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STALLION NEWS

FAHRHOF FEES FOR 2006

Gestüt Fährhof is the first major stud in Germany to announce the fees for its stallions for 2006.

Black Sam Bellamy, who had his first foals this season, will remain at €6,500, **Ransom O' War** will stand for €4,500 and the first season sire **Eagle Rise** who joins the pair, is €4,000, Oct 1st live foal conditions.

Eagle Rise, whom Fährhof purchased from his breeder Georg von Ullmann a couple of weeks ago, will continue to race in Ullman's colours for the rest of the season. He is not without a chance in Saturday's Gr.2 Europa Meile at Cologne and holds an engagement for an Italian Gr.1 race. A pure miler, **Eagle Rise**, was unbeaten in two starts at two including the Gr.3 Preis des Winterfavoriten, which made him Champion Juvenile.

The following season he failed to live up to expectations and could only win two minor weight for age contests but bounced back to top form a year later, when he scored in two consecutive Gr.2 events – beating **Putra Pekan** in the Europa-Meile, and the Premio Ribot, where he wore down **Martillo** and had **Salselon** back in third. His trainer Andreas Schütz then sent him to Hong Kong for the Gr.1 HK Mile, where he finished unplaced but only two lengths off the winner. This year, he added the Gr.2 Pferdewetten.de Trophy to his record, showing a good turn of foot in defeating **Tiganello** and the German Guineas winner **Santiago**. His best rating so far is 113 in the International Classifications.

Eagle Rise could be of interest to breeders from abroad, as he represents a solid blend of blood. By **Danehill** out of a Listed-placed **Surumu** mare, his grandam (by **Kris**) also produced the Group winners **Epalo** and **Elopa** (both by **Lando**). There is only one other son of **Danehill** currently at stud in Germany – the Classic-winning **Royal Dragon**, whose first yearlings sold well at the BBAG this year.

RACING NEWS

GERMAN OAKS

In order to avoid a clash with the soccer World Cup, which takes centre stage in Germany next summer, the Deutsches Derby at Hamburg has been delayed for three weeks and will be run on 23rd July. This will cause other changes in the racing calendar, as the meeting consists of at least six racedays and a further nine Pattern races.

The major problem though seems to be the second meeting at Hamburg, which was introduced two years

ago and hosts the Preis der Diana. Scheduled next season at Pentecost, it would be unaffected by the World Cup, but race club promoter Volker Wulff, recently said publically that the race would possibly not take place as planned, due to the economical risks, as the Diana meeting was still in the red. Figures this year showed a 10% decrease in tote betting turnover and the attendance was below expectations.

Eugen Andreas Wahler is the Manager of the course, but the remarks have led to disagreements in the inner circles of German racing, and unleashed a discussion as to whether the "Diana" could be switched from Hamburg to another track.

In an effort to strengthen the position of Hamburg as a leading German track three years ago the race club, under its then president and generous contributor Franz-Guenther von Gaertner, outbid other racetracks to secure the "Diana" from the debt-ridden track at Mulheim, previously home of the Classic for well over four decades.

The race club will probably now seek to integrate the "Diana" into the Derby week, but the pattern commission will have a say when major changes to a Gr.1 are suggested. The race has already closed. The parties involved, including the strong Owners Association, will meet on Tuesday to discuss the matter.

COLOGNE'S BIG WEEKEND

The "Europa" meeting is the highlight of the season at Cologne, the city which is also the HQ of German racing, being a major training centre and home of the Direktorium.

On Saturday, the Gr.2 Oppenheim Pramerica Europa Meile (4.10 pm) will see the German Champion Older Miler **Martillo**, as hot favourite, taking on eight rivals including **Needlecraft** from France. It will be interesting to see, if this year's all-the-way German 1,000 Guineas winner **Anna Monda** will be back to form after running out of steam on two occasions in France and in Britain. But she has plenty to find.

Sunday's card includes the Gr.1 IVG Preis von Europa, which will be a national affair, as no horse from abroad will be taking on the likes of the excellent three-year-old filly **Gonbarda**, Deutsches Derby winner **Nicaron (Acatenango)**, who needs a good pace, and the unexposed but highly-regarded **Salutino (Monsun)** in a field of eight (4.15 pm). Also on the card are three Listed races, of which the six furlong contest could fall pray to **Crossover** from France. In addition, two of Pat Smullen's rides catch the eye, as he partners two well-bred Moyglare fillies from the Dermot Weld yard – **Society Hostess** in the mile contest and **Burren Rose** in the twelve furlong race.