

Olympic Committee gets lottery boost

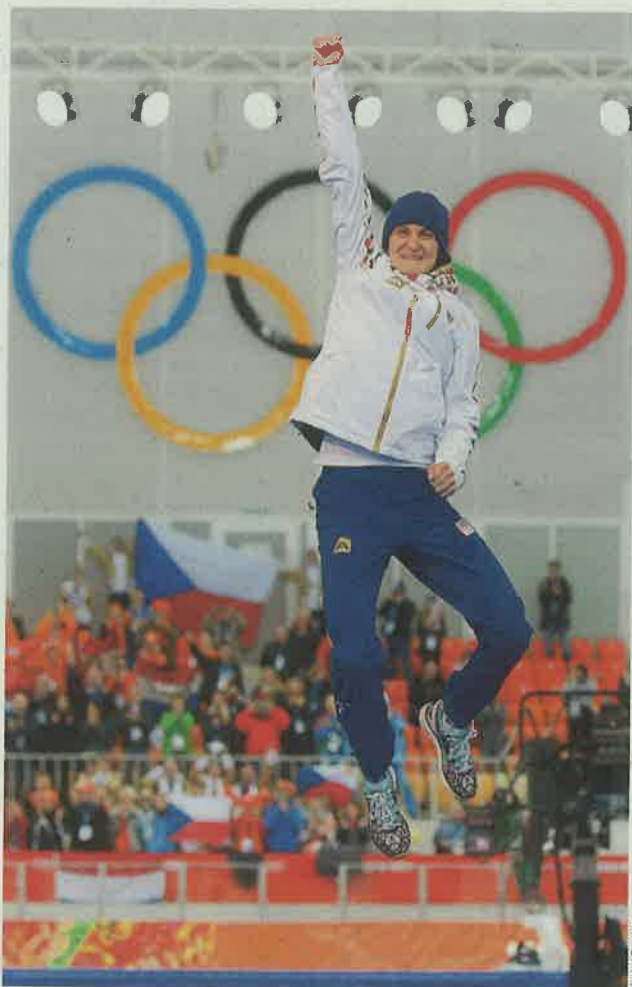
Betting tax cash will mostly go to youth sports

SPORTS BUSINESS

Dušan Kütner

New hope is emerging that in future Czech sports will receive hundreds of millions of crowns to train the new Sábliková, Jágrs and Moravcs. The largest domestic betting offices Tipsport, Fortuna and Chance are seriously considering whether to use the provisions of last year's Lottery Act amendment to send the Czech Olympic Committee a gift of up to one-quarter of the mandatory 20 percent lottery tax. This information stems from responses to questions posed by daily E15 to the betting companies. "In general, we see the option of the money from betting going straight to sport as being the right one," said Fortuna spokesman Peter Šrain.

Sports officials have been highlighting the lack of funding ever since the fall of the old Sazka company owned by sports associations, which, despite its long-time monopoly on the numbers lottery managed to go bankrupt in 2011. The reason for this was problems in paying off bonds



Looking for sponsors.

Four years ago speed skater Martina Sáblíková brought three medals home from Vancouver, and she has now added another two from Sochi. Despite this, speed skating remains a prime example of a discipline that doesn't make much from its Olympic success

issued for financing Prague's O2 arena.

This year the successor to the bankrupt lottery company, Sazka sázková kancelář, now owned by KKCG, promised to send athletes money from lottery taxes. This should come to over CZK 200m, with the first CZK 50m instalment to be sent by the new Sazka in April.

"We are in negotiations with other companies, with whom we are reaching an agreement. This would bring Czech sport hundreds of millions of crowns each year,"

said spokesman for the Czech Olympic Committee Alexander Kliment. The committee has declared that money from lottery taxes will primarily go to youth sports.

"Betting and lottery companies have not entered into a marketing partnership with the Czech Olympic Committee, but they do provide a donation to support youth sports. Therefore, we have established the basic principle and it depends on the betting offices, whether they identify with them," said Kliment. According to some opinions, however, the reason behind the betting offices providing the sums to support youth sports is an effort to make a good impression on the state. Since last autumn the Ministry of Finance has been preparing another amendment to the Lottery Act. The amendment should temper the conditions for the activities of online betting offices which operate Czech-language gambling servers in the Czech Republic on the basis of licences from other European Union member states. For the domestic firms, they are unwelcome competition



Kickstarted

Czech developers from Warhorse Studios have acquired GBP 1.1m in their campaign on crowdfunding portal Kickstarter. The sum is the largest amount a Czech company has so far managed to source from Kickstarter. The medieval game Kingdom Come: Deliverance was supported by 34,000 players, who were astounded by the graphics and innovative fight system with foundations in historical fencing and real physics. To start developing the game the developers only needed GBP 300,000, but thanks to the huge interest of players they managed to get that during the first two days of the campaign

Ranking of artists hints at collectors

The most promising Czech artists of the moment

	Jiří Kovanda	Kateřina Šedá	Eva Kotátková	Zbyněk Baladrán	Ján Mančuška
Art index →	3522	2712	2241	2085	1645
medium →	concept	happening	sculpture	concept	concept

Turnover at Czech auctions (in millions of crowns)



A gem.
One of the rings from Jiří Kovanda's *Two Golden Rings*

Source: Art+, photo čtk

Source: J&T Bank Art Index

Jan Stuchlík

Art and financial indices aren't usual bedfellows. Despite this an index has been created that does not deal with money, though it may jump-start the Czech contemporary art market. Experts in modern art associated around the magazine *Art+Antiques* compiled a ranking of hun-

dreds of the most important artists born after 1950 for J&T bank.

"Our aim is to make this market accessible to Czech collectors and those interested in contemporary works," said Jan Skřivánek, editor-in-chief at *Art+Antiques*. In the Czech Republic, contemporary art has yet to catch on among collectors. Czech

artists' works typically end up abroad. The ranking takes into account the authors' attributes, which, in the West, are decisive in finding the value of the works. It is primarily the number of prestigious exhibitions held, participation in competitions and trade fairs or famous galleries that represent the artist in a foreign country.

Organic farm boom drops

Dušan Kütner

Since the mid-nineties, the Czech Republic has seen hundreds of organic farms spring up every year. Tens of thousands of hectares have been rapidly turned over to organic farming, which has seen an annual growth rate of approximately 10 per cent.

But last year the organic farming boom abruptly ended. At the end of the year there were 4,060 'eco farms', just 126 more than the year before. Ministry of Agriculture data shows that the total area of land organically farmed increased by a mere half

493 thousands of hectares was the total area of land organically farmed last year

percent, to 493,000 hectares over the year.

The ministry put this significant drop down to it from 2012 no longer accepting farmers' applications for subsidies from the programme intended for new applicants interested in organic farming.

The Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic also

sees the suspension of subsidies as one of two reasons for the large slowdown in the growth of organic farms. The second reason, it added, was the uncertainty about future adjustments to support in the European Union's new agricultural period, which will start, with a year's delay, from January of next year.

who's who

Václav Hrach

Chief Financial Officer



Václav Hrach (39) has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at Net4Gas, starting March 1. Consequently, the company's management is strengthened with a seasoned new addition, possessing countless years experience in the energy sector. His main task will be to optimise the financial structure of the company and to secure the best levels of funding for gas-related projects. Václav Hrach graduated from the engineering faculty of the Czech Technical University in Prague specialising in economics and company management. In 2000, he completed his postgraduate doctorate (Ph.D.).

C.S. CARGO

Ludmila Hlavsová
Branch
Manager



C.S. Cargo is expanding operations into Russia. The start of

the year saw the opening of C.S. Cargo Russia, based in the Czech town of Hradec Králové. The branch will focus on expanding trading opportunities in both Russia and the Commonwealth of independent States. This expansion was accompanied by the appointment of branch manager Ludmila Hlavsová.

LEASEPLAN

Jan Malý
Head of Client
Relationship Management



Jan Malý (37) has been appointed Head of Client Relationship

Management at LeasePlan Czech Republic. He will be responsible for directing key accountant managers and client personnel teams. Malý replaces Jakub Kostřba, who is set to head a new LeasePlan department specifically focusing on commercial activities for small and medium sized businesses.

A.T. KEARNEY

Michal Urbánek
Manager



As of the New Year, A.T. Kearney has promoted Michal Urbánek and

Gustav Jiříček to the posts of managers. Michal Urbánek has ten years experience in leading financial institutions in Central Europe, Ukraine, the Balkans and Russia. In the past, he has focused on issues relating to regulatory risk management and the credit card industry. In recent times, Urbánek has worked on numerous strategic retail projects and SMEs for several of the biggest banks in Central and Eastern Europe.

A.T. KEARNEY

Gustav Jiříček
Manager



Gustav Jiříček possesses more than seven years experience

in the field of corporate banking and senior management consultancy. His chief focus is financial institutions in Western, Central and Eastern Europe. During his time at Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt his chief focus was on the rating advisory and credit risk management fields. In his career as a consultant, Jiříček's main experiences were in the small and medium sized business sector and also in mid caps, retail and insurance.