

2nd CIAT Redefin, July 24th and 25th, 2021

The State Stud Redefin was founded in 1820 and is a place where traditional horsemanship and the wise principles of breeding are kept up. The Mecklenburg breed is once again sought after by today's drivers because of their power of draught, clear minds and obedience. Therefore, the stud is most suitable for an event like a CIAT.

The CIAT is a festival of traditional turnouts competing in the skills of driving and turning-out horses and carriages according to the principles set by tradition, the gentle and foresighted driving of horses and the skillful handling of a turnout in the busy roads of today.



The AIAT established a set of rules making a competition of these traditional skills possible between drivers of carriages. These contests are called CIATs. (Concours International d' Attelage Traditionelle). Though there were some problems imposed by Corona restrictions the AIAT Deutschland was glad to be able to organize and run such a CIAT in the State Stud of Redefin, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, on July, 24th and 25th this year. It was the second CIAT to be held there and everybody enjoyed this great event.

The warm nature of the welcome party on Friday evening, the humorous speeches given, and - last but not least - the elegant dinner held in the historic "Landstallmeisterhaus" on Saturday night, all combined to lend a sophisticated atmosphere to the entire event.



There were 28 competitors entered but one driver had to cancel due to flooding in the Eifel area. Therefore 27 turnouts arrived on Friday, 24th at the State Stud.

The first competition, the presentation, took place in front of the stud's main gates to allow room for the public when they arrived early at the traditional Paradeplatz to spend their weekend there and attend both the CIAT, and the Mecklenburg Festival featuring Daniel Hope performing with Christoph Eschenbach conducting. The historic buildings built in the classical style of the early 19th century formed a grand backdrop to the beautifully turned-out equipage; the horses well-groomed and the drivers beaming with pride. They arrived in front of the judges (The president of the AIAT and this judging panel, Baron Christian de Langlade (F), Tadeusz Kolacz (PL) and Hartmuth Huber (D)) on Saturday, two o'clock on the dot.



There were beautiful family carriages such as the Omnibus, built by Millet, Paris, and a Siamese Phaeton, built by Lohner, Vienna. This carriage is used for family outings with a pair of Shagya-Arabians. The town turnouts were represented by, among others, a fine Landaulet built by Gläser,



Dresden competing for Poland. Sporting turnouts such as a Gentleman's Phaeton built by Larsen, Copenhagen competing for Denmark, a stylish lady's-turnout with Lipizzaners horses to a Four-Wheel-Rally-Car, or the very practical rural convertible type of carriage called Gettdorfer built by Lieberknecht, Crimmitschau to a pair of Heavy Warmbloods bred in Saxony.



There were unusual turnouts like the Demi-Tonnau, not of French but of English production (by Creasey, London, pretty unusual as the type is often found in France but rarely in the UK) driven to a fine single horse who was full of go, a tandem of Spanish horses to a Going-to-Cover-Cart by Brewster, New York representing Belgium and a pair - a Hanoverian and an Oldenburg - to a French Cabriolet built by Turpin, Aubigny, a curricule turnout. Even a rural turnout with heavy draft horses to a German Hunting wagon was brought before the judges.



For enthusiasts it was a most interesting event. The judges were very pleased with the quality of the turnouts and especially in the fitness of the horses and the skill of the drivers.

Everybody was in high spirits as the weather was sunny with few clouds yet the temperature moderate. As the weather forecast promised rain for the following day, drivers and judges prepared for wet weather but were surprised as Sunday morning started cold and wet but the rain stopped around 08:00 o'clock and the sun shone making for a really hot afternoon.

On the following day, Sunday, the turnouts started on the 'roads and tracks' (Routier) to the village of Belsch. During the 15 kilometers drive the turnouts had to keep to a set speed. The drive included five 'difficulties' (PCs, Passages Contrôlées) offering the type of challenges that a driver might be confronted with daily when driving in town traffic, or down forest tracks, or between fields. These 'difficulties' include such actions as; reining back, keeping in lane, passing a musical band, driving a circle one-handed, drinking a glass of Champagne driving one-handed etc.). This part of the competition proved to be problematic, not due to the obstacles themselves but to the fact that the drivers hadn't read the rules properly before they started off.

The cone-driving course (Maniabilité) held in the afternoon was the most popular part of the contest as the speed of some of the turnouts was spectacular. This, however, turned out not to be the most effective technique of driving this course as it resulted in many balls down: a moderate pace was the most successful way of driving it. The most popular turnout of this contest was the Spanish tandem

which negotiated the cones in a most impressive manner, which earned the driver a long round of applause.



As the prize giving ceremony came immediately after the cone driving all spectators stayed and were impressed by all participants lining up in the show ring waiting for their prizes.



The cups were handed over by the patroness of the 2nd CIAT, Donata Duchess of Mecklenburg, and the judges. The ceremony was a somewhat speedy one - hardly lasting long enough to play the national anthems - as several turnouts had to rush to the Paradeplatz immediately after the lap of honour to be introduced to the public by Mr Seite, the stud's director, who was presenting his horses there at the same time that the cone driving was being held. Nevertheless, everybody was happy and

clapped along to the old tune: ‘Good bye, my little officer of the Guard...’ as the turnouts’ completed the lap of honour.



The winners were:

Single Ponys:

1. Antje Johannsen
2. Regina Schwarzer

Single Heavy Horses:

1. Klaus Baumeister

Pairs Heavy Horses:

1. Torsten Hess
2. Heinz Poll

Unicorn Heavy Horses:

1. Theo Wickmann

Singles:

1. Andrzej Swewcyk
2. Paolo Fornara
3. Tom Schickedanz

Pairs:

1. Heinrich Lindemann
2. Tanja Böhlmann
3. Michael Weng
3. Peter Lange

Tandem:

1. Urbain van de Voorde

Over all winner:
Urbain van de Voorde

