

Overdose (GB) 2005 colt  
Starborough - Our Poppet (Warning)  
Bred: Mr and Mrs G Robinson  
Sales: 2,000gns Tattersalls December Yearling Sale, 2006

Horses and horsemanship have been a constant feature throughout Hungarian history. Szechenyi Istvan, a Hungarian landlord, imported the first thoroughbreds from England to Hungary in 1817. The first flat race in Budapest was run forty one years before the first Hungarian Derby, which was held in 1868.

It is no surprise that Kincsem became the heroine of Hungarian racing towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as she ran unbeaten in 54 starts between 1875 and 1880. 1880 saw the inauguration of the new racecourse in Budapest, Kincsem Park, which was named after her. A decade later, the Hungarian Jockey Club bought Alag as a training centre, which became known as the "Hungarian Newmarket".

Today, Alag has a very mystical "Hansel and Gretel" feel to it with approximately 300 horses stabled amidst over 400 acres of land intertwined by tracks of various forms. The Hungarian soil is ideal for training and is the envy of Eastern Europe as the sandy layers that lie just below the surface are easy to maintain and of great quality. The remaining 100 horses are stabled at Kincsem Park racetrack.

Hungarian racing and breeding suffered during the First World War and was completely wiped out during the Second World War. The first race after the Second World War was held on 7 July 1946, and it was towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that witnessed the rise of Imperial (Imi), the best Hungarian bred horse who became Hungary's second racing hero after winning 20 of his 25 starts, between 1960-1964.

Compared to other Eastern European countries Hungary would be the third biggest in terms of number of horses in training behind Czech Republic, which has as many as 1,600. There are approximately 60 stallions at stud, 1,000 mares and 200 foals produced a year. There is a tote system in place, although prizemoney is very poor, with the richest race being the Derby which is run in the first week of July and worth around 10 Million forint (approximately £25,000).

Not since the days of Imperial, has Kincsem Park Racecourse enjoyed such a large crowd, when on Sunday 19 April 2009, the unbeaten Overdose (GB) made his seasonal debut. The British bred colt, bought at Tattersalls for 2,000gns in 2006, has become not only a national hero but has also aroused interest on a global scale, with coverage reaching as far as the New York Times.

Right: Overdose (GB) at the training centre, Alag.



## BRITISH BLOODSTOCK MARKETING IN HUNGARY

APRIL 2009



Owner (left): Zoltan Mikoczy  
Jockey: Christopher Soumillon  
Trainer: Sandor Ribarszki

The two leading trainers in Hungary are Sandor Ribarszki (trainer of Overdose (GB)), and Sandor Kovacs (trainer of Varosbiro) - both of whom AP met on the Saturday before the race. A healthy crowd of reporters gathered to see the arrival of Christophe Soumillon and Overdose (GB). It was an excellent opportunity to meet the journalists and professionals and great to have the sporting legend Lester Piggott and Barbara Fitzgerald from Tattersalls there too.



Not only were there record crowds of around 20,000 people present but the race was transmitted on two of the three Hungarian terrestrial channels, which has never been done before - and more than a third of the country's population watched the television broadcast.

Left: Albert Klimscha, Lester Piggott and Anna Pinnington

Eight runners lined up for the 5f event and Overdose (GB) won impressively by a clear margin of 8 lengths, and in a record time of 52.6 seconds, (and lost a shoe in the process). The race was worth 7 Million FT (approximately £20,000) in prize money, and in Hungary is regarded as a Group 1. Christophe Soumillon, aboard for the first time, was extremely impressed with the horse particularly as he won in such taking fashion even when his starting stall was the last to open.



Above: Overdose (GB) blitzing his rivals in the OTP Hungarian Nagydíj (Hungarian Grand Prix)

Overdose (GB) is unbeaten in 12 starts including the German Gr. 3 Lotto-Hamburg Trophy, the German Gr. 2 Bestwetten.de 138th Goldene Peitsche and the Italian Gr. 3 Premio Carlo E Francesco Aloisi.

We look forward to welcoming Overdose(GB) and his connections during his campaign in Britain where he will be based with Amanda Perrett in Pulborough, West Sussex. Nicknamed the 'Budapest Bullet', his first target will be the Temple Stakes at Haydock Park on May 23, followed by Royal Ascot and then the July Cup.