



## **MAGYAR LOVAS SZÖVETSÉG**

HUNGARIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

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### **The Success of interest**

#### ***FEI World Driving Championships for Young Horses 2019 Mezőhegyes (HUN), 5-8 September, 2019***

The Fédération Equestre Internationale gave us the opportunity to organize for the fifth time the FEI World Driving Championships for Young Horses in Mezőhegyes, Hungary. The organizer, the National Studfarm Mezőhegyes, founded in 1784, went through a major technological, infrastructural and intellectual development in the past few years. The numerous prestigious equestrian events organized in the last five years are the proof of this progress.

A competition for young horses fits in the sport diplomacy strategy of the Hungarian Equestrian Federation too.

12 world driving championships have been organized in Hungary so far. This is not accidental. Our equestrian culture, traditions, well known hospitality, and our equestrian successes along history binds us and points the way. 11 nations are expected: USA, Austria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Latvia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary. 35 young horses with 26 drivers are competing to be the champions of their categories.

#### **The attendance of competitors has declined**

In 2015 9 nations competed with 37 horses in total. In the next year, in 2016 this number shrank, 8 nations with 30 horses. In 2017 8 nations competed with 41 horses and in 2018 7 nations registered 39 horses.

Hungary is represented by 8 horses driven by 5 drivers. János Papp – national champion – competes in all three categories with traditional Hungarian Nonius horses.

4 athletes are representing Germany, past year's champion, with 4 horses, the Polish Kwiatek brothers compete with 5 horses.

#### **Stars in the Main Arena!**

Former years' best horses compete again in Mezőhegyes.

Here are some interesting facts: the USA has one horse, *Impressive*, competing in the 6-years age group, driven by Leslie Berndl. The best 5-year-old horses in 2018, *Adele M*, representing Germany, *Frombork* from Poland and *Finesse* from Austria are competing this year too, in the 6-year-old age group. 2018 bronze medalist in 6-year-old category, the Polish Renesans, returns and competes in 7-year-old category.

#### **Returning athletes!**

The Polish single driver Bartłomiej Kwiatek and his sister – silver medalist last year – Weronika Kwiatek are going to be here for the fifth time.

This year Jessica Wächter drives 2018's 5-year-old champion, the silver medalist of this category competes with the Italian Cristiano Cividini and the driver of the Austrian 2018. bronze medalist will be Alexander Bösch. The German Marie Tischer isn't competing at this championship. Andrea Dobretsberger from Austria competes with the Lipizzan horse Favory Bonasera. The greatest surprise in 2019 is the presence of Latvian horses and their drivers in competition.

#### **Not predictions, presumptions**

Germany won 16 from the total 36 medals, 9 golds from the total 12. They are favourites. Success precede by purposeful breeding, systematic training camps and clinics together with continuous training.

The Poles won 10 medals, 1 gold, the Luxembourgers 2 of which 1 was gold. The Swiss won 1 gold. The Hungarians gathered only one bronze medal. We hope that the professional level and this year's training leads to medal in 2019.

Hungarian two-in-hand and four-in-hand drivers lead the way. In total we won 101 medals, 46 gold in World and European Championships!

Specialists say, that a international sports event, like the FEI World Driving Championships for Young Horses, is a great business opportunity as well, where horses can be sold and bought.

Preliminary Program of the FEI World Driving Championships for Young Horses

#### **4th September, Wednesday**

11:00 (HU) Horse Inspection followed by declaration of starters

15:00 (HU) Opening Ceremony

#### **5th September, Thursday**

Dressage Qualification - all categories

#### **6th September, Friday**

Dressage Qualification – all categories

19:00 (HU) Open air concerts

#### **7th September, Saturday**

Dressage Final – all categories

#### **8th September, Sunday**

Combined obstacle driving for 5-year-old horses

Combined marathon for 6 and 7-year-old horses

Prize and award giving ceremony