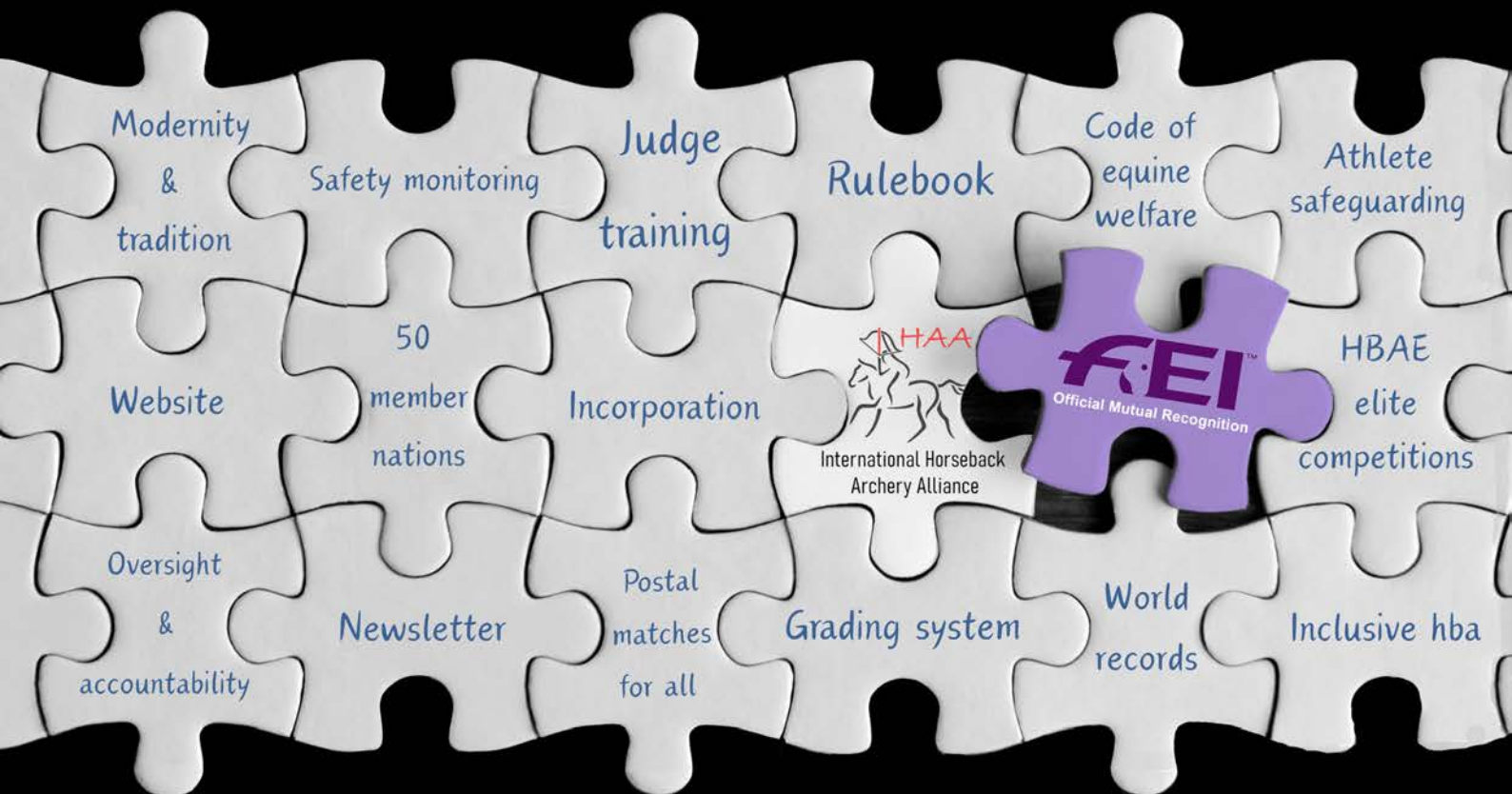




IHAA REVIEW

ISSUE 7 • JULY 2025



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Interview with Arsa Wening

• Editor: Claire Sawyer •

At the end of May we announced some exciting news; that IHAA and FEI have signed a certificate of Official Mutual Recognition.

In the document the FEI and IHAA recognise the significant roles that each plays in the development of equestrianism worldwide through our respective spheres of authority. It notes our mutual commitment to equestrian sport and to fostering its growth while maintaining harmony and respect within the relationship between equine and human athlete.

The shared values of horse welfare and athlete safeguarding are recognised and an ongoing commitment is made to uphold these to the highest standards. IHAA endorses and respects all FEI principles and rules for the welfare of horses and safety of athletes.

This commitment is signed by FEI President, Ingmar De Vos; FEI Secretary General, Sabrina Ibáñez; IHAA President, Alan le Gall; and IHAA Vice President, Claire Sawyer.

We are honoured to stand shoulder to shoulder with the FEI in promoting fair sport within equestrianism, and best practice in equine welfare and athlete safety.



NEWS

Welcome to our new members

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan through the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation. Horseback archery will be coordinated by the PSD Mounted Police Unit.
- Thailand, through the Charan 92 Horse Riding Club.
- Uzbekistan, through the Uzbekistan Tent pegging, Horseback archery and Djigitovka Federation



New World Records!

With the rule change in January tightening up on the age range for Senior riders (22-49y) we have started to formally recognise World Records in the Masters age category (50y+) as of the start of this year.

Congratulations to Roger Ittig who set a R234 Masters WR on his mule Rino in April, and to Wojtek Osiecki who set a new R234 Masters WR on Mr Jumer Bar in May.

Samuel Gugolz set a new Senior R234 record on Cala in April and in June Raphael Malet smashed his existing Tower 90 WR with a new World Record of 187.87 points,

exceeding even the old WR score set, prior to the rules' modifications, by Mihai Cozmei!

At the Kids World Champs a new Junior and Overall World Record was set on the R234 by Muhammad Bin Muhamad Akmal on Quiver – you can read more in the competition round up...

Roundup of IHAA's Elite competitions in 2025...

The **European Grand Prix 2025 Series** has now concluded for **Group B**, as has the **Kids' Straight Track World Championships**. You can read about both of these events in this issue of IHAA Review.

European GP

Group A of the European Grand Prix started with Stage 1 last month in Turkiye. We will review this competition in the next issue after the 2nd stage in Switzerland, which is scheduled for October.

World Champs

Preparations continue for the **IHAA HBAE World Championships** in Tennessee USA in September!

20 nations have athletes registered to compete in the WC!

AsianNC

The **2025 Asian Nations Cup Series** will include 9 teams: from Russia, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Pakistan, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia! Teams of 3 athletes will compete in Raid, Tower and Hunt Track / Skirmish, accumulating team points in stage 1 (Russia in August) and stage 2 (Indonesia in November). This is an exciting development for the Asian region!



JUDGING UPDATE

& ONLINE LEARNING

IHAA judges have been in action at over 40 Record and Ranking competitions so far this year, including the 2nd stage



of the European GP (group B) in Italy recently

© Fabio Grego

Alan le Gall (L4), Radek Kożuch (L3) and Ranu Hidayat (L1) ran a judges' course at Wening Academy, Indonesia, just prior to the Kids Straight Track World Champs. 22 judges from China, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Turkey spent the day studying the theory of the good judging and the IHAA rulesbook. During the competition they gained valuable practical experience by working alongside the senior judges, which will allow them to work towards their Level 2 judge qualification and the ability to run Record and Ranking competitions.

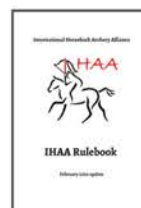
Alan & Malaysian judges



All judges on the course



- **Rulebook PDF** - is free to download, on the IHAA website
- Quick and easy to check on the [PDF viewer](#)
- There is a link to buy a paper copy of the rulebook on the [Rules page](#) of our website



L4 JUDGES

Anders Wredendal (Sweden) *
Elizabeth Tinnan (USA) *
Gabi Osiecka (Poland) *
Alan le Gall (France)

L3 JUDGES

Appointed since 14th Feb

Emmanuel de Peretti (France)

L2 (FULL) JUDGES

Appointed since 14th Feb

Christian Bareiss (Switzerland)
Naomi Crotty (Australia)
Anna Minkinen (Finland)
Marjukka Rantanen (Finland)
Julie Webster (USA)
Maryellen Werstine (USA)

L2 (ST) JUDGES

Appointed since 14th Feb

Beata Nowicka (Poland)

* L4 judges on the Judging panel
List correct as of 10th July'25

You can find out more about the IHAA on our [website](#)

www.ihaa.info

How to contact us...

horsebackarchery.info@gmail.com
newsletter.ihaa@gmail.com

(general)
(newsletter / advertising)



COMPETITONS

EuroGP

For the tenth anniversary of the European Grand Prix, there could not have been a better Group B finale. A milestone celebrated with a fierce competition in Italy, set among the gentle hills of Monferrato – land of noble wines, white truffles, and... fierce horse warriors.

On the first weekend of June, blessed by perfect weather (unlike last year) and the generous hospitality of Luigi Borgis, it was Italy that stood on the top step of the podium in Group B at Alfiano Natta. The format works: for the third year in a row, the team competition followed the split format – five nations in Group A, the top tier, and five in Group B. It's a formula that has successfully renewed the spirit of the challenge and enhanced the progression of the teams.

Team Italy – made up of the young riders Giacomo Grego, Giorgio Antonelli, Silvia Fagioli, and, in the second stage, Carlo Antonelli – dominated both stages under the guidance of team manager Manuele Gualdana, supported by Alessandro De Santis. They secured a victory built on determination, skill, and focus. With this result, Italy earns promotion to Group A for 2026, completing a flawless journey to the top division.

The first stage took place in March in Centelles, during the Barcelona Winter Games. Extreme weather conditions, with heavy rain and thick mud, made the event especially demanding: only the official eGP teams' athletes were able to take on the difficult Hunt challenge, turning the stage into a battle for the few. Italy proved its adaptability in tough situations, confidently pulling ahead of the UK and Spain, who finished second and third respectively.



Judging team: Giulia, Raffaele, Gabi & Nancy
Thanks also to venue hosts: Hipica Can Vivet



[top] Giorgio Antonelli [ITA] & Triana
[middle] Emily Massey [GB] & Rosset
[bottom] Kimo den Braben [NL] & UB Ar C'hoat



COMPETITONS

EuroCup

The second stage, as mentioned, took place during the 2025 Aleramo Ride Cup, and delivered a thrilling Group B finale. Italy confirmed its dominance, but the real fight unfolded just behind, between the UK and Spain. The Spaniards put on a show, managing to snatch a win from the Italians on the Tower Track. At that point, an upset in the overall ranking seemed possible. But the British team responded with determination in the spectacular Hunt challenge, regaining ground and holding on to second place. The Hunt, with its ups and downs, sloping curves, technical forest passage, and 3D targets, has proven once again to be a highlight of the Aleramo Ride Cup in Piedmont – a four-minute plunge that leaves many riders breathless from the tension and effort.

In the end, after 18 total tests (3 tracks, 3 riders, 2 stages), the difference between the UK and Spain was just 0.4 points out of 600: a heart-stopping finish.

Spain thus finishes in third place, with a high-quality performance, especially in the second half of the tournament. They were followed by the Netherlands (who fielded an all-female team in Piedmont) and Sweden, who, though not in contention for the podium, showcased promising individuals and strong team spirit. With this promotion, we'll finally see Italy as a key player in Group A in 2026. The competition just got even more interesting.

[upper R] Silvia Fagioli {ITA} & Noelia

[lower L] Maël Alcan [ESP] & Morzillo , [lower R] Louise Kalisvaart [NL] & Onika





COMPETITONS

EuroCyp

Many individual athletes also registered from across Europe for the Open International. The winner of the three-event individual competition was William Delangue-Chevalier, a young champion who continues to be one of France's cornerstones: solid, consistent, and relentless.

A special mention goes to Hungarian rider István Tóth – dressed in traditional costume and wearing a dagger tucked into his belt – and to Swiss competitor Roger Ittig [see right], the only one to gallop alongside the other riders... mounted on his trusty war mule, the lightning-fast Rino. Before coming to Piedmont, Roger had just set a world record in the Master category on the 234 Raid. What a season to remember for this extraordinary pair!



[L] Giorgio Antonelli [ITA] & Caligola,

[centre] Cora Moore [GB] & Stella,

[R] Pep Vivet [ESP] & Morzillo

The competition in Italy wouldn't have been the same without the professionalism of the judging team led by Raffaele Fagioli, with Aurelia Del Guerra, Giulia Picca, Alessandro De Santis, Giacomo Grego, Marcello Camisi – his Lord of the Rings quotes over the mic were unforgettable – Silvia Fagioli, and Marleen van der Schaile.

A perfect welcome by organizers Luigi Borgis and Francesca Giambra, good food for the humans and excellent hay for our four-legged friends. At night, there was dancing, shared drinks, and heartfelt reunions – as always – among the friends and family that make up this unique world of horseback archery. May our sport always remain like this: warriors by day, brothers and sisters by night.





COMPETITONS

EuroGP

Place	Country	1 - T%	1 - R%	1 - HT%	2 - T%	2 - R%	2 - HT%	Total %
1	Italy	100	100	100	96.60	100	100	596.60
2	United Kingdom	75.98	92.35	75.97	69.13	89.34	74.85	477.62
3	Spain	67.59	61.53	89.66	100	98.00	60.42	477.21
4	Netherlands	61.31	74.11	62.02	66.99	65.02	49.49	378.93
5	Sweden	60.26	48.62	25.47	91.32	83.85	41.68	351.22

Above:
Overall results of eGP
2025 for Group B
nations

Right: The podium for
final eGP placings at
the conclusion of stage
2 in Italy

Below: Breakdown of
team scores from
Stages 1 & 2, with top
team scores highlighted



© Fabio Grego

STAGE 1

Place	Country	Tower 90	Tower %	Raid 234	Raid %	Hunt track	HT %	Total %
1	Italy	273.95	100	237.20	100	147.96	100	300
2	United Kingdom	208.15	75.98	219.05	92.35	112.41	75.97	244.30
3	Spain	185.17	67.59	145.96	61.53	132.65	89.66	218.78
4	Netherlands	167.96	61.31	175.78	74.11	91.76	62.02	197.43
5	Sweden	165.09	60.26	115.33	48.62	37.69	25.47	134.35

STAGE 2

Place	Country	Tower 90	Tower %	Raid 234	Raid %	Hunt track	HT %	Total %
1	Italy	231.70	96.60	235.09	100	184.90	100	296.60
2	Spain	239.86	100	230.38	98.00	111.73	60.42	258.42
3	United Kingdom	165.81	69.13	210.03	89.34	138.40	74.85	233.32
4	Sweden	219.05	91.32	197.13	83.85	77.08	41.68	216.86
5	Netherlands	160.69	66.99	152.86	65.02	91.50	49.49	181.50

TEAM LISTS

Italy: Giacomo Grego, Giorgio Antonelli, Silvia Fagioli, Carlo Antonelli

Great Britain: Emily Massey, Kristina Schapiro, Richard Addison, Cora Moore, Oli Secker, Michael Ruby

Spain: Maria Canals, Maël Alcan, Pep Vivet, Giulia Picca

Netherlands: Kimo den Braber, Marleen van der Schalie, Stephan Takken, Kimberley Jeronimus, Louise Kalisvaart

Sweden: Christine Karlsson, Isabel Ahnborg,
Johan Fullmâne, Ann-Sofie Wredendal,
Mimmi Fagrell, Martin Grundström

*Congratulations
to the Italian team*



COMPETITIONS

Kids WC

IHAA Kids Straight Track World Championships

IHAA World Kids Championship 2025 In July 2025, I had the great pleasure of judging the IHAA World Kids Championship - an international horseback archery competition for children and teenagers. The event was held at the beautiful Wening Academy - Maghfirah Stable in Bogor, Indonesia. For several exciting days, 34 young athletes from eight countries competed with passion, sportsmanship, and a sense of international friendship.



[top R]
IHAA president,
Alan le Gall

[above]
Organiser Ranu
Hidayat

Article by
Radek Kożuch

Photos via IEA,
thanks to multiple
different
photographers





COMPETITIONS

Kids WC

Day 1 - Tower 90



Huang Ruihan [CHN] on Santi,

Enzo Coli Jun Ong [FRA] on Boy Mabda,

Alena Rabbani Putri Satriawan [IDN] on Twin One

The event was very well organized – the horses were well-prepared, and the hosts paid attention to every detail. Although the tropical heat and humidity could be challenging, the atmosphere was warm and welcoming, encouraging everyone to connect and enjoy the experience.

The riders competed in three styles: Tower 90, Raid 234, and a new combined format: Tabla & Skirmish. This mix proved to be an excellent idea – three runs of each style, with different targets, angles, and off-side shots. It was engaging, diverse, and truly challenging, yet many riders achieved impressive results. Competition took place not only in each individual event but also in the overall and team rankings – which brought the most excitement and prestige. The individual overall champion was Muhammed Cengiz Kılıç from Türkiye, who scored the highest total among all 34 competitors. In the team competition, Malaysia took the gold, followed by Türkiye and Indonesia. Medals were awarded in all three styles and four age categories, so there were plenty of celebrations – and nearly every country had something to be proud of.



COMPETITIONS

Kids WC



Day 2 - Raid 234



[above] Abu Bakr Muhamad Akmal [MYS] on Diana

[left] Pichayanit Teekanate [THA] on Shakaf

[below] Rayyan Abdul Karim Ardianto [IND] on Faruq

I've been involved in horseback archery for nearly 15 years – first as a beginner, later as a competitor, and now mostly as a judge – and I have to admit, the level of performance at these championships truly surprised me. For example, we saw a new world record in Raid 234, and 10 out of 34 riders scored over 100 points in that style alone. That speaks for itself – the standard was simply outstanding.

What also stood out was the incredible support from both parents and coaches. Many of them accompanied the riders every step of the way, offering motivation, help, and encouragement. At the same time, the presence of coaches from various countries created great opportunities for interesting conversations, exchanging ideas, and building international cooperation.

The day before the competition, we also held a judges' course, led by IHAA President Alan Le Gall, in which judges from multiple countries took part. I had the pleasure of assisting with the organization and delivery. Courses like this show how dynamically our community is growing – more and more competent referees are getting involved,





COMPETITIONS

Kids WC



Je Ha Hwang [KOR] on Osman

Heba Nusaybah Ahmad Mu'az [MYS] on Sobah, Lu Zhimo [CHN] on Santi

Day 3 - Skirmish & Turkish Tabla

and the desire to learn and improve is clearly strong.

In my opinion, events like this are incredibly important - not just for sport, but also for the community. Young people meet, make friends, learn to collaborate, and open their minds to other cultures. This kind of platform builds bridges between nations and gives hope for exciting future partnerships.

I would like to thank all the organizers, competitors, parents, coaches, and fellow judges - it was an honour to be part of such an inspiring event. I hope to see you all again soon at the next international IHAA competition!

Radek



Aidar Adilgerrey [KAZ] on Asteria



COMPETITONS

Kids WC



Muhammed Cengiz Kiliç from Türkiye had a very successful competition. He was placed first across competitors of all ages, thanks to top scores in the T90 and Skirmish/Tabla events, as well as winning his own category of 13-14y. His horse Putri must be recognised in the honours, carrying his young archer safely with 90m track speeds of 14-15s in Tower, 8s in Raid and 9s in the Skirmish/Tabla event on day 3.

Congratulations also to Abu Bakr Muhamad Akmal from Malaysia who rode Diana to second place overall, and to Rayyan Abdul Karim Ardianto from Indonesia who came third overall on Faruq.



Muhammad Muhamad Akmal, a 15 year old competitor from Malaysia, set a new Junior and Overall World Record on the Raid 234 track!

His horse, Quiver, ran a beautifully consistant pace, covering the 90m in just under 8 seconds each time. Very accurate shooting and only one missed shot, led to Muhamad's fantastic score of 120.282





COMPETITIONS

Kids WC



TEAM

1st Malaysia

Abdurrahman Ahmad Mu'az, Abu Bakr Muhamad Akmal, Hazzil Hamidi & Muhammad Muhamad Akmal

2nd Türkiye

Ali Bayar, Alperen Demir, Muhammed Cengiz Kılıç & Musab İsmail Şahanoğlu

3rd Indonesia

Daniel Azmi Muhammad, Kenzie Alkautsar, Rayyan Abdul Karim Ardianto & Rehan Prima Abdillah

15 - 16y

- 1 Abdurrahman Ahmad Mu'az
on Queen [Malaysia]
- 2 Muhammad Muhamad Akmal
on Quiver [Malaysia]
- 3 Hazzil Hamidi
on Boy As [Malaysia]

13 - 14y

- 1 Muhammed Cengiz Kılıç
on Putri [Türkiye]
- 2 Abu Bakr Muhamad Akmal
on Diana [Malaysia]
- 3 Rayyan Abdul Karim Ardianto
on Faruq [Indonesia]

10 - 12y

- 1 Enzo Coli Jun Ong [France]
on Boy Mabda & Osman
- 2 Heba Nusaybah Ahmad Mu'az
on Sobah [Malaysia]
- 3 Bheema Poondarikpak
on Shakaf [Thailand]



COMPETITONS

Kids WC



[L to R] Fathurahman Aulia Ibrahim [IND] on Nazdiat,
Heba Nusaybah Ahmad Mu'az [MYS] on Sobah
Muhammad Mifza Hanifa [IND] on Shobah
Enzo Coli Jun Ong [FRA] on Osman

*"A celebration of youth and sport, encouraging
friendship and collaboration across borders"*





REGIONAL UPDATE – THE AMERICAS



As a great boost for the sport of horse archery in **Canada**, Canadian rider Aurangzeb Mubashar delivered a thrilling live demonstration that captivated an audience of nearly 200 spectators at one of Eastern Canada foremost equestrian expositions. Representing the Canadian Federation of Mounted Archery, Aurangzeb showcased great skill and precision at the Ontario Equine Expo in March.

The 90-minute demonstration featured dynamic horseback riding and rapid-fire archery sequences, offering a powerful glimpse into the world of mounted combat sports. Aurangzeb is also the founder of Cavalier's Company, a horsearchery club based in Ontario, Canada, dedicated to preserving and promoting equestrian martial arts.

These images capture the intensity and fascination of a sport that continues to grow in North America.



REGIONAL UPDATE – AFRICA



Here in **South Africa**, we have moved into our winter season, but we don't let the cold stop us from doing what we love.

Our official competitions continue in Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal with provincial qualifiers being held in both provinces, and our SANESA (school leagues) series of qualifiers is well under way in three provinces: Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. All this is part of the buildup to MAASA and SANESA Nationals to be held in October, whereafter we take a short break to allow our horses to rest and receive their compulsory vaccinations.

We had an exciting weekend competition, the Shosholoza Shoot, hosted by Phoenix Horseback Archery in Gauteng. Beginners enjoyed a fun arena track event, which they could walk or trot around. The track included a variety of targets that would be found on a Hunt track: long-distance, 2D and 3D targets, ground shots and Tower, and even an equitation element. The more experienced riders in the official 2* R&R event, on Skirmish90 and an 800m Hunt track. We all enjoyed a foot archery event under the stars on Saturday night. Archers used clues to hunt in the dark for the next target on the HT course then had to shoot it in a certain way - lying down, balancing on a ball, shooting through a tyre - which produced many funny moments!



© Diane Horn



REGIONAL UPDATE – EUROPE



June was a busy month for **French** horseback archers. At the start of the month horsearchers of all levels battled it out in the national championships at Lamotte Beuvron with individual, pairs and team placings being contested.

A week later Alan le Gall was back at Lamotte with his top horsearchers for a night time demonstration in front of thousands at the annual Game Fair.

Just a week later, in Normandy, 16 French and Belgian riders gathered for a competition at the spectacular venue of Château de Médavy. A memorable event for all, particularly Raphael Malet who set a new World Record on the Tower 90 track.



In late June, 38 riders gathered for the KN III Nations Cup in **Türkiye**, which hosted stage 1 for group A in the eGP. The event was held in flower filled meadows beneath snow-capped mountains, just outside Kayseri.

The event was the first ever in Türkiye to include a Hunt track. Organiser Emrah Koc reported "the idea that Turkish horses – or horses from other countries outside of Europe – cannot do hunt track due to their speed is incorrect. With proper training and riding skills, it can definitely be done with ease; even with hot blooded horses."

Sevilay Çakır on Turhan
© Mustafa Aksebseci

Switzerland have had a number of large events already this year.

Back in April, before many of us had really got going, the Swiss were already breaking World Records at the Frühlingsturnier der Gebirgsreiter competition. Amongst 24 competitors, Samuel Gugolz on Cala, and Roger Ittig on Rino, set new World Records in the Raid 234 event for Seniors and Masters category respectively.

In late May the Reiat Trophy was contested by 30 competitors. No new records but a popular annual event, always joined by a number of international visitors.

Meanwhile in **Poland**, Stable Grom have hosted 2 competitions this spring. The first, which was joined by a large Dutch contingent, saw Wojtek Osiecki set a new R234 Masters World Record. The second was joined by many British riders.



Samuel & Cala
© Lorea Hausherr



REGIONAL UPDATE - ASIA



Indonesia Equestrian Archery (IEA) and Wening Academy held a training session with Nemethy Academy. This training with Christoph Nemethy was conducted for the second time in Indonesia, during January.

Indonesia held a National Selection for IHAA World Kids Championship 2025, with 30 kids and junior riders participating from 10 provinces across the country. 10 riders were selected for the WKC in July. The 10 Provinces in Indonesia: Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) - Riau - DKI Jakarta - Banten - West Java - Central Java - East Java - Bali - East Kalimantan - South Sulawesi.



REGIONAL UPDATE - AUSTRALIA & NZ



Horse Archery continues to grow in **Australia** with several new records set in membership and competition attendance in recent months. April saw the combined NSW and Victorian State championships exceed all previous Australian competition records, with a total of 41 competitors across the 3 states. It was also the largest number of junior competitors on record at an Australian event in our history.

Queensland also held their State Championships in May, with another fabulous event attended by riders from QLD, far North QLD and NSW. Many of the riders at both events experienced competition riding for the first time and this is a great reflection of the growth of AHAA membership and horse archery across Australia overall in recent months.

The Australian National Champs are scheduled for July in Far North Queensland, hosted by Australian team member, Don Woods. Australia also has teams preparing for the World Championships and Asian Nations Cup in the latter months of 2025. Congratulations to all our members achievements and good luck to all riders for these events!



[L] Liberty Deaman riding Leroy,
NSW State Champion

[↓] VIC/NSW State Championships presentation -
a record breaking event for the AHAA





Feature

SPOTLIGHT ON A HUNT TRACK

CMA BIRTHDAY BASH, WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND

Write up by
Rebecca Hills

HUNT TRACK DESIGNED BY **ALAN LE GALL & HELEN BARNES**

The Hunt Track has officially arrived in the UK – and it made a spectacular debut at the Cotteswold Mounted Archers' 10-year anniversary 'Birthday Bash' at Black Fox Archery in the South of England. This landmark event marked the first-ever IHAA Hunt Track competition in the country, setting a high standard for future events.

Designed in collaboration with Alan Le Gall and built with care and expertise by organisers Helen Barnes and Maria Williams, the track offered an exciting and accessible experience for riders and horses of all levels. The track began with a straight 100m run that featured both front and back shots and also included the long-distance target using the Tower – a fantastic demonstration of how existing competition equipment can be adapted for Hunt Track layouts.

The course continued with wide curves and turns, adding an additional layer of challenge requiring riders to demonstrate not just shooting accuracy, but excellent horsemanship – a hallmark of the Hunt Track discipline. Riders encountered an array of target types along the way, including standard Raid and FITA targets, animal-print paper targets, and both 2D and 3D foam targets. Scoring followed a three-zone system: 7 points for the inner kill zone, 5 for the outer, and 3 points for any other hit on the target.

A standout feature of the UK track was the inclusion of the Halt Box equitation element – where riders were asked to bring their horse to a complete standstill while drawing and shooting at a Tabla target. Those who succeeded earned 5 bonus points; those who didn't incurred a 10-point penalty. These equitation elements really bring a new dynamic to horseback archery and positively encourages riders to improve their horsemanship and riding skills alongside their shooting.



© Helen Barnes

500 M (TWO RUNS)

13 TARGETS

1 ADDITIONAL ELEMENT

120 SECONDS PAR TIME



Feature

SPOTLIGHT ON A HUNT TRACK



Track diagram for right-handed riders

Route = yellow (long shot zone = yellow & green)

Targets = red

Equitation element (halt & shoot) - orange



Eowyn Barnes-Short & Kinna.

The competition was conducted in two sections, a Walk and iHBAE event and the IHAA 2* level canter event to suit all competitors. The walk event was a shortened version of the full IHAA track with targets positioned closer together to give riders a taste of the Hunt track at a pace that was comfortable for them and their horses. This highlights the fantastic versatility of this event which can be designed for various horse and rider combinations, different land sizes and terrains as well as venue equipment availability.

The UK's debut event proved that Hunt Track is not only a thrilling test of archery and riding skill, but also an incredibly rewarding and inclusive experience for competitors and spectators alike. We're excited to see Hunt track inclusion increasing across the UK and beyond, and how this brilliant event will evolve in future!



[above] Leia Sunter & Sage, [R] Nick White & Conquistador



© Helen Barnes (all)



Feature

INTERVIEW

SIEM BUDDING INTERVIEWS ARSA WENING ARROSYAD

As our attention turns to Indonesia, venue for the Kids Straight Track World Championships, Siem interviews one of the region's bright young stars.

The name Arsa Wening Arrosyad has been increasingly recognised by those of us who follow competition results and horseback archery on social media. Athlete, educator... We were keen to get to know the person behind the name...

Siem: First of all for the people who don't know you who are you and what do you do?

My name is Arsa Wening Arrosyad. I was born in Jakarta on August 18, 2006. In 2025, I will graduate from high school and start university. I began learning horseback archery at the end of 2018 together with my younger sister, Arum Nazlus Shobah. I only train HBA during school holidays, as I live in a boarding school and must follow the academic schedule like other children of my age in Indonesia.



As I, and many others, have seen, you have put a great push for the sport in Indonesia. Has this been a dream of yours?

In Indonesia, I was the first child in my age group to take up HBA. I was 12 years old when I competed in adult categories because no child categories were available. After I started HBA, many parents in Indonesia saw my progress through social media. Since then, more and more children have started learning HBA. My interest in HBA grew significantly, especially after my sister Arum Nazlus went viral and became a role model for children in Indonesia who wanted to learn HBA. In the beginning, I focused on myself. However, after competing in many tournaments in Asia and Europe, I realized I needed to share my experiences and techniques – especially to help children in Indonesia and other countries achieve their dreams in HBA.

What steps did you take to help build up the sport so much in Indonesia?

In 2022, I competed for the first time in Grunwald, Poland, at two international events: the International Open Competition and the IHAA European Grand Prix. I placed 2nd in Raid 235. It was there that I first experienced Tower 90 under IHAA rules. Also, we met you and your mother at the competition.

We were among the first to introduce and develop IHAA rules in Indonesia. I contacted the IHAA president via Instagram to ask whether I could promote IHAA in Indonesia. Then we started organizing competitions with official IHAA rules and standards.

We're happy that what we've done has contributed to and inspired the development of HBA in Indonesia.



Feature INTERVIEW

How did you start with horseback archery?

Before starting HBA in 2018, I was a traditional archer. I learned traditional archery in 2016 from my father and then from one of Indonesia's traditional archery pioneers, Mr. Irvan Setiawan Mapasseng. At the age of 11, I also studied under Coach Akmal Dahalan, a prominent HBA coach in Malaysia.

In 2018, at age 12, my father encouraged me to start learning HBA from my older brother Kharisma Zaky, who placed 2nd in the Hungary Track at the 2019 Silk Road competition in Iran. In 2019, I studied HBA under Ertan Erkekoglu in Balıkesir, Türkiye, and also learned from Alperen Alkan when he visited Indonesia.

As a beginner, my father wanted me to learn from as many great teachers as possible. In 2022, I trained with Anna Skolska at AMM Archery in Poland. I continued developing HBA in Indonesia using the knowledge I gained in Asia and Europe. We've tried to create a style that combines all this knowledge and adapts it to the unique conditions of Indonesian horses and riders.

The peak of our learning journey was inviting Christoph Nemethy to Indonesia in 2023. We then established the Wening Horseback Archery Academy in collaboration with the Kampung Maghfirah Foundation in Bogor, West Java, just outside Jakarta. The academy is located in the cool mountain climate of Mount Gede Pangrango. Wening Academy is now working with Christoph Nemethy to develop HBA in Indonesia and across Asia.



An event that we are all really excited about is the Kids Straight Track World Championships, which you are organising.

Can you tell us a little bit more about how this event came to be and how it will run?

We are working to grow HBA in ASEAN and throughout Asia. We need good and safe HBA standards for children around the world. By hosting the World Kids Championships 2025, we hope the presence of young HBA archers from various countries will bring us new lessons and inspiration to advance the sport. We've been developing HBA in Indonesia using personal resources, with no financial support from the government. Many of our competitions have been held with our funding, without sponsors. We understand that HBA is still new in Indonesia and globally, and it's not yet popular or widely supported by governments.

But we are taking small steps. One of our main challenges is horse availability. In our country, it's very difficult to find medium-speed horses that are safe for children. Most horses here and across Asia tend to be fast and somewhat wild, usually running 6-9 seconds. So, at Wening Academy, we are slowly training local horses to become safe for children to ride. We're not just training children for HBA, but also preparing the horses themselves.

Another challenge is finding suitable venues. Hunt Tracks are especially hard to come by, so we're offering competitions using Straight Tracks. We are working hard to prepare our training camp with a proper venue, villa accommodations, and meeting rooms. We want to provide the best experience for all participants. We'll also offer live streaming via YouTube so everyone can watch.



Feature INTERVIEW

Do you have any special insights you would like to share with people who are trying to improve?

God has already set our value. Our duty is to strive sincerely, because the greatest challenge in life is defeating our ego.



What achievement of yours are you the most proud of?

On August 18, 2023, I turned 17. That day, I won the Hunt Track, Tower 90, and Raid 234 in Russia. August 17 is Indonesia's Independence Day, and as overall champion, the Indonesian national anthem was played in Russia. I'm grateful to God that at 17 years old, I could give my country a gift as a champion.



I always love to see the videos of your very young students training and shooting so well, is there anything special you do different with your young students or do you train everyone the same?

I've learned from many teachers and from my own experience, including many mistakes I made as a child training HBA — because the sport was still unknown in Indonesia back then. Those past experiences taught me a lot about how to train the students at Wening Academy.

My collaboration with Christoph Nemethy has taught me how to train children safely and effectively. I'm also guided by my father, who gave me a deep understanding of how to build children's HBA skills from an early age. He has trained me, my sister, and my brother to a high level, so he has a lot of experience supporting me in training others.

My father created a step-by-step training method that separates ground archery and horseback riding. Only once a child can shoot quickly and smoothly without looking at the nock and only focus on the target, and most importantly ride with good balance and correct posture, are they allowed to start learning HBA. If those two basic skills aren't mastered separately, we don't permit them to begin HBA training. This method, based on how my father trained me and my sister, is now one of our academy's core training principles.

Is there anything you would like to share specifically with our readers?

We started all of this from zero. We've funded everything ourselves for eight years. The financial investment has been huge — organizing events and competing abroad. We don't compete for medals; we compete to learn from our predecessors in Asia and Europe. What we've achieved is not for ourselves — it's a gift for all the children of Indonesia and other countries.

If we want HBA to last forever, we must all share and collaborate.