

## PRESS RELEASE

International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival Verden  
August 3 – 7, 2016

## Modern, impressive, surprising – International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival

Verden - Each year in August, the horse world meets in Verden for the International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival. Verden has been a well-introduced venue for show jumping and dressage for decades and many times also a source of new ideas. Modern and surprising – this is how the Verden International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival will present itself from August 3 – 7, 2016. And the participants appreciate this setting.

### For the first time with an auction

The Organizing Committee, which also includes the Hannoveraner Verband, already thought about combining the sports event with the annually held Hanoverian Foal and Broodmare Auction earlier. What could be more appropriate for the worldwide well-known auction venue and the worldwide well-known tournament venue than to use the location for breeding and auction at the same time? So far, the regulations of the World Breeding Association for Sporthorses (WBFSH) made realization impossible, now Verden seizes the opportunity. On August 5 and 6, high-quality, extraordinary foals and broodmares will show up for the auction in close proximity to Riders' Stadium and dressage arena. The combination of the two events will be beneficiary for the auction visitors as after all many potential customers and purchasers are anyhow tournament participants and horse owners. The auction collection features 120 foals and broodmares in total with the collection being shown online at [www.hannoveraner.com](http://www.hannoveraner.com). The auction candidates will be presented on Friday and Saturday as of 1:00 pm in the huge arena with the auction starting at 06:00 pm on both days.



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## A new basis for international show jumping sport

It is the first time that the CSI Verden will be held in the huge Riders' Stadium on sandy footing. A step the Organizing Committee has thought long about to constitute increased weather independence. Compared with grass, sand provides advantages when it rains. These are exactly the benefits the Riders' Stadium offers on its 95 x 65 m competition grounds. The new footing already passed its rehearsal a couple of days ago with the National Lower Saxonian Championships, hosted by Pferdesportverband Hannover. This is another step forward for the international tournament.

## Verden welcomes the world

The response to the Verden Festival is obvious: The International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival is an established event in the sports schedule, even without competitions at the championship-level. 76 riders from 15 nations with their 263 horses have entered for the CSI, endowed with approx. 75,000 Euro. To be added are 112 seven- to eight-year-old futurity prospects of the international riders. The guests come from Canada and Bermuda, from South Africa, the US and the whole of Europe. The Championship-riders Patrick Stühlmeyer (Osnabrück), Janne Friederike Meyer (Hamburg) and Mario Stevens (Cloppenburg) as well as German Vice Champion Christian Hess (Boostedt) will participate. One of the most successful young Swedish riders is Nicole Persson who won the Redefin Championships in May. The Slovene Pato Muenta shined among the top 10 in the German Show Jumping Derby where he won the style prize. The Swiss team European Champion (2009) Clarissa Crotta who lives in Lower Saxony, will conquer the Verden Festival, just as the US-rider Chloe Reid.

## Dressage pur – from small to large

And this can indeed be taken literally: Following the debut in 2015, the second edition of the International Dressage Cup for Young Ponys will be held for five- and six-year-old dressage ponies – in fact a similar competition than the championship-event. There will be two competitions per age group. The idea was modelled on the FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses, and the debut was fantastic. The tests were announced on the national level, however, the regulations allow max. four guest nations to participate, too.



## Et voilà: Nuremberg Cup

The candidates competing in the Nuremberg Cup are bigger and already more advanced as far as training level is concerned, and the series is designed for seven- to nine-year-old dressage horses. It is indeed the catwalk for future championship horses and an indicator of quality and sound training. There are only 12 stages of this series held in Germany with the winners of each of the 12 venues qualifying for the Final in Frankfurt in December. The International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival in Verden is one of the established sites of this series that has been held for more than two decades now.

## Piaff Challenge Cup

Rising to the challenges – this does not only apply to the horses, but also to the riders. The Piaff Challenge Cup of the Liselott Schindling Foundation addresses the generation aged 25 and younger, is held five times a year in Germany and culminates in the Final on the occasion of the German Masters in Stuttgart. 15 riders were nominated for the current season. The Piaff Challenge Cup is one of the highlights in Verden besides the Nuremberg Cup and the two championship-competitions.

## „Pi and Pa“

With respect to the Olympic Games, the Organizing Committee refrained from announcing invitations at the international competition level, but not from Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special as highlight of the dressage festival. Grand Prix, endowed with Euro 5,000 Euro, and Grand Prix Special, endowed with 8,000 Euro, are the “eye catchers” of the competition schedule, featuring tests for young, three-year-old riding horses up to matured Grand Prix-horses.

## All good things go by three

And this is the reason for three Hanoverian Championships to be held at the International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival as of 2016. It is a tradition that Verden hosts the Riding Horse Championships for three- and four-year-old horses. Some years ago, the Show Jumping Championships for four- to six-year-old Hanoverian horses were added. The Hanoverian Dressage Horse Championships are now the “last mile” of the chain, addressing five- and six-year-old dressage horses. There will be elementary and medium level tests. Counterpart of these new championships are the qualifying competitions for the DKB-Federal Championships of five- and six-year-old



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dressage horses. Difference: The qualifying competitions for the Federal Championships are designed for horses of all German warmblood breeds with the Final being held in Warendorf in September and being considered as "catwalk of German horse breeding".

## **"Pretty Woman" – Herwart von der Decken-Show for the most beautiful horse ladies**

The first day of the Festival on August 3 is dedicated to breeding and in particular to the best mares from the Hanoverian breeding area. The best three-year-olds from all Hanoverian breeding clubs and from the Rhenish breed compete in Verden in the different divisions show jumping and dressage. The Herwart von der Decken-Show is a "must" for all interested in horse breeding.

## **Verden Country Days – simply relaxing.....**

.... This will be possible for visitors, participants and guests in the exhibition area between show jumping stadium and dressage arena. More than 100 exhibitors present riding fashion and equipment, articles for horses, pasture technics and agricultural machinery in the widely visible village of tents. Finest leather goods, fashion and lifestyle are also part of it, just as artwork, handcrafts and antiques, paintings, accessories or literature. The offer is complemented by information booths from the horse and Verband's business and a huge catering offer. There will be mobile restaurants, coffee, wine and snack bars at the show jumping stadium and dressage arena. Breathers will be possible any time. The Verden Country Days will be open all five days of the event.

## **Interested in the Festival?**

Tickets will be available with [www.ticketmaster.de](http://www.ticketmaster.de) or with the central hotline (01806) 999 0000 from Monday to Friday between 9.00 am and 10.00 pm. Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm. Ticket prices from Euro 5 – 18. For more information on the Verden Dressage and Show Jumping Festival, please click on

[www.verden-turnier.de](http://www.verden-turnier.de) or with Facebook [www.facebook.de/turnier-verden](http://www.facebook.de/turnier-verden) - #Verden2016 (easiest option to find the Verden International Dressage and Show Jumping Festival).



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