

FEBRUARY 2020

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**WORLD BREEDING NEWS**  
*for Sport Horses*



BIN #277

Breeder interviews

Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis



Denis Lynch and Rubens LS La Silla winners of the LONGINES GRAND PRIX La Coruña, España 2019



Pan American Games Lima 2019

Beezie Madden and Breitling LS winners of two bronze medals, individual and team competition



Darragh Kenny and Cazador LS La Silla winners of Prize of Handwerk 1.45m in WEF CHIO Aachen 2019



Philippe Vanderlynden and Chalam LS La Silla Grande Semaine de L'Élevage Fontainebleau France 2019 - 5Y Final 2nd Place

RESULTS 2019



Edward Levy and Rebeca LS La Silla winners of the MASTERS ONE CENEQA 1.55m Paris, France 2019



Jennifer Meylan and Manola LS La Silla CS12\* Sancourt France 2019 2nd. place Grand Prix

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CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL | HILLEVI BRASCH | SONJA GROB  
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## WORLD BREEDING NEWS

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*for Sport Horses*

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# EDITORIAL

## FIRE, HERE AND THERE!



*Images of the huge fires in Australia flooded our screens (TV, internet, social networks) during December and January. Then, although the tragedy is not yet over, China's coronavirus has seduced the media. To hear the tweets of bad omen the 'great plague' will surge around the planet much faster than the riders of*

*Genghis-Khan in the 13<sup>th</sup> century!*

*However, representing sport horse breeders, what is our key concern at World Breeding News? So, it was to Christopher Hector, our Australian correspondent and columnist, while visiting the KWPN stallion show in Den Bosch as he does every year during his European tour, that we asked the question because we are so aware of the tragic and awful damage to equine herds, farms burned, cattle lost (without having precise figures). According to Chris, the real consequence is as much economic for an already fragile business sector, as for other reasons.*

*On January 30, as we write these lines, Christophe Ammeuw, founder and CEO of EEM, founder of the Longines Masters Series (Hong Kong, New York, Lausanne, Paris) was forced to cancel the Hong Kong stage (February 14-16), saying, "The HK authorities did not leave us any choice. It is an order. It has been such a difficult year. For six months we've been going through what can be considered a civil war and, now that we have faced this critical situation, our organizing teams who are preparing the show have to stop everything."*

*And what about the Global Champions Tour? The Shanghai stage (May 8-10) could also pose a problem even if the response from the GCT press office was less pessimistic: "We will continue to monitor with our partners who also work on other sporting events like F1".*

*Here we can suggest the impact of these cancellations impacts not only for the organizers, but also their suppliers and service providers and, more upstream, globally the rest of the equestrian industry up as far as the breeders. And since we're talking business, we cannot forget that the Asian market is crucial to the watchmaker Longines, the main sponsor of equestrian sports?*

*How long will it take to regain your health and smile?*

*However, the worst is yet to come, from elsewhere, in a more devious way, from the increasingly critical urban minorities, for the most part, taking issue with any horse-related activities. The fundamental argument developed by these opponents, commonly referred to as 'antispecists', is that riding, whatever the discipline, from racing to equestrian sports, is against the interests, or even the 'rights', of horses. A stab in the back to which passionate people such as ourselves have a great deal of difficulty responding.*

*What 'rights'? Because it has been so for more than 25 centuries! Because our civilizations developed, thanks to a close and fruitful companionship for both species, and that is why there is no abuse in continuing to express ourselves together (horses and mankind), even if there is no more absolute necessity, that the horse is no longer 'useful'; just a game partner. The problem is that what was called 'peasant mentality' is disappearing at the rate at which the Arctic ice is melting. It's the means by which we allow all the nonsense in the world to circulate and it works!*

*Horses would be hurt when we strap them, the use of a bit would be barbaric, that of the spur or the shameful whip.... But who is working on the opposition argument to this bistro anthropomorphism? Why are those who most knowledgeable not more concerned by these extremisms? Where is the courage to defend a cause they cherish, which provides an economic and emotional livelihood? Should we wait until it's too late? The current debate on the use of the whip by racing jockeys is rich in this regard. And what do we see? Too much indifference, selfishness, and weakness! Most racers around the world are willing to give in, thinking it's the way to put out the fire. We think in reverse, like David Redvers (see page 41), whose published tribune we invite you to read, that if it is indispensable to have exemplary relationships with horses and, therefore, to severely punish abuses, it is essential to open the subject: to instruct and educate.*

*Yes, it is essential to confront ignorance, a-priori, vindictiveness and anathema with arguments, explanations, or demonstrations. Of course, it costs time and energy. It involves courage and intelligence, and after all he has given to us – and shall give to the generations that will survive us – doesn't the horse deserve this commitment?*

**Xavier Libbrecht**



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# WBF SH TRIBUNE

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



I was recently asked to look 10 years into the future and predict what the Canadian sport horse industry would look like. That was a very provocative question, to which I think all of us should give some serious thought. Indeed, following the 25-year milestone for

the WBF SH is a good time to consider this question in terms of our federation, its role in the future in facing challenges to the international sport horse industry, and what those challenges might be.

In his January editorial Xavier Librecht gave a very eloquent testimonial to the intensity and value of the human-to-horse relationship. "The communion between two beings so different but so complementary: horse and man. ... "From the eyes, hearts, bodies and personalities who have walked and evolved together in the fields, on the roads, from village to village, and also to the ends of the earth, in travel or in war, parading through ... more than 30 centuries." This is at the root of why we do what we do; this legacy from our past; but what about the future? Will this magical relationship be allowed to continue? There are a number of trends that could have a significant impact, both positive and negative, that deserve our attention.

The first trend is the growing isolation of horses from the mainstream population. It is still true that humans have an innate attraction and appreciation of their beauty and power. Images of horses are used in advertising, but the equestrian world is increasingly seen as expensive, elite, and remote from the average citizen. The most recent Kentucky Derby winner is no longer a household name. A winning horse is no longer news, but an injured horse is. This sense of separation combined with an innate love of horses creates fertile ground for animal rights advocates to plant the seeds of opposition to any use of horses for human enjoy-

ment. It also means that horses are less central to our culture and, therefore, not supported by public policy.

A second trend, which is really more than a trend, but a movement, is the awareness of and growing anxiety over climate change. Yet we in the horse community never speak about it in the context of our industry. It is as though we feel isolated from any responsibility or consequence. We need to assess the impact of our various horse activities and how to mitigate them, before someone else tells us.

The third trend is globalization. Our industry, like every other, is international on a scale we never imagined, fuelled by advances in breeding technology and the internet. Local and regional affiliations seem less important when everyone is playing on the world stage. The WBF SH is of course a product of this globalization. Breeders and studbooks are increasingly looking to the federation for leadership and support.

Beginning in 2008 the breeding industry contracted for 10 years. Today there are positive signs, but is this rebound sustainable or only temporary? We should not be complacent. We need long-term strategies to deal with these issues. I think the future for the WBF SH is clear. There is no other vehicle to give voice to the needs and aspirations of our community, to advocate for, support and perhaps even regulate the sport horse breeding industry. There are challenges that can only be met cooperatively and there are opportunities to really consolidate the central value that horses bring to the world. In ten years time the WBF SH will be stronger, have more resources, more members and be providing needed services and leadership to, through horses, make the world a better place.

**Chris Gould**  
**Vice President**  
**World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses**

(This commentary is intended to provoke discussion on elements of the sport horse breeding industry. It does not reflect a position of World Breeding News or of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses.)



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# BRIEFS

**New Manager for Baden-Württemberg:** Norbert Freistedt, who has overseen their marketing since the beginning of 2019, has now taken over as the new manager of the Pferdezuchtverband Baden-Württemberg e.V., and started in his new role at the beginning of the New Year. The 42-year-old agriculture engineer has had great experience in the horse world. From 2002, he was manager of the former Sachsen e.V. Horse Association Sachsen, mostly responsible for the merge into today's association Sachsen-Thüringen, for which he worked until the end of 2013. From 2014 he was self-employed with his partner Julia Schmid in the breeding, training, and sales of sport horses. He has also been riding mostly young horses with great success. Alongside his management role, he will also remain responsible for the Bad-Wü marketing of sport horses, also riding mostly young horses with many successes. Besides his management scales he will also stay responsible for the marketing of the sport horses.



(Photo: Björn Schroeder) **Norbert Freistedt**

**Darunee jumps to top price:** During the first Hanoverian auction of the year, a showjumper leapt to the top of the price ranking when Darunee went under the hammer for €45,000 in the Niedersachsenhalle. The Hanoverian premium candidate Darunee (Diacontinus x Comte), bred by Ingo König, has been successful in classes for young showjumpers up to 1m20, so there was great jubilation among the Swiss buyers when the six-year-old was sold. Fürstiano (Fürst Nymphenburg x White Star), bred and exhibited by Heinrich Ehlers, was the most sought-after dressage horse to leave the Niedersachsenhalle. Equipped with impressive basic gaits, the five-year-old chestnut marched from the auction ring towards Bavaria for €39,000. On average buyers invested €17,203 to acquire a Hanoverian talent. Wilken Treu – at his first auction since taking over as managing director of the Hannoveraner Verband – concluded by saying “I am delighted about this successful start to the year for the Hannoveraner Verband. Right from the beginning of the auction training, the great interest of our international clientele was already apparent.” Statistically, the price structure was stable. The average price has improved by around €1,500 compared to the previous year, and it was achieved without ‘outliers’. A total of 36 horses (50.7%) sold for more than €15,000, and the export rate was a good 40%, with horses leaving German to find new homes from Hungary to the United States.



**Darunee (Photo: Ernst)**

**The 17th edition of the stallion days in Munich-Riem** of the Süddeutsche Pferdezuchtverbände Vermarktungs GmbH saw success, with a stallion by For Romance I x Diamond Hit being the best of the dressage stallions. However, it was the stallion Finley, bred by Brockmann and Drechsler from Kūhdorf, who thrilled a truly international audience. It was also a pleasure for his owner Mandy Zimmer from Luxemburg, who spotted him at the foal auction in Nördlingen and will now train him herself. After he convinced with his great jumping capability, the Million Dollar son from a Con Capital x Araconit dam, bred by Otmar Dittes, sold for €95,000 to Holger Hetzel. The highest price was achieved by a son of the three-time world champion Sezuan, out of a Fürst Heinrich dam, shown by the Greim Stud from Bärnau, who sold for €180,000 to the Celle Stud, represented by Axel Brockmann. A total of 57 stallions were presented and achieved an average price of of €44,587 (US\$49,157) for the licensed sires, while non-licensed averagely sold for €23,580 (US\$ 25,996). These talented offspring were sold to buyers from Austria, Ireland, Hungary, Switzerland and Luxemburg. **S.G.**



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# A legendary quartet of sires loses three of its number

BY CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL AND ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, AND FEI

*In recent months, the breeding world has lost three legendary names in sport horse breeding – Jazz, Kannan, and Don Schufro (whose profile will be published in our March issue), while Indoctro is also celebrated in this article as ‘alive but definitively retired’ at the age of 30.*

Jazz will be remembered as the ultimate specialist. Also known under his competitive name of Broere Jazz (Cocktail x Ulster, bred by the late Huub van Helvoirt), Jazz is currently ranked as the number one dressage sire by the WBHFSH, while his son, Johnson, is ranked two. Jazz passed away at the age of 29.

“He is a one in a million horse,” said Nico Witte when he bought Jazz as a foal. He especially liked the long lines, attitude, and movement mechanics of the foal. However, preferent stallion was both praised and reviled. Still one thing is for sure: no one stallion has ever had so much influence in breeding in the Netherlands – and perhaps even beyond – like Jazz.

From the legendary breeding of the late Huub and Tiny van Helvoirt from Rosmalen, the cheeky colt was first given the name Jacob, after the well-known Dutch journalist and photographer Jacob Melissen.

When Jazz did his performance test in 1994, it was before the days of specialized horse breeding. Jazz was recorded with unsatisfactory marks in jumping, yet current dressage horse breeding is virtually unimaginable without Jazz. “He stood out because of his amazing forehand, high legs, withers, and his mighty hind leg. And of course he had an amazing trot. The fact that he had Cocktail as his sire, was a plus,” said Jaap Werners, who in time was responsible for awarding Jazz with his breeding license. “In the terminology of those days, Jazz wasn’t a true sire,” Werners recalls. “He was narrow and barely met the qualifications for a breeding stallion in the old-fashioned philosophy. But he had so much charisma, ‘presence’ as they say in England. You didn’t forget him.”

## *A show dancer*

The sensitive stallion with presence from the start had lovers but also knew his opponents. Jazz would be a nice horse for ‘on the rope’, but the big sport certainly wouldn’t be reachable. However, Olympic dressage rider Tineke Bartels believed quite the opposite. She was asked whether she would be interested in training Jazz, and she was, remembering; “Nowadays we don’t find it any problem if an amazing horse is spooky at times, like for instance Adelinde Cornelissen’s Jazz son Parzival was, too. But when I started to train Jazz, it took many talks and shows to earn some

understanding about this fact. In those days people weren’t used to the positive side of a sensitive horse, so a lot of the publicity was rather negative. That was when I started focusing on our ballet show, a dance troupe combined with a torch show. It was so easy to combine the elegance of human dancers with the elegance of Jazz moving in passage.” Bartels went on to say; “It proved that there isn’t an ounce of evil in Jazz. He simply was an amazing animal.”

Jazz was also exceptional for having a syndicate organized to keep him in Dutch hands. Cees Broere bought two shares in the syndicate, which is why he was called Broere Jazz from then on. Later, Broere bought Jazz, which was a great opportunity for his stable-rider Kirsten Beckers, as learned everything from ‘master’ Broere Jazz, whom she nicknamed her ‘Superjazzie’.

## *King Jazz*

“All Jazz progeny are pretty, nicely uphill built, and intelligent, but Jazz was only taken seriously as a top sire when he produced one after the other of Grand Prix dressage horses,” Bartels explains.

According to Kirsten Beckers; “From day one when I started to ride Jazz he became my best friend and partner. Which is special for a horse who has already had a successful career with another rider. He was my first horse to ride in the Dutch national championships GP, to compete in Aachen, to ride in the Dutch A squad. My first in everything. Jazz never did something half-powered, he always gave his all and loved to be the centre of attention. Visitors always wanted to have a picture next to him and he knew he was the king”.

Stallion owner Nico Witte, one of the early connections to Jazz, saw his potential influence from the start. Together with a friend he bought Jazz as a colt from breeder Huub van Helvoirt as he noticed something special in his attitude. Witte said; “Sometimes people are looking for a pedigree without Jazz. For me it’s completely different and the other way round. I’m always looking for a pedigree with Jazz included. His presence, his working attitude, his intelligence, his uphill stature which he passes on are all qualities worth preserving.” From the KWPN registered offspring, 125 have performed in the Netherlands and abroad at Grand Prix level, while 195 Jazz offspring have reached the Small Tour level.



***Kannan son Nino des Buissonets – London 2012 Olympic champion with Steve Guerdat (SUI), 4th Rio 2016***

No stallion has had as much influence on dressage breeding as Jazz. He was for many years, and still is, the top-ranked WBFSH stallion. In the Netherlands, the preferent sire has over 3,100 offspring. Thirteen of his direct offspring have been approved, from which Johnson is preferent, while Olivi, Wynton, and Westpoint were awarded as keur. No fewer than 43 KWPN stallions carry the Jazz blood in the second generation, Vivaldi (Krack x Jazz) being one of the best known. At the mare inspections two thirds of this daughters earned the conformation predicate keur. Jazz has so far given 99 preferent mares and 62 performance mares.

And his breeding influence is not finished with his passing, as Stoeterij Broere is still offering frozen semen from Broere Jazz.

### ***Rest in peace, Kannan: Your influence will live on...***

From the outset, it's easy to say that Kannan (Voltaire - Cemeta x Nimmerdor, bred by Mariet and Wobbe Kramer) has had a tremendous influence on breeding and sport over the last 20 years. Groupe France Elevage writes in their press release announcing his passing: "Kannan just celebrated his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday and enjoyed the usual hacking out the day before he died. The following day he suffered a cardiac arrest in the morning and died very quickly."

Twenty-eight years is a quite remarkable age for a stallion who competed at the highest level in sport and who was one of the most sought after stallions in the showjumping breeding for many years. For eight years, his name appeared in the top 10 of the WBFSH sire ranking, and with the upcoming products that he produced in France he will undoubtedly return to the top 10 based on the performances of his progeny.

During his competitive career he spent 10 years under the saddle of Michel Hecart, with whom he celebrated his greatest successes. Together, they won the Grand Prix of Deauville in 2003, fourth in the Grand Prix La Coruña in 2004, seventh in the World Cup Qualifier of Verona, and in 2005 they represented France at the European championships hosted by San Patrignano in Italy. As members of the French Nations' team, they saw victories in 2000 in Lisbon, and La Baule 2001.

### ***Kannan's popularity as a sire***

Currently, he has recorded 142 approved sons, including the well-known star showjumper Quabri de l'Isle, jumping 1m60 under the saddle of Brazil's Pedro Veniss. Haras de la Roque played a very important role from the start for affording Kannan the best opportunities to produce top jumpers. Kannan was bought by the Hecart family, and they knew they had something very special in their hands. Alexandrine Hecart explains: "When we bought Kannan in 2000 we knew nothing about breeding, we knew about sport horses but we hadn't bred any foals until then. This was also the time I became interested in bloodlines, because before that I wasn't really that interested. Okay, I have to admit that when I was younger I was totally passionate about motherlines and breeding. It was not like I knew everything about studbooks, etc., but I knew the horses, the stallions. I was reading everything that had to do with horses. I was probably more interested in bloodlines than Michel."

However, with my passion for horses, when you have a stallion like Kannan it's exciting to breed. We already had nice horses, but with Kannan everything was so different, he was a one-in-a-million horse. With Kannan we thought we should also start breeding, we had this outstanding stallion and I was absolute in love with him as a sport horse. So it was really Kannan who brought us to breeding.

We then found out he'd already had a really busy breeding career in Belgium, he was covering around 300 mares there. These offspring in Belgium were still young, and he was still unknown in France because none of his offspring were here. We bought him in March 2000 during the Sunshine tour (in Spain), and on our way home we went to Belgium to buy offspring by Kannan. We bought three three-year-olds, out of mares with good pedigrees, and we started our breeding with them. I wanted mares with really good motherlines. They didn't need to have jumping careers as I can a lot about their qualities from free jumping, like canter and technique. If the conformation is very nice, then I think it could be really interesting.

Buying Kannan and these mares was the beginning of the adventure and that year we had five mares in foal. One year later we thought that as stallion owners we had the best opportunities to promote our stallion, so we needed to do what other breeders may not do. Find out which mares are going to provide the best cross with Kannan in order to be able to advise other people in making their decisions.

Somebody needed to take the risk, so we bought every type of mare – small, large, blood types, heavier, trotters, and even ponies – and waited to see the results. This idea grew, and after 10 years we were breeding around 50 mares each year. In 2006, 2007, and 2008, I think we had around 50 foals each year.

I think the key to our success of having so many horses at the top level that we've bred ourselves is that Michel gives the horses a lot of time. He provides really good management and, with some luck, having a stallion like Kannan helps for sure. He is a good base on which to build our breeding."

Kannan was very sought-after as a stallion, but what kind of mares does he actually need. Alexandrine explained: "The mares need strength in the back and strength in their hindquarters. Kannan normally brings a very good mind, but he was used on some very temperamental mares and the offspring could have inherited the mother's character."

What is the secret of Kannan and the magic cross with French bred mares? "It is interesting because he does fit very well with French mares. But I don't really know why. I don't know the Dutch and German breeding, so it is a tricky question. It is difficult to talk about the offspring of Kannan other than to say they need time when they are young, they are special, but they need longer than other horses. He passes on his unbelievable qualities in terms of smart horses. Even if you have a 'bad' Kannan, it is still going to be a good horse most of the time. He doesn't have a difficult mouth, the balance and canter is very nice. The average quality of Kannan is good. Kannan himself was a superstar to ride. You have to know I have never sat on his back, but Michel said in the movement he had so much power and he was really careful. It is like he had the best of all horses. Kannan was not a good looking horse, but the moment he moves he changes."



*Indoctro son, VDL Orestus (out of Celrite x Ramiro) under the saddle of Juan Andres Rodriguez Silva (GUA), Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*

Offspring like Diva II, Kismet 50, Molly Malone, Nino des Buissonnets (Olympic Gold with Steve Guerdat at the London Olympics in 2012), Paille de la Roque (World Cup winner with Steve Guerdat in Gothenburg 2015), Toupie de la Roque, Tradition de la Roque.... have all contributed to Kannan's career as a stallion. Kannan now has offspring born in around 40 countries, and his sons and daughters have defended the flags of around 50 nations.

According to Groupe France Elevage, they are now the sole owners of Kannan and will be the exclusive agent for his semen worldwide starting in 2020.

### *Indoctro turns 30*

On January 1, all horses in the northern hemisphere turn one year older – and so Indoctro (Capitol I - Vanessa VII x Caletto II, Stamm 7299, bred by Gerd Hansen) begins his 30<sup>th</sup> year – a very special age. Who doesn't know Indoctro? According to online databases he has 144 competing offspring listed at 1m60, 18 at 1m55, 94 at 1m50, 140 at 1m45 and 264 at 1m40 level. As a breeding sire, he has 83 approved sons

Wiepke van de Lageweg knew very well 30 or 40 years ago that breeding with Holsteiners would be a golden move. Mares like Shoraya (Ladykiller xx - Etoile x Aldato, Stamm 474A, bred by Benno Hoff), Hyazinthe (Ladykiller xx - Alpenblume x Fasching, Stamm 242, bred by Oskar Marckmann), Ramirha (Farnese - Fiance x Ladykiller xx, Stamm 1298, bred by Richard Hennings), and Zigeunerin (Caletto I - Krokus x Wahnfried, Stamm 1795) have meant a great deal for VDL Stud, as have stallions such as Indorado, Chin Chin, Corland, Cardento and Flemmingh.

Indoctro was also born in Schleswig-Holstein. His breeder Gerd Hansen started this bloodline when he purchased the mare Iris 6 (1972: Sherry Netherland xx - Cala x Columbo, Stamm 7299, bred by Hans Jakobsen). Her first foal would be Orgesch (Calypso I) Indoctro's grandmother. Gerd Hansen's son, Kai Jan, took over the breeding, which is how this special line has built up through the generations. Kai Jan Hansen explained: "My father purchased Iris, who created a strong foundation. Her pedigree is very interesting, Sherry Netherland xx and then Colombo (Cottage Son xx) x Freischärler. In the 1960s and 1970s, Freischärler (Frisko - Neufeld x Heinitz, Stamm 1337) produced very good jumping horses and then Frisko produced First. With all the important jumping horses from the past, Meteor and Livius, we find First in the pedigree. First brought mainly scope. Calypso's damsire, Heissporn, is a son of Heintze. This same Heintze is also the father of Heinitz, whom we find in the pedigree of Freischärler.

“Heintze gave horses the willingness to perform, and good temperament. This stallion played an important role in the evolution of work horse to sport horse. The mares had a lot of blood, and I can remember very clearly the registration of the Calypso mare. Even though I was already 20 years old and not so weak, I had my hands full trying to handle the mare. The reason for using Caletto II on the Calypso I mare is important as in the past Holsteiner did a lot of in-breeding – my father spent a lot of time investigating the history of the Holsteiner horse. Plus Caletto II was, even until today, the best champion stallion we ever had.

“My father fell in love with this stallion because of his outstanding type.

For us it was a very special luck, that we had two Caletto II mares. Indoctro’s mother had a lot of blood, which she has also passed on to Indoctro. A lot of professionals say that Indoctro got a lot from Caletto II. Zukunft V, the grandmother of Lord-Luis, was also a very beautiful broodmare, and was also the full sister to Indoctro’s dam. Capitol I then came back from East Holstein to Dithmarschen, so this combined with his pedigree was the main reason for using him.

“Vanessa – a type with a lot of blood – was the ideal mare for Capitol I. I believe, as I always have, that Indoctro gives the most modern and sporting offspring of Capitol’s descendants. We believe that in horse breeding the mareline will make the difference in the end regarding success. We also realize that we were very lucky with the mares we had. The main factors towards my father’s breeding success were a lot of bloodline knowledge, the necessary intuitive flair, and more luck. We are still breeding with four mares from this line: a full sister of Lord-Luis, Thinka (Lasino x Alcatraz); Bea (Quirado x Lasino); Helena (Clarimo x Lasino); and Feva (Centurion x Concerto II).”

### *Discovered by Wiepke van de Lageweg*

Wiepke van de Lageweg is very fond of Indoctro, saying: “I purchased Indoctro from Maas J. Hell when he was around eight months old. I did a lot of business with him but at the time he wasn’t keen to sell Indoctro. But I was told that Maas J. Hell had an interesting Capitol I son, and I wanted to have a Capitol son, so eventually he sold Indoctro to me.

“Indoctro is an amazing stallion who did an outstanding job in sport under the saddle of Ulrich Kirchhoff. As a sire he has really left his mark on Warmblood breeding, making a lot of blood-typed horses. I think I can say that Indoctro has been one of the most important stallions that I have had, and still have in my stable. He stopped covering mares two years



*Indoctro son Don Porfirio (out of Imalve x Ekstein) with Antonio Chedraui Eguia (MEX), Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*

ago, but he is still fit and will stay with us as long as he lives here in Beers.

“During the KWPN stallion approvals we will do something special with Indoctro becoming 30, and also will have my 75<sup>th</sup>, but we won’t be doing gymnastics together! We have shared 30 years together and from then until now he has always been a special stallion and has never let us down.” ■

### *1m60 horses from the branch of Iris 6*

- **Clintana W Z** (Clinton - Romina XIV x Lansing) under the saddle of Andreas Brenner (GER)
- **Coralino** (Corofino I - Eira I x Alcatraz) under the saddle of Philipp Zuger (SUI)
- **Lord Luis** (Lasino - Eira I x Alcatraz) under the saddles of Dennis Lynch (IRL), Lars Nieberg (GER), and Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst (GER)

### *Olympic horses by Indoctro*

- **Amarillo** (out of Sina x Heartbreaker, bred by G. Pluimers) ridden by James Paterson-Robinson (AUS) – Rio 2016
- **Don Porfirio** (out of Imalve x Ekstein, bred by Th. Griffioen) with Antonio Chedraui Eguia (MEX), Beijing 2008
- **Imothep** (out of Serena H x Calvados, bred by A.H.A. Hassing) under the saddles of Darragh Kenny (IRL), and Taizo Sugitani (JPN), Rio 2016 with Sugitani
- **Nike** (out of Willemina x Octrooi, bred by M.J.H. Schothorst) under the saddles of Yuka Watanabe (JPN) Doda de Miranda (BRA), Katherina Offel (GER), Athens 2004 with Watanabe
- **VDL Orestus** (out of Celrite x Ramiro, Stamm 1859) under the saddle of Juan Andres Rodriguez Silva (GUA), Beijing 2008
- **Vedor** (out of Maaikje x Fedor, bred by J. Heins) ridden by Julia Hargreaves and Dennis Lynch (IRL), London 2012 with Hargreaves (now Julia Lynch)

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# DvZ: Self-made breeder branding top-class eventers

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: VANESSA WILKIE, LAUREN MCCANN, PRIVATE COLLECTION

*A self-confessed traveller at heart, Dolly van Zaane's sense of adventure carried her from her birthplace in the Netherlands to the wide open spaces and sunshine of Australia in the 1970s. A brief return to Europe a couple of years later convinced her that her future was down-under, where she's indulged a passion for sport horse breeding and survived!*

With her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday looming on the horizon, Dolly van Zaane talks with passion and energy about her beloved horses, especially those fifth generation offspring from her foundation mares. "My brother tells me I should retire, but what would I do. Sell my horses and half my furniture and move to a granny flat to live off my pension. It's my horses that are keeping me young and alive." However, she does admit to downsizing and occasionally diversifying in order to survive over the years.

Driving from Perth, the farm's nearest city, the road passes exotically named points of interest such as Twin Swamps Nature Reserve and Walyunga National Park, and is a stone's throw from Swan Valley, a well-known wine-growing region. The richness of the local soil supports a diverse agricultural industry – from lavender to olive groves, cheese farms to coffee roasters – as well as providing exceptional pasture that attracted stock breeders and Thoroughbred studfarms to the area.

Dolly van Zaane's story is one that will resonate with many for whom sport horse breeding is a passion, a hobby that barely provides a viable income. She is, in fact, someone who perhaps represents a diminishing group of highly knowledgeable breeders, who have invested so much of themselves and any profits into furthering their goals. Breeders who primarily work alone, without the support of a lucrative business income, or inheriting family property handed down through the generations.

## *An unusual foundation*

Dolly van Zaane's childhood in the Netherlands did not include pets, let alone horses. "My parents weren't keen on me keeping pets, so I rode my bicycle to an aunt's house to walk her golden retriever. I think I was born with a genetic attachment to animals. I felt they had to be part of my life. I also loved reading so would take my pocket money and go to a local book shop to buy paperback books on dogs, horses, wildlife, butterflies, trees...".

However, her life changed abruptly at 16 when her high school finished and she needed to continue her education elsewhere. "My teachers said I would have to go to an all-girls school, and I said 'no way. I was never a 'girly' girl. My parents, to their credit, never tried to push my brother and I, so they asked me what I wanted to do as I couldn't continue at the same school. I told them I just wanted to work with animals, so

my mother got out a copy of the yellow pages of the Amsterdam phone book, and looked for kennels and horse establishments in the area. The first number she called was a dog kennel, but they didn't pick up the phone, and the second number was a stable in the centre of Amsterdam, I got an appointment, and the rest is history. That was at the Hollandsche Manege. That's how I got into horses, and it's interesting because I knew all about the four-beat walk, the gaits and conformation from reading books and before I'd even touched a horse."

## *The immigration experience*

Having taken the decision to immigrate, and using the assisted passage scheme in place at the time, Dolly van Zaane first arrived in Australia in 1974, but circumstances took her back to the Netherlands 18 months later, and it was this return trip that essentially sealed her future in sport horse breeding. "I was fortunate to get a job at Zangersheide, which really cemented my passion for breeding. I was only there for one year, but it was at the time when Leon Melchior was spending a lot of money to buy all his amazing Grand Prix showjumping



*Dolly van Zaane and Chevalier*

mares, and was using AI, which no one else was doing at the time. Almé was there so I met all the famous horses, and people like Alwin and Werner Schockemöhle. It was an amazing time for me and I learned so much. I then moved to Zwolle, in with my husband and his father.

“At the time I was living in a nice big flat, but couldn’t see myself living on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor for the rest of my days so said, let’s go back. Our visas were still valid, so we scrambled the money together – we arrived with \$200 and a couple of suitcases – and I’ve never looked back.”

“I was in Queensland for a while on a small property where I got my own horse for the first time. It was amazing because I’d worked for 13 years in the industry, from the age of 16, and finally I had my own horse. In Europe, people like myself, not coming from a wealthy family, couldn’t afford to buy a horse, they were expensive to keep, and jobs in the industry very poorly paid, but the experiences I had are still valid to this day. Looking back, it was a priceless time.”

“In Queensland I met Gerhard Quast who was the first person to import Holsteiner stallions into Australia – Monopol and Falkland – who were bred to Thoroughbred mares because that’s all there were. Gerhard’s background was with the Holsteiner breed, which immediately caught my attention, so I went and visited him, got to know him, and he gave me a horse to ride, one to break in and train. But two years later he told me he was going to sell the horse. I followed her trajectory for some years. The new owner said she got compliments from the judges as it had the basics so well established, which was nice to hear.

“It was then that I was able to buy my first horse. A Holsteiner mare called Monate, by the grey Monopol (out of a

NZ Thoroughbred mare) and she is the great-great-great-grandmother of some of the horse I still have here today.”

◆ What prompted the move from Queensland to Western Australia?

I did a number of different jobs, worked in a winery and a bird park, and people always let me use paddocks, which was really nice. I had no car so rode a bicycle everywhere, and didn’t even have a driving licence until I was 38. But I then contacted the Holsteiner Association in Australia which is in Victoria, and asked them to let me know if they heard of anybody putting out feelers to find a worker. I knew I had to do something else. Three weeks later I got a message to say the Barrabadeen Holsteiner stud in Western Australia was looking for someone, so I sent a letter, as you did in those days. Robert van Helvoort, who was a car salesman, had taken it over after his father had passed away, but had no idea about the horses. I was flown out and found 100 horses, the largest Warmblood stud in the southern hemisphere at that time, who were basically in three groups: geldings, good mares, bad mares. Luckily, the elder van Helvoort had taken photos of his horses, but it took us weeks to sort them out from the photos.

Then, one day, while we were sorting, I looked at a mare and said ‘that’s an imported mare’, then saw another and said ‘do you know what you’ve got standing here?’ In the end, we discovered two imported stallions, Talisman and Wildfeuer, and 10 imported mares, including one imported in utero – Astrid, by Calypso I, whose granddaughter is my own DVZ Astra – and he had no idea. I told him he had liquid gold on the ground and that, amazingly, his father had had a real vision and was 25 years ahead of his time.

I’m really grateful for the experience I had working there as we implemented AI and were one of the first studfarms to use frozen semen in WA, or chilled semen from eastern Australia. You name it, we did it. We had a fantastic vet who taught me a lot, and we’re still friends.

I worked there for three years, then took my first holiday since arriving in Australia 13 years earlier, and went to Sweden (the Stockholm 1990 World Equestrian Games), and that was life-changing. I toured Sweden and went to their national stud, talked to the director, visited Germany, Medingen, the Holsteiner Verband stud.

◆ How much did that trip



DvZ stallion *Tchaikovsky* (left) with DvZ-bred broodmare *Astra*



### fuel your passion for breeding?

I was really keen before, but you never think you can make a living doing it yourself. But, I'm one of those people that researches everything, like when I was a kid and knew all about horses before I'd even touched one. I had books about breeding, studbooks, and I talked to vets, then I arrived at Barrabadeen and could really let loose. Breeding has never been a monetary thing for me, but it's a gift when each foal is born and looks amazing.

With my then partner, we were living on a large farm where I had the space to breed a few foals. It just slowly developed from there. At one point I had 22 horses and bred every year for the first 10 years, then the market slowed down and dropped dramatically, so a \$15,000 to \$20,000 foal was only worth \$10,000, and today you're lucky to get \$8,000. It's almost becoming undoable. I never meant to make a lot of money, all I ever wanted was to break even and do another job on the side, or have a partner with an income so you can at least have a life. I started offering agistment (grazing land for payment) after my partner left and I had to source an income on my own. To supplement my income I import a joint supplement for dogs and horses from the Netherlands, plus I worked in a networking company for skin-care products, which was going really well, then everything started to drop, and now everybody with a five-acre parcel has a spare paddock and is offering agistment for \$30, \$35 a week, and you just can't do it. That's why, in the past four or five years, I haven't bred every year. At the moment I have foals, and there one about to drop right now, but for two years I had no foals because it just wasn't possible. You put yourself at serious financial risk, and for what? My neighbour who helped me when the foal was born a week ago, came over today and said, basically, 'they're all vet bills standing in the paddock', and she's right, because anything can go wrong at any time of the day, and vet expenses are amazingly high.

### ◆ You sent a photo of your stallion with a mare in a paddock, do you always leave your stallion to cover naturally?

Normally, I'll take the mares into his paddock, serve the mare, and leave her there to make sure she's ovulated, then take her out. I've had this stallion for 10 years now so a friend used to come and help me hand-serve the mares, and sometimes I've been able to do it on my own, but that doesn't work with every mare, and now I'm getting older I'm more cautious. I had a partner who also used to help, but I've been on my own for nine years now. Today, with 50 years experience, it's my expertise that's really valuable and it's being recognized.

### ◆ Do you also import semen or only use your own stallion?

Before I got him I used a lot of chilled semen from local stallions, or imported frozen semen and have horses by Flemmingh, Indoctro, Soprano, Ronaldo, Krack C, Consul de la Vie, Triumph de Muze (a cot exported to NZ), and many others – also some showjumping horses. I was also selling frozen semen for a time but gave up on that after a couple of quarantine problems and the logistics of having the semen

stored some 50 kilometres from where I was living.

### ◆ Did you always plan to breed eventing horses, or has the idea evolved?

Definitely evolved. The first horses I bred went to dressage people. Twenty-five years ago when riders were getting really keen on Warmbloods and saw the value of international horses, they wanted their own, so I bred dressage horses first. Those dressage people wanted to spend their money and didn't mind buying young horses – so on the whole, I sold them by the time they were two and didn't have the expense of putting them under saddle. That seems to be changing now. I had a few showjumpers, but that's a completely different industry to deal with. I still have a couple left, but you can't move them on as easily.

From my photography days – another side income to fund my passion – it was the eventing that really excited me, and you find that the friendship and cohesion between the riders from different countries is really quite different to any of the other disciplines. I really liked that. As my mares are all Holsteiners, mixed with some Dutch breeding – that are mostly 50% Holsteiner anyway – and then you add a sprinkling of Selle Français, you get the ideal eventer. This is a combination I really like so now I'm concentrating on eventers.

Already 10 years ago I realized I wanted to breed my Warmblood mares to a good Thoroughbred stallion but couldn't find one. The Thoroughbred stallions I liked were at local studs, but the owners thought their stallions would be 'infected' with Warmblood blood. They still have really weird thinking, so I had to let that idea go.

Basically, I've been breeding on a budget and, in fact, if anyone walked in my shoes for a year they'd think I was really crazy, but breeding gets into your blood and I reckon I have the DNA that makes me want to do it.

So I continued looking for a Thoroughbred stallion and, in the early days of Facebook, 10 years ago, a friend of mine whose father breeds Thoroughbreds in the southern region of WA (Western Australia), posted a stallion's photo whose racehorse name was Destructive Action xx (Stravinsky xx - Wildn' Sensuous xx x Unbridled xx). I couldn't have thought of a worse name, but I thought he looked really smart, so I contacted her and asked about him. She sent me his pedigree and I then started to do a lot of research over several days to better understand what I was looking at – looking at all the online studbook information and dissecting the lines going back and back. I discovered he had a double cross to Mr. Prospector xx on the dam's side and on the sire's side, so through a son and a daughter, which ticked that box. I then went right through his dam line and, yes, I would have liked to it a bit closer in his pedigree, but he has more double crosses through some good females, with his great-grandfather on the dam's side being Key To The Mint, who carries the 'x' factor, which is the large heart factor – think Winx and Makibe Diva – which is passed on through the dam line, so I hoped that his daughters especially would inherit that and be good eventers.

He was actually from middle-distance lines, not

sprinting, and he goes back to Pocahontas xx from all different directions. She was a major matriarch that influenced the Thoroughbred, so all the best horses come from her sons and daughters, especially sons like Rataplan, Stockwell..... For me, he not only had the looks but, more importantly, also the genetics, so every now and then I pick up the yearling catalogue and I look to see how they're bred, looking for the common dominators on the dam's and sire's side. Occasionally you see a double cross, but mostly it's just random breeding, with no rhyme or reason, then I compare it to my stallion's pedigree with all its double crosses with several mares and stallions, which makes him such a strong breeding prospect with my Warmblood mares. And, as my predominantly Holsteiner mares have a smaller genetic base he has a much stronger influence to produce a nicer horse. He also doesn't have the typical Thoroughbred conformation, which has a tendency to dip in the withers, but has a good top line, a beautiful face, a really nice temperament, and a strong back end with a really good engine. He can jump, he's a reasonable mover, nothing flash, obviously, being a Thoroughbred, they're not all good movers, but my Warmbloods make up for that. For me, he's perfect (and was rechristened Tchaikovsky DvZ).

◆ Do you look for specific qualities or Thoroughbred percentages in your breeding?

I can only work with the mares that I've got, and I bred all the mares I have now who are mainly Warmblood with Thoroughbred from the third generation. However, my first eventers were DVZ Debonaire (by Dutchman imp) who won at every level and competed two star (old format) at the



*A few hours old, DVZ Tressini (Triomphe de Muse - DVZ Jewel x DVZ Goodwill x Jadalco imp)*

Melbourne International three-day event. In the early days in Australia, riders wanted exclusively Thoroughbreds, taking horses off the track, often for free, training them and sometimes selling them on. For me, it has to be a really exceptional Thoroughbred to make it to the top. You need that bit of Warmblood to get that extra scope, a better brain, as well as the additional strength in the hindquarters. Some people say you need the guts of a Thoroughbred but, in my experience, it really is the combination of the Thoroughbred and Warmblood that makes the modern eventer. The best of both worlds.

One of my top products is DVZ Chevalier, by Chico's Boy (52.4%: Carpaccio [Holst] - Eluna x Silbersee [SF]) out of a 50% mare that I bred. On the dam's side his grandmother was a long-distance mare, 16h3, grey, by Jungle Boy xx. In Australia, Jungle Boy has produced many, many eventers and showjumpers as a lot of his products were able to go and be retrained. I then used a horse called Dutchman (Le Mexico - Tetra x Amor), from the fantastic Le Mexico line and out of a KWPN mare, who was imported into the Eastern states by Dirk Dijkstra. I used him with a Thoroughbred mare and the result was a fantastic filly called Desirée – also a grey. I bred her with frozen semen to Chico's Boy, and when he hit the ground he already looked amazing – really elegant and tall.

I happened to go to a dressage event in WA and saw Emma King and asked what she was doing there. She said she also competes in dressage as good training for eventing, so I told her I had a foal a few weeks old that might be perfect for her, but when I said he was Warmblood she wasn't impressed. Later I sent her a photo and said I really thought she should come and see him, so she arrived with her mother and I didn't even need to take him out of the paddock. He was in a 50-acre paddock, I clapped my hands, the mare started to trot with the foal behind, and Emma immediately said she'd have him. She's since said that he's the horse of a lifetime. He won the young event horse of the year, overall champion here in WA, she did the five-, six-, seven-year-old competitions and won all of them. He's also done some showjumping, but this year he'll be coming back into eventing and is a real super star.

Currently I have some exciting horses out eventing: DVZ Solitaire (Skywalker) is one-star; his stable mate DVZ Sydney, by the Trakehner Sydney Australis; DVZ Fleming by Future Cup; DVZ Fanya by Soprano (I still co-own this 17.3 hand mare) is two-star. A couple of young ones coming out are DVZ Florentina by Tchaikovsky, and DVZ Florida also by Tchaikovsky.

The interesting thing is that on that lineage almost all of them are related. I often say that all my good horses are related, because I bred the mares and bred some stallions that I used – DVZ Infini, by Indoor; and DVZ Goodwill by Goodtimes – whose daughters I kept and are now broodmares.

It has been a long slow road, but highly satisfactory when you see your DVZ brand gallop past on the cross country course.

◆ Do other breeders come to you to use your stallions, or do you keep him exclusively for your own use?

I've posted his photo on Facebook as a sire, and I had two people use him last year and both of their mares are in foal, so they're happy. But he doesn't have 'imp' behind his name (designating the horse has been 'imported' into Australia), or a flash pedigree, so it's only people who understand genetics and breeding who will recognize his value. Today, unless you advertise a horse that's by a flashy four-year-old champion, no one's interested. Also, Australian dressage riders are now importing their own horses as it's become such a global industry, and many showjumpers are basing themselves in Europe or buying horses from there. So it's the eventing riders who are still quite interested, although I'm now downsizing. One year I had nine foals and will never do that again. The one I have now and the other that's due any day, are both by him as he's a fantastic type with an amazing temperament. If I have one or two foals a year by him, it doesn't break the bank and I don't have to sell them for a silly price.

◆ Is it primarily a geographical issue for Australia or are there other challenges?

It is a challenge because we're such a large country with a small population compared to the United States with far more people. But, it's also a mindset. If you think you're living in a remote place and you think this isn't the right place, it won't be the right place. People sometimes tell me I could sell to the United States, and I do have horses there, one in New Zealand, too, but I like being a celebrity breeder here and going to events where I see DvZ, DvZ, DvZ on the start list – I like that because people sit up and take notice.

I was at an event where after dressage there were two DvZ horses first and second in the one class and people were saying 'wow' – which is nice. The name then gets around and next time someone might think 'I'll go and look at Dolly's horses'.

◆ Are you now only breeding horses aimed exclusively at eventing, or also for the other disciplines?

Dressage not so much, but my horses can easily go showjumping. I do have one Totilas mare – one of the first people in WA to breed from that bloodline, but she has a really difficult temperament, very wary. But, she has amazing movement, real presence, she walks like she's on feathers, and moves like a rubber ball. Everyone says it's the stallion, but I don't blame Totilas, who is a legend, because Astoria's dam's father wasn't the easiest horse. They have a quirk that only experienced horse people can deal with. I wanted to sell Astoria when she was young because I put almost everything into her, eating beans on toast so I could afford the semen, which I bought directly from the Netherlands before Totilas was sold to Germany. I didn't use an agent, but got the import permit and put everything into place myself, so with the insemination it cost around \$12,000. A horse like that could have sold for \$45,000 and, in hindsight, I should have sold her then because she was the only filly in the country at that time by Totilas, the only one, although there were colts. But,

because you put so much into having a youngster by such a dream stallion, there's a huge sense of ownership, so I had visions of having a rider train her and ride her for me, but I can't do it financially. Astoria is now broken in and under saddle, which took two months longer than anticipated, so that was costly, and now I've just put her back in the paddock. I still have semen from one stallion that I bred myself, by Goodwill (Goodtimes), out of a beautiful mare, so I'll put her in foal, which will either make or break her. Sometimes, when a mare has a foal a switch goes off and they turn into a different horse, so I hope that will happen.

I also have another mare that I bred who wasn't an easy horse, sometimes taking me hours to catch her, although she's good now. It was very interesting because I put her in foal to Grafenstolz, and when the filly was born she immediately said 'hello, people', and the mare would be right there waiting to be touched and petted. And when I put a halter on the filly for the first time, she would follow me everywhere I went, she was amazing, totally different. Perhaps the Totilas mare will be the same, you never know, so she'll stay with me unless someone really special comes along.

◆ With Totilas in her bloodline, her foals will be very saleable...

Yes, and I did in fact do a post, saying she would be an amazing broodmare, but a special person would be needed to ride her. I've always been very open about what my horses are like, so I tell people that she's wary. In fact, I had a breeder contact me from the eastern states within half-an-hour of me posting her, saying he'd always wanted a Totilas



*Tristan DVZ – 10-day-old by Tchaikovsky, out of DVZ Astra*



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Selle Français website.





*Dolly with three of her broodmare herd*

and that he only planned to use her as a broodmare. So I thought 'great'. But when I told him the price, and explained her character, he said 'no', which I totally understood. So, if everything goes to plan, I'll have her in foal by the end of the year and we'll see what happens.

◆ Will you use Tchaikovsky with her?

No, I don't think that's the right combination. I might after she had a Warmblood foal to see what she's like.

◆ As you've been breeding for many years now and meeting so many challenges, do you still have any goals, or are you at a time in your life that now you're downsizing you'll quietly ease out of breeding?

I think one day I'll quietly ease out of breeding. I still have a couple of young mares, I've bred them all, and some are by stallions I bred, and grandmothers I bred, so I can't part with them. Today, if I tried to sell them as broodmares I'd be lucky to get \$2,000 or \$3,000 for them, which is a joke when you look at their genetics and the quality horses they've produced. And maybe they'd go to people who didn't understand them or love them or care for them in the same way that I do. They've been with me since they were born and have been my whole life.

There's one mare, who's fourth generation from my breeding, and she had a foal by Future Cup (Florestan I) who is fifth generation, so my idea is to just slow down with breeding, put them in a nice paddock beside my little house, and sit and grow old with them. Maybe not the smartest idea, but one that's important to me.

At the same time, the horses keep me young and vibrant, especially with the youngsters coming in in competitions. I'm 69 now, which many people don't believe because I'm so active, but it's because of my lifestyle, and I like it that way.

◆ Do you have any help around the farm at all?

I used to have backpackers, but they were unpaid and, financially, although it sounds dramatic, I couldn't afford to feed them. I do have a handyman close by, so if I need some help with something I pay for his help, but otherwise I do everything myself, fixing fences, removing trees."

Dolly van Zaane's farm, a rented property, sits on 160 acres, of which two-thirds is bush and, as she explained; "When you're by yourself with a single income, you either invest in a property or the horses, and I always chose the horses as I didn't need to own a house.

Although, of course, with renting there's always a risk attached to it, and the place I'm renting now is for sale, but there's a place nearby with 80 acres that might offer a solution. It has a nice house that's big enough to share, so I could bring someone in and won't be by myself, so hopefully that'll fall into place, but I'm not sure yet.

"I'd also like to tell you another story that happened 18 months ago when Wobbe Kramer came over from the Netherlands to visit. He owns Kannan Junior who was the KWPN champion stallion. He had talked to an Australian vet in the Netherlands, Fiona Lacey, whom he'd met at a conference, and she was 20 minutes from where I was living. She called one day and asked if I'd like a visitor, and I said, 'yes, of course'.

"Wobbe came with his wife, Maritje, and I showed them around and when he saw Astra, the big red mare, he said; 'Amazing. Breeders these days would give their eye teeth for a mare like that.' I then mentioned my Thoroughbred stallion, always thinking no one would be interested, but I told them it had taken me 10 years to find him, and that he was proving to be really amazing. So I stood in the paddock showing him off and they went completely quiet, so I thought, 'okay, obviously not Thoroughbred people'. But they said, 'so, he's a full Thoroughbred?' And, 'Wow, we don't have Thoroughbreds like that in Europe anymore. Would you sell him?' That was a real compliment coming from someone who has bred a KWPN champion stallion, and had bred Kannan, obviously. And my stallion, Tchaikovsky's still here." ■

*Editor's note: Dolly van Zaane was one of the original team of national correspondents when BN launched in 1996. She reported on sport horse breeding in Australia for many years, so we're especially pleased to pay honour her career in breeding as this month's interviewee.*

*www.dvzstud.com*

# European stallion finale and five-star dressage

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

*The Danish Warmblood Stallion Show 2020 takes place in the Jyske Bank Boxen of MCH Messecenter Herning, March 5-8. The stallion licensing is known as the finale where some of the best dressage premium stallions from Europe meet to compete. The immense and unique show attracted more than 67,000 visitors last year, and with the addition of a five-star dressage competition the number could well be exceeded this year*

Many renowned dressage stallions have taken their first steps of fame at the Danish Warmblood stallion show in Herning such as Zonik, Sezuan and Hesselhøj Donkey Boy, and other stallions born outside Denmark have also become celebrated heroes in Herning. Just think of Blue Hors Don Schufro and Blue Hors Zack that were already superstars in their home countries before they were purchased into Denmark at a young age.

The very expensive auction stallion, as well as the gold and silver medal winner at the World Young Horse Championships in Ermelo, Revolution is another foreign top stallion who is now making an impact on Danish and international breeding. In Herning his first crop of foals will be represented by seven young stallion prospects.

New top stallions have also been purchased abroad and

Blue Hors as well Helgstrand Dressage are presenting a handful of premium stallions from the German licensings in Oldenburg and Westfalia to meet and compete with the best of Danish breeding.

Along with the stallion licensing many breeding enthusiasts watch the dressage and show jumping classes exclusively with licensed stallions which allows them to get a more complete picture of the stallions in sport and breeding.

## *Let the Games begin*

In addition to the stallion licensing this highly popular event offers young horse championships, show clinics, gala shows, tack fair and, not least, an international show in



*Olympic rider Cathrine Dufour will be competing at the 5-star dressage show in Herning*

dressage and showjumping which combines sport and breeding at the absolute top level. Year after year, new elements have been added to the event that is one of a kind in the world.

In recent years, a consistent theme has characterized the event, not least being the great gala shows on Friday and Saturday evenings. This year, the theme during the Danish Warmblood Stallion Show will, of course, be the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Denmark will be participating with a showjumping rider and a team of dressage riders competing for Olympic medals. Hence the title of this year's event: Let the Games begin.

### *DWB 5-star dressage*

With great support from sponsors, Danish Warmblood has succeeded in upgrading their international dressage show to the highest level, a five-star event that will attract the best competitors from abroad. The show allows the riders to earn valuable points for the world rankings as well as prize money of DKK500,000 (€67,000). The only other five-star dressage show in Denmark is the FEI World Cup Herning that takes place in October.

'DWB 5-star Dressage' will be an important part of the riders' preparation for the Olympics, and all the riders on the Danish short list will compete at the show either in the five-star or the three-star competition. According to national dressage coach Nathalie zu Sayn-Wittgenstein; "The competitions in Herning will serve as an observation show prior to the selection of the Olympic team. We get to see the Olympic candidates all together, and that will make the competitions very interesting." She concluded by saying; "We have to select the 'A' squad after the DWB 5-star Dressage, which is why the competitions in Herning become extremely important. It will be a huge event, but Herning and the organizers can accommodate it."

### *Organizers rejoice*

The great venture, DWB 5-star Dressage in Herning has also reverberated abroad, and several international star riders have expressed their desire to be awarded one of the coveted spots at the event. One of the

20 spots in the Grand Prix is occupied by Danish resident and Spanish top rider Severo Jurado López, as an important part of his Olympic preparation with the 10-year-old Danish Warmblood mare Fiontini (Fassbinder x Romanov).

In addition to the five-star competitions, the spectators will also be able to also enjoy international CDI three-star dressage classes showcasing younger, talented horses and giving a foretaste of what to expect from them in the future.

Director of Danish Warmblood, Casper Cassøe said; "Danish dressage and the breeding of dressage horses are in the absolute top of the world. We will do our best to make the DWB 5-star Dressage a very special experience, both for riders and the audience. We are proud that the national team and the coach support our efforts, and we are happy that together with our benevolent sponsors we can help support the riders' preparation for the Olympics, and at the same time give the audience a very special experience in Jyske Bank Boxen." ■



*Dynamic Dream is the name of this German young stallion that was purchased by Danish Helgstrand Dressage in November 2019. He is one of several foreign premium stallions coming to compete with the Danish stallions*

# KWPN approves 12 jumpers and eight dressage sires

BY CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL

*It heralded a 100% success rate when 12 showjumpers and all eight dressage horses passed through their autumn stallion tests without hiccups. This year, the stallion test had been shortened from 70 to 35 days, resulting in this good result.*

Two stallions reached the highest score of 90 points: showjumper Lambada Shake AG (Aganix du Seigneur - Grappa A x Spartacus), bred by Alex Gisbertz from Beek, and registered by Jan van Meever, Stal Hendrix and J. Lammers; and dressage highlight Las Vegas (Ferdeaux - Dalia Delin ster PROK x Wynton), bred by John Deenen, registered by Nico Witte and De Dalhoeve.

Both stallion committees expressed great enthusiasm for the shortened test, with Marian Dorresteijn saying: "Although it should be said that this was the autumn test, in order to give owners more time to start with their stallions. But if stallions suffer any small or minor moments or injuries during the test, the time to recover is very short. However, there is always a possibility to enter the following year."

The stallion committees representing both disciplines were extremely happy with the quality and, according to Cor Loeffen, chair of the showjumping committee: "Like Marian Dorresteijn said, this year some of the stallions for the test entered the via another route or selection system, and we saw several older horses who were selected through convincing results at shows instead of being selected on a central selection day. So more opportunities to get through, taking characters and time into account."

As mentioned, the best showjumper proved to be Lambada Shake AG although, amazingly, his mother, Grappa A, is only registered as a foal. However the stallion presented himself in a very convincing manner, time and again, demonstrating a very powerful and mighty canter as well as a natural ease in flying changes, and with good reflexes over fences.

## *Approved for showjumping*

- Lambada Shake AG (2016/Zangersheide Aganix du Seigneur - Grappa A x Spartacus, breeder Gisbertz from Beek) registered by Jan van Meever, Stal

- Hendrix and J. Lammers 90 points
- Lingo van de Watermolen (2016/KWPN Connect - Happy Wiggy stb x Carambole) registered and owned by breeder Jan Greve 84 points
- L'Extreme BH (2016/SF Canturo - Shou d'Ouilly x Calvaro Z, bred by Alexandra and F. Lebon, Haras d'Ouilly) owned/registered by Black Horses 83.5 points
- Legend VDP (2016/KWPN Grand Slam VDL - Cendy VDP elite IBOP-spr sport-spr PROK d-oc x Triomphe de Muze) registered/bred by Arend and Arend-Jan van de Pol 82 points
- Le Kannan (2016/KWPN Kannan - Zereusa S elite IBOP-spr sport-spr pref PROK x Hors la Loi II) bred by Erik and Josje Sleutels, registered by Joop van Uyttert, Stal Brouwer and Combinatie Aaldering/Swelheim 81.5 points
- Lazzaro (2016/KWPN Homerun - Verisja ster sport-spr x Numero Uno) registered by breeder Roelof Bril, owned by Roelof Bril and Wiet ten Brinke 81 points
- Investment IB (2013/KWPN Kannan - Reggae elite sport-), bred by Dini Markhorst-vd Velde, owned by I. Boon 77 points
- Jerommeke SB (2014/KWPN Berlin - Elahniki keur EPTM-



*Kannan (1992/KWPN Voltaire - Cemeta x Nimmerdor)  
whose influence continues in his offspring*



spr x Carembar de Muze), bred by Harm Hartlief, owned by Stal Brouwer and N. Bonvanie 77 points

• Jager (2014/KWPN Numero Uno - Contiki elite sport-spr PROK pref x Carthago) bred/owned by Siem Kat 76.5 points

• Lennon HBC (2016/KWPN Gullit HBC - Pauke ster sport-spr x Corland) bred/owned by HBC Stal 76 points

• Love Connects (2016/KWPN Connect - Hello Twiggy BB elite IBOP-spr PROK x Quality Time), bred by Wilma Braat-Brummelkamp, owned by Plijnaar Vastgoed 76 points

• Lifeguard (2016/KWPN F-One USA - Cassionata by Cassini I), bred/owned by Combinatie Aaldering/Swelheim 76 points

### Dressage stallions

From the outset a great deal was expected from champion Le Formidable (Bordeaux - Vienna elite pref prest PROK x Ferro) bred and owned by Saskia Poel. However, from the start of the stallion test, it was another stallion that attracted all the attention: Las Vegas (Ferdeaux - Dalia Delin ster PROK x Wynton), bred by John Deenen, owned by Nico Witte and De Dalhoeve. He reached the record score of 90 points, the same amazing score that was last year on the bill of Jameson (Blue Hors Zack o-Atilinda x Negro) and Kjento (Negro - Zoriana x Jazz).

Las Vegas was 'big' in everything: his 180-cms size, in his huge, powerful canter, technique and movement in his legs, the overall impression he made, and in the final reckoning, his total marks. Bert Rutten on behalf of the stallion committee was full of praise, and exclaimed; "What's more, is that he always likes to go forward without hesitation, moves through his body and is blessed with a great and active walk as well."

An amazing walk also from Lowlands (Millenium - La Donna S by Donnerball), bred by B. Schrapper and owned by Reesink Horses. He was rewarded with 9.5s and achieved a final total of 87.5 points.

Kaiman (Dark Pleasure - Franciska x Gribaldi)) will be special for some breeders as his sire, the Grand Prix stallion Dark Pleasure (Ufo - Wild Pleasure x Jazz) who died recently at the age of 15.

Champion stallion of the stallion show Le Formidable achieved a total of 80.5 points, and it was obvious that he needs to gain some strength. During his exam his best showing was simply in hand.

### Approved for dressage

The list of all eight approved stallions for dressage follows:

Las Vegas (2016/KWPN Ferdeaux - Dalia Delin ster PROK x Wynton), bred by John Deenen, registered by Nico Witte and De Dalhoeve 90 points

• Lowlands (2016/Oldbg Millenium - La Donna S x Donnerball,) bred by B. Schrapper, presented by Reesink Horses 87.5 points

• Kaiman (Dark Pleasure - Franciska elite IBOP-drs d-oc x Gribaldi), bred by J.A. and B. Naber, owned by Reesink Horses 84 points

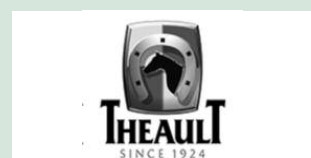
• First Date (2016/Oldbg Fürstenball - Rheingold TS x Dancier), bred by Thaden, owned by Stal Brinkman, Jacques Marée and Tim Coomans 83 points

• Lord Romantic (2016/KWPN Don Romantic - Veroniek elite sport-dres pref d-oc x Krack C), bred and owned by Adri van Erp 81.5 points

• Le Formidable (2016/KWPN Bordeaux - Vienna elite pref prest PROK x Ferro) bred and owned by Saskia Poel 80.5 points

• Lord Diamond (2016/KWPN Daily Diamond - Do Nijke ster EPTM-dres x Scandic), bred by H.S.M. van der Kuil, owned by Krista Kolijn and Diederik Wigmans 80 points

• Lennox US (Grand Galaxy Win - Herarona elite IBOP-dres d-oc x Rousseau), bred by Bas Wilschut, co-owned by the breeder, Joop van Uytert and Paul Schockemöhle 79 points.■



# Promising showjumpers and dressage stallions for BWP

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO

*From January 16-18, the second phase of the BWP stallion approval took place in the equestrian centre Azelhof in Lier. In total, 105 three-year-old stallions were inscribed, including 99 in the option showjumping and six in the option dressage. The third and final phase will see these selected stallions, plus an additional 27 – for a total of 132 – who will be presented at SenTower Park, Oudsbergen, March 12-14, 2020.*

According to BWP President Jozef Bauters, there are several keys of success: “The BWP level means a lot. This should be underlined more often. The correct way of selecting throughout the several phases of the approval is also a key to success.”

In the three-year-old age group, the jury selected 45 stallions, including 41 in the option showjumping and four in the option dressage, and at the conclusion of this second phase we met a delighted president: “In terms of the number of spectators we are very happy. I have even heard that both large parking lots were full. That was not the case last year. Besides the large number of spectators, I have also noticed that many candidates proved that they can jump. Several BWP dam lines were also suppliers of stallions. In particular, dam line 34, better known as the ‘de Muze’ dam line, was represented by seven stallions, four of whom were selected to participate in the third phase. Once again, this proves that good stallions often belong to good dam lines.

“Several other BWP dam lines were present, which means that there was a wide variety. As a result, there was also a wide variety of breeders and owners that presented stallions, as well as many supporters. Besides stallion keepers that are presenting one or more stallions each year, we also welcomed some newcomers which is hopeful for the future.”

The jury selected 45 candidates: “I have to admit that the jury selected a great number of stallions. If the members of the jury consider that a candidate could make it, then they have to give him every chance to prove himself in the third phase. If we didn’t do that, it’s possible that this same candidate would be presented some weeks later during a stallion approval with another studbook. In terms of the number of selected stallions, there are no restrictions, so we may not be too severe in the second phase. On the other hand, a stallion that has already been approved by another studbook will not automatically be approved by BWP.”

## *Option dressage candidates*

Only six stallions were inscribed in this age-group, including three BWP-born and three ‘others’. Certainly the number of non-BWP-born dressage candidates has

decreased in comparison to last year, a fact that Bauters confirms: “That’s true. We were also surprised. Despite the fact that this year we introduced for the first time a dressage jury, at the demand of the BWP dressage commission, and also despite the fact that we decided to entrust the organization and leadership of the dressage to Eddy Schuurmans, who is an expert. Thanks to our decisions, it will be better next year.”

The dressage jury comprised Tom Heylen and Jozef Govaerts, plus trainee Jean-Pierre De Waele. “They have a lot of knowledge and know the precise criteria being used in selecting dressage stallions. This is a piece of good luck. The members of the dressage jury are happy about the quality of the dressage candidates. In terms of quantity we have to organize an investigation, but in terms of quality we are satisfied. Four of the six presented dressage candidates have been selected to participate at the third phase, without any discussion.”

## *Option showjumping candidates*

When we analyze the pedigrees of the 99 option showjumping candidates we see that Cicero van Paemel Z (2000/Zangersheide Carthago - Rendezvous van Paemel x Randel Z, bred by R. Borloo) is represented by seven sons, followed by Di Cantero van ter Hulst Z (Diamant de Semilly - Noah [Holst] x Corrado I) and the very recently deceased Kannan (1992/KWPN Voltaire - Cemeta x Nimmerdor) each with four.

Several stallions presented three sons: Bamako de Muze (2001/BWP Darco x Jalisco B); Casall (1999/Holst Caretino x Lavall I, bred by Wilfried Thomann); Comme Il Faut (2005/Westf Cornet Obolensky x Ramiro Z, bred by B&S Sportpferde); Gino H (2011/KWPN Calvino Z x Ekstein); Iron Man van de Padenborre (2008/BWP Darco x Chin Chin, bred by André Leemans); Lavallino ter Klomp (2011/BWP Clearway [Holst] x Coriano); and Nixon van’t Meulenhof (2013/BWP Denzel van’t Meulenhof [sBs] x Carthago [Holst], bred by Mariette van Lombergen). Finally, the jury selected two sons of Cicero to participate in the third phase, alongside the following: Two apiece by Bamako

de Muze, Comme Il Faut, and Iron Man van de Padenborre, plus one each for Kannan, Casall, Lavallino ter Klomp, and Nixon van't Meulenhof.

Remarkably, Selle Français sire Diamant de Semilly (Le Tot de Semilly x Elf III) is the grandfather of 10 of the 99 candidates, thanks to Andiamo Semilly (out of Tati du Palis x Muguet du Manoir); the aforementioned Di Cantero van ter Hulst Z; Diarado (Roxette x Corrado I); Elvis ter Putte (Ukase ter Putte x Darco); and Matisse de Mariposa (Inabelle de Mariposa x Stakkato [Hann]); while Darco (Lugano van la Roche x Codex) presented eight grandsons, Clinton (Corrado I x Masetto) six, and Nabab de Rève (Quida de Revel x Artichaut) four.

Looking at the top 10 in the most recent WBFSH sire ranking, we see that five of them are represented by one or more inscribed sons. We are talking about the progenitors Casall, Toulon (Heartbreaker x Jokinal de Bornival), Cornet Obolensky/ex Windows van het Costersveld (Clinton x Heartbreaker), Kashmir van't Schuttershof (Nabab de Reve x Tenor Manciais), and Cardento (Capitol I x Lord).

We also analyzed the dam lines of the candidates. Seven of the 99 candidates go back via their dam line to BWP performance family 34, the famous bloodline of Querly Chin. Meanwhile, six BWP dam lines were presented twice: number 13 (Lisette), 21 (Draisienne), 59 (Livia), 80 (Carola), 81 (Karola) and 100 (Usha van't Roosakker). In total, 16 of the 27 BWP-bred stallions in the option showjumping that have been selected to participate in the third phase trace back to a BWP performance dam line, including four from line 34 (Remus de Muze, Royalo de Muze, Reborn de Muze, and Risk de la Linière), two from line 80 (Replay van't Paradijs, Robijn van d'Abelendreef), two from line 59 (Romeo van de Zeshoek, Rex van't Roth).

### *Top stallion auction*

During the second phase, on January 18, the BWP Top Stallion Auction took place. Last year 31 candidates were announced, this year only 20. The announced candidates could only come from the group selected by the jury to participate in the third day of the second phase. According to Bauters: "Let's be realistic. Only 15 stallions were selected for the auction. So, there were undoubtedly fewer auction stallions in comparison to the 2019 edition. Generally spoken, the auction was successful as only three stallions were not sold. The others all sold at realistic prices, which is an improvement compared to previous editions. The board of directors will have to carry out a full investigation as to what caused the small number of stallions in the auction. We don't want to present 30

or 35 stallions in our auction because we wouldn't have sufficient time in our program. Nevertheless, we want to know how we can increase the number of stallions auctioned. This year, four, or even five, stallions were sold during the second phase, but not via our BWP Top Stallion Auction. One of the reasons is that some people only want to sell a part share in their stallions, 50 percent, for example. During our auction, we can't only sell part of a stallion."

The most expensive stallion during the BWP Top Stallion Auction was Radetzky van't Heike (Diarado - Veni Vidi Vici van de Zelm x Nabab de Rève), who sold at €52,000. Rio vd Withoeve (Untouchable - Ikela vd Withoeve x Enrico vd Withoeve) sold at €42,000 to Poland, while Charming Boy SDW Z (Comme Il Faut - Hot And Spicy x Presley Boy), sold at €40,000 and will remain in Belgium.

During the up-coming third phase of the BWP stallion



**BWP President Jozef Bauters**

approval, the studbook will organise a new auction, called 'BWP Young Horses Auction'. Bauters explained: "When we see how many studbooks are organizing auctions for young horses, I was convinced that BWP should also organize such an event, so this is completely new. Two selections will be held, one on January 25 at Manege Vincent Martens in Tielt, and another on February 1 at Langeriethof in Geel. The selection will be done by the members of the showjumping jury, together with Sven Bols and Tom van de Vijver. This auction will be exclusive to three-year-old BWP-born horses. Recently, we noticed that another studbook sold BWP-bred horses for the first time, which means something. A

few weeks ago, while he was commentating during the Mechelen showjumping tournament, Ludo Philippaerts said that Belgium is a real horse country and that we have outstanding horses. In terms of the number of registered foals, BWP is leading in Belgium, so it's our duty to fulfil our breeders' desires.

In conclusion, Bauters said; "We think and hope that the auction will be successful. The selected horses will be subjected to a veterinary examination in order to maintain a severe reputation in terms of health."

### *Third phase finale*

The third and final phase of the BWP stallion approval will take place on March 12-14 at SenTower Park in Oudsbergen, Belgium. The successful stallions from phase two, as well as four-year-old candidates and older horses will also be expected. Spectators will be able to also enjoy a dressage gala, the final of the showjumping competition for young approved stallions, as well as the inaugural BWP Young Horses Auction. ■

# Lessons in breeding for dressage from Burg-Pokal

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

*Looking at the breeding of the young horses in this year's Nürnberger Burg-Pokal finalists in Frankfurt, we see just how specialized dressage breeding has become in the past 10 or 15 years. Right now the lesson is, dressage breeds dressage....*

**T**ake Meggle's Grimani, ridden by Matthias Bouten. The black Trakehner stallion is by Gribaldi, GP dressage himself and one of the leading sires of Grand Prix horses, out of a mare by Monteverdi, who Fie Skarsoe competed GP and who is by Anky van Grunsven's Partout, while the next line goes to another Grand Prix competitor, Polarion TSF.

The Danish bred Zalando, ridden by Nicole Casper is by the wonderful Blue Hors Zack, a current star on the international scene, out of a mare by Sunny-Boy, who stalled at small tour although he made it further up the dressage ladder than his sire, Sandro Hit, out of a mare by Donnerhall, the most influential Grand Prix dressage stallion of them all.

You don't get much more concentrated Grand Prix blood than you find in Isabell Freese's Total Hope by Totilas, and out

of Isabell Werth's champion mare, Weihegold – who is by Grand Prix competitor Don Schufro out of a Sandro Hit mare.

Then there is Annabel Frenzen's Imperius, the brown stallion is by another Trakehner, Hubertus Schmidt's German Team horse, Imperio, out of a Florestan x Donnerhall mare.

Helen Langehanenberg is riding her ginormous (1m85) Vayron and here is an exception to the rule we have been developing. He is by Vitalis who, like his sire, Vivaldi, never made the leap from small to big tour, out of a mare of largely jumping blood, Gloria is by the Graphit son, Gloster who jumped 1m35, out of a mare by Ramiro.

Hubertus has a second in the final, Denoix. The chestnut stallion is by Destano, who has competed Grand Prix with Sweden's Michelle Hagan (his sire is a real Grand Prix star,



*Sire of Meggle's Grimani – Blue Hors Zack, ridden by Daniel Bachmann Andersen (DEN)*

Desperados FRH) and out of a mare by Brentano II who lived in a time where breeding stallions did not on the whole compete, but whose blood flows in the veins of many fine dressage horses.

Dorothee Schneider rides Lord Fitipaldi M who is by Lord Loxley I, another who stalled at small tour, out of a mare by Fidemark, a good Grand Prix competitor before his early demise.

Andrea Timpe has qualified Don Carismo and this time the Grand Prix is hard to find on the pedigree. He is by small tour competitor Don Crusador (Don Bosco), out of a mare by the Calypso II son, Carismo out of a Falkland mare.

Lena Waldman has qualified two. Cadeau Noir by the Competent son, Christ, out of a De Niro x Calypso II mare, and Morricone who is by Millenium, the Trakehner some love to hate, and others love to love, who is currently competing small tour, out of a solidly Grand Prix bred mare by Rubin Royal out of a De Niro.

Thomas Wagner qualified the Hanoverian gelding, Soul Men, who is by Soliman de Hus (Sandro Hit x Donnerhall) who competed Grand Prix, but only some of the lesser competitions with very moderate success. Soul Men is out of a mare by the great Brentano II, out of a mare by the Thoroughbred, Roncalli xx.

Rounding out the 12 we have one of my favourite riders, Kyra Wulferding riding the horse with the highest qualifying score, Bonita Springs, a brilliant amalgam of Dutch and German Grand Prix lines. Bonita Springs is by Boston (by Jazz, out of a Flemmingh mare) who was training and looking good with Isabell Werth but who died before he had a chance to shine, and out of a Fidertanz x Brentano II mare.

### *And how did that play out in the final?*

Victory went to Total Hope OLD, although a large degree of the credit must go to the brilliant Isabel Freese. When I saw the black stallion at the world championships for young horses in Ermelo, he looked a rather ordinary

pony. It just shows what four and a bit months of good training can do, in the hands of a very gifted rider.

Second went to Bonita Springs (although she was first with one judge) and Kira Wulferding.

Lena Waldmann emerged from nowhere to dazzle the world at Frankfurt, another beautiful, tactful rider who brings out the best in all her rides. This time it was another black stallion, Cadeau Noir, who is by Christ, one of the mega-talented team of stallions at Gestüt Sprehe. Christ is something of a throwback to earlier times and the ideal of an all-round horse, and indeed the stud publicity mentions his form over a jump, along with his movement. He is by Competent, who stood only a few years at Celle, but who was also regarded as an all-rounder, he was by Compliment by Calypso II, who was primarily brought to Celle to bring his Holsteiner jumping talent, but who has a great reputation for producing rideability.

Christ's dam is by the Pik König son, Picard, who was regarded as a good sire of jumpers, out of a mare by the Thoroughbred, Daimyo xx.

Christ was raised by well-known stallion rearer, Heinrich Ramsbrock, who clearly saw that in this era of breeding specialization, Christ was something of an exception: "In all these years I have rarely seen a horse with the first-class double talent he has. And that is exactly what makes him so special. There certainly aren't many like him around."

Fourth to Hubertus Schmidt and Denoix PCH, while Lena rounded out the top five on her second ride, Morricone.

Then came Vayron and Helen Langehanenberg; Lord Fittipaldi and Dorothee Schneider; Soul Men and Thomas Wagner; Don Carismo and Andrea Timpe; Meggle's Grimani TSF and Matthias Bouten; Kiefferhof's Imperius and Annabel Frenzen and Zalando and Nicole Casper.

Once again, Frankfurt staged a splendid show, and once again, the Nürnberger Burg-Pokal, provided a window on to the future of dressage. ■



# Anglo European Studbook inspections in Belgium

BY EVA-MARIA BROOMER

*At a time when we are seeing the increased globalization of sport horse breeding, with breeders choosing the best international stallions and mare lines, it is perhaps not surprising that many of the larger sport horse studbooks are extending their operations across international borders and boundaries.*

The British-based Anglo European Studbook (AES) is no exception, and is facing an increasing demand for stallion and mare inspections and foal registrations in other European countries. To that end, 2019 was the second year in which the studbook held special stallion inspections in Belgium. The aim of the gradings was to inspect previously AES registered or licensed stallions for their potential for an upgrade to full 'approved' status.

The studbook's stallion grading system recognises four levels. The initial 'registered' or 'licensed' status is reserved for very young stallions who are yet to prove themselves under saddle and/or through the quality of their offspring. At those levels, stallion owners must adhere to strict

limitations in the number and type of mares those stallions can cover for full studbook papers. These restrictions are removed with the award of 'approved' status, which can be obtained through competition results, further inspections and/or the proven quality of offspring. The highest award of 'elite' status is only awarded to those stallions who are exceptionally successful at international Grand Prix level.

Studbook director Kees van den Oetelaar explains: "We are a modern studbook with a strong focus on providing a service to breeding and the sport. I am very proud of our stallion grading system, which is designed with the needs of the young horses and the riders in mind. We want to achieve a way of harmony and cooperation between breeding and



*007 van het Bokt (2014: Quint van het Maarlo Z - Glinca van't Leuterhof x Bon Ami) with Robbert Ehrens, bred by Steven Dhondt*

the sport, and are very interested in observing all our young stallions during the important early years of transition and development.”

The AES upgrading inspections for Belgian stallions took place last month (December 2019) in Hulsterlo and Opglabbeek, when a total of 13 young stallions achieved the approved status, as a further result of which they can now participate in the Pavo Stallion Competition in Belgium.

The jury was headed by Koen Olaerts and Kees van den Oetelaar: “We were able to see a selection of very nice horses today. For the upgrade, they had to jump a course over eight obstacles, and we focused on technique, attitude, and scope. In Hulsterlo, one horse who really stood out to us in terms of talent and potential was the three-and-a-half-year-old Calief Topfok (Lavillon - Calief van de Potshoeve x Toulon). In Opglabbeek, we were very impressed with the exceptional Lord Pleasure C (For Pleasure - Odette x Karadasj). When it comes to potential for the future, we must also not forget Quilano van de D&D Hoeve (Karmel van de Watering - Bella Donna x Uzi).”

Calief Topfok was bred at Topfok stud and is owned by Barbara de Ryck. He is by the French stallion and Diamant de Semilly son Lavillon out of Calief van de Potshoeve, a Belgian mare by Toulon who has two offspring competing internationally: Contact van de Heffinck daughter Houdini, born in 2007; and the 12-year-old Nabab de Reve son Idem Dito van de Hemelse

Lord Pleasure C is owned by Naomi van Luyten and combines the important blood of For Pleasure with some interesting influences from a prolific motherline in the Karadasj x Le Mexico daughter Odette, who already has three offspring competing internationally, and surely more to come as we see these young horses progress.

Quilano van de D&D Hoeve is bred and owned by Patrick Doms. He brings to the table an exceptional pedigree by combining the proven French lines of Karmel van de Watering with yet

another strong motherline in the Uzi daughter Bella Donna who is a half-sister to four international showjumpers.

The full list of stallions who gained approved status is as follows:

- Quaprice JW (2016: Presley Boy Nistria JW x Diamant de Semilly) bred by JW Stables
- El Nino Bull's Eye Z (2016" El Torreo de Muze - Nina van het Bruggeveld x Emerald van 't Ruytershof) bred by J. Symons, M. Eylenbosch and M. Ockerman
- Calief Topfok (2016: Lavillon - Calief van de Potshoeve x Toulon) bred by BVBA Topfok SI
- Cuba Libre van Paemel Z (2016: Cicero van Paemel - Roxanne K du Kulterken x Calvaro) bred by Stoeterij van Paemel BVBA
- Ecuador DW Z (2015: El Torreo de Muze - Daiquiri van de Moortelshoeve x Quasimodo van de Molendreef) bred by DW Stables
- Jack van't Plutoniahof (Hurlevent de Breka - First Lady van't Plutoiahof Z x Flamenco de Semilly) bred by G. de Cauwer
- Chili Pepper HMZ (2015: Cornet Obolensky - Cardino Z x Caretano) bred by Huysegoms Mievis Family
- 007 van het Bokt (2014: Quint van het Maarlo Z - Glinca van't Leuterhof x Bon Ami) bred by Steven Dhondt
- Liberté la Cita Z (2016: Le Blue Diamond van't Ruytershof - Cita Z x Chippendale Z) bred by Bart Hermans and Luc Augustyns
- Quilano van de D&D Hoeve (Karmel van de Watering - Bella Donna x Uzi) bred by Patrik Doms
- Lord Pleasure C (2016: For Pleasure - Odette x Karadasj)
- Hannibal van de Kromsteeg Z (2016: Heidelberg van het Lindehof - Fientje van HRG 4x4 x Parco) bred by Roy Hanlon
- Dowan van de Vosberg Z (2016: Dominator 2000 Z - Patina x Pythagoras Z) bred by Iboya d'Haese ■



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# New Zealand 2020 – ‘Year of the Holsteiner’ apparently!

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: PEGASUS COMMUNICATIONS

*It doesn't happen often, but it has just happened in New Zealand: the same three horses finishing first, second and third in a World Cup series, two years in a row. They are (with breeding details in the story below) Windermere Cappuccino, LT Holst Andrea, and Veroana.*

The only differences between the 2018-19 and 2019-20 results are the number of points scored, and even these are similar. Windermere Cappuccino's total was 82 last year; this year it was 81. LT Holst Andrea, who finished the 2019 series with 71, had a 2020 score of 79. Veroana's 2019 score was 62; this year it was 68.

And, just for the record, the 2019 and 2020 NZL World Cup had one other identical result: the final was won in 2019 and 2020 by LT Holst Andrea, with series winner Cappuccino in second place each time. Obviously, these two are closely matched in talent. However, they and third-placed Veroana are in no way alike, apart from the fact that all three have Holsteiner blood, as does almost every other horse in the top 10.

Windermere Cappuccino (Corofino II - Vespa x Voltaire II), is a nine-year-old New Zealand Warmblood gelding; LT Holst Andrea (Casall - Palaune x Lavaletto) is an 11-year-old imported Holsteiner mare, and the dashing red roan Veroana (Indoctro - Strawberry x Roman Off) is an 11-year-old NZ Stationbred. Windermere Cappuccino was bred by the Parkes family of Blenheim (NZ), Veroana was bred here too, by Linda Taylor, and LT Holst Andrea was bred in Germany by Hans-Joachim Gerken. Veroana's Holstein blood comes from his superb sire, the VDL Group's Indoctro, who is a Holsteiner (Stamm 7299) with a touch of Selle Français through Cor de la Bryère.

Windermere Cappuccino has been outstanding since his debut, easily winning every one of his age-group series, as well as many other classes and championships. He is a very calm horse in the arena, always looking biddable and confident, and jumping with care. No doubt this is due in part to his rider, the talented Tegan Fitzsimon, but his technique over fences could also be attributed to his sire, Corofino II (Corrado I x Fernando I x Lord), who has been awarded as top stallion at the NZ Young Horse Jumping Show four times, and has a similar jumping style to Cappuccino's.

Corofino II is a licensed Holsteiner from Stamm 318D2, born in Germany and imported to New Zealand in 2009. He has an excellent competition record in both Hemispheres, and a number of good European progeny as well as many winners in New Zealand. His dam, Valeska IV, is a Staatsprämie mare from a Hauptstutbuch mare called Option (Lord x Ramiro Z x Harras). Valeska's progeny include Corofino II's full siblings Corofino I and La Corofina (dam of

the licensed Zangersheide stallion Conrad Quality Z) and the Staatsprämie mare H-Corofina. Now 23 years old, Corofino II stands at Xtreme Sport Horses near Wellington, and in the 11 years since his arrival has had a serious impact on New Zealand breeding.

Windermere Cappuccino had only four faults in the entire 2018-2019 series; an exceptional feat for any horse, but especially for an eight-year-old, which he was at the time. This year he won two of the legs, with one second, one third, and one seventh place. He is owned by the Parkes family of Windermere Equestrian (who bred him), and his rider Tegan Fitzsimon – and his success continued shortly after the WC final, at the national showjumping championships (see below).

LT Holst Andrea, who came so close to winning the World Cup series this year with just two points separating her from Windermere Cappuccino, is a very, very impressive mare. She is jointly owned by her rider, Brooke Edgecombe and Ewen Mackintosh of Lake Taupo Holsteiners. Like Cappuccino, she had two wins in the 2020 World Cup series. She also had one second, one fifth, and one eighth place finish.

LT Holst Andrea has been the ESNZ's leading mare for the past two years. She arrived in New Zealand as a four-year-old in foal to Clinton and, unsurprisingly, that foal is now a winner too: the lovely seven-year-old LT Holst Elizabeth. Elizabeth is being produced slowly and carefully, and is consistently jumping double clears. She is owned by Ewen Mackintosh and Oliver Edgecombe, who rides her, and has had five wins in age-group classes.

Third-placed Veroana and his young owner/rider Briar Burnett-Grant are another super combination on the NZ jumping circuit – and probably the fastest. Slow is not an option for this horse! He won his first World Cup start (2018) and was overall winner of the ESNZ's Premier League (GP) series that year. His World Cup 2018 series ranking of 10<sup>th</sup> would without doubt have been higher if he had competed in more than two legs that season, but Briar Burnett-Grant was only 17 years old when the series began.

Veroana was 2016's seven-year-old horse of the year but did not compete in the age-group series. He won the Olympic Cup (NZ Horse of the Year) in 2018, in an unforgettable jump-off against an Australian visitor, and has just had a Premier League win at Woodhill Sands, beating the imported



Zangersheide stallion Bravado Ego Z (Balougran Z - Cressida Ego Z x Carthago Z).

Fourth place in the World Cup series went to another imported Holsteiner mare, the beautiful LT Holst Bernadette (Askari - Tamara XVI x Casall), who has been catching up with her career after time out with an injury last season. Her dam, Tamara XVI is a Bezirksprämie mare from Stamm 4851. Like LT Holst Andrea, Bernadette is now 11 years old. She was imported from Germany, and was bred by Reimer Detlef Hennings of Bendorf.

Intellect (LioCaylon - Wilma xx x King's Gambit xx), an 11-year-old New Zealand Sport Horse gelding owned and ridden by Logan Massie, finished fifth in the World Cup series. He, too, has a lot of Holsteiner blood. The enormous (18.2hh/185cms) bay took just a single rail in the two rounds of the final and is enjoying a very good season. He was bred by Kim and Greg Best (yes, the Greg Best of Gem Twist fame – fourth individually at the 1990 World Equestrian Games in Stockholm), who also bred the very good NZ gelding Popeye, who is now in Europe. Intellect's sire LioCaylon (Liostro) is from Reimer Witt's Holsteiner Stamm 741 which is strong on performance, and has the wonderful Cardento among its sons and daughters. LioCaylon's other progeny include the wonderful New Zealand mare Delphi, who, like Intellect, had a Thoroughbred damsire (Brilliant Invader xx). This mare finished sixth in the 2011 World Cup Final in Leipzig.

Intellect's dam, Wilma, was bred for racing by Malaysian magnate Dato Tan Chin Nam, but did not make the tracks.

Sixth place went to another European import, Winston van Driene (Ovidius - Odette x Zeus), who is a Dutch Warmblood (with a trace of Holsteiner through his sire's grandsire). The handsome bay gelding is known here as Winston V Driene and was bred by L. Van Olffen of Hengelo in the Netherlands. He has two full sisters in Europe, Verona van Driene and Zovidia, and is from Merrieliijn 26, Fokfamilie 900, which includes the memorable names of Zermie (prest Ster), Dermie (pref keur prest) and Wermie (prest Stb). Winston is owned and ridden by Drew Carson, who won the young rider of the year title with him in 2017. And, although he is now 17, he shows absolutely no signs of age. He was awarded the 'First Year World Cup Horse' prize in the series, and had a final score of 39.

Two mares hold the next two spots in the final standings. In seventh place is Graffiti MH (Graf Top - Elodie x Earl), an 11-year-old Hanoverian bred and owned by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians, part-owned by Angela Miller and ridden by Melody Matheson. A Hanoverian to be sure, but Graffiti does have a little Holstein in her pedigree, from Calypso II, her sire's grandsire. She finished just behind Winston V Driene with 37 points.

The imported Holsteiner mare Cera Cassina (Cassini II - Caletta x Caletto I) who is from Stamm 7126, finished eighth.



*Windermere Cappuccino and Tegan Fitzsimon – World Cup and National Championships winners*

She was bred in Australia by Kerri Parker of Cera Performance Horses, and is a super jumper with great knee action. She and her young owner/rider Kimberley Bird won their second start at World Cup level and look ready to enjoy plenty more success. Cera Cassina is 10 years old, and has a half-sister of the same age, Cera Calista (Clearway) who is one of Cera Performance Horses' top producing mares.

And now, two horses with no Holsteiner blood whatsoever! Ninth in the standings is 2019's Olympic Cup winner, the full Thoroughbred, Belischi HM (Chateau Istana xx – Talk Band xx x Dixieland Band xx), with owner/rider Emily Hayward. Although he can't claim Holsteiner ancestry, this 10-year-old gelding can claim to be an import: he was bred in Australia, where he raced as Quickandthedead xx and achieved a win from his six starts.

Rounding off the top 10 is a beautiful 15-year-old Hanoverian mare, Henton Faberge (For Edition - Galatoire x Genius), bred and owned by Henton Lodge Hanoverians and ridden by Emelia Forsyth. Her dam, Galatoire, is out of a Thoroughbred mare, Raenga xx (Postillion xx), by the G-line stallion Genius (Garibaldi - Dreamy x Diskus). Henton Faberge and Emelia Forsyth won the 1m35 title at 2019's Horse of the Year Show, and last May had a win at their Grand Prix debut. The pair are in their first season at World Cup level and achieved their top ten result with only three starts.

### *The series final*

This was held in Dannevirke over a course designed by Gary Sinclair, and clear jumping in the opening round gave horses a 'certificate of capability' towards the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

As mentioned above, LT Holst Andrea was the winner, with series winner Windermere Cappuccino in second place and Veroana third.

Fourth went to the NZSH gelding Intellect with his owner/rider Logan Massie; these two are having a very good season and, although Intellect is very tall (185cms), he is also very fast. He had a good Grand Prix win at the Waikato GP show in November and finished fifth in the World Cup series.

From the biggest horse in the line-up to the smallest – the super little grey gelding, Carado GHP (Caretino - Only You V x Corrado I). This 13-year-old Holsteiner (yes, another!) was bred by Paula and Olivia Hamood at Glen Haven Park in Australia. At 160cms, Carado is a full 25cms shorter than the towering Intellect, but he has scope and ability to spare. He is owned by Debbie Francis and ridden by young (and also tiny) Annabel Francis. The pair have had many top placings, including a convincing win in the Gold Tour Final at Takapoto last season. Carrado's dam, Only You V (Corrado I - Jackie x Cassini I) is from Stamm 730B, and he has two half-siblings, both by Claudio (Cathargo) and both in Latin America. They are Grand Slam, who is with Federico Fernandez of Mexico, and Clovis VD Helle, who is with Juan Pablo Betancourt of Colombia.

Sixth place at Dannevirke went to Winston van Driene and Drew Carson, who also finished sixth in the series (see above).

### *National Showjumping Championship*

Because this show is held in the South Island, it is always a little short of North Island competitors, which is a great shame. However, there is no disputing the merits of the 2020 Grand Prix champion, Windermere Cappuccino, although the win was closely fought. Reserve champion Lakota (Pintado Desperado), certainly put up a terrific battle in the



*National 4yo champion – Vulcan GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Lola GNZ x Lansing) ridden by Katie Meredith*

hands of young Sophie Scott.

Five rounds are jumped over the four days of this show, and it was not until the very last jump of the very last round that victory was certain. Both Windermere Cappuccino and Lakota jumped three clear rounds during the course of the competition. "There was a bit of pressure on going into the last round, but Vollie (Windermere Cappuccino) pushed on," says his rider, Tegan Fitzsimon. "He is just phenomenal. He gives me 110 percent each time, and I'm so grateful to have the ride on him and still have him with me." Windermere Cappuccino was last year's national Grand Prix champion too.

Reserve GP Champion, Lakota, whose dam and breeder are not recorded, is owned by Tania Scott. The 13-year-old NZ Sport Horse gelding is an eye-catching skewbald, and has had several wins in young rider classes with Sophie Scott.

### *Five-year-old champions*

The NZ national five year-old championship was won by a Holsteiner gelding, Vulcan GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Lola GNZ x Lansing); and it's beginning to seem like the 'Year of the Holsteiner' in this part of the world. Vulcan, a very attractive bay, was bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud and ridden by Katie Meredith, who part-owns him with Pauline Quigley. He has jumping talent stacked up on both sides of his pedigree and is showing huge promise over the rails. His sire, Cartell GNZ (Casall Ask), who carries the blood of Corrado I and Caretino, is a gorgeous-looking stallion whose oldest progeny are still fairly young. Vulcan's damsire, Lansing (Landgraf I - Monoline x Roman) is from Holst einer Stamm 8777; Monoline is the dam of the stallions Calvin Z and Cantus, who are both by Caletto II.

Reserve five-year-old was another gelding from Goldengrove Stud, Quantico GNZ (Quantum - Florence May xx x Grosvenor xx). He is a New Zealand Sport Horse, with plenty of Holsteiner blood through Quantum (Quidam de Revel - Ulla V x Cor de la Bryere) who was reserve champion at his approvals. Quantico is owned by Leah Causer and ridden by Makenzie Causer.

And the Holstein blood doesn't stop there. Third place went to the very promising NZ Sport Horse gelding, LT Holst Zalato Blue (Zirocco Blue VDL - LT Holst Carla x Calato). His dam, Carla (Calato - Daconda x Calgary) is from Stamm 741 and was imported to New Zealand by Ewen Mackintosh of Lake Taupo Holsteiners. Zalato Blue was bred by LTH, and is owned and ridden by Harry Feast.

### *Six-year-old champion mares*

Three lovely young mares took the top places in the six-year-old championship. The winner, Corrine HSH (Corofino II - Xena NZPH x Cacao Courcelle), is a New Zealand Sport Horse bred by Hokonui Sport Horses in the far south of the South Island. Corrine HSH is owned by Rosedale Farm and her rider, Sally Spicer. She does of course have the Holstein

blood of her sire, but also Selle Français and Thoroughbred through her dam, who was bred by New Zealand Sport Horses and has another talented daughter, Be Mine NZPH (Untouchable M). This mare, who is now nine, finished third in the 2017-18 ESNZ seven-year-old breeding series, which was won by Windermere Cappuccino.

Reserve six-year-old champion was a New Zealand Sport Horse, Eye Candy (Euro Sport Centavos - Ashbury Marsha x Ebony Grose xx), owned by Jennie Pike and ridden by Katie Meredith. Mojito GNZ (Lordano - Bree x Lansing) – waving the Holsteiner flag on both sides of her excellent pedigree, finished third. She is owned and ridden by Emma Power, and is another bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud.

### *Quality not quantity in 7yo age-group*

The seven-year-old class was a small one, but nevertheless a good win for the NZ Warmblood gelding Campari (Corofino II - Lilliana x Littorio), who was bred by his owner Penny Tapley at Amberley House and is ridden by Tegan Fitzsimon. Campari finished sixth overall in last year's six-year-old series. He, too, has Holsteiner blood through his dam's sire, Littorio (Lord), the Verband's 1995 Grand Champion.

Tegan Fitzsimon was also the rider of the reserve seven-year-old champion, Glenbrooke All Roses (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Dozen Roses x Shamal), another NZ Warmblood gelding. He was bred by the Meehan and Davie families at Glenbrooke Park, and is owned by Tanya Davie. His crossbred dam, Dozen Roses (Shamal - Gypsy Witch x Russell), was a very capable jumper.

Double J Cyclone (Centrico - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II) was third. This NZ Warmblood gelding was bred by Double J Stud, is owned by Gendie Askin, and ridden by Luci Askin. Does he have Holsteiner blood? Of course. What's more, it's very good blood. Centrico, his sire – now gelded – is a pure Holsteiner by Cassini I out of a Bezirksprämie Zuchtbuch mare, Kastanie V (Corofino I) from the highly rated Stamm 162.

And just in case you're wanting more, the Im30 National Championship went to a Holsteiner cross, Westgrove GNZ (Lansing - Gingermeg x The Graduate xx) bred by Paul Ffoulkes of Goldengrove Stud, who had a very successful show. While reserve champion was a full Hanoverian gelding, Alacazam MH (Anamour - A Portrait x Allermund) bred by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians and owned and ridden by Tegan Fitzsimon.

Third place went to Wallflower (Corofino II - Double Dee x Emilion), a nine-year-old NZ Warmblood mare. She is owned by Pauline and Barry Quigley and ridden by Katie Meredith. Her dam, Double Dee, is a daughter of Flower Power xx (Brilliant Invader xx), the dam of Delphi (see above). And does Wallflower have Holstein blood? Of course, from Corofino II – the super-successful licensed Holsteiner sire of the super-successful Windermere Cappuccino. ■

# SWANA: 'Ride & Breed Swedish 2020' in Wellington

BY HILLEVI BRASCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: SARA HELLNER

*The Swedish Warmblood Association (SWB) in Flyinge Sweden is represented in North America by SWANA (Swedish Warmblood Association of North America), a non-profit organization dedicated to breeding and promoting Swedish Warmblood horses in North America. The breeding rules and standards of SWANA are consistent with those of the Swedish Warmblood Association (SWB).*

The very first inspection tour of SWB horses in the US took place in 1981. Anne Gribbons, a well-known and respected international dressage judge originally from Sweden, had at that time imported several SWB horses to the USA and was instrumental in making the tour happen. Years followed where the SWB horse grew in popularity and the studbook was involved in the work to establish a US-based chapter. Such prestigious names as Kyra Kyrklund, Eric Lette, and Ingvar Fredricson were all involved in the efforts of establishing a springboard for SWB horses and breeders in North America. SWANA was founded in 1993 and has since then catered to the breeder and rider of the SWB horse whether it is born in the US/Canada or Sweden. In 1994 a meeting was held in Florida where the foundation was laid for the future of SWANA.



*Imothep (Indoctro - Serena H x Calvados) with proud owner Vicky Castegren of Hyperion Stud*

## Wellington 2020

What could be more fitting than to organize an event in Wellington 25 years later with the Swedish in focus, whether

it is horses, riders, or business? Just last year, the first 'Ride Swedish' event was held at Hyperion Stud thanks to its owner Vicky Castegren. It was well received, so this year SWANA decided to bring a little of the breeding aspect into the mix of top international riders and competition in Wellington. Hence 'Ride & Breed Swedish 2020'.



*Adriano 9079 (SWB), bred by Christina Olsson, ridden by his owner and SWANA President Katarina Antens-Miller*

Vicky Castegren was once again our generous host. Hyperion is a global breeding and sales operation based in Virginia and dedicated to providing the showjumping market with top bloodlines globally. Hyperion has horses in Germany, Holland, Sweden, as well as the US. This year standing four stallions that were presented in hand at the event, the king of course being Imothep (KWPN) by Indoctro x Calvados – an Olympic, WEG, and Nations' Cup competitor, now recently retired. Other stallions shown in hand were Chin Quidam VDL (Chin Chin x Quidam de Revel), Asterix E Z (Air Jordan Z x Nimmerdoor), and Cool Jazz (Colman x Cascavelle). All these stallions are approved with various registries.

Lövsta Stuteri of Sweden has been represented in Wellington for the Winter Equestrian Festival season for many years. This year bringing two top



*Asterix E Z (Air Jordan Z -Joyce x Nimmerdoor) with owner Vicky Castegren*

breeding – and show stallions owned by Lövsta: Bon Coeur 1389 (Benetton Dream x Sandro Hit); and Van Vivaldi 1286 (Vivaldi x Olivi). Lövsta’s star rider Tinne Vilhelmson-Silvén, a seven-time Olympian, and her colleagues – Caroline Darcourt, rider of Bon Coeur, and Florian Darcourt, manager of the Lövsta stallion program – were on site to talk about the brand new Lövsta Future Challenge tour now in Wellington. This tour is modeled after the Swedish version and is a developing tour for young dressage horses. The tour will host eight national qualifiers that will award winners every week and conclude during the AGDF week 12 with a final. The aim is to give the horses the opportunity to gain valuable routine and experience. This concept has proven to



*Team SWANA in Wellington (l-r) Anette Sånesson from SWB in Sweden, Hillevi Brasch (SWANA), Katarina Antens-Miller (SWANA) on Adriano 9079, and Ulf Wadeborn (SWANA)*

be extremely successful in Sweden in both dressage and jumping and including U25 riders. However, the tour in Wellington is for dressage horses up to 11 years of age this first year. Perhaps expanding for years to come?

SWANA’s president Katarina Antens-Miller based in New Jersey brought her approved SWB stallion Adriano 9079 (Don Primero x Magini x Krocket), bred by Christina Olsson. He is a competition horse first and foremost and is in Wellington for the show season.

Several businesses were present showcasing their business, anywhere from flying horses (Dutta Corp), sporting (Stephex USA), feeding (Krafft equine feed), living (illustrated Properties), to remote training and coaching (Ridesum).

### *The future for US based European studbooks*

The ‘Ride & Breed Swedish’ event had a nice turnout where some interesting discussions arose, one initiated by ‘Mr Falsterbo’ himself, Jana Wannius, who wondered how the individual breed registries in North America are doing, and what really sets them apart today in a marketplace where stallions are used all around the world. For sure, this is a question that it would be useful to address because, although the American sport horse breeding market is much smaller than in Europe, there are many different registries competing for registrations. So, is it viable? The horses are all American bred, so what registry do I go to as a breeder and why?

Wellington is a show horse market showcasing top international sport. There is a dire need, however, for more information about horses competing which ties into the breeding aspect. Many times, there is no breeding information, studbook or registry, let alone the breeder names for competing horses. Many SWBs are competing on the jumping circuit at the Winter Equestrian Festival, and it certainly doesn’t hurt to try and inform, so perhaps events such as SWANA’s may help to spark an interest in where the horses come from. A vision would be to hold an event where more breed registries would be present, a collaboration if you will with the main purpose to inform and educate as we can all agree on one thing: No Breeder – No Rider! ■



*Team Lövsta Stuteri discussing the Lövsta Future Challenge (l-r) Hillevi Brasch, Tinne Vilhelmson-Silvén, Florian Darcourt and Caroline Darcourt*

# Canadian Warmblood foal futurities

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: SARA HELLNER

*Each year, the Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association (CWHBA) holds a series of breeder shows, inspections, and foal futurities across the country. Canada is a very large country so a centralized show is not practical and, in fact, some areas such as British Columbia, which is very mountainous, divide into smaller regional events.*

The Foal Futurities (FF) are a highlight of these events. Only foals sired by stallions that have been nominated to the annual Stallion Service Auction (SSA) are eligible to participate, and the payouts are significant because the futurities are financed by funds raised by the SSA. Beginning in the late 1990s as provincial initiatives, the SSA has been a national event for nearly 20 years. This unique system is a great way for stallion owners to give back to the association, but more importantly provides a tremendous opportunity for showcasing their stallions through their progeny. Any foal by a nominated stallion is eligible, consequently this becomes an interesting consideration when breeders are choosing which stallion to breed to their mare. Payouts run to several hundred dollars for the winners and are paid to fifth place.

Judging foals is not an exact science, so it is of course important not to make too much of it. Foals develop at different stages, nevertheless it is possible to see individual characteristics coming through that might predict future success. A case in point is the, now deceased, stallion Beau Soleil. He was a futurity winner in 1997, went on to be a champion at his licensing, successful at the performance test, and then in turn sired numerous foal futurity winners. Or FF champion in 2004 was Southern Vintage, by Kingston out of



Southern Reflection by Arstenstolz, bred by Mirrabook Farms, who is pictured below as a foal (#4) and as a successful event horse in 2012 (#3).

Who knows where these 2019 winners' careers will take them?

- Alberta: #2 Ocean Pearl (filly) by Jethro Tull G out of Contikki by Contendro, bred by Klondike Victory Farms
- Ontario: #1 Dare to Dream (colt) by Dauphin out of Dame by Seratine, bred by



J a c k i e  
VandenBrink

- Saskatchewan: Olivier (colt) by Talme K out of Albedo xx, bred by Diana Pella

• British  
C o l u m b i a :  
Aethra RPH  
(filly) by Atlas  
RPH out of VDL  
Unusuale by

Corland, bred by Rosenol Performance Horses

Breeders will soon be making their bids during the 2020 SSA, February 16 to 22, while everyone waits expectantly for the foals from last year's matings. ■

# ISH on the world's stage

BY ANTONETTE DORAN / HSI

*In recent weeks, Irish horses and riders totally dominated the action at the four-star show in Abu Dhabi, UAE, with Kildare's Mikey Pender and Kilkenny's Jack Ryan both claiming victories with Irish Sport Horses.*

Riding the Irish Sport Horse HHS Fortune, Pender produced the fastest of four clear rounds to win the Al Shira'aa Derby in Abu Dhabi, and in the process won the first new car of his showjumping career. HHS Fortune is a 2011 mare by Catoki (Holst) out of HHS Daisy (ISH) by Ard VDL Douglas (KWPN). HHS Fortune was bred and is owned by showjumper and breeder Marion Hughes from Co. Kilkenny. The Irish Sport Horse mare showed promise from early on, winning the seven-year-old series at Coilog and Mullingar and finishing third in the final of the Irish Sport Horse studbook series in 2018. She also competed at Lanaken in 2017.

Pender completed a hugely impressive few days at the four-star show in Abu Dhabi, UAE, by also taking a third place finish with the Irish Sport Horse HHS Calais in the Longines FEI World Cup Grand Prix which is part of the Arab League. Pender was one of 12 riders who made it through to the jump-off after jumping an impeccably clear first round with the nine-year-old gelding HHS Calais (ISH), who is owned by Miguel Bravo and Marion Hughes. He took the lead early in the jump-off with another clear against the clock in 39.88 seconds which proved good enough for third place at the finish. Germany's Christian Ahlmann took the winners prize with Solid Gold Z (39.16) while Abdel Said (EGY) finished as runner-up with Arpege du Ru (39.49).

HHS Calais is a 2011 gelding by Cavalier Royale (Holst) out of MHS OBOS Cruise (ISH) by OBOS Quality (Oldbg). This gelding was bred by the late Ita Brennan, Co. Kilkenny. Again this gelding is a studbook series graduate and competed at Lanaken in 2018. The dam MHS OBOS Cruise



*Jack Ryan and KBS Major Player (ISH)*

is still a young mare who has also produced MHS Fernhill Showtime, successfully jumping at 1m40m and finishing second in the seven-year-old consolation final at Lanaken in 2019 with Kate Derwin.

In the earlier SERC U25 Grand Prix at the same venue, Kilkenny's Jack Ryan continued his superb start to the season, by claiming a fantastic victory with the Kennedy Bros Sport Horses-owned Irish Sport Horse KBS Major Player. Eighteen-year-old Ryan was one of just two riders to make it into the jump-off. Mohamed Omran Ahmed Ali Al Owais (UAE) went clear when first to go with Caravelli, however Ryan finished almost a second faster to take the winner's prize of €6,350. KBS Major Player (ISH) is by OBOS Quality, out of Tattygar Lasts Rolo (ISH) by High Roller (ISH). KBS Major Player was bred by Peter Rice from Co. Monaghan, and his dam also produced KBS High Quality who is competing at 1m45 level with Derek Morton (GBR).

Meanwhile, in the Basel CSI five-star World Cup event in Switzerland, Gerard O'Neill won the 1m40 and finished sixth in the 1m50m class riding the Irish bred Castlefield Vegas.

Also, in Villeneuve-Loubet in France, My Cool Passion (ISH), a gelding by Passion (WEWB) out of Skerrymores Coolcorron (ISH) [TIH] by Coolcorron Cool Diamond (ISH) finished first in the 1m45 GP with rider Roberto Turchetto (ITA). This gelding was bred by Charles Howard Cranston and is owned by Gregor Terglav. ■



*Mikey Pender and HHS Fortune (ISH)*

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# Redvers' RANT

*Published on January 27, 2020, on the Tweenhills website: [www.tweenhills.com](http://www.tweenhills.com)*

*David Redvers set up his eponymous bloodstock agency in 1995 when he founded Tweenhills in Gloucestershire. Since then he has purchased numerous Group One winners, including Roaring Lion – who became world champion three-year-old in 2018. Redvers is the racing and bloodstock manager for Sheikh Fahad Al Thani and his brothers' Qatar Racing operation. He has a global understanding and experience of the racing and bloodstock markets and was crowned Bloodstock Agent of the Year in 2018.*

We, 'Racing Inc', lead by the BHA (British Horseracing Authority), need to make up our minds once and for all about the whip. We are in dangerous times where an element in the racing press, and I suspect some like minds in the BHA, are going to press for more significant changes to our whip rules to appease a tiny vocal minority (who incidentally mostly seek an end to horse racing, full stop). The view appears to be that the perception of the whip being cruel is more important than the reality that it isn't.

Any law needs testing and must be based on sound evidence. Laws to satisfy the ignorant or written for political purposes that fail the evidence test are bad laws and should never be countenanced. Try enforcing such laws – they just don't work in a democracy.

Why should we be concerned if the use of the whip is restricted to correction only and not for encouragement? The reason is simply that if we go down that route we tacitly accept that we knew all along that the whip was cruel and that horse racing and its participants are the same. Adding oxygen to the antis' fire allows them to gain the momentum.

Furthermore, if we allow that perception to flourish, there will be no appeasing the opponents of the sport and the next obvious victim will be National Hunt racing with its higher attrition rate. Make no mistake the most vocal opponents to the whip are also the most vocal opponents of horse racing and they will not rest until the sport is consigned to history. Tinker with the deck chairs all you like but they will still try and hole you below the waterline.

There appears to be a lack of horsemen on the board of the BHA, who speak the language of experience when it comes to the key participant in our sport, the horse. Luca Cumani (on behalf of the NTF [Nominated Trainers Federation]) would appear to be a sole voice on the board of the BHA, and certainly the only member with real horsemanship experience. This must be urgently rectified or the voice of reason risks being drowned out.

Those who work with horses know that the whip is not a 'welfare issue' but a disciplinary one. The whip rules we have in the UK are excellent, whilst conceding that enforcement may need toughening with stiffer penalties. We should have the confidence to spend the effort and money on educating the public rather than this constant, excruciating hand-wringing over the perception of the whip.

Then we should concentrate on the real funding problem that stalks our industry and work towards an urgent solution. That is the biggest threat to the future sustainability of an industry that is so important to the health of our countryside and those that live and work there.

*D.R.*

# World Horse Welfare Conference 2019

BY NADINE BRANDTNER

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY WHW

*Editor's introduction: Although this article deviates from our normal practice of exclusively publishing breeding-specific content, the World Horse Welfare Conference 2019 embraces a topic that's close to the hearts of everyone who plays any role within the global equestrian industry, and poses a fundamental and vital question: 'Who is responsible?'*

The conference opened with a short but emotionally powerful film, which highlighted that the love that man has for the horse as a companion, working equid, athlete comes with responsibility for its well-being. Sadly, there has been a rising trend in welfare concerns worldwide, often for horses in large groups. Equine welfare charities alongside other agencies are striving to address the welfare concerns and causes. Collaboration between organisations and NGOs, as well as working at parliamentary level is vital. The OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), UN (United Nations) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) all have working animals on their agenda. The International Coalition of Working Equids (ICWE) is working with the OIE to provide training to support national government initiatives to help make these welfare standards a reality around the world.

But at the level of the general public, their role as the eyes and ears of the equine charity world is important, for they take responsibility when identifying and reporting equine and other animal welfare concerns. Developing a new generation of responsible horse owners is vital. The media and social media can have a significant, positive influence on this, as can celebrity role models, to educate and support promotion of the correct way to treat and care for horses.

Communication is key to ensuring responsibility. WHW has been working to develop ways to engage hard-to-reach communities, as well as gaining an understanding of the mental health issues around animal hoarding. The wider horse-owning community also has a responsibility for ensuring horse welfare. With the outbreaks of equine influenza, responsible show organisers and horse events have rightfully banned horses that have not been properly vaccinated.

Sport has a significant responsibility in welfare, not only in protecting horses and ensuring safety during competition and racing, but for the duration of the horse's life, not just during its competitive career. Equestrian sport governing bodies such as the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the national equestrian federations need to provide an accurate, evidence-based approach to their rules and regulations.

The 2019 conference explored who is responsible and how we can gain an understanding of what this means for

horses and for ourselves. To achieve this the topics and speakers were aptly chosen to underline various areas of responsibility. Some of which are summarised below.

## *Taking responsibility in racing: Our horses, our future*

*Presented by Annamarie Phelps – Vice Chair of the British Olympic Association (BOA), and Chair of the British Horse-racing Authority (BHA)*

The racing industry worldwide faces continuous pressure in terms of horse welfare and the perceived welfare of racehorses, often leaving the industry on the defensive to justify racing. This applies to the perception of welfare both during their racing career and what happens to the horses that don't make the grade for racing. But also, for retired racehorses, the reality being that racehorses have a short career with respect to their lifespan. To meet this ethical challenge in order to gain public trust, stakeholders in the industry need to be more open, inclusive, and honest about the reality of the lives of these athletes and working animals. The fact that there is a moral debate about the use of horses in sport and leisure must be acknowledged.

The benefits of horses and humans in sport and society outweigh the risk, but we all must be aware what the risks are, manage them, and minimise avoidable risks. BHA, as the British governing body of racing, takes its accountability seriously, not just on the racecourse, but also before and after a horse's racing career.

The racing industry consists of a network of professionals (trainers, jockeys, grooms, vets, nutritionists, farriers, etc) that work together to look after its horses to the highest standards. Horses must be fit, healthy, and happy to give their best on the racecourse, and their performance requires them to trust. Racehorses are cared for around the clock, with meticulous attention to detail regarding nutrition, training and health. In recent years BHA has invested £32 million in veterinary research, which has also helped the Animal Health Trust fund work on equine influenza.

The BHA have put together an industry-wide Horse Welfare Board (HWB), where the BHA as an equine welfare regulator sits alongside representatives from all aspects of the sport. The HWB is currently developing a strategy to cover

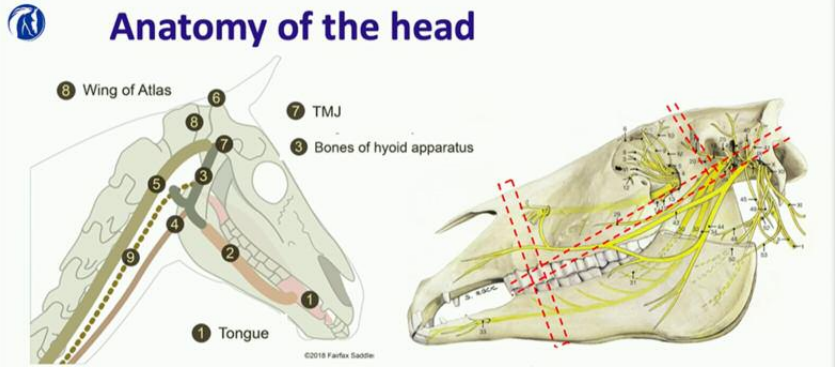
the whole industry and not just the regulated areas that are currently being covered. It will also include topics such as the use of the whip and the issues this raises, and the traceability of racehorses throughout their lifetime in order to secure welfare outcomes of retired racehorses as well. The BHA's charity 'Retraining of Racehorses' helps horses along this journey.

Being responsible means being as evidence-based as possible, minimising risk, and maximising benefit. Assessing the benefit in terms of environment, diet, veterinary care, etc is fairly straightforward. But what about the horse's perspective? The well-being of the horses in racing is harder to quantify. Is it possible to draw conclusions from their exuberance and willingness to give their all to their riders/jockeys? The BHA have commissioned a project with Bristol University to identify factors that most contribute to the horses' quality of life in racing. If this is successful, it should be possible to identify factors of well-being to horses in other disciplines and leisure too.

When it comes to assessing risk, in any sport or physical activity, complete avoidance is simply not possible. But, over the past 20 years, racecourse fatalities have decreased by one third. It is continually reviewed how this can be further reduced, through improving racecourse surfaces, medical research, veterinary care, and training techniques for injury prevention. Injury rates differ between training yards and racecourses. To understand why this is, the BHS collects and analyses robust data to complement the intuition that has been developed over years of working with horses, by building a model that can help identify risks and reduce them wherever possible.

BHA tracks public opinions in surveys about the acceptability of using horses in sport. In 2011 the gap between those in favour and those not, was 26%. In 2018 this statistic was down to 14% and highlights the changing public attitude towards animals over the last seven years and the decrease in the perception of welfare. Therefore, there is a need to connect more effectively with people outside of racing. This means to communicate the responsibility that is being taken within the industry, and to engage with those that are questioning whether the industry is taking sufficient measures to ensure horse welfare. This also means educating people about horses and their needs. And empathy should be shown to those that have concerns, because they care enough to raise questions. The passion within the sport should be used to inspire people, because the power of emotion is often louder than words or evidence.

***Don't forget about the bridle: The importance of the correct bridle fit***



*Presented by Dr Rachel Murray Ph.D. Vet.Sc. University of Cambridge*

Riders often think carefully about the saddles they use on their horses and take care to get them properly fitted. But frequently there is less awareness about the importance of the bridle and its fit. Bridles are used across all disciplines, and also by working equids.

Dr Murray explained the complexity of the equine head. Using illustrations, she pointed out important structures such as the mouth and tongue, bones of the hyoid apparatus (which articulates with the skull, and gives biomechanical form and function to the larynx, pharynx and tongue), the temporomandibular joint (the TMJ is the joint between the mandible/lower jaw bone and maxilla/upper jaw bone and is used for chewing), and wings of the atlas (topmost vertebra which connects the spine to the skull).

The illustration on the innervation of the head showed how many nerves are situated in areas where the bridle routinely sits. There is growing awareness and concerns about specific issues relating to the bridle (in particular nosebands and bits), some of which are heavily supported by research.

- **Oral lesions:** Issues that are less frequently discussed but require awareness, are the formation of oral lesions in the mouth (inside cheeks, lips and interdental regions). Studies in competition horses have shown that the incidence of oral lesions varies according to discipline:

The possible reasons for the formation of lesions were postulated as being a result of noseband fit (or lack of using a noseband at all), the type of bit used and its fit, or poor dental care.

Inadequate dental care is, in fact, a frequent cause of mouth lesions (inside the cheeks and lips), due to sharp enamel edges (96%), focal overgrowth (46%), fissure fractures or cracks (54%), periodontal disease (24%), and other fractures (12%).

In the referenced studies on dental care, 95% of horses over the age of 15 have undiagnosed dental disease, as do 70% of horses under the age of 15. (*Mata et al 2015; Bjornsdottir et al 2014; Udahl & Clayton 2018*).

However, oral lesions on the bars of the mouth (interdental region) were found to be more strongly correlated to ill-fitting bits and nosebands.

Lesions in the corner(s) of the mouth can be attributed to poorly fitting bits (too wide – unstable and moving, or too narrow – pinching), or instability of the bridle (due to poor fit or absence of the noseband).

- **Noseband and headpiece:** Although the noseband contributes to the stability of the bridle on a horse's head, it is not the only structure to consider. The noseband works as a unit with the headpiece. As the horse's head moves, there will be pressure variations along parts of the noseband/headpiece, specifically in the area of the poll. Where the noseband is firmly attached to the headpiece, pressure variations are more likely than with a noseband that is connected to the headpiece by side rings, or if a Micklem bridle is used. These allow for individual movement of the bridle units with the head, decreasing fluctuating pressure.

Specific pressure areas from the bridle on a horse's head have been studied, and whether there is significant impact on the horse if the pressure areas are addressed. To carry out the study, pads for measuring pressure were placed in specific areas under the bridles of internationally competing horses that had well-fitted bridles. (*Murray, Guire, Fisher & Fairfax 2015*)

Different parts of the bridle (headpiece, area of browband attachment, and noseband) exert intermittent pressure, which was found to be dependent on the phase of the movement of the horse.

Pressure under the noseband is highest when a horse meets the floor after a jump or in the canter. At push-off, the pressure is highest under the headpiece. And mid-air there is no pressure in either area.

In the trot more movement in the headpiece was observed, creating intermittent pressure in the area at the base of the ears, the TMJ and hyoid apparatus, as well as against the edges of the atlas. A wide headpiece gives more pressure against the front of the atlas. There is focal pressure under the area where there are buckles on the top or the sides of the headpiece. Rolled bridles also give more pressure.

- **The noseband:** The pressure from the noseband varies depending on the type of noseband, its stiffness and the position of the horse's head. The height of the noseband (ie. its position relative to the facial crest) is important, as pressure exerted from a noseband that sits too high has been associated with decreased hind-limb movement.

A stiff noseband, such as a non-ringed Cavesson, will create more pressure than a grackle and a drop noseband, which give more freedom of movement. Overall, a grackle exerts the least pressure of all nosebands. But correct fitting is still essential because despite lower pressure, the freedom of movement is linked to multiple areas where unwanted pressure can result from a poor fit.

A long jaw pad decreases pressure on the jaw. Padding under the noseband may reduce pressure but can also decrease stability or redistribute pressure to another area.

Therefore, padding should be carefully considered. A wider, old-fashioned Cavesson with a buckle on only one side exerts asymmetric pressure on the side of the face. Its buckle directly under the jaw creates direct pressure in that area. In comparison a crank Cavesson with side joints exerts more symmetrical pressure and less pressure underneath the jaw.

A flash noseband exerts the highest pressure in the most locations. Specifically, at the point where the flash comes off the Cavesson, there is pressure in multiple directions.

- **Bridle design:** Taking the anatomical structure of the horse's head into consideration, as well as the principles of where and how pressure is exerted by a bridle, has resulted in improved bridle design over the years. Design aspects to increase comfort and freedom of movement were pointed out using an illustration of the Fairfax Performance Bridle. When the performance horses mentioned in the study above, were re-assessed under saddle wearing a modified bridle, it was found that, compared to the result when the horses were wearing their own bridles, forelimb protraction increased by 4.2%, carpal (knee) flexion by 4.1%, and tarsal (hock) flexion by 3.5%.

When fitting a bridle, the individual horse needs to be assessed because, upon close inspection, they frequently don't have symmetrical faces, and proportions can vary enormously. A horse with a short head and distance between the mouth and the facial crest needs a noseband that isn't too wide, to ensure enough distance from the facial crest. In a stallion with a large neck crest, there may be a tendency for the headpiece to be pushed forward. A horse with short bars in the mouth needs a bit that isn't too wide.

In summary, Dr Murray pointed out that routine dental care is an important element in a comfortable bridle fit. Noseband tightness and the type of bit are only two elements contributing to optimal bridle fitting and horse welfare. She is currently working together with WHW to put together specific guidelines to help with correct bridle fitting.

In response to a question posed during the panel discussion about bit-less bridles, Dr. Murray explained that pressure over the nose can be much greater with bit-less bridles, and actually increases pressure across the entire face. But there have also been studies to assess how much pressure is needed for a horse to respond, and it was found that the pressure required is related to the level of training: A well-trained horse will respond to far less pressure. The correct way to use a bit-less bridle to improve the comfort of the horse is, therefore, subject to education and training.

### *Responsibility: A personal perspective*

*Presented by This Esme*

Esme Higgs is an 18-year old equestrian enthusiast, and worldwide YouTube sensation, and her channel is called *This Esme*. As an equestrian of the next generation she was not able to join the conference in person but was invited by World Horse Welfare to talk about her personal view on the

core of responsibility via digital video transmission.

Esme began making small videos in 2015 as a video diary to track her progress with her horse, Casper. After around one year of posting videos, she started receiving emails from viewers, some saying she had prompted them to start taking riding lessons, or that they had learned a lot about basic horse care. She was surprised to receive feedback from families all over the world that had decided to move from the city to the country and bought properties or stables to keep horses.

Her engaging content has been watched more than 53 million times. She has 333,000 subscribers on YouTube, 143,000 followers on Instagram, and almost 4,000 likes on Facebook. When she realised she had become an 'influencer', having "accidentally and unwittingly" become a role model, she knew she had a responsibility for the content of her videos to be correct and educational.

There is a new generation that is very concerned about animal welfare and is often influenced by negative press and social media exposure. It is a widely shared view, by people both within and outside the industry, that horse welfare is of the utmost importance. So instead of discounting the concerns of others, those involved in the industry should be held accountable and show that they are deserving of sharing a partnership with these incredible animals.

Therefore, Esme wanted to create something positive and beneficial, and to let people know that they should only get into horses for the right reasons, and must accept the huge responsibility and commitment in terms of time, effort, and money.

She regularly posts vlogs with ponies, horse care videos, and edits of her riding to help other equestrians learn about all aspects of keeping horses, including grooming and mucking out. In the past year she has made a video to spread awareness of equine flu and the importance of maintaining a vaccination schedule. She has now branched out to vlog with equestrian celebrities, experts and welfare charities including World Horse Welfare, using social media as a powerful tool to promote the causes of other groups that are passionate about horses, such as the British Horse Society and the Riding for the Disabled Society. She has been able to attend some top international events, taken a look behind the scenes, and visited some leading competition yards, which has helped her appreciate just how well these equine athletes are looked after, "like the superstars, which they are".

Esme Higgs's initiative and cooperation with other organisations is a good example of how collectively one can have a louder voice, to educate, advocate for horses, and make a difference.

### *Animal hoarding: Why telling doesn't work*

*Presented by Bronwen Williams*

Bronwen Williams has been a registered mental health nurse for 37 years, as well as an independent trainer and educator. She has a strong interest in the psychology of

relationships between humans and their animals, and how companion animals can reduce or increase risks for those with mental illness. She has undertaken independent research into animal hoarding and is currently delivering a project with WHW. This aims to train welfare staff in interventions for those at risk of or involved in equine hoarding, which is becoming an increasingly serious problem in the sector.

There has been much interest in the subject by the media and the general public, but there is very little research in the area and, sadly, the topic is also often a source of jokes. (Thanks, in part, to reality TV shows that sensationalize the issue.)

Animal hoarding has a huge impact on both animals and humans involved, as well as the environment and the communities in which it occurs. Animal hoarders can be from various socio-economic backgrounds. Addressing the audience Bronwen Williams said, "It can occur to people like us", and it can even occur to people from professional backgrounds such as veterinary and medicine. It is far more common than is often realised but is also different and more complex than the hoarding of objects. Dealing with animal hoarding requires cooperation between a number of agencies.

Research, conducted mostly on smaller animals such as dogs and cats, shows that hoarding of animals may be similar to other addictive or compulsive behaviours, such as substance addiction or compulsive gambling. The keeping of large numbers of animals in itself is not an indication of hoarding.

**Definition of Animal Hoarding:** The keeping of a number of animals under inadequate conditions and care, where the environment is inappropriate, so that basic needs are not met, or animals are ill and not receiving appropriate veterinary treatment.

Compulsive hoarding can be characterized as a symptom of mental disorder rather than deliberate cruelty towards animals. Hoarders are deeply attached to their pets and find it extremely difficult to let them go. They typically cannot comprehend that they are harming their pets by failing to provide them with proper care.

Animals can be acquired passively, where the situation gets out of hand unconsciously, or actively, where the owner or carer goes out consciously seeking more animals.

Animal hoarding is characterised by recidivism, meaning that if animals are removed from the owner, the owner will either find a way to get the animals back or acquire new animals. Shockingly this can even occur on the same day as the original animals were removed.

Research has proposed three types of animal hoarding, but it is acknowledged that these types are not definitive.

1. Overwhelmed caregiver – when the situation gets out of hand, possibly due to financial or physical reasons, and owners are unable to adequately care for the animals they already have. Out of control or indiscriminate breeding can also be a factor.

2. Rescue or mission driven – individuals actively seek and take in animals, sometimes purporting to be a sanctuary or charity, and often being supported by others or fuelled by social media. Indicators that rescues or sanctuaries are possible hoarding situations:

- have a no-kill policy
- not having an upper limit of the number of animals they are able to care for
- not rehoming any of the animals that are taken in or giving guardianships

3. Exploitative – normally undertaken by individuals that have no empathy and no passion for animals, and are operating purely to exercise control over others (either human or animal, or both)

Qualitative Studies: The fact that qualitative studies on animal hoarding focussed mostly on small companion animals, and that there was so little information on horses, caught Bronwen Williams's interest. She initiated an independent qualitative study as an unpaid researcher, looking at equine welfare cases where multiple equines were involved and assessing if there were any parallels to the results of studies done in small animals.

Findings after assessing equine welfare cases to establish if they fit the description of animal hoarding:

#### The animals:

- The number of horses ranged from a few horses to over a hundred
- In addition to the equines, there were frequently other species involved in the hoarding. But it was noted that where a single breed of horse was hoarded, if other species were involved, it would be a single breed of each of those species.
- Significant psychological and physical suffering of the horses involved
- The equines were frequently unhandled and not used to human contact, posing a risk to those that need to catch and handle them. It was also common that owners wanted to let their equines live naturally in large herds but neglected and with some horses ill or dying.

#### The owners:

The description of the owners in these cases fitted with the literature (overwhelmed caregiving, rescue/mission-drive, exploitative).

Two new types of hoarding behaviour were identified:

- Naive owners/helpers: often well-meaning but ignorant and possibly vulnerable themselves, who took on the horses with little knowledge how to care for them, or how much time and resources are required to do so.
- Indiscriminate breeders or studfarms: One example being trying to breed 'The One' (the smallest, the spottiest, the fastest (yes, Thoroughbreds!), the next top show pony... In some cases, the breeders were driven by a desire to earn money, or to gain or recover a reputation. This form of breeding produces a huge amount of wastage – animals that don't make the grade and for whom there is no use. It is postulated that the compulsion to breed 'The One' displays elements of ill mental health.

#### Environment/Conditions the equines were kept in

- Often there were different standards for different animals in the same environment (eg., mares kept better than stallions or vice versa)
- Where there was an emotional connection by the human to a particular animal, that animal may have had better care
- Hidden animals – kept in small or dark places, almost as if 'out of sight, out of mind'
- Significant impact on the environment, with slurry or run-off of waste, and waste covering large areas
- Dead equines, often left lying where they had dropped and died, but also sometimes hidden in sheds or barns
- A theme that emerged from the data is that of the equine being contained. In small animal hoarding crating of animals frequently occurs. Equines were often found to be kept in small, fenced areas, or in small cubicles in sheds or barns.

This raised the question whether large animals are perceived differently to small animals and how this affects the reporting of welfare cases, or the likelihood that people are able to identify an equine or other large-animal welfare case. Seeing a herd of horses living naturally outdoors with a lot of space is often perceived as desirable by the general public. But when looking up-close, neglect might be visible, possibly with some horses ill or dying. This is something that can be addressed by educating the public.

#### How to bring about change in human behaviour?

Traditionally, to try and change behaviour in animal welfare cases or in human health care, techniques are used such as telling people 'not to do it', advising and explaining, scaring, bribing, educating into submission, etc. These often don't work or don't have lasting effects because human behaviour change has to be intrinsic to that person.

Motivational interviewing is an intervention that has shown to be very successful in managing drug abuse, alcoholism, gambling, and other addictive behaviours. It is a directive and client-centred counselling approach for eliciting behavioural change by helping clients explore and resolve ambivalence. Using motivational interviewing in equine welfare cases to bring about behavioural changes is a very new approach to managing these cases and preventing relapses.

As part of a project, Bronwen Williams has been involved in delivering training to WHW equine officers and other staff, in a five-day course specifically designed to use motivational interviewing when working with owners and supporting them to change behaviours in order to improve the welfare of their animals. The project underway with WHW adapts training courses that work in human health care to those that work in animal welfare. Certain behavioural and cognitive elements have been included to allow the skills to be used more specifically with those at risk of hoarding, or currently hoarding animals. The initial outcomes of the project, which was started in September 2019, are looking

promising. A full report will be written and published.

In conclusion, Bronwen Williams said; "We know that removing animals from hoarding situations doesn't work. We know that telling people they need to change, doesn't work." Although these new interventions may not work in every situation, perhaps there is some hope that more equines and the humans that are involved, will benefit in the future.

### *Closing address by HRH The Princess Royal (President WHW)*

After various presentations and serious discussions around the topic of responsibility, HRH The Princess Royal lightened the atmosphere when starting her closing address by wondering how many husbands and fathers already think their wives and daughters are hoarders.

To the Princess, care is not an academic subject that can be taught. Care is innate. And responsibility falls in the same category. Most people inherently understand what the term means. However, there is a need to define specific responsibility in certain areas. This is where the difficulty arises because perceptions of responsibility and specific obligations may not always be exactly the same. Overall, the true responsibility to a horse will always lie with the owner.

Part of our responsibility is recognising a horse's talent, one may even call it its personality, and realising whether a particular horse and its traits suit us.

Personalities of horses vary, and it is possible to tell if they like something or like doing something. To racehorses, running comes naturally and is bred into them. But in other disciplines other traits may be noticeable, for example some horses genuinely like to 'show off' or enjoy having an audience. This is not something that one would naturally expect from a herd animal. But for centuries, horses have been bred for their relationship with people, and this

has changed their needs to a certain extent as well. Herein also lies why we are accountable for the welfare of all aspects of our horses, because we bred them to be an integral part of our lives.

The Princess Royal pointed to the role of social media in influencing our opinions and educating us. Caution must be taken to scrutinise the source of the information and whether it is evidence-based. Social media influences our expectations. We develop expectations of perfection in many aspects – our own health, relationships, job satisfaction. And also, we have expectation of perfection in terms of what is good for a horse. But we need to allow for variation and grey areas.

Looking at the three 'Fs' (food, friends, freedom) which horses need to be happy, and considering freedom, i.e., for horses to be allowed to live out or spend much time out in a field as possible or as is natural – she has known horses that don't like to be turned out all day. They have become used to their routine and enjoy the interaction around them, and can be found standing at the gate after two hours, wanting to come back in. So, our partnerships with horses have influenced the horses in many respects, as well as their like to be part of the human's life.

Another grey area is the management of risk and how to reduce it. The longer we have horses, the better we know that there there cannot be a 'no risk' guaranteed. This applies to both the animal and the handler. Horse owners will appreciate how many issues can arise simply from turning out horses in a field. So, although creating a risk-free environment is impossible, understanding the risks can help to limit it to individual scenarios in the best possible way.

Those that compete should know the rules, which were set into place to safeguard against certain risks and for the welfare of the horse, even if some rules seem inconvenient or are so complicated that often we forget why the rule is even there. This highlights

some of the major work that WHW is doing – spreading information and giving education, for example on vaccination schedules.

But improving horse welfare across the entire spectrum of the horse world goes beyond competition and leisure horses, because working horses and donkeys have a huge economic and social impact in countries and communities where people rely on them to earn a living. The needs of these people drive the type of information we need to provide in order to educate them on how to better care for their horses.

Also as the President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, The Princess Royal has seen some remarkable partnerships between humans and horses. This environment brings with it some unique challenges which one would probably not agree to under normal circumstances. But the way that these horses adapt is extraordinary, in terms of the physical challenges they face, combined with the understanding they need to behave differently around people with disabilities. This indicates that humans should not underestimate an equine's ability to make choices.

Bringing a moment of humour back into her speech, the Princess pointed out that many in the audience will know from personal experience that horses are quite capable of saying 'no' if they don't want to do something. It is our responsibility in such cases, to listen to what they are telling us. Horses are prepared to be our partners in a number of different ways and we as humans are extremely privileged how horses take to their roles and jobs. It is our responsibility to make sure that this partnership works as well as possible.

Therefore, the debate about responsibility is one that we should have often, to remain aware of our obligation and challenge ourselves to do our best to take it seriously. We need to make sure that if we change things, we do it for the right reasons and in the right places, for a better future. ■

## IMPORTANT DATES 2020

August 5-9: FEI-WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Verden (GER)

September 16-20: FEI-WBFSH Showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Lanaken (BEL)

## IMPORTANT DATES 2020

## WBFSH SIRE RANKINGS

### SHOWJUMPING

### DRESSAGE

### EVENTING

## WBFSH SIRE RANKINGS 2019

### SHOWJUMPING

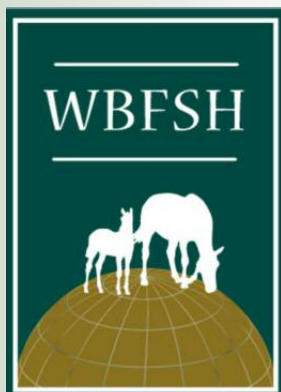
1	Chacco-Blue	36,237	41	Douglas	3,621
2	Diamant De Semilly	22658	42	Heartbreaker	3,482
3	Casall	17,302	43	Colman	3,477
4	Toulon	14,150	44	Indoctro	3,403
5	Cornet Obolensky/ ex Windows vh Costersveld	13,456	45	Larino	3,338
6	Kashmir van Schuttershof	12,735	46	Ogano Sitte	3,333
7	Nabab De Reve	11,104	47	l'Arc de Triomphe	3,198
8	Cardento 933	10,186	48	Ugano Sitte	3,191
9	Berlin/ex Caspar	9,758	49	Quintender	3,148
10	Mylord Carthago	8,671	50	Quidam's Rubin	3,131
11	Quidam de Revel	8,409	51	Jarnac	3,001
12	Verdi	7,964	52=	Calido I	2,934
13	Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve	7,908	52=	Cornado I	2,934
14	Balou du Rouet	7,872	54	Canturano	2,933
15	For Pleasure	7,861	55	Quasimodo Z	2,785
16	Kannan	7,821	56	Contendro Ii	2,727
17	Calvaro Z	7,494	57	Air Jordan Z	2,718
18	Cicero Z van Paemel	6,844	58	Eldorado vd Zeshoek	2,700
19	Numero Uno/ex Norton	6,667	59	Emerald van't Ruytershof	2,688
20	Diarado	6,514	60	Luidam	2,656
21	Baloubet du Rouet	5,855	61	Lordanos	2,596
22	Clinton	5,818	62	Contagio	2,580
23	Quaprice Bois Margot/ ex Quincy	5,703	63	Contact van de Heffinck	2,535
24	Lord Pezi	5,313	64	Querlybet Hero	2,509
25	Contendro I	5,273	65	Ukato	2,499
26	Lord Z	5,213	66	Ustinov	2,491
27	Catoki	5,190	67	Quick Star	2,449
28	Clarimo	4,779	68	Stakkato	2,448
29	Thunder vd Zuuthoeve	4,686	68	Vigo d'Arsouilles	2,401
30	Zirocco Blue	4,467	69	Wandor van de Mispelaere	2,398
31	Cassini I	4,458	70	Lupicor	2,390
32	Quintero	4,257	71	Perigueux	2,331
33	Mr Blue	4,248	72	Nintender	2,275
34	Cassini II	4,182	73	Carambole	2,255
35	Canturo	3,920	74	Cartani	2,248
36	Namelus R	3,870	75	Apache d'Adriers	2,245
37	Clearway	3,691	76	Vingino	2,220
38	Cantos	3,678	77	Corland	2,213
39	Darco	3,645	78	Allegreto	2,170
40	Andiamo Z	3,635	79	Flipper d'Elle	2,124
			80		

## WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION FOR SPORT HORSES

VILHELMSBORG ALLÉ 1  
8320 MAARSLET  
DENMARK

TEL: +45 (0)87 475400  
FAX: +45 (0)87 475410

WWW.WBFSH.ORG





## DRESSAGE

1	Jazz	21,578	26	Zack	4,895
2	Johnson	20,468	27	Aromats	4,779
3	Sandro Hit	20,050	28	United	4,644
4	De Niro	18,388	29	Danone I	4,476
5	Quaterback	12,856	30	Sancisco	4,437
6	Don Frederico	12,825	31	Rubi	4,368
7	Fidertanz	12,496	32	Dr Doolittle 45	4,271
8	Rubin Royal	12,195	33	Spielberg	4,260
9	Vivaldi	11,534	34	Damon Hill	4,240
10	Don Schufro	10,937	35	Dressage Royal	4,108
11	Florencio I	10,496	36	Farewell Iii	3,943
12	Stedinger	10,487	37	Estobar	3,912
13	Diamond Hit	10,078	38	Desperados	3,797
14	Rousseau	9,228	39	Londonderry	3,671
15	Dimaggio	9,018	40	Weltmeyer	3,524
16	San Amour I	8,208	41	Contango	3,466
17	Gribaldi	8,157	42	Ferro	3,410
18	Sir Donnerhall	8,026	43	Osmium	3,404
19	Romanov	7,007	44	Samarant	3,340
20	Hotline	6,524	45	Michellino	3,290
21	San Remo	6,513	46	Voice	3,279
22	Dancier	6,002	47	Florett As	3,222
23	Breitling W	5,781	48	Royal Diamond	3,195
24	Belissimo M	5,440	49	Painted Black	3,191
25	Sandro	5,419	50	Negro	3,048

## EVENTING

1	Contendro I	1,688	27	Windfall	386
2	Grafenstolz	1,207	28	Garrison Royal	380
3	Jaguar Mail	855	29	Heraldik xx	374
4	Quite Easy 958	738	30	Camiro de Haar Z	370
5	Courage II	664	31	Womanizer	351
6	Diarado	644	32	Lasino	350
7	Ars Vivendi	607	33	Moravia	349
8	Valentino 240	573	34	Chilli Morning	348
9	Limmerick	552	35	Verdi	337
10	OBOS Quality 004	535	36	Contender	334
11	Diamant de Semilly	490	37	Clover Echo	326
12	Jumbo	487	38	Quality 9	314
13	Master Imp	470	39	Casantos	300
14	Shannondale Sarco	463	40	Vigo d'Arsoailles	297
15	Kannan	447	41	l'Arc de Triomphe	296
16	Ricardo Z	430	42	Radolin	286
17	Fidertanz	426	43	Indoctro	284
18	Mylord Carthago	424	44	Chacco Blue	274
19=	Balou du Rouet	423	45	Carrico	268
19=	Ramiro B	423	46	Contendros Bube	267
21	Mighty Magic	407	47	Littorio	265
22	Landos	403	48	Winningmood vd Arenberg	263
23	Betel xx	399			
24=	Jack of Diamonds	398	49=	Arkansas	261
24=	Ustinov	398	49=	Captain Fire	261
26	Puissance	391			



*For Pleasure/Lars Nieberg (GER)*



*Damon Hill/Helen Langehanenburg (GER)*



*fischerChipmunk (Contendro)/  
Michael Jung (GER)*

# 2020

## FEBRUARY

### 2 Celle (GER)

Hanoverian Stallion Show  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730  
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312  
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com  
www.hannoveraner.com

### 8/9 Neumünster (GER)

Trakehner Verband stallion licensing  
Tel: +49 (0)4321 90270  
Fax: +49 (0)4321 902719  
info@trakehner-verband.de  
www.trakehner-verband.de

### 21-23 Saint-Lô (FRA)

Selle Français Stallion Championship  
for 3yo, and stallion show  
Tel: +33 (0)1 46 23 23 18  
Fax: +33 (0)1 46 12 34 09  
info@sellefrancais.fr  
www.sellefrancais.fr

## MARCH

### 4-8 Herning (DEN)

Danish Warmblood Stallion Show  
Tel: +45 (0)87 47 5400  
Fax: +45 (0)87 47 5410  
varmblod@varmblod.dk  
www.varmblod.dk

### 12-14 Oudsbergen (BEL)

BWP stallion approvals (third phase)  
Tel: +32 (0)16 47 99 80  
Fax: +32 (0)16 47 99 85  
info@bwp.be / www.bwp.be

### 26-29 Lanaken (BEL)

Z-Tour: CSI1\*/2\*, Young Horses and U25  
Tel: +32 (0)89 73 00 30  
Fax: +32 (0)89 71 84 10  
studbook@zangersheide.com  
www.zangersheide.com

## APRIL

### 2-5 Lanaken (BEL)

Z-Tour: Young Horses and U25  
Tel: +32 (0)89 73 00 30

Fax: +32 (0)89 71 84 10  
studbook@zangersheide.com  
www.studbook.zangersheide.com

### 3/4 Vechta (GER)

92<sup>nd</sup> Oldenburg Spring Elite Auction  
and 9<sup>th</sup> Saddle Licensing  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

### 6-13 Moritzburg (GER)

Sales Week at the Moritzburg State Stud  
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631  
verkauf@pzzvst.de  
www.pzzvst.de

### 10-13 Lanaken (BEL)

Z-Tour: CSI1\*/3\*, Young Horses and U25  
Tel: +32 (0)89 73 00 30  
Fax: +32 (0)89 71 84 10  
studbook@zangersheide.com  
www.studbook.zangersheide.com

### 18 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horse Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730  
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312  
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com  
www.hannoveraner.com

## MAY

### 30 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730  
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312  
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com  
www.hannoveraner.com

## JUNE

### 10-13 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburger Summer Meeting  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

### 13 Vechta (GER)

3<sup>rd</sup> Oldenburg Special Edition Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599

info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

### 22 Viernheim (GER)

DSP 'Shooting Stars' foal auction  
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631  
verkauf@pzzvst.de  
www.pzzvst.de

## JULY

### 18 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horse Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730  
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312  
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com  
www.hannoveraner.com

### 23 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburg Elite Broodmare Show  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

### 25-August 7 Tokyo (JPN)

Summer Olympic Games  
twww.tokyo2020.org

### 27 Nördlingen (GER)

DSP Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631  
verkauf@pzzvst.de  
www.pzzvst.de

### 27 Berlin (GER)

DSP Auction of jumping foals  
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631  
verkauf@pzzvst.de  
www.pzzvst.de

## AUGUST

### 3 Donaueschingen (GER)

DSP Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631  
verkauf@pzzvst.de  
www.pzzvst.de

### July 25-7/8 Tokyo (JPN)

Summer Olympic Games  
twww.tokyo2020.org