (Dokki) and daughter of Harald Lusche, German Lufthansa Cargo Manager based in Cairo, completed a two week summer traineeship in June at the equestrian premises of Kasselmann in Hagen. When Laura, her mother Marianne and I reached the premises, Laura's first comment was: "It is a very big place, much bigger than the Ferousia Club." Her eyes were telling us: "Will I ever be able to manage it here!" Two weeks later I met a very relaxed Laura. I asked her, if she still thinks that the premises are so big. "Yes", she answered, "but I have got an overview now". Laura took me around the yard and explained to me: "At first I started my traineeship at the dressage stable then quickly moved to the jumping stable, which is my favourite at the moment, since I have started training with Khaled Assem at the Ferousia Club and entered several jumping competitions in Egypt". She continued: "I learned a lot during my traineeship, above all how much work and passion it takes to run a professional stable like this. Of course I particularly enjoyed riding here and the training lessons I had with Dutch trainer Arno Neessen. It is a beautiful place and I am already looking forward to writing the report about my stay here for school!"



A nice gathering after work in Kasselmann's garden. From left: Ullrich Kasselmann, Laura Lusche, her parents Marianne & Harald Lusche (Lufthansa Cargo Manager in Cairo) and Francois Kasselmann, son of Ullrich Kasselmann.

## New Horse Academy near Berlin

The Andrea Kutsch Academy is a private educational institution in equine communication science. The Academy is supported by German and foreign universities. The three year programme is practice oriented and is based on modern ethological and scientific methods, which ban any form of violence. Andrea Kutsch, who runs the Academy, was herself the first German student of the internationally renowned horse trainer & horse communicator, American Monty Roberts.



New Equestrian Academy opened near Berlin; Andrea Kutsch together with her former teacher, the world famous horse communicator, Monty Roberts.

## CHIO Aachen 2007

One year after the World Equestrian Games in 2006, Aachen sparkled again in July 2007 with the world famous CHIO Aachen; the "Wimbledon of equestrian sport", as many enthusiasts call the annual international festival CHIO Aachen. Legendary horseman Hans Guenter Winkler once said: "You have to have won in Aachen to be somebody in equestrian sport!"



*Still the world's best Isabell Werth & Satchmo topped last year's results at the World Equestrian Games at this year's CHIO Aachen.*

*Photo by: Eva-K. Schubert*

As a four time Olympic winner, four time World champion, eleven time European champion, and six time National champion, the charismatic German female dressage rider Isabell Werth is the world's best! Together with her beloved horse 'Satchmo' she presented her new breathtaking freestyle to music kur in Aachen. Both horse and rider showed the highest possible level of artistic performance in this beautiful discipline; additionally the classical music captured the hearts of everybody watching and listening. At the end of the performance the audience couldn't but stand up with endless cheers for this most outstanding couple, Isabell Werth & Satchmo, the exceptional winners of the Grand Prix Freestyle of Aachen 2007.

The Nations' Cup in Jumping was the hottest topic at CHIO Aachen. Many still had the World Equestrian Games 2006 in mind, when German talent Marcus Ehning and his mare 'Noltes-Kuechengirl' jumped into the wall-fence during their performance on the course. This made the earlier dream about a team gold medal in jumping for Germany at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen impossible. When the Nations Cup in Jumping started



*Marcus Ehning at CHIO Aachen 2007; the greatest example of true horsemanship.*

*Photo by: J. Beck*

this time, all eyes were on the first rider, Marcus Ehning and 'Kuechengirl' (still a mare of just 9 years). This time the couple showed its usual strength and proved it is back on track. Ehning and his mare presented a nice, confident ride with no mistakes through an extremely challenging course, built by renowned course designer Frank Rothenberger. The other members of the German team Christian Ahlmann on 'Coester', Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum on her Hanoverian 'Shutterfly' and Ludger Beerbaum on 'Goldfever' remained all clear in the first round; equally, the Swiss team with the world's current no.1, Marcus Fuchs, stood clear after the first round. However in the second round the Swiss team collected several mistakes, whereas the German team finished with only one mistake, making it a clear and jubilant outcome for the German jumping team, winning the Nations Cup in a phenomenal way. Marcus Ehning could also have won the prize of the Dubai Equestrian Club in Aachen. But when it came to the extra discipline of changing horses, his young stallion 'For Germany' refused all other riders, which meant, as a consequence, that each of the other riders had to take a penalty of 24 mistakes. Marcus Ehning who had the lead at first with just four penalty points, voluntarily retired from his round without even participating in the jump off. "I felt I had to fairly balance things out", he commented later on. "I didn't want to win, just because my horse disobeyed the other riders; that wouldn't have been a nice win", he said. Thus Marcus Ehning showed true horsemanship, which made him the most amiable sportsman in Aachen. At the end the prize was to the World champion of last year, Jos Lansink, Marcus Ehning took third place!

From the point of view of an audience member, I would like to conclude my report about this year's CHIO Aachen, by noting that the wonderful dressage rider Isabell Werth & her horse Satchmo, made history in Aachen by their most outstanding freestyle to music kur. Marcus Ehning will be remembered, as the exceptional jumping rider that he is, by his true horsemanship and particular compassion for his horses. Ambitious Frank Rothenberger, the renowned course designer, will be remembered by setting extremely difficult jumping courses; in my view a little less spectacular jumping courses by Rothenberger would have served the standing of elite equestrian sport just as well, in light of what particularly the horses had to go through! However, CHIO Aachen remains what it is, one of the world's most recognised international equestrian events that can change the life of all, horse, rider or visitor alike!