



55 years ago, in 1971, the first European Four-in-Hand Championship to be held in Hungary took place the World Hunting Exhibition. The international showcase, staged from 16 to 19 September mainly in Budapest, is still regarded as a milestone in the development of modern carriage driving sport.

A defining figure of that era was Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. In his role as President of the Fédération Équestre Internationale, he was far more than a ceremonial patron—he was a visionary and a true pioneer of international driving sport. Together with his long-time Stable Master David Saunders, he played a crucial role in shaping, structuring, and professionalizing the discipline.

Prince Philip was an early advocate for clear rules, international comparability, and the sporting evolution of carriage driving. Many elements that are now taken for granted—from the design of marathon courses to judging principles—bear his influence. What made his contribution exceptional was that he was not only an official but also an active competitor: in Budapest, he personally opened the championship and took part as a driver.

On 18 September, the demanding marathon phase led from Mátyásföld to Gödöllő, where the 16 competing teams had to finish in the historic Alsópark—an स्थल deeply rooted in the history of the sport.

Now, 55 years later, the city of Gödöllő commemorates this historic visit with a memorial plaque in the Alsópark, near the former finish area. It honors not only the presence of a member of the British royal family, but above all the legacy of a man who—together with David Saunders—helped shape modern FEI driving sport, leaving an influence that continues to be felt worldwide today.