

## **CSIO-NEWS, 2<sup>nd</sup> BULLETIN from March 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **European Championship test for the Swiss riders**

The Nations-Price at the CSIO St. Gallen on June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the only test for the Swiss riders for the European Championship against the best European teams. Since the Swiss Riders fell out of the Top League last year, they can only compete with the eight continental top teams at the CSIO in their own country, before they join the European Championship in Madrid in September. "We will have our best possible team in St. Gallen riding against the top nations", promises Chef d'Equipe Urs Gruenig, who took over the job from Rolf Grass. Word-Champion Germany, Olympic Gold Medallist USA, Nations-Price Winner France, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherland and the two new members Belgium and Denmark will give the Swiss the possibility to see, if they can have a realistic chance for the qualification at the Olympic Games 2012 in England.

### **Grand Prix with the highest price winning money of Switzerland**

The price winning money of the CSIO St. Gallen is in total slightly over CHF 900'000, including special prices from the patronage sponsor Longines. The Longines Grand Prix with CHF 300'000 on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, stays the highest one in Switzerland. As in all eight tournaments of the Top League, the amount in the Meydan Nations Cup is again EUR 200'000. The donation for the Wegelin speed competition on Saturday is CHF 80'000. "Our budget for this top event with nine teams of five riders and many other individual top riders from Switzerland and abroad, is unchanged around three million Swiss Francs", President Peter Stoessel informs.

### **Radisson additional main sponsor**

The Radisson Blu Hotel St. Gallen is new one of the main sponsors of the CSIO Switzerland in St. Gallen. The reliable, official catering partner of the event and the person in charge of the CSIO have intensified their partnership and signed for cooperation for the next three years. Therefore, Radisson Blu belongs together with patronage sponsor Longines, Wegelin and Meydan, to the main carriers of the traditional, international show jumping event.

### **Free entry on Ascension Day**

The opening day of the CSIO Switzerland, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Ascension Day and an official holiday. For this reason there will be some special acts on the first day of the tournament. Parson Ernst Heller, who says from himself he is the pastor of the carnies, the market tenders and the circus artists, will celebrate a field service. The spectators will have entertainment through a show with police-dogs and the St. Otmar Music, as well as the show jumping for the professional and amateur riders in the CSI-Goodwill Trophy. The entrance is free on Ascension Day, except for the seats in the grand stand.

## **Wegelin-children-afternoon as overture**

The future belongs to the children – also in riding. That's why the CSIO Switzerland organises the children-afternoon, in cooperation with main sponsor Wegelin & Co., the oldest private banker in Switzerland. The bank, with their head quarter in St. Gallen, invites the kids on Wednesday afternoon, June 1<sup>st</sup>, for an exclusive CSIO-day with special attractions. A knock-out with Pony riders from the region is planned, their will be demonstrations with comments from professional riders, which will also fulfil wishes for autographs, a special horse show with Bruno Isliker from Zurich and a balloon-competition with great prizes are the attractions for the young guests. And of course they will get a free snack and a drink.

## **CSIO-Speaker Hans Jucker passed away**

With great dismay the organizing comity of the CSI Switzerland and many friends of the show jumping heard of the unexpected loss of television reporter Hans Jucker on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Only three weeks after he retired, the popular and liked commentator of sport events from Zurich passed away, due to a heart attack. With his sonorous, unmistakable voice, Hans Jucker was for many years the speaker of the CSIO Switzerland in Lucerne and St. Gallen. The humorous, reliable and professional all-rounder will be missed by all of us.

## **CSIO iApp**

For the interested in horse jumping and all horse-lovers! This iApp helps you to know independently of time and space when and where things are happening in Europe's finest open air equestrian stadium from June 2<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the CSIO Switzerland in St. Gallen. Keep yourself up-dated about the tournament's program, purchase easily tickets and above all be informed about the results in real time. This iApp offers livescoring – a unique service in Swiss equestrian sports. Who is leading in the Longines Grand Prix of Switzerland? Who is riding the fastest horse in the Wegelin steeplechase? If you want to keep your finger on the pulse of things but cannot actually be there, you just order the official iApp from CSIO Switzerland in St. Gallen now.