



## **Press release**

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### **Press release: Kronenberg preparing for the seventh Four-in-hand World Championships in Nederland**

**From 2-6 September all eyes of the equestrian world will be focused on the World Championships for four-in-hand horses, held in Kronenberg, Limburg 2020. This will be the seventh time the World Championship will be held in the Netherlands.**

#### **Succes on home turf**

Following Apeldoorn 1976, 1982 and 1988, Den Haag 1994 (part of the World Equestrian Games), Beesd 2008 and Breda 2016 the Netherlands will once again put their foot forward as a true driving country as they host this formula 1 of the driving sport.

During the six earlier editions, the Dutch drivers themselves have been very successful. In 1982 Tjeerd Velstra won his first World title in Apeldoorn, in 1988 IJsbrand Chardon won his first individual gold and he won his fourth gold medal at the Championships in Beesd in 2008.

The Dutch team has also been dominant at Championships held in the Netherlands. Team gold was won at no less than four of the six World Championships in 1982, 1988, 2008 and 2016.

The Dutch team drivers have accumulated a large number of medals since the first World Championship in 1972 and have been unbeatable in the team competition since 2008 – until the American team won a historic team gold medal in Tryon at the World Equestrian Games this past summer, leaving the Dutch team with a silver medal.

Team coach Ad Aarts, who was himself a successful team driver and a member of the Dutch team at a number of Championships has a good feeling about a podium for the Dutch team in Kronenberg: "It is always a waiting game to see if the horses and drivers stay healthy, but at this moment we have a very strong team. With short-listed drivers IJsbrand and Bram Chardon, Koos de Ronde and

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Mark Weusthof there is a wealth of both performance and experience. But the long-listed drivers Edwin van der Graaf, Hans Heus and Peter de Ronde can also hold their own against the international field and I am expecting that they can also put down some good scores.”

Reigning individual champion is Australian driver Boyd Exell who at this moment has five World titles to his name. The Dutch team headed by four-time World Champion IJsbrand Chardon, European Champion Bram Chardon and Koos de Ronde had to go home with silver in 2018 but will do everything in their power to reclaim gold in 2020.

It is expected that 60 competitors representing 16 countries will arrive on the grounds of the Peelbergen in Kronenberg to compete at this World Championship.

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