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WORLD BREEDING NEWS

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for Sport Horses

BN #282

Breeder interviews

Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis

Spring 2020!



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stay home,
stay safe.*

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AND MARGOT SABBAGH (LES GARENNE)

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EDITORIAL

COVID 19 AND THE BET ON THE FUTURE...



Can we already to assess the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on sport horse breeding activities while spring is still fading?

Our indicators, that is to say mainly stallion owners and insemination centers, assure us of quite the opposite.

The confinement and halting or slowing down of daily activities (horse riding and equestrian schools) or sports (national and international competitions) within the horse industry in the main producing nations, ie Europe, has had no negative effect on the decision to breed.

On the contrary, it would seem. The number of embryo transfers has, in most institutions, increased from the previous year. The most frequently heard pronouncement is that the owners of competition mares, professionals or amateurs, have not wanted to waste time, and decided it wouldn't be stupid to put them into reproduction this year. Or, conversely, because a mare was in the twilight of her career, perhaps it was time to end it.

As the announced competition programs for young horses (four- and five-year-olds) have been delayed by several months since the arrival of Covid 19, nothing has prevented the owners from carrying out their breeding operations (via transfer) and imagining being able to put the mares back to work to prepare for the qualifiers and finals of their respective championships, which were most often staggered in late September, early October. One question that has been raised most often concerns the finale: the WBCYH (Lanaken, Ermelo, Le Lion d'Angers). Will they take place or not?

Short-term management decisions were most often matched by the decision to put horses out in the meadow as quickly as possible, which is obviously possible with mares and geldings; not with the young stallions.

It should be noted, with regard to the flagship stallions, that those who are usually in international competition at this time of year were, exceptionally, stationed at home or at their distributors yards and, therefore, available with fresh semen, which has often increased their activity.

In conclusion, the reactivity of the operators within the breeding industry, and the expectation – or even the boredom – of the owners of competition mares, has had a positive effect on 'reproduction' activity.

We will see no decline in births in 2021 for most European studbooks, and probably even a small increase following that of last season. It should be noted, however, that this result was not achieved without difficulty. The health barriers associated with the necessary control of the pandemic certainly imposed additional stress and costs (time and money).

And what about the future? At the very least it is uncertain. It will obviously depend, overall, on the global economic recovery, which will influence that of the horse world in particular.

And at this point we have to be careful. Are equestrian sports (the practice of horseback riding), in Europe – the leading market for producers of the old continent – absolute priorities? Will health, education, and security not normally be privileged in public policies?

Will the budgets of the households that are dependent on the solidity of their enterprise be sufficient to feed the desires of the 'horse'?

And even more simply, will the owners of mares who have challenged Covid-19 by betting on the future, be strong enough to wait three years and more for the commercial maturity of their products?

As for the foreign markets, they are, to say the least, very hectic. After the ravages of the bushfires, Australia is now facing those of the pandemic.

Latin America, starting with Brazil and Argentina, is not only suffering from the pandemic but from a severe devaluation of its currencies. The United States is going through an extremely tense period, six months before the presidential deadline... But also because of the rather strange game being played with China.

And, at minimum, for the 2021 season to be in the same strange vein as this unprecedented year for the horse production pro, it will be necessary for their customers to be able to start destocking!

Xavier Libbrecht

KWPN

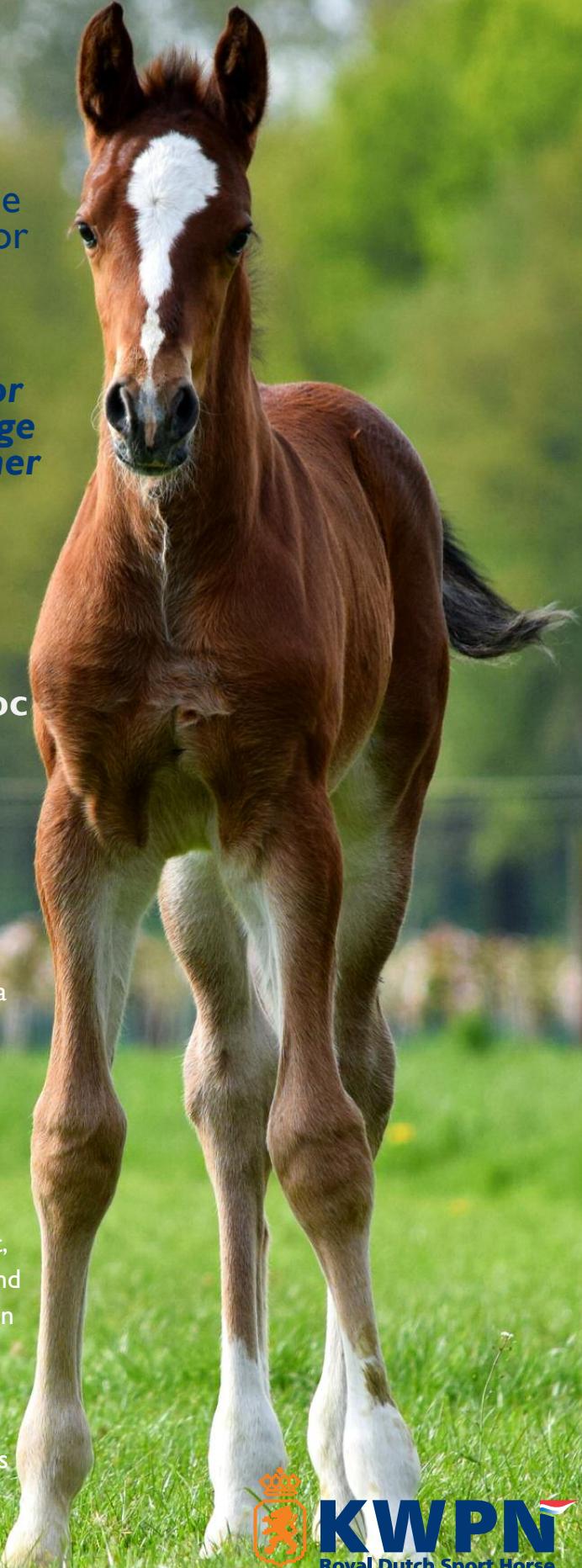
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BREEDING FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND DURABILITY



Worldwide performance results provide valuable breeding information on conformation, gaits, and jumping. Regrettably, the various BLUP values are not yet directly comparable among registries! In addition, selection for durability has not attracted enough attention. International or potential showjumpers are extremely expensive. Many will be temporarily or permanently retired in their careers by locomotion injuries. Lameness is today the most common issue requiring veterinary treatment.

My sons, Jens and Peder, both international showjumpers, keep me constantly updated regarding the abilities jumpers need to become internationally successful. "Dad, you cannot trust the result of performance testing! Those results only show that a horse may have the potential to be very good. Only the international show results themselves are a true indication of which horses hate to hit fences, have sufficiently quick reflexes, athletic scope, optimal conformation for jumping, and, above all can take the physical and emotional stress that the sport on this level will require."

Not long ago I met Dirk Rosie, owner of HorseTelex, and asked him if there were any news updates regarding breeding evaluations. He told me that the HorseTelex database is analyzing show results and has obtained breeding indexes for performance and durability for dressage, showjumping, and eventing. His analyses include results from international (FEI) shows at the 1m30 level and higher.

Rosie believes that a good estimate of a stallion's inheritance value can be obtained by dividing his volume of offspring with the number of times they have started in international FEI shows. This is true for both performance and durability. *Diamant de Semilly*, for example, has 682 offspring actively competing. This is considerably more than stallions with a similar volume of offspring to which he is being compared. Therefore, the high number cannot be explained simply by his many offspring, but is because he passes on his jumping ability exceptionally, and good durability as well.



Rosie furthermore said that to obtain more detailed information on the inheritance value of stallions, HorseTelex is calculating international sport values (ISV) for all international showjumping horses. ISV is the summary of a horse's show points divided by the number of starts. A fault-free 1m60 class will award 200 points, while a fault-free 1m30 class will award 20 points, with the most successful horse of each show obtaining extra points. Horses that place at large shows in top international competitions such as the Olympics, Spruce Meadows, Aachen, as well as European and World Championships will also earn special bonus points. ISV is the basis for calculation of a stallion's IPV (international progeny value). When the IPV points of stallions are compared, it provides a valuable index for performance and durability.

Chacco-Blue (first in the world ranking) and Cornet Obolensky (third) are exceptional breeding stallions with many internationally successful offspring. The IPV listing of stallions in class A indicates, however, that they are quite different. Chacco-Blue currently has 506 active offspring in international jumping, while Cornet Obolensky has 'only' 17. This difference cannot be explained by the number of offspring since both have been popular with the world's showjumping breeders, and both have served a great number of mares.

When the HorseTelex analysis is available, the breeding evaluations will be able to consider: (1) The average annual number of starts of offspring in relation to their age; (2) Average durability of the show career of offspring; (3) Number of offspring active internationally into high age. Let us hope that the various analyses and indexes will aid our efforts to produce many more horses with enough performance and durability also for major international shows. GOOD DURABILITY is, in my opinion, the most important attribute for a horse, regardless of the area of use.

Ingvar Fredricson
Professor VMD PhD
Honorary Member WBFSH

(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

The Marbach Classics will return in 2021: Due to the heavy restrictions placed on major events by Germany's federal and state governments, it has been announced that the Marbach Classics, scheduled to take place July 3/4, 2020, have been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Tickets already purchased will remain valid and the organizers will maintain the existing program, inspiring the audience with the same entertainment, including the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen being reunited with conductor Georg Fritzsch. The Marbach Classics concert has been one of the country's cultural highlights for the past decade, and by early April over 1,000 tickets had already been sold. The event will now take place June 25/26, 2021.

The FEI has announced that due to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games until 2021, it has been necessary to cancel various 2021 European championships. The first victim was eventing, scheduled to take place at Haras du Pin, Normandy, France, from August 11-15, 2021. The organizing committee that had been awarded this event has already announced its candidacy for the 2023 edition, with the full support of the FEI. Valérie Moulin, president of the organizing company Ustica, expressed her disappointment, "not only for our team, but also and especially for our volunteers, our partners at the forefront – including the Region Normandy and Departmental Council of Orne – the riders, and all the enthusiasts. [...] As soon as the postponement of the Olympic Games was announced, we suggested date changes to the FEI, including the delay of a few days, or 2023." As far as the CCIO4*-S scheduled to run from August 13-16, 2020, is concerned, no decision has yet been taken. Moulin explained; "We are monitoring the evolution of government decisions. We are giving ourselves time to adapt our decision to a highly evolving situation." Within a week of this announcement, the FEI confirmed that the other Olympic and Paralympic disciplines would also be pushed back to 2023, with the Board agreeing that the bidding process will not be reopened. "Together with the organizing committees of both Budapest (the Hungarian capital was scheduled to host five disciplines) and Haras du Pin, as well as the Hungarian and French National Federations, we have examined every possible option to try and save the Championships in 2021," FEI Secretary General Sabrina Ibáñez said, "but we have reached the regrettable decision that it simply is not possible to have these important events these important events so close to the Olympic and Paralympic Games next year. "While there are some nations that have enough horsepower to send strong teams to the Olympic and Paralympic Games and also to the European Championships across the four disciplines, we have to offer a level playing field to all eligible countries and we simply cannot do that in this case, so we have agreed that the focus should be on Tokyo next year." It was the first time that a Central European country, had won the opportunity to organize a multi-disciplinary FEI championships: Dorottya Stróbl, member of the Managing Board of the Budapest organizing committee, and secretary general of the Hungarian NF, said; "We strongly believed that the event would serve as a high motivation for the owners and sponsors in Hungary and in the neighbouring countries and promote the sport towards the elite level, but we understand that the significant challenges of holding major FEI Championships in the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines in the year of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, has meant that unfortunately cancellation was inevitable. However, we will continue to work to ensure the very highest level of FEI Driving and Vaulting European sport in Budapest next year."

Predicates without central keuring at KWPN, and no national championships demonstrates the greatest consideration for human health in the Netherlands. The KWPN board, in cooperation with the Sectorrad Paardencourse which governs all sporting and breeding organizations with regard to horses, are united in taking measures that won't further disadvantage breeders and owners beyond those already in place. Clear protocols have been created to make it possible for officials to visit stables to complete a description and to micro-chip new-born foals. If the human health situation does not deteriorate, it may be possible to organize a small regional stamboekkeuring at which horses can be graded with the normal predicates ster and (voorlopig) keur which used to be a graduation award offered only at the Centrale Keuringen. However, this will not be held this year, and the regional stamboekkeuring will take place behind closed doors. The only visitors will be limited to breeders and owners (maximum of two per horse), and will be strictly organized according to the sanitary rules of the protocol. It has also been confirmed that no national KWPN championships will be organised this year. The young horse championships in showjumping for the Blom Cup will likely be held in September in Ermelo. Some selections for the dressage young horse championships for the PAVO Cup will likely be held in Oktober/November in Ermelo, after which a final will be held.

C.v.A.

Editor's note: Since the start of the Covid-19 lock-downs around two months ago (+/- one or two weeks depending on the restriction mandates issued by different countries), *World Breeding News* has continued to publish and support breeders, as well as employing our regular team of contributors. You may have noticed, in fact, that our focus has adapted to a 'new norm' due to our inability to report from major competitions and other breeding-specific events, but we have nonetheless increased our pages to previously unseen levels. There has also been an exponential rise in new readers to *World Breeding News*, and the feedback during this difficult time has been extremely favourable. So, as life does start to return to the new normal, we will reintroduce past features as well as continue with the human interest and health and vet stories that have been so popular. As always, it's you, the readers, who will guide us.

Past, present, and future of breeding Warmbloods: Part I

BY JOHN CLARKE

PHOTOGRAPHY: COLLECTION POUDRET

This article is the first in a three-part series devoted to an analysis of the general philosophy and approach to Warmbloods and sports horses world-wide, past, present, and future. The original text (updated), appeared as an introductory chapter to 'The International Warmblood Horse' by Celia Clarke and Debbie Wallin, published by The Kenilworth Press in 1991 under the title 'The Warmblood approach to breeding: an historical introduction using the German warmblood as an illustration'.

Its author John Clarke is not only a professional historian, Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Buckingham, but was also Chairman of the British Warm-Blood Society (now the Warmblood Breeders Studbook UK) from 1982 to 1992, so is uniquely qualified to write upon this subject. Parts II and III of the series will concentrate on current and future developments and will appear in forthcoming issues of *World Breeding News*. They will be the work of John's wife Celia Clarke, the well-known Warmblood and sports horse breeding consultant who was secretary of the BWBS during its formative years. She is now the UK correspondent of *World Breeding News* and is also the Chair of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association which is an all-breed organization representing the interests of the many equine studbooks based in Great Britain to both the UK government and the wider world.

As a regular presence at both the WBFSH General Assembly and WHIRDEC – and as secretary of the International Young Breeders organization from 2013 and 2017 – Celia Clarke draws upon many years of experience in this subject for her writing. Her background as one of the originators of the very successful British Breeding Futurity scheme, and as an international grading judge for a number of studbooks across the globe, ensures that she will combine theory, philosophy and practical experience in a unique way in her articles

An historical review of the Warmblood and sport horse approach to breeding

Over the centuries there have been two main ways in which human beings have tried to maximise the potential of the horse. The first has been through the invention or improvement of mechanical aids – bits,

bridles, saddles, and harnesses. The second has been through the selective breeding of horses to produce animals especially suited to particular kinds of work. Here my task is to explain the origins and philosophy of the 'Warmblood approach to breeding'.

To a greater or lesser extent, all societies involved with horses have produced philosophies of breeding. We must appreciate that there have been many such philosophies and that an examination of these various philosophies provides fascinating insight into the nature of the societies that have produced them. For our purposes, it is important to give a clear geographical location to the Warmblood philosophy. It originated on the Continent (of mainland Europe) rather than in the English-speaking world and its true homeland has been in North Germany. In Anglo-Saxon (English-speaking) countries, the very phrase 'Warmblood horse' is of recent origin and some people remain puzzled by it. Thus, on one occasion, when my wife went to a bank with some cheques



Frederick the Great and his staff at the Battle of Leuthen, 1797, a decisive Prussian victory, by Hugo Ungewitter

payable to the British Warm-Blood Society, the clerk looked alarmed and asked, 'Are you something to do with Dracula?'

The philosophy behind Warmblood breeding is even less understood. Common sense suggests that Warmblood owners and breeders in Britain and in the world beyond Europe should be willing to learn from the accumulated experience of Germany, Scandinavia, and the Low Countries.

Co-existing with diversity

It is one thing to recognise the existence of a diversity of traditions and another to understand them. This has proved a particularly intractable problem with Warmbloods. Many new Warmblood owners have learned the meaning of certain technical terms – such as the difference between 'registration' and 'grading' and between 'Haupt' and 'Select' – yet are still left feeling that they do not understand why things are done in a particular way, nor what end is in view. Anglo-Saxon attitudes can be equally puzzling to most Europeans. In fact, a considerable intellectual and imaginative effort is required for those brought up in one tradition to comprehend the other. The crucial thing is to appreciate that both attitudes have deep roots in the past.

When it comes to summarising what most Continental horsemen think of the breeding policies in Anglo-Saxon countries and vice versa, the essential point is that Anglo-Saxons think that there is too much regulation on the Continent, while Continentals think that there is too little in Britain and America. We have to appreciate that attitudes to horses, like most other things, represent a mixture of a rational response to current conditions and instinctive loyalty to traditions many centuries old.

In Britain, horses have not played such a vital role in defence as they have in Europe. With the accession of James I in 1603 and the disappearance of the Scottish frontier, Britain's political and geographical boundaries became co-extensive. It followed that Britain was less vulnerable to attack than her land-locked Continental neighbours, and if invasion came it would be by sea, not in the shape of men on horseback. Sea-borne invaders could be best deterred by other ships. In terms of national defence, horses were of relatively modest importance.

With the country united and fairly prosperous and safe behind wooden walls, the state could afford to relax, and a fairly substantial amount of liberty could be conceded. There was no need for a large standing army in peacetime, and the absence of such an army allowed a parliamentary system to flourish.

In the 18th century, and a good deal later, armies meant horses. In the case of England, however, the small size of the land forces meant that the state had a correspondingly modest interest in breeding horses for military purposes. In such an environment, it is hardly surprising that the emphasis of horse breeding was largely diverted towards leisure activities. Thus, in 18th-century England, wealthy, self-confident, and politically dominant aristocrats took the lead

in breeding Thoroughbreds for racing. Here there was a specific end in view and rigorous standards were applied.

In the 19th century the Industrial Revolution in England diminished the relative importance of agriculture to the national economy. The interests of industry and commerce became paramount and any surviving sectional agricultural interests were less influential. The state's sole purpose was to further the interests of the individual members, an aim largely achieved by letting them get on with their own affairs in the way which each considered best. State initiatives affecting horses were rare and of little importance; one rare example was a scheme to produce better Welsh ponies to serve in the coal mines. There was no room for state studs in a world like this. If there is some connection between this brief sketch of British history and British attitudes to horse breeding, then what of the Continent?

In defence of borders

By definition, all Continental countries shared at least one land frontier with another state. They were vulnerable to invasion over land – as Britain was not. Their governments had to be more alert to the dangers of invasion and hence were forced to devote more attention to the production of horses for military purposes. Such was their vulnerability that they were compelled to maintain standing armies in peace time, both as a deterrent to potential aggressors and to provide an immediate and effective defence if an invasion actually materialised. In other words, the breeding of suitable horses for the cavalry and to pull guns and baggage trains was a matter of vital national interest. It is quite understandable that Continental states should concern themselves with horse breeding. It is essential for British and Americans breeders to appreciate that contemporary Continental attitudes spring directly from the military considerations of earlier generations.

But the differences go deeper than that. With a standing army at his disposal, a Continental ruler had a ready instrument to enforce the collection of taxes. He was thus dispensed from the need to consult Parliamentary bodies or to obtain their consent to taxation. Although Parliaments had been almost universal in Europe in the Middle Ages, they tended to decline or disappear from the 16th century – precisely the time when the English Parliament was becoming more powerful.

For most of Continental Europe, the 17th and 18th centuries saw the golden age of absolute monarchy. There was an absolutist regime in Denmark, and Gustav III of Sweden seemed to be following the European trend when, in 1772, he organised a coup d'état against the Swedish Parliament. Louis XIV's boast, 'L'état, c'est moi', represented the aspiration if not the reality of most European kings and princes. There were exceptions, notably in Poland. But the fate of Poland – which was finally wiped off the map by absolutist, better organised, and predatory neighbours – only pointed to the folly of continuing with weak states.



*Paris 1924 Olympic Games, still the exclusive domain of military riders
Gold medallist Alphonse Gemuseus (SUI) riding Lucette*

The difference between Britain and the Continent produced one strange anomaly. In recent years, the Hannoverian horse has become one of the best-known Warmblood breeds. There are long-standing political and cultural links between Britain and Hannover – going back to 1714 when the Elector of Hannover became King of Great Britain – yet the Hannoverian Verband follows a Continental rather than a British philosophy of breeding. While the Hannoverian monarchs were constitutional monarchs in Britain, they were absolute rulers in their German homeland.

Geographical expressionism and Prussia defined

Before 1871, Germany was a geographical expression, or at best an aspiration towards a political entity rather than an actual one. In the 18th century, there were as many German states as there are days in the year, and even after 1815 there were still over thirty.

In the flat plains of Northern Germany there could be no natural frontiers and many states possessed little obvious raison d'être. It was clear that some of these states would be swallowed by others; the crucial question was which ones would be swallowed and which ones would do the swallowing. In the end, it was Prussia that emerged as the victor in this protracted contest.

In earlier times, Prussia consisted of several detached areas. The difficulties encountered in trying to weld this motley collection of territories into a major state were enormous. Only by superhuman efforts of discipline, self-sacrifice, planning, and obedience could Prussia hope to stand comparison with more 'natural' states. In Britain, the ideas of laissez-faire might have made good sense; in Prussia they would have resulted in the country falling apart. As a

Great Power, Prussia was a planned and artificial creation from the start. While Prussia represents the most extreme example of a statist approach to Warmblood breeding, we shall best understand the difference between the Anglo-Saxon world and Continental traditions if we concentrate on Prussia – the model which Continental breed societies (except France) still follow to a greater or lesser extent.

The first Prussian requirement was to create a common identity – so that Rheinlanders, for example, could learn to think of themselves as Prussians. One way of doing this was through the discovery, if necessary, through the invention, of a glorious past with which all subjects could identify. There can be no doubt of the importance of the horse in the history/mythology of Prussia. Eighteenth- and 19th-century

Prussia was portrayed as the heir of the Teutonic Knights of the Middle Ages. The Knights had recruited members from all over Germany and beyond and the future Henry IV of England served with the Order in a 'Crusade' against Lithuania in 1390. The Knights were presented as heroes who had formed the medieval spearhead of the age-old German mission, the Drang nach Osten, the 'drive to the East', to bring German Kultur to lands hitherto occupied by primitive Slavs. The links between knights and horses is 'revealed in the German word for Knight' – 'Ritter' or rider.

East Prussia known as the Kreuzritterstaat, 'the State of the Knights of the Cross', and its successor, the Duchy of Prussia (founded in 1525) were essentially warrior states engaged in frequent battles with their neighbours. There was an early recognition of the military necessity of a supply of good horses. Such things were too important to leave to chance and the Teutonic Order founded the first 'state' stud farm in the world, at Georgenburg in 1264.

But 'scientific' horse breeding involves more than 'state' stallions; there is also the question of mares. Here again the Kreuzritterstaat was of crucial importance. In order to make the areas they conquered irreversibly German, the Knights had to attract 'civilian' settlers. Large numbers of peasants were moved all the way across Germany to set up farms, villages, and even towns. To ensure the scheme's success, the Knights and their associates assisted the emigrants by organising transport, housing, and tools, and they laid out the new farms on a standard pattern. In effect what took place was a planned migration and some historians believe that the German addiction to planning dates from this experience.

Although there were conflicts of interest between the peasant farmers and the Prussian state, there was an underlying affinity; each needed the other. The basic relationship was support in return for obedience. In terms

of horse breeding the scene was set for the ‘classic’ German pattern of peasant farmers sending their mares to the state stud, keeping the foals for a few years and then selling some of them back to the state – either for military purposes or as potential stallions. In effect, both parties to the arrangement had an interest in maintaining high standards, standards which gradually became enshrined in tradition.

Although the basic pattern was established in the Middle Ages, some of the details had to wait until more recent times. We return to the eighteenth century, the great age of Prussian state building. Even more than the manipulation of history, the way to make Prussians feel Prussian was to bring a sense of unity in the face of an enemy, if necessary, by deliberately provoking war, as in the attack on Austrian Silesia in 1740. A sense of union could be forged in the Army of Frederick the Great. The development of the right kind of horses, seen by many as the key to victory, was a matter of national priority.’

Warfare and the consequent need for cavalry and other types of horse was only one aspect of State involvement in breeding. Identification with the state was to be fostered by display and ceremony; military parades and reviews became a central feature. The Kings of Prussia were themselves part of this propaganda. They were usually seen by their subjects not only riding on horseback, but also wearing military uniform. Eighteenth-century rulers were not just concerned about impressing their own subjects: they also wanted to create a powerful impression on other rulers. The chief criterion was the grandeur, polish, and magnificence of court and palaces. Again, horses played a crucial role; enormous sums were spent

on building stables and riding schools (virtual palaces in their own right), and the art of dressage was regarded as an essential accomplishment of the courtier. Here, perhaps, the best example is not in Prussia but in her great rival Austria, where we can still see the Spanish Riding School next door to the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. Most of the smaller German rulers were eager imitators.

It appears, therefore, that horse breeding was intimately associated with statecraft. The selective and deliberate creation of distinctive breeds as a long-term policy objective was pursued by many German states because it was crucial to the growth of the state consciousness. As states became increasingly distinct, so greater uniformity was required among the subjects within each – and so with each breed. Ultimately each state wanted its ‘own’ horse.

German unification

The unification of Germany was not achieved peacefully but by series of wars. Yet the Germany formed in 1871 was not an entirely centralised state; the old rulers retained their titles, state government continued to function and to control aspects of agricultural policy; in theory at least, Bavaria actually possessed a separate army. Thus, separate breeds continued. Although in reality Germany had been conquered by Prussia, it suited the politicians to disguise this. Unification may have been welcomed by liberals and intellectuals but not all horse owners came into either of these categories.

But there was another important dimension. The industrialisation of Germany had scarcely begun before

1871. Germany was still an overwhelmingly agricultural society. When industrialisation did come it took a course radically different to that experienced in Britain. In Britain, industrialisation was associated with the acceleration of ‘Enclosure’ and the disappearance of ‘the English peasantry’, if indeed such a body had ever existed. Thus, the proportion of the population connected with agriculture suffered both a relative and an absolute decline. In Germany, no such absolute decline took place. There was no enclosure movement and peasant farming remained the norm over much of the Reich. Thus the ‘agricultural lobby’ was more influential in German politics than in Britain; it was able to secure agricultural protection and state support against cheap imports of grain from Russia or the United States.



Rome 1932: Captain J. (Jed) G. O'Dwyer (IRL). Hailed as one of the greatest pre World War II showjumping riders who led the Irish Army team to win eight Nations' Cup in a row with famous jumping horse Limerick Lace, and was received by Mussolini after this event. He was a former chairman of the Irish Hunter Improvement Society and Limerick Races Board. He died in 1996, age 97

There was one problem here; those who derived their income from horses had an interest in cheap grain and hence might have been attracted to free trade ideas. In order to persuade horse breeders to support general agricultural protection, the state had to offer other incentives – to expand the military purchases, to provide direct or indirect help to enable them to find customers, not only in Germany but also elsewhere. The German breeders had a strong incentive to produce the best quality ‘product’.

As railways spread over Continental Europe, exports of German horses rose sharply. Indeed, at least in part, it was the growth of these exports that persuaded other countries to introduce German methods, if only to protect their own markets. Although horse breeding clearly involves an interest in and love of horses, the element of economic calculation – the idea of horse-raising as an industry – was also present. In Britain, except among the racing fraternity, such considerations may seem mutually exclusive; on the Continent few breeders would have seen any inherent contradiction between the two.

The great thing about the Germans was that they knew what they wanted from their horses. The military desiderata were expressed most succinctly in the official German army veterinary report produced in the aftermath of World War I: ‘The East Prussian horse should be the best war horse available. It has been found to be hard, full of endurance, and demanding little. During the mobile war it has willingly participated in long marches and shown great endurance of all hardships and privations. Aside from a few flaws in temperament and the fact that after excessive stress some animals refused their feed, there were no complaints from

anyone of the faults in the East Prussian horse. Hoof diseases, illness, and lameness were rare. The regular to slightly narrow hoof of solid, finely fibered substance of the East Prussian horse enables it in an excellent manner to endure any kind of footing for extended periods of time without damage and assures dependable movement everywhere.’

Post World War I breeding

The defeat of Germany in World War I and what were regarded as the unfair terms of the Treaty of Versailles, had major implications for German horse breeders. East Prussia, one of the most important horse breeding areas, was now separated from the rest of Germany by the ‘Polish Corridor’. Restrictions on the size of the German army meant that one major market contracted enormously compared to the days before 1914 or during the war itself. Political instability in Eastern Europe, coupled with a European trend towards higher and higher tariffs curbed export markets. Economic catastrophe in Germany meant that there were fewer horses wanted for leisure purposes. The development of motor transport in towns was yet another blow.

Faced with such adverse circumstances, radical re-thinking was imperative. Of course, there were ways of easing the problem. The military clauses of Versailles could be evaded especially after the signature of the Treaty of Rapallo of 1922, which allowed the German army to hold manoeuvres in Russia, well away from the prying eyes of the Allies. Further, the ‘horse lobby’ was still strong enough to influence economic policy. In particular, Germany was in a position to

insist that primary producers, especially in Eastern Europe, could only send their products to Germany if they agreed to take German products, including horses, in return.

Here we need to consider one of the most important aspects of the German breeding philosophy. It is crucial to appreciate that, while there may have been clearly defined breeding goals for Hannoverians, Trakehners, and the rest, these goals did not remain constant. Because of the large number of mare owners, there was a large genetic pool. Also, it was always possible to bring in stallions from other breeds, often Thoroughbreds. The breeds were essentially flexible and were made heavier or lighter as customer taste and demand required.

In the inter-war period, the use of tractors was virtually unknown on the Continent. It seemed that whatever the vagaries of other sectors of the market,



Lucerne 1914, René Ricard (FRA) – winner of the Grand Prix in 1912. In the six years prior to WWI, the tournament was dominated by a French trio of Ricard, Juge Montepieu and Henri Leclerc. In this same year, Ricard set a new world high jump record of 2m35 riding his grey Montjoie III at the French tournament in Vittel.

farm work would continue to provide a basis for the continuance of a breed. In Fritz Schilke's *Trakehner Horses: Then and Now* we learn just how useful and cost effective a Warmblood mare was expected to be:

The East Prussian broodmare so-to-speak had to pass a daily performance test on her breeder's farm. The farmer could not afford to keep mares merely to produce foals. His broodmares had to be fully usable on his farm. Mares which could not meet the requirements of farm operations were eliminated sooner or later. The endeavor of the East Prussian Warmblood breeders was the attainment of equal performance in several fields of use. With this objective in mind, new tests were developed. East Prussia instituted a three-part exam:

A. Performance test with a plough, team of two, single-share plough, time required four hours, pulling resistance per horse 120 kg, width of furrow 30.35 cm. Minimum area to be ploughed 2.2 morgen (approx. 1.4 acres).

B. Performance test in heavy harness: pulling a load, team of two, on hard road for 25 kms with a load of 2.5 ton including wagon, excluding driver. The first 21 kilometres walk and trot as desired with a maximum time of six minutes per kilometre. The last four kilometre walk, maximum time 11 minutes per kilometre.

Final test under a rider, free walk, free trot without minimum performance. Gallop two kilometres in a total maximum time of five minutes, 30 seconds.

Although the German breeds were generally designed to be capable of 'equal performance in several fields use' the emphasis changed. Thus, horses probably became heavier in the 1920s when agricultural functions predominated, to lighten again in the 1930s as German rearmament accelerated under the Third Reich.

Yet perhaps the greatest testimony to the versatility of the Warmblood horse came at the end of World War II when, as the Russian armies poured in to East Prussia, the peasant farmers harnessed their horses to wagons and drove westwards, over rivers with no bridges and without adequate food for weeks on end. Of course, many perished in the attempt, but an astonishing number survived and went on to establish the Trakehner breed as we know it – and thus have a decisive influence on many current Warmblood and sport-horse studbooks worldwide.

The crucial thing about Warmbloods is careful breeding,



Captain Federico Caprilli (ITA), jumping a wire fence near Tor de Quinto around 1905. He was considered to be the father of modern showjumping as he revolutionized the jumping seat. Called the 'forward seat', it formed the technique used by all jumping riders today.

Contrary to the former 'backward seat', it allowed the horse to lengthen its stride and round into a natural bascule over the fences free from interference, and prevented the horse being hit in the mouth at every obstacle

using knowledge of bloodlines on both sides, to aim at a specific objective. The calculation may not always succeed but the probability of success will be greater than if pedigrees are unknown. The irony of the situation is that in recent years when the long-standing military, agricultural, and transportational importance of the horse has become a thing of the past, the significance of these attitudes and systems has become more crucial than ever.

The horse is now largely a 'leisure' animal. Yet leisure industries are notoriously exacting in their standards; more than ever horses are required to be outstanding in particular activities – dressage, eventing or show jumping – and still be capable of all-round excellence, even if they may be excused ploughing duties. The infinite variety and adaptability of Warmblood bloodlines means that breeds can develop in any way that is required yet still maintain their distinctive identity.

The Germans, and Continentals generally, have used their skill and knowledge to maximise this potential, whereas the Anglo-Saxon laissez faire background has led to a more random approach to breeding. Increasing integration with the Continentals and the huge successes of Warmbloods in competitions have changed attitudes, and Warmblood breeding, although at an early stage in Anglo-Saxon nations, is becoming a major part of their horse industry. ■

Read Part II in our July 2020 issue – online from July 1

Meyer: “Always looking for the complete horse? Stupid!”

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/PSV MOREL

Jens Meyer was born and raised a Hanoverian breeder. His father before him was a breeder of licensed stallions and Jens, as a young man, learnt his craft at the State Stud Celle before setting up one of Germany's powerhouse stallion stations – Hengststation Jens Meyer. There, he stood, amongst others, His Highness, Falsterbo, Dacaprio, Cashman and Herzensdieb.

Nowadays, Meyer has cut back on the stallion involvement, although his wife is the part owner of Damsey, another horse that her husband discovered. Jens Meyer has a busy career judging all over the world, and acting as an advisor to the Blue Hors Stud. I caught up with him at the KWPN stallion show, and was just a little surprised to find that this died-in-the-wool Hanoverian breeder, was now a big fan of the Dutch horse.

“I like that they have the philosophy to produce dressage horses and not just foals. When you listen to Bert Rutten really carefully, he’s a horse breeder, he rode Grand Prix, and when he talks about the horses, there is an idea you can follow. When he talks about the walk he is not just talking about over track, he is talking about the right rhythm, and if horses have this they are going to be able to do piaffe. He has these ideas, and he gives them to the breeders, so they are not just looking for medium trot.

“I saw all 400 or 500 horses they had in the pre-selection. It begins on hard ground and you see what they are looking for, and how they are looking for that. Also, there are not seven people on the licensing commission, there’s three, and with three people it can work. If you have seven, oh, this leg, and, oh, did you see that, with three it is much easier to see black or white.

“They are clever how they run their stallion show. They sell the tables for the guests, and it is quite expensive to buy a table, even a regular seat is €47. In Germany, the crowd pays nothing, everyone is in for free. What is the result? The stallion keepers have to pay for the show, so the pressure is really on that the horses get sold for a lot of money, but for us – like Blue Hors – I think this is a very big gamble to pay those big prices, but here in Holland, there is not so much pressure, the prices are not so high.”

◆ What horses did you like?

“I was really impressed that the Totilas offspring are really good, Total Jr, also. Interesting horses...”

◆ But he needs a good strong mare, or you get a pony...

“Good, I am with you, to breed with this bloodline and conformation is one thing, but we are not Trakehner

breeders or Arab breeders, we have to breed a functional horse that is able to do a Grand Prix, so what you can see when you see these horses is that you are not just aiming to breed a pretty one. The Dutch horse and the German horse breeding together, when it produces a good one, it is a really good result. For the German breeders, we get from the Dutch more canter because we don’t select on canter. For me the front leg is very important, and if you have a combination of both, you get a better back, you get it in the hind that they are stronger, so that is the really good breeding for today.”

◆ But I thought often, especially the spectators, they seemed to like the horses that are very tense, very tight in the back with very spiky movement, and it’s the same problem still with their riders. Look at the difference at the recent Amsterdam show, the top horses were German and they were top because they go in a calm, correct manner, while the top Dutch horses still look very tense and ‘spectacular’ in a bad way...

“But this is the generation they were breeding 20 years ago, and you remember 20 years ago when we sat together at the KWPN stallion show, I didn’t like the Dutch breeding. I was a traditional German breeder. But today, I can see Grand Prix horses for the future, and I am very proud that I have found there is something in between. And that something in between is for me, very interesting, that we now have to talk about European breeding, not Hanover, not Oldenburg, not Westfalia, breeding is coming from all over Europe, and for the horse breeders this is a big chance for us to get good dressage horses.

“They do it with jumping horses, why not with dressage horses? A good jumping Grand Prix mare has a good chance to produce a Grand Prix horse, why not with dressage horses? And for this we have to think European.”

◆ But do you think sometimes the Dutch get obsessed with too pretty. I remember saying to that lovely man, Wim Ernes, why don’t you use Breitling, he is producing so many Grand Prix foals. Oh, we can’t use him, he is too ugly...

“I am with you. And you see it now, they want Damsey for

Dutch breeding. That is very interesting. He's 18 years old and for three years he has been the best stallion in the dressage rankings. They say to us, his attributes are that he is sound, and he can give this to the Dutch breeding. I said to them, but who uses an old stallion? No, they say, we had this success with De Niro, we did it the same way, introduced De Niro to the breeders and it works well on the dam side. But in Germany, they won't use Damsey because he has a Rituel mother – unpopular bloodlines – but in the end, this horse did a great job, and this thinking by the Dutch to breed mind and walk is thinking for the future. To breed sport horses, that is the key, not to breed a pretty one, and after two years, you need another one! What's that? Nothing, nothing!

"Look at Zack. Zack is a Dutch horse and in the pre-selection for this stallion show, there were three or four horses by this stallion, now you see a family, and this is the direction we must take in breeding horses. Not the perfect model, not the most commercial horse, we have to breed Grand Prix horses. Always we can climb in small steps with the conformation, but brain is the difficult thing to breed. A smart mind."

◆ I was thinking the other day that Zack is perhaps the first stallion since De Niro, to produce stallion sons, real stallion sons...

"It is not easy to breed with Zack, this is interesting, he does not make the conformation, or the 'pretty' horse. The breeder has not been thinking long term, he wants to sell a foal – we must take this out of the breeder's brain, they must aim to produce a good horse. We have to start with rideability."

◆ But Zack is producing very good horses...

"Yes, he is a European stallion, he has good offspring..."

◆ And his son, Zonic is producing good horses, nicer looking horses than the Zacks...

"This is the result, with more frame and uphill, better front, all these things – there is an improvement."

◆ And Sezuan, do you think he will breed anything?



*Damsey FRH (Dressage Royal - Ria Grande x Ritual)
ridden by Helen Langehanenberg (GER)*

"What this horse is capable of doing we will see in the future. He makes also not pretty horses, but we will see what is coming out. It's like I was saying before, there's very good canter, very good mind, if you need canter and mind, then this is an interesting stallion. I remember Sezuan's grandmother, she was a very nice Holstein mare, she was really old-fashioned, but she won at the shows and produced really good foals. She was a top mare at that time.

"With Sezuan, the conformation is really interesting. It's like the Dutch now with Jameson (Blue Hors Zack x Negro). I am very interested to see the offspring of Jameson, the mother was very good, very good conformation, she competed in the children's classes with a girl, to Grand Prix. Very interesting. You can discuss the walk but you cannot have everything from a stallion."

◆ Did you see Jameson at the worlds, with the little girl [Marieke van der Putten (NED)] riding him? It was beautiful...

"Beautiful, and so when I want to have front leg and an uphill horse in canter, then this is the right stallion. I have two mares in foal to Jameson, one Lauries Crusador xx mare, she is from the mare lines of Dr Schulz – Lauries Crusador, World Cup, then comes Gänselfiesel. Old fashioned with Thoroughbred just one time – I will be very interested to see what comes out, she is a very pretty mare and has produced three foals, one competing Grand Prix and two competing St George. I'm looking forward to seeing those foals."

Gänselfiesel was one of the foundation mares of Dr



Schulz-Stellenfleth who bred 22 licensed stallions. She is a full-sister to Garibaldi I and II, the dam of Beltain who has been influential through his son Belissimo M, and the dam of Wolke who was the mother of Wolkenstein II.

"This is what the jumping breeders do. If you have a mare with no scope, take a stallion with scope. So why not with the dressage mares? I need front leg, so I use a stallion with front leg."

◆ It sounds simple...

"Yes, but why don't they do it? When I need type, I take a Trakehner or take Sandro Hit bloodlines, so you breed to certain stallions for certain specific qualities, but no, they are always looking for the complete horse and they say 'he makes it'. Stupid!"

"I was always very traditional, Hanoverian, but in Hanover, we have no selection for the canter, just in the stallions and the mare test. We have 8,000 foals, and just 600 or 700 go to the stallion and the mare tests and are selected on canter. Why not everywhere? Every horse must walk, trot, canter. So when I need canter, I look for stallions with canter and not look for what is marketable."

"For example, this Confess Color, the Cadeau Noir stallion that was the top price at the Hanoverian auction. They said this in an outcross pedigree and no one will use it, but... I judged two times the mare family of Cadeau Noir, they won two times the big mare show in Lüneberg, from 20 mare families. They were pretty mares in that family. I know as well this line, I know the great grand-dam, Graefin Galina by Graf Fackel, she was a bit heavy, but she has some attributes from the Holsteiner that are good."

"The mother of Confess Color is by Licosto, I had him at my place, he was seventh in the world championships, no one talks about that stallion, he's a secret. Then comes Damsey and then comes Lauries Crusador xx, Wolkenstein, and then Forest xx, Thoroughbred again. It's funny how it comes back that there is so much Thoroughbred in the family, Licosto is the grandson of Licoto, so three

Thoroughbreds, Licoto, Lauries Crusador, Forrest. So is Confess Color an out-cross bloodline? No, it is breeding with development – this is breeding, not fashion breeding."

◆ What are you doing with Blue Hors?

"I am buying foals, with my colleague, we buy stallions, and I am two times a month selecting horses at Blue Hors. Looking which rider suits which horse, do we go on with this horse, or not? It is really interesting, modern, there are separate divisions in this company: one guy is doing the young ones, one is doing the older horses, the chairman is from the management of Lego. He's not a horseman, he understands the horse business, but in a very different way. He is not interested when I say this horse is out of this dam line... No, he wants a concept. What are we doing with this horse? I am very proud, it is not a dealing stable, so the idea is that the riders have five horses that can score over 80%. So there's an older one in competition, and then the young ones. We see how two of the horses went to Agneta Kirk Thinggaard, the daughter, and how well they compete for her, so they have been taken from a foal to an international Grand Prix horse, that is the planning."

◆ And Zepter, what is happening with him?

"Zack and Zepter, we are very careful with them, so that we can go to the Olympic Games. The idea is that both riders are in the Danish team, Agneta and Daniel Bachmann Andersen, and we do everything to make that happen. Zack is out of breeding, no risks, we don't go to many shows, so the goal is that he has two horses, in case one is lame or whatever, you never know."

◆ But Zepter is the big star coming...

"Absolutely, this is a superstar, and so we say, not too many shows, not going to the World Cup. Keep them sound and see that both horses are fit and see what happens." ■

Being highly placed is not a matter of chance

BY JAROSŁAW LEWANDOWSKI / PZHK

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNA BAGNIEWSKA, TOMASZ BAGNIEWSKI, KATARZYNA BORYNA,
ANNA DESZCZYSKA, JOANNA KRUK

Since 2007, the Polish Horse Breeders Association has maintained files on the results of performance-tested mares upon completion of the 60-day stationary training. Up to the present time, 1,453 mares have been evaluated in terms of their breeding (genetic) value in seven training centres.

On April 2, 2020, an interesting summary was posted on the Polish Horse Breeders Association website: a classification entitled 'General genetic index based on the results of mares trained in years 2007-2019' (Genetyczny indeks ogólny na podstawie wyników klacz trenowanych w latach 2007-2019) produced by Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Genetics and Animal Biotechnology in Jastrz bie.

The overall result of a tested mare following statutory ridden training includes scores for walk, trot, and canter under saddle, free jumping, rideability – assessed by a test rider – plus points for temperament, character, and training aptitude awarded by the head of the respective training centre.

Winners awarded

Basing on this classification, I have elaborated the characteristics of the best mares in the ranking and formulated some general conclusions.

The highest classified mare in the ranking (index 158.4) was Gala Hit-LA (Quaterback - Gwiazda Hit x Samba Hit) born in 2013, bred by Adam Lachera of the D bno Stud, owned by Leszek Garstka (Biadki, Wielkopolska voivodeship). The mare completed her test at the Bielice Training Centre on December 26, 2016, with the following scores: free jumping 7.7; walk 8.8; trot 9.0; canter 9.0; rideability 9.0.

Here high scores for movement were not a matter of chance because Gala has a strong dressage pedigree. Her Brandenburg (now DSP) sire, Quaterback, was the winner of his körung in Neustadt/Dosse in 2005. The following year, as a three-year-old, he became Bundeschampion with scores at the 9.5-10.0 level, and subsequently won the 30-day test with a 9.14 score for dressage characteristics. He placed highly in 22nd place on the WBFSH sire rankings.

Gala's dam Gwiazda Hit originates from the maternal line founded by Wielkopolska mare G sawa (Don Cornelius - Atyka x L dek) from the Pl kity Horse Stud. She was the Champion of the Doruchów Training Centre in 2011 where she received very high scores for gaits: 8.0 for walk, 8.5 for trot, 8.3 for canter and 9.5 from the test rider. She placed 34th out of 453

mares in the said ranking with an overall index 139.7. Yet more evidence of this mare's value is the fact that besides Gala Hit-LA she also produced the stallion Gretton Woods (by Bretton Woods), last year's dressage gold medalist of the Polish Young Horse Championship in the five-year-old age-group with Filip Poszumski. The licenced stallions Gold Quarterback and Gornet Obolensky also came from that line.

Gwiazda Hit's sire, Samba Hit I, is the son of legendary Sandro Hit (Sandro Song x Ramino) and the dam Poesie (Brentano II). Thus he was a full brother to the one-year-older famous mare Poetin, the gold medalist of World Breeding Championship for Yong Horses in Verden in 2003, and subsequently sold at the PSI Auction for €2.5 million.

Interestingly, Gala Hit-LA's sire, the above-mentioned Quarterback, comes from the same valuable dam family. Samba Hit won the körung and then the 70-day test, he was a Bundeckhampionate medallist, and reached Grand Prix level.

Samba Hit I enjoyed great popularity among horse breeders, including

those in Poland. PZHK passport holders include such Samba Hit I offspring, as: Rumba Hit (out of Rowa x Rotspom) – 2015 European champion competitor and Polish champion in 2016 (Aleksandra Szulc); and Kuanto W (out of Kondina x Rulon) a gold medallist of the Polish Young Horse Championship 'A' category as a six-year-old, and bronze medallist at the



Botana (2014: Turbud Quirinus - Bogota x Elmero), bred by Racot Horse Stud



Tola Z (Cartree Z - Toskania x Morino)
bred by Tomasz Bagniewski

Polish Young Riders' Championship 'A' (Aleksandra Szulc, Jan Gawecki).

Gala Hit-LA has been partly in breeding. In 2019, she produced a colt, Geronimo, dressage foal champion at Baborówek; and in 2020 she is already in foal to the stallion Valdivani.

Three-time super champion Faworytka S

In second place came Faworytka S (Johnny Boy II - Fabrina x Fabriano) born in 2011, bred by Stanisław Szurik (Matyldzin, Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship), owned by Piotr Sibor (Bruki Unisławskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship). As a foal she won the double crown of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship horse exhibition by becoming 'super champion' three times: as a foal, as a yearling, and as a two-year-old. Subsequently, in 2015, she debuted in breeding and, paired with Nevados S, she produced the stallion Favorinos S, champion of Polish Halfbred Horses, and finalist of the Polish Young Horse Championship in showjumping.

Faworytka completed the performance test in Bielice on May 17, 2018, with the following scores: free jumping 9.0; walk 8.3; trot 9.0; canter 8.3; and 7.0 from the test rider. Unlike Gala, she represents a typical showjumping pedigree. Her sire is the Selle Français Johnny Boy II (Dollar du Murier - Quina des Bruyères x Night and Day xx) – a Grand Prix class showjumper, but primarily a specialist in high jump and six-bar competitions (with the French riders Jean Marie Martin and Penelope Leprevost).

Her dam, the Hanoverian Fabrina (Fabiano - Bluette II by Cicero), representing the Holstein dam line 2122, is among the best broodmares in Poland. In 2002, she completed the field saddle test with the highest scores in the history of such tests, i.e. maximum 10s for free jumping, walk, trot, and rideability from the test rider, Marek Orło. Fabrina did equally well in breeding by producing the approved stallion Feniks (Harwest) and two other mare

performance test winners: Federic S (Concert) and Fabreggia S (Regiel). The latter is also the dam of the best horse in a free jumping competition held during Cavaliada 2017, the approved stallion Fabregas S (MJT Nevados S).

Calvada S, the Polish free jumping champion, comes from the same family, and won this same title as a two-year-old during a competition held on the occasion of Polish Young Horse Championship in Gajewniki, in 2014. Calvada S has already succeeded in giving birth to the free jumping champion and licenced stallion Coolio S (Commilfo Plus Z).

Fabrina's sire, Fabriano (Wendulan - Agmara x Azur) was referred to as 'doppelveranlagter hengst' in Germany. That meant he produced highly versatile rideable horses, who showed talent both in jumping and dressage. In breeding, he became famous first of all as a sire of dams of such outstanding sport horses, as, for example Fit For Fun (Luciana Diniz [POR] or Flight of Ikarus (Janne Friederike Meyer-Zimmermann [GER]).

Title-winning Botana

The bronze medalist of the classification is Botana (Turbud Quirinus - Bogota x Elmero), bred by the Racot Horse Stud in 2014. Botana underwent her test on June 11, 2013 at the Doruchów Training Centre, achieving the scores of: jumping 9.0; walk 9.0; trot 8.0; canter 7.7; rideability 7.7. After that she became the champion of the 6th Polish Championate of the Wielkopolska Breed in Sielinko, vice-champion of the 28th Polish Exhibition of Livestock, as well as she twice qualifying for and starting in the finals of the Polish Young Horse Championship in eventing with Jacek Gałczyński.

The Belgian-bred Turbud Quirinus (Pavarotti van de Helle - Heidi x Lys de Darmen) was himself a winner of national Grand Prix competitions with Jacek Bobik, and sired a galaxy of Grand Prix horses, Polish Young Horse Championship medallists, and finalists in jumping, such as: Orlando Plus (Tomasz Klein); Ilian (Joanna Rosicka-Tyszko); Cyronia (Marcin Pakuła, Magdalena Prasek, Damian Sk.



Favorinos S (MJT Nevados S - Faworytka S x Johnny Boy II)



Gala Hit-LA (Quaterback – Gwiazda Hit by Samba Hit) born in 2013, bred in Debno Stud by Adam Lachera, owned by Leszek Garstka

Krzysztof Prasek); Sarmata (Jacek Bobik); and Lukrecja (Szymon T cza).

Botana descends from a family founded at the Racot Horse Stud by the dam Papryka 1944 x poz, (Proteusz - Halka x Salvator xx) from Pozna. Bora, a closely related mare from the same family competed in eventing at CIC3* level and in jumping at international GP level, as well as Bibisi CKV (Oliver Lazarus RSA), who two years ago won the Valkenswaard Grand Prix and was highly placed in Rome.

In addition to Botana, Bogota also produced the finalist of the Polish Young Horse Championship in jumping, Berg (Cottonclub, with Beata Strzałkowska) and the mare Bogini (Coriano's Ass). Last winter Bigini presented her very good side during the field test under saddle for mares with 8.5 points for free jumping, and during December Cavaliada in Pozna , she was awarded 8.3 for free jumping.

Bogota's sire, the Dutch stallion Elmero (Ramiro Z - Zonnenstraal x Almé Z), left a few offspring starting at GP level in jumping: Melinda K.V. (bronze medal in the Pan-Am Games with Mac Cone, Canada); Karla (Gucci), ridden by Sweden's Sofia Kroon; Nokia, ridden by Artur Kufel at CCI3* level in eventing; and Madera (ridden by Kamil Rajnert, Joanna uk, Marta Kosik, Katarzyna Kokowska).

The top ten

It is worth emphasising that, in addition to the above-mentioned best three there are a few more mares who are exceptional in terms of pedigree and performance quality.

Placing fifth and sixth are mares who have confirmed their aptitude by being highly evaluated in the 60-day test through sporting achievements. Santisa (Cantanis - Samanta by Dido), bred and owned by Nowelice Horse Stud ridden by Jan Bobik, won medals in the Polish Young Horse Championships, and is currently representing Poland at international events. Tola Z (Cartree Z - Toskania x Marino) bred and owned by Tomasz Bagniewski (Strzelce Dolne, Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship), competed at the 1m40 level, including international competitions, and last year produced the vice-champion of jumping foals, Top Szef L

(Vulkan L). Other ranked mares represent the best Polish dam lines, such as Federica S (Concert - Fabrina x Fabriano), seventh, bred by Stanisław Szurik (Matyldzin, Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship) owned by Kazimierz Szylking (milowo, Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodeship) representing the same Holstein 2122 family as second placed Faworytka S. In eighth place, Sidney (Aron - Sinez x Lansjer) bred and owned by Udórz Horse Stud, owned by the Algas Company, originating from the dam family most distinguished in Polish sport by foundation mare Sauge, and tenth-placed Thaiti (Contendor - Thais x Elmero), bred and owned by Racot Horse Stud, representative of the family of foundation mare Tora, a gold medallist from the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games.

Testing is worthwhile!

The foregoing may illustrate the general statement that 'good quality produces good quality'. However, to determine whether anything is 'good', it needs to be verified and, in sport horse breeding, performance tests serve that purpose. The best validation is sport competition, but the mare performance test is an equally important and comparatively cheaper alternative. Analysis of these results should be one of the basic criteria for every conscientious breeder in terms of making selection decisions.

The Polish Horse Breeders Association has for years provided the possibilities for testing breeding material. They include the Polish Young Horse Championships, Field Tests and stationary Performance Tests, and their results from the years 2007-2019 were the inspiration for writing this article. Performance tests are also scheduled for 2020. ■



Santisa (Cantanis - Samanta x Dido)

Cavalier Royale: Outstanding German legacy for Ireland

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

Over the past few years, in analyzing the jumping bloodlines of the Irish horses that are qualifying for the FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Lanaken, one name is returning over and over again: the Holsteiner bred stallion Cavalier Royale (Cor de la Bryère - Ligustra x Liguster, Stamm 474A). Bred by Manfred and Anke Johannsen, Cavalier Royale was the first Holsteiner to be imported to Ireland, so what is the story behind this ever popular stallion?

Tornesch is a very small town in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, but the soil has provided a highly fertile breeding ground for some of the top sport horses. The mares Zamora and her full sister Etoile both flourished in different hands, with the latter being responsible for the branch of Verdi TN (Quidam de Revel), 1m70 with Maikel van der Vleuten, and VDL Bubalu (Baloubet du Rouet), 1m60 with Jur Vrieling.

From Zamora (Aldato) we are familiar with, for example, Cavalier Royale (Cor de la Bryère), his full brother Cicero (standing at stud at Fox Fire Farm in the USA), Cicera's Icewater (Corofino I), Kyra III (Carthago), 1m60 with Ludo Philippaerts, VDL Groep Spiga (Carthago), 1m60 with Leopold van Asten, and Coolidge (Clinton I), 1m60 with Jörg Naeve. All these horses were bred by Anke and Manfred Johannsen, the parents of the very successful eventing rider Inken von Platen-Hallermund (née Johannsen).

European traveller with Schleswig-Holstein roots

Zamora's damline has been with the Johannsen's for many generations, dating back to 1900, and originally coming from Anke's side; the Plüschauf family. And if you take a closer look at the motherline of Cavalier Royale, you will see that the damsire, grand-damsire and great-grand-damsire were also bred by the Johannsen-Plüschauf family.

The State Premium mare Ligustra had 11 offspring, with eight of them being by the Selle Français-bred stallion Cor de la Bryère (Rantzau xx - Quenotte x Lurioso, bred by Therese Essayan). Cavalier Royale was the first born offspring of Ligustra, while her second foal became the approved stallion Caprivi (Capitano).

Thymara, a full sister of Cavalier Royale, was the champion mare of the Holsteiner Studbook, the performance test champion champion for her generation, and grandmother to VDL Groep Spiga.

Cicero, the full brother to Cavalier Royale and Thymara, became 1984 reserve champion at the Holsteiner stallion approvals and went to the USA in 1988 to Karen Reid of Fox Fire Farm. He is perhaps best known as the damsire of Cristallo (Caretino) who jumped with great success at 1m60 under the saddle of Richard Spooner.

Vamara is another full sister, and also plays a role in Irish breeding as she is the mother of Courage II (Capitol I) – ranked fifth for eventing sires in the WBFSH ranking, dropping from third place in 2018. Courage II was also the stallion with the most representatives at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. He arrived in Ireland as a 12-year-old stallion in 2002 and passed away in 2006. Some articles have written that Courage II could be considered as the great Cavalier Royale replacement, even though he only stood for four years at stud in Ireland. I



The National, Spruce Meadows, June 2001, Rich Fellers (USA) riding Amos during the Akita Drilling Cup

wonder if these journalists realize how close these two stallions are related. Andrea Etter says about Courage II: "Courage II was privately owned in Switzerland where he covered a limited amount of mares. Then he was sold or leased to Ireland, probably due to the Cavalier connection." Courage competed under the saddle of Walter Gabathuler and Leslie McNaught, both Swiss riders who agree that he was 'very nice to ride, with very good willingness to perform, and had a lot of scope.'

The Cavalier Royale furore

Cavalier Royale was born in 1978, and presented at the Holsteiner stallion approvals, but was sold as a non-approved stallion to Switzerland. Andrea Etter explained: "My father bought Cavalier Royale in Germany as a three-year-old and sold him to Mosset, the sponsor of Hansueli Sprunger and Walter Gabathuler. Mosset then sold Cavalier to Max Hauri at some stage, who sold him to Marion Hughes, her dad, or uncle to stand at stud. He suited the Irish mares as he had the scope that was lacking here."

In Switzerland he had a successful international jumping career under the saddle of Hansueli Sprunger (Janika Sprunger's father), and in 1989 he was imported to Ireland with the help of Seamus Hughes and Max Hauri. He first stood at stud with Paddy Quirke, but spent most of his life in Ireland at Williamstown Stud owned by John Hughes, the brother of Seamus. The love that John Hughes had and has for this exceptional stallion was proven when I received a package from him with so much collected information about the time that Cavalier Royale stood in Ireland, and the years after. Not only was John Hughes a successful breeder with Thoroughbreds and Warmbloods, he was also a very successful reproductive vet, which was a golden combination.

Marion Hughes provided further insights about Cavalier Royale's arrival in Ireland. "Cavalier Royale came to Ireland thanks to the famous horse dealer Max Hauri, who was a brilliant horsemen and who rode in the Olympics himself in eventing and showjumping. His two sons, Markus and Thomas Hauri, are both riders and have jumped on Nations' Cup teams for Switzerland. They are now more into dealing and breeding horses.

"Max Hauri noticed the mare quality in Ireland, he liked Cor de la Bryère and thought it would be good to give a bit more power to the Irish horses, as well as better balance in movement. So he said to my father, 'you should buy this horse, and use him in Ireland because he will be a good horse for the



*Calibra II (Cavalier Royale) under the saddle of Lotta Schultz (SWE)
during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong*

country.' So my father bought Cavalier Royale, but because he didn't like stallions gave him to Michael Quirke, a friend of ours. He stood him at his farm for three years, and then my uncle, John Hughes, took the horse. They both did a good job, Michael and Paddy Quirke covered a lot of mares with him because they liked him. My uncle was a vet in Dublin for reproduction and was starting with embryo transfer, so used that a lot when we got him. He really loved Cavalier Royale, was passionate about him. He used to put a donkey or a sheep in the stable beside him and kept the radio on all the day to keep him happy. He has thousands of pictures of Cavalier Royale and has a beautiful farm in Dublin."

John Hughes recalls: "Seamus and Max were great friends and dealers; Seamus sent many Irish horses to Switzerland, but it was Max who said that Cavalier's pedigree with Cor de la Bryère, Furioso xx, Cottage Son, Ladykiller xx (the last three are all Irish Thoroughbreds) and Aldato as grandparents would best suit the Irish mares. Cavalier was the nicest horse that ever was. He would greet you when you came into the yard and would eat nothing without carrots. He had the most gorgeous temperament which he passed on to his offspring."

In the beginning, Cavalier Royale wasn't approved by the Irish Horse Board, which only recognized him in his second-last season. He subsequently became the most popular stallion in Ireland, thanks to his reputation at the Millstreet National Championship – the Young Irishman – which was enhanced by the performances of this offspring. No fewer than eight of the Cavalier Royale three year-olds qualified for the Millstreet final, with five finishing inside the top 20, including the champion Magnetic. In fact, he posted better results than the offspring of Clover Hill, which was the first time for many years.

Even after his death in 1999 he remained as one of the

most influential sires in jumping and eventing. Although he never stood in the USA, he even became the most successful eventing sire there one year. Cavalier Royale was also given the green light to cover mares in the Selle Français studbook which, at that time, had been very closed. In 2007 he was the leading eventing sire in the WBFSH ranking, and Marion Hughes says: "We were the first ones who brought a Holsteiner to Ireland. My father bought Cavalier Royale, who was very successful here. I had many good horses by him as the cross worked well here."

Cavalier Royale's breeding career

This tall stallion with over 50% Thoroughbred blood became a legendary sire for producing eventing horses at four- and five-star level, as well as many 1m60 jumping horses. Currently, he is listed as having 56 1m60 offspring, two at 1m55, seven at 1m50, four at 1m45, and 14 at 1m40. As a damsire Cavalier Royale produced 61 1m60 horses and 77 horses at 1m45 to 1m50 level.

It was his success at the Young Ireland that launched Cavalier Royale as a leading sire, and even after his death there were many young horses that performed successfully. For example, La Dona (Vanessa x King of Diamonds) was very successful during the classics under the saddle of Marion Hughes and went on to jump at 1m60. According to John Hughes, "The success of Cavalier Royale as a sire has been overwhelming. We needed a sire to put extra scope into our horses. It was a bonus that his offspring turned out to be good looking, lovely to ride, and very courageous. They were jumping machines, and if they had King of Diamonds in their damline to pick up the front legs even more, then they went to the very top."

Cavalier Royale stood only 10 years at stud in Ireland, yet his genetics are consistent in the bloodlines through several generations. Marion Hughes: "Michael Quirke used him first and he was right in the center of the breeding area. A lot of people trusted his work and used Cavalier Royale. He had 90 foals the first year as the stallion was also very fertile. The Irish Horse Board turned Cavalier Royale down at first because they didn't like the fact that Continental stallions were coming in. But even without being approved he covered at least 200 mares during those years. We used him a lot and he was super lucky for us. It was a bit risky I suppose, if he turned out useless we would have had a lot of useless horses, but in the end we had some fantastic horses by him. He was also a great sire of broodmares as I think his line was so strong. He also never produced a chestnut, only brown, bay, or grey."

In 1992, the mare Grange Queen had three offspring by Cavalier Royale thanks to embryo transfer done by John Hughes. I quote from the article *The Breeding stock display at Millstreet*, written by Dermot Forde, and published in the Irish Farmers Journal in November 1999: 'Parading behind the Holstein stallion, Cavalier in the main jumping arena was the 11-year-old grey mare, Grange Queen, followed by three surrogate mothers each suckling one of her three 1992-born foals achieved by embryo transfer.'

Two of them eventually jumped at 1m60: Two Mills Showtime under the saddle of Robert Maguire, as well as Splendido, and another full brother, Fuaran, jumped at 1m60 in Japan under Shinichiro Sugiyama. Daughter Naomi Cambell also produced a 1m60 horse: Rolo Tomasi (Laughton's Flight) under the saddle of David Simpson and Derek McCoppin. MHS Attraction (Numero Uno -French Ballerina x Diamant de Semilly, bred by Michael Brennan) also comes from this damline and is competing at 1m60 under Sergio Alvarez Moya. Cavalier Royale appears in Naomi Campbell's third generation.

In the summer of 1998, the Nations' Cup for Young Riders in Reims, France, was won by the Swiss team which included three Cavalier Royale offspring: Dreamin, Royal Agent, and Goovy. The mare Secret Love (Cavalier Royale - Blonde x Santa's Sleigh xx) jumped her way into 14th place out of 100 starters during the 1998 seven-year-old final during the FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championship for Young Horses. Later that year she finished fourth in Italy's Verona Grand Prix.

In 2006 during the World Equestrian Games in Aachen there was a special combination: Marie Burke and the stallion Chippison (Cavalier Royale - Chipmount x Flagmount Boy, bred by the : family Burke). Chippison was both home-bred and produced by Marie Burke, and she was a late entry for the Irish team at WEG because Cian O'Connor and Marion Hughes withdrew. It was meant to be! They finished as the best Irish combination, 24th in the individual ranking. Prior to their Aachen success, the pair had finished



Call Again Cavalier (Cavalier Royale) ridden by Mary King (GBR) at the 2008 Hong Kong Olympic Games in Hong Kong

third in the Dublin Grand Prix, and had been members of the winning Irish Nations' Cup team in Lummen, Belgium. Chippison was also runner-up in the Lisbon Grand Prix, and claimed the leading horse prize during the Madrid CSI. At the end of 2006, he finished the year as Europe's leading Irish-bred horse, number two in the world.

An eventing phenom

The top eventing horse Captain Christy (Cavalier Royale - Free Flo x Imperius xx, bred by Marion Hughes) was born during Cavalier Royale's early years in Ireland. While Cavalier Royale never covered naturally, at that time John Hughes could inseminate 14 mares with just one collection. Captain Christy competed at the 2002 WEG in Jerez de la Frontera, the Punchestown European Championships, as well as Badminton and Burghley under the saddle of Britain's team member Kristina Cook.

At the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, Cavalier Royale was represented by four horses: Call Again Cavalier under the saddle of Mary King (GBR); Kilkishen under the saddle of Capt. Geoffrey Curran (IRL), Ben Along Time under the saddle of Clayton Fredericks (AUS), and Calibra II under the saddle of Lotta Schultz (SWE). To the top results of Call Again Cavalier and Mary King we can add individual European silver and team gold during the 2007 championships. King also competed at the 2012 London Olympic Games with Imperial Cavalier. To the success of Ben Along Time we can add Aachen 2006 WEG double medallist. In total Cavalier Royale has recorded 25 CCI4* eventers.

During the period 2006 to 2011, Cavalier Royale was the leading sire with the most represented Irish-bred offspring at 53. During this period he sired 44 horses that went on to jump at 1m40 and higher (source: *Building on the Strengths of the Irish Horse*, Wendy Conlon BSc. Eq. Sc.). Also as a damsire he is doing a great job.

The quality of the offspring of Cavalier Royale can be illustrated with several examples. Like with Amos (Cavalier Royale - Killestry Pride x Ballinvella xx, bred by Patrick Daly) who had an outstanding sport career (1m60) under the saddle of American Rich Fellers. Or with the familial breeding of HHS Acorado (Acorado - HHS Riverdance x Cavalier Royale, bred by Marion Hughes) who jumped at 1m50 under Miguel Bravo. His half-sister HHS Amazing Grace (The Echo Factor) jumped at 1m45 with Michael Pender and Molly Hughes Bravo. The two full sisters of HHS Riverdance jumped at 1m60: La Gata/ex Samothrace, under the saddle of Dehlia Oevray, Chevenez and La Dona who first jumped under the saddle of Marion Hughes. This latter combination won the six-year-old Boomerang Class at Hickstead.

Egie of Colors (Cavalier Royale - Ligie x Royal Feu, bred by Mario Verbeken) jumped at 1m50 under Janika Sprunger, and out of this mare Tom Hanson bred the 1m50 jumping horse



Bred by Anne Hughes[†], Royal Charmer, a full brother to Cavalier Royale, descended from Ita Brennan's filly Silver Circle and jumped at 1m60 with Markus Fuchs (SUI)

Caol Ila Birdavenue (Eros Platiere).

Cavinem (Cavalier Royale - Southpark Diamond x Diamond Lad, bred by Michael V. Connaughton) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Irishman Billy Twomey. Casino (Cavalier Royale - Diamonds Ace Wild, breeder unrecorded) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of John and Robert Whitaker, among others. While Camaron Hills Shanroe (Cavalier Royale - Ard Fire Cat x Ard Callez Cat xx) carried Richard Spooner, Joie Gaitlin and Molly Tala to 1m60 heights.

Cavalier Royale as a damsire

Some have gone farther to say that Cavalier Royale is a classic sire of the dam stallion. Most of the Irish-bred horses that have competed in the FEI-WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses have Cavalier Royale in the bloodline. The strength he is passing on to his daughters is remarkable, so he's still popular with hopefuls for breeding a filly.

In 2018, Sjaak van der Lei bred a filly by Cavalier Royale out of Nusha van den Bisschop (Elvis ter Putte), and said; "I used Cavalier Royale three years ago because he produced a lot of sport horses and also his strength as sire of the dam is remarkable. For example, daughters with no sport results themselves, you click on their offspring and you will find 1m50-1m60 jumping horses. I also like the blood of Cor de la Bryère as it's a way of coming close to the blood of Rantzau xx, plus he comes out of an outstanding damline."

"Cavalier Royale gave a good canter and scope, these were things I wanted to add to the mare. If you look at the last year's results from the FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses, and you check out the Irish-bred horses that were on the podium, you will discover that almost every horse has Cavalier Royale in the second or third generation. For me that is no coincidence. If you manage to

breed a filly you have gold for your breeding. I will use him again this coming winter. It wasn't my purpose to sell my filly, but I showed her to the selection commission of the Prinsjesdag veiling (Prince's Day Auction in the Netherlands) to see what they would say, because who knows who Cavalier Royale is today. They selected her immediately and she became the most expensive foal of the auction, even though before the auction I heard comments from other breeders questioning why I would use Cavalier Royale. Later, some came to me and acknowledged that it had been a very good choice. We really have to look more closely at our mares and ask ourselves what they need."

At the end of April, there was a filly by Cavalier Royale bred in Ireland by Aidan Flanagan who said; "We used Cavalier Royale as he was one of the greatest stallions that ever came into Ireland. There have been three horses who have had a substantial influence in the Irish horse, they are Cruising, Master Imp, and Cavalier Royale. There have been great mares bred in Ireland over the years by Cavalier Royale and this line has been very successful both in jumping and eventing. Unfortunately, the straws are now very limited as we heard that the last remaining straws, 1,500 or so, were the last in the tank and were thawed out. We also have a colt, Goldsmith Royale, by Cavalier Royale, who we hope goes all the way. We like cavalier Royale as he was one of the best introductions to the equine market in Ireland. He was only around for 10 years which was a pity."

The mare Candle Light (Yellow River xx) produced two offspring by Cavalier Royale, Mr. Flanagan (bred by Marion Hughes) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Dominique Robert, and Stardust VI jumped at 1m50 under the saddle of Rodrigo Pessoa. Stardust VI produced Aymara des Bergeries, by Canturo (bred by Haras de Ligny) who jumped at 1m60

under the saddle of Mexico's Jose Antonio Chedraui Prom.

The most famous horse bred by Irish breeder Ita Brennan, who was the late sister to Seamus and John Hughes, is MHS Going Global (O Quidam Junior - Gowran Lady x Cavalier Royale) who was trained by Greg Patrick Broderick with whom he jumped 1m60, before passing to Alberto Zorzi and Athina Onassis. A half brother of MHS Going Global is MHS King Joules (Ghareeb xx) who competed at CCI4* under the saddle of Oliver Townend.

Interestingly, as a wedding gift, Ita Brennan received the filly Silver Circle (1961), from whose line come the full brothers Royal Charmer and Prince Cavalier (Cavalier Royale). These horses were both bred by Seamus Hughes' late wife, Anne. Royal Charmer was in sport with Markus Fuchs at 1m60 level, while Prince Cavalier competed with Paulo Nutti at 1m50.

One up-coming talent from this family could be MHS Fernhill (Cardento - MHS Pembrook Lady x Guidam), bred by Sinaed Brennan. Born in 2012, the gelding is currently jumpint at 1m50 with Duarte Seabra. Ita Brennan's son, Tom, explained; "For me, Cavalier Royale was a pillar of Irish breeding, and the backbone of any good horse that has come out of Ireland in the last 20 years. The grand-dam of Cuffesgrange Cavadora belongs to me. Everything that I breed now comes out of a Cavalier dam or grand-dam. With the exception of one line, all my mares have Cavalier blood, and I was trying to breed a filly from that one line. That didn't work out, but instead I bred HHS Calais. Before Cavalier Royale, the Irish horse came with a slightly short step, and the same for canter. Cavalier gave a big, rangy canter, a really good hind-leg action, and a fantastic trot."

All the eventers that are coming now from Ireland have mostly Cavalier Royale lines as well, because he gives that looseness that the Irish horse had lost. Without Cavalier Royale we would have been number 37 in the world ranking for breeding because we wouldn't have anything at all. He really gave beautiful horses, and we've call the mother of Going Global 'Black Beauty' since the day she was born. When she was a three-year-old the fields weren't big enough for her when she started to trot. She is still alive and is 24.

The mare Dollar Day (Cavalier Royale - Hodgestown xx x Cut Above xx) was a very valuable mare for Billy Stud. Her son Billy Grand (Animo) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of William Funnell and Daniel Moseley. Billy Beware (Kannan) competed at CCI4* under the saddle of Pippa Funnell, while his full sister, Billy Dollar B, produced four offspring that are jumping from 1m40 to 1m55.

Even after his death in 1999 he stayed one of the most meaningful sires in jumping and eventing, and in 2007 was the leading eventing sire in the WBFSH rankings.



Ben Along Time (Cavalier Royale) ridden by Clayton Fredericks (AUS) at the 2008 Hong Kong Olympic Games in Hong Kong

Marion Hughes and Cavalier Royal

Marion Hughes is the daughter of Seamus and Anne Hughes who had an outstanding career as a jumping rider. She also inherited the feel for breeding top horses, so in her program we find a lot of Cavalier Royale blood.

Through her eyes, what did Cavalier Royale pass to his offspring? "I used to break my own young horses with my father. With the original Irish horses it took two years to teach them a flying change. With Cavalier Royale offspring they could do a flying change right away because they have a higher elevation in their canter so it is easier and more natural for them to change. Maybe with the Irsh horses it had to do with the Thoroughbred influence as they are normally not good at changing. Cavalier Royale also put more power in the jump." Cavalier Royale passed away 21 years ago, but his blood is still close to the surface in Irish breeding as a sire and damsire and in the Netherlands there was last year even a Cavalier Royale offspring born. "It is about the only broodmare lines that I really like. We have a pony that is by a son of Cavalier Royale out of a pony mare, it was an accident, but my daughter won three world cups with the pony. I can see so much of Cavalier Royale in that pony. Than actually my sister had a pony that won the European Championship last year in Poland for children under the saddle of Max Wachmann, Cuffesgrange Cavalidam (Luidam), and she comes out of a Cavalier Royale mare."

The medal-winning seven-year-old horses during the FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in 2019 was all about family, and it became a 100% Irish story. Cuffesgrange Cavadora (Z Wellie 72 - Cuffesgrange Cavalidam x Luidam, bred by Eamonn Sheahan) won gold under the saddle of 17-year-old Seamus Hughes Kennedy. The mother of Cuffesgrange Cavadora was the number one pony in the world with the same rider. His mother is Claire Hughes, who explained; "Cuffesgrange Cavalidam, whose previous owner lived at a neighboring farm, is by Luidam out of Cuffesgrange Millennium by Cavalier Royale. Her dam was a full-sister to Laura Renwick's 1m60 horse, MHS Washington – a testament to my aunt and father who only bred from proven mares."

MHS Washington (Obos Quality 004 -Mill Royale x Cavalier Royale) was bred by Ita Brennan. Tom Brennan, the breeder of MHS Going Global adds; "Just a footnote on Cavalier's influence in connection to success at Lanaken. From the same family, through different mothers, but all by Cavalier even into the third generation, came in 2010 with Ballypatrick Mystique (seven-year-old final, bronze); in 2015 we saw MHS Washington win silver as a seven-year-old, and now in 2019, Cuffesgrange Cavadora wins gold in the same age group. Mystique's mother and Cavadora's grandmother are full sisters. Silly facts that make breeding so rewarding, but wouldn't have been as successful for sure without Cavalier Royale and his daughters.

Talking about her Cavalier Royale offspring, Marion Hughes said; "I had two really good ones, my own bred HHS

BR Charlton (out of Kilkenny Diamond x King of Diamonds), and Heritage Transmission (out of Gina XIV x Diamond Serpent, bred by Max Hauri). Charlton was a fantastic horse for us, he was the first one and I finished 10th with him at the European Championship at Hickstead. Charlton was born in 1990 and my father died in 1994. When he was three my father lunged the horses to see how they were going. He was like a machine on the lunge and jumping free. Charlton was very big, but my father adored him. He used to take him into our garden in front of the house when nobody ever brought horses into the garden, but this horse became his pet so he was allowed to eat grass in the garden.

Charlton went on to do the European championship for us, but then we sold him and he ended up having a good career, and winning the Grand prix in Rome. He was a huge horse for me personally and for all our family.

With Transmission I was second in the Falsterbo Grand Prix, and we had one time fault in the Hickstead Nations' Cup. I was on the team for the Aga Khan [Grand Prix] in Dublin and for the team in Aachen [2006] for the World Championships and then he was injured before the Dublin Horse Show. He was a great horse for me, and I had a few good mares by him as well, but I sold them because I was younger and couldn't afford to keep them. Actually one of the mares was called Dreamin (Cavalier Royale - Clover's Lass x Clover Hill) who won the European Championship with Max Hauri's son, Thomas. I produced her and actually had a mare Heritage HHS Fortuna (Heritage Fortunus), and must have won 15 international classes with her between 2010 and 2015 and she was out of a full sister to Dreamin, Dreaming of U. This mare is also mother of the 1m65 jumping gelding HHS Figero (Guidam) with Alexandra Thornton.

"I place huge value on his blood in the mare line. First of all they give a nice modern size, they can cover the ground well so they had a great stride, great scope, really a good brain, they enjoyed their job. He has been a fantastic broodmare sire. Fortunus is another stallion I went with to the Olympics in 2004, and Fortuna was by Fortunus out of a Cavalier Royale mare. Mikey Pender was very successful in Geneva last year with HHS Burnchurch at 1m65, who is by Fortunus out China Girl by Cavalier Royale. We actually have some frozen semen of Cavalier Royale. I have another Cavalier Royale offspring, HHS Calais (Cavalier Royale - MHS Obos Cruise x Obos Quality 004, bred by Ita Brennan) jumping at 1m55 under Mikey Pender. He's probably one of Mikey's best horses for the future. So Cavalier Royale is really part of all my breeding. He is very nearly in every broodmare. My cousin bred MHS Going Global and he has a lot of Cavalier Royale mares."

John Hughes sees Cavalier's story as a tribute to the 'eye for a horse' of his brother Seamus Hughes. According to John, "Cavalier loved to have Strauss's Blue Danube playing in his stable to help him settle after we'd collected his semen. He was one of the family. I remember leading him out in front of the house one day, I stumbled and he tried to save me from falling using his mouth to pick me back up." ■

June collaboration for DWB Online Foal Auction

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BLUE HORS

It is important for Danish Warmblood to be able to constantly secure its contribution to the marketing of its breeders' foals. Thus, an adjustment to the current situation has led to a number of streaming auctions, the first of which takes place in June in collaboration with Blue Hors.

As it is currently not possible to predict when Danish Warmblood will next have the opportunity to host an auction in the usual 'live' way, the Auction Committee has been in dialogue with the Danish stallion keepers to develop a new auction concept, which is intended to secure more, smaller auctions during the summer.

Danish Warmblood is proud to unveil the first streaming auction of the year, which takes place on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at Blue Hors. "We are incredibly excited about this opportunity, where Blue Hors's Foal Championship is held on Saturday and we round off the weekend with a foal auction in collaboration with Blue Hors on Sunday afternoon," says Louise Ringsbo of the Danish Warmblood Auction Committee.

The streaming auctions will be held under the auspices of the Danish Warmblood and with the Danish Warmblood auction terms and conditions in place, as usual. The foals will be shown live when they go under the hammer, and this will take place either behind closed doors, or with fewer audience members than usual, and the whole auction will be streamed live. Buyers will have the opportunity to bid online or by phone.

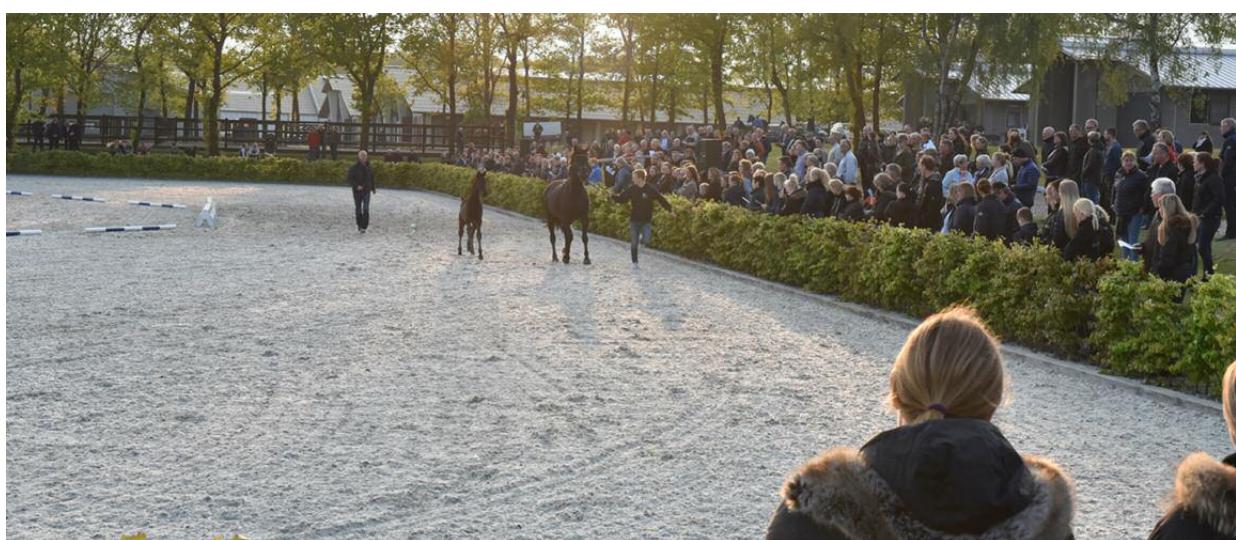
"This type of auction is dynamic, which means that we

can scale up our auctions and continuously adapt to the situation. Our first priority is to contribute to the sale of the breeders' foals," said Ringsbo.

Blue Hors is pleased that their optimal facilities can provide the framework for such a joint auction, which is why they are generously supporting the event that will benefit both growers and riders. According to Blue Hors breeding manager Martin Klavsen, "We are pleased to be able to engage in a professional collaboration with Danish Warmblood on this joint auction, which will also be a festive end to our foal championship. We always want to support the mare owners, and I now look forward to presenting the breeders with this opportunity to have their foal sold through a very professional set-up."

Candidate foals for the auction will be viewed and selected during the first week of June to gather a collection of around 20 top quality foals of difference bloodlines – dressage as well as jumping foals.

In conclusion, Ringsbow explained; "Danish Warmblood will continuously be informing about more online foal auctions during 2020 which we are currently organising." ■



Virtual reality finale to NZ summer showjumping series

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

A ‘virtual’ ceremony – conducted via Facebook from paddocks, yards and homes around the country – announced the winners of the ESNZ’s 2019-20 breeding series for jumpers. And, although it lacked the excitement of the normal Glistening Waters finals, it was no less significant for breeders and owners nationwide to be recognized.

All of the winners and top placegetters are horses who’ve been profiled in previous editions of this magazine, but some of them deserve further attention, and possibly none more so than the year’s leading stallion...

Top jumping stallion

The very handsome Bravado Ego Z (Balougran Z - Cressida Ego Z x Cathargo Z), who was third in this series last year, was 2020’s top jumping stallion. A chestnut Zangersheide, he is owned and ridden by Jasmine Sketchley and stands at her stud, Felixstowe Lodge in Northland. However, he may not be there for much longer, as he is on the market and attracting interest, and the 11-year-old still has plenty of time left for both competition and stud duties.

Bravado Ego Z has the blood of two truly exceptional grandsires, Baloubet du Rouet and Carthago Z. His sire, Balougran Z (Baloubet du Rouet - Agrana x Grannus), bred by Paul Schockemöhle, was one of Baloubet’s first licensed sons and won his performance test (2002), with five 10s in the jumping section.

Bravado himself was bred at Ego Summersea in Australia

by Dr. Linda Mayer, a specialist (the first in that country) in breeding jumping warmbloods. Many years of research and forethought have gone into his – and every other – Ego Summersea pedigree. According to Dr. Mayer; “Summersea has utilised Zangersheide genetics for more than 25 years, being the first stud in Australasia to import leading Zangersheide showjumping stallions’ semen. By the time Bravado was born, the stud’s mares were three to five generations of Zangersheide genetics, and with this comes soundness and a guaranteed jump.”

“The difficulty was to breed a horse that had the soft, comfortable, athletic ride combined with an eager character that did not risk precision and consistency. This type of horse had to carry our less classically trained riders than in Europe. We looked to the hotter, self-travelling French blood which would not risk losing the jump. Balougran Z filled our expectations and combined perfectly with the comfortable, precise, consistent and reliable blood of the great Carthago Z.

“Cresida Ego Z (Carthago Z x Almé Crack Z), Bravado’s dam, has the same cross as Cosmic 4 (Carthago Z x Almé Crack Z), the international 1m50 stallion. After the relatively dominant and easy-to-breed jumping genetics, we found that character is a major deciding factor for success. All kudos to Jasmine Sketchley for sensitively training and managing this magical, talented youngster so that he could realise his potential.”

Bravado Ego Z was imported with the specific aim of breeding Olympic level jumpers here, and although all of his progeny are still young, one of them, Braveheart, who was bred by Sketchley, is the joint winner of this year’s five-year-old series (see below). Another very interesting prospect is the two-year-old Cisco, who is with Takapoto Equestrian, and is out of their Zangersheide mare, Cuba d’Esquelmes Z (Chellano Z - Quassie d’Esquelmes x Canadian River). This mare was bred by Daniel Maillart at Elevage d’Esquelmes in Belgium, and although she’s a Zangersheide, she has a lot of Holsteiner blood on both sides of her pedigree, including that of Contender, Calypso II, and Capitol I.

Bravado Ego Z is one of two Baloubet grandsons at stud in NZ; the other is four-year-old Baloubert TMS (Balou du Rouet x Kinnordy Gym Bello) who stands at Little Valley Farm.



Bravado Ego Z (Balougran Z - Cressida Ego Z x Cathargo Z) ridden by Jasmine Sketchley



Joint five-year-old winner, Double J Hurricane, ridden by Samantha Carrington

Runner-up in the stallion series is the wonderful imported Hanoverian, Euro Sport Centavos (Escudo I - Anabell, Staatsprämie x Argentinus), who is now 16 and had a very light competition season. He has jumped internationally at 1m60, and has absolutely nothing left to prove, either as a competitor or as a sire: his progeny are of a super quality. They include the gorgeous four-star eventer, Acrobat; a very promising Centavos x Clinton mare, Takapoto Sienna, who was first-equal in the four-year-old jumping class at Takapoto in February; Centavino who won the Derby at Takapoto and was excellent throughout his age-group series; and Central Park, who is jumping at World Cup level.

Euro Sport Centavos is from Stamm 4191603, Schridde 261, and belongs to Claudia Hay of Euro Sport Horses, who imported him from Germany. He was bred by Heinz Schutte at Hof Schütte in Spelle and has a Staatsprämie half-sister, Sarieka (Stakkato), as well as a Westfalian Hauptprämie stallion half-brother, Los Angeles 20 (Light On OLD).

Top mare LT Holst Andrea

What a super season it's been for the Casall daughter, LT Holst Andrea (out of Palaune x Lavaletto). She was 2020's Showjumping Horse of the Year, runner-up in the World Cup Series, and has now been named – for the third time in succession – the ESNZ's top jumping mare.

There's been plenty written about this 12-year-old, 16.1hh (1m65), unassuming-looking bay Holsteiner, but there's still plenty to say. For a horse who didn't enter a competition arena until she was six years old, she now has a remarkable list of victories and top placings.

Andrea is from Stamm 2067 and was bred in Germany by Hans-Joachim Gerken of Hammoor. She was an extraordinarily lucky 'impulse-buy' for Ewen Mackintosh, a man who until those days had never bred a horse in his life – in fact, he'd owned a sheep shearing business. She arrived here as a four-year-old in foal to Clinton I and is now jointly owned by Mackintosh and her rider Brooke Edgecombe. She is the pride and joy of Lake Taupo Holsteiners, which

Mackintosh founded around the time of her arrival here. This stud, which favours quality above all else – and especially far above quantity – has rocketed into the spotlight in just a few years. It has become a major force in jumper breeding in NZ, with Andrea playing the starring role.

The Clinton foal she was expecting when she arrived in New Zealand is LT Holst Elizabeth, now a seven-year-old and competing successfully too: she had five wins in her six-year-old series. Two embryo-transfer daughters by Colman, LT Holst Freda and LT Holst Francis, are now five. Freda, with her owner Julie Davey, won her four-year-old series and finished fourth-equal in this year's seven-year-old series (see below). Francis, who has a foal by Emerald, is still in the early stages of her career. Like her dam, she is based with Brooke Edgecombe.

Ewen Mackintosh and his LT Holst team are justifiably proud of their mare and her rider. "We'd just like to say a huge congratulations to both Brooke and Andrea. It's extremely special to win a title three years in a row. This combination has gone from strength to strength over the years, and this season in particular was very special, as not only did they win the leading mare series, but also the Olympic Cup, possibly the most prestigious title in New Zealand. Once again, thanks to the sponsors of the leading mare, both Equibreed and VDL have a big input in our breeding platform."

Very fittingly, the runner-up to LT Holst Andrea in this series is the 11-year-old LT Holst Bernadette (Askari - Tamara XVI x Casall Ask), a mare whose history is closely linked to Andrea's. She is also a German-bred Holsteiner 'bezirksprämie' mare, and was purchased by Ewen Mackintosh at the same time as Andrea; the pair travelled out here together. Bernadette was bred by Reimer Detlef Hennings of Bendorf, and is from Stamm 4815. She is owned and ridden by Robert Steele, and returned from injury this season with some terrific performances at World Cup and Grand Prix level.

Joligne de Carmel (Vagabond de la Pomme - P.M. Van D Helle x Calando), another 11-year-old imported mare, but this time a Belgian Warmblood, finished third. She was bred by Dirk Willaert of Moerzeke in Belgium, imported by Matilda Shotter-Davies and is ridden by Julie Davey. This mare has also competed in Europe and the UK.

New Zealand-bred mares with European bloodlines took fourth and fifth places. Fourth, for the second year running, went to Gold Locks (Lansing - Goldilocks x Ironclad xx), bred by Maurice Beatson who also rides her. She, too, is 11 years old – is this some kind of magic age? Through her sire, Lansing (Landgraf - Monoline x Roman) she has the blood of Holsteiner Stamm 8777. Her NZ Sport Horse dam, Goldilocks, jumped successfully at Grand Prix level in New Zealand, and was also bred by Maurice Beatson.

A Hanoverian, Henton Faberge (For Edition - Galatoire x Genius), was fifth; she was bred by Bridget and Dave Sutton and Henton Lodge Hanoverians. She is 15 years old and something of a late starter in the jumping rings. Originally aimed at an eventing career, she switched codes and owners

in 2019 and has taken to her new life with alacrity, and the enthusiasm of a horse half her age. Her dam, Galatoire, is by the G-line stallion Genius (Garibaldi x Diskus), out of a Thoroughbred mare, Raenga xx (Postillion xx). Henton Faberge is owned and ridden by Emelia Forsyth.

Sixth went to another Holsteiner, Cera Cassina (Cassini II - Caletta x Caletto I) – can you guess this mare's age? Yes, 11. She was bred by Cera Performance Horses in Australia, and is owned and ridden by Kimberley Bird. She is from Holst Stamm 7126 – Holsteiners certainly are having an outstanding year in this part of the world.

Age-group series winners

As mentioned earlier, all of these horses have made the pages of Breeding News in the recent past, as they've excelled throughout the season, so this will be just a quick recap of their credentials.

Geldings share five-year-old win

Two geldings shared this win, and, fittingly, both are by winners of the ESNZ Leading Stallion award.

The two youngsters are BMW Braveheart (Bravado Ego Z - Belcam Aarcadia x Aachen) bred by Jasmine Sketchley of Felixstowe Lodge and ridden by owner Michelle Wakeling; and Double J Hurricane (Euro Sport Centavos - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II), bred by twin sisters Wendy and Robyn Jacobs at Double J Stud and ridden by Wendy's daughter, Samantha Carrington.

Braveheart's father, Bravado Ego Z, is 2020's top stallion, as mentioned above, and Euro Sport Centavos, who sired Double J Hurricane took the honour in 2015. He was runner-up to Bravado Ego Z this year, despite having a very light competition season.

The third-placed five-year-old was Keltern William (Mustangs Bandit - Fergie xx x His Royal Highness xx). This gelding's breeder is unrecorded, but his pinto sire was bred by Oakhaven Sport Horses in Hawke's Bay. He is owned by his rider Jesse Linton, in partnership with Kim and Greg Best, and is a very fast, nimble young horse who is already handling bigger tracks with ease.

Fourth was shared by three horses: Benrose Casino ECPH (Cassiano - Ngahiw Red Rinse x Nikau); LT Holst Freda (Colman - LT Holst Andrea x Casall Ask) – whose dam is the ESNZ's Leading Mare (see above); and Vulcan GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Lola x Lansing).

Benrose Casino ECPH, a lovely grey gelding, was bred by East Coast Performance Horses and is owned and ridden by Sophie Scott. His sire, the Hanoverian-approved Holsteiner Cassiano, is by Cassini I out of a Calypso II/Maestose mare and stands at Xtreme Sport Horses. Casino's dam, the Stationbred Ngahiw Red Rinse (Nikau - Violet x Cisco Crier xx), is a full sister to Ngahiw Blue Rinse, who jumped internationally for Australia.

LT Holst Freda (Colman - LT Holst Andrea x Casall Ask)

is also grey: a gorgeous mare bred by Ewen Mackintosh at Lake Taupo Holsteiners; she has a huge amount of talent in her pedigree, not least of which comes from her brilliant dam.

Vulcan GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Lola x Lansing), is a very handsome bay gelding bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud. It has to be said that this youngster, based in the South Island, has not had quite the advantages of his North Island counterparts who have access to more competitions. He is ridden by Katie Meredith, who part-owns him with Pauline Quigley. Like the other two fourth-placed five-year-olds, he has jumping talent galore on both sides of his pedigree. His sire, Cartell GNZ (Casall), has the blood of Corrado I and Caretino, while his damsire, Lansing (Landgraf I x Roman) is from Holst Stamm 8777, out of a mare called Monoline, who is the dam of the stallions Calvin Z and Cantus (both by Caletto II). And there's a link to this young gelding and the series' top mare: her sire is his paternal grandsire.

Quality six year olds

These horses have been covered quite extensively in earlier editions of BN, so a quick run through their placings and pedigrees should suffice. Interestingly, though, the first two placegetters are both by the same sire, Corofino II.

The very deserving series winner is Casanova Xtreme (Corofino II - JK Good Looks x JK Lucas), another lovely grey, ridden by Jaime Tiller. He was bred by Sharlene Workman at Xtreme Sport Horses and is owned by Takapoto Equestrian – a pretty strong indicator of quality. This really special young horse also won 2020's six-year-old title at HOY in March, and the same age-group series at Takapoto in February.

Second place went to another by Corofino II: the excellent Warmblood mare Fleur DeLacour (Corofino II - Jazz x LioCaylon), bred by Butch Thomas and ridden by Samantha Matthews. Consistent during her five- and six-year-old campaigns, she celebrated an impressive six wins this season. Her damsire, LioCaylon (Liostro) is another with the



Joint five-year-old winner BMW Braveheart, ridden by Michelle Wakeling

blood of Calypso II; unfortunately her dam's dam is not recorded. LioCaylon's own dam, Zollnerin, is a Hauptstutbuch Holsteiner from Stamm 741.

Souther Field (Sangster - Chloe x Glendevon Commander), a black Holsteiner gelding, finished third in the series after a cracker of a season. He was bred by Vicki Prendergast, who also bred his sire, Sangster (Corland VDL - SoFee x Powerfee), a half-brother of her seven-year-old mare, Selena C (see below). Souther Field is owned by Vicki Prendergast and ridden by her teenage daughter, Olivia.

Fourth in the standings was Eye Catcher NZPH (Kannan - United Blue NZPH x Mr Blue), bred by New Zealand Performance Horses, and ridden by Rose Alfeld, whose father Murray Alfeld owns the gelding. He was the winner of his five-year-old series, as well as the five-year-old championship at the Young Horse Show.

An Australian-bred gelding, Beau Balou (Balou du Rouet - Vertical Horizon x Pride of Kellina) finished fifth. He was bred by Amelia Spoelder of Tullyard Farm in Queensland, and is owned and ridden by Kate Herdson.

Sixth in the big group of six-year-olds was the interestingly bred gelding Heartline (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Calusa x Euro Sport Centavos), a New Zealand Warmblood bred by jumping rider Daniel Webb. His dam, Calusa, is closely related to Webb's talented jumper, Cardo, through the Warmblood stallion Abenaki Chief (Anamour x Witzbold), who was also bred by Daniel Webb and had many jumping wins and placings. And of course, Heartline's dam-sire is the superb Centavos, who finished second in the stallion standings.

Coveted seven-year-old title

This very coveted title went to another by Corofino II: the NZ Warmblood gelding Campari (Corofino II - Lillana x Littorio). He was bred and is owned by Penny Tapley, and is ridden by Tegan Fitzsimon. Campari has Holsteiner blood on both sides of his pedigree. Corofino II (Corrado I x Fernando x Lord) is a German-bred Holsteiner who had 10 jumping wins in Europe before coming to New Zealand. Lilliana, Campari's dam, is by the Holsteiner Littorio (Lord x Ladykiller x Carneval), out of a mare called Just Good Fun (also known as Paleface), by a New Zealand stallion called Romanov. Romanov's own sire was the KWPN Ramzes II, who was sired by the Holsteiner Rigoletto.

Campari had just one age-group start as a five-year-old, and one year later finished sixth. His seven-year-old season began with a win, and he scored consistently good placings throughout, never finishing below fifth. Campari's rider, Tegan Fitzsimon, won this series two years ago on another Corofino II star, Windermere Cappuccino.

Coincidentally, second place this year went to another of Fitzsimon's stable stars, Glenbrooke All Roses (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Dozen Roses x Shamal). This gelding is owned by Tanya Davie and was bred by the Meehan and Davie families. He shares a sire with Heartline, who was sixth

overall in the six-year-old standings. Glenbrooke All Roses had three wins in a fairly light seven-year-old season, and will be interesting to watch as he matures. His dam, described as a 'crossbreed', also competed as a jumper; her sire, Shamal, had a lot of Thoroughbred blood and a Belgian Draught great-grandmother!

A very good Cardento daughter, who has been jumping at higher levels this season, finished third and was the highest-placed mare. She is, of course, the super Selena C (Cardento VDL - SoFee x Powerfee), bred and ridden by Vicki Prendergast. Plenty has already been said about this horse, and there will be plenty more to come, as she is a star in the making. She won three of her seven-year-old classes this season and had no lower placing than fourth in any of her competitions, which included 1m30 classes.

Fourth place went to another mare, Constellation (Cassini d'Eclipse - Milly x Anamour), who has Holsteiner and Hanoverian blood, and was bred by her owner and rider, Daniel Webb. Her sire, Cassini d'Eclipse, was bred by Eclipse Stables in Belgium and imported as a foal by Euro Sport Horses. His dam, S-Caretina, is a 'bezirksprämie' mare out of a 'staatsprämie' mare, Victoria 5, who is by Calypso II – this stallion has cropped up a few times in the pedigrees of these young horses.

Constellation's damsire, Anamour (Aalborg - Lucille x Lombard), was also a German import, bred by Wilhelm Bosch, and was an almost peerless dressage sire in NZ, as well as siring some outstanding jumpers, as well as the eventing stars Henton Attorney General and Henton Armada. These two were both bred by Henton Lodge, who bred Henton Faberge, fifth-placed in the leading mare series (above). Henton Attorney General was a four-star (former format) competitor, and won Luhmühlen in 2015. Anamour himself was from Studenstamm 1189109; Schridde 439, and is one of New Zealand breeding's all-time greats.

Another mare filled fifth place, and she, too, has a super international pedigree. Her name is Déjà Vu NZPH (Untouchable M - Riviera NZPH x Jokus Latour), and she is owned and ridden by Paula Mussen. Déjà Vu was bred by New Zealand Performance Horses and is a very impressive, leggy grey.

Double J Cyclone (Centrico - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II), a half-brother of Double J Hurricane who was the joint winner of the five-year-old series, finished sixth. He was bred by Wendy and Robyn Jacobs, is owned by Gendie Askin and ridden by Lucinda Askin. Centrico (Cassini I), JJ Cyclone's sire, is a Holsteiner from Stamm 162, He stood at Maurice Beatson and Sally Clark's Kiwi Horses, and had Grand Prix jumping success with Beatson, but has now been gelded. His pedigree has a particularly interesting twist, as his dam, the 'bezirksprämie' Kastanie V is by Corofino I – a full brother to Xtreme Sport Horse's supersire, Corofino II. And that leads quite nicely to something that can't go unmentioned: the Corofino II factor in this breeding series. He sired the three top six-year-olds, and the top seven-year-old, and was certainly the most represented sire among the leaders. ■

Johansson: “Breed to sell early, or breed for GP!”

BY HILLEVI BRASCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROLAND THUNHOLM, GUSTAF JOHANSSON

Breeding horses is hard work! And it rarely pays off in the way you expect. If you do not come from a lineage of farmers with horse breeding in their blood, what makes you even want to get into the business? Gustaf Johansson, 34 years old, of GJ Dressage and Breeding at Tollsbo Farm in Hyltebruk Sweden is a successful breeder of both dressage and jumping horses, despite his young age.

Considering he grew up without horses in his backyard, I am curious how his successful operation came to be. So, who is Gustaf Johansson?

A short presentation uncovers the following: Johansson is a breeder with anywhere between 12 and 20 foals born per year, he's a Grand Prix rider (international merits), a trainer with a wealth of students, a dressage judge, he runs a breeding station at his farm during the breeding season accepting between 80 and 90 outside mares per season, he stands four stallions, and is also on the board of the Swedish

Warmblood Association. Remarkably, given the demands and time constraints of running a successful business, Johansson is basically a one-man band, with the help of a stable hand who works part time. Otherwise, he does everything himself; collects the stallions, inseminates the mares and does every foal watch to make sure every new life gets the absolute best start. The horses he decides to keep will be put under saddle at home and then sent off to young horse trainers to be developed and trained further up the levels.

Like many successful journeys....

Johansson's journey with horses began when he and his brother began taking weekly riding lessons at the local riding school. The interest in horses grew and eventually led to his father buying him and his brother a horse each, as well as one for himself. When Johansson was 15, he completed two weeks of work-study at Elise Fredriksson's farm. Elise is a successful breeder of dressage horses, quite a few of her horses have been exported to the US over the years.

The farm had an impressive line-up with such greats as the Swedish Warmblood Chapman 757 (Chagall - Dorina x Dorn), Bellini 817 (SWB: Ganesco - Indra (23) x Sweet Marhu xx), and Baryshnikov 867 (SWB: Chapman - Hedvig xx x Carnoustie xx). All of them approved stallions trained to FEI level. An eye opener that sparked even more curiosity and a need to learn yet more. Johansson knew he



Gustaf Johansson and Mr. Vain GJ

had found his calling.

When he was 16 he made the move to Fredriksson's farm and started working, literally day and night. "Youth is a wonderful thing" he says with a smile. "I would sometimes ride up to 18 horses a day, and the nights would be spent watching over the mares and delivering foals (around 25 foals per year). I had no clue how to be a 'typical' teenager or desire for that matter, to spend weekends out with friends partying, there simply was no time!"

As there were stallions standing at stud, Johansson also worked with collecting the semen and the breeding of the mares, hence his interest in breeding was sparked.

At the mere age of 16 he presented Lamborghini 928 (SWB: Bellini 817 - Lambada (42) x Pascal 656) at the stallion performance test. The stallion was approved.

Johansson continued his riding education, and in 2006 was offered, in partnership with a sponsor, the Danish Grand Prix stallion Heslegård's Rubin (Rubinstein I - Mariana x Inschallah X), enjoying several successful years in the show ring with him. At 21 he made his Grand Prix debut, and also rode in the European championships for young riders among several other major championships.

Going it alone

After eight years working for Fredriksson, Johansson felt it was time to start a business of his own. He moved back to

his hometown and slowly started building his business by training his students and training horses, starting youngsters under saddle and developing them through the levels to be sold. However, his interest in breeding still lingered; the years at Fredriksson's farm had taught him much about the combination of mare lines and stallions, how certain traits such as rideability and temperament were almost predictable, and heritability being so evident in many cases.

Finally, in 2010 he bred two mares, in 2011 he bred seven, and the result was okay. Not as great as he'd hoped, but good enough. But he wanted more.

So, the next crop of foals in 2013, generated eight foals, of which four were stallions, and three later became approved for breeding today. The dam lines are all different, but Johansson hit it exactly right in his combinations: Americano GJ 1375 (Black Coffee - Verole x Obelisk); Mr Vain GJ 1324 (Diarado - La Ghazzi Rose x Lavirco); and Shizeido GJ 1328 (Sezuan - Zalsa (F2) x Danzas).

Johansson's business savvy comes from growing up in a very entrepreneurial family. His foundation stock started with just two mares, and he later added to his herd by leasing high-quality mares. "I took out a loan to be able to use the stallions I really wanted as they were quite expensive compared to others. I figured I can borrow the money to buy a car; why not borrow the money to produce the foal I really want? The operation then grew organically over the years. I have been super strict with selling early and NOT keeping



Victoria Almgren (SWE) riding Mr. Vain GJ



*By Mr Vain GJ x Donelli x Sylvester x Totilas,
bred by Gustaf Johansson*

mares that do not uphold my standards. After all, my business model is all about selling the foals. I divide the business into two parts; the mares must pay for themselves (financed with what they produce) and so do the stallions (essentially the profit). Some foals produce more or less of a revenue than others, but that is the nature of the business and I strive to have a decent average selling price."

Breed to sell early or breed for Grand Prix

I asked Johansson about his breeding goals, and without hesitation he said: "Horses that can make it all the way to Grand Prix. All the riding I've done over the years on so many different horses has given me the advantage of recognizing the rideability and talents in a specific mare line, for example. Horses that can go all the way, typically, are not the horses that sell as foals or get selected for the foal auctions. They bloom a little later in life and harbor qualities that take time to develop. However, if you want to breed to sell as foals; then use stallions that are well known but not used much. Something that sparks interest and is a little unusual, albeit well known. I was basically one of the first few in Sweden using Totilas, Sezuan, and Bretton Woods, for example, making the foals easy to sell."

Breeding successful dressage horses is tough as the rider developing and training the horse has such an impact on the future success of the horse. "You really need an excellent rider to bring the horse along if you want a talented horse to prosper to its full extent.

"Something I will never sway from is rideability. I want a horse that has good temperament, wants to work, and has an

engine of its own. Looking back 20 years, the horses were much lazier than today. With all the changes going on right now in terms of how we ride our horses (current equipment is questioned for example), temperament will become even more important. In terms of what I like to breed to, I look for rideability first and foremost. Performance is important as well. An example of stallions that encompass both are Totilas, Dante Weltino, Benetton Dream."

Never underestimate the value of the mare line

The mare lines in Johansson's breeding program all have a strong foundation in Swedish stock: "I like the old Swedish bloodlines with solid, sound stallions such as Chapman, Chagall, and Master farther back. They all contribute soundness and strong gaits which benefit today's modern sport horse. I know these mare lines well, what they contribute and what to expect, there is no guesswork involved. In the case of producing the approved stallion Americano GJ I went the other way around; I chose a SWB stallion as sire with a solid foundation in the older lines, Black Coffee 1063, and paired him with a Dutch mare by Obelisk x Ferro. Americano is today in training with Minna Telde, one of Sweden's top dressage riders, and the future looks extremely bright. Approved stallion Shizeido GJ 1328 is in Germany with his Swedish rider/owner Madelene Engelke and is a World Young Horse Championships hopeful."

Showjumping?

"The showjumping world is somewhat liberating in comparison to the dressage world, it's very black and white.



*Swedbank (SWB) by Springbank (SWB) x Jazz,
bred by Gustaf Johansson*

I enjoy going to jumping competitions to just hang out and of course watch Mr Vain GJ. He is a phenomenon for sure, I guess I could say his career started as a two-year-old when he decided to jump out of his stall window, a window I was positive no horse could get through – but he did! I saw his potential early on as he would actively seek out things to jump over such as fences, hedges, stone walls, and now the stall window. All in a very self-assured manner, not really worried about anything.”

Mr Vain was approved as a three-year-old and has had a fantastic career so far. He is in training with Victoria Almgren, a duo that has been extremely successful. In 2018 he won the SWB Breeders Trophy for five-year-old jumping horses receiving 9.5/9.5 from the test rider Jeroen Dubbeldam. He continued by placing 10th in the final of the World Young Horse Championships in Lanaken, Belgium. He was in the final at Falsterbo as a five-six-year-old, placed in the Champion of Youngsters and Gothenburg Horse Show. He has consistently been at the top in the number of mares bred, with 209 registered offspring.

“I have expanded my breeding program for jumping and am now up to five mares. I think breeding for jumping is easier than breeding for dressage as you only breed for one trait basically, a trait with strong heritability. We have foals today where we see the jumping gene early on. It’s exciting.

“This spring my jumping mares are expecting foals of the following combinations: Mr Vain x Nintender x Cardento; Mr Vain x Kannatol x For Pleasure; Mr Vain x Emilion x Quidam de Revel; and Mr Vain x Baloubet x Constanza.”

The Swedish Warmblood of today

Johansson is a SWB Association Board member and as such is actively working on all fronts for the Swedish breeders and the SWB horse. One of the exciting new things on which he’s working is a podcast focusing on sport horse breeding. His sidekick will be none other than the breeding director of SWB, Emma Thorén Hellsten. “We want to inject more knowledge and generate more interest in what we do both on a more scientific as well as a practical level. It’s something from which everyone interested in horses can benefit.

“As far as the SWB horse goes, the situation in Europe today with open registries has created more of a European Warmblood. How we distinguish the SWB is through our foundation mare lines, as well as newer lines with imported mares in combination with international bloodlines. Our strict animal welfare laws contribute to our horses being raised in sustainable ways with wide open spaces and plenty of exercise to build strong bones and flexible tendons for the future. Really, breeding horses in Sweden has never been about ‘keeping it Swedish’. We imported influential stallions early on that most folks today probably consider Swedish, however they were not. A Swedish Warmblood horse is a horse born of a SWB approved dam and sire and registered



Americano GJ 1375 (Black Coffee - Verole x Obelisk)

as such. We have our rules and regulations regarding approvals and different books and registries depending on the pedigrees of the horses. Considering we are quite a bit smaller than many registries we still hold our own and produce international horses sought after worldwide as well as horses for the everyday amateur.”

Advice to a budding horse breeder

Despite his relatively young age, Johansson has been in the business for close to 20 years already, so I asked him what advice he would give to someone starting out, and determined to focus on successfully breeding sport horses?

“Look at A LOT of horses. Create your own view of what you desire in a horse. Try to not be too emotional about your horses. You must weed out any mares that do not fulfill your expectations. Do not hold on to older mares for too long. Find new homes for them instead. Listen and learn from people who are successful in producing the type of horses to which you are aiming. Be humble! Also be sure to take so-called popular opinions with a grain of salt. Create your own view of what you want and how to get there.”

On a final note, I had to ask Johansson why he hasn’t trained to become a SWB breed judge on top of everything else, at which he laughed and politely informed me that it is actually in the works; he’s currently working on his certification for conformation and for gaits. With his inspirational personality and ability, he is bound to inspire more interest in breeding especially from Sweden’s youth. The future certainly looks bright. ■

Calvin Klein wins DSP foal race

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: DSP

There was a lot of activity on May 18, during the countdown for the DSP Online Foal Auction. The 16 selected German sport horse foals attracted great interest from parties worldwide but, ultimately, only two sold to a foreign country, in this case, Austria, twice!

A total of 13 bidders were online for the price spike, the Casall x Contender son named Calvin Klein from Holsteiner stamm 162. His breeder Wolfgang Söhner from Krautheim was very happy to collect €17,000 from his armchair at home. This charming chestnut colt will now grow up in Bavaria and will, hopefully, be seen once again during the DSP Stallion Days 2023.

Second place in the jumping foal price ranking went to a son of the million-dollar earner, Don VHPZ out of a mother of Quick Star, at €14,500. Dondolo, representing Holsteiner stamm 6946, comes from the successful breeding of Paul Scheuerer from Adlkofen.

The Vitalis son, Vaderland, was the top dressage lot from his first generation, and his impossibly modelled grandson Valdez inspired many bidders. He finally moved to Austrian hands for €10,500. His new owners have had great success with German sport horses for years now, and will provide sport and breeding support that is tailor made for this colt.

According to auction head, Fritz Fleischmann, "The foal marketing has got off to a good start. Interest from abroad was significantly higher than at our auctions so far. We will offer two more online auctions and hope to be able to offer live auctions again soon."

On average, the 16 foals sold for €7,750 at this 2nd DSP Online Foal Auction. This format will continue with a 4x4 Online Foal Auction scheduled to take place from June 9-12. Just four exquisite foals will be offered daily over each of four days during this online auction, which will open at 8:00 p.m. (German time).

The 3rd DSP Online Foal Auction will open on July 1 and will end at 7:30 p.m. on July 6.

For more information and online registration: dsp.horse24.com or www.deutsches-sportpferd.de



Lot #3, the filly Allerliebste (Askari x Castino) sold for the bargain price of € 7,500


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Ulla: An Italian romance and a breeding fairy tale!

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR AND UMBERTO MARTUSCELLI

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, SILVIO MARIANI[†]

He was a Thoroughbred stallion: Sans Blague. She a heavy Breton work horse: Ecstasy. Both lived in La Bragadina, Baron Treves de Bonfili's country estate in Legnago, along with the other horses of the house. Like all true Thoroughbreds, he was light. She was a typical draft horse, mighty, muscular, huge.

One day in 1951 Sans Blague is in his paddock enjoying the flavors of late spring. Ecstasy was also in her paddock, quiet and peaceful. Different paddocks, obviously, divided by some fences. The flavors of spring, and likely the scent brought by the wind of Ecstasy in heat must have inspired Sans Blague... who decides to do something he had never done before: over the fence of his paddock and out, galloping decisively across the fields, he jumps another fence, then enters the paddock of Ecstasy and... it happens. Something happens that obviously shouldn't have happened! Ecstasy becomes pregnant, and in 1952 a roan foal (like her dam) was born and is baptized Ulla.

What to do with her? Nothing in particular: what can the daughter of a Thoroughbred and a heavy draft mare that was a mistake of birth do? Yet, Baron Treves decides to have Ulla broken to saddle, as an experiment and a fitting adventure for a 14-year-old boy. Ulla is good, used to regular human contact, and has grown up to be a 50/50 mix of her mother and father.

Young Stefano Carli starts to ride Ulla asking and teaching her everything, but with no intention of making her a jumping horse. So, together they stroll around the countryside, chasing cows, skipping over the ditches and, at some point, Ulla proves to have a talent that no one would have expected. Why not try to jump? So Stefano tried.

Can you guess how this story ends? The 16-year-old Stefano takes the seven-year-old Ulla to the European Junior Championship in Venice in 1960 where they were members of the Italian bronze medal-winning team. The pair then went on to a series of victories and placings in increasingly difficult classes. They debuted in the CSIO d'Italia in Piazza di Siena, and participated in the Rome Grand Prix.

In 1962 Ulla ranks ninth for prize money won by showjumping horses, behind Sunbeam, The Rock, Gowran Girl, Rockette, Posillipo, Merano, Pegaso and Go Bowbee, i.e.

the aristocracy of world jumping of that era.

Ulla, a birth mistake daughter of a draft mare and a Thoroughbred dad who enjoyed a moment of unbridled passion, piloted during her growth by a boy who became one of Italy's strongest competitors.

These two photos are an eloquent synthesis of this fairy tale: in black and white Stefano Carli, a 16-year-old boy at the Saggio delle Schools in 1959 with Ulla (age seven). Seven years later, 1966, Stefano Carli is an officer of the Carabinieri, holding the power in his hands with Ulla (now 14) at the Villa Borghese. What a story to tell...!

Breeding mistakes or opportunities?

In the rarified era of showjumping breeding that we inhabit, this sort of random pairing is almost unthinkable. Today, the studbooks seem to be merging into one, producing a universal jumper by using a pool of stallions that happily move from one book to the other, but in the fifties and sixties, times were different. The world of showjumping



Ulla with Stefano Carli



Mulga Bill (Leewood Renown - Oepedious xx x Black Pampas xx) competing with Stanny van Paesschen (BEL) during the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games

was a more varied place.

Riding styles could vary wildly from Australia's Kevin Bacon and Britain's Allan Williams 'taking a fly', their heels up around their shoulders at the height of the jump, to the nonchalant grace of the Italians, or the French running wild and free and the perfect 'forward seat' stylists who came fresh from the USA.

The horses too were a world of national types – the crossbreds and Irish jumpers favoured by the British and the Italians, the high toned Thoroughbreds of the Americans, and Warmbloods? Well, Warmbloods were ugly big brutes with jug heads and masses of bone ridden by German gentlemen with well-developed biceps and well-oiled draw reins.

And of course, the stereotype falls apart on closer examination. The great Italian teams headed by the d'Inzeos were happy to take their horses where they found them, Ireland, Germany, and even their homeland provided some of the stars, like Merano and Porsillipo. The first great post-War German showjumping star, Halla, started her life as a steeplechaser, and despite her Trotter heritage, looked more Thoroughbred than anything else – and her rider, Hans-Gunter Winkler was a model of elegance and tact.

Nelson Pessoa was riding a Brazilian-bred horse. Starring on the European circuit in the early 1960s, Pessoa was riding his Derby specialist, Gran Geste, by an English

Thoroughbred and out of a native Crioula mare (Criollo in Spanish). Nizefela, the backbone of the post-War British showjumping team was by a Shire-horse stallion, out of an almost Thoroughbred mare. Nizefela pulled a plough in his early days before Wilf White purchased him for £100.

Similarly, Rusty, purchased by the Irish star Iris Kellet in 1946, had spent World War II ploughing the fields six days a week, then hunting on Sunday. In 1948, Rusty beat the world's best in the international championship in Dublin and in 1949 and 1950 took out the Princess Elizabeth Cup at White City, London.

These days the formula is so well tuned and we seldom, if ever, get a surprise when we look at the breeding on the start lists. I guess the last horse with a lot of draft blood to compete internationally was Mulga Bill, who was by the Clydesdale stallion Leewood Renown, out of the Thoroughbred mare Oepedious xx, whose sire, Black Pampas xx was well known as a sire of jumpers. Mulga Bill, a giant at 1m80 (17.3 hh) competed with the Australian team at the World Equestrian Games in Den Hague, the Netherlands, in 1994 with the late Charlie Moffat. He was then sold to Belgian rider, Stanny van Paesschen, and the pair were eighth at the European Championships the following year in St. Gallen, Switzerland, before representing Belgium in the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games. ■

An overview of breeding-induced endometritis

BY SONJA EGAN, PHD

The colloquial term ‘dirty mare’ is often used to describe mares suffering from endometritis – a condition that is frequently characterised by the absence of pregnancy. Endometritis is regarded as one of the most common causes of equine infertility^{1,2}. Bacterial uterine infections effect 25-60% of barren mares, causing considerable losses to the breeding industry³, and a substantial headache for breeders.

Hurtgen described in his 2006 review of endometritis treatment and pathogens, that characterisation of uterine infection and inflammation falls under numerous categories; “acute, chronic, active, subclinical, post-partum, bacterial, fungal, viral, mating induced, persist and in many other forms”.⁴ The author states that while there may be simplicity in the term ‘infection’, there is clear complexity in determining the origin of this condition, highlighting the difficulty in provision of successful treatment, and management plans.

The normal response to insemination is an acute increase in white blood cells to attack the existing bacteria and residual sperm cells remaining in the uterus. This process occurs approximately six to 12 hours after breeding, where the expulsion of uterine fluid is usually completed within 48 hours; a normal uterus contains little to no fluid.¹ Mares who display rapid, efficient clearing are termed ‘resistant’.³ However, the abnormal response found in breeding-induced endometritis is clinically characterised as the retention of uterine fluid after mating.³

Impaired uterine clearance facilitates the multiplication of uterine bacteria, secondary inflammation, and the prevention of pregnancy progression. Mares who have difficulty clearing uterine fluid after covering or foaling are termed ‘susceptible’.³ The absence of the physical uterine contractile response to clear the fluid is another strong indicator of a susceptible mare.

A 2016 review of mare infertility and endometritis¹ described the impaired muscular response in the middle layer of the uterus, responsible for the induction of uterine contractions. The authors stated that in resistant mares there is normal neuromuscular signalling activity which is responsible for stimulating these contractions. However, in susceptible mares this response is delayed by two hours, followed by substantially reduced levels of signalling activity 12 hours after breeding; in some cases this activity was lower than that of pre-breeding levels.

Another predisposing factor for the development of the condition is poor vulvar conformation in the mare. Mares can develop this conformational abnormality due to age,

poor nutrition, foaling injuries, and a reduction in perineal fat mass resulting from race training.^{4,5} The vulva acts as a protective barrier between the female reproductive tract and external environment. Poor conformation impairs the functionality of this barrier and may lead to pneumovagina; a condition which causes the mare to ‘suck in’ due to the angulation of the vulva, predisposing her to bacterial and fungal infections.⁶ This angle is described by Caslick’s index and is often associated with mare fertility. Caslick considered 80 degree to the horizontal to be the optimal vulvar angle, and anything below 50 degrees leads to pneumovagina.⁵

Caslick Index = (length of vulva in cmx) x (angle of declination in degrees)⁵

The index itself is used to determine the need for surgical correction, 100 or less is deemed normal, whereas an index approaching 150 or more indicates abnormal conformation and potential fertility problems.⁵ This conformational abnormality can be treated by the eponymously named Caslick’s operation.

Case presentation varies from subclinical to clinical and as in last month’s article regarding venereal disease (WBN #281, page 35, under the heading ‘EVA, EIA and CEM’) and symptoms can vary depending on the mare presented. Equine practitioners have identified that there is a large risk in the translation of endometritis from an acute to chronic condition if there is a delay or failure in determining the causative agent.¹ Typically, diagnosis includes a general physical examination, reproductive examination, and a detailed reproductive history.

There is a range of diagnostic tests which can be applied to assist in the identification of the condition, including: ultrasonography, endoscopy, uterine lavage or flushing, and endometrial biopsy.

- **Ultrasonography** is useful in characterising the volume and features of the retained fluid and recommended for daily monitoring of suspected subclinical mares post breeding.¹
- **Reproductive endoscopy** supports the visualisation of abnormal changes in the uterus, such as internal lesions and changes to the structure and shape of the uterus.¹
- **Swabbing and culturing** is the most common diagnostic

applied and often completed due to the ease of collection and relatively low cost versus other techniques.¹

• **Uterine lavage or flushing** is another commonly used technique which involves injecting sterile solution into the uterus as evenly as possible followed by flushing it back out. The flushed fluid is initially visually inspected for indicators of abnormality such as cloudiness and mucous. The fluid is then split and retained for microbiology and cytological examination.¹ Uterine lavage is more sensitive than swabbing, however, as with many internal tests care must be taken to ensure additional bacteria is not introduced to the uterus leading to an erroneous result.

• **Endometrial biopsy** is deemed the most reliable diagnostic technique.¹ However, biopsies are invasive and require specialist laboratory examination, increasing the time required to return a result. Additionally, care must be taken to ensure the biopsy is taken from the affected area(s) of the uterus to prevent a false-negative result.

One of the aims of endometritis treatment is to eliminate the uterine inflammation response, allowing the embryo descent approximately six days after breeding.¹ Antibiotics may be prescribed generally or locally. However, there is some uncertainty surrounding bacterial susceptibility. Thus, they are only recommended based on clear diagnostic evidence of the condition.¹

Uterine lavage is also commonly used to treat endometritis, both prior to, and following insemination. Research has demonstrated that lavage immediately prior to insemination, based on ultrasonic evidence of uterine fluid, does not have any adverse effects on fertility outcomes.⁷ Similarly, flushing may be applied four hours after breeding when there is evidence of two centimetres of fluid or more.¹

Ultrasonography is always recommended to guide the necessity of flushing to prevent disruption to the natural uterine flora or removal of healthy protective mucous.⁸ Labour-

inducing hormones such as oxytocin⁸ may be used in isolation or in combination with a uterine lavage to encourage contractile activity and uterine clearing.

Endometritis is often suspected in 'tricky' or infertile mares, thus early mitigation of infection risk is important in facilitating the progression of pregnancy. Preventing and managing breeding-induced endometritis appears to require a multi-layered approach including good basic hygiene practice alongside the delicate balance of monitoring, intervention, and timing to support the typical stages of reproduction. ■

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Groundbreaking SF data: ‘Selecting for performance’

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: LES GARENNE

On December 18, 2019, the Selle Français symposium took place, during the first day of testing, at the Saint-Lô horse racing center. This conference was marked by the presentation of a new tool for breeders: the Stallion Statistical Sheets, created by Margot Sabbagh (IFCE) and Benoît Chaigne (Stud-Book Selle Français), together with geneticist Anne Ricard who explained the methodology and the results of the characterization programs for gaits, model, and free jumping.

This was followed by a seminar on genomics: the state of play in equines and in other species, potential contributions in the selection of sport horses; presented by Anne Ricard and Albéric Valais, breeder of French Trotters and director of Selection Organizations La Normande and Rouge des Prés. Finally Albéric Valais presented a smartphone application, T.E.A.M. Genetics Trot, a crossover aid tool for breeders of French Trotters. This conference was closed with the signing of a partnership between the Stud-Book Selle Français, IFCE and the saddlery company CWD with the aim of continuing the studies carried out on the characterization of sport horses.

(All the presentations are available for viewing on the Selle Français Youtube channel)

Speakers and presentation summaries

Anne Ricard is an agricultural engineer from AgroParisTech. Her entire career has been spent at the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) as a research engineer at the French Institute for Horses and Horse Riding (IFCE). Her first work was the calculation of BSO

followed by BDR and BCC and today BRE and BPO: genetic indices for the different sports: show jumping, dressage, eventing, endurance, and ponies, respectively. She studied the genetics of osteochondrosis, sports longevity, reproductive performance or behavior, and created diversity management tools. Today she is seeking to integrate genomics into this work to refine and improve models and selection methods. She is, herself, a breeder of dressage horses.

Anne Ricard's 'characterization program' enabled the objective characterization of gaits, morphology and free jumping. Today 1,000 to 1,500 horses have been measured by accelerometry in walk, trot, gallop, and free jumping, and with three-dimensional anatomical landmarks for morphometry.

The main results show a fairly large independence between pace and conformation on the one hand and performance in showjumping competition on the other hand. This therefore gives these characteristics their place in a selection program which aims to produce a good showjumping horse, but also a horse with a morphology and gaits adapted to the different categories of rider.

Additionally, the time of suspension during free jumping is very strongly genetically linked to success in showjumping and makes it a criterion of objective choice for early selection.



Introduction by Pascal Cadiou

l-r: Albéric Valais, Margot Sabbagh, Benoît Chaigne, Pascal Cadiou, and Anne Ricard



Albéric Valais

	Performance index (ISO) based on the average for a stallion's CSO offspring	
Category 1 25% superior stallions	Superior or equal to 130,79	
Category 2 25% Intermediate superior stallions	Between 126,05 and 130,78	
Category 3 25% Intermediate inferior stallions	Between 120,68 and 126,04	
Category 4 25% Inferior stallions	Inferior to 120,68	

TABLE 1

In parallel to the previous projects, the horses involved in the characterization have been genotyped, that is to say that we know their DNA bases in more than 400,000 points distributed over the genome. Genomics makes it possible to know the genes having a major effect on characteristics such as coat color or monogenic diseases such as fragile foal syndrome. It also allows for complex characteristics to refine the kinship relationships between horses with the same genealogy and, therefore, to be more precise in the evaluation of their genetic value. The fall in the prices of genotyping techniques used on a large scale makes it possible to hope for the availability of a tool making it possible both to manage congenital malformations, controls of parentage, assignments of parentage, and to improve genetic values produced, in particular based on the characteristics measured on a small number of horses.

Albéric Valais is an agricultural engineer whose career has focused on bovine genetics for the meat breed, Rouge des Prés, and in mixed dairy breeds in Normandy. He is also a breeder of French Trotters with three broodmares.

His presentation on 'Genomics: present and future' sampled the selection tools available in breeding, illustrated by using the inter-species bridges between the methods used for bovines and equines.

Valais explained that while the skills sought are obviously extremely different, the fundamentals are the same. "We need solid genealogies to measure performance objectively and analyze it. The BLUP animal model method is used in all cases to analyze performance."

"Today, the development of genomics opens up new fields of investigation. Technical and scientific advances make it possible to read the genome. The performance measured, phenotype, can then be associated with the genetic code, genotype. There are two applications that arise from these new technologies for genetic evaluation. This application is more or less developed depending on the breed and a second application which is the identification of different genes of interest."

Valais' presentation observed economic data,

sales, and race results.

Margot Sabbagh trained as an agricultural development engineer specializing in selection for nine years at IFCE. She works on the development and implementation of different tools related to genetics, whatever the sector, to best help

breeders and organizations of selection in the reasoning of breed crosses, the maintenance of genetic diversity, as well as the conservation of semen via the Cryobank. She is also a breeder which allows her to regularly confront the difficulties on the ground.

Benoit Chaigne is an agricultural engineer. During his early career he worked with farms from the Seine and Marne department, and the Ile de France Cooperatives, before joining the Selle Français studbook as technical director. In particular, he follows the construction and evolution of the selection scheme for the Selle Français with breeders and members of the board of directors, and ensures its implementation (studbook rules, approval of stallions, promotion of the female line....).

His presentation focused on the studbook's desire to maximize information in the racial databases to develop new cross-referencing tools to meet the demands of SF breeders to better understand the quality of stallion production. Standard sheets; new information for breeders

Chaigne decided to create standard sheets comprising two sections:



Benoît Chaigne and Margot Sabbagh

	The top 25% of a stallion's CSO products based on the minimum ISO
25% superior stallions	Superior or equal to 121,31
25% Intermediate superior stallions	Between 116,00 and 120,30
25% Intermediate inferior stallions	Between 111,19 and 115,99
Category 4 25% Inferior stallions	Inferior to 111,19

TABLE 2

- What are the sports performances (CSO and CCE) of a stallion's production?
- What are the characteristics of conformation, locomotion, and ability to jump that a stallion has the probability of transmitting to his offspring?

For the '**sports performance**' section, each stallion is presented with the percentage of its products tested in competition and their performance level, compared with all the stallions born since 1982 and having at least 50 products in showjumping or 25 products in CCE. (% by index classification, to the highest level)

The stallions are also classified into four categories according to the average performance index achieved by the top 25% of their products.

This information is compiled:

- By the number of brilliant products on the international scene, that is to say classified in the top 2,000 of the world ranking (WBSFH) since 2004
- By genetic indices in both CSO and CCE

For the '**conformation, locomotion and aptitude for jumping**' component, the studbook studied data from the breeding competitions of more than 27,000 horses aged two and three years, recorded over a period of 14 years, that is to say nearly 45,000 judgments and 700,000 assessments. This

represents products from 1,755 stallions and 14,680 mares.

On this basis, the study of the inheritance of the 16 characteristics, that is to say their probability of transmission between parents and descendants, was highlighted:

- Two criteria with strong heritability (≥ 0.4):
 - ◆ Head-neck attachment
 - ◆ Style
- Eleven criteria with correct heritability (between 0.2 and 0.39):
 - ◆ Model:
Front: shoulder-arm-forearm)/withers-back-kidney
 - Rear: croup-pelvis-thigh/overall impression
 - ◆ Locomotion: walk/trot/canter
 - ◆ Free jumping: balance/power/style/comportment (respect, energy, intelligence for the obstacles)
- Three criteria with low heritability (<0.2):
 - ◆ Joints
 - ◆ Anterior balance
 - ◆ Hind legs

These results enabled the establishment of genetic indices on the criteria of morphology, gaits, and free jumping in Selle Français horses. The indices are presented

Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	200 and + products in CSO competition	Group 1
	From 100 to 199 products in CSO competition	Group 2
	From 50 to 99 products in CSO competition	Group 3
Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	200 and + products in CSO competition	Group 4
	From 100 to 199 products in CSO competition	Group 5
	From 50 to 99 products in CSO competition	Group 6
Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	200 and + products in CSO competition	Group 7
	From 100 to 199 products in CSO competition	Group 8
	From 50 to 99 products in CSO competition	Group 9

TABLE 3

'SAMPLE' PAGE SHOWING CSO (SHOWJUMPING) STALLIONS IN GROUPS 1-4

Groupe 1 : Étalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CSO, est de 5 à 7,99 ans ; 200 produits et + indicés en CSO

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ISO MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ISO MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% des produits indicés en CSO				BSO	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ISO 140 et +	ISO de 120 à 139	ISO de 100 à 119	ISO < 100			
CANTURO(DE)	HOLST	1995	CANTUS(DE)	CALANDO (DE)	127,31	116	3%	17%	49%	31%	14	0,98	34
QCLASSIC BOIS MARGOT	SFB	2004	L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	GALOBETTA	125,97	118	2%	21%	51%	26%	22	0,96	1
CON AIR(DE)	HOLST	1997	CONTENDER(DE)	CAROLUS(DE)	123,87	117	1%	18%	48%	34%	19	0,95	16

Groupe 2 : Étalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CSO, est de 5 à 7,99 ans ; de 100 à 199 produits indicés en CSO

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ISO MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ISO MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% des produits indicés en CSO				BSO	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ISO 140	ISO de 120 à 139	ISO de 100 à 119	ISO < 100			
CONRAD(DE)	HOLST	2005	CON AIR(DE)	LOCATO	133,00	125	4%	34%	43%	19%	26	0,95	1
VAGABOND DE LA POMME(BE)	SBS	2005	VIGO D'ARSOUILLES(BE)	FOR PLEASURE(DE)	130,70	123	2%	27%	50%	21%	24	0,95	7
VIGO CECÉ	SF	2009	QUAPIRE BOIMARGOT QUINCY(DE)	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	129,74	122	1%	29%	49%	22%	25	0,92	0
TOBAGO CHEVRIER	SF	2007	CLINTON(DE)	CARNUTE	125,27	118	1%	20%	40%	39%	17	0,93	0
GOLDFEVER(DE)	HAN	1991	GROSSO Z(DE)	GALVANO	125,04	117	0%	20%	41%	38%	9	0,91	2
TRESOR(BE)	BWP	1996	PAPILLON ROUGE	LAUDANUM	122,93	115	1%	16%	47%	36%	7	0,93	1
QUINTUS D'OR(BE)	BWP	1993	PAVAROTTI VAN DE HELLE(DE)	GARITCHOU	121,45	113	1%	16%	41%	42%	3	0,94	0
TOP GUN SEMILLY	SFA	2007	QUAPIRE BOIMARGOT QUINCY(DE)	MUGUET DU MANOIR	116,49	111	0%	7%	46%	47%	5	0,94	0

Groupe 3 : Étalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CSO, est de 5 à 7,99 ans ; de 50 à 99 produits indicés en CSO

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ISO MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ISO MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% des produits indicés en CSO				BSO	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ISO 140 et +	ISO de 120 à 139	ISO de 100 à 119	ISO < 100			
ACTION BREAKER(BE)	BWP	2000	HEARTBREAKER(NL)	LYS DE DARMEN	134,27	124	7%	29%	45%	19%	22	0,9	10
ENSOR VAN DE HEFFINCK(BE)	BWP	2004	CLINTON(DE)	HEARTBREAKER(NL)	132,48	122	7%	22%	45%	26%	19	0,92	0
QUEBRACHO SEMILLY	SFA	2004	LE TOT DE SEMILLY	EYKEN DES FONTENIES	129,50	121	1%	24%	42%	32%	24	0,9	0
UGOBAK DES BALEINES	SFA	2008	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	HEARTBREAKER(NL)	129,36	120	4%	21%	48%	27%	22	0,88	0
MALITO DE REVE(BE)	SFA	2000	CUMANOID(E)	MUGUET DU MANOIR	129,00	119	3%	21%	48%	28%	20	0,9	4
QUATRO DE RIVERLAND	SFA	2004	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	JALISCO B	128,63	119	2%	22%	45%	31%	16	0,88	0
ELVIS TER PUTTE(BE)	BWP	2004	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	DARCO(BE)	128,60	121	2%	24%	56%	19%	19	0,86	1
NIAGARA D'ELLE	SFA	2001	QUICK STAR	JALISCO B	128,25	120	3%	23%	48%	27%	17	0,91	1
VIVALDI DU SEIGNEUR(BE)	SBS	2005	CHELANOZ(Z)	DARCO(BE)	128,19	121	2%	24%	51%	24%	23	0,89	3
OLD CHAP TAME	SFA	2002	CARTHAGO(D)	QUIDAM DE REVEL	127,04	118	2%	17%	59%	22%	19	0,92	0
SAFARI D'AUGE	SFA	2006	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	PAPILLON ROUGE	126,24	118	3%	20%	44%	32%	19	0,89	0
MONTENDER(NL)	KWPV	1994	CONTENDER(DE)	BURGGRAAF(D)	125,53	114	3%	9%	62%	26%	24	0,86	6
KAPITOL D'ARGONNE	SFA	1998	APACHE D'ADRIERS	GALOUBETA	125,46	114	2%	18%	43%	37%	19	0,85	0
QUICKLY DE KREISKER	SFA	2004	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	LAUDANUM	123,79	116	0%	17%	59%	24%	19	0,91	0
TRESOR DE VIRTON(BE)	SFB	2007	KASHMIR VANTSCHUTTERSHOE(BE)	LANDOR(S)	123,31	116	2%	11%	52%	36%	14	0,88	0
TELSTAR DE LA POMME	SFA	2007	NABAB DE REVE(BE)	FOR PLEASURE(D)	123,07	118	2%	18%	49%	31%	15	0,87	0
SUNDAY DE RIVERLAND	SFB	2006	QUAPIRE BOIMARGOT QUINCY(DE)	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	121,04	113	1%	9%	48%	41%	11	0,92	0
URLEVENT DU BARY	SFB	2008	HUREVENT DE BREKA	CORRADO II	120,11	114	0%	12%	59%	29%	16	0,88	0
TSUNAMI DE HUS	SF	2007	L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	ARGENTINUS(D)	119,10	114	0%	11%	54%	35%	21	0,91	0
ULIXE	SFA	2008	CONTENDERO(D)	HELIOS DE LA COUR II	116,76	108	0%	11%	35%	54%	5	0,89	0
UPSILO	AA	2008	CANTURO(D)	FUSAIN DU DEFAY	116,63	111	0%	6%	59%	36%	24	0,87	0
ULMAR MAIL	SFA	2008	EUROCOMMERCE BERLIN(D)	NARCOS II	116,60	110	0%	5%	44%	51%	13	0,87	0
URANO DE CARTONY	SFA	2008	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	DOUBLE ESPOIR	115,75	111	0%	8%	59%	33%	22	0,87	0

Groupe 4 : Étalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CSO, est de 8 à 12 ans ; 200 produits et + indicés en CSO

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ISO MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ISO MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% des produits indicés en CSO				BSO	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ISO 140 et +	ISO de 120 à 139	ISO de 100 à 119	ISO < 100			
DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	SFA	1991	LE TOT DE SEMILLY	ELF III	133,23	133	14%	38%	36%	11%	27	1	169
KANNAN(NL)	KWPV	1992	VOLTAIRE(DE)	NIMMERDORF(NL)	139,45	128	10%	31%	42%	17%	23	1	151
QUAPIRE BOIMARGOT QUINCY(DE)	HOLST	1998	GUIDAM DE REVEL	LORD	138,40	127	10%	29%	41%	20%	17	0,99	26
MYLORD CARTHAGO	SFA	2000	CARTHAGO(D)	JALISCO B	136,76	126	7%	31%	41%	21%	25	0,99	23
NABAB DE REVE(BE)	SBS	1990	GUIDAM DE REVEL	ARTICHAUT	136,59	123	8%	23%	43%	26%	13	0,98	111
OGANO SITTE(BE)	SBS	1998	DARCO(BE)	AVONTUUR	136,35	127	8%	32%	41%	19%	25	0,98	23
JARNAC	SFA	1997	RYON D'ANZEK	J'TADORE	136,20	124	7%	25%	42%	26%	14	0,98	16
UGANO SITTE(BE)	SBS	2004	CLINTON(DE)	AVONTUUR	134,66	124	7%	27%	46%	20%	21	0,96	8
AIR JORDAN(DE)	OLD	1996	ARGENTINUS(D)	MATADOR	132,42	123	4%	29%	42%	25%	16	0,96	3
L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	OLD	1999	LANDOR(S)	PILOT	131,90	121	5%	25%	46%	24%	16	0,99	7
OGRION DES CHAMPS	SFA	2002	KANNAN(NL)	DOMINO DE MOYON	131,85	119	6%	19%	48%	28%	24	0,97	6
CASSINI I(D)	HOLST	1994	CAPITOL (D)	CALETO (D)	131,02	119	3%	21%	43%	33%	8	0,98	28
LANDO(DK)	DWB	1998	LANIER	RAIMONDO(DK)	130,95	121	4%	28%	45%	27%	16	0,99	15
NORMAN PRE NOIR	SFA	2001	CARTHAGO(D)	TRESOR DE CHEUX	130,52	123	3%	28%	46%	23%	18	0,97	2
NUMERO UNO(NL)	KWPV	1995	LIBERO (D)	LORD CALANDO(D)	130,51	123	3%	30%	46%	21%	19	0,96	75
TINKA'S BOY(NL)	KWPV	1989	ZUIDPOOL	ZEUS EX GORDIOS	129,95	119	3%	22%	48%	27%	13	0,98	16
PRESIDENT(NL)	KWPV	1997	CLINTON(DE)	VOLTAIRE(DE)	129,85	120	3%	24%	47%	26%	19	0,96	14
ROCK'N ROLL SEMILLY	SFA	2005	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	APACHE D'ADRIERS	129,65	121	4%	26%	48%	22%	25	0,98	2
JENNY DE LA CENSE	SFA	1997	DANDY DU PLATE	ANOUR DU BOIS	129,04	116	6%	11%	49%	34%	10	0,96	1
NEWTON DE KREISKER	SFA	2001	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	PAPILLON ROUGE	128,75	119	3%	21%	44%	32%	14	0,96	2
COROFINO(DE)	HOLST	1989	CORRADO(D)	FERNANDO	128,66	119	3%	22%	51%	24%	10	0,96	6
ORLANDO(BE)	BWP	1996	HEARTBREAKER(NL)	DARCO(BE)	128,42	118	3%	18%	46%	32%	8	0,98	29
UTRILLO BD HEFFINCK(BE)	BWP	1997	CLINTON(DE)	HEARTBREAKER(NL)	128,25	121	1%	26%	48%	24%	14	0,96	6
CHEF ROUGE(DE)	HOLST	1997	CASSINI I(D)	CARETINO(D)	126,91	117	2%	16%	48%	34%	10	0,97	3
QUITE EASY(D)	HOLST	1994	GUIDAM DE REVEL	LANDGRAF (D)	126,53	117	2%	20%	48%	30%	8	0,98	18
CARDERO(D)	HOLST	2000	CORIANO(D)	AHORN (D)	126,17	115	3%	16%	47%	34%	7	0,98	2
KALASKA DE SEMILLY	SFA	1998	DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	NIGHT AND DAY	125,57	115	2%	16%	53%	29%	8	0,97	1
PADDOK DU PLESSIS	SFA	2003	KANNAN(NL)	ADELFO'S(BR)	124,88	116	1%	16%	50%	34%	15	0,97	0
CONTRO(E)	HOLST	1992	CONTENDER(D)	ALOUICE (D)	123,52	114	3%	12%	46%	39%	8	0,97	0
EPSOM GESMERAY	SFA	1992	JALISCO B	STARTER	122,48	113	2%	12%	49%	38%	5	0,97	0
OPUM DE TALMA	SFA	2002	CARTHAGO(D)	QEDDO DU PAULSTRA	121,77	113	2%	13%	48%	38%	3	0,97	2
LEVISTAN(DE)	HAN	2004	LEVISTO(D)	ARGENTAN	116,94	109	1%	5%	44%	50%	2	0,95	0

		Performance index (ICC) based on the average for a stallion's CCI offspring
Category 1 25% superior stallions		Superior or equal to 131,04
Category 2 25% Intermediate superior stallions		Between 126,88 and 131,03
Category 3 25% Intermediate inferior stallions		Between 122,29 and 126,87
Category 4 25% Inferior stallions		Inferior to 122,29

TABLE 4

as a difference to the population judged in competition, with a standard deviation of 20 for each character. For a better visualization of the 16 indices, they are represented in graphical form and with any indexing being accompanied by a coefficient of determination (CD) which makes it possible to know the precision of estimation for the index. For each is added a reminder of the qualities sought in accordance with the objectives of the breeding program.

For the first time, for the 2020 riding season, breeders will have an objective crossover tool, linked to the model, the gaits, and free jumping, and on the sporting quality of stallion production.

SF approved stallions according to offspring performance in CSO and CCE

As part of the construction of information and decision-making tools, the Selle Français studbook has developed criteria on SF approved stallions according to the performance of their production in showjumping and eventing. These are stallions born since 1982.

This document presents a synthetic categorization of standards.

CSO (Showjumping)

Stallions with at least 50 products in showjumping

competition (= indexed products) were retained. This represents 744 stallions. The stallions are presented according to the performance of their production with three criteria:

- Table 1: The average performance index (ISO) of the top 25% of their products
- Table 2: The minimum performance index (ISO) of the top 25% of their products;
- Table 3: The % of products indexed in CSO: at 140 and + /from 120 to 139/from 100 to 119/less than 100.

Note: the stallions with a young production in competition with an average age of less than five years (from 4 to 4.99 years) are not included in the comparison because given the age of their production they would appear, in fact, in the categories lower indices.

In order to make the comparisons consistent, we decided to take into account the importance and the average age of the production of the stallions. They are, therefore, distributed according to Table 3.

CCE (Eventing)

Stallions with at least 25 products in CCE competition (= indexed products) were retained. This represents 225 stallions. The stallions are presented according to the performance of their production with three criteria:

- Table 4: The average performance index (ICC) of the top

		The top 25% of a stallion's CCI products based on the minimum ICC
25% superior stallions		Superior or equal to 119,00
25% Intermediate superior stallions		Between 116,00 and 118,99
25% Intermediate inferior stallions		Between 111,00 and 115,99
Category 4 25% Inferior stallions		Inferior to 111,00

TABLE 5

'SAMPLE' PAGE SHOWING CCE (EVENTING) STALLIONS IN GROUPS 1-4

Groupe 2 : Etalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CCE, est de de 5 à 7,99 ans ; de 25 à 49 produits indiqués en CCE

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ICC MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ICC MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% production indiquée CCE				BCC	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ICC 140 et +	ICC de 120 à 139	ICC de 100 à 119	ICC < 100			
UPSILON	AA	2008	CANTURO(DE)	FUSAIN DU DEFY	130,18	119	5%	18%	46%	31%	37	0,63	0

Groupe 3 : Etalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CCE, est de 8 à 12 ans ; 50 produits et + indiqués en CCE

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ICC MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ICC MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% production indiquée CCE				BCC	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ICC 140 et +	ICC de 120 à 139	ICC de 100 à 119	ICC < 100			
L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	OLD	1999	LANDOR S(DE)	PILOT	136,75	121	11%	17%	23%	49%	7	0,85	8
QUITE EASY(DE)	HOLST	1994	QUIDAM DE REVEL	LANDGRAF II(DE)	136,21	127	7%	26%	38%	29%	29	0,83	19
GRAFENSTOLZ(DE)	TRAK	1998	POLAROID(DE)	CAMELOT(DK)	135,65	124	10%	25%	41%	25%	21	0,73	24
MYLORD CARTHAGO	SFA	2000	CARTHAGO(DE)	JALISCO B	132,16	120	5%	20%	29%	45%	16	0,77	0
LANDO(DK)	DWB	1988	LANCIER	RAIMOND(DK)	131,18	118	6%	16%	40%	38%	13	0,73	4
TINKA'S BOY(NL)	KWPW	1989	ZUIDPOOL	ZEUS EX GORDIOS	130,26	122	4%	23%	30%	43%	12	0,73	8
SANDREO(NL)	KWPW	2000	SANDRO HIT(DE)	FLEMMINGH(NL)	122,47	115	2%	16%	35%	47%	-4	0,7	3

Groupe 4 : Etalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CCE, est de 8 à 12 ans ; 25 à 49 produits indiqués en CCE

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ICC MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ICC MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% production indiquée CCE				BCC	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ICC 140 et +	ICC de 120 à 139	ICC de 100 à 119	ICC < 100			
NOUMA D'AUZAY	SFA	2001	CARTHAGO(DE)	QUIDAM DE REVEL	138,50	126	10%	26%	32%	32%	28	0,62	4
ORLANDO(BE)	BWP	1996	HEARTBREAKER(IRE)	DARCO(BE)	135,33	124	9%	23%	37%	31%	19	0,64	7
IOULSCO DE QUINHON	SFA	1996	OLISCO	DOUBLE ESPOR	132,70	117	12%	9%	42%	36%	16	0,62	0
COROFINO(DE)	HOLST	1989	CORRADO(DE)	FERNANDO	130,88	122	7%	21%	34%	38%	13	0,60	3
CHEF ROUGE(DE)	HOLST	1997	CASSINI (DE)	CARETINO(DE)	130,62	120	4%	22%	35%	39%	17	0,69	0
QUALITY TOUCH(DE)	OLD	1992	QUICK STAR	LANDGRAF (DE)	129,57	120	4%	21%	32%	43%	7	0,59	1
OPIUM DE TALMA	SFA	2002	CARTHAGO(DE)	OREDO DE PAULSTRA	129,10	115	5%	16%	32%	47%	5	0,65	1
JARNAC	SFA	1997	RYON D'ANZEX	J'TADORE	128,88	112	6%	13%	41%	41%	8	0,63	2
QUINOTO BOIS MARGOT	SFB	2004	L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	HURLEVENT	127,88	111	7%	10%	23%	60%	-3	0,6	2
CARDERO(DE)	HOLST	2000	CORIANO(DE)	AHORN Z(DE)	127,31	117	2%	22%	20%	55%	3	0,69	1
QUACK	*AA*	1992	MANGANATE	ELFE DU MOULIN	124,91	117	5%	9%	41%	45%	0	0,71	1
CONTROLE(DE)	HOLST	1992	CONTENDER(DE)	ALOUBE Z(DE)	124,33	115	0%	20%	43%	36%	7	0,67	0
QUALITY BOIS MARGOT	SFB	2004	L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	QUIDAM DE REVEL	124,33	114	0%	20%	29%	51%	-2	0,7	2
EPSOM GEMSERAY	SFA	1992	JALISCO B	STARTER	123,75	115	2%	15%	39%	44%	2	0,68	2
CASSINI III(DE)	HOLST	1994	CAPITOL I(DE)	CALETTO II(DE)	121,50	111	4%	8%	40%	48%	3	0,61	4
QUOOL DU BOIS MARGOT	SFB	2004	L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE(DE)	GRAND VENEUR	120,13	112	0%	14%	34%	52%	-6	0,61	0
LEVISTAN(DE)	HAN	2004	LEVISTO(DE)	ARGENTAN	118,88	109	0%	10%	34%	55%	-4	0,52	0

Groupe 5 : Etalons dont l'âge moyen de la production ayant fait du CCE, est de + de 12 ans ; 50 produits et + indiqués en CCE

Cheval	Race	Année naissance	Père	Père de mère	ICC MOYEN des 25% meilleurs de la production	ICC MINIMUM des 25% meilleurs de la production	% production indiquée CCE				BCC	CD	Nombre de produits classés dans les 2000 premiers du classement WBFSH depuis 10 ans
							ICC 140 et +	ICC de 120 à 139	ICC de 100 à 119	ICC < 100			
YARLANDS SUMMER SONG(GB)	SESF	1986	FLEETWATER OPPOSITION(GB)	WELTON GAMEFUL	140,74	129	12%	27%	32%	28%	37	0,90	22
KANNANI(NL)	KWPW	1992	VOLTaire(DE)	NIMMERDOR(NL)	140,00	130	11%	28%	26%	35%	21	0,8	18
DIAMANT DE SEMILLY	SFA	1991	LE TOT DE SEMILLY	ELF III	136,38	128	6%	22%	33%	39%	19	0,82	8
JAGUAR MAIL	SFA	1997	HAND IN GLOVE(US)	LAUDANUM	135,98	125	8%	30%	35%	27%	34	0,91	49
LOUTANO(DE)	HOLST	1988	LANDGRAF II(DE)	CALYPSO I	135,15	123	8%	17%	40%	35%	24	0,71	3
FLIPPER D'ELLE	SFA	1993	DOUBLE ESPOR	JALISCO B	134,97	127	4%	31%	25%	40%	20	0,86	14
RUNGIS DES HALLES	SFA	1983	COUNT IVOR(US)	BEAUSEJOUR	134,54	126	10%	25%	19%	46%	6	0,72	0
SARASTRO	AC	1984	NIGHTKO	LAURIER	134,54	122	9%	23%	40%	28%	23	0,88	8
CLOWN DU CHESNAY	SFA	1990	ROSIRE	FASANO	132,53	123	6%	27%	34%	33%	19	0,78	4
VOLCHENBNIK(SU)	SESF	1984	LEGENDARINY	FLIGUEL	131,31	120	7%	20%	31%	43%	1	0,73	5
ROBIN II Z(DE)	HAN	1987	RAMIRO(DE)	ALME	131,27	121	5%	22%	29%	44%	12	0,73	3
VELOCE DE FAVI	AA	1989	JOUAN DE FREY	VERTUBLUE	131,22	116	7%	12%	32%	49%	2	0,80	7
QUATAR DE PLAPE	AA	1982	EMIR IV	DECKO	131,06	118	3%	21%	34%	42%	6	0,86	13
URBAIN DU MONNAI	SFA	1986	NARCOS II	MONCEAUX	131,04	119	6%	18%	30%	47%	2	0,80	2
SOIR D'AVRIL V	SFA	1984	COUNT IVOR(US)	IBRAHIM	130,60	121	4%	23%	30%	43%	11	0,88	4
QUERCUS DU MAURY	AA	1992	QUATAR DE PLAPE	SAMUEL	129,75	119	6%	17%	30%	47%	5	0,81	4
AIRBORNE MONTECILLO(US)	SESF	1987	ABDULLAH(CA)	DUFT II	129,54	118	3%	21%	34%	41%	1	0,80	4
EXPERIO	SFA	1992	OREDO DE PAULSTRA	KAYACK	129,20	115	4%	18%	33%	46%	-4	0,74	2
QREDO DE PAULSTRA	SFA	1982	GALUBET A	FURIOSO(GB)	129,11	115	3%	17%	37%	43%	1	0,88	5
FOR EVER IV	SF.	1993	IAIGO C	FOL AVRIL	128,38	117	3%	16%	50%	30%	8	0,81	3
ROX DE LA TOUCHE	SFA	1983	LORD GORDON	FANTASISTE	128,00	116	4%	19%	28%	49%	-3	0,73	0
FUSAIN DU DEFY	AA	1993	PHOSPHOR	FOL AVRIL	127,61	114	3%	15%	28%	54%	-5	0,85	6
DAMIRO B(NL)	KWPW	1985	RAMIRO(DE)	ALME	127,41	117	4%	15%	41%	40%	14	0,85	4
HAPPY VERGOGNAN	AA	1995	OBERON DU MOULIN	DEMON DISSIBE II	127,40	117	2%	18%	36%	44%	7	0,73	1
LORD CALANDO(DE)	HOLST	1985	LORD	CALANDO I(DE)	126,94	119	1%	20%	39%	39%	12	0,76	2
TARZAN DE BEAULIEU	SFA	1985	HADJ A	QUATOR	126,85	116	1%	19%	28%	52%	-3	0,80	2
GRAL DES VERNIERES	AA	1994	RIAGO	MASSONDO	126,44	118	5%	17%	42%	37%	-3	0,76	1
QUAPRICE BOIMARGOT QUINCY(DE)	HOLST	1998	QUIDAM DE REVEL	LORD	126,43	119	2%	22%	39%	37%	7	0,75	1
OSIER DU MAURY	AA	1990	JALIENNY	AMIRAL	126,43	118	0%	23%	45%	32%	11	0,74	0
ALBERT DU BERLAISS	*AA*	1985	KASHTAN	FAYVALIAND II	126,23	114	1%	16%	29%	53%	-15	0,80	3
QUAT'SOUS	SFA	1982	KAYACK	TANIEL	126,05	114	3%	15%	29%	53%	-7	0,82	4
ELAN DE LA COUR	SFA	1992	VAS Y DONC LONGANE	JALISCO B	125,84	116	1%	17%	35%	47%	12	0,78	4
APACHE D'ADRIERS	SFA	1988	DOUBLE ESPOR	FELIX	125,73	117	2%	18%	32%	48%	-1	0,80	3
EMIR PLATIERE	SFA	1992	PAPILLON ROUGE	LUTINO	125,50	112	3%	15%	36%	46%	-4	0,76	1
QLONDIKE	AA	1983	FROU FROU	LEGALOP	125,47	119	0%	22%	49%	29%	-5	0,75	0
CALVARO(DE)	HOLST	1987	CALETTO I(DE)	CAPITOL I(DE)	124,88	113	2%	18%	27%	53%	4	0,74	3
ROYAL FEU	SFA	1983	LORD GORDON	LAUDANUM	122,59	113	0%	18%	29%	53%	-15	0,75	2
ULTRA DE ROHET	AA	1986	NEPTUNE D'ALARY	NITHARD	122,53	112	2%	9%	33%	56%	-14	0,71	1
DAGUET DU ROCHAU	AC	1991	PRINCE IGOR	EDELLIC	122,45	111	4%	7%	46%	43%	-3	0,79	2
SOCRATE DE CHIVRE	SFA	1984	GRAND VENEUR	TANIEL	122,07	112	2%	12%	31%	55%	3	0,74	1
ROSIRE	SFA	1983	URIEL	ULTRASON	121,36	110	3%	10%	35%	52%	-5	0,84	1

Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	50 products and + in CCE competition From 25 to 49 products in CCE competition	Group 1 Group 2
Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	200 and + products in CCE competition From 100 to 199 products in CCE competition	Group 3 Group 4
Average age of competing offspring 5 to 7.99 years	200 and + products in CCE competition From 100 to 199 products in CCE competition	Group 7 Group 8

TABLE 6

25% of their products

- Table 5: The minimum performance index (ICC) of the top 25% of their products;
- Table 6: The % of products indexed in CCE: at 140 and + /from 120 to 139/from 100 to 119/less than 100.

In order to make the comparisons consistent, we decided to take into account the importance and the average age of the production of the stallions. They are, therefore, distributed according to Table 6. ■

Hereunder you will find the English translation (*l-r* across the page) for the column headings of the partial tables published on pages 37 and 39, which are consistent throughout the various groups you can find on the SF website:

Horse
Studbook

Year of Birth

Dam

Damsire

Average ISO for the top 25 % of production

Minimum ISO for the top 25 % of production

Percentage of products indexed in CSO:

ISO 140+

ISO 120-139

ISO 100-119

ISO <100

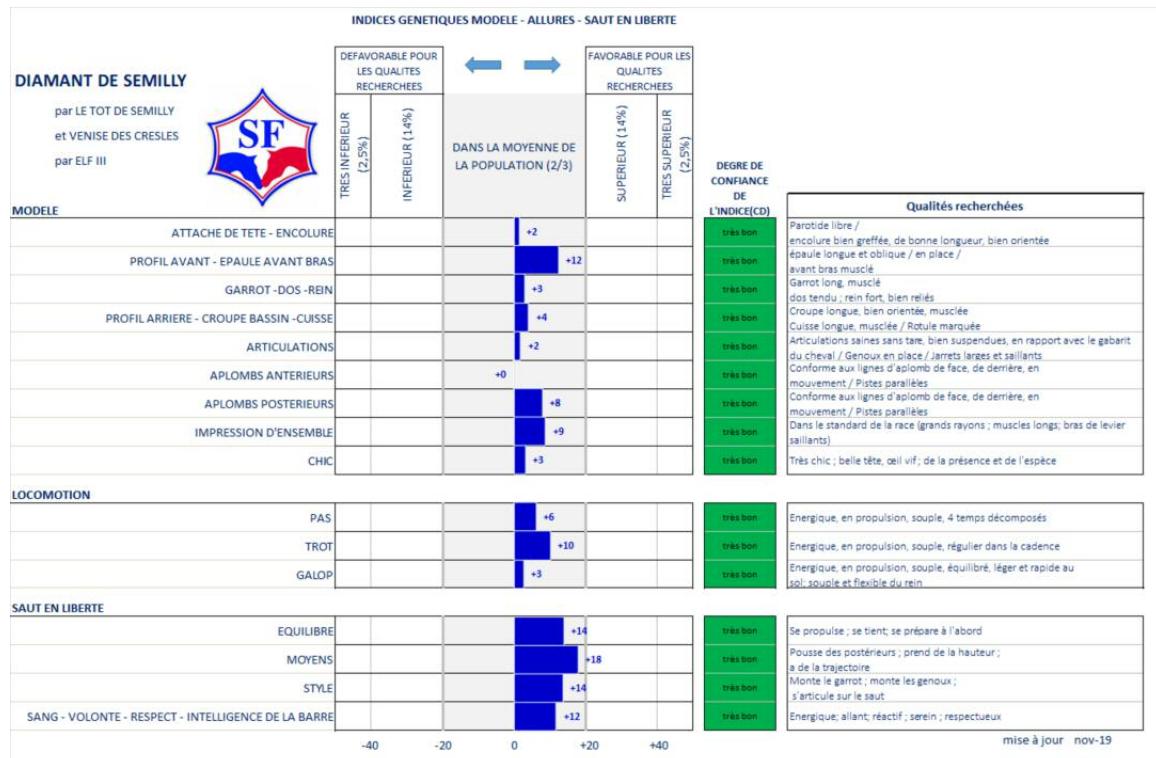
BSO = BLUP for showjumping

CD = Coefficient of determination

Number of products classified in the top 2,000 of the WBFSH rankings for the past 10 years.

Due to the complexity of the sample stallion entry below for Diamant de Semilly, we have only been able to publish it in French.

Sample stallion entry for Diamant de Semilly



CWHBA around the provinces: Breeding in The Maritimes

BY SARAH KING / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: RSM

The Canadian Maritimes is a coastal region of Eastern Canada comprising three provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The word ‘maritime’ means ‘of the sea’ and this association brings a strong tourism industry to the area. This is the second in the series of articles profiling the Warmblood breeding regions of Canada.

Nova Scotia boasts some incredible scenery and breathtaking coastline drives which take you through sought after tourist spots such as Peggy's Cove and Lunenburg, and into Cape Breton. Halifax hosts a large naval port and the province has a rich history associated with the arrival of immigrants and its American neighbours.

Prince Edward Island, also known as PEI, is an island situated off both the Nova Scotia peninsula and east of New Brunswick. It is the smallest province in Canada in both land area and population, however, it is the most densely populated. It also hosts one of the countries main veterinary colleges which also services the major emergencies for large animals in the Maritimes, particularly those for horse owners.

Our last province is New Brunswick and, unlike the other two, New Brunswick's terrain consists of 83% forested uplands. New Brunswick is also the least densely populated than the rest of the Maritime provinces.

Despite being far from many of the top horse show venues to the west of the Maritimes, equestrians are dedicated to their passion. For a Maritime equestrian to excel they must be prepared to travel long distances in order to compete and advance. Despite these challenges the area boasts a small but dedicated group of Warmblood breeders

in all three of its provinces.

One of its best known Warmblood stallions is Schwarzenegger (Hann), standing at Aileron Stables in PEI. Imported from Germany by Ruth Hansel packer, ‘Schwarz’ has been a favorite for both dressage and jumper breeding. He is a sought-after stallion as his offspring are known for their super basic gates, great rideability, and dual talent. Also standing at Aileron is Dauphin, son of the legendary Donnerhall. Dauphin is on the top list of the Hanoverian breed for type with many of his offspring mares in breeding having been awarded the coveted ‘states premium’ title.

The 2018 Canadian Warmblood stallion performance test champion, Bon Baloubet, is standing at Picket Hill Equestrian Centre in New Brunswick. Bon Baloubet’s great grandsire was the almighty Olympic gold medallist, Baloubet du Rouet. This young stallion was awarded 10s across the board for his character, temperament, and willingness, and nine for his rideability. His talent for jumping is outstanding and was evident when he placed first at Angelstone International in the first round for the five-year-old young horse series. His first offspring arrived this spring and are showing themselves to be flashy, easy to handle, and with a solid build.

Piccolo is standing at Steele Family Warmbloods in Nova Scotia. Piccolo’s sire is the famous Westfalian Peking, and his grandsire on his dam’s side is Ehrentush, champion stallion and sire of Olympic horses. Piccolo is at the beginning of his breeding career and is looking at having a big future both as a stallion and competition horse.

The dedication of Warmblood breeders and the quality of their stallions means that despite being regionally isolated from mainland competition and connectivity, they are securely on the map of quality Warmblood breeding in Canada. ■



CWHBA test champion 2018 Bon Baloubet (Bon Balou - Highfalutin' Miss) with Massimiliano Cortis



Verso La Natura: Bringing new blood to Polish breeders

BY AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: OLIWIA CHMIELEWSKA

Verso La Natura outside Szczecin, Poland, lies near the Polish-German border and is an equestrian center and stallion station that attracts Polish breeders looking for their unique offer of young showjumping stallions of a very modern type. Natalia Czernik and her partner Bartosz Adamus have invested time, effort and of course financial resources into bringing some ‘fresh blood’ to Polish showjumping arenas.

They encourage Polish breeders to try new options instead of sticking to well-known breeding lines. And these ‘new options’ come from recognized European bloodlines. Their stallions include, among others: Fiston de Bo Z (Flipper d'Elle x Calvaro Z) bred in 2016 by Philippe Bormans, the winner of the Z Festival, Lanaken 2019; More Than Special MG (I'm Special de Muze x Cento), bred in 2017 by M.I.H. Gubbels; Casamba (Casall x Heraldik xx), bred in 2015 by Joost Van Riet; U2 (Uriko x Stakkato) bred in 2014 by Katrin Kleon; and the grey Everdi (Verdi TN x Cassini I) bred in 2009 by E. Gaudiano.

Natalia Czernik, a showjumper with 20 years experience and the member of Polish national team is sure to know what qualities to look for in a modern jumping horse. That's what Czernik explains about the origin of VLN, the selection of the horses, and the plans for the station: “The name Verso La Natura comes from the name of our first stallion NC Verso Red Wine (Vigo d'Arsouilles x Mr. Blue/aka Burg's Mr. Blue) bred by Małgorzata Siergiej. Verso means heading somewhere. When I work with horses I want our relationship to be based on partnership and understanding. When I train my horses I focus on reaching common ground, that's working from the ground is so important, the training itself can't be stressful,

it has to be interesting and diverse so our horses understand what we want from them. I do my best to make my horses get rid of all the extra energy to help them loosen up and feel secure around us. Of course, we should respect each other, so I never let them take over the leadership.

“Two or three years ago we had four licensed stallions. At that time it all happened naturally which of course was kind of risky and eventually we gave it up. Then my partner Bartosz Adamus came with the idea to organize a professional stallion station. Over time we managed to gather a good range of young and older stallions and decided to make them available to other breeders. The stallions we offer are very diverse in terms of their origins, character and exterior so everyone will find something right for themselves.

“I have always liked selecting young horses judging by their potential in free jumps which allows you to see their strength, technique, and willingness to jump. I don't think there is a special key to a perfect jumper – a horse has to be strong and willing to jump. In choosing the right stallion its pedigree is important, yet I sometimes follow my heart and intuition when buying a horse because I notice features which I'm sure will make him a good jumper. We buy interesting young horses at auctions and sometimes directly from the breeders we cooperate with. Officially our station, with professional areas to collect and store semen as well as a modern and well-equipped laboratory, has been launched this year.

“We have nine stallions available for breeding at the moment, but that number will change every year since we have many talented young stallions of very interesting pedigrees in the house. In total we have 21 stallions currently at our stables. When it comes to broodmares we select mares already experienced in sport, or their daughters who are foaling at a young age before starting their sport career. That will help us judge their breeding value.

“Our offer is mainly addressed to Polish breeders and those interested in fresh semen and the range of many different stallions. We are able to deliver semen almost everywhere and, hopefully, when pandemic is over we will also be available to breeders from Germany because our station is located right on the Polish-German border.

“We offer only showjumping horses because that's our



l-r: Natalia Czernik/Everdi, Denis Monticolo, Bartosz Adamus



Casamba (Casall x Heraldik xx), bred in 2015 by Joost Van Riet

speciality. I've been a showjumper myself for 20 years, and my partner, Bartosz, has taken up horseriding again after a 15-year break. He has already come up with many interesting ideas such as the stallion station and the competitions we organize at the VLN centre. The pedigrees of our stallions are very versatile, for example our stallion Casamba (Casall x Heraldik xx) is getting popularity among eventing breeders and he is also a very good eventing prospect himself.

"Our plan for the future is first of all to build trust and credibility among our clients and to create a brand that is well recognized, not only in Poland but in the wider equestrian world. For the time being VLN outside Poland is mainly associated with sport because we participate in many competitions and events. My dream is to find and bring to Poland a skewbald stallion. There are only a few such stallions of great showjumping bloodlines available for breeding – some by Diamant de Semilly. No wonder they are in demand and quite expensive – I would love to find such a stallion.

"We are one of a very few showjumping stallion stations registered in Poland. We are not only licensed but also offer diversity. Our stallions come from different bloodlines, each has a different built or a different personality and can be a good match to many mares depending on the values of an individual mare we would like to improve. We also invest a lot in the sporting development of our stallions by promoting them at major events. This helps us see how they grow and improve in terms of both their sport and breeding values. Every year we present our young horses at the international shows in Spain, Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and in Slovakia. Our older horses also compete outside Europe, for instance in Morocco in three-, four- and five-star classes.

"What really matters most to me as a professional showjumper is that my horse fulfills my sporting expectations. Bloodlines are not that important in my case. It may even happen that there is a well-known stallion that I don't fancy but I fall in love with his offspring which I adore working with, or I simply love watching him working with another rider and my prejudice towards that stallion evaporates. Seriously, I love horses endowed with Thoroughbred just like our Casamba (Casall x Heraldik xx), you never know what to expect. It can be a huge asset but you

also have to be very careful because of his temper. Yet when Casamba enters the showjumping arena, he turns into a great competitor, wants to show off and does his best to win.

"I am also a huge fan of the damline of our More Than Special MG – his sire is I'm Special de Muze, not my favourite, but his dam comes from the great lines of Cento x Heartbreaker. That's what attracted me to him in the first place and it turned out that I made the right choice. He's one of my favourite horses in the stables and possesses all the features needed for the highest quality showjumping horse.

"A modern sport horse differs from the type that used to dominate showjumping arenas a while ago. Old German and French 'heavy' lines have been replaced by the lighter, faster, and smarter Dutch and Belgium lines. The courses are now designed differently, they're not focused on the horse's strength and endurance, a horse needs to have fast reactions and be more agile because everything happens much quicker these days. Still, there are horses of an older type who are fast and great jumpers. For some time now even the hermetic Holstein breed has been opening the gates to foreigners such as BWP, KWPN, and SF. Some time meaning more than a decade, so here in Poland we're also becoming more future-oriented and more breeders are open to modern bloodlines instead of being stuck in well-known ruts.

"When searching for a good showjumper I always pay attention to its strength, willingness to fight, as well as mindfulness and accuracy. Without these features a horse can't turn into a good sport horse. However, many horses without great jumping technique have proven to be very successful in this sport.

"Of course physical features also have to be taken into consideration. My ideal sport horse is perfectly built with long legs, not a long square barrel, correctly placed neck – not too high or too low. These features are crucial when it comes to a horse's rideability, natural engagement of haunches, correct canter, and neck position. Agility, speed and fast reaction time have also become very valuable in recent times that's why it's worth investing in Thoroughbred horses. My ideal horse needs to have the perfect jumping technique, working from its neck, front legs and croup." ■



Fiston de Bo Z (Flipper d'Elle x Calvado Z) bred in 2016 by Philippe Bormans

The best breeding boosts power for Pender

BY NADIA REA / HSI BREEDING DEPARTMENT

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRIVATE COLLECTION, JUMPINACTION PHOTOGRAPHY,
FEI/PETER VAN DEN BULCK, AND FEI/NANNA-RIIKKA NIEMINEN

We are all aware of Mikey Pender's outstanding achievements at just 19 and 20 years of age, winning multiple puissances, derbys and ranking classes, but where did it all begin? Horse Sport Irelands Breeding department recently caught up with the young showjumping sensation and his hardworking family at his home farm.

Mikey Pender hails from the heart of Ireland's equestrian breeding county. Madges Lane Stables is located just outside Castledermot in Co. Kildare. This family-run farm is managed by Mikey's grandad Mick Pender, grandmother Bernie Pender, and mum AnnMarie Pender.

Mick Pender tells us how it all began. "Over 30 years ago I started the breeding operation here in Madges Lane with my Al-Barek (Thoroughbred) mare Killerg Beauty (ISH). I started breeding her in 1989. She was a really good broodmare. I loved all the traditional bloodlines taking her to Laughtons Flight (ISH), Sky Boy (TB), Ghareeb (TB) or Ballinvella (TB). The injection of Thoroughbred blood always worked well with my mares and this made them very sellable. One cross that worked particularly well for me with this mare was the Sky Boy cross. These traditionally bred

progeny sold well to Italy. However, I did keep one of these mares, Step to the Sky (ISH). She then bred Madges Lane Derek (ISH) who placed second as a four-year-old in the Young Event Horse League in the RDS (Royal Dublin Society) before being sold for eventing in England. AnnMarie then progressed with the breeding yard and developed Madges Lane riding school."

AnnMarie and Bernie Pender regaled with tales of the riding school days, with the latter laughingly describing Mick as the Pied Piper. "Mick always had a trail of eager children following him around the yard, whether it was to go check on the mares or to learn about the traits of certain horses and why they were targeted at various disciplines. Meanwhile AnnMarie taught lessons, correct grooming techniques, and stable management. There was always a buzz about the place and a great atmosphere."

Mikey soon latched on to the breeding yard and also began to ride on the school ponies at a very early age. AnnMarie recalls Mikey slipping off to join the mares and foals in the field as early as three years of age. "He was always infatuated with all types of horses not just ponies. He had a genuine love for them. I never worried about him with horses even when he would wander off to see the mares and foals. While I always watched on he just had a natural understanding of all things equine. As he got older it became obvious that Mikey was a very talented rider. He began producing 128cm, 138cm and 148cm ponies at just eight years of age. People used to come with ponies to the yard for Mikey to ride. Then we would bring their ponies to various country shows for him to ride and school them. It was always a family affair, Dad (Mick) would drive the truck of ponies while Mum (Bernie) would have the day's lunch made, and we would all head off together. At this point our riding school was coming to an end as the yard was getting too busy to accommodate lessons, and it was a worry to have large groups or young children around young horses and ponies. So sadly we closed the riding school and decided to concentrate on the breeding and production side."



Mikey – starting young



**Mikey Pender, his granddad Mick Pender, and Leah Hennessy
(Mikey's cousin)**

The first taste of success

Mikey had his first taste for success when he won the Pony Millstreet Discovery three years in a row. His hunger for ongoing success became stronger year after year competing at the largest international events in Europe riding a string of Irish ponies. In 2013 Mikey had individual wins in Arezzo and Hagen on board Blackwoodland Rock (CP). This 17-year-old Connemara pony stallion is by I Love You Melody (CP) and out of Grey Rock Trish (CP), by Derrigragh Robin (CP). The pony was bred by Anthony and Janice Linden and owned by Paddy Quinlan before being sold in 2014 to Estonia.

Mikey then continued to excel with his new ride Doon Laddie (CP), a pony by Silver Shadow (CP), out of Doon Kate (CP), by Island Lad (CP) and was bred by the late former CPBS President John Luskin. Mikey added; "I had great success in Millstreet and the RDS on Doon Laddie winning the 148cm pony championship, and then on Cul Ban Mistress in Barbizon (France). This pony was also by Silver Shadow. I do love the Irish breeding and bloodlines. These ponies in particular were always a hardy type and showed extreme bravery in the arena when we needed speed and scope. These ponies definitely set me up for the bigger horses and courses to come."

"I began working with Marion Hughes, Miguel Bravo and all the team at HHS (Hughes Horse Stud) shortly after, and became more active in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook series and young horse classes in Ireland. Both our horses from Madges Lane and HHS are all produced through the ISH Studbook Series. Grandad (Mick) and Granny (Bernie) go to all these classes and enjoy watching the horses they've bred and still own compete on the national stage at Ireland's best venues. My first international win for HHS was in

the Millstreet international spring tour in April 2016 on HHS Hercules (ISH). Which later sold to the US.

"At this time in 2016 Team Z7 horses were based in HHS and Marion had bred two of these herself which were particularly special for me. I was selected by the chef d'équipe, Comdt. John Ledingham, to compete in the WBFSH Young Horse Championships in Lanaken on Z Seven Caretina (ISH,) this mare is by Coltaire Z (Zang) and out of Caretina (Holst), by Caretino (Holst). Z7 Canya Dance (ISH) is by Can Ya Makan (Holst) and out of HHS Chantilly Lace (ISH), by Cavalier Royale (Holst).

"I had two extremely quick rounds in the five-year-old final in Lanaken and I was delighted to receive not one but two medals with these home-bred mares. I also won the six-year-old consolation class with our own Curra Clover Flight (ISH) which we bought from John Kearny in Wexford. We then sold her and she was on the winning European children-on-horses team in Sweden. Winning silver and bronze in Lanaken is a feeling like no other, it was so special for all involved. Mum, grandad, and granny were there for it all, while Brendan Doyle who manages the yard in HHS was on hand to watch these two mares take silver and bronze. Brendan foaled these two mares in 2011, and handled and broke them since. It's a huge sense of accomplishment for all the team.

"However, I have been successful since then with HHS Vancouver (ISH) winning bronze in 2018 and Chacco Bay (Oldbg) winning silver in last year's five-year-old final just behind Jason Foley with Rockwell RC (ISH). Then I was also



Mikey Pender



Winning podium for WBCYH 6yo age-group, Lanaken, 2019 : l-r Michael Pender (IRL) silver, Katrin Eckermann (GER) gold, Jeroen Apllelen (BEL) bronze

second on MHS Cardenta (ISH). She is by Cardento (Holst) out of Willow Point (ISH), by Diamond Serpent (ISH) and was bred by Marion's cousin Thomas Brennan and now owned by HHS. Lanaken is a show like no other. My family wouldn't miss it for the world. Its an army of green at all the arenas when we jump. The team spirit of every individual representing the Irish studbook is second to none. Its definitely the stuff dreams are made of for all breeders, owners, riders, and producers. My next job is to bring home a gold medal and then my collection is complete."

So the question we all want to know is, what is next for the young showjumper and for all at Madges Lane? AnnMarie explains that they are very excited about their first batch of embryos from their mare Madges Lane Karol (ISH). She is by OBOS Quality and out of Clearwater Bay (ISH), by Master Imp (TB). "We have three Dignified van't Zorgvliet (BWP) embryos and two Luidam (SF) embryos."

Mike continues: "Luidam is probably one of my favourite stallions. They all seem to have a great brain, they are so brave and rideable, I am looking forward to seeing what these two embryos do. The Dignified van't Zorgvliet three-year-olds look very promising and are proving to be very popular on the national circuit. They are a very sellable type and seem to be quiet successful in eventing."

This year Mikey has 12 horses registered to compete at international FEI competitions. Nine of these are registered in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook and have been produced through national young horse competitions. While Mikey is now ranked 77th in the Longines world rankings, he still intends to produce young horses at home as he has done in previous years. When asked how many young horses he has for this years Irish Sport Horse studbook series and young

horse classes Mikey smiles and says "between 10 and 15, but that number is always changing and I have already had two away competing with me this year. I am so fortunate to have a really nice bunch of five-, six-, and seven-year-old horses. While I'm away competing the team in HHS and at home in Madges Lane keep everything going. I am so lucky in so many ways."

Last years success on Hearton du Bois Halleux (Harold) gave so much enjoyment to equestrians all over the world. The partnership between Mikey and Harold was a sight to behold as they put on a display of exactly how the Hickstead Derby should be ridden and won, while making history and setting records. After winning numerous puissance

classes, Harold proved that he was so much more than a one-trick pony. Mikey explained; "He is so strong and eager to please when I ride him. He loved every minute of the Derby



Mikey course walking with Robyn McOwen (Marion Hughes' niece)



Michael Pender (IRL) riding Chacco Bay, silver medal winners at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Lanaken, Belgium, 2019

and we cannot wait to try again this year. That horse has opened so many doors for me and has captured the hearts of so many at every show he attends. He is the horse of a lifetime and I am so grateful to have him. Sometimes I wonder if mum more proud of him or me? Mum spoils him when I'm not there, he has the first stable in the yard at home where he can see everything and has the best turn out paddock, where he is at the moment enjoying his well earned break."

This year, however, brings new excitement and goals for Mikey as he has been embraced into the Global Champions Tour team competition. Mikey will compete alongside the best in the world with the St Tropez Pirates – the team that includes Athina Onassis, Pieter Devos, Olivier Robert, Daniel Deusser, Dani G. Waldman, and Mikey. "This is a huge achievement for me and I am so excited to get started."

While there is always talk of Mikey relocating to compete full time abroad there is no question in his mind. "I am such a home bird and I always love to come back after being

away at busy shows. I will often feel homesick when checking in at home, so my family stagger their time to attend a lot of shows with me too. I enjoy the relationship we have built between HHS and Madges Lane. As we expand our home yard I'm excited to see what the future brings but home will always be where my heart is." ■



*Winning podium for WBCYH 5yo age-group, Lanaken, 2019
l-r: Michael Pender (IRL), silver; Jason Foley (IRL), gold; Emma Stoker (GBR), bronze*

KWPN Online Foal Auctions: Everything in one package

BY CHARLOTTE DEKKER / KWPN

Events are cancelled, physical auctions transform into online auctions. The horse world is going through major changes. The KWPN Online Foal Auctions have been a known digital concept in the equestrian world for years now. Not only can you buy a good quality and interestingly bred KWPN foal, KWPN also offers the opportunity to completely unburden you as a buyer. We can arrange transportation, rearing, and insurance, so that means a custom package deal for you!

Most foals and embryos sold through the KWPN online auctions face their future abroad. Buyers from all over the world have invested in KWPN foals by means of the KWPN Online Foal Auctions, and international horse transportation from Holland offers a lot of chances and opportunities.

As from the end of April, it is possible to ship horses abroad from different locations in Holland. A positive development with respect to the upcoming online foal auctions. Pascale Drijfhout, working for the transport company Horses2Fly, has a positive attitude; "Fortunately, trade is no longer at a standstill. Certification for destinations in Europe and America is possible once again. Also, flying to other countries is in a start-up phase. We notice that plenty of young horses as well as ridden horses are being transported again. That is a good sign for horse trade in general."

When you buy a foal through the KWPN Online Foal Auctions, Horses2Fly offers plenty of transportation options, but they can also arrange rearing for you which means that, as a buyer, you have absolutely nothing to worry about.

Stabilization in prices

The online auctions are popping up everywhere in this coronavirus time. In the first quarter of 2020, almost 800 horses were sold online. An increase of 36% compared to last year in the same period. A lot of foals and embryos have passed the €20,000 mark. For example, 80 of the 161 embryos were sold for an average price of €15,000, while 44 were sold for over €20,000. The results of the first KWPN Online Broodmare and Embryo Auction held in early February are in line with the aforementioned numbers.

For example, an embryo by Le Formidable out of the dam of KWPN stallion Vivaldi sold for €38,000, while an embryo of For Pleasure out of a mare by Kannan who had already produced two 1m60 horses went to Australia for €14,500. The genetic level of the foals as well as the embryos offered in the first quarter, was very high, but the market does not seem saturated, and prices appear to have stabilized.

That is easy to understand, since buyers are able to

compare prices between the different auctions and allocate a fair price to an embryo or foal.

Transparency generates trust

The major difference between the KWPN Online Foal Auctions and other foal auctions is the efforts of the KWPN inspector. From KWPN, Wim Versteeg is involved with all sales activities; "All the foals are judged by an inspector for correctness and by a veterinarian for health. Foals that are not acceptable are simply not sold in the auction. If a foal has a minor flaw, a potential buyer can read that in the online report accompanying the foal. That makes everything very transparent."

At a physical auction, mentioning these minor flaws is sometimes omitted, since buyers can inspect the foal themselves. "A lot of potential buyers use the possibility to call the KWPN inspector. They can see the foals online, but the inspector has seen them in real life. It is very useful for bidders to talk to an inspector who has checked out the foal, without any interest. This transparency generates trust and we are determined to live up to this trust again this summer. Buyers can assume that the foals are correct and stand well on their legs."

Conformation predicates important

The KWPN is known for its selection system and predicates. Paula de Jong, one of the loyal buyers at the KWPN Online Foal Auction, sees the added value of this when she buys a foal online. "When I buy for one of my customers, I look at the damline. I find it important for example, that a mare that has competed in sports, and also has received the elite predicate. When I see a foal book mare in the damline, I always wonder if the mare maybe was not correct enough. Especially online, the conformation predicates truly are important. Even when more sport results come out of the direct damline, I always like to see the dams of auction foals to be in the studbook, wear the ster predicate but preferably are elite. In that way, I have the confirmation that they are correct and have no deficits."

Clearly Laid Out Website

The auction website www.kwpn.auction is very clearly laid out, with the information about the damline of a foal and performances being clear at a glance. In one click, you can check out the pictures and videos. Registering as a bidder is also very simple and free of charge. Users from all over the world have found their way to the auction website and appreciate the KWPN foal!

Service for everyone

Do you wish to buy a foal at the KWPN Online Foal Auctions, you can rely on the following:

- The foal is judged by a KWPN inspector and a veterinarian, with information provided on request
- You can find pictures, a video, and information about the damline and performances on the auction website
- Registering as a bidder is easy and free of charge. We are happy to help you and keep you posted throughout the entire auction season
- Do you need help arranging transportation? We can

take this off your hands

- Would you like the foal to be reared in Holland. You can also allow to arrange this for you, too
 - We can take care of insuring the foal on your behalf.
- In this way, you don't only invest in the future, but you also ensure the foal a perfect start!

First collection online June 29

This year, more KWPN Foal Auctions than ever before will be organized. The complete list of dates can be found below, so check out the collections on www.kwpn.auction.

- June 29 – collection online, auction closes July 6
- August 3 – collection online, auction closes August 10
- August 17 – collection online, auction closes August 24
- September 7 – collection online, auction closes September 14
- September 21 – collection online, auction closes September 28
- October 5 – collection online, auction closes October 12

The screenshot shows the KWPN Online Veulenveiling 1 website. At the top, there's a banner with the KWPN logo and the text "Upcoming auction". Below the banner, it says "3RD JULY | 10:00 > 6TH JULY | 20:00" and "KWPN Online Veulenveiling 1". There's a "Discover collection" button. On the left, there's a box with text about the success of previous auctions and a smaller KWPN logo. On the right, there's a section titled "First upcoming auctions" with three entries: KWPN ONLINE VEULENVEILING 2 (7th August | 10:00, 10th August | 20:00), KWPN ONLINE VEULENVEILING 3 (28th August | 10:00, 31st August | 20:00), and KWPN ONLINE VEULENVEILING 4 (11th September | 10:00, 14th September | 20:00). Each entry has "START" and "END" icons. At the bottom right, there's a "more" button.

Safely managing embryo transfer in competition mares

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PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI DOKOUPIL, LAFRENTZ, AND DIGISHOTS

Embryo transfer (ET) is an accepted and successful technique for obtaining foals from mares without interrupting their competition careers. Recent research, however, suggests that the potential of factors including heat, exercise, repeated embryo flushing, and repeated manipulation of the reproductive cycle using exogenous hormones to have a negative impact on fertility may have been underestimated.

This paper reviews the evidence base for involvement of these factors in repeated failures to recover embryos from nongeriatic competition mares without obvious clinical or pathological indications of reproductive abnormalities. It concludes that, for some mares at least, a cessation of exercise for the periovulatory period and the period between ovulation and embryo flushing, combined with careful management of flushing-induced endometritis, and minimal hormonal manipulation of the reproductive cycle, may be necessary to optimise embryo recovery rates. Mare owners may have been encouraged to request ET for their mares following high-profile examples in the media of elite mares that have produced foals by ET whilst competing. The veterinarian should educate mare owners about the multiple factors that may affect the chances of recovering an embryo from their mares, and should manage the expectations of mare owners so that they do not approach ET programmes in the expectation that there will be no disruption to their training and competition plans.

Introduction

Equine embryo transfer (ET) has long been promoted as a means of breeding from competition mares before they undergo an age-associated reduction in fertility, without interrupting their athletic careers (Squires et al. 1999; Sitizenstock et al. 2013). This has been particularly beneficial in mares competing in sports such as dressage and eventing, in which many years of training are necessary before horses reach elite levels of competition. High-profile examples of competition mares producing foals by ET have helped to increase the uptake of ET technology amongst mare owners, and to persuade them that they can have the best of both worlds by reaping the simultaneous benefits of their mares' competitive and reproductive success.

Industry-wide, ET has undoubtedly proved a commercial success, and a useful tool for breeding from competition mares. What was, in the early days, a surgical technique with associated risks for the recipient mare has been refined, over the years, into a nonsurgical technique (Squires et al. 1982;

Vanderwall and Woods 2007). There remains a persistent lack of a reliable, commercially available means of superovulating mares (Squires et al. 1999; Hinrichs 2012). Difficulties with freezing and thawing equine embryos (Stout 2012) have meant that in practice it is still commonly necessary to have a synchronised donor mare available at the time of embryo flushing, which is expensive. Despite these limitations, nonsurgical ET offers a good chance of producing a recipient pregnancy and a live birth of the donor's foal (Hartman 2011).

Notwithstanding this overall success, however, many of us who work in the field of equine ET can readily recall cases in which we have struggled to recover embryos from mares that, on paper, ought to have been ideal embryo donors. Given the economic investment that owners spend on artificial insemination and ET programmes, the planning required to fit around competition schedules, and the time veterinarians spend organising and executing the reproductive procedures, such cases can prove very frustrating for everyone concerned.

Embryo transfer is probably the most widely used artificial reproductive technique in mares other than artificial insemination (Hartman 2011). Yet its widespread practice is increasingly tempered by research into management factors affecting fertility (Mortensen et al. 2009; Vazquez et al. 2010; Kelley et al. 2011; Smith et al. 2012; Fazio et al. 2013), which suggests that breeding from competition mares may not be as straightforward as early advocates of ET suggested. The combined implication of a number of recent papers reviewed below is to suggest that Professor Jardine's 'words of caution' might be justified when managing competition mare owners' expectations. Disruption to training and competition schedules, for some mares at least, may be necessary to optimise embryo recovery rates. The aims of this paper are to review the evidence base about management factors that might limit embryo recovery rates in nongeriatic competition mares, and to suggest how mare management might be adapted to minimise the impact of those factors.

Success rates with equine nonsurgical ET

According to a survey presented by Patrick McCue of Colorado State University for the 2010 American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention (McCue 2010), embryo recovery rates are affected by age and fertility of the donor mare, the quality of the sire's semen, the day of recovery, the number of ovulations, and clinical expertise. Embryo recovery rate is correlated with age and reproductive status of the donor mare. A higher percentage of embryos are recovered from mares aged <10 years than from mares aged >15 years (McCue 2010). Any reproductive abnormality of the donor mare inevitably reduces embryo recovery rates. Endometritis of the donor mare, although it does not necessarily preclude embryo recovery, reduces the chances of the embryo surviving in the recipient mare after transfer (Hartman 2011).

Generally, assuming clinical competence, if there is an embryo there then it will be recovered (McCue 2010; Hartman 2011). Recovery rates are therefore broadly reflective of per-cycle conception rates that, industry-wide and dependent upon clinical competence and mare and stallion variation, are around 60 to 77% for fresh, 44% for chilled, and 46% for frozen semen (Squires et al. 2006).

Definition of 'competition' mares

The mares of interest for the purposes of this review are those from which there is a repeated failure to recover an embryo (or much lower recovery rates than expected) despite them being nongeriatric and in good general health; medication-free (other than reproductive hormones – see below); having no identified systemic illness or lameness issues; having no detectable abnormalities on a breeding soundness examination, and being inseminated and flushed by a competent veterinarian using good quality semen of known fertility. Often, these are mares participating in disciplines such as three-day eventing, reining, endurance, polo, dressage, and showjumping. Mares in which there is a detectable reproductive abnormality or management issue that explains failure to recover an embryo at the time of flushing are not considered in this paper.

It seems increasingly possible that the 'fertility of the donor mare' identified as one of the factors limiting embryo recovery rates (McCue 2010) is affected by the way in which we manage

competition mares in ET programmes.

Repeated embryo recovery attempts

Repeated acute endometritis may result in chronic degenerative fibrotic changes to the equine endometrium (Hoffman et al. 2009). One study (Aurich et al. 2011) demonstrated no alteration in the embryo recovery rate with an increasing number of successive embryo collections. However, other work has demonstrated a positive correlation between repeated embryo recovery attempts and chronic inflammatory changes in the uterus (Carnevale et al. 2005). In clinical practice there is 'substantial evidence' that repeated embryo recovery attempts can result in acute bacterial endometritis and chronic endometrial inflammation (Hartman 2011). Repeated embryo recovery attempts may therefore result in a reduction in embryo recovery rates from a particular mare over time, and flushing-induced endometritis can limit the number of embryos recovered from a mare in one year. Some authors also contend that the fact that mares used as donors for many years never foal themselves has a detrimental effect on the ability of their cervices to dilate, making them increasingly prone to endometritis (Riera 2011).

The effect of heat on fertility

The effect of exercise, which caused an increase in rectal temperature (from 38°C to a mean of 39.9°C), on mare reproductive efficiency was evaluated by comparing rates of embryo recovery from mares assigned to either an exercise regimen or a nonexercise (control) regimen (Mortensen et



Maikel van der Vleuten riding KWPN mare Dana Blue (Mr. Blue - Tulana x Hemmingway)

al. 2009). Exercised mares were worked daily for 30 minutes under average ambient conditions of >30°C and >50% humidity. Mares were inseminated during oestrus and subjected to uterine flush for embryo recovery on 'day seven' after ovulation for two consecutive cycles. After this, mares were allocated to the opposite group and allowed an oestrous cycle without reproductive manipulation. Insemination and uterine flushing were then conducted on two more consecutive cycles. Embryo recovery from control mares was 63%. Overall, there was an almost 50% reduction in embryo recovery rates in mares that were exercised throughout their reproductive cycle under hot and humid conditions. Fewer embryos were recovered from exercised mares (34%) compared to control mares (63%) ($P<0.05$). The proportion of embryos classified as grade 1 tended to be less in exercised than in nonexercised mares (36% compared to 73%; $P = 0.051$). These results are consistent with results for cattle, where heat stress during the periovulatory and fertilisation period has been shown to retard embryonic development and lead to lower quality embryos being recovered (Putney et al. 1988). The work of Mortensen et al. (2009) suggests that heat stress (due to

exercise or other causes) can be a limiting factor in embryo recovery in competition mares.

The effect of exercise on fertility

The effect of exercise as distinct from that of temperature on fertility (Smith et al. 2012) was assessed by exercising mares moderately in conditions that gave rise to a smaller increase in rectal temperature than that reported in the study of Mortensen et al. (2009). The study of Smith et al. (2012) also tried to determine whether, if exercise does have a detrimental effect on fertility, that negative effect is on early embryonic development or on conception. The study assessed the effect of differing exercise protocols on reproductive blood flow and embryo recovery and quality. Light-horse mares were randomised into control, partial-exercised and full-exercised groups. Partial-exercised mares were moderately exercised for 30 minutes daily during the periovulatory period, but rested after ovulation for 7 days. Full-exercised mares were exercised for 30 minutes every day of their reproductive cycle. All mares were artificially inseminated during oestrus, and embryo recovery was performed seven days post ovulation. Blood flow through both ovarian arteries and vascular perfusion of the wall of the preovulatory follicle were examined by colour Doppler ultrasonography (Gastal 2011). Serum cortisol concentrations were measured in blood samples taken from all mares immediately before exercise and 30 minutes after completion of exercise for the first and final reproductive cycles.

The results of Smith et al. (2012) showed that, consistent with an earlier study (Kelley et al. 2011), exercise induced greater serum cortisol concentrations. Embryo recovery rates were 43% in exercised mares compared with 67% in control mares ($P<0.10$). However, embryo recovery rates for partial-exercised (44%) and full-exercised (43%) mares were not significantly different. Fewer grade one embryos were recovered from partial-exercised mares compared with both control and full-exercised mares ($P<0.05$).

Blood flow through both ovarian arteries was greater in both exercised groups in the days leading up to ovulation ($P<0.05$) (Smith et al. 2012). However, vascular perfusion of the wall of the preovulatory follicle on the day before ovulation was less in both partial-exercised and fully exercised mares compared to control mares ($P<0.05$). In exercised mares, vascular perfusion of the follicle wall was positively correlated with the likelihood of recovering an embryo.

The findings of Smith et al. (2012) support



Trakehner mare TSF Dalera (Easy Game - Dark Magic x Handryk) ridden by Jessica von Bredow-Werndl (GER)

previous work that has demonstrated a positive correlation between vascularity of the preovulatory follicle and pregnancy rates in cattle (Siddiqui et al. 2009) and horses (Silva et al. 2006; Gastal and Gastal 2011), and between vascularity of the preovulatory follicle and embryo recovery rate in women (Coulam et al. 1999).

Smith et al. (2012) concluded that 'exercise... was detrimental to embryo recovery rate'. The results of the study by Smith et al. (2012) suggest that even quite moderate exercise under nonextreme conditions can reduce embryo recovery rates in mares. Furthermore, the effect of exercise on embryo recovery rates appears to be related to exercise during the periovulatory period. Because the negative effect of exercise on embryo recovery rates occurred whether or not mares were rested in the period between insemination and embryo flushing, it probably occurs at the level of conception, not of early embryo development.

One possible explanation for exercise having a negative impact on conception is that exercise causes a general disruption of follicular development and maturation. A combination of mechanisms seems to be responsible for this disruption, which is reflected in decreased vascular perfusion of the wall of the preovulatory follicle (Gastal and Gastal 2011; Smith et al. 2012). Exercise increases circulating cortisol levels (Kelley et al. 2011; Smith et al. 2012) and reduces plasma concentrations of luteinising hormone (LH) (Kelley et al. 2011). Increased follicle blood flow, along with a rapid increase in LH at the terminal stage of follicle maturation, is associated with successful meiosis resumption and normal completion of oocyte maturation (Gastal and Gastal 2011). Hence exercise-induced reduction in LH levels and vascular perfusion of the preovulatory follicle wall result in a reduced ability of the largest follicle to exert its dominance, delayed ovulation and increased interovulatory intervals (Kelley et al. 2011).

In contrast to the studies described above, work by Vazquez et al. (2010) and Pessoa et al. (2011) found that exercise under hot and humid conditions had no effect on embryo recovery rates. This discrepancy in the literature is perhaps unsurprising since anecdotally embryo recovery rates are good in some mares who continue to train and compete hard throughout an ET programme, suggesting that not all mares suffer a reduction in fertility as a result of



Mare DSP Alice (Askari - Landblume x Landrebell) with Simone Blum (GER)

heat or exercise stress. However, in some mares at least, exercise does seem to have a disruptive effect on follicular development and dynamics. In those mares where this does occur, it is likely not only to reduce pregnancy/embryo recovery rates (Silva et al. 2006; Gastal and Gastal 2011) but also (particularly where the number of recipients available is limited) to complicate management of ET competition mares by making synchronisation of donors and recipients more difficult.

Pessoa et al. (2011) suggest that one possible explanation for the fact that they failed to demonstrate an effect of exercise on embryo recovery rates whereas other authors demonstrated a negative effect (Smith et al. 2012) was that the mares in the study of Pessoa et al. (2011) were fitter, and therefore experienced a smaller increase in rectal temperature as the result of exercise. The suggestion that being fit increases embryo recovery rates in mares is an interesting one.

In women, to the contrary, even though exercise has been shown to have beneficial effects on reproductive health, excessive exercise can cause ovarian dysfunction (for review, see Orio et al. 2013). Perhaps the implication of the findings of Pessoa et al. (2011) is not so much that extreme fitness improves conception rates in mares as that lack of fitness combined with exposure to exercise can reduce them, by increasing the likelihood of exercise-associated heat stress.

The fact that experimentally interovulatory intervals are increased by exercise (Kelley et al. 2011) might support the idea that fitness in mares has some bearing on ovarian function. One way of minimising the effect of this possibility would be to schedule ET attempts for outside the mare's

busy training and competition season. That would also minimise any negative effects on embryo recovery rate of exercise in the insemination/flushing period. Unfortunately, for the majority of equine sports, the competitive off-season is the winter, when most mares (being seasonal breeders) are not cycling. The effect of season on ET in mares is somewhat unclear. Aurich et al. (2011) reported no difference in embryo recovery rates at different times of year. However, pregnancy rates once embryos have been transferred into recipients may be affected by season: Squires et al. (1982) reported that their success rates were consistently lower across years for embryos transferred between March and June than for July to October. Those authors suggested that recipient mares might need to undergo one or two normal oestrus cycles within the physiological breeding season before pregnancy rates post transfer could be optimised.

Later work that reported the successful use of ovarioectomised mares (Hinrichs et al. 1985) or seasonally anoestrus mares treated with exogenous hormones (Kaecher et al. 2013) as ET recipients somewhat calls into question this suggestion of Squires et al. (1982). Nonetheless, the possibility remains that ET overall may be more successful during the physiological breeding season than outside it. At the very least, given the general difficulty in getting mares to cycle reliably outside of the physiological breeding season (see, for example, Nagy et al. 2000 and Murphy et al. 2014), synchronisation of donor and recipient may be easier during the physiological breeding season than outside it. This managerial factor is particularly important when there are only a limited number of recipients available per donor.

The effects of transportation on embryo recovery rates

The effects of exercise on circulating cortisol levels in the studies described above, and the consequent negative effect on fertility, suggest that anything that causes an increase in cortisol has the potential to reduce equine pregnancy/embryo recovery rates. The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis is activated by stress, physiological or psychological. In women, psychological stress is correlated with ovarian dysfunction, caused by high circulating stress hormones interfering with the timing of ovulation and shortening the luteal phase (Nakamura 2008). Activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis exerts an inhibitory effect on the female reproductive system. This is because corticotropin-releasing hormone inhibits hypothalamic gonadotropin-releasing hormone secretion, and glucocorticoids also inhibit pituitary luteinising hormone, ovarian oestrogen and ovarian progesterone secretion.

This mechanism is essentially the same as that implicated in disrupting ovarian function in exercised mares described above (Kelley et al. 2011). This raises the possibility that psychological as well as physical stress might have a negative effect on embryo recovery rates from competing mares.

Although earlier studies failed to demonstrate an effect of transportation on pregnancy rates (Baucus et al. 1990; Berghold et al. 2007), it is well recognised that transportation causes an increase in plasma cortisol levels in horses (Fazio et al. 2008), even when journey distances are short (Fazio et al. 2013). Tischner et al. (2006) measured stress responses to transportation in mares at different stages of the oestrus cycle and of pregnancy. These authors reported that 'the most intensive stress reaction (to transportation), measured by maximum rise in noradrenaline, adrenaline and cortisol, was shown in mares in diestrus and during the winter anestrus'. This suggests that competition mares being subjected to embryo transfer procedures could be particularly susceptible to stress if transported in the interval between insemination and flushing, when they are in dioestrus.

Given the negative effect of heat on equine embryo recovery rates demonstrated by Mortensen et al. (2009), it seems possible that the combined effect of stress and heat in mares that are 'bad travellers' is another factor that could limit embryo recovery rates in competition mares.



*Henrik von Eckermann (SWE) riding Westfalian mare
Toveks Mary Lou (Montendro I - Piña-Colada x Portland L NRW)*

The effect of repeated manipulation of the reproductive cycle on embryo recovery rates

Equine ET frequently involves manipulation of the reproductive cycle using exogenous hormones. This occurs particularly when the number of recipient mares per donor is limited (as is not uncommon in the UK), and/or when the intention is to maximise the number of embryos that can be recovered from a donor in one breeding season. Prostaglandin F2 is commonly used both to synchronise donors and recipients, and to short-cycle donors to re-breed them as quickly as possible following an embryo flush. One study suggested that use of PGF2 to induce oestrus is associated with reduced pregnancy rates in mares (Nielsen et al. 2008).

However, other authors found no difference in pregnancy rates between mares in which oestrus had been induced using PGF2 and control mares (Veronesi et al. 2003; Metcalf and Thompson 2010). It is therefore unclear whether the repeated use of PGF2 might be a contributing factor to unexplained low embryo recovery rates in some competition mares, particularly because different analogues of PGF2 were used in different studies, and the response of mares to PGF2 anyway varies depending upon the stage of their reproductive cycle at which it is administered (Newcombe et al. 2008).

Given that induction of oestrus is common in most equine reproductive practices, and that rates of embryo recovery are generally good, it seems unlikely that use of PGF2 generally exerts a significant negative effect on embryo recovery rates. However, the possibility remains that some mares to which PGF2 is repeatedly administered may suffer reduced pregnancy rates, and it is also true that if mares ovulate very soon after the administration of PGF2 (Newcombe et al. 2008) they may do so without the uterus undergoing much exposure to the low-progesterone-high-oestrogen environment usually associated with oestrus. This potentially has a negative effect on early embryo development (although this effect may be more important in recipients that have been short-cycled using PGF2 than it is in donors).

Implications for mare management

There is a dearth of published large-scale, clinical research studies from commercial ET centres looking at the effects of exercise, heat, and stress in competition mares. Data from such studies comparing embryo recovery rates for the same competition mare undergoing embryo flushing whilst at competition fitness and during periods of rest would be useful additions to the evidence base on this subject. Nonetheless, the research papers reviewed above combine to suggest that mare management can affect embryo recovery rates. It follows that, ideally, mares would not be exercised, nor exposed to events likely to induce heat-stress, psychological stress, or physical stress, either during the periovulatory period (which seems to be most crucial), or during the time between insemination and embryo

flushing. Equally, mares that are bad travellers would not be transported (for example to and from a clinic) in the periovulatory period, or during dioestrus post insemination. Embryo transfer procedures would probably ideally be scheduled during the physiological breeding season.

In those mares in which repeated embryo recovery attempts induce endometritis, uterine inflammation would be controlled between ET cycles to optimise embryo recovery and recipient pregnancy rates. Furthermore, since a negative effect of repeated manipulation of the reproductive cycle of donors and recipients on embryo recovery rates and survival rates post transfer cannot be ruled out, hormonal manipulation of the reproductive cycle would be minimised (which means that the number of potential recipients per donor would be high).

Conclusions

Embryo transfer is a useful and efficient means of breeding from mares that are still training and competing. The science on the effects of exercise and heat on conception is equivocal, and good embryo recovery rates industry-wide suggest that in many cases mares manage to conceive repeatedly and to donate embryos despite the stresses of training, competition and transportation. This is fortunate since the ideal management conditions specified above would be difficult to meet in the situation where large herds of recipient mares are few and far between, and donor mares need to keep competing.

Nonetheless, mare owners should not approach ET programmes in the expectation that there will be no disruption to their training and competition plans. It is in the interests of the owners as well as the veterinarians involved for everyone to understand at the outset that ET has the potential to deliver disappointment as well as success.

The research reviewed in this paper has elucidated the potential for exercise, heat and stress to disrupt ovarian function. In mares from which there is a repeated failure of embryo recovery in the absence of clinically detectable reproductive abnormality, these factors should be considered. For some mares at least, owners may have to accept that alterations to management are necessary, and that training as well as competition may have to cease entirely during the periovulatory period and the gap between insemination and flushing. Furthermore, to minimise the possible negative effect of repeated hormonal manipulations of the reproductive cycle on pregnancy rates, even those owners who are prepared to give their mares an 'easy week' around the time of insemination and flushing may need to be flexible about when that week occurs, rather than to expect to be able to dictate it based solely around competition schedules.

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**Isabell Werth (GER) riding Westfalian Staatsprämie mare Bella Rose
(Belissimo M - Cedra II x Cacir X)**

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Please note: While we have provided public hyperlinks for the referenced articles on websites at the time of uploading this issue of WBN, they may not remain online for viewing indefinitely.

FEI WBFSH DRESSAGE WORLD BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

It is with pleasure that the WBFSH can confirm the new dates for the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship 2020 as being December 9-13, 2020, in Verden,

The FEI and the WBFSH are pleased that this event, which has become an annual highlight for breeders, riders and dressage lovers, will also take place in 2020. The Championships for Young Horses focus on the connection between breeding and sport and continue to contribute to the development and improvement of top horses for the International sport.

The new dates, December 9-13, mean that the event this year will be held indoors and will take place in the Hanoverian Studbook's indoor show arena, the Niedersachsen Halle in Verden.

Studbooks and their national federations are requested by the WBFSH to carry out the selections for the postponed championships, according to the permissions that exist within each of their countries as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, in terms of holding equestrian events. The dates for nominations and final entries have not yet been published. The FEI and the host of the WBCYH Dressage will be working on this in the coming weeks and months.



Verden's Niedersachsen Halle is well known for the many events hosted by the Hanoverian Studbook, such as the stallion licensing, auctions etc.

DO WORLD YOUNG HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTANTS BECOME GRAND PRIX HORSES?

Yes, they do! Multiple contestants at the FEI/WBFSH World Young Horse Championships throughout the years have proven that the competitions provide a suitable platform for future Grand Prix dressage horses

In 2016, Eurodressage published an article about the many international dressage horses that have made it from the FEI/WBFSH World Young Horse Championships in dressage up to international FEI level either in small tour or at Grand Prix level.

The vast number of internationally successful horses at the highest level of the sport and with a first international appearance at the FEI/WBFSH World Young Horse Championships only confirm the value of this show where young talent from all over the world is gathered and celebrated.

Eurodressage listed top horses that were finalists at the FEI/WBFSH World Young Horse Championships in Verden (later also Ermelo) and have made it to the big international dressage ring such as Damon Hill (gold in 2005 and 2006), Totilas (4th in 2005), Painted Black (silver in 2003), Uzzo (gold in 2006, bronze 2007), Dablino (5th in 2006), Imperio (silver in 2008), Devereaux OLD (gold in 2007), Weihegold (11th in 2010),

■ **FEI WBFSH DRESSAGE WORLD BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIP 2020 TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER**

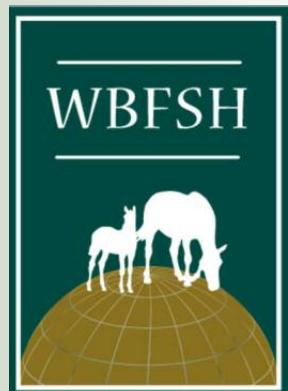
■ **Do WORLD YOUNG HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTANTS BECOME GRAND PRIX HORSES?**

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION FOR SPORT HORSES

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8320 MAARSLET
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WWW.WBFSH.ORG



UPDATE

Deja (10th in 2010) and Showtime (6th in 2011). These are just the highlights of a much larger group of internationally successful Grand Prix horses with a background in the World Young Horse Championships in dressage.

For more than two decades these championships were held for horses in two age-group categories, five- and six-year-olds, but since 2016 the World Young Horse Championships in dressage have also included seven-year-old horses. This led to new opportunities, so the DWB stallion Sezuan by Blue Hors Zack x Blue Hors Don Schufro (bred by Linette Jaeger) was the first to have the chance of winning the gold medal at three consecutive world championships, and under the saddle of German Dorothee Schneider Sezuan became the first triple world champion in 2016.

Just one year later, another Danish Warmblood horse emulated this unique performance. The mare Fiontini by Fassbinder x Blue Hors Romanov (bred by Henrik Hansen) became the second horse and the only mare to claim three world championship gold medals, ridden by Spain's Severo Jurado Lopez. Fiontini, now aged 10 years, made her debut in Grand Prix at the age of eight, and at the age of nine she scored above 83% in Grand Prix Freestyle at a CDI show.

Since 2016, many more horses have come out in international big tour arenas, and some have made it to the major championships. To mention but a few:

- The DWB stallion Zonik by Blue Hors Zack x Blue Hors Romanov (bred by Linette Jaeger) who competed with Hans Peter Minderhoud as a 5-year-old in Verden 2013 made his international Grand Prix debut at the age of 9 in 2017 and has since then won several Dutch championships with Edward Gal. The pair has competed at the 2018 World Cup Finals in Paris, the 2018 WEG in Tryon (7th in both GP and GPS) and at the 2019 European Championships in Rotterdam (6th in the Grand Prix Freestyle) and they are one of the key players of the Dutch dressage team.
- Another member of the Dutch team is the KWPN stallion Dream Boy by Vivaldi x Ferro (bred by T.J.M. Coomans) with Hans Peter Minderhoud. As a six-year-old Dream Boy claimed bronze at the World Young Horse Championships in Verden under the saddle of Dutch Gerdine Maree. At the age of 10 Dream Boy came out in international Grand Prix with Hans Peter Minderhoud and they have competed in several World Cups, at the 2018 WEG in Tryon and in the 2019 Europeans in Rotterdam where they landed a 9th place in the Grand Prix Freestyle.

In the next issue of Breeding News, we will take a look at more remarkable dressage horses that have successfully progressed from young horse championships to Grand Prix.

All photos on this page by Ridehesten.com



Ridden by Severo Jurado Lopez, Fiontini was the first mare to win the dressage WBCYH three years in a row. Pictured as triple world champions, Ermelo 2017



Dream Boy and Hans Peter Minderhoud at the 2019 World Cup finals in Gothenburg. Later the same year they landed 9th place in the Grand Prix Freestyle at the 2019 Europeans in Rotterdam



Fiontini has been internationally successful with Severo Jurado Lopez in 2020, here pictured in Herning, but will now be moving to compete with a new rider



Dream Boy/Gerdine Maree (NED) winning bronze for 6yo at WBCYH in Verden 2014



As a 5yo Zonik was presented at the WBCYH in Verden under the saddle of Hans Peter Minderhoud (NED)



Zonik quickly moved to Edward Gal (NED) who developed the popular stallion into a very successful Grand Prix horse with a remarkable international career

ALTHOUGH WE APPRECIATE THAT MANY EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, SOME AUCTIONS ARE BEING HOSTED ON-LINE, SO WE ARE CONTINUING TO PUBLISH THIS CALENDAR WITH WEBSITE INFORMATION, AND ALSO BECAUSE SHOWS MAY RETURN AT DIFFERENT TIMES DEPENDING WHEN RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

WE WILL INCLUDE DATES FOR ONLINE AUCTIONS WHEN THEY ARE NOTIFIED TO US AND CONFIRMED

2020

JUNE

13 Vechta (GER)

3rd Oldenburg Special Edition Auction
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599
info@oldenburger-pferde.com
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

22 Vierneheim (GER)

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

27 Nördlingen (GER)

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

27 Berlin (GER)

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

AUGUST

3 Donaueschingen (GER)

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

3-10 Online (NED)

KWPN Online Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
www.kwpn.auction

4 Verden (GER)

Herward von der Decken Show
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

7/8 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Auction of Foals and Broodmares
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

17-24 Online (NED)

KWPN Online Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
www.kwpn.auction

18-22 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Championships
Tel: +31 (0)341 255555
Fax: +31 (0)341 255535
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.nl

29 Vechta (GER)

19th Elite Oldenburg Foal Auction
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599
info@oldenburger-pferde.com
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

30 Vechta (GER)

28th Vechta Oldenburg Foal Market
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599
info@oldenburger-pferde.com
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

31 Chieming-Ising (GER)

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

SEPTEMBER

2-6 Warendorf (GER)

Bundeschampionate – German national young-horse championship
Tel: +49 (0)2581 63 62154
Fax: +49 (0)2581 63 62212
vertrieb-fnverlag@fn-dokr.de
www.fnverlag.de

7 Chieming-Ising (GER)

DSP Future Dressage Champions foal auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
verkauf@pzvst.de
www.pzvst.de

7-14 Online (NED)

KWPN Online Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
www.kwpn.auction

16-20 Lanaken (BEL)

Showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses
Tel: +32 (0)89 73 00 30
Fax: +32 (0)89 71 84 10
studbook@zangersheide.com
www.zangersheide.com

21-28 Online (NED)

KWPN Online Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
www.kwpn.auction

OCTOBER

2/3 Vechta (GER)

93rd Oldenburg Fall Elite Auction
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599
info@oldenburger-pferde.com
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

5-12 Online (NED)

KWPN Online Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
www.kwpn.auction