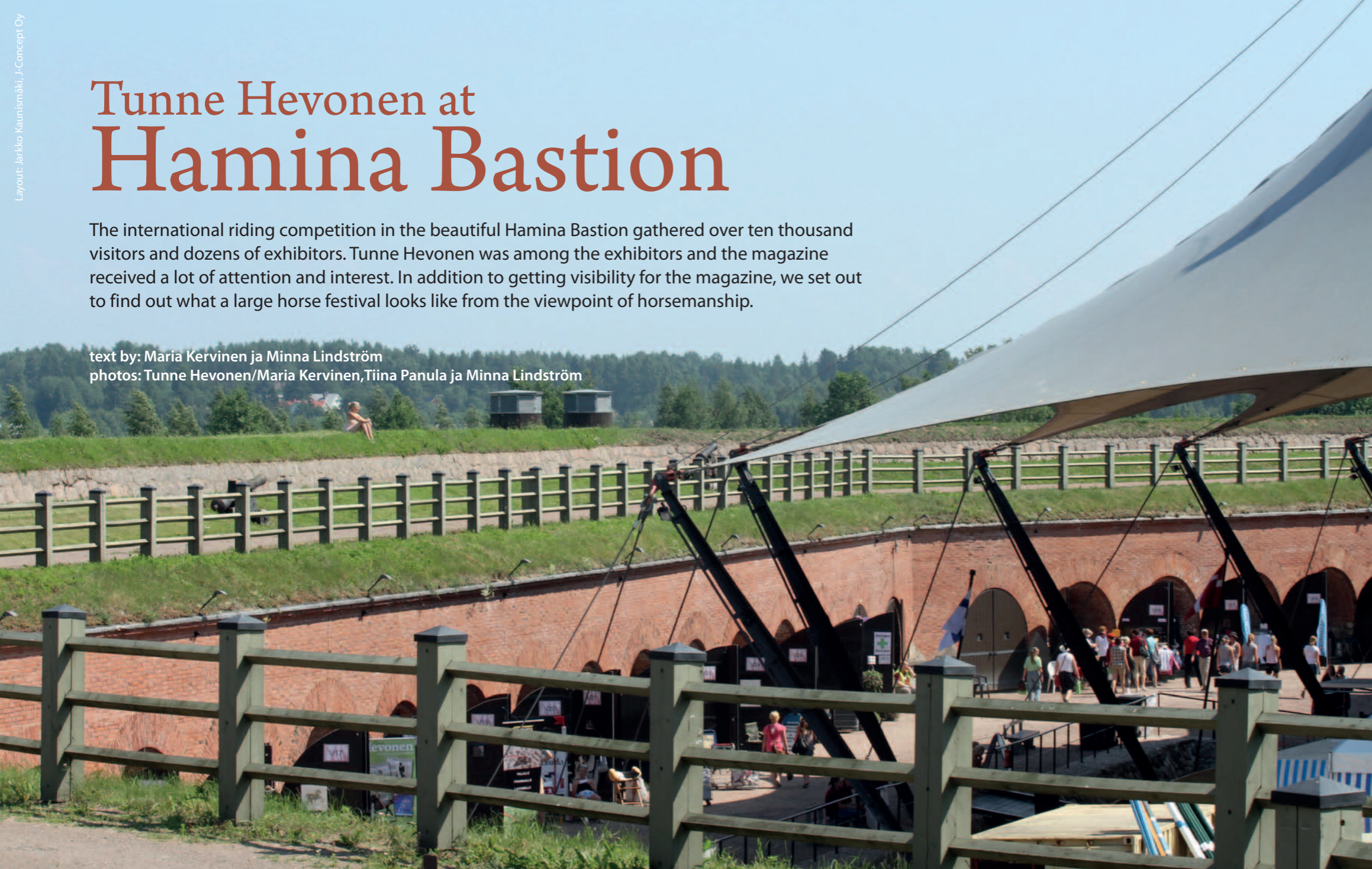


Tunne Hevonen at Hamina Bastion

The international riding competition in the beautiful Hamina Bastion gathered over ten thousand visitors and dozens of exhibitors. Tunne Hevonen was among the exhibitors and the magazine received a lot of attention and interest. In addition to getting visibility for the magazine, we set out to find out what a large horse festival looks like from the viewpoint of horsemanship.

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photos: Tunne Hevonen/Maria Kervinen, Tiina Panula ja Minna Lindström



Ramona Dragomir, who worked as the interpreter for Tunne Hevonen, Giovanni Consorti and Tiina Panula from Tunne Hevonen.



Horsemen from France entertained the audience during breaks, and even visited the Tunne Hevonen stand.

At sundown, on a hot Thursday in July, we had finally managed to carry our equipment and the dozens of boxes filled with magazines into a cool, damp and absolutely beautiful vault. After the effort was finished, we noticed a few riders warming up with their horses on the arena in the middle of the Bastion.

One of the riders stood out immediately, thanks to the riding style which looked reckless at times, but after a moment of observation the important distinction when compared to other riders became obvious. The horse looked quite dynamic. Its movements were wide and it was moving ahead with great determination. And the rider was riding very gracefully without exerting too much control.

Therefore it wasn't surprising at all that this rider, the Italian Giovanni Consorti with his horse Cocodrillo, went on to grab the GP class victory in Hamina Bastion. A well-trained, relaxed horse can reach its best in a competition situation, when

the rider knows his horse and the level of their mutual relationship. Cocodrillo was clearly the Finnish audience's favorite of the weekend as well.

Another foreign rider who stood out from the rest was Daniel Zetterman from Sweden's team with his horse Glory Days. His subtle and beautiful riding and his modest and polite manners left a big impression on the press of Tunne Hevonen. The interviews of these two riders can also be found in this issue of the magazine.

As a competition arena, Hamina Bastion is without an equal. The location, however, makes it a rather challenging one. The spot we had for our stand was great; we got to present Tunne Hevonen right by the edge of the arena, and had the perfect opportunity to watch the events all weekend.

On the whole, the event was top notch, and the courses laid out by the master course designer Hossein "Ramin" Shafiee had just the right amount of technicality without being too

difficult. There were very few refusals or run-outs. Shafiee himself stated that his objective when designing courses is to make it possible for the horse and rider to reach their highest level of performance, and he undoubtedly succeeded in that task. The relatively small arena must have set challenges for both designing and riding the courses. Since every new course is a learning situation for the horse, it was delightful to see that the courses offered positive experiences for the horses. Ultimately, however, it is the rider's skills and ability to analyze which decide who wins, or whose horses improve their performance during the weekend.

It tells a lot about the course designer's masterful skills that before every course he was able to estimate how many riders will have jump-offs and how many faults there will be. The tasks were clearly planned in a manner that set certain challenges for the horses, but above all the challenges were set for the riders.

As a summary of the weekend, it can be said that there are riders and there are even better riders. There are horsemen and there are better horsemen. Competing and success don't always tell the entire truth, but clearly respect and caring for horses doesn't preclude the chance to compete and even succeed. The horse probably doesn't see competition, training or appearing in other shows as being any different from each other. The way the human regards and treats the horse is what affects the horse's experience in each situation.

In conclusion it should be said that many of the Finnish participants also displayed beautiful and relaxed riding. This time we still ended up interviewing foreign riders, also getting a little glance of foreign riding culture in the process. 🐾