



Turkey

British Bloodstock Marketing was represented at the International Festival in Turkey earlier this month and was invited to the opening ceremony on the eve of the meeting, which included an impressive display of the Whirling Dervishes. The guests were warmly welcomed by Mr Behcet Homurlu who was elected earlier this year as the new President of the Turkish Jockey Club, due to a long-standing rule that the Presidents must rotate every two years.

The meeting this year was during Ramadan, which accounted for a reduced number of spectators, despite being scheduled as an evening meeting under floodlights. The British trainers were however out in force for the International meeting and were certainly flying the flag for Britain on numerous accounts.

Pressing, trained by Michael Jarvis repeated last year's victory in the Topkapi Trophy. He won the highlight of the festival, taking home £417,000 for his success, after beating Dream Eater by a head. The runner up is owned by Jeff Smith and trained by Andrew Balding who were both present to witness the nail biting finish of Europe's richest mile.

Mick Channon also had a fruitful trip, his owners returning home £450,000 wealthier. He was not only successful in the Bosphorus Cup over 1m4f with Halicarnassus under Alan Munro, but Eva's Request also won the Istanbul Trophy on the Wednesday, the same night that Balius took the International Anatolia Stakes for Godolphin.

Serbia

Belgrade, or Beograd, meaning "White city" is the capital of Serbia and lies upon two international waterways, the Sava and Danube rivers. Its population of 1.6 million (7 million in Serbia) makes it the fourth largest city in South Eastern Europe after Istanbul, Bucharest and Athens.

The Racecourse at "Careva Cuprija" is the oldest sports facility in Belgrade. The first Serbian Derby was run in 1921 and has been run every year ever since. Trotting is also a popular Equestrian sport in Serbia and the racecourse today also hosts trotting races, which were inaugurated in 1930.

Italy

Italy is one of Britain's largest European export markets and BBM was present for the Soceità Gestione Aste Milan Yearling Sales (SGA Sales) which were held on 21-22 September.

The catalogue contained 319 lots of which around 45 were by British-based stallions - the large percentage (approximately 50%) of these were by Darley stallions. Figures for the two-day sale showed 180 of 319 horses being sold for an aggregate of E3,340,500 (E2,286,000 of which was accounted for on Day 1) with an average of E18,558 and a median of E21,500. Compared to last year, this sale had 55 more horses catalogued but showed an aggregate that was down by 11%, an average down by 20% but a median that was increased by 65%.

Since February 2008 the racecourse is called "Beograd Hippodrome" and is now owned by the City of Belgrade. Situated amongst 24 hectares of land, it has 72 stables with 35 outer boxes and the horses can train at the racetrack itself. In the centre of the track they host dressage and show jumping competitions and there is an outer track and surface for the trotting races, which makes it more of an equestrian centre.



Above: Piccoloweddingparty winning the Tattersalls Kostolac

BBM was represented at the track in Belgrade for the Tattersalls Kostolac race, which was the feature race of the card with a total prize fund of 400,000 Serbian Dinah (£ 4000). The prizemoney in Serbia is low and the racecourse depends on sponsorship and the state for the funding. The winner of the race was Piccoloweddingparty (Piccolo) bought as a yearling at Tattersalls for 1200gns for owner Dragoljub Markovic who was also the runner up with Kordero Rezzar (Depth).



Above: Mr Markovic receiving the trophy presentation for Piccoloweddingparty's win

Belgrade hosts 20 mixed card race meetings a year (thoroughbreds and trotting); a further 20 meetings are spread across the remaining 5 tracks in Serbia. There are 200 thoroughbred horses and double the amount of trotting horses. A popular race card would attract 1000-2000 spectators, which is a small number but accurately reflects the extent of the racing industry in Serbia.

Highlights included lot 134, consigned by SARL Srl, a bay filly by Galileo who went to Bruno Grizzetti for E180,000. The dam has previously produced Falcativ, a three times winner to date, and Windy Britain, a seven times winner, both trained in Britain by Luca Cumani.

British-based stallion, Dubawi, off the back of a two-year old Group 2 double in September, continued to show his popularity, with a half-brother being sold for E80,000. Lot 29, a Sakhee colt, was also in demand, selling for E65,000 to Mr Scarpellini of Allevamento La Nuova Sbarra.

