

JULY 2020

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WORLD BREEDING-NEWS

for Sport Horses

BN #283

Breeder interviews

Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis



La Silla's Stallion

Chardonnay LS La Silla



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CHARDONNAY LS LA SILLA 2012
Lic.: SLS

Semen Available



Father: **RISCAL LS** Lic.: SLS, HOLST CSI YH, CSI GP, CSIO

RISUEÑO LA SILLA

Lic.: CDDM, SLS, SF
CSIO
CSI GP, WC
fod 1996

CLASSIC LA SILLA

KWPN
NAT

ORENSANO XX

Lic.: XX

MALPENSADA XX

XX

FORMATEUR

Lic.: Sgldt, NWP

SILLIE-MARIA

KWPN

CASH

Lic.: HOLST, RHEIN,
BAVAR, BWP, ZW
CSI GP
WC

AFRIKA

ZW

COR DE LA BRYERE

Lic.: SF, HOLST

LANDGRAEFIN

HOLST

ALEXIS Z

Lic.: BWP, ZW

DESIREE

HANN



Mother: **CHANEL** ZW CSI GP, CSIO, fod ATENAS

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CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: HILLEVI BRASCH | CELIA CLARKE | CHRISTOPHER HECTOR
UMBERTO MARTUSCELLI | SALLY REID | ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

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WORLD BREEDING NEWS

Timeo hominem unius libri

for Sport Horses

PUBLISHER

Breeding International Ltd.

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24, rue du Port, 1009 Pully, Switzerland
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Launched in January 1977, BREEDING NEWS FOR SPORT HORSES is published every month by Breeding International Ltd., and is available exclusively online. From January 1, 2019, the publication's title was changed to WORLD BREEDING NEWS FOR SPORT HORSES to reflect the new partnership between the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses and Breeding News.

Twelve issues each year are uploaded to our website before the last day of every month.

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Unsolicited articles, photographs and letters on any suitable subject may be submitted on-spec by email to editor@breedingnews.com.

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BREEDING NEWS FOR SPORT HORSES publishes the BN WORLDWIDE SPORT HORSE STALLION DIRECTORY: A digital version with a stallion database is uploaded onto the BN website in March every year.

WWW.BREEDINGNEWS.COM

EDITORIAL

A SPECIAL SELECTION SEASON FOR YOUNG HORSES



This Covid-19 crisis, which Europe is trying to overcome at all costs, is upsetting our benchmarks, habits, and behaviour. Let us hope that it leads to equitable and rational challenges for the future, for the succeeding generations.

In the immediate future, and within the microcosm that concerns us (obsesses us!), it is the process of selecting young horses in the main studbooks, and for the recurring deadlines that occupies our thoughts.

For years, the WBCYH (World Breeding Championship for Young Horses) organized in Lanaken has been a routine highlight of the showjumping season for the five-, six-, and seven-year-old generations.

Studbooks are invited to select, via their own circuits, worthy subjects to represent them. It should be noted, however, that a large percentage of the finalists benefit from wildcards issued by the organizer of the show, namely Studbook Zangersheide, which 'deals' directly with the federations on which they depend. As the championship is run under the aegis of the FEI, who sends the entries, the system doesn't fail to upset the participating member studbooks of the WBFSH.

But, any controversy surrounding this endemic issue won't apply this year thanks to Covid. Let's take the examples of two of the largest (by size) sport horse breeding countries in Europe and the world: Germany and France.

First, the German FN, organizer of the Bundeschampionnat, after long consideration, decided to keep its selection finals on the usual dates (26/8 to 6/9). The event will be split over two weeks: jumping and eventing for horses and ponies from August 26-30; dressage for horses and ponies September 2-6.

However, it was announced in a press release published at the end of May, that no spectators and no trade fair would be allowed. The event will be live-streamed, with a limited number of people in attendance: Likely, owners, riders, grooms, and

organizational staff. The goal is to keep the showground below 500 people on each weekend.

Some two weeks later, more news was circulating that the event will open its doors to the public – but an optimistic vision since the discovery of new clusters in Germany on June 21, so the hypothesis of containment currently rules. What will the news be next time we write these lines?

The second concern for these finals is the qualification program for this Warendorf final. Selections for the three- and four-year-olds were done, but for the five-, six- and seven-year-old age groups, each federal German state receives a quota of qualifiers it can host. With the cancellation of spring events due to the pandemic, this figure has been dropped, and each state can host as many qualifiers as they choose which may, of course, after the results compare to previous years.

In France the situation is totally different. The SHF (Société Hippique Française), organizer of the selection circuits in all disciplines, has decided cautiously to postpone the jumping finals (Grande Semaine) that ordinarily begin at the end of August: the new dates now being September 29 to October 4.

A decision that made it possible to maintain and adapt the selection circuit over time and, thus, the quality of its result. But with one major drawback: the best horses of each generation will not go to Lanaken as they have yet to qualify. However, let us hope that this postponement of the Grande Semaine de l'Élevage will allow the doors to be open to the public, unless the virus returns.

Through these two examples, we see that the 2020 selection season for breeders, owners, and riders of young horses will be 'special'. What applied to the breeders of Germany and France, has applied to all the others (Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, England, Switzerland...) in recent months, and for those that are still running this summer, dealing with the authorities of their respective countries.

And as these European countries have had a hard time harmonizing rules and policies, why should our small world of sport horse breeders be any different or efficient?

Xavier Libbrecht

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WBF SH TRIBUNE

JOINING FORCES TO BENEFIT BREEDERS AND BREEDING



Since the beginning of this year, the world has been shaken by the COVID-19 outbreak. We find ourselves in a situation which most of us, fortunately, have never before experienced.

Through the centuries, pandemics have had a significant influence on world history. In the 14th century, the plague killed so many people that the survivors made changes which eventually greatly improved their living conditions. The cholera pandemics of the 19th century led to greater awareness of the importance of clean water and sanitation. More recently, the SARS outbreak resulted in much greater awareness about preventing infections. What effect will COVID-19 have on our future? Your guess is as good as mine. Certainly, apart from the personal drama of those directly or indirectly affected by this disease, it is having a tremendous effect on the global economy. And, of course, that also has an effect on the equestrian sector. However, we don't have a crystal ball and can't predict the future – certainly not with such an unknown virus, in which new insights make today's facts obsolete tomorrow.

During the financial crisis, fewer people bred their mares. We've taken this scenario into account in recent months, but the signals we're receiving from stallion keepers indicate that they're breeding a lot. Foal registrations are also on schedule. For now, we don't see any substantial changes in breeding. I'm more concerned about the international equestrian sport. If major sport events can't take place, if air traffic is only slowly resuming, and if there are obstacles to international trade, what will be the effect on our sport and the value of sport horses? Everything depends on how long this crisis lasts.

One thing is clear to me: service to our members is crucial. Now that breeding has an international stage, the distinctive character between studbooks is increasingly smaller. What binds our members is excellent

service, like providing relevant information about our approved stallions so that they can make informed breeding choices; investing in research, such as DNA-based selection; and broadcasting our stallion selection, competitions, and other events via our own online TV channel KWPN.tv, provided with clear commentary. We also support breeders in sales through the various online auctions of foals and young horses by using a very transparent and easily accessible system. We put breeders' horses on an international stage, and many of them sell for good money, regularly abroad. Our breeders greatly appreciate that support. In addition, we have our own KWPN Center, where we assist breeders by starting their horses under saddle, training them, and preparing them for sale. We're just an intermediary in the event of a potential sale. However, this unique marketing support has become an integral part of our tasks.

It's difficult to say how the equestrian sector will fare around this time next year, but personally I'd like to see more cooperation between the different studbooks. We're all still living too much on separate 'islands', and I think we could benefit by talking, learning from each other, and sharing information to support our breeders worldwide even better. We could consider sharing sport data, information about breeding stallions, and coordinating approval or recognition systems. The WBF SH can also play a good role in this. I think there's much to be gained through collaboration while maintaining one's own identity. I expect that there's enough enthusiasm for these ideas within the studbooks here, so let us – as soon as the developments surrounding COVID-19 allow – sit down and join forces. Doing so will benefit both our breeders and international sport horse breeding.

Andries van Daalen
Chairman of the Board
KWPN – Royal Dutch Sport Horse

(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



Vermeer (Vitalis) Photo: Kiki Beelitz

The Marbach sire Vermeer (Vitalis x Sir Savoy), a strong young stallion, passed a good assessment in Adelheidsdorf, scoring an 8.15 average during his 14-day test and has now been approved by Hannover, Oldenburg and DSP. The Marbach Stud stallion in fact, brought home a mark of 9.0 four times, with a weighted final dressage score of 8.25. Bred by Theresa Bahlsen, Kirchwalsede, Vermeer is a typey, 171-cm tall youngster out of St.Pr.St. Shoshana who convinces with youthful charm, and lassic trot with plenty of shoulder room, and good hindquarters activity. The characteristics gallop (9.0), rideability (8.5) and interior (9.0) were particularly impressive for the young stallion born late in the year. He has grown since the Verden licensing in October 2019, but is still in full development and will get the time he needs to mature in Marbach. His sire Vitalis is a guarantor of rideability and movement mechanics, who represents a Holstein stallion line through the Dutch sires Vivaldi and Krack C. On the mother's

side, Vermeer has been drawn from the best Hanoverian ingredients, resulting in reliable sport horse breeding. The half sister of Vermeer's dam St.Pr.St. Shoshana is successful in international Grand Prix: So Dark (San Remo) with Luxemburg's Fie Christine Skarsoe). Vermeer is now available at the Marbach stallion station: www.gestuet-marbach.de

Following a meeting at the end of May, the Hannoveraner Verband has announced that their licensing commission will, for the first time, make discipline-based decisions in two groups. For this purpose, dressage rider Hannes Baumgart and international showjumper Markus Beerbaum will join their ranks. Henceforth, instead of judging all stallions together with the breeding board, the new commissioners will exclusively focus on the youngsters within their own area of expertise. Only breeding director Ulrich Hahne and Martin Spoo, as the representative of the District Association of North Rhine-Westphalia, will participate in the licensing of all stallions. Hannes Baumgart was newly appointed to the licensing commission by the board, along with Heike Kemmer and Hans-Heinrich Meyer zu Strohen. "For me the appointment to the licensing commission closes a circle," says Hannes Baumgart. "With my family I have prepared many stallions over the years, then I was a guest rider at stallion performance tests for a long time. I therefore see my appointment to the licensing commission as recognition of my work, and I am very pleased about that." Also from the Verden area, team world and European champion, Markus Beerbaum, will now devote himself to young stallions alongside Martin Klintworth and Jörg Münzner, and relishes his new task: "The Hannoveraner horses are close to my heart, because Meredith and I celebrated our greatest successes on Hannoveraner horses. I am therefore very pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Hannoveraner show jumper in the future".



Markus Beerbaum (left) alongside Hanoverian breeding director Ulrich Hahne

At its general board meeting on June 23 in Münster-Handorf, the Trakehner licensing committee elected and welcomed two new officers. Every four years, the entire board of the Trakehner Association decides on the composition of the licensing committee, comprising four elected licensing officers, two deputies and the breeding manager. Dr. Hans-Peter Karp, internationally recognized tournament and breeding judge and first deputy chairman of the Trakehner Association was confirmed in office. He will be joined by Elmar Lesch, Thomasburg (Lower Saxony), a sporting icon with international success up to the highest level. August Camp, Geldern (Rhineland), holder of the Golden Riding Badge and instructor up to class S, moved up from deputy to the commission. New into the quartet is Peter Kunath, Zehren (Saxony), breeder of more than 230 foals and private stallion owner with decades of experience. Representatives are Canadian-born Leonie Bramall, Isernhagen (Lower Saxony), a GP trainer and active dressage rider with over 2,700 victories and placements in classes from 'S' level up to Grand Prix, and Hella Kuntz, Bad Wörishofen (Bavaria), also a successful Grand Prix dressage rider and instructor up to grade 'S'. She is also an experienced Bundeschampionat and auction rider. The first chairman of the Trakehner Association, Dr. Nobert Camp thanked the resigning members of the licensing committee, Steffen Bothendorf, Mehderitzsch (Saxony), Hans-Leonhard Britze, Daverden (Lower Saxony) and Gisela Gunia, Uslar (Lower Saxony), for the constructive collaboration that has lasted for years. He emphasized that there had never been a licensing committee of a riding-horse breeding association that had enjoyed such a high level of continuity in office, which can certainly be seen as a sign of approval for the selection work done for the Trakehner stallions. The 58th Trakehner stallion market is waiting for the new licensing commission in October, because it will go ahead, one way or another, as will the auctions of stallions, riding horses, mares, and foals, in compliance with any coronavirus guidelines. The Trakehner pre-selection tour is scheduled for August 11-20.

Opaline des Pins: Writing herself into the history books

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

If there is one mare who wrote herself onto the history books of Belgian Warmblood breeding, it would be Opaline des Pins (Garitchou A - Jasmina x Almé). Bred by René Henry, she was born in Daubeuf-prés-Vatteville, a tiny community situated in the Eure region of Normandy, south of Rouen, an area synonymous with world-class sport horse breeding.

The bloodline of Opaline des Pins was bred to perform, so let's begin with her Anglo Arab sire, Garitchou (1972: Nikou - Maritchou x Aiglou VII, 49.85% Arab, bred by Pierre Bouchet). I received some very interesting insights from Adrien Cugnasse, the editor of *Jour de Galop*: "In my opinion he was a really great sire. He not only sired Opaline des Pins, but he is also the damsire of Andiamo Z (Animo), who was an amazing jumper. He is also dam sire of Merva des Hayettes (Ramino) who was the champion of the seven year olds during the jumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken. And Nolisco (Olisco) who jumped at 1m60 level in Australia. It is important to know that he was a strongly built stallion for an Anglo Arab. He was also kind of difficult from both his sire and damline. He comes from a temperamentally full pedigree.

"The stallions were in these days owned by the French National stud and they cared only for the conformation. The stallions did not compete in sport, they were only shown rarely in free jumping. I heard that he was a really good jumper when he was three years old. You have to understand that Anglo Arab stallions were not fashionable to use and his biggest foal crop was only 25 offspring. Much of the time his foal crops were eight or nine offspring. Garitchou's dam, Maritchou, looked like a Warmblood. These horses were bred in the past for the army and not for racing. The quality of Garitchou's family is in eventing and showjumping.

"Garitchou was sent to Normandy to Haras du Pin and his covering fee was not expensive. In those days, if you had a sub fertile mare or no money you picked an Anglo Arab stallion. At the end of his life breeders finally valued Garitchou's qualities.

"Maritchou, his mother, was an amazing mare. Another top jumping horse was Mobily Allah Jabek/ex Jack de Rooses (1997: Quidam de Revel - Royaltie du Bec x Garitchou, bred by Simon Vanhersecke) who competed under different saddles with several riders at 1m60," (including the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in Hong Kong with Ramzy Al Duhami (KSA) and the 2010 FEI World Cup Final in Geneva with HRH Prince Abdullah bin Moteb Al Saud).

Ten years ago the French magazine *Grand Prix* published an article about Opaline des Pins. Her breeder, René Henry, a Normandy farmer whose own father had been a breeder of draft horses and Trotters, explained about Opaline's history: "I purchased Jasmina in 1966 from Colette Lefrant-Ducornet. She was one of the best breeders of her day and she sold her foundation mares to Haras de Brullemail of Bernard Le Courtois.



Quintus (Pavarotti van de Helle - Opaline des Pins) ridden by Jean-Claude Vangeenberghe†



Jus de Pomme (Primo des Bruyeres) at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games under the saddle of Ulrich Kirchhof (GER)

The year 1966 was a year of problems for farming and not so many horses were sold. So I bought Jasmina, who was a good-sized mare with good behavior and she had a very good conformation. She became the champion of the three-year-old mares at Haras du Pin. Jasmina had a pedigree with some of the best bloodlines of Selle Français. I wanted to change the blood, which is why I chose an Anglo Arab stallion. Garitchou was standing at Haras du Pin, he was a good looking horse. He was first-class in terms of conformation, he had good gaits. I saw him at the presentation of stallions at the beginning of the year. The other option was to use Uriel, but he was not looking good enough in my opinion to make the combination with Jasmina.”

Opalines des Pins

Opaline des Pins was born in 1980 and in 1984 gave

birth to Shogun II (Night and Day xx) bred by Solange Lefevre. In 1985 she was sold to Belgium where she was owned by the late Arnold de Brabandere. Marcel van Dijck had Richebourg at stud and was already connected to Opaline des Pins. He recalls: “I didn’t know Opaline des Pins before I saw her at a competition. My best friend Notaris de Brabandere was looking for a mare and we purchased Opaline des Pins from Mrs. Gilbert Lefevre. Opaline was a big mare with enormous power. She was too difficult for sport, too hot, as we say. I only saw her sire Garitchou in a photo, also a very sturdy Anglo Arab. Opaline died at my feet the day after she gave birth to Trésor. The night after he was born I woke up because I heard a lot of noise, and she was showing signs of colic so I called the vet. She really was in so much pain that the foal stood scared in a corner. The vet came, and together we saw how when she passed away the foal went to sit on her head. That was something to never forget. She died due to internal bleeding.

“For me, Primo des Bruyeres, together with Codex and Buenaventura xx, was the best stallion of my career. They still would have a place now in the modern breeding.”

Opaline des Pins produced five approved stallions that all jumped at 1m60, with three Olympic competitors:

- **Shogun II** (Night and Day xx)
- **Jus de Pomme** (Primo des Bruyeres)
- **Quintus** (Pavarotti van de Helle)
- **Richebourg** (Bayard d’Elle)
- **Trésor d’Opaline** (Major de la Cour)

Jus de Pomme won two gold medals at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games under the

saddle of Ulrich Kirchhoff. Quintus finished eighth individually under the saddle of Jean-Claude Vangeenberghe† at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, the same Games at which Trésor d’Opaline competed with Samantha Lam. In 2003 Richebourg was crowned as BWP horse of the year, while 2009 saw Quintus become a BWP Ambassador.

On paper Opaline des Pins has two daughters, however only one has offspring. This is the mare Topaline (Major de la Cour) who competed at 1m50 level.

According to Olympic champion Ulrich Kirchhoff: “I believed in Jus de Pomme from the very first moment. From the moment I made my first jumps with him I always said this horse will do something very special. He was so special as a stallion, as a sport horse, and as a friend in handling. Yes, of course I have followed his family. The mother of Jus de Pomme and all the others are extraordinary.” Jus de Pomme

also became German champion with Kirchoff in 1996, and that year was a member of the winning Nations' Cup team in Aachen.

Competing under the Hong Kong flag in 2008, Samantha Lam recalls Trésor d'Opaline, saying; "Trésor was a wonderful horse. He was the king of my stable and a true gentleman. As a stallion he was very well behaved and easy to handle. He was lovely to ride too. He was rather lazy to ride on the flat but he really woke up when he started jumping. He was very powerful and is one of the scopiestic horses I have ever ridden. He was also very clever. He wouldn't waste his energy by over jumping the small fences. But once the fences hit 1m40 he'd start to show off. He wasn't afraid of anything. He was super brave and I loved riding him. Oh, and whenever we arrived at a competition, the minute the truck ramp opened, he would scream as if telling everyone that he'd arrived. Just once. The only time I ever saw him acting out of line was when he and his brother Quintus got too close to each other. Things got very hostile between the two of them. They didn't like each other at all. Then he became very aggressive and was all stallion. Unfortunately I didn't have him long enough to really form a great partnership. It seemed like we were on borrowed time. He and Jean Claude were meant to be together as Tresor died around five days after Jean Claude (2009). I feel truly blessed and privileged to have been his rider! I miss him every day and would give

anything to have him in my life again. After all he took me to the Olympics. He helped me fulfill my childhood dream."

In 2006 Trésor d'Opaline was ridden by Jean Claude Vangeenberghe at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen. Also Richebourg also competed with Vangeenberghe.

Shogun II was under the saddle of Eric Navet, he recalls: "Shogoun II was a very nice and quiet stallion to take care of and to hack on but when it came to jump he got excited and over motivated which made him not so easy to ride in the show ring. He was a genius to get away from difficult situations that he sometimes brought himself to over big fences. Despite his difficult ride ability he won so many high level classes first with Philippe Lejeune and then with myself. My best accomplishment with him has been winning the Grand Prix of Monaco. Unfortunately I haven't got a chance to ride any offspring of him. I think that Opaline des Pins has been an exceptional brood mare that every breeder would dream to have as she has produced champions with different stallions."

Arnaud Evain of Groupe France Elevage has not only owned Quintus in the past, but more recently he purchased another stallion from this damline: "One of the originalities of Opaline is that she did not 'stamp' her offspring with her conformation – her five top stars, Jus de Pomme, Quintus, Trésor, Shogoun, and Richebourg all exhibit the conformation of their sires – but in some of the qualities of



Trésor d'Opaline/aka Trésor (Major de la Cour - Opaline des Pins) at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in Hong Kong ridden by Samantha Lam (HKG)



Shogoun (Night and Day xx - Opaline des Pins) during the 1993 CSIO La Baule Derby ridden by Philippe Lejeune (BEL)

her damline (likely thanks to Garitchou's Anglo Arab influence) you find blood, extreme carefulness, and goodwill. We bought Quintus at the end of his sport career because we were interested in three of his strong points: blood, elegance, and extremely good front-end technique. He also produced some very good hunters in the USA. We think that this is still a very interesting line and one of our big hopes for tomorrow that we own together with his breeder Peter De Brabander, is Petrus de Brandegem, a five-year-old son by Up To You and Isetta (Guidam) who is a granddaughter of Opaline."

Marcel van Dijk recalls about Richebourg; "He was a very careful stallion and you had to work with him in a very thoughtful way. Richebourg moved as a five-year-old to France and won the six- and seven-year-old finals with Bertrand Pignolet in Fontainebleau. He returned to Belgium where he became national champion under the saddle of Vangeenberghe. He then went to Aachen and qualified for the Grand Prix, but this was way too soon for him and Richebourg never really recovered from it. I expected much more from him as a breeding stallion but he didn't really have a lot of influence in breeding."

Yves Vanhasselt had, Quistria des Pins, the full sister of Opaline des Pins for many years and has built up his own successful line. He recalls: "We moved four years ago to Normandy, but before that my wife and I went almost every month to Normandy to buy and sell horses and to visit breeders. A long time ago I had a stallion together with Joris de Brabander and we were going with this stallion to the stallion competition. I asked my wife to check how many starters had already gone and she came back without the

information I needed. She was so impressed by a five-year-old that she forgot everything else. This five-year-old was Jus de Pomme. In the past, the Selle Français Studbook published information about who was breeding with what in the different areas and while we were driving in Normandy I discovered Quistria des Pins. We were very close by, so I told my wife to go there. We saw all the breeder's horses including Quistria des Pins. We went to Saint Lô for three days and I couldn't forget about

Quistria. After that we started to drive home, and I think we'd already driven 100 kilometres towards Belgium when I said 'stop the car'. We looked for a telephone because at that time there were no cell phones. I called the owner and asked if I could buy her and, to make a long story short, she became mine.

"This damline had already produced some international sport horses. For example Flik des Bruyeres (Univers d'Elle) who has the mare Britt (Papy de l'Île) as a great-grandmother, who happens to be the grandmother of Opaline des Pins and Quistria des Pins. Flik de Bruyeres jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Khaled Abdulaziz Al Eid. He was listed in the top 100 of the best jumping horses of his time. I believe that we will see some upcoming top horses from this damline. The younger generation is on its way.

"One of our youngest bred horses is now an approved stallion for Selle Français; Happy Livity (Cornet Obolensky - Quistria Diamant Z x Querlybet Hero), and Granada Livity (For Pleasure - Leila Diamant Z x Lord Z) is also approved for Selle Français. There are also several other breeders who are breeding with this line, so there is more to come.

"Quistria des Pins passed away when she was 29, which is even more remarkable because as a foal she broke her foot. Jah's Diamant (Galoubet A) is the son of Quistria des Pins and I used him back on this mareline to get an extra shot of Almé blood, and I love Almé. Jah's Diamant jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Pieter Devos." ■

Thormählen: A breeding icon celebrates 75 sporting years

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN AND PRIVATE COLLECTION

Although 1945 is best known as the year that marked the end of World War II, there is a sense of irony in sport horse breeding when one acknowledges that it's also the year when some of the greatest modern-day horsemen were born: Paul Schockemöhle, Wiepke van de Lageweg, and Harm Thormählen.

The story of Harm Thormählen is very special. Horses like Rappel, Retina and Gera have significantly contributed to sport horse breeding worldwide. So, how does Harm Thormählen look back upon almost eight decades of being involved in breeding and sport? Already, as a young boy, he was raised among the best horses of the day because his father was a renowned horse dealer.

◆ How was it for your father to start his business immediately after World War II?

My father rode before the war in the Hamburg Derby. He was a 1m50-level rider, and was already dealing in sport horses before the war. After the war he continued with this business. For me this was normal because I was raised in this environment. Later, my boss, Alwin Schockemöhle, told me that my father was one of the best international horse dealers of his day. I was already 23 at that point and started to reflect on everything that happened at our farm.

I wanted to start riding when I was six and I took riding lessons from Martin Thormählen, who was no relative of ours. He bred Farn (Fax I - Dorette x Monarch, Stamm 18B1). Anyway, he wasn't at all friendly with me and I had enough of it. I jumped off the horse and ran home crying. I didn't go to the stables for a long time.

When I was 10 years old we had the famous mare Rappel (Heinzelmann-Kandare x Lorbeer, Stamm 173) who was born in 1939, and I started to ride her. In our first show I won the 1m10 class and finished third in the 1m20 class, so won a bit of money. I was now enjoying riding. I also went out riding with a neighbourhood friend. When my father was in a pub doing business, a pony came into the pub and drank beer, so my father bought this pony for me, too.

With Rappel my riding career really started and I became successful. At 14 I qualified for the German young-rider championship by placing in the top three in a 1m30 class. I earned that result at a show in Dithmarschen where I rode against riders who were already competing internationally. Two years later, at 16, I rode in the German young rider championship.

My father bought a Trakehner mare (Luna by Totilas - Loni x Lachteufel) for that, but unfortunately she was in heat

at the time, so we covered her. The following year, after I again reached the final, she was already in foal by quite a few months, and halfway around the course she stopped jumping. She was protecting herself and the foal. This mare is the beginning of the branch of Clinton (Corrado I).

I remember when I was around 10 or 12 years old, my father talking to a client from Switzerland in the stallion station (now 360 years old), standing beside the part of a wall that hadn't burned down in a fire that happened a long time earlier, that there was no other area in the world that had produced so many international showjumpers. I didn't know that at that time, but I kept it in mind.

If we look more closely, we can see that 800 meters down the road is where the great-aunt of Retina was born – Bianka (Tobias - Sanna x Ortwin, Stamm 104A, bred by Hermann Bahlmann) who won the Aachen Grand Prix as a six-year-old in 1934 ridden by A. Holst. And, around the corner, Retina (Ramzes X - Dolli x Lopshorn, Stamm 104A, bred by Hilda Magens) herself was born. She was the youngest Hamburg Derby champion (seven years old, under the saddle of Fritz Thiedemann). Hans Günther Winkler's first world champion was Orient (Heino-Nenndorf, bred by Claus Thormählen, not related) was also born around the corner here. Ramiro (Raimond - Valine x Cottage Son xx, Stamm 776, bred by Paul Bahlmann) was bred in this area, and his mother was sold in



Harm Thormählen with Lacapo



Cento (1989/Holst Capitol I - Viola XI x Caletto II), winner of the Aachen GP in 2000 ridden by Otto Becker (GER)

foal to Baron von Nagel.

The horses were developed by working on the hard soil around here, they had to be tough, and the farmers got rid of the horses that didn't want to work. It was the strength of my father to sell horses, but when the horses got an injury or older he tried to buy them back like he did with several mares: Contiane (damline Corrado I), the full sister (Vase) of Romanus who was twice the most earning jumping horse, he purchased the elite under the horses. Breeding was his hobby, he didn't need to make money with that. It became our foundation in breeding, buying back these sport horses. With this we also became an important part of the Holsteiner foundation in breeding. Cor de la Bryère came to Schleswig-Holstein thanks to the management of Alwin Schockemöhle and my father, then Maas J. Hell and a commission of the Holsteiner Verband closed the deal.

When I was 13 Princess Margaret came here with her first husband to look for horses. One year later I took six horses by train to Milan, who had already all jumped 1m40. Every 14 days we rode six horses to the train station where they were shipped to South Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.

The better times came for sport horses in the end of the 1950s and 1960 – when the Olympic Games were held in Rome. The top Olympic horses cost around DM100,000 at that time (less than US\$25,000 using an historic conversion).

As a young boy I always went to the horse show in Elmshorn. It was unbelievable how many people came to

watch. Horse shows were at that time one of the few events people could attend. I also remember how difficult and hard the jumps were for the horses. It was very different then than now, also the way of riding has improved a lot.

I owe Rappel a lot of thanks because it was due to her that I returned to horses, and she is the great-grandmother of Capitol I.

◆ How did the breeding and sport evolved in the time of the industrial mechanization?

I grew up during the changeover from working with horses to using the tractor. The first models were not as fancy as they are now and it wrecked my back. Many farmers were happy that they could work quicker on the fields with the tractor, but suddenly the horses were there without a purpose. Many horses went to the butcher. The farmers exchanged the horses in payment to the tractor sellers, who then sold the horses to the butcher. My father survived by only dealing good horses, and he had serious partners everywhere in the south of Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. There was also more money elsewhere at the time than here in the north.

This was the same time that we send horses south every two weeks, and the buyers waiting for them started arguing with each other so badly because they wanted to have the horses. My father also purchased Diamant, Fritz Thiedemann's Derby winner, and sold it directly to the USA. That business deal enabled him to renew the roofs of the

farm. My father had his place in the international horse world.

Cor de la Bryère changed the Holsteiner horse. He didn't have the scope, but he improved the technique. The scope typically came from Capitol I, as well as the unbelievable willingness to work. Cor de la Bryère's offspring were very careful. Landgraf I and Lord, both sons of Ladykiller xx, have done a tremendous job in shaping the Holsteiner breed. Before that was the Thoroughbred Cottage Son xx, who covered in Schleswig-Holstein from 1959 to 1963. Plus if I reflect on that time I would say that the most valuable mares stayed alive and the other mares got culled; there was no place for them anymore because of the tractors. My father had a lot of mares going through his hands.

As an 18 year old I took horses as a payment, I built them back up and made them feel good again, then sold them. That same year I finished second in the championship of Schleswig-Holstein with the Trakehner mare, and when I came out of the ring the mare was sold. This was our business. I always believed in treating the horses with kindness. My father had no time to teach me how to ride, so I taught myself. His only words were, 'good', 'bad', 'forward'. At that time people were riding with less style and refinement than they are riding now.

I rode my first Nations' Cup when I was 19, and continued when I was 20. Then, through personal circumstances, I had to stop the horse business. After I got together with Ingela, I built the farm back up again. I took it over in 1972 when I was 27, but before that I was already very busy with selling and buying horses. During that time there wasn't really a horse that made me because they were all sold. When I took over the farm I had five top broodmares including the family of Retina (Stamm 104A) and the Capitol I family.

I was always scouting for horses at shows, the riding became better, and the horses also improved by having more blood. Hartwig Steenken was a very good rider in the 1960s and 1970s, and he influenced me because he rode three times better. When he tried a gelding here that I had already placed at 1m40 level, the horse was not the brightest, but with Hartwig the horse jumped 20 centimetres higher than with me, and looked totally different. I decided at that moment that I wanted to stay at my farm and continue with breeding and selling and not with riding. Harwig won everything that he could, but he died too soon because of a car accident. Gerd Wildfang also rode better than the most of the others of his generation and became world champion.

During this same period, Gera (Galvani - Vorrbusch x Heidestamm, Stamm 3615, bred by Klaus Emil Peters) came also to us, and it was really lucky that my father decided not to sell her because she played a really big role in my success as a breeder.

◆ What happened in the period between your 30th and 50th year?

Capitol I was born in the year I turned 30. I don't really remember him as a foal because we sold him to Maas J. Hell, who was the director of the Holsteiner Verband at the time. I remember Capitol I jumping as a young stallion, his free

jumping was unbelievable. In the stallion performance test he was a bit naughty. He jumped amazingly well, but didn't want to jump the water, which was typical for Ramzes X offspring, and he was inbred with Ramzes X. In the morning he jumped the water, then during the test he refused. He only just passed the test, but his jumping was phenomenal. He was always the last stallion that was shown during the stallion presentation. The poles were put up on the wings and he still jumped easily over it. It was always cold during these presentations, people came with their own blankets or stood on newspapers to not let the cold get to their feet. Capitol I had brutal scope.

Then there was the story that Capitol I's pedigree could not be right, because Capitano only gave grey horses. But we couldn't check the DNA because all the horses from whom we needed DNA had already passed away. Capitol I became my opening to the world, mainly after he died.

From the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games to 2016 in Rio, Capitol I was also very well represented in the bloodlines of the performers. The Aachen Grand Prix in 2000 was very special when he son Cento won, and Carthago finished second. The bronze medal winning German team of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games in showjumping had Cento as a direct Capitol offspring and Cöster as a grandson. Sweden's silver medal team had his son Cardento, so how influence has been very dominant in showjumping breeding.

The influence of our mare Gera then started to grow. She had four offspring, the first was by Thumbled xx but, unfortunately, my idea to use a bigger Thoroughbred stallion didn't work. He wasn't a good sire at all. After that she had



Fein Cera (Landadel - Cera x Cor de la Bryère) with Peter Wylde (USA) at Spruce Meadows, Calgary

three offspring by Capitano, who could all jump. From these three offspring were two mares and both were able to build up an outstanding branch. Her daughter, Larsa, became mother of Lacapo, who has built up a dressage dynasty for the KWPN through his son Flemmingh. Larsa's full sister, Mandalayn, is mother to Cera (Cor de la Bryère), who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Paul Darragh, Otto Becker, and Princess Haya. We kept both Larsa and Mandalayn for breeding.

Cera belonged to the German elite of jumping horses. Her grandmother Gera, and Cera herself, always developed a fever after long journeys as they were both very sensitive. Cera was going to Mannheim for a young-horse championship, but the journey exhausted her. She made it to the final but couldn't reach her normal level. But Thomas Fuchs heard about Cera and came here to Holstein to try her, and after a few jumps he said 'I'll buy her but she is too expensive', so we agreed to do 50/50. Princess Haya discovered Cera at Thomas Fuchs's farm and decided she wanted her. Apparently, Thomas told her that only a princess could have her, and she replied 'I AM a princess'. Princess Haya purchased her, and the funny thing was that when she bought Cera, she gave another horse back to Fuchs and said to him after a bottle of champagne, 'You have made two mistakes: you sold your best horse and you took a not so good horse in payment,' and with both she was right.

Come On (Cantus - Suehne x Landgraf I, Stamm 8769, bred by Gerd Magens) was a stallion I discovered at the first selection of the Holsteiner stallion approvals. But, before that took place we had a stallion owners' meeting and I criticized the fact that we only showed the stallions in walk and trot (talking about 1987). I said, we cannot select the stallions based only on walk and trot, we have to see the canter, and also a small jump in free jumping. Others said this wasn't necessary, and nothing happened. During the first selection they walked and trotted on the hard ground and then it was announced

that the commission wanted to see the stallions free in the hall. Nobody knew this because it wasn't written in the selection papers. I witnessed there how Come On came in and I saw his canter and I thought right away that he is a top horse. I went immediately to Gerd Magens to buy him and said there was a stable free here. I said he wouldn't go to the approvals because he was too heavy. Gerd Magens was convinced he would go, but the very next day I talked to someone I knew about Come On, especially his quality, and he said 'buy him for me'. So, again, the following day, I went to Gerd Magens, but didn't want to negotiate about the price. He was expensive but I bought him anyway. When I returned to the client, he told me he suddenly had all kinds of problems and couldn't have Come On anymore. So that was how I got my hands on Come On. I trained him, and he also found his way to Princess Haya, but not directly through me.

Come On was a wonderful stallion to ride. He was first purchased by Ludger Beerbaum for his sponsor, but only the sporting rights. I kept the breeding rights. Ralf Schneider was the son of Ludger's sponsor, and although he was only an amateur rider, he was listed as the reserve for the 1994 World Equestrian Games in The Hague. They had many top placings in Nations' Cups, in the Hamburg Derby, and placed very well at Hickstead. He just jumped with all of his heart over the fences and was so easy to ride. Come On was sold to Princess Haya through Paul Schockemöhle.

In 1991 a very special mare was born, Fein Cera. I didn't really notice her as a young horse until we started free jumping her when she was three. She crashed into the oxer and we had to try again to avoid her losing confidence, but her reaction gave us all goosebumps. So I decided I would hide her and wouldn't show her to anybody until she was ready. I knew she was special. ■

Part 2, concluding this fascinating interview, will be published in our August 2020 issue



Vivaldi: The Dutch phenom shooting for the stars

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/DIRK CAREMANS

Vivaldi is a shooting star on the 2019 WBFSH rankings, coming in at number nine, up from 18th last year. The chestnut is currently one of the hottest stallions on the scene in both Germany and Holland, and Paul Schockemöhle's Gestüt Lewitz stallion station is rightly proud of one of the stars of their roster.

According to Schockemöhle's website: "2018 year was once again a real festival for Vivaldi. Vivaldi produced the €2 million market sensation in Verden, our premium stallion Vivino. Vanity Fair won the Herwart von der Decken Show, the annual Hanoverian mare championship in Verden. And Vivaldi's licensed son Veneziano/Daniel Bachmann Andersen (DEN) won the Louisdor Prize for the best young Grand Prix horse in Frankfurt. He has produced a total of 35 licensed stallions. During his breeding career in the Netherlands, Vivaldi produced, amongst others: Cennin/Madeleine Witte-Vrees (NED), who came fifth in the World Cup; Desperado/ Emmelie Scholtens (NED), who is successful at Grand Prix level; Eye Catcher, double bronze medallist at the World Championships and victorious in Small Tour; Dancer, 2014 World Champion [with Kirsten Brouwer (NED)]; and Vitalis/Isabel Freese, Burg Cup winner. He also produced the Westphalian Reserve Champion Van Vivaldi, the Oldenburg Reserve Champion

Versace, the second Oldenburg Reserve Champion Veneziano, and the Hanoverian premium stallion Livaldon. Felix won double gold at the Pavo Cup in 2015 and 2016 in the Netherlands."

Vivaldi was also in evidence at the 2019 dressage World Championship for Young Horses (WBCYH) in Ermelo, siring one representative, while his son, Vitalis was responsible for four. Vitalis, Vivaldi's first licensed stallion, has had quite a dramatic career. Bred by Toon de Crom and W. Verbakel, he was presented at the Westfalian stallion licensing in 2009, where he was crowned reserve champion. Leased to the Westfalian State Stud, he stood for three years, and during that time he was presented at the KWPN stallion licensing, but was not accepted.

Vitalis competed in the 2012 WBCYB to finish sixth in the consolation finals. He was sold to the American-based Danish rider, Charlotte Jorst in September 2012. Jorst and Vitalis competed in the 2013 WBCYH six-year-old class to

finish 13th. He went on to win the US Young Horse Championships that same year. In 2014, the pair competed in Small Tour classes and were 11th in the Inter I Freestyle at the US dressage championships. Vitalis disappeared from competition in 2015 before being sold in September of that year to Paul Schockemöhle and Lone Boegh Henriksen and brought home to Germany.

Ridden by Schockemöhle stable rider, Isabel Freese, Vitalis won the 2016 Nürnberger Burg-Pokal, and since then seems to have concentrated on his breeding duties – with success.

Vivaldi was also the buzz stallion at the 2018 Hanoverian licensing, mainly through his son, Vitalis. Hanoverian breeding expert, Ludwig Christman thought it was



Desperado (Vivaldi - Sarita x Havidoff) ridden by Emmelie Scholtens (NED), bred by the Andeweg Family, Randwyk (NED)

Vivaldi rather than Vitalis that attracted the breeders. "It is not only Vitalis, it is Vivaldi in general. When you look at the sons and grandsons of Vivaldi, you can see his qualities."

So you think it is Vivaldi more than Vitalis? Certainly in Holland they think Vivaldi is the most exciting younger stallion...

"I remember when he first started as a stallion there was a question mark behind him, it was felt that Vivaldi would not be a Grand Prix producer, but now we see his offspring competing in Grand Prix. At our licensing, Vivaldi was the most influential stallion, I think he had 16 stallions with his blood at the licensing. The riders like the mix of traditional Hanoverian blood, particularly from the 'D' line, and some Dutch blood."

Interesting then that Vivaldi's two most successful Grand Prix horses, Cenin, and the emerging Blue Hors Venezia are both out of Donnerhall mares.

Vivaldi was reserve champion of his stallion performance test in the Netherlands and won the Pavo Cup for five-year-old dressage horses in 2007. In 2008 and 2009, ridden by Hans Peter Minderhoud, he won the KNHS/KWPN stallion competition, where he was awarded 10.0 for his trot. He was then internationally successful up to Prix St. Georges. In 2013, he won the VHO trophy at the KWPN licensing. He was another of the modern stallions that made it to Prix St Georges, but then failed to make the leap to Grand Prix.

A history of breeding in the Netherlands

Vivaldi's bloodline is a history of dressage breeding in the Netherlands. His sire Krack C was eighth at the Jerez 2002 WEG with Anky van Grunsven. Krack C is by Flemmingh, one of the first dressage specialist sires in Holland (even if stallion keeper, Wiepke van der Lageweg thought he was buying a jumping sire) while Krack C's dam, Gicara II brings a heady dose of 'blood' to the equation. She is by Beaujolais, who was by Lucky Boy xx, out of Venice by Lorenz (Ladykiller xx) out of Maga by Willow Cratic xx. That's 75% Thoroughbred.

Vivaldi's dam is by the most famous of Dutch dressage stallions, Jazz, who headed the WBFSH stallion standings on numerous occasions, and she comes from the famous Utopia line of mares, although the line is more famous for producing great jumpers like Arko III and Darco, than dressage horses.

Caroline Ironside interviewed the breeder, Antoon Versantvoort about his Utopia line, on the website, HorseBreedersMagazine where, apparently, Mr Versantvoort describes himself as a 'hobby breeder', but a hobby breeder with a history. He explained; "Horse breeding has already been in the family several generations. At the time, my grandfather had already bred an approved stallion. With this stallion they took him out for one year through the country to cover mares. Later came the transition from work horses

to sport horses, and at an early stage my father bought a luxurious and modern mare which he has bred some foals with. I acquired one of those foals from him to start my own breeding.

"At that time, we went through all the inspections to see how we would do, and we actively participated with the horses we had. After several years, it became clear to me that the mare line is very important in breeding. When my mare died unexpectedly, I then decided to find a mare from a known strain. I knew someone who successfully bred with the Utopia dynasty, who had a filly for sale out of the Jazz mare Darla-Utopia (Ulft). This filly was Renate-Utopia and I bought her in 1998 to be my future breeding mare. Renate-Utopia comes from the famous Nomana dynasty, mare line 2, breeding family 8."

The Utopia-line has produced both dressage and jumping horses, including Nick Skelton's Arko III, the KWPN stallions, Premier and Radar, and international jumpers, Loretta, It's the Business, Now or Never, Darco, and Opium. The original 'Utopia' mare is Ellen-Utopia, by the Trotter stallion Kan Pom B, out of the Gelderlander mare, Gerda. Her daughter, Hellen-Utopia was by the L'Invasion son, Boris.

Versantvoort was well pleased with his choice; "Renate-Utopia herself easily became Ster as a three-year-old. Unfortunately there was no central examination (keuring) to go to that year because of the foot-and-mouth epidemic. We had her under saddle for a few months, but because of a busy private life we decided to have her only as a breeding mare. This has certainly paid off and she was already awarded 'preferent' based on just her first three offspring, and as an 11-year-old she received the 'prestatie' title."

Vivaldi's grand-sire, Cocktail, was a Grand Prix dressage winner with Anky van Grunsven, while his sire, Purioso, was an influential sire of dressage and jumping horses in the Netherlands. He is by Furioso II, further evidence that the French stallion imported to Oldenburg by Georg Vorwerk, is the most influential sire in the performance horse world today.

Arie Harmoen was for many years the head of the KWPN stallion committee and remembers Vivaldi well when he appeared at the stallion show; "At the stallion show of 2005, Vivaldi was in third place. Johnson was the first. Vivaldi's condition was not so good, he looked very young, but he was also a very nice mover, and very nice temperament. When he was presented free moving and in free walk, he did a very good job, but he was still a young horse, too young. He looked like a two year old! Some people said, why was he third? There was not a lot of muscling, not a lot of conditioning, but he was a good mover that's why he was third."

And the mother line?

"It was normal. Good enough, good functional horses, but they did not have a lot of chances – it just depends. Some horses have more chances, some breeders bring them to

riders and let them go Grand Prix. Vivaldi's mother line was average, good stallions, but not a lot of results in the sport."

I find it interesting that Vivaldi never made it to Grand Prix, he got no further than small tour, but he is breeding Grand Prix...

"That is the interesting side of breeding. You have Grand Prix horses that never breed Grand Prix offspring. Damon Hill for example, he was a fantastic Grand Prix horse but you don't see a lot of his offspring in Grand Prix. Vivaldi is a little bit like Sandro Hit, although he went further than Sandro Hit – to Prix St Georges. I think the problem with Vivaldi was that as a young horse he had trouble with his stomach, he needed a little bit special food. He was easy to handle in the arena, but sometimes in the stable he was a little bit nervous, I think that was part of the problem."

Hans Peter Minderhoud who rode Vivaldi in his competition career, thinks the failure to go on was related to trying to combine a competition and breeding career: "It's a problem with stallions that were successful as young horses, they have been breeding like crazy every year, frozen semen in the winter, fresh semen in the summer, and with some you just have to make a decision, if the value is higher as a breeding stallion, then keep just him as a stallion because I cannot do both with him."

Floor Dröge works for the KWPN, her job is inspecting the mares, but she had a rare opportunity to evaluate Vivaldi: "I rode Vivaldi in the performance test! He was amazing. He had the best head and rideability that you could wish for, and you see that with his offspring. You really see it, really nice characters, really able and willing to do it."

Yet he never made the jump from Small Tour to Big Tour...

"No, but he did everything at home. That's the question, does he need to do Grand Prix? Vivaldi didn't, but if you look at the horses he is producing they are great, so I don't mind that he didn't do Grand Prix himself. If you've got the mare with the hind leg and the things you want, use Vivaldi."

Did he feel special from the first time you sat in the saddle?

"His rideability was very nice, as a three-year-old he went on a long rein outside, just enjoying himself, and you also see that character with his offspring."

What other young stallions are interesting at the moment?

"A lot of them."

Which are most interesting to you?

"It depends on the mare for sure, it totally depends on the mare. Take Vivaldi, I fancy Vivaldi, but until this year I didn't have a mare that suited him, so I never used him. Now I have a Ferro mare, and Vivaldi x Ferro is a really good combination. You need a mare for him. Even with a great

stallion, it needs to suit him.

"I had a very small, very elegant horse, and she didn't fit him, I needed something else for that mare. You have to look at what are the good points in the conformation but also the movement and the rideability of the mare, what do I want to preserve? What do I want to change?"

The mare you bred to him, what were the characteristics that said to you, this mare is good to go to Vivaldi?

"She's a bit sharp, she's always on, always ready to go. So cool her down... what do the judges want to see? They want to see a test that is so fluent, that it looks like it doesn't take any effort from the rider, from the horse. You want them to go, and you want them to relax as well and that's big job when they are five-, six-, seven-year-olds, and they have to go into a big arena like Ermelo, wow! And if they are not active enough, if the power is not there, everyone goes, oh, he's not special, and when they are too active and too much power, they go, oh, he is tense and he is forced. It is a real balance. You need to search for it to make it for you, the rider, as easy as you can."

In 2009 Vivaldi was the second most popular breeding stallion in the Netherlands with 285 mares. In 2011 Vivaldi only covered 33 mares, which I guess shows just how important success in the sport can be for a Dutch stallion. These days the KWPN declines to release the figures on how many mares each stallion covers – the last figures I can find are for foals born in 2018, when the Vivaldi son, Dream Boy (Ferro), a Grand Prix star with Hans Peter Minderhoud was fourth with 138 mares, but Vivaldi does not appear in the top five...

Vivaldi's ninth place on the WBFSh sires rankings comes from eight international competitors, the two most successful being Dream Boy and Desperado (Havidoff). ■

Breeders

Cennin (2007/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Vitana V x Donnerhall) – J.E.J. Cuppen (NED)

Desperado (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Sarita x Havidoff) – Andeweg Family, Randwyk (NED)

Eye Catcher (2009/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Ostrona x TCN Partout) – G. Snoeks, Oss (NED)

Veneziano/Blue Hors Veneziano (2010/Oldbg/st Vivaldi - Bianca x Donnerhall) – Blue Hors Aps (DEN)

Dancer (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Zenna U x Tango) – G.A. Roza

Vitalis (2007/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Tolivia x D-Day) – Toon de Crom and W. Verbakel (NED)

Van Vivaldi (2010/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Amuel x Olivi) – E. and J. Schuiling, Oosterwolde GLD (NED)

Livaldon (2010/Hann/st Vivaldi - Donna Littchen x Donnerhall) – Hans Heinrich Schnadt (GER)

Dream Boy (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi - Resia x Ferro) bred by Tim Coomans (NED)

DSP online foal auction sells Quaterback son for €43,500

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: BJÖRN SCHRÖDER

Four days, four foals each day: That was the programme for the Süddeutsche Pferdezuchtverbände Vermarktungs GmbH (DSP) online foal auction that ran from June 9-12 – and it worked very well as the most expensive foal sold was a son of DSP elite stallion Quaterback out of a Donnerhall dam.

The chestnut colt delighted numerous bidders from Germany, Austria and Luxembourg who fought for Strahlemann. Ultimately, the Windhof dressage stable, which had already won the licensing during the DSP stallion days with former elite auction foal Finley, managed to hold their breath the longest. Bred by Valerie Huck from Munich, the opulently moving Quaterback son sold for €43,500.

Another exquisite offer became the most expensive jumping foal: the filly Forever ET. Bred by Paul Scheuerer, his Chacco Blue mare, from the direct dam line of Hugo Simon's legendary ET, was inseminated by For Pleasure, and Forever ET was the result. (See cover photo). This genetic highlight was popular with bidders from the USA, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands, and the hammer finally fell at €28,000 in favour of the USA.

The influx of cosmopolitan customers to this online auction was hugely gratifying, with a second foal selling to Luxembourg, plus one apiece to Poland and Hungary. Another foal changed to Luxembourg and one each to Poland and Hungary.

An average of 12,125 euros was achieved for the 16 foals and, according to marketing manager Fritz Fleischmann; "This is a top result underpinned by a very good sales rate. The collection was very good and we were able to serve both sport riders and numerous breeders."

Two more online auctions are schedule for July 7 (20 dressage foals) and July 14 (18 jumping foals). It is then planned to switch the elite jumping and dressage foals to July 24 and 25, respectively, running concurrently with the DSP stallion championship: www.deutsches-sportpferd.de



Top-priced colt by Quaterback out of a Donnerhall mare

Zanetti pride: Horses under the saddles of champions

BY UMBERTO MARTUSCELLI

PHOTOGRAPHY: STARTING GATE COMMUNICATIONS AND UMBERTO MARTUSCELLI

Which breeder wouldn't be delighted to see their own horses under the saddles of riders such as Rodrigo Pessoa, Eric Lamaze and Jur Vrieling. One such breeder has achieved such breeding success thanks to her over-riding passion. So, let's talk about Franca Zanetti. Or, rather, let's talk to Franca Zanetti.

We must start, however, with Rodrigo Pessoa. Yes, the formidable Brazilian champion and winner of... everything! So, first, let's refresh our memories and at the same time provide some useful information for any readers who are not so familiar with this son of the Brazilian magician, Nelson Pessoa.

Rodrigo Pessoa was born in 1972. He won the World Cup final three years in a row from 1998 to 2000, he won the World Championship in 1998, won individual gold medal at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, won the Rolex Top 10 world final in 2003 and in 2005, won the Calgary CSIO Grand Prix (twice), Rome, Aachen, Rotterdam, Falsterbo (twice)... Which only provide his most significant results. No one is unclear that we are talking about one of the greatest riders in the history of showjumping.

Then, three years ago, Rodrigo Pessoa considered throwing in the towel; completely abandoning high-level competition as a rider and devoting himself to Ireland. The Irish team had employed him as their chef d'equipe and they subsequently celebrated a great victory in becoming team European champions in Gothenburg. "I no longer have competitive and quality horses", he said, "Also because prices are now prohibitive and really good horses are increasingly difficult to find, even youngsters, so I'd rather let it go and nail my boots to the wall." This was March 2017.

Now let's jump forward to July 2019, when Rodrigo

Pessoa found himself seriously considering the possibility of participating at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (now 2021) as a rider. But didn't the Brazilian champion retire? Wasn't he thinking of leaving? Yes... Except, in the meantime something crucial happened. 'Something' that has a name, and also a... surname: her christian name is Quality, the surname is FZ – which stands for Franca Zanetti.

Quality FZ is a bay gelding born in 2009 by Quintender (2001/Holst Quinar x Contender) and Berlina FZ (2005/MIPAAF [Italian Saddle Horse] Berlin x Carneval). Italian born and bred, and a product of Franca Zanetti's studfarm. Giving Quality FZ to a rider like Rodrigo Pessoa, with his past and, above all, his expectations for what will be, is like providing a starting point to redesign the future. Will there really be an Olympic Games for this fabulous horse? It's too soon to say, but the mere fact that an exceptional champion like Rodrigo Pessoa is even thinking about is significant. Can you imagine that an athlete with his resumé would even consider such a possibility knowing he might expose himself as an imposter. Or would he rather compete with the certainty that he has the means to live up to his glittering past? Obviously, this is a superfluous question, and an absurd answer, and it's the reason why Franca Zanetti (31) is exquisitely happy, regardless of what will actually happen.

As Zanetti explained; "All this is bringing me immense joy. I decided on the marriage that would produce Quality, and he was bred here at my house. I was there when he was born, and rode him as a four- and five-year-old. Before that, I rode his mother and grandmother. His mother, Berlina, went under the saddle of Alberto Zorzi at the age of seven, and he rode for me for around three years – a fantastic rider. He also rode a sister of Quality's mother, Indira FZ, an important who had arrived with him to jump in the big classes. Unfortunately, at the age of 10 she had to stop competing, which was too bad because with Alberto she would have gone even higher."

◆ A horse called Quality of course seems to have destiny in his name, so how did that happen?

Because after he was born, and I mean just five minutes after he came out of his mother's belly, he started jumping



Franca Zanetti

and bucking, it was impossible to touch him, a kind of concentration of energy, a big, strong bull. Right then I said, 'I'll call you Quality'.

◆ **What about his grandmother and mother?**

Well, the purchase of Isanca, Quality's grandmother, was a kind of gift from heaven because my whole breeding program was founded with her, and she produced daughters who proved to be fabulous mothers. It all started with her, and she only left us last May (2019) at the age of 35.

◆ **How did Isanca come to you?**

My father and I took it almost as a joke. In 1991 I was with Peter Postelmans in Belgium: I started my career with her, we were both very young, she was also quite difficult in the beginning. I did the whole season with her when she was six, then seven, then Grand Prix.

◆ **Your father was an important figure for you?**

Absolutely. Elemental. His death in August 2015 was a severe blow for me. Effectively speaking, of course. Also because it happened suddenly, unexpectedly. But it was a huge problem also from an organizational point of view because he was a fundamental guide in our breeding and helped me a lot. I found myself alone with one hundred horses, so it wasn't easy to move on, especially without my dad. Not easy at all.

◆ **So it was your father who started you in equestrian sport?**

Yes, he loved horses very much, but he would have liked to direct me towards trotting, his real great passion. But I wanted to showjump. The result is that we now have a large studfarm breeding horses for both trotting and showjumping. We have many Grand Prix trotters who are winning a lot, and have sold many in Sweden, France, Belgium.... This is a great reality, too.



Spencer Smith (USA) riding Quality FZ on behalf of Eric Lamaze's Torrey Pines Stable

◆ **A great breeding enterprise born with your father that you are continuing?**

My father supported me a lot, but the breeding I did on my own with the help of Diego Grotto, my partner. First one mare, then two, then three, then four... One step at a time. Also because our economic possibilities were not exactly high, let's say: We were born almost from nothing, a family of farmers.

◆ **Now how many horses do you have in total?**

About a hundred foals and horses in sport. In 2019 I had thirty-two pregnant mares, which is a large number.

◆ **So a very demanding activity: but do you do everything yourself?**

With Diego, yes. Then there are some very good guys who help me for all the work we do here at home. Also because I want the horses to be followed very carefully immediately, they are handled from the moment they are born. I don't like wild breeding, let's say, with the horses thrown out to pasture and left..

◆ **A recurring theme that is much debated in Italy is that breeding does not make a living, that breeders have always been in difficulty....**

It's a difficult life, yes, but if you work well in the long run, the results are there. We need to make careful selections for mothers, that's the point. Many say I have a mare, she got hurt, she can no longer jump so I breed her. That's very wrong. This is the biggest mistake. A mare only goes into breeding if she really has qualities on top of qualities, otherwise she doesn't. Not all mares are born to be mothers. I too have been disappointed in this regard:] I have made mistakes, I have had economic losses, but every experience helps with moving forward for the better. I always try to buy foreign mares who represent the best maternal lines in the world. I tried to buy in-vitro embryos, but buying them ready-made is impossible. But step by step I am



Franca's life and business partner Diego Grotto riding Cashai FZ (2010/SI-MIPAAF/g Cachas x Indoctro)



Franca's stable jockey, Rosario Sucameli, riding Lagegonda FZ (2016/KWPN/m Carrera VDL - Hagegonda x Zirocco Blue x Corland)

succeeding. The road is still very long, but I think it's the right one. At least, I hope so. I do think we're going in the right direction because the results are starting to come after so many years of work.

◆ However, it is a fact that the breeding of sport horses is not a thriving business in general...

What we lack is the trade in young sport horses. Foreigners often come now to buy horses in Italy, because we really have good horses. But the commercial network is missing: We are unable to do what they do abroad and I am sorry about that. In Germany there are auctions every weekend, for every type and level of horses, they help breeders to sell. If there are mediocre horses they organize cheaper auctions and everything is sold. It is difficult with us.

◆ Your base is in Preganziol, in the province of Treviso, but you have many contacts in foreign countries, don't you?

The farm is in Preganziol, where some of the foals are born. Then I also have a base in Germany and one in Holland, with several mares there. I work with many foreign realities that help me out. I have a very extensive network of contacts, which took a lot of effort. It was hard, I created all this over time and now I'm starting to see the results, we are well known in America too. We have American owners who bought horses I've bred and they leave them with me until the age of seven. A very good boy who rides with McLain Ward has bought three foals born here through his sponsor. In short, the rumors spread, new customers arrive

◆ And perhaps [as a showjumping rider herself] you have more visibility abroad than in Italy?

Absolutely yes, that's right! I have contacts with foreigners every day, for the sale of foals, for pregnant broodmares, for unborn embryos with an important maternal line.... I have many requests for Quality's mother's children, for example. But it is normal, when you have horses that jump in classes of that level then everything comes afterwards.

◆ Is Quality your absolutely best horse?

Well, there is also Acapulco FZ (Acodetto 2 - I-Cynthia x Capitol I) who competed in the 2018 Tryon World championship with Chilean rider Rodrigo Carrasco, and also the 2019 Gothenburg World Cup Final. At the moment I also have a very good seven-year-old mare in the stables of Daniele Da Rios who I think is a very important horse. She is Acapulco's sister and we believe she is capable of great sport. And then Indira FZ, the mare ridden

by Alberto Zorzi.

◆ And having a horse ridden by Rodrigo Pessoa...

Ah! It's an enormous Joy. But also, Rodrigo is very kind as he's always writing to me, sending me videos. He is very happy with the horse, whom he also thinks is an important horse. For me it is a wonderful joy.

◆ Quality was also started by two other big names in international showjumping...

Yes. Earlier he was with Jur Vrieling with whom I've been friends for a lifetime. I entrusted the horse to him at the age of six. Then he wanted to buy half, so took him to a higher level until two years ago. Quality was then sold to Eric Lamaze who started him in his first Grand Prix. Rodrigo noticed him and liked Quality so much, so now the horse is with him. But I can never thank Jur enough because it was with him that Quality took his most important steps, from six years onwards. We are in constant contact and he always asks me if there is another Quality in the team! "

◆ It's too bad that the horse moved away from Italy...

But in Italy he was misunderstood: everyone thought he was too difficult, a voyeur, that he had problems with the water, but that wasn't true at all.

◆ What if Rodrigo Pessoa really does participate in the Tokyo Olympic Games next year with Quality ...?

Mamma mia. My heart would burst. ■

First published by the Italian Equestrian Federation: Fiseveneto.com

Warmblood breeding: Part II

Post World War II to 2020

BY CELIA CLARKE

PHOTOGRAPHY: ARND BRONKHORST/FEI

Part I of this three-part series was an historical review of the development of Warmblood breeding up to the beginning of World War II, setting it firmly in the context of wider political, economic, and cultural events. Part II part takes us up to the present day and follows the same approach by linking developments in the Warmblood and sport horse breeding industry with the national and international pressures that have affected it.

Part III will endeavor to address the problems, risks and potential positives facing the industry in a post-COVID world and beyond.

To many people it will seem surprising that horse breeding of any kind was able to resume its pre-war pattern relatively quickly after the cessation of hostilities. In fact, of course, in many countries – even those either actively at war or occupied by foreign forces – it had never actually ceased. The reasons for this were two-fold.

Firstly – and this is a fact often overlooked by even specialist military historians – in the European theatre of action (and particularly in Germany) Second World War armies were still surprisingly reliant on horse power, with amazingly the largest ever single purchase of horses in history being by the Wehrmacht in 1944, probably because the horse-drawn drays followed immediately behind the Panzers when in action.

Secondly, and more commonly recognized, is the fact that at this time agriculture was not really even beginning to be mechanized (apart from in the wide-open spaces of the prairie and farming states of the relatively wealthy United States) so horses were still the main providers of power to all sectors of the agricultural industry. This was as true in the UK and Ireland as it was in mainland Europe, as even after the generous input of funds via the Marshall Plan, petrol (gasoline) was still in desperately short supply and the need for calm, adaptable horses to pull

the plough and take the family and their goods to market was as strong – possibly even stronger – than it had been pre-War.

In this situation those countries with a national framework of locally based (but centrally government-funded) studs – the old adversaries France and Germany, and the neutral Sweden, for example – were those most able to address the need for suitable breeding programmes quickly. Even so, many of the clean-legged but rather substantial mares that, covered by local stallions, were to produce the geldings set to work on the farms, were eventually to become the ‘foundation’ mares of a high percentage of the currently most successful Warmblood and sport horse studbooks.

Alongside this, in the UK and Ireland these mares were usually crossed with Thoroughbred sires (such as the



Nick Skelton (GBR) riding Big Star to the individual gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games



Every dressage breeder's dream to produce another Valegro (Negro) ridden by Charlotte Dujardin (GBR)

Premium Stallions selected by the Hunter's Improvement Society in England, Scotland, and Wales) rather than true cold-blood 'heavy horse' stallions, to produce a more all-round horse suitable for the growing demand for hunters and show horses. These horses were, therefore, really a by-product of the still flourishing racehorse breeding industries in both these countries – and the French Thoroughbred and Trotter breeding industries also helped to develop the 'half-bred' horse that was to become popular as a source of leisure riding in the latter part of the 1950s.

To the East, chiefly in Poland and the USSR and its satellite countries, state studs (particularly those on the Hungarian plains and surrounding areas) were again the main sources of horses for all purposes, including carriage driving, although in this case the mares were usually owned by the state rather than by individual farmers as was more often the situation across Western Europe. Sadly access to the huge gene pool to the East of Germany – which had been a regular source of improving/lightening bloodlines in the past (most of them Trakehner or Trakehner crosses) – was lost when the Iron Curtain came down, and after the Berlin Blockade in 1948 it would be 40 years before they could be easily accessed again.

To complete the picture, the Anglophone countries outside Europe (the USA, Australia, and New Zealand) concentrated their non-agricultural horse breeding industries mainly on Thoroughbreds (for racing) and TB crosses for non-racing markets, although the flourishing Western riding scene (not an Olympic sport, so outside the

remit of *World Breeding News*) was also a very major source of income for American horse breeders. Finally, the Iberian breeds and their related studbooks (Lusitano, Andalusian and Lipizzaner) still reflected the concentration on classical dressage – and some carriage driving – that was the cultural heritage of those countries, as much then as they still are today.

Of course, some of the horses bred as army remounts prior to and during the Second World War (both in mainland Europe and in the UK and Ireland) did survive the conflagration and – as many of them had been bred to be able to adapt to the somewhat variable riding skills of army officers – they proved to be ideally suited to meeting the needs of the growing

leisure market that developed in the 1950s.

Again, within the UK and Ireland, a considerable number of them were 'half-breds' by TB stallions of good temperament and proven soundness and out of more substantial mares. As such, they were also adept at coping with increasing demands for both cross-country agility and speed and the more controlled demands of local showjumping competitions. Dressage, on the other hand, rarely featured as a significant competitive discipline in any of the Anglophone countries so the type of action required of horses bred in this way tended to rely on fast low canters rather than the more rounded paces of their Continental compatriots.

The Treaty of Rome

By 1958, when the Treaty of Rome was signed by what became known as the Big Six (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg), German industry in all its aspects was in the ascendant and French agriculture was a key player in all agricultural policy. Thus the national and international structure of post-war horse breeding settled into the format that was really to last it until the international availability of frozen semen and the collapse of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s changed the priorities and drivers of the industry in many ways.

By the mid 1970s, the major state studs in Germany were each developing their own stallion bloodlines to breed what we now know as 'Warmbloods' rather than 'half-bloods' or

'half-breeds', and studfarms were supported by enthusiastic breeders clubs which provided the mare power for the studbooks. As brands were the great marketing power and eligibility for these were governed by the state-based studbooks, the requirement to use locally based stallions was paramount for most German breeders at this time, and the highly desired State Premium mare schemes (increasingly often only mares with this classification being allowed to be stallion mothers) reinforced this.

Usually the state stud stallions themselves came from traditional Hannoverian bloodlines, with some Holsteiners, Trakehners, Thoroughbreds – and even occasional Anglo Arab and Shagyas – sometimes drafted in to expand the gene pool and provide specific qualities of pace, temperament, and jumping ability as deemed necessary by the local stallion commission. Conformation, correct paces, and soundness were the drivers of the selection system used by state studs. But in order to maintain the quality of performance under saddle, all stallion candidates had to undergo the stringent 100-day (or in some cases 300-day) test. However, once they had successfully completed this they were sadly rarely ever seen in public competition, although the annual stallion viewing days did allow the audience of potential breeders, riders, trainers, and owners the chance to see how the top stallions had trained on in higher work during the non-breeding season.

France and Sweden, adopted this basic pattern as well, although obviously adapted to their own distinct breeds (Selle Francais and Anglo Arab in France, Swedish Warmblood in Sweden) with the modernizing stallions again being mainly of Trakehner, Thoroughbred, or Anglo Arab bloodlines. The nascent Warmblood studbooks of Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium also followed the same pattern, although Holstein blood was significantly more important in both Denmark and the Netherlands than it was elsewhere. (Interestingly the Holsteiner was introduced into the Netherlands as a source of jumping blood, whereas in Denmark it was as a choice for dressage breeders, although both camps highlighted the high knee action/snatch up of the breed as the reason for their choice.)

In Eastern Europe the picture remained pretty much the same as it had for the previous 20 years, with little or no interaction with countries the other side of the Iron Curtain apart from occasional forays into stallion buying to diversify the genetics of the breeding herd and make the animals being produced more rideable for the general public. On the other hand, in some parts of Russia, Poland, and the old East Prussia this isolation did help to maintain some of the rarer Trakehner bloodlines not available elsewhere, which proved a great boon to all Warmblood and sport horse breeders when the Berlin Wall finally came down.

In the wider world, the term Warmblood was increasingly being used to replace the previous half-bred, although Ireland and the UK were still reluctant to adopt this wording as it appeared to overlook the fact that many of the horses being bred were still by Thoroughbred stallions

and out of heavier type mares. This was because Ireland was concentrating on producing jumpers from Irish Draft/Thoroughbred crosses, while the UK was still concentrating on breeding hunters, eventers, and show horses (sired by HIS Premium Stallions and out of middleweight mares of unknown origin).

The USA, meanwhile, was focusing on an almost exclusively Thoroughbred or Quarter Horse-based breeding herd, although a limited number of Warmblood – often Hannoverian – stallions were being imported by now. However, they were not popular as it was difficult to find a breeding registry willing to accept them until the American Warmblood Registry was formed and a number of 'foreign' studbooks created daughter studbooks (such as the American Hannoverian Horse Society) to register their eligible American-born foals.

The same situation was soon to arise in the UK where the British Warm-Blood Society (now Warmblood Breeders Studbook of the UK) came into existence in 1977. This was followed by the British Hannoverian Horse Society (the UK daughter studbook of the Hannoverian Verband) and the Anglo-Dutch Studbook, which eventually developed into the Anglo-European Studbook of today.

As far as Australia and New Zealand were concerned, there was little in the way of Warmblood or sport horse breeding, although descendants of German immigrants to South Africa had begun importing Hannoverians to breed and jump. In the same way, following the collapse of the Salazar regime in Portugal in 1968, some wealthy Portuguese ex-pats in Brazil brought over their Lusitanos with other Iberian and Warmblood breeds following close in their footsteps.

By 1981, when a number of further countries joined the EU – the UK and Ireland having already joined in 1971 – the international structure of Warmblood/sport horse breeding was well able to combine the requirements of EU equestrian breeding laws within their own structures and cultures. However, there was no international forum by which the many studbooks involved could discuss any common issues or disputes – the World Breeding Federation for Sports Horses (WBFSH) not being formed until late in 1994 – so the need for a forum to discuss the requirements of equestrian sport as laid down by the FEI, plus the individual rules and regulations of the home breeding studbooks of registration, was urgently needed. After all, these were the motors that powered the development of the various breeding industries worldwide.

In the Western world many of the economic and political changes – not only in general government but also as reflected in national breeding policies – were fired by the Thatcher- and Regan-led Reganomics with its main emphasis being on less regulation and lower taxes. Whilst the less regulated aspect of this regime did not really resonate with the equestrian breeding world (regulations seemed to increase rather than decrease if anything), the lowering of taxation, and the consequent relative ease of access to cash

and credit, did encourage the development of sports overall – and the relatively expensive pursuit of sport horse and Warmblood breeding in particular. The industry, both nationally and worldwide was, therefore, in a good position before the next three major developments in world politics made their impact felt.

These were, in date order,

- the Single European Act in 1986, which saw the European Economic Community (EEC) change its name to the European Union (EU) – thus heralding a period of much greater integration and standardisation of European trade and legislation (particularly strongly in all sectors of agriculture);
 - the fall of the Soviet Union which in turn led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989;
 - and the subsequent re-unification of Germany in 1990.
- Together these led to a considerable increase in trade – both within the EU member states and outward to the wider world, particularly the USA and the emerging states of the former Soviet Union.

As far as Warmblood and sport horse breeding was concerned, this created a golden opportunity to capitalize on the growing interest in competitive equestrian sport, fuelled by increasing worldwide coverage of major events via satellite television and the nascent development of the World Wide Web and related specialist email discussion groups (social media).

On a more national level, although German re-unification led to a considerably increased burden on taxpayers in the former West Germany, it also – for Warmblood breeders at least – led to better access to a significant number of top-class bloodlines (most of them of Trakehner origin) that had been denied to them for over 40 years.

The birth of the WBFSH

With the increasing competition between studbooks both nationally and internationally as a direct result of EU legislation encouraging competitiveness within business, and the wish of the FEI to see more transparency and detail in programme information for its new viewers across the globe, it was remarkably prescient of HRH Princess Anne (the then president of the FEI) to call a meeting of stop studbooks in 1988, which resulted in the first tentative steps towards the formation of the WBFSH. This development led to a much greater enthusiasm by stallion owners to get their stallions over-stamped by other studbooks in addition to their original studbooks of origin as this allowed for a much wider choice for mare owners, whose registration rules for foals were still governed – as many still are today – by the studbook into which the dam is graded. A typical example of this multi-grading phenomenon would be the popular Hannoverian dressage stallion Akzent II (Absatz - Wega x Waidmannsdank xx) who after successfully completing his performance test in Verden in 1976 went on to be accepted by six other

German studbooks and a whole host of ‘newer’ studbooks throughout the remainder of Europe and North America.

State studs even joined this trend, although less enthusiastically as the funding for them tended to come from local breeders whose historical support for the local studbooks of origin was founded on generations of successful foal sales and proven success in the promotion of the virtues of the locally produced ridden auction horses. Some very successful stallions such as Galoubet (Alme - Viti x Nystag), Grundstein (Graphit - Sissi x Sermon), and the almost legendary Donauwind (Pregel - Donaulied von Schimmelhof x Boris) who still feature relatively close-up in the pedigrees of some of the most successful sport horse stallions at stud today, found their way to North America to add a final fillip and another wider group of broodmares to add to their already successful international breeding careers.

All these developments were underscored by a growing demand for frozen semen, which saw the beginning of a sector of the industry that is now probably the most lucrative source of income for almost all professional stallion owners. Unfortunately, not all veterinary surgeons were adept at the necessary skills of scanning, inseminating, and rescanning, and some were even unaware of what was required to keep frozen – and later chilled – semen alive until insemination. This held the market back a little for a time (certainly in what would have been its ideal markets of the UK, USA, New Zealand, and Australia). But eventually the vets did acquire the skills required of them, and specialist veterinary AI units became common in every Warmblood and sport horse breeding country.



By 1992, when the Treaty of Maastricht introduced the euro (which was to become the mandatory currency for all new EU states in 1999, although the UK, Denmark, and Poland refused to join and have retained their original currency throughout) and with it the European Monetary Union (ERM) and much deeper integration of legislation and regulations, it was obvious that some form of international organization was needed to intercede in the many possible inter-studbook registration and grading validity disputes that would have taken place otherwise. The formal recognition of the WBFSH by the FEI on November 19, 1994, is



La BiosthetiqueSam – eventing perfection – carrying Michael Jung to gold at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games

therefore probably the most significant administrative step ever taken by the Warmblood and sport horse breeding industry as a whole. Not only was membership open to a wide variety of studbooks that used grading and progeny inspection as a route to producing a better quality of performance horse, but its name – using the more inclusive and increasingly popular ‘sport horse’ nomenclature rather than either ‘Warmblood’ or the now already outmoded ‘half bred’ promoted the idea of a top class equine specifically produced for competition in the three Olympic disciplines of dressage, eventing and showjumping.

Spurred on by the continuing need for top-class performers, bred to meet the increasingly demanding conditions of elite sport, and the enthusiasm of studbooks for promoting their most successful horses, this development was actively promoted through the World Breeding Championship for Young Horses (running from 1992), the FEI-WBFSH studbook, breeder, and sire rankings, and the allied, but independent, launch of *Breeding News for Sport Horses* (which became *World Breeding News* to reflect the formal partnership with the WBFSH on January 1, 2019) devotedly reported the latest news and analysis of all these since the very start.

The studbook and breeder rankings are – and always have been – the most hotly contended facets of the enterprise, and their results are always critically analysed and commented upon throughout the industry as is the veracity, comprehensiveness, and accuracy of the data upon which they are based. Even so, it is perhaps the Young Horse

Championships that are the most immediately significant to breeders and – in turn – the studbooks. This is because the top horses in these championships are immediately identified as those most likely to acquit themselves best when faced with the seemingly endless changes in the rules of the FEI-run top competitions and championships, and are thus believed to be the equine stars of the future. If they are stallions or mares – rather than geldings – then that is a plus as they are able to input directly into the gene pool. But the breeding of top geldings is just as important, of course, as their sires and dams are also very significant purveyors of talent in themselves.

Rules and regulations driving breeding

The need for this on-going assessment is closely allied to the changes that the FEI regularly makes to its most elite championships – the Olympic Games, the regional championships (e.g. European championship and Pan American Games, and the FEI’s own World Championships) as these again are made as a direct result of a need to maintain the highest level of public support. This happens across all disciplines and can be as major as:

- the dropping of the roads and tracks stage and the introduction of the frangible pin in eventing (which has led directly to the success of the Hannoverian and French studbooks in what was once the sure domain of British and Irish-bred horses);
- the introduction of the Freestyle final in dressage (hence



FEI-WBFSH #1 showjumper 2018-2019 – Explosion W with Ben Maher (GBR) – bred by Willy Wijnen (NED)

the increasing emphasis on extravagant movement and a lighter more elegant horse throughout almost all levels of the sport);

- and technically demanding courses with related distances and lighter fences in showjumping (again the French have profited here alongside the Dutch and the Oldenburgs).

These changes were made to ensure that, despite the fact that the competitions and championships themselves were becoming ever more exciting to watch, it was the rider, rather than the horse who was being increasingly tested – so that the welfare of the horses (always a major factor with the public) – was being maintained as well as possible; for without public support, sponsors disappear and without sponsors there is no sport.

Of course, all such changes are always viewed as a potential challenge as far as the breeders and studbooks are concerned. Whilst they may be being made to please the public, the industry is always aware that a change in format generates the need for a different kind of horse. It was this that was the spur to the next – and probably most visually identifiable international change in Warmblood and sport horse breeding in every country where there is now a studbook.

The adoption of the Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) in 1999, and its compulsory adoption by all EU-approved studbooks in 2004, also played a considerable part in the development of harmonized and easily accessible breeding data and was the result of many years of work by the World Horse Identification and Registration Data Committee (WHIRDEC). And their 16-digit code system still plays a major role in the tracking of breeding data from studbook to studbook and country to country.

With an international atmosphere of almost continuous

growth in affluence, trade, and relative political calm in the Bank Crash of 2008 (strangely 9/11 seems to have had little direct effect on the industry outside a natural – and understandable – temporary downturn in the USA early in the new century), money continued to flow into all aspects of the sport, and many of the big, private studfarms began to promote their stallions in open competition. This had rarely happened before – the relatively isolated showjumping success of the Dutch Warmblood UK-based Marius (Marco Polo - Aston Answer x Question) being a rare example – but even so, it was a marketing opportunity grasped immediately by a number of large privately owned stallion stations, breeding studs, and training centres throughout Europe.

Allied to the increasing use of frozen semen and other related breeding technologies, Zangersheide, VDL and Paul Schockemöhle all took this route, as did many smaller concerns, eager that their charges should not get overlooked in the heated arena of international competition.

Whilst this exposure to open competition was obviously preferable to earlier years, it did lead to a certain tendency in mare owners (particularly newer or first-time breeders) to make the stallions they saw winning on television – or ranking highly in the FEI/WBFSH lists – their first choice, regardless of the type of mare they were breeding from, which was a personal stallion selection procedure far removed from the more tried and tested pedigree and progeny based choices of generations of more established breeders. And whilst many of the top stallions then competing were sound in both mind and body – as well as having a prodigious talent for their particular discipline – by no means were they all of the type that made them suitable as sires of horses destined for more limited or less experienced riders.

Across the studbooks (and many of these top stallions are now graded with a worldwide multiplicity of studbooks), the desire of many mare owners to want to breed a horse with the movement of Valegro, the jump of Big Star, or the courage of La Biosthetique Sam is understandable – as such progeny are immediately more marketable to both the general horse buying public and the specialist purchasers – but they do not always produce a horse that is suitable for the everyday leisure market.

Sadly, during this time the main casualty has, therefore, been the horse bred to be an ‘all rounder’, definitely more suitable for the less demanding leisure market, but also far less lucrative in sales terms. This shortfall and mismatch remains today and has yet to be addressed by either studbooks or breeders. (For example, a few years ago the

UK-based Futurity introduced a section for leisure horses alongside its discipline-based assessments of potential dressage horses, eventers, and showjumpers – but after two seasons of zero entries it had to drop the classification.)

This focus on performance has also led to a growing emphasis by breeders and studbooks to adopt breeding policies based upon suitability for a specific discipline, rather than based upon studbook origin, specific well-established bloodlines, and local or national needs. Conformation and paces now became the key factors in breeding selection, with sires and broodmares having top international performers – regardless of studbook or breed – often being the main criteria for choice.

This shift in emphasis has led both to a far wider number of studbooks accepting a far wider number of breeds into their breeding programmes and to an initial breeding selection process (for both stallions and mares) based mainly on talent for a specific sport rather than generations of studbook development.

Apparently inconsistently, it has also led to a potentially dangerous concentration on a limited number of bloodlines in each discipline as it's usually only these that are considered marketable enough to produce, a situation which – if allowed to continue unabated for many more years – could possibly lead to one like that in current flat-race breeding in which almost every horse traces to Northern Dancer in some way.

The Banking Crisis of 2008 did lead eventually to some high profile failures in breeding operations – Eurocommerce is one name that comes to mind – but it did also lead to some rationalization of breeding programmes across the world. This meant that fewer foals were being born, and over-breeding of ill-conformed horses of poor temperament with allied lack of talent for any sport – let alone high performance in a specific one – became less of a general welfare problem. However, it did increase the

'breeding-for-discipline type' approach to sire and dam selection, and with it a risk of some inbreeding, which had never before been a problem in the sports horse/Warmblood breeding industry. This was because of the wide range of bloodlines and breed types available to many breeders, even those who only looked locally for their sources of genetic material.

This situation has been reinforced by the growing popularity of all types of state-of-the-art breeding technology, including of course not only easily transported frozen and chilled semen, but also embryo transplant, gender selection, ICSI, and increasingly deep research into the genetic origin of specific conformational, pace, and sporting talent attributes.

Allied to the ease with which not only official FEI/WBFSH and UELN data is widely available across a whole range of studbooks and countries, this makes information on performance and pedigree available instantaneously, but alongside this there is also a growing threat of 'fake news' with not only breeder's and stallion owner's websites being very carefully selective about what they choose to highlight, but also an increasing number of Facebook pages (and groups) and Twitter feeds, most of them unmoderated, and a worrying number actually stating untrue rumours as truth. The post-truth world is now a major threat to the integrity of the Warmblood and sport horse breeding industry.

And now we come to 2020 and the COVID-19 epidemic. How will it affect the industry? How will the industry recover? How will the recent scientific developments in breeding change the options available to breeders? And what future developments – both equine and scientific – can we expect? These will be the questions we will address in Part III of this series. ■



Foundation: German BV's number one!

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNOVERANER VERBAND/STEFAN LAFRENTZ

Although the Germans are a bit coy about releasing stats on the number of mares covered by each stallion, it is generally thought that Foundation is the stallion with the largest harem. Once again, Foundation was right at the top of the rankings on the German breeding values, and with his successful entry into Grand Prix ranks, his star is set to shine even brighter.

Foundation by Fidertanz x De Vito was recently awarded the Hanoverian Verband's Grande-Prize. The 12-year-old privately owned stallion stands at the private Schafhof Stud in Kronberg. The award was in recognition of the progeny he has produced, and Foundation's own performances with Matthias Alexander Rath.

Bred by Gerd Pigge in Lastrup, Foundation was born in 2008 and came to the Verden Foal Auction under the name Figo II. Like so many stallions who go on to fame and fortune, Foundation was not initially licensed and was sold in the Verden stallion sales, to Paul Schockemöhle for €95,000. A few months later, Foundation was licensed at the Verden stallion licensing under saddle.

Foundation completed his test with top marks, which earned him a dressage breeding value of 149. Anja Engelbart took over the basic training of the bay and qualified him for the Bundeschampionat. Later Matthias Alexander Rath took over the reins of the young stallion. When he was eight years old, he had his first international successes at Inter I level and two years later his first top placings in Grand Prix. With the German Nations' Cup team, the pair finished second last year in Falsterbo, Sweden.

The award of the Grande-Prize is, however, recognition of the breeding success of a stallion, and Foundation is also impressive in this respect. As many as 10 foals from his first crop were admitted to the Verden auction. Since then, almost 50 riding horses and foals have found new owners at the Verden auctions. Seven of his 22 Hanoverian 'premium' candidates were awarded prizes at the famous Herwart von der Decken Mare Show. His breeding values confirm the evaluation that was made in 2011 with the breeding value from the suitability test. The results of his daughters in mare performance tests earn him a breeding value of 145, his breeding value for young horse tests is 153 and for the highest class achieved already 131.

Foundation through his sire, Fidertanz, represents the very influential 'F' line of Florestan, a stallion who stamped 'rideability' on his descendants, so much so that the director of the Westfalian State Stud at the time, Susanne Rimkus called him her 'milk cow': "The Florestans are easy to handle, easy to ride, even if they don't look harmonic, the riders say they feel good. This is the most important thing for the normal market, the rider who wants to ride of an evening after he has done his work, who wants to have fun, who wants to make a good picture on the horse. Florestans are easy to sit on, and that makes success.

"Florestan will also produce top sport horses. Top sport horses have to have a good character but they are allowed to be more sensitive and so I think the good sport horses from Florestan will come from the mares with a lot of Thoroughbred blood – horses that are a bit more hot, these will be the horses for the highest competitions."

One son of Florestan who looked like he was headed for success in the big sport was Fidermark – alas a promising Grand Prix career was cut short when he died at the age of 11 in 2003, but not before he sired Fidertanz out of a Ravallo



Foundation was lately successful at Grand Prix level with Matthias Alexander Rath in Doha, Qatar

mare. Fidermark also found time to sire Charlotte Dujardin's new star, Freestyle.

Fidertanz was NRW champion ctallion, vice champion of Germany and competed three times at Grand Prix level in 2015 with Portugal's Antonia Do Vale, with scores in the low 60s.

Ravallo has a pedigree that says 'jump', as he is by the Ramiro son, Raphael, out of a mare by the Gotthard son, Goldstein. Ravallo was the 1990 champion of the stallion performance test in Medingen with one of the best results in the history of stallion performance tests.

In 2004, Fidertanz was the champion stallion of the Westfalian stallion licensing and went on to win his performance test. At the 2005 Bundeschampionate, he became the vice champion with a test rider score of 9.5. He qualified for the Bundeschampionate again in 2007 with a score of 8.8.

Foundation is out of Donna Doria by De Vito by that most prolific of dressage sires, De Niro out of Elfengold – by another son of Gotthard, Goldstern. Donna Doria is the daughter of Weinga (Andiamo) who combines three of the most influential sires that shaped the modern Warmblood: the Trakehner, Absatz; the Selle Français, Furioso II; and Gotthard, once again.

Donna Doria produced three licensed stallions: the German championship finalist Fiderstar, the premium stallion Glock's Falvio (both by Fidertanz), Hanoverian vice champion Firefox (Feedback), and Anabel Balkenhol's young horse Crystal Friendship (Fidertanz).

I am grateful to Britta Züngel of the Hanoverian Verband for this information on Foundation's mare line: "Donna Doria by De Vito was the first mare Gerd Pigge registered with the Hannoveraner Verband in 2006. He discovered her dam at the Anton Böckmann farm whose stallion station is located only a stones-throw away from Pigge's farm. The breeder celebrated many show successes with Donna Doria's dam, Weniga, and even participated in the European Mare Show in Brussels in 1994.

"I always wanted to register one of my mares in Hanover," the breeder from Lastrup explains. He hit the jackpot with Donna Doria. He had actually planned to breed the tall and lanky liver chestnut only once and then get her ready for competitions. But the quality of the first foal was so convincing that Gerd Pigge reconsidered and inseminated Donna Doria again right away this time with semen of the Rhineland sire Fidertanz.

The 10-year-old mare has delivered six colts up to now; all of whom sold in Verden earning more than €300,000 for Gerd Pigge. The first one was born in 2006 and is the licensed stallion Fiderstar. The privately owned sire Foundation followed in 2008 and is creating a sensation at Schockemöhle's station. Three other colts sold for top prices and found new homes in foreign countries. Then there was Friemel. He was a powerful mover, but a bit on the heavy side as a foal the breeder remembers. "He is delighted that Donna Doria has delivered a filly this year; he definitely

wants to keep it." Thanks Britta.

Foundation was another of those huge-moving young stallions that you worry whether they will ever collect enough to make it to Grand Prix, but in 2018, the handsome bay proved his critics wrong. With Matthias Alexander Rath, he was placed in the Louisdor final in Frankfurt (this is a class for young Grand Prix horses, aged eight to 10.) Previously, he won numerous Small Tour classes and took the lead in the Burg Cup final.

Among his 17 licensed sons are Ferrari OLD, the PSI price-record holder and vice world champion with Andreas Helgstrand, the reserve champion Freischütz with Luxemburg's Sascha Schulz, as well as the Hanoverian champion Feuertanz with Matthias Alexander Rath. His daughter, Feel Free OLD, was second reserve champion mare and German vice champion. His filly Fantasy was sold for €107,000, the absolute top price in Vechta.

In 2019 Foundation continued to build his reputation, sixth in the Grand Prix and fourth in the Special at Falsterbo, and second in the Grand Prix and fifth in the Special at Wiesbaden.

Foundation's rider Matthias Alexander Rath was aware of his talent from the start: "I first saw him when he was three years old at the Schockemöhle stallion show. That was the time I was riding Totilas at the stallion shows."

◆ Was it love at first sight?

It was impressive, really impressive how he moved, we then watched a little bit his development, when he was three and four and five, and then we got him at the end of his five-year-old year.

◆ What is he like to ride?

He has super big movements, really big canter, really big trot. He made it now at Grand Prix level, and that is for sure because he has a super mind. He wants to do everything, he wants to learn everything. It is sometimes difficult for these horses with big movements, especially when they don't have his mind and his willingness to learn all the Grand Prix stuff, without a mind like his, it is not possible.

◆ Have you ridden any of his progeny?

We already have a six-year-old, turning seven, a Foundation stallion, and he maybe will go to the Nürnberger Burg-Pokal this year. He has really good gaits and also a really good character. There are many good offspring out competing, like Faviola (Weltmeyer) with Nadine Husenbeth who competed in the young horse championship in Ermelo. They have good heads, good movement.

◆ Over any particular mares?

You can take a little bit blood-type mares, that works really well. But the one I have is out of a Breitling mother, and you can see the Breitling influence. What he gives to a lot of his offspring – it is difficult to say it all – is his gaits, that is what he gives." ■

Longevity and rising stars are hallmarks of BH horses today

BY ROBERTA MILANI / ABCCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: J.C.MARKUN, NUNO VICENTE, AND PERSONAL ARCHIVE

The Brazilian Association of Equestrian Breeders (ABCCH), was born from the firm determination of a group of horse lovers who came together around a common ideal: to create and develop a breed of horse with a high aptitude for equestrian sport. Starting from strictly selected animals already existing in the country, the founders defined the goal as breeding sport horses, national and foreign, that were proven to be highly gifted for a specific discipline.

ABCCH was founded on November 29, 1977, in the same year it was recognized and elevated to the status of a Delegated Entity of the Ministry of Agriculture, responsible for the administration of the Genealogical Registration Service (SRG), also known as a studbook.

A non-profit organization, ABCCH is responsible for promoting, within established standards, the creation and development of the Brazilian Sport Horse, traditionally known as BH. They sought a balance between an animal of good structure and conformation, with a great aptitude for Olympic-level sport. Coincidentally, the BH horse is also one that meets the requirements and needs of the military police, and are selected per the best standards to perform mounted police work in several of Brazil's federal states.

Throughout its 40+ years, ABCCH has been chaired by a number of presidents: Enio Monte (1977 to 1983, 1987 to 1989

and 2002 to 2007), Victor Henrique Foroni (1983 to 1987), Caio Luís Figueiredo (1989 to 1991), Benedito Nicotero Filho (1991 to 1994), Vittorio Sicherle (1994 to 1996), Wolfgang Franz José Sauer (1996 to 1998), Gilberto de Souza Biojone Filho (1998 to 1999), Luiz Alberto Dalcanale (2000 to 2001), Antonio Celso Fortino (2008 to 2011), Paulo Victor Zuccolotto Foroni (2012 and 2015) and Ricardo Carvalho de Moura (2016 and 2017). In 2018, Luiz Flores took over as president of ABCCH for the 2018-2020 term.

Currently, ABCCH has approximately 370 members and more than 23,000 registered animals distributed throughout the country, but mainly in the State of São Paulo where its largest herd is located. With its consistent fostering work, ABCCH has managed to raise the breed's profile to the top of the world's podiums, as was the case with the bronze medals achieved by the Brazilian equestrian team at the Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, as well as three team gold medals at Pan-American Games when BH horses have always been present.

Harvesting the fruits of serious and effective work, the Association continues to strive for the dissemination of the breed, guiding and encouraging crosses of high genetic value, and incorporating new breeding and training techniques in the constant search for a national horse that can perform with perfection in the different modalities of equestrian sport.

In this way, the Association hosts various events, including stallion approvals – following the usual protocols of judging morphology, gaits, and loose jumping (for showjumping horses) – the Brazilian Championship for Young Horses (95% of the animals are BH registered), with selections to the World Breeding Championship for Young Horses held in Lanaken, Belgium, in addition to the extremely competitive BH horse ranking, which distributes significant prizes.



Iberon Jmen and Marcio Appel during the eventing cross-country phase at WEG 2018 in Tryon, NC



Francisco Musa and MCJ Sharapova Imperio Egípcio

Regrouping and appraising

Brazil, like the rest of the world, has been subject to country-wide postponements and/or cancellations of sporting events, and equestrian sport is no exception.

However, up to the beginning of March the Federation was involved in several competitions at home and abroad, with emphasis on international tournaments in Wellington, FL, and Vejer de La Fronteira, Spain, where the majority of exported BH horses are registered.

To date, the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) has 28 BH horses recorded with valid passports in 2020: 24 in showjumping and two each for eventing and dressage.

The youngest of these is only eight years old, Danna RJ (Quiz Time [Holst] - Yasmin RJ x Candidus), a mare bred by Haras RJ who began this calendar year in Spain at CSI Oliva, jumping 1m30-1m40 with Sweden's Angelica Augustsson Zanotelli. As well, the stallion Zandor Mystic Rose (Diarado [Holst] - Zonnelys Mystic Rose x Douglas [KWPN]) competed in Vilamoura in the 1m15-1m20 classes under the saddle of Brazil's Beatriz Rocha Azevedo.

At the top end of the age range, there are three who are still competing successfully at the age of 18: Iberon Jmen (Indoctro - Landina Jmen x Landino), in eventing with Marcio Appel Cheuiche (BRA). The pair began the competition season in Barroca d'Alva, Portugal, (eighth overall); and Landpeter do Feroleto (Landritter - Wynza x Wangmix), bred by Haras Feroleto, performing at 1m35-1m50 in Mexico with Federico Fernandez (MEX). Finally, Sharapova Império Egípcio (Baloubet du Rouet - Lioness MCJ x Welton Ambassador), bred by Haras Marcio Jorge, who started in this year's CSI3* and CSI4* in Vejer de la Frontera, Spain, and together with Francisco José Mesquita Musa (BRA) won a CSI4* Table A class.

Still with a valid FEI ID, the 20-year-old gelding

Wasabi (Chronic Jmen - Prime Time Jmen x Polydor), who last entered a CSII* tournament in Abu Dhabi (UAE) in January 2019 with Canadian rider Steven Raymond Josephs.

BH stars of the past

Dover (Folclorico xx - Dallas RS x Remanso) was perhaps one of the best-known showjumping horses of the past two decades, following his appearance at a major championship was with Luciana Diniz (POR – formerly BRA) at WEG 2006 in Aachen – 23rd individually.

Although he is now in the twilight of his career, Landpeter do Feroleto made a name for himself with three separate riders: 2014 South American Games in Quillota, Chile, with Brazil's Sergio Henrique Neves Marins (individual bronze, team silver); the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, also for the Brazilian team, but with Stephan de Freitas Barcha (60th), and finally the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC, with Mexican international Federico Fernandez (65th) whom he continues to partner today.

Brazilian Sport Horses have a great deal of success to celebrate, and certainly can't be faulted for their longevity in the world's competition arenas. ■



Beatriz Lara and Zandor Mystic Rose in Vilamoura

All Star: Restoring 'A' to the German FN's stallion list

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: GCT/STEFANO GRASSO

It is interesting that of the list of the top 40 jumping stallions, recently released by the German FN, there is no entry for the letter 'A', surprising perhaps that the influence of the enormously popular Argentinus seems to have faded completely – but perhaps, just perhaps, that may be about to change as the most successful son of Argentinus of recent times, All Star, leaves the competition arena to take his place in the ranks of Paul Schockemöhle's mighty stallion band.

Argentinus (Argentan x Duden II) was one of an earlier generation of Hanoverian stallions where the aim was the all-round horse, and sure enough, while he produced star jumpers, Argentinus also produced horses that shone in the dressage arena.

All Star's dam combines two of the most famous names in jumping breeding, April Love is by the great French sire, Almé out of Rinnetou by the Holsteiner, Ramiro, out of a Hanoverian mare by Winnetou, who goes back to the Foundation sire, Ferdinand. Rinnetou was a star in her own right with Piet Raymakers, a winner of the World Cup in Amsterdam in 1992, and second in the World Cup in Helsinki in 1993.

Bred by Horst Zöllmer, the 17-year-old All Star's career started at the Verden foal auction in 2003 where he was one of the top foals, and sold to an international show stable. He matured into a powerful jumper and was started under saddle by Florian Meyer zu Hartum. He became Hanoverian vice champion of five-year-old jumpers in 2008 before he competed at the Federal Championships in Warendorf one year later. He celebrated his first international advanced-level placing in 2010 and moved in the same year to the stable of Denis Lynch.

Denis Lynch piloted All Star to his first successes in the International Youngster Tour, followed by victories at major competitions in Cannes, France; Gothenburg, Sweden; Barcelona, Spain; and Valkenswaard, the Netherlands. All Star took part in four World Cup finals and made his championship debut at the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen, France with a place in the top ten in the individual ranking. In 2015, he reached the individual final at the European Championships in Aachen. In 2017, after winning team gold at the European Championships in Gothenburg, he took 10th place in the individual ranking. He was retired from competition in January 2019 with winnings of €1,160,810.

Denis Lynch paid tribute to his partner in the an interview with the Irish Times: "All Star has been an incredibly loyal and consistent producer of results over the years. He has such a lovely temperament and was always



Denis Lynch (IRL) riding All Star 5

level-headed for the big events. He will be a big loss to my stable but he has more than paid his dues over the years.

"Beautiful big jumpers like 'Simba' don't come along very often and I am so grateful to have had the chance to ride him. I'm delighted that he has retired at the top which is no less than he deserved."

I asked Paul Schockemöhle, is it important to keep the line of Argentinus going? "All Star was probably one of the best stallions by Argentinus, Arko was a good horse as well. Argentinus made good jumpers, and as well, some dressage horses. All Star was a good mover, even being a big horse, and solid, and that's why I tried to get him on my station after he was finished and retired."

Have you looked at the foals that All Star is producing?

"Not yet. I think there are quite a few mares in foal but I haven't seen foals by him."

What kind of mares will he suit? "He for sure, needs blood horses. He's quite a big horse, he has no Thoroughbred in the front lines, so he would need blood." (In fact, All Star is only 22.27% 'blood'.)

Perhaps in the next decade we will see the letter 'A' return to the jumping sires honour roll. ■

All Star with Dennis Lynch in the 2017 World Cup final:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85lwWF2t1e0>

Oldenburg summer festival of superlatives

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: FELDHAUS

Beautiful, the deepest black, strong moving, with a charming character and wonderful temperament – this is how the top-priced dressage highlight at the 3rd Oldenburg Online Special Edition shone. The online collection impressed with outstanding dam lines, which are carefully cherished by pioneering breeding stables, and lead to success.

Bred by Dr. Gisa Löwe and exhibited by Damildressage, the price highlight was the four-year-old Mister Universe (Morricone I x San Amour I x Fürst Heinrich) sold for €340,000 and this beauty from the famous Cileste dam line will now move to new clients in Switzerland. His sire is none other than Oldenburg's champion stallion Morricone I, who is currently causing a sensation with Lena Waldmann for Gestüt Bonhomme, has now achieved a second successive top price with his offspring. The dam, and champion mare Chere Amie, is the sister of Rubin de Luxe, Intermediaire I with Ulf-Peter König. The third dam, Cileste II, is sister to Donner Hit OLD, Grand Prix with Ellen Bodenkamp, and the famous Welthit dynasty.

The average price of the sport horse collection was around €35,500 with 28 sport horses selling for a total of €1 million. Eleven of the Oldenburg horses will make a career internationally, moving to the USA (two), plus one apiece to Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Sweden, Spain, and Switzerland.

Foal collections

The top price of the foal collection was the strong moving beauty queen Imagination (Imposantos x Fürst Romancier x De Niro), bred and exhibited by Wilfried Fleming from Lönigen, Lower Saxony. The filly from the famous Elfenblume dam line changed hands for €133,750 and will move to a world-renowned dressage stable. Her dam Elfenwald has already delivered a top foal for Vechta with Secret Emperor (Secret), while granddam Elfenfee is the sister of Danönchen OLD (Danone I) for Liselott Marie Linsenhoff, who was also discovered as a foal in Vechta.

Top sport genetics achieved top prices for the foals at the Springpferdezuchtverband Oldenburg-International (OS) when Christie's (Chacco-Blue x Lancer III x Acord II x Polydor), bred and exhibited by Jens Pax, Bad Iburg, Lower Saxony sold to the USA for €28,500. Her dam Lancana has already had two horses placed in 1m45: the licensed Dust Devil (Diarado), and Chincana P (C-Indoctro), who was a finalist with Jana Wargers as a seven-year-old at the showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Lanaken.

The second top price for a jumping foal went to the eyecatcher Lord Weihaiwej (Lord Pezi x Ustinov x Contender x Capitol I), bred and exhibited by Arndt Schwierking from Barver, Lower Saxony. This striking colt remains in Germany for €27,500. Granddam Columbia is the sister of five successful horses in big classes, including the 1m60 mare Quapitale du Lavoir under the saddle of Morgan Bardot.

A total of 38 auctioned foals generated overall sales of almost €600,000 – an average of just over €15,700. In the future, 13 young Oldenburg stars will bring joy abroad, specifically moving to the USA (four), Switzerland (three), and one each for Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Russia, and Sweden. ■



Mister Universe (Morricone I x San Amour I x Fürst Heinrich)

Reynolds knew a lot was possible from Vancouver K

BY STEEF ROEST / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIRK CAREMANS

Judy Reynolds of Ireland and her Dutch-bred Vancouver K, bred by Gerard and Anne Marie Korver, have been a fixture at the leading competitions and international championships for years. Although the combination had posted consistent scores for quite some time, a turning point came in the Jazz son's training, after which he began showing more expression and greater talent than anyone ever expected.

At the European Championships in Rotterdam, the duo performed so well that the 'Girls in Green' secured a ticket to the Tokyo Olympic Games – a unique achievement in Irish dressage.

Finding a talent with three good gaits

The year that Vancouver K turned six, Judy Reynolds was looking for horses in the Netherlands. Although the 38-year-old Irish rider didn't necessarily have her next Grand Prix horse in mind, she did want a talented horse with three good basic gaits, between the ages of four and eight. "For me, it was especially important that I clicked with the horse. I wanted to get on and immediately have the feeling that I'd enjoy the training. I always say that the horses I like to sit on become my best horses. Vancouver K had a female rider, which I prefer when I'm looking for horses. It's not always easy for me to ride horses that have been ridden by strong men," she explains.

Judy was certainly no newcomer to dressage at the time. At age 21, she left her native Ireland to learn the finer points of professional dressage in Germany. As a result, she competed in the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen; and the following year, she showed in the European Championships in Turin. Vancouver K isn't Judy's first Dutch horse. With Remember (Careful - Ujolein keur prest x Prins Oregon, bred by A.W. van de Zeyden), she competed in the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, and in the 2011 European Championships in Rotterdam, although she didn't finish among the top places.

Crazy about Dutch horses

"I'm crazy about Dutch horses, not least because they're sensitive enough. I'm small: a horse that's quick to the aids is easier for me to ride. Dutch breeders have been breeding talented dressage horses for a very long time. Let's be honest: Dutch horses can be sharp, but that sensibility and sensitivity are what I need. That's even a bonus if I have the horse on my side. The Grand Prix is a difficult test, and for that last centerline with piaffe and passage transitions, I need

a horse that'll 'go through fire' for me. I knew the reputation of Jazz offspring; certainly combined with Ferro, some people wondered what I had bought. It definitely hasn't been easy with Vancouver K. There were always people who didn't think he was worth the time and energy that I put into him. Nevertheless, he always gave me the feeling that a whole lot was possible," Judy asserts.

He offered much

At what point did Judy think that the gelding could compete with the world's top horses? "That took quite a while. Even when he was doing international Grand Prix, I still didn't think that it would be as good as it is now. Teaching the piaffe, for example, was quite difficult. He offered an awful lot, but all the while, each leg went in a different rhythm. With my trainer Johann Hinnemann, I went to Ernst Bachinger in Austria. He's the former head trainer of the Spanish Riding School. At that time, Vancouver K was twelve. And five days after I had trained with Ernst, there was a turning point in our training. With the piaffe, the rest of the work also came together. Make no mistake: at that point we thought that Vancouver K was a horse that could get about 70%. We weren't working at all on those scores of 75% and higher, like he got in the 2019 outdoor season."

Judy attributes that success to the connection she has with the Jazz son: "We trust each other completely. What was difficult in the beginning? JP, as we call him at home, is a real worker. If he doesn't entirely understand the question, he gives five answers at the same time. The biggest difficulty was between his ears, because physically he could do everything. It just took time before he found the inner peace to do one thing at a time. If I had pushed him too much, I wouldn't have reached this level with him. He always tried what I asked of him."

The 'wow' factor

In the gelding's first year at international Grand Prix level his scores fluctuated between 60% and 67%. At the



Judy Reynolds (IRL) and Vancouver K (Jazz - Phantastia x Ferro)

2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen, the combination finished in 94th place. The following year, their scores rose to 70% and higher. However, it was only after the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, where the combination placed 18th individually, that Judy really comprehended the talent of her top horse. “With JP, it’s really important that he recognizes the test and knows what’s coming. Of course, we don’t do the Grand Prix Special very often so that always feels like a new test with him. I remember that I rode the Special in 2018, and halfway through I thought that I could ask a bit more. When that expression emerged, the wow factor arose and the scores increased significantly.

“Vancouver K has always been sensitive in the work. I never had the idea that I had to give a lot of leg. Now that the work is so thoroughly confirmed, the beginning feels very relaxed. In the warm-up, he sometimes feels almost lazy. If it needs to happen, the motor starts and he totally goes for it. He’s very funny in the stable. He has a lot of character and is very people-oriented. From the moment I saw him, I knew he had a lot of personality.”

Fine-tuning

Judy has been training with Johann Hinnemann for many years, and he has seen the combination grow to great heights. “Initially, Johann didn’t think he’d be such a good horse. He

wondered if JP wasn’t too hot. In the beginning, I mainly rode him alone at home; and I traveled to Voerde to train with Johann. I’ve been training full-time with Hinnemann for two and a half years, and now I have my own facility close by. In the meantime, JP is so confirmed in the work that I don’t have to train him very hard. We work more on keeping him fit, happy and healthy. The training is about keeping JP supple; we do lots of transitions. In between, we go on a lot of trail rides. I start doing the movements two weeks before a competition, and then I go to Hinnemann a few times for fine-tuning. We don’t need to teach him anything more,” Judy explains.

Everything came right in Rotterdam

Vancouver K competed in his fifth international championship at the Europeans in Rotterdam. At age 17, the gelding performed better than ever, resulting in a score of 85% in the Freestyle. Judy: “In Rotterdam, everything truly came together at the right moment. I knew for a long time that it was possible, but the Grand Prix is a difficult test and it’s easy to make a mistake. Sometimes there are those magic weeks when everything goes as it should. It doesn’t happen often that I ride down the centerline with a smile, but those were the tests in which everything was right.”

Team ticket joy

Judy can be proud of more than her individual fifth place: for the first time in history, the Irish team has secured a dressage team ticket to the Olympics. “I was incredibly proud of the team. Several years ago, the Irish Federation held a meeting. I wondered if it would be feasible to get a team going, but the federation has supported us in all possible ways. The pressure was high during the European Championships. Normally I ride as an individual competitor; that feels different. It’s an incredible feeling that we can go to the Olympics as the Irish team. We’d like a top eight ranking with the team; for me, I’ve set a goal of a top 10 position in the Freestyle final. I don’t want to be too rash, but I’m secretly hoping for more, of course. It’s still a long way off before we’re in Tokyo. JP needs to stay fit.” The preparation for Tokyo is intense, and a lot can happen on the way. Like the postponement due to the coronavirus. “That’s why we’re taking it easy, JP doesn’t need to learn anything more; it’s more a matter of good management. We like to keep him fit and happy in the work,” says Judy.

“JP may already be eighteen but he thinks he’s still eight. The decision to retire is entirely up to him. If I notice the fire going out of his eyes, it’s time to think about the end of his competition career. At the moment, I don’t have any Dutch horses in the stable, except for a six-year-old that carries Dutch blood through his grandsire Apache. I need to go look for horses in the Netherlands again soon. I like Dutch horses,” concluded the cheerful Irish equestrienne. ■

The breeders behind the Irish Army horses

BY NADIA REA / HSI

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURENCE DUNNE, STACEY BABES

The Army Equitation School's primary mission is to promote the Irish horse, support Irish breeders, and to advertise the Irish-bred sport horse through participation in international events in both eventing and showjumping at the highest level. Since its establishment in 1926, army riders have competed at top international events from Nations Cups' to the Olympic Games, all the while riding and promoting Irish Sport Horses.

Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Freyne said, "Our mission at the Army Equitation School is to promote the Irish-bred sport horse through competition at the highest level. We're very fortunate to have such competitive horses as Drumiller Lough in the School. His soundness and temperament have allowed him to be a consistent winner over the last decade. With Kilrue and the other young horses, we believe they are ideally suited to modern showjumping. These young horses are developing into scopey, athletic, and intelligent horses that are promoting the modern and traditionally bred top-class Irish Sport Horse on behalf of those breeders and producers."

Drumiller Lough (ISH) is a 2003 bay gelding by Heartbreaker (KWPN) out of Pearl Diver (ISH) by Mountain Pearl (RID). This gelding was bred by Paul Dillon in County Armagh. Now 17, the gelding has been a loyal and reliable servant, partnering many successful riders throughout his career in the Army Equitation School.

His army career began in 2007 when he was ridden

nationally and schooled by Comdt Gerry Flynn whose skills in producing young horses are second to none. He then progressed to international level where he was instantly effective, finishing second in the six-year-old final of the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken with Captain David O'Brien on board.

In 2013 Captain Michael Kelly rode Drumiller Lough to multiple international victories. For Michael, he won and was placed in numerous 1m40m-1m50 classes in CSI3* Vejer de la Frontera, CSI2* Odense, CSI2* Fontainebleau and CSI4* Harthill, Bolesworth. This partnership lasted until 2015, and in 2016 Captain David Power took up the ride and recorded great success with this accomplished horse. He had wins and placings in both CSI3* Arezzo and CSI2* Mullingar. Then Captain Geoff Curran took the reins in 2017 and enjoyed success with first, second, and third place finishes at the pair's first international show together in Mijas CSI3*. Their victories continued on both the international and national stages with wins in CSI3* Carmona, CSI3* Liege, and CSI2* Millstreet. Their success continues today.

Captain Geoff Curran says, "Drumiller Lough has always been extremely competitive. His technique, carefulness, and his overall willingness to win have always been his greatest attributes. At home he can be extremely lazy, but when its competition time he turns into the winner that he is, and has always been for the army."

The breeders of Drumiller Lough (ISH), Paul and Louise Dillon, are located in Scarva, Co. Armagh. Just 10 minutes off the main Belfast to Dublin road where they run a busy beef cattle, sheep, and equine breeding farm. Paul tells us how he first came across Drumiller Lough's dam. "I bought this mare as a three-year-old when I had her in for breaking. Pearl Diver, his dam, is traditionally bred by Mountain Pearl (RID) out of a Salluceva (TB) mare. She showed exceptional jumping ability and potential. I think that in order to breed from any mare they must have the ability to jump. In this



Captain Geoff Curran and Drumiller Lough (ISH) competing in the 2018 Irish Breeders Classics



Captain Geoff Curran riding Kilrue (ISH) in RDS Simmons Court 2019

case I think that Heartbreaker was a perfect cross for Pearl Diver to produce Drumiller Lough. This mare had six other offspring.

The following year we went back to Heartbreaker and this foal, Jacks Here (ISH), went on to compete in the UK. I personally like the traditional Irish mare crossed with a Warmblood stallion. Our aim every year is to breed about 10 mares and sell the progeny as young stock. We have around 30 young stock at present all of which we aim to sell. The sires of these animals are Balou du Rouet (Oldbg), Glasgow van't Merelsnest (BWP), Emerald van't Ruytershof (BWP), Vigo d'Arsoilles (BWP), Catoki (Holst), Cicero Z van Paemal (BWP), Zirroco Blue VDL (SF), Cardento (Holst) and Flexible (ISH)(TIH). I take time to match a performance sire to the particular type of mare, which is very important."

The Irish Army Equitation school continue to support breeders year after year as they purchase young horses to produce and show on the world stage. Paul sold Drumiller Lough to the army as a young horse, but he also co-owned another Army Equitation School horse, Armagh. This mare was broken and produced by Paul. They competed in the RDS (Royal Dublin Society Horse Show) four-year-old class before going to the army. The mare then competed to 1m40 national Grand Prix level with Captain Michael Kelly. She is by Cavalier Royal (Holst) and out of Skehanore (ID) by Clover Hill (RID).

When the army had finished competing this mare she returned to Paul in Armagh. As this mare is co-owned, they rotate the breeding of her each year. This mare has had 10 foals so far, some have been produced by Paul and then sold. One of her progenies is Drumiller True Blue (ISH) by Plot Blue (KWPN) who is competing successfully in international young-horse classes with Polish rider Aleksandra Dabkowska. Paul says, "I am extremely excited about her 2019 colt by Emerald van't Ruytershof (BWP). He should be one to watch

as he is a super type. So much so that I have even put him in my two-year-old son's name in the hope he will be lucky."

Paul has mares of all ages but one of his eldest mares is Never (ISH) – a 20-year-old who is still breeding. She is by Ballinvella (TB) and out of Aubane Clover (ID) by Clover Hill (RID). This is the dam of Ms Clinton/aka Drumiller Houdini (ISH) who placed ninth in the six-year-old WBCYH final in Lanaken 2015 when ridden by Francis Connors. In 2016 this horse changed hands to Madeline Gervais with whom she had numerous international placings. At the end of 2019 Anthony Condon took the reins and Paul said he is "looking forward to seeing what's next with this horse."

Paul concluded by saying, "The Army Equitation School is a great supporter of the Irish breeder. The army has been ambassadors of the Irish Sport Horse for generations, and they have shown our products to the highest international level on the world stage. We as breeders aim to breed a horse that can mirror the success of Drumiller Lough, we will continue to try."

Kilrue (ISH) is a 2013 gelding by Balou du Rouet (Oldbg) out of SVS Springball (ISH) by Beach Ball (ISH). He was bred by Stacey Babes in Wrenwood Stables, Dublin where Stacey and her partner Dan Walsh run a busy breeding, production and competition yard.



Young stock enjoying the April sunshine at Wrenwood Stables



Stacey Babes and SVS Springball (ISH)

Wrenwood stables is located just five minutes away from the busy Ashbourne to Ratoath road and is central to top Thoroughbred and racing yards. Over the past 10 years while competing, Stacey and Dan turned their attention to breeding to accommodate their passion for competing while trying to meet the ever-demanding market requirements. Stacey continued by saying; "Breeding started as a hobby for us. We had a few well-bred mares, and through injury in competition we turned our sights to breeding them. One such mare is SVS Springball (ISH). She is by Beach Ball (ISH) and out of a Porsch (BWP) mare. We loved this mare so much. As we began to compete her as a four-year-old, she looked extremely promising. She had the sweetest temperament and a great attitude to work with while also showing incredible scope and ability. This mare was our pride and joy. We went to Balmoral with her as a four-year-old and she won the class by over 10 points, which was a huge achievement because it was quite a stiff competition. The offers began to come in and we needed to decide. We knew this mare was worth keeping as she showed so much potential.

"We then decided to put her out to grass for a little break and to avoid the temptation of selling her. She needed company in the field so we put a pony with her thinking this would help, however the pony kicked her in the stifle, and this unfortunately ended her competition career early. We were devastated but knew she still had her purpose. We put her in foal to Balou du Rouet and her first offspring is Kilrue (ISH). He is now seven and we look forward to seeing him progress in the hands of Captain Geoff Curran.

"Her next foal was Wrenwood Toy Soldier (ISH) by VDL Harley. We sold him and he went to Italy where he is now competing successfully too. The following year we had a Kannan (KWPN) filly who is now four. At this point we decided she was breeding such good quality foals that we

would invest time and money flushing her in the hope we could maximise her progeny while taking care of her. We now have four three-year-old embryos out of her by Luidam (KWPN), Cazador LS (sBs), and twins by Diamant de Semilly (SF). In 2018 we had a filly foal by Malito de Reve (SF). We are aiming to keep a filly and a colt foal from our breeding lines in the hope of constantly continue to improve our breeding lines and competition horses. At the end of last year we decided to invest in our breeding plan and we turned to ICSI (equine intracytoplasmic sperm injection). We now have three frozen Cornet Obolensky (BWP) embryos and two frozen Darco (BWP) embryos."

Stacey has competed successfully on many well-bred mares and has now

turned her interest to taking embryos from them to continue breeding for sport with top proven pedigrees. "We bought Belle Epoque (KWPN) who is by Diamant de Semilly (SF) and out of a Royal Feu (SF) mare. Our intention in buying this mare was for me to compete. We soon realised that she was quite special, and we liked her and her pedigree so much that we went back and did a bit of investigating to find her dam. We then bought her. She is now 26 and we have three four-year-old full brothers on the ground. They are all stallions and we are excited to see them perform. We also have a two-year-old out of Belle Epoque. So, we are happy to have three generations of this line here with us."

Stacey concluded by explaining how their whole outlook has changed and progressed in Wrenwood Stables over the last 10 years; "It is becoming more and more difficult to buy top-class performance horses and pedigrees that we feel it is now in our best interests to breed some of our own. Competition was always the main goal for our yard and horses but now, while I love the sport, the mares just mean so much more, even the recipients. We are truly excited to see how our breeding plan progresses and unfolds."

Last year, as a six-year-old, one of Stacey and Dan's first home-breds, Kilrue began his international career with Captain Geoff Curran in Carmona CSII*, recording third and fourth places in 1m30 classes. Geoff elaborates about this particular horse; "Kilrue is a big, rangy, and scopey horse. He displays so much athleticism and has a really big, powerful canter to go with it. He has excellent conformation, and so far he has demonstrated that he will stand the test of time and will have a long and successful career. Over the winter months I have been taking my time and working on his rideability. We are very excited to see what his future holds for this horse." ■

Inspirational offspring from young Westfalian stallions

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: GUIDO RECKI

The eighth online auction of the Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch e.V. was very popular among customers as only offspring of young stallions were sold. The most sought-after was the Le Formidable x Sezuan son, Luftikus. The impressive dam lines of the high-priced foals also showed the great importance of maternal pedigrees. A total of 21 foals were sold at an average price of €8,583.

The stunning young stallion Le Formidable truly impressed with the foals of his first vintage. At the Westfalian Online Foal Auction for offspring of young stallions, four offspring of Le Formidable were represented, including two that fetched the highest price.

Luftikus sold for the top price of €19,000 having convinced with his excellent trotting skills. He was bred by Alfons Baumann out of a dam by Sezuan. Descending from the damline of state stud stallion Dankeschön (Danone), there is no doubt we'll hear from this colt again in the future. The successful bid went to a successful owner community from Bavarian and Westfalia who are making a name for themselves as stallion breeders, so we can look forward to the stallion licensing in 2022.

The second most expensive colt with a pedigree oriented towards dressage was also a colt by Le Formidable. The liver-chestnut Le Beau Bordeaux was bred by Birgit Löffers, from a dam by Don Lauredo. The virtual hammer for this stallion prospect from the mare line of Fidermark NRW fell just before the one of Luftikus. Customers from the

Rhineland secured this exceptional foal for €13,000.

Fillies also enjoyed great popularity, including The Emanuel x Sir Heinrich daughter Ebnya AV, bred by ZG von Ameln, who changed hands for a knock-down price of €16,000. This mare line is also characterized by success as it's the origin of the licensed stallion and Grand Prix competitor Werther's Wels (Werther).

Another filly lead the foals predispositioned for jumping – a daughter of Diamant de Casall, Diamantenkind, was also bred by Alfons Baumann, out of a dam by Comme il faut NRW. Her grandmother produced horses that were successful both in sport and shows, and this future showjumper will remain in Germany for €10,500.

Lot number one also generated great interest in the run-up to the auction as it was the first time a pair of twins had been offered for sale at a Westfalian foal auction. The filly and colt by Vivaldos x Brentano II (bred and exhibited by Daniela Klein-Wiele) were for sale with the name Take Twins for Wins, which was an immediate call to action. In a double pack they were sold for €9,500 and will remain together in Bavaria.

According to auction and marketing manager Thomas Münch, "Once again we are highly satisfied with the course of this online foal auction. The experiment of an auction exclusively with offspring of young stallions was extremely successful. The pairing of young stallions with successful mare lines was very popular with our customers. This auction shows us that the use of young stallions pays off. The result should encourage our Westfalian breeders to also use young stallions in their breeding programmes." Münch currently also holds the office of breeding manager at the Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch e.V.

Buyers invested on average €8,583 in the foals of this collection, with five going to customers abroad. ■



Top-priced Luftikus (Le Formidable x Sezuan)



FOR PLEASURE / LARS NIEBERG



FOR PLEASURE / MARCUS EHNING

For Pleasure: Two boys became men, then champions

BY UMBERTO MARTUSCELLI

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

In top-level competitive showjumping it occasionally happens that one rider records excellent results over a long period with just one horse, and vice versa. Of course, many top riders enjoy an exceptional career with a number of different horses over a long period. And by 'excellent' results, we are talking about international success and podiums at major championships.

It is, however, substantially more difficult to identify one particular horse who enjoyed huge success, including major competition results over many years, under the saddle of two different riders.

One name that might instantly come to mind is Ratina Z – the most successful mare in showjumping history, to date, with a European team medal in 1991 (4th individually), as well as individual silver and team gold at the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games in the hands of Dutchman Piet Raymakers. Ratina then recorded a series of great triumphs when her career was relaunched with Ludger Beerbaum.

There is another name, a stallion, who produced extraordinary results for Germany – For Pleasure – whose career can be almost equally divided between two great riders and team companions: Lars Nieberg (1994 to 1998), then Marcus Ehning from 1999 until the talented chestnut retired from competition at the end of 2005. Two riders who owe him their thanks for catapulting their careers into the international spotlight.

An extraordinary career in sport, but what about his qualities as a well-known sire? For Pleasure has brought an impressive number of offspring into the world, distributed among all the main studbooks, of which many have reached the highest levels of international competition. As always with such well-known stallions it's impossible to provide a complete list, but the following are especially noteworthy: Fit For Fun/Luciana Diniz (POR); Flora de Mariposa/Penelope Leprevost (FRA); Octave Wonder of Ca'San Giorgio/Paolo Paini (ITA); Ornellaia/John Whitaker (GBR); Funky Fred/Marcus Ehning (GER); Eplease van het Heike/Christian Ahlmann (GER); Beauty/Leopold van Asten (NED); Barron/Lucy Davis (USA); My Forever/Giacomo Casadei (ITA); Rigoletto of Florida/Massimiliano Ferrario (ITA); For Passion/Daniele Da Rios (Italy)... To name just a few from an endless list.

For Pleasure competed up to his 19th year (born in 1986 – retired in 2005), maintaining a truly enviable physical shape and performance record – further evidence of the fact that we are talking about an extraordinary horse in the literal sense. The consistency of his role within the landscape of German and international showjumping is also clear from

his results resumé in major championships. He was a member of the German team at six international championships, five times winning team gold medals. Career high spots were his participation in two Olympic Games (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000) – with two different riders, and winning team gold on both occasions.

In the three European Championships in which he participated (1997, 1999, 2003) he collected two team golds and never fell below fifth place individually, winning bronze in 2003 with Ehning. It is, of course, well known how coveted the Aachen Nations' Cup has become for the home team, and for the whole world. Well, For Pleasure was a member of the German team on no fewer than nine consecutive occasions from 1995 to 2003. In short, he is a horse that will be forever remembered in the gallery of the greatest of all time.

Fabulous genealogy

For Pleasure was born in 1986 and registered with the Hanoverian studbook. His fabulous genealogy unites two of the greatest progenitors: Furioso II and the Hanoverian Grannus – respectively his paternal and maternal grandfathers. His sire, the Selle Français stallion Furioso II (1965-1986: Furioso xx x Talisman), is one of the three Frenchmen (Cor de la Bryère and Zeus being the other two) who have contributed to 'making' the German and Dutch breeding: suffice to say that Furioso II's other well-known sons are the stallions Voltaire (out of Gogo Moeve x Gotthard), Faust Z (Reurika Z x Ramiro Z), Filius (Siesta x Saloniki), Heisman (Wilna x Inshallah X), Furioso's Sohn (Dulcia x Dulder), Furisto (Dompracht x Dominus), Purioso (Alinda x Martel), in addition to the mare Füksin G, mother of the stallion Grosso Z.

For Pleasure came into the world at Robert Diestel's small but excellent stable in Adelheidsdorf, in the heart of Hanover. If his paternal line is absolutely prestigious, his damline is no less so. For Pleasure's dam, Gigantin (born in 1980), carries within her the geniuses of the best Hanoverian forefathers, from father Grannus to maternal great-grandfather Gotthard, to maternal great-grandfather Feiner Kerl.

From the day of his birth, For Pleasure immediately presented himself as a decidedly out of the ordinary foal. In fact, Diestel placed so many conditions for his sale at Verden auctions, that when this son of Furioso II is 12 months old, nobody buys him.

At the age of two-and-a-half, he is approved in Oldenburg, and only later in Hanover, but in 1989 is the best among a group of 68 young stallions examined in jumping in Medingen.

For Pleasure's career as a young reproducer immediately meets with great success, despite the fact that has not yet proven himself in showjumping arenas. But his extraordinary genealogy, the perfect shapes (not too small, not too large, not too light, not too heavy – a horse of truly impressive beauty), and the noble morphological line, in addition to his warm shade of chestnut coat, immediately generates confidence among breeders.

The sporting arena with Nieberg

From a sporting point of view, For Pleasure begins his career under the saddle of Hans Joachim Giebel, before diverting to the stables of a promising young rider, a pupil of Herbert Meyer, the same Meyer who at that time was the chef d'équipe of the German showjumping 'A' team. The young rider is Lars Nieberg, whose international career began in 1992 when he made his Nations' Cup debut thanks to the mare, Nistria – a former competition partner of Belgian international Philippe Lejeune.

Under Neyer's watchful eye, Nieberg starts working with For Pleasure, and it could be said that the two grew together, until they achieved world-class results: 2nd in the 1995 World Cup Final; team gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games; 4th individually and team gold at the 1997 European Championship in Mannheim; to say nothing of numerous victories in Nations' Cup, World Cup and CSIO Grand Prix classes.

A change of heart

At the end of 1998, following some rumoured issues with Nieberg, Robert Diestel decided to change For Pleasure's knight, at an age (14) when his career might have been considered to be in decline. Diestel initially thought of Rodrigo Pessoa and Ulrich Kirchhoff. But then changed his

mind. Certainly, two great riders, but already established and at the peak of their careers, with individual Olympic gold (Kirchhof in 1996) and the World Championship title (Pessoa 1998). Why not focus instead on a young man whose career was still to be built? A smart young man, technically prepared and willing to work? It happened, therefore, that Diestel identifies a then 25-year-old Marcus Ehning as the ideal companion for his For Pleasure. "I think he didn't like the idea of seeing his horse leave to go away from home and only be able to see him very rarely," Ehning said. "I think he preferred to help a young rider because, also, in this way, the horse would escape a certain type of pressure and expectations."

And so began a new sporting career for the Furioso II son, demonstrating that far from worsening his performance record, changing knights seemed to breathe new life into the aging stallion. According to Ehning, "For Pleasure was a truly extraordinary horse. He had no weaknesses. He was determined, willing, ambitious, if we can say that about a horse. Huge energy, a cast iron temperament, never tired, always willing to work hard, to give his best. An excellent character, not at all conditioned by being a stallion." When he welcomes For Pleasure at the stables, Marcus Ehning is a well-established young rider (several appearances in Nations' Cup and with some Grand Prix results), but the quality, class, and means of the 'newcomer' allowed him to fly and reach the stars.

Six years together, a period of medals and serial victories, an era during which For Pleasure continued to confirm his immense qualities while Marcus Ehning begins a journey that will lead him to becoming one of the world's best known and important riders.

Six years, after which For Pleasure retires from competitive sport while remaining very active as a stallion. On February 18, 2011, at the age of 25, this formidable champion's earthly journey finally came to an end, nevertheless leaving a legacy that guarantees he will remain forever in the history books of equestrian sport, as well as in the lives of Lars Nieberg and Marcus Ehning; two guys who thanks to For Pleasure first became men, and then became champions. ■

First published in Italian in Cavallo Magazine www.cavallomagazine.it

For Pleasure (1986: Hann)	Furioso II (1965: SF)	Furioso xx (1939)	Precipitation xx (1933)
			Maureen xx (1931)
		Dame de Renville (1947: SF)	Talisman (1941: SF)
			Que Je Suis Belle (1943: SF)
	Gigantin (1980: Hann)	Grannus (1972: Hann)	Graphit (1964: Hann)
			St.Pr.St. Odessa (1967: Hann)
		Goldi (1976: Hann)	Goya (1971: Hann)
			Fortuna (1971: Hann)

Digital inspection of SWANA foals in Covid-19 times

BY HILLEVI BRASCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: HILLEVI BRASCH

SWANA, the Swedish Warmblood Association of North America organizes an annual inspection tour across the USA and Canada: a time for breeders to present their foals, for young horses to do the young horse test, and for stallion prospects to be evaluated. The judges are always from the SWB inspection committee in Sweden, which presented somewhat of an obstacle during this pandemic year.

As time went on and the realization that the annual inspection tour would not happen due to the current Covid-19 outbreak, the quest for something to fill the void began. Katarina Antens-Miller, president of SWANA says: "Foals do not have to be inspected to be registered with SWANA, however breeders often want to present their foals and we felt it would be a shame to just let this year pass without offering something else instead." Enter Ridesum! The Swedish app that originated from the idea of remote digital training.

Ridesum was launched in 2019 in Sweden by the founders Jenny Strähle and Karin Lindell, and in May of this year the English version was added. Much to the delight of

users all over the world (in 20 countries), who have until now been using the only version available in Swedish. Now that the English version is here, there are users in 40 different countries and this number is growing, having seen a huge increase in user accounts when the spring coronavirus lockdowns began. Riders still wanted to ride for their favorite trainer, and trainers still needed to keep their business going despite the confinements of home.

The app gives you the ability to train 'live' – or in SWANA's case, present horses live, which is a must when evaluating a horse. A pre-recorded video will not suffice when looking at a horse's conformation as a judge needs to be able to tell the handler how they want to see the horse



Evaluation, using the Ridesum app: Star Wars (2013/SWB Shooting Star - Wilma Rudolph x Warsteiner), shown by Annika Brasch



www.stutteriask.dk



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presented, so a pre-recorded video simply will not do the trick. For example: “One more time on a straight line please.” Or “Walk the mare a bit faster to see the foal pick up the pace.”

Now, SWANA foals will be inspected digitally via Ridesum with the appointed SWB judges from the Swedish inspection committee during two weeks in September. Just as in a regular inspection the breeder will sign up for inspection via SWANA, while the date and time for inspection is agreed between the breeder and the judge using the Ridesum app. Apart from the handlers of the mare and foal there also needs to be a person who films the inspection on site via the Ridesum app and communicates with the appointed judge as this is a ‘live’ event.

Immediately after the presentation, the breeder will receive the marks and comments on the foal as well as a linear score sheet (albeit this time via e-mail). A SWANA ribbon and inspection certificate will arrive later in the mail. The service is also open for mares that previously have not been presented and need their conformation scores to receive their performance star grading.

America and Canada are BIG countries, and this makes it possible to have your foal inspected and scored no matter where you are. The young horse test for three- to four-year-old year old horses and possible stallion evaluations will, however, have to wait until a judge is on site which hopefully will be in 2021. Katarina Antens-Miller says, “We hope the breeders will grab this opportunity and have their foal inspected digitally this year, it saves time and money as it can be done on your home turf, and healthwise no worries about large crowds.”

Jan-Ove Olsson, one of the SWB judges in Sweden who will be evaluating the horses in September says: “Digital inspections live gives us the ability to still connect with the breeders and our hope is, of course, that they will come back and present their young horse in person a few years from now.”

For more information on the

digital inspection of foals and mares in September, keep an eye on the SWANA website and social media where more information will be available shortly. www.swana.swb.org

What is Ridesum?

Ridesum is a digital collaboration platform connecting horseback riders, trainers, and experts worldwide. In the mobile app riders can find new trainers and experts, book a training session, train ‘live’ remotely via video streaming, or upload video for feedback and save trainer feedback. This helps riders to progress faster, and trainers to grow their business. A great upside by reducing travelling through remote training is that it saves our planet from tons of carbon monoxide emissions.

Jenny Strähle, CEO and Founder of Ridesum says: “We aim to aid in the everyday life of the trainer and rider by further developing the app to include not only the practical part of training/riding but also, in the end, the administration, such as handling invoicing and payments. We all know that what is lacking in a professional’s life is time. The app will save time by handling the most time-consuming tasks”.

Well known trainers such as Cathrine Dufour (Denmark), Bo Jenå (Sweden), Patrik Kittel (Sweden), Louise Nathorst (Sweden), Paul Fielder (UK), and Christoph Hess (Germany) are currently using the app. Looking at the US; Leonie Button Baker, Peter Lutz, Chrissa Hoffmann, Catherine Haddad, Mikala Munter, and Dr Gail Hoff, for example, are also Ridesum users.

It’s free to download the basic Ridesum app, and to sign up as a rider or trainer/expert. Other functions are available as in-app purchases, and a paid ‘premium’ version is available for anyone wishing to save their videoed training sessions.

With the current pandemic changing the way we think, perhaps digital training is here to stay. ■

www.ridesum.com

CWHBA around the provinces: Ontario's breeding presence

BY HELGA ALCORN / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: BELLA WHITE, JACKIE VAN DEN BRINK, RSM.LJ

Ontario, Canada's second largest province, has a diverse landscape. Ranging from rich agricultural land in the south, grasslands in the north and separated by the vast, rocky and mineral rich Canadian Shield. Ontario has more than 250,000 lakes and a diverse climate with warm summers and cold winters.

Industries range from agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and leading-edge technology software and technology. Within agriculture, Ontario has a strong and diverse equine presence. Ranging from pleasure riders to FEI professional riders competing at Equestrian-Canada-sponsored horse venues and shows. This range of riders drives the equine breeding industry and the Warmblood breeder.

CWHBA's mandate is to continuously raise the standard of breeding to produce equine athletes that will excel in any equestrian sport. Ontario has seven approved CWHBA stallions. The CWHBA breeding rationale is that the approved stallions will produce offspring that are high quality, well-bred Warmblood horses suitable for Olympic disciplines.

Beau Balou (Bon Balou X Calypso du Moyon) is owned by Look Ahead Sporthorses. He is a very versatile stallion, having an elastic way of going, with a great canter and walk for the dressage enthusiasts. His jumping so far has proven to be very scopey and brave. He first crop of foals have arrived in 2020.

Aloha (Anrit x Auerbach xx), owned by Pikturesque Farm, has Classic European bloodlines with refinement characteristics, strong athletic jumping technique and correct gaits.

C a b a r d i n o (Carpaccio x Gaspari) is owned by W. Charlot Farm. Cabardino is the USEF #1 Hunter sire for 2017 and 2018. He is a spectacular 'four-foot' hunter who combines scope, technique, temperament, beauty, and movement in one complete package. He produces flashy, refined foals, who are

intelligent, calm and easy to train.

Daccardi V (Indoctro x Glennridge) is a modern-day stallion owned by Triple H Farms. Daccardi V has an impressive pedigree, intelligent, excellent work ethic, charismatic, and well behaved. He has an exceptional temperament and rideability, and passes his modern looks and



Beau Balou (Bon Balou X Calypso du Moyon)

sport quality on to his offspring. An athletic stallion that has successfully competed in jumping, dressage and eventing.

Diamo Blue (Diarado x Chacco-Blue) is owned by W. Charlot Farm. Diamo Blue combines athleticism and unbelievable scope with an amateur-friendly temperament. Diamo Blue carries the bloodlines of the top two stallions of the WBFSh/ROLEX Jumping Sire Rankings for 2017 and 2018: Chacco-Blue and Diamant de Semilly.

His Querido (His Highness x Quattro B), owned by Vandenbrink Warmbloods, has fantastic conformation, three good gaits, and a beautiful jump. He is super laid back, very easy to handle, a pleasure to ride, and passes this on to his offspring. He is medium-sized, medium build, with plenty of bone, and very good feet. He passes on his beautiful head and neck, smooth topline and great foundation, and has already produced a number of youngsters that are very competitive on the line.

Viva Voltaire (Voltaire x Grannus) is owned by W. Charlot Farm. Viva typically produces beautiful horses with lots of chrome, outstanding movement, good jumping technique, and the most wonderful temperament. During his first years as a breeding stallion, Viva Voltaire produced outstanding horses for the dressage and hunter ring.

With these genetic resources, Ontario breeders are providing top Warmblood horses to the active Ontario sport community. ■



Daccardi V (Indoctro x Glennridge)



His Querido (His Highness x Quattro B)

ESNZ Eventing Super League sees premature closure

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: PEGASUS COMMUNICATIONS

Covid-19 brought the ESNZ's year-long Eventing Super League Series to a premature end, and forced the cancellation of the Taupo three-day event, one of the major competitions on the calendar. However, it seems likely that only the first and second places were in question, as two horses were well clear in the rankings. Both are Warmblood-Thoroughbred crosses, and both are by imported European stallions.

The win went to Acrobat (Euro Sport Centavos - xx dam, name unrecorded) with 112 points. This handsome nine-year-old gelding was bred by Kate Bird, and is owned and ridden by Monica Oakley. He has had high placings throughout the season, including second in the CCI 4*-L at the Puhinui International three-day event, and third in the HOY 4*, but, oddly enough, no actual win in the series classes.

His sire, the German-bred Hanoverian Euro Sport Centavos (Escudo I - Anabell Staatsprämie x Argentinus) is better known for his showjumping progeny, but he has some very good eventing and dressage offspring here too.

He is a magnificent black stallion, bred by Heinz Schütte at Hof Schütte in Spelle, and is from Stamm 4191603,

Schridde 261. He is owned by Claudia Hay of Euro Sport Horses in the Waikato and approved for Oldenburg, sBs, and New Zealand Warmblood studbooks. His four-star NZWA stallion ranking is the highest possible, with 'elite' status through his performance in sport.

ES Centavos, who is now 16, was the winner of the Olympic Cup (HOY) in 2015. He has a Staatsprämie half-sister, Sarieka (Stakkato), as well as a Westfalian Hauptprämie stallion half-brother, Los Angeles 20 (Light On OLD).

Second place in the series, with 105 points, went to Madison Crowe's excellent mare, Waitangi Pinterest (Cassiano - Amberlou x Aberlou xx), who was bred by Jos Bayly of Waitangi Sport Horses in Northland.

This mare's dam is well connected in the eventing world: she is a full sister to the international eventer Curious George, who was ridden by Vaughn Jefferis. Her sire, Cassiano (Cassini I - Zivia Hauptstutbuch x Calypso II), is a Hanoverian-approved Holsteiner (Stamm 6691) who stands at Sharlene Workman's Xtreme Sport Horses and brings superb bloodlines to this country. He was bred in Germany by Lauk Carsten and received his licence there in 2003. Cassiano's dam, Zivia, has produced a number of international showjumpers and licensed stallions, and his grand-dam, Nachtbluete, was a Staatsprämie mare by the wonderful Thoroughbred, Maestoso xx. Cassiano himself finished third at the 2007 Bundeschampionat and had



Acrobat (Euro Sport Centavos) ridden by Monica Oakley

wins and placings with Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and Lars Bak Anderson during his career in Europe.

Waitangi Pinterest is an 11-year-old and has had a terrific career with Madison Crowe, with a string of high placings. They won the CCN4*-S at Taupo last November, and, during the previous season won the CCI4*-L at the National Eventing Championships, also in Taupo.

Third place in the series went to another very consistent performer, the Thoroughbred gelding Just Kidding xx (Fusaichi Pegasus xx - Gypsy Princess xx x Sadler's Wells xx), who is owned by the Pottinger family and ridden by Amanda Pottinger. He was bred in Australia by Chelsaus & Orpendale. This horse competed in only two of the series classes, one of which was the four-star at HOY, where he finished second. The other was the Adelaide five-star, in which he finished fourth.

And, funnily enough, the horse who finished fifth in the Adelaide five-star finished fourth in this series, just behind Just Kidding, and is another Australian-bred Thoroughbred gelding. His name is Your Attorney xx (Legal Opinion xx - Polar Crown xx Carry The Crown xx) and he is owned and ridden by Diane Gilder. Your Attorney xx was bred by Vantage Hill Bloodstock in New South Wales, and just to complete the trans-Tasman connections, his granddam was a New Zealand-bred mare, Polar Lights xx.

Fifth and sixth place in the series went to horses ridden by Clarke Johnstone. In fifth was Aces High xx (Another Warrior xx - My Fairytale xx x King Ivor xx), yet another Australian-bred Thoroughbred. This 10-year-old gelding was third in his first FEI start, a CCI3*-S at Taupo last November, and the following month won the CCI4* at the Puhinui International three-day event on his dressage score. He is owned by Clarke, Rob and Jean Johnstone. His sire, Another Warrior xx, was a good racehorse and is owned by Australian eventers Shane and Niki Rose. He was also the sire of Rose's top-level eventer, Shanghai Joe, who died tragically at Badminton in 2017.

The sixth-placed horse needs very little introduction to followers of international eventing: the Olympic competitor Balmoral Sensation (Senator VDL - Aberzanne x Aberlou xx), who was bred by David Goodin. This horse's outstanding 2016 season made Goodin the world's top-ranked eventing breeder that year, although he could not



Waitangi Pinterest (Cassiano - Amberlou x Aberlou xx) with Madison Crowe

claim the title officially as Balmoral Sensation was not registered with a member studbook of the WBFSH. However, things have now changed, and the NZ Warmblood Association has since been accepted into the WBFSH. 'Ritchie', as this gorgeous horse is known to his many fans, had only two runs in the Super League this season as he was being carefully aimed at the ill-fated Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He is 15 now, so it's to be hoped that the postponement of the Games has not affected his chances.

Note that he, like Waitangi Pinterest, has the famous (in New Zealand anyway!) Aberlou xx in his pedigree. This smallish grey Thoroughbred sired a number of national and international eventers, including Blyth Tait's Olympic bronze-medal-winner, Messiah, and Delta, who finished second at Badminton and Burghley, also for Tait. He was also four-star (now five-star) mare Alibi, whose dam, Della Rose, was by Kingsway Diamond (RID).

It's worth mentioning that Clarke Johnstone also took seventh place in the Super League series with a KWPN gelding, Green Eggs And Hammer (Tolan R - Selien prester pref x Mermus R) who was bred in the Netherlands by E.J. Tjink of Almelo. He is from Merrieliijn 81, Fokfamilie 183, and was previously known as Deo Volente. He won the Im25 championship at Horse of the Year in March, and was third in the CCI 4*-L at Puhinui, behind the Super League Series winner, Acrobat. ■

What can cause a mare to lose her pregnancy?

BY DR. KAREN WOLFSDORF, DVM

Mares can develop problems during pregnancy or be at high risk of losing the pregnancy for a variety of reasons. These include age (old mares frequently have endometriosis in which the uterus is unable to properly supply the fetus with appropriate blood supply and nutrients), physical conditions (placental and fetal fluid abnormalities; body wall tears; chronic debilitating conditions such as laminitis and Cushing's disease), and acute disease or injury (placentitis, uterine torsion, surgical colic, colitis, acute laminitis, or fractures).

When a mare becomes stressed or debilitated, inflammatory chemicals and prostaglandins increase and induce abnormal uterine contractions and potential pregnancy loss. Reproductive problems that arise during gestation, however, when detected and diagnosed early, can still result in the survival of the mare and usually the foal. The abnormalities most commonly seen during the middle to late stages of pregnancy will be discussed in this article.

Uterine torsion

Uterine torsion is an infrequent complication of pregnancy, reported in 5% to 10% of all mares that have serious equine obstetric problems. Uterine torsion occurs in middle to late gestation and causes great risk to both mare and foal. The cause is unknown, although it has been postulated that uterine torsion may develop secondary to rolling as a result of gastrointestinal problems or trauma, or the righting reflexes and vigorous movements of the fetus, during the later stages of gestation. Severity of signs is

dependent on degree of rotation, level of vascular or fetal compromise, and intestinal involvement. Torsion of the uterus greater than 360° interferes with blood flow to and from the uterus and can result in local oxygen deprivation, congestion, fetal death, and rupture of the uterus.

Physical examination can be within normal limits, with the problem evident only on rectal palpation of the broad ligaments transrectal and transabdominal ultrasonography can aid in assessment of uterine compromise by enabling determination of uterine wall thickness, placental integrity, vascular distension, fetal viability, and condition of the fetal fluid. If there is concern about intestinal involvement, abdominocentesis (a surgical puncture of the abdomen by a needle to withdraw fluid) may be performed to aid in determining the appropriate mode of replacement or prognosis.

Many methods have been used to correct uterine torsion in the mare. The most common are rolling the anesthetized mare and laparotomy via standing flank or ventral midline incision. Once the uterine position has been

corrected, continued monitoring of the mare (for systemic compromise such as laminitis) and monitoring of fetal viability, blood progesterone and estrogens, placental edema and separation are essential to provide a realistic prognosis.

Placental hydrops

Hydroallantois (a sudden increase in the volume of allantoic fluid during a period of 10 to 14 days) is more common than hydroamnios (an excessive accumulation of amniotic fluid in the amniotic cavity). Hydroamnios, unlike hydroallantois, develops gradually over several weeks to months during the second half of gestation. It is often associated with a deformed fetus with a



Fig 1 Ascending placentitis originating at the cervical star

facial, genetic, or congenital abnormality. The pathophysiology of hydroallantois in the mare remains unknown. Some authors have suggested that the increase in fluid is a placental problem caused either by increased production of fluid or decreased transplacental absorption. Others have proposed that the cause is related to placentitis and heritability.

Hydroallantois and hydroamnios

In both hydroallantois and hydroamnios, mares present with abnormally increased abdominal distension for the duration of gestation. Mares in advanced stages of hydropic conditions may have evidence of ventral abdominal wall herniation or prepubic tendon rupture. Early management is aimed at preventing these body wall tears, which improves the mare's prognosis, since obtaining a live foal has not been reported with hydroallantois and has been reported only once with hydroamnios.

Rectal palpation is diagnostic and reveals a huge, taut, fluid-filled uterus. The fetus cannot be balloted, and the uterus is usually tightly distended. Trans-rectal ultrasound reveals an excessive volume of hyperechogenic fluid. Differentiation between an increase in allantoic versus amniotic fluid can sometimes be difficult. Trans-abdominal ultrasound will confirm the presence of excessive volumes of fluid and help differentiate between the two cavities as well as permit evaluation of fetal viability. Ultrasonography of the abdominal walls for evidence of edema or separation of musculature is necessary to monitor impending body wall tears, especially prepubic tendon rupture, which is a common sequela with hydroallantois and can dramatically change the prognosis for the livelihood and reproductive ability of the mare. Mares with profound abdominal enlargement and large volumes of fluid in the uterus require controlled drainage of the fluid before delivery of the fetus. Controlled drainage is essential because of the alteration of total body fluid balance and venous return to the right heart. Sudden loss of this large volume of fluid may result in shock. Supportive care includes abdominal support (via placement of an abdominal wrap), IV fluids, broad-spectrum antimicrobials, and anti-inflammatories.

Depending on the clinician, management of mares in which fetal viability is not realistic includes inducing parturition or allowing natural expulsion. Close monitoring for impending parturition is necessary, for these mares may have poor cervical dilation and uterine contractility (inertia) as a result of the chronic uterine stretching and may require assistance with delivery. Malpositioning and mal-presentations are common. Unfortunately, the fetus can usually not be saved, but prompt intervention yields the best prognosis for physical recovery for the mare as well as for future fertility. Conservative supportive management of mares with hydroamnios can result in the birth of a live foal.



Fig 2 Ascending placentitis with line of demarcation between villus and affected (avillus) area

Body wall tears

Two types of body wall tears occur in the late term pregnant mare: abdominal wall hernias and prepubic tendon tears or rupture. These injuries are seen in inactive or older mares that lack muscle tone. Abdominal wall hernias manifest with clinical signs of colic; mares do not strongly resist walking, have progressive abdominal distension, and develop ventral edema. In contrast, mares with prepubic tendon rupture have significant abdominal pain, progressive ventral body wall edema, stretched mammary glands, and elevation of the tailhead and ischial tuberosity (resulting in a sawhorse-like stance) and resist walking.

Potential predisposing factors to body wall defects cited in the literature include hydrops allantois, hydrops amnion, traumatic injury, twins, and fetal giants. Past treatment options have included induction of parturition to help decrease the weight on the floor of the abdomen and prevent additional tearing from excessive weight of the fetus; application of a belly band to provide abdominal support for the pendulous abdomen; or prosthetic repair once the acute stage of abdominal wall breakdown has passed. In a recent study, the effect of various management strategies was assessed on the outcome of mares and their foals.

No difference in mare survival was detected on the basis of type of management, type of body wall defect, or presence of hydrops. Foal survival was significantly better in the conservatively managed group, compared with mare managed by interventional management, and was better without hydrops. Close observation for impending



Placentitis

parturition is important, because assistance with foaling is likely to be necessary. Because these abdominal defects are not resolved postpartum, recommendations should be made that the mare not carry future pregnancies to term. In breeds in which use of assisted reproductive techniques is acceptable, mares could serve as embryo donors and remain reproductively useful.

Prepartum hemorrhage

Hemorrhage from the middle uterine, external iliac, utero-ovarian, and vaginal arteries has been described in late pregnancy and after parturition and accounts for 40% of periparturient deaths in mares. Most cases occur in older mares that have had many foals. Mares with discomfort or colic in the middle or late stages of gestation or 24-72 hours after parturition should be considered to be potential hemorrhage candidates. The cause for rupture has not been definitively identified.

Three clinical scenarios can occur. In the first, the hemorrhage is confined to the broad ligament. The second scenario occurs when the mare hemorrhages into the uterus. This is usually a postpartum event, unless there has been traumatic injury to the uterus. Finally, the most detrimental scenario is seen with rupture of the broad ligament and extension of hemorrhage into the abdomen. When this occurs, the only reason for containment is the abdomen itself, which is not as conducive to clot formation. Mares with this complication often die quickly without intensive support for hemorrhagic shock.

Diagnosis can often be made on the basis of clinical signs alone. However, it is necessary to determine the extent of hemorrhage so that optimum treatment and prognosis can be established. Transabdominal ultrasound, helps to differentiate the swirling of active hemorrhage free in the abdomen from intrauterine bleeding or bleeding within the broad ligament. The optimum treatment has not been found, and many protocols have been reported. The most important initial consideration is to improve blood flow to vital organs and keep the mare quiet and warm to promote

clot formation. When hemorrhage is prior to parturition fetal monitoring is important since poor blood flow leads to decreased oxygen to the fetus, fetal stress and death. Pregnant mares may need supplemental oxygen in addition to supportive care.

Placentitis

Placentitis, inflammation or infection of the placenta, has emerged as a leading cause of equine reproductive and economic loss. The top photo is of ascending placentitis originating at the cervical star whereas the photo to the right is of nocardioform placentitis with mucoid exudate and avillus area at the bifurcation of the uterus. In addition to inducing premature delivery, chronic placentitis may accelerate fetal maturation, resulting in the birth of precociously mature foals. Bacterial placentitis is most commonly caused by *Streptococcus* spp, which can be isolated and identified from the placenta and the aborted fetus. Other organisms identified are; *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas* spp., *Klebsiella* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., Nocardioform Actinomycetes, and *Leptospirosis* spp. The most common fungus isolated is *aspergillus*. For information on how these organisms gain access to the placenta and therefore the fetus, diagnosis and treatment see our article, 'Placentitis in the mare – causes, diagnosis and treatment' in next month's issue of World Breeding News.

Gastrointestinal Colic

Pregnant mares that undergo gastrointestinal colic episodes or surgery as a consequence should be classified as a high risk pregnancy. Prognosis depends on gestational stage and severity. Monitoring of the placenta is imperative post colic since prostaglandins will produce uterine irritability as well as potential cardiovascular compromise due to endotoxins. Progesterone/Progestin supplementation is imperative to maintain uterine quiescence. Antibiotic supplementation and cardiovascular aides may also be necessary depending on diagnosis and severity.

In mares that are considered high risk (those described above as well as others ie. Cervical incompetency/lacerations, poor reproductive conformation), monitoring of the uterus and its contents using trans-rectal and trans-abdominal ultrasonography, measurement of maternal serum progestagens, and total estrogens provide a means by which early detection of placental and fetal problems become apparent prior to clinical signs and fetal death. These diagnostic tools, in combination, enable identification and treatment of a problem early in the course of disease. ■

Danish Warmblood launches six foal auctions for 2020

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB
PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

As an adjustment to the current COVID-19 situation, Danish Warmblood has scheduled a number of live-streaming auctions, and with a limited number of spectators. As it's impossible to predict when 'normal' public auctions will be able to resume, DWB has planned six foal auctions, with the first taking place on Sunday, June 28 at Blue Hors, where buyers will have the opportunity to either bid online or by telephone.

The chairman of the auction committee, Ulrik Kristensen states: "We are extremely pleased that we have succeeded in arranging six joint auctions this year under the auspices of the Danish Warmblood. It is a very challenging and innovative time when the physical auctions have come under pressure due to Covid-19 and the public assembly ban. The streaming auctions are a great alternative to the well-known auction format, and we are very pleased with the support of the breeders, members and partners.

Dates for Danish Warmblood auctions in 2020:



- Sunday, June 28, at 1:00 p.m. 15:00: Streaming auction at Blue Hors
- Sunday, August 16, at 1:00 p.m. 15:00: Streaming auction at Blue Hors
- Saturday, September 5: Nordic International Sales at Helgstrand Dressage
- Saturday, September 12: Auction South in Esbjerg and Omegns Riding Club
- Saturday, September 19: Foal Auction North at Vestbirk Equestrian Center
- Week 42: DWB World Cup Auction



Colt foal Jestis La Liga will appear at the first 'live-streamed' DWB auction of the yeartaking place at Blue Hors on June 28, 2020

■ IMPORTANT DATES 2020

- SEPTEMBER 16-20 FEI/WBFSH WORLD BREEDING CH
- OCTOBER 11-15 WBFSH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND S
- OCTOBER 14-18 FEI/WBFSH WORLD BREEDING CH
- DECEMBER 9-13 FEI/WBFSH WORLD BREEDING CH

THE ORGANIZERS OF THE
FEI/WBFSH WORLD B
HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT TH

PHOTO: MONDIAL DU LIC

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION FOR SPORT HORSES

VILHELMSBORG ALLÉ 1
8320 MAARSLET
DENMARK

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

WWW.WBFSH.ORG



IMPORTANT DATES 2020

CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG SHOW JUMPING HORSES IN LANAKEN, BELGIUM

SEMINARS, DRESDEN, GERMANY

CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG EVENTING HORSES IN LE LION D'ANGERS, FRANCE

CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSES IN VERDEN GERMANY.

MONDIAL DU LION, WHICH IS THE POPULAR NAME OF THE BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG EVENTING HORSES, THEY HAVE NOW OPENED THE TICKET SALES FOR THE 2020 SHOW

ON, LE LION D'ANGERS, FRANCE (PHOTO: RIDEHESTEN.COM)



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

JULY

1-4 Verden Online (GER)

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

3-6 Online (NED)

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

9-12 Vechta Online (GER)

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

18 Verden Online (GER)

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

23 Vechta (GER)

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

25 Munster (GER)

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

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

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 Online (GER)

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

7-10 Online (NED)

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

15 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

17-24 Online (NED)

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

28-31 Online (NED)

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

31 Chieming-Ising (GER)

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

11-14 Online (NED)

KWPN Foal Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
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