



# GERMANY: AT LAST



Photos by Helmut Dietz

## Greyhound racing in Germany - finally writes Tomas Mika.

After having raced their greyhounds in exile for over 20 years, with Kennel Club style racing (twice a day, no grading etc.) having sort of exclusivity within German borders, the German Greyhound Club (Deutscher Greyhound Club) with kind sponsorship of GAIN Feeds held its D-Day on April 10th 2011.

Three months of hectic preparation, countless last minute jobs made it possible that the completely refurbished Hippodrom Frankfurt, the traditional Horse Racing venue in Europe's banking capital, became centre-stage of Greyhound Racing under CGRC (Continental Greyhound Racing Confederation) rules.

Organised by Deutscher Greyhound Club members held their breath when traps opened for the first time for a field of 6 over the newly laid 6-layer

high-tech sand track, the standard distance for the time being a 315m straight course.

Whoosh, and in under 19 seconds we had our historical first winner in Joes Noble.

Finally all 3 heats of the day were won in trap-to-line fashion but some fast finishers who grabbed the runner-up spots suggested this will not always work out like that.

On the day the well represented Hungarian equipe were to accept all 3 winners were owned and trained in Germany.

Thanks to modern technology the crowd, which was around the 1000 mark for the first heat but grew to some 4000 later during the day, had a splendid vision on the new huge video screen placed behind the finish line (same for Horses & Greyhounds).

Live moderating and replays certainly added to the success and the general response was absolutely positive, with small criticism of the fact that betting on the greyhounds was not possible.

From the organizers view everything went to plan in an amazingly smooth manner.

Everyone made a professional job and there is definitely something to look forward to.

The first Meeting included three greyhound races but this number is planned to increase through the season, with some heats to be run between horse races.

The total number of meetings to be held in this first year is eight. Frankfurt Hippodrom is definitely

worth a visit!