

1st European Open Championship of horseback archers

September 6th - 7th 2008 in Bamberg, Germany

Generally speaking, Horseback archery is regarded an art – rather than a skill or merely a sport.

Whereas horseback archers in Asian countries, e.g. Koreans, Mongolians and Japanese have guarded their initial tradition well over centuries: horseback archery in Europe is a melting-pot of various techniques and styles, mainly influenced by the heritage of ancient Hungarian tribes, the Turks, the Scythians, Sarmathians and the Huns.

Since its revival in Germany several years ago, not only its popularity but also the number of supporters and horseback archers preferring different techniques is steadily increasing in this country.

The community of horseback archery in Germany, called DIE STEPPENREITER e.V., therefore initiated the **1st European Open Championship of Horseback Archers** to unite different European traditions and bring together like-minded archers from all over Europe.

The event will take place near Bamberg (Germany) on Sept. 6th and 7th 2008.

DIE STEPPENREITER carried out their 1st German Championship of Horseback Archery in 2006 followed by the 2nd German championship with international attendance only a year later.

To emphasize the international importance of this years' big event as much as its contribution to mutual understanding and cultural integration, not only competitors from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxemburg, Poland, Sweden and Great Britain are expected, but also a group of horseback archers from Japan, South Korea and Mongolia who already confirmed their arrival and participation.

Both visitors and participants can expect two spectacular and eventful days of contest and show.

On Saturday morning at 10 am, all competitors are being introduced during a colourful opening and entry of all nations.

The tournament starts off with the Korean style of horseback archery, the so called single, double and multiple shot competition.

In the afternoon, everyone is invited to watch MOGU, the popular ball game played amongst horseback archers in Korea.

Two archers on horses are chasing in full gallop another horseman on his horse pulling a big ball made of wickerwork on a long rope behind him / her. The two pursuers will aim at the ball to hit it with their arrow while galloping in full speed.

At nightfall, the performance of a live-band and a play written and enacted by members of DIE STEPPENREITER will for sure be remembered as a most enjoyable and unforgettable ending to an exciting first contest day.

The tournament will continue on Sunday morning at 9 am with its most important and main event:

Horseback Archery Hungarian Style.

Each competing participant will have six attempts to gallop along a track of 90 metres. The goal is to hit each of the three targets placed in the middle of the track next to each other as precise as possible.

Around 3 pm the jury will honour the winner and runners-up in each category and elect the overall European Champion.

Please turn to <http://www.eocha.org> for further information or contact us by *phone* (*contact name – Christian Schrade 0172 748 1936*)