

Dutch horse races in local streets recognised as Intangible Cultural Heritage

Short track horse racing in the public streets of the Netherlands has earned recognition as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

HEEMSKERK, THE NETHERLANDS, March 23, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A spectacular type of horse racing in the public streets of the Netherlands has earned recognition as [intangible cultural heritage](#) (ICH, a qualification derived from the description in the 2012 UNESCO Convention). More than 25 of these races are being held annually in as many towns and villages in the Netherlands. In several communities, these traditional events have been held and fostered for hundreds of years, the oldest races dating back to at least the 1750s. To date, 13 races on the calendar have been registered in the Dutch Cultural Heritage Inventory, with the aim to conserve them for future generations within the local communities.

The most remarkable characteristic of these [short track harness races](#), in which the horses are pulling a sulky with a driver on it, is that they are not held on the typical oval racetracks:

instead, once every year in every location, a stretch of 300 metres of public street is prepared with sand tracks to ensure safe trotting paths for the horses. The tracks are fenced off, so audiences of thousands of enthusiasts can watch the races from close by. Up to 24 horses



Short track harness racing: the winner continues, loser goes home



Horses competing in street race in the town of Medemblik

compete in every event, racing in pairs in a knockout race scheme all the way to the finals to decide a winner and a runner-up.

Professional sport

The races are supervised by the Dutch Trotting and Flatracing Association and all have to comply with very specific requirements and regulations with regards to the health and safety of horses, participants and the public. Veterinary supervision, professional betting facilities and electronic start and finish monitoring are also in place to ensure the integrity of the sports. As

the street races are commonly held in town centers, they typically attract thousands of spectators who are not regular visitors of race tracks. Therefore, [short track harness racing](#) in the Netherlands is commonly considered to also promote the broader range of equestrian sports in the country.

Gerard Post Uiterweer

Dutch Short Track Harness Racing Association

info@kortebaambond.nl



Horses at the start of a street race in the town of Santpoort

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/566220203>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2022 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.