



Newsletter n. 28 - 23 September 2022

## EXELL TAKES INDIVIDUAL LEAD, GERMANY ESTABLISHES TEAM ADVANTAGE

Five-time individual world champion, Australia's **Boyd Exell**, stormed into the individual lead on the second day of Dressage at the **FEI Driving World Championship 2022 at Praton del Vivaro**, Italy today where Germany established the lead in the team rankings.



Boyd Exell (AUS) - ph. Massimo Argenziano

Exell posted a big score of **34.13**, but Germany's **Mareike Harm** produced a spectacular performance to finish just over four points adrift in second place individually. First-day leader, America's **Chester Weber**, lies third going into tomorrow's exciting Marathon phase ahead of German individual **Anna Sandmann** in fourth, Dutch team-member **Ijsbrand Chardon** in fifth and Hungarian team-member **Zoltan Lazar** in sixth place.

With the best two results from each nation counting towards the team results, Harm's score seriously boosted **Germany's chances**, moving her country into pole position on a tally of **88.03** after **Michael Brauchle** put **49.18** on the board earlier in the day.

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## BRAVE

*"Maybe we could have more points if I was more brave but I decided to stay on the safe side", Brauchle said. "My left leader is a bit new, an eight-year-old and less experienced, my right leader is the most experienced and the wheelers are experienced enough. I'm very excited to be in this German team but Driving is only my hobby!",* said the 32-year-old who, however, was on the **silver-medal-winning German** side at the FEI World Equestrian Games in 2014 and team bronze medallist at the FEI World Championships in 2016. He's a busy man. *"I am a farrier and I manage to be in this sport only by working, working and working!",* he added with a laugh.

**The Netherlands** has won a record **nine team titles** in the 50-year history of the FEI Driving World Championships and have left the leading German side with no room for error when the action resumes in the morning. On a running tally of **89.23** they are just 1.2 points behind, counting scores of **42.95 from Ijsbrand Chardon** who has been on every one of those winning Dutch sides and his son, **Bram**, whose mark of **46.25** also leaves him sitting in seventh place individually.

*"I was hoping for a better score, I had a 37 at the Dutch Championship in Beekbergen but I had to change one horse so I knew a score in the 30s would be difficult to get here",* Bram Chardon said.

*"I thought the low 40s was what these horses can do but unfortunately we had a few errors. But nothing is lost, I still have a good team for the next two days so I need to attack a little more and I will!",* said the driver who was in the silver-medal-winning team with his father at the last World Championships in Tryon, USA four years ago and who clinched double-gold at the European Championships in Budapest, Hungary last summer.

## SUPER SCORE

**Australia** lies in bronze medal position this evening after Exell's super score was added to that of **Tor van den Berghe** who put **57.37** on the board early in the day. On a running scoreline of **91.50** these two athletes are **11.25** penalty points ahead of **Belgium's Dreis Degrieck, Glenn Geerts and Tom Stokmans 102.75**. But stalking closely, and also well within sight of the medal podium, is **Team Hungary on 103.29** after 2004 individual champion, Zoltan Lazar, posted 44.85 which put them right back in the game. A mark of **58.44** from Hungary's **Jozsef Dobrovitz Jr.** meant yesterday's **63.63** posted by his father, **Jozsef Sr.** could be dropped as each team counts only their two best results. The **French** side of **Benjamin Aillaud, Anthony Horde and Sebastien Vincent** are only fractionally behind the Hungarians on a score of **103.61** in sixth place.

It's very much all to play for over **tomorrow's Marathon** course which is likely to shake up the leaderboard significantly once again.

## COMPETITIVE POSITION

**Mareike Harm** was delighted to find herself in runner-up spot today while lifting her country into a really competitive position. *"I'm really happy! I had a little bit of pressure because I had to do the dressage score for the team and we made it. It's totally different when you are driving just for yourself",* she said.

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Mareike Harm (GER) - ph. MAV Photo Agency

Her entry to the top echelons of the sport of Driving has been an interesting experience. *“In 2010 I was here for the World Singles Championship and won the gold medal with the German team so this is a good place for me, but after that I had four Single horses and we put them together in a team and in the beginning everybody said you can’t do that as a woman, it’s too difficult in the Marathon. And the Marathon is hard because the men will be stronger tomorrow for sure. But I can do a good Dressage and good Cones and I will try to lose not too many points in the Marathon”*, she said this evening.

The only major threat to the five-time defending world champion Boyd Exell may face is that of the **119 balls** located on the eight-obstacle course tomorrow, each knock-down penalised by the addition of 2 penalty points.

## DRESSAGE SCORE

He wasn’t entirely happy with his dressage score today - *“maybe disappointed because it felt more like a 32 than a 34. This team is experienced and solid and one of the best teams that have been around the world, and I’ve had teams that got 29’s and 30’s in dressage and these are better, so I’m disappointed that the judges don’t go ‘hey, this is like the Totilas and Valegro team!’”*, he said. But he insisted that he simply loves driving and that *“the score is only the icing on the cake!”*

Talking about his team of horses he pointed out *“my right leader is Checkmate and today he was the showpiece, he was a wheeler in Normandy and Tryon and now he’s a leader. He’s always been a really special horse. Celviro is my left leader, he’s the solid one, every time he delivers. I have a new wheeler called Hero and he did well - he’s a marathon specialist”*.

Hero may need to put his very best foot forward tomorrow when Exell heads out across the Pratoni hills at 12 noon local time. *“I have a nice lead but it’s a three-day competition and a lot can go wrong. It’s not over until Sunday afternoon”*, he pointed out wisely.

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Don't miss a moment as the race for the 2022 FEI Driving World Championship medals continues when Germany's Rene Poensgen leads the way into **Marathon day tomorrow morning at 09.20 (Phase A) local time and at 10 (Phase B).**

### TRIBUTE TO THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ITALIAN DRIVER OF ALL TIME: CARLO MASCHERONI

**Carlo Mascheroni**, 82, the most titled Italian driver of all times, was celebrated today, at the Pratoni del Vivaro, with a **career award** presented by FISE President Marco Di Paola.

The entrepreneur from Brianza, who in his sporting career has collected no less than **four World Equestrian Games participations** (1994 The Hague, 1998 Rome, 2002 Jerez, 2006 Aachen, 2014 Caen) has truly demonstrated that the practice of **equestrian sports has no age.**



*In the picture: Carlo Mascheroni driving with FISE president Marco Di Paola by his side - ph. Massimo Argenziano*

He entered the arena to receive the award at the head of his four-horse Dutch team, which he masterfully led in a highly applauded presentation at the end of the **FEI Driving World Equestrian Championship 2022** dressage test.

Mascheroni has gained international recognition in **over 30 years of activity**, not only for his skill but also for his extraordinary personality. He first attracted media attention in 1985 when in Sandringham, Great Britain, he won the elegance competition, beating **Prince Philip of Edinburgh** in the standings.

Born into a dynasty of **saddlers**, over the years he has transformed the family workshop, where his grandfather and father used to hand-sew leather harnesses, into one of the most appreciated companies for supplying saddlery and equipment for the horse world.

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