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NEWS & MESSAGES

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FEDERATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE; FEI PRESS NEWS 20/03
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BACK FROM AACHEN...

2006 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES

The countdown has begun: In the course of the World Equestrian Festival, CHIO Aachen 2003, the fixed date as well as the official logo for the FEI World Equestrian Games Aachen 2006 were presented. The World Championships in seven equestrian disciplines will take place from 22 August to 3 September 2006 on the traditional tournament grounds of the Aachen-Laurensberger Renverein e.V. (ALRV). The organisers await 800 participants with 875 horses and more than 500.000 spectators.

In 2005, two new tribunes are planned to be built in the jumping stadium. At the Eastern side of the stadium, a completely new tribune with an integrated press centre will be built, furthermore it is planned to re-design the main Tribune. The event's budget amounts to 36 Million Euro. Half of it is made up of sponsoring, ticketing, TV-rights, the shopping street, hospitality or licensing. The prize money during the event will amount to 1.353.000 Euro.

- Message from Monica Smith, Canada, concerning French Statistics (Newsletter 17/ 03)

Hello!

This is a very timely and important document for all serious endurance riders. Keep up the good work,. We need to understand the high performance horse and rider and ensure that only the best prepared enter major events. Such statistics add important knowledge to the development of the elite horse and rider.

I look forward to more.

Cheers, Monika Smith, Canada

▪ Message from Désirée Hanen, NED, concerning French Statistics (Newsletter 17/ 03)

The Newsletter with the statistics was very interesting and looking forward to the upto 2003 results.

However, there are some questions, which I would like to raise:

“... by a protective effect due to slow speed. Concerning very fast speeds it seems that only horses in excellent condition can sustain it: either they finish brilliantly or they are stopped due to lameness before serious metabolic problems occur.”

- So, if horses had not become lame at an early stage, the 10% that needed treatment had most likely been even higher...?

“Horses: The treated horses were typical for the overall population of endurance horses: Majority of Arabs or part Arabs, grey, average age of 9 years. No difference between geldings and mares (40% each) whereas only 20% of stallions had to be treated. This could be explained by the fact that only a few number of stallions are participating and perhaps although by a certain self-protection attitude of male horses.”

- Or is there any proof that male horses (stallions) are just better?
It would also be nice to have a closer look at the effect of age instead of gender.

“Career of the horses: Many of the horses which needed treatment were not experienced: For 46.7 % of them it was the first experience at this level and 58.2 % tried before but never finished. In addition 10.4 % were already eliminated at least once during the same season.”

- $46.7\% + 58.2\% = 104.9\%$? Also it should be good to see percentages on the group that did not need treatment.

“So it seems that the first participation at a new distance is a risky affair and that novice horses need more precaution than experienced horses.”

Preparation of the course: More than 50% of the treated horses travelled for a long time (more than 500 km or more than 6 hours). Several studies emphasise the possible dangers of transport and it seems indispensable to accord to the horse a maximum of time possible to recover.”

- Again: it should be good to see percentages on the group that did not need treatment that had travelled from quite far. Figures don't show too much if they can't be compared.

“Diet: The fact of apparent feeding mistakes occurred often during this study. At least one out of two of the horses which needed treatment had a modification of diet (in quality or quantity) during the week before the course.”

- And how many of the horses that did complete changed diet?

Also, if you have a look at the percentages, you see a great deal of horses that were coping with more than just one "disadvantage".

“This study will be continued with more sophisticated details in 2003.” Highly interested! Would it be possible to have a kind of pre-ride questionnaire passed around in which diet, travelling distance and other key factors are asked for to be completed. Because now you only have information on non-completing horses and it would be great to be able to compare them to the "completers" to get the whole picture.

Greetings, Desiree Hanen, The Netherlands