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Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis



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CONTENTS

10 – BERLIN: A SPECIAL STALLION AND A WONDERFUL SPORTING CAREER

Berlin/ex Caspar was a very special stallion. Following a wonderful competition career with Dutch brothers Wim and Gerco Schröder, he proved himself to be an exceptional sire. He passed away in September 2020, at the age of 26 at the Stud 'de Radstake' of Johan Venderbosch.



20 – DONNERHALL: PAYING TRIBUTE TO A LEGENDARY SIRE

Bred by Otto Gärtner, the great stallion was born in 1981 and died in 2006, but not before he established a dynasty that continues to dominate international dressage to this day. Donnerhall was the founding stallion at one of the first truly glamorous private studs – Grönwohldhof...



34 – PAST CHAMPIONS DELIVER FOAL CHAMPIONS IN LITHUANIA

The 2020 Baltic Hanoverian Breeders' Association (BHVŽAA) foal evaluation event took place at the home ground of the Petraitis family – the Audruvis horse facility in the northern region of Lithuania, where local horses were bred and raised for decades.



40 – POLISH 'HYBRID' AUCTION AND NEW DRESSAGE CHAMPIONS

September was a busy month in Poland, which saw the first ever Polish 'hybrid' auction, as well as the 2020 dressage championship. Both events took place in Radzionkow, at the premises of Cichon Dressage.



CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: GEMMA ALEXANDER | AGATA GROSICKA | CHRISTOPHER HECTOR
JO DE ROO | ADRIANA VAN TILBURG | ELENA ZOBOVA

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 16 **New Dutch and German dressage champions 2020**
- 17 **Champion BWP foals descend from popular sires**
- 24 **Gene editing to produce 'super sire' stallions**
- 26 **Successful Marbach mares**
- 27 **Medal winners earn top prizes in Vechta**
- 28 **National equine health date: Knowledge is power / HSI**
- 31 **A special year: 17th Bavarian Elite Warmblood Foal Auction**
- 32 **Solid prices for high quality foals at Nordic Auction / DWB**
- 33 **Dressage young horse French champions crowned**
- 34 **The Brazilian Sport Horse 'gold' broodmare program / ABCCH-BH**
- 38 **British Columbia's vibrant breeding industry / CWHBA**
- 39 **NZ competition season reopens... At last!**
- 46 **Digital passport solution proposed for European horse market**
- 48 **KWPN horses in international driving / KWPN**

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 **Editorial: *Voluntarism, yes... But until when?***
- 7 **WBFSH Tribune: *Heading in a similar direction***
- 9 **Briefs and last-minute news**
- 44 **Health & Vet: *Breeding stallions: What is 'progressive motility'?***
- 54/55 **WBFSH News**
- 56 **Calendar of Events**

PHOTOGRAPHS (COVER AND PG. 3)

COVER PHOTO – ABCCH/BH MARE GONE AWAY (CORNET OBOLENSKY - COME PRIMA X KANNAN)

CONTENTS PHOTOS – PG 3 (TOP TO BOTTOM): BERLIN/AKA CASPAR (PETER LLEWELLYN); DONNERHALL, RIDDEN BY KARIN REHBEIN (PETER LLEWELLYN); KITTO (ELENA ZOVOBA); MAGDALENA JURA RIDING RON (LUKASZ KOWLSKI)

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EDITORIAL

VOLUNTARISM, YES... BUT UNTIL WHEN?



Painful! The Covid-19 pandemic is becoming unbearable! In Lanaken (BEL) the FEI-WBFSH Young Horse Championship in Jumping (WBCYH), which should have been held from September 16 to 20 was cancelled without appeal! No choice.

In dressage, the FEI-WBFSH World Championship for five-, six-, and seven-year-old horses, quite an attraction for riders and breeders has been postponed and will be organized indoor towards the end of the year (December 9-13) in Verden, the headquarters city of the Hanoverian Stud-book.

For the first time in its long history this championship, which has been organized in Ermelo for the past four years, is returning to Germany, and will be hosted as an indoor event in the Niedersachsenhalle due to coronavirus.

At this stage, it's virtually impossible to predict whether the event will unfold as planned, or what the authorized audience capacity, if any, might be, knowing that the arena usually holds 2,500 seats.

In conclusion, it only remains to mention the World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in eventing, which traditionally takes place this month in the magnificent environs of l'Isle Briand (Le Lion d'Angers) in France (October 14-18 October).

"The 35th edition of the event will take place, as planned, but without any public, without any business, only for sport," announced Sophie Lemaire, the show director. "We are fortunate to be supported by our line ministries and public authorities. It has been recognized that we have a role to play, a responsibility, both with regard to sport and sportsmen and women and so to the whole industry, starting with the breeders."

She went on to explain; "Our department, Maine et Loire, is classified as a red zone, that is to say, that there was no better solution. In previous editions we saw around 35,000 spectators, and a significant number of exhibitors. For all the parties involved it, is a disaster. Altogether, some 600 people will be on site: mainly volunteers, riders, grooms, trainers, owners... The property will look so empty, but at least we would have done the job: promoting the best young horses (six- and seven-year-olds) in the world, given them experience on a unique course."

The anticipated participation has, naturally, been impacted by the pandemic: 90 confirmed entries, so far, again the normal 110, and it's likely that there will be further withdrawals

For the many who would typically be involved, it's the overriding challenge of returning to their respective countries, particularly to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Great Britain, with the imposition of Covid tests and quarantine restrictions.

However, there will still be 19 countries represented.... But, more entries should not be registered or the event would risk cancellation by the FEI!

In this context, private partners and sponsors have denounced their contracts, their commitment to the event, even the most loyal like Gefco (a trucking company), a partner for 25 years. Banks (for example, Crédit Mutuel) and insurance companies remain.

Financially the event will result in a large deficit. "Assessed at a certain level, it was accepted by the board of directors. However, it is growing day by day and cannot go beyond a certain level."

Sophie Lemaire's frankness and voluntarism is confirmed as she reassures herself with a smile that tries to erase her fears: "For the moment I have no problem welcoming journalists who still want to come."

Xavier Libbrecht

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WBF SH TRIBUNE

HEADING IN A SIMILAR DIRECTION



As in other breeders' associations, the studbooks are mainly focused on riding horses.

Horses entered into these studbooks are offspring of both indigenous broodmares by foreign stallions, as well as foreign mares. Anglo-Arabian horses, registered in the Malopolska horse studbook in Poland and destined primarily for all types of eventing classes, are characterised by certain genetic distinctions. In matters concerning this breed we cooperate with the International Anglo-Arabian Horse Confederation (CIAA).

We are heading in a similar direction as other WBF SH sport horse studbooks, and our desired aim direction can be described as 'a globalised sport horse'. Our activities do not differ from those of other breeding associations: we take horses through all the stages of the selection process, including field and stationary performance tests. Three years ago, we introduced osteochondrosis screening for stallions.

We are currently working on adapting the PZHK structure to meet the requirements for a modern breeding association. In line with the latest trends in the breeding world, we strive to provide a breeder with as much information as possible to enable him or her to make informed decisions. This purpose is served by a database

The Polish Horse Breeders Association (PZHK) is an organisation with a 125-year-long tradition, and is the keeper of nine studbooks, including three for sport horses: the Malopolska, the Wielkopolska, as well as the Polish

(<https://baza.pzhk.pl>), dedicated primarily to our members, as well as improved breeding tools such as stationary and field performance tests for stallions and mares. The challenge we must face in the near future is to build a professional market for auction horses.

We pride ourselves on a 20-year history of organizing the Polish Young Horse Championships at the national level for four-, five-, and six-year-old horses. For the past three years, these championships in the three Olympic disciplines have been held during the second half of September in the world-famous eventing center in Morawa, near Strzegom.

Presently, the best known Poland bred horse recorded in Polish Horse Breeders Association studbook is MJT Nevados S (Calvados Z - Nestia sp x Romualdo KWPN) bred by Stanisław Szurik. This stallion, ridden by Gregory Wathélet, not only led to Belgium to win team gold at the 2019 Rotterdam European Championship, but has also been successful in high-level international competitions, recently winning the Valkenswaard GP against very strong opponents. What is more, we can already admire his promising offspring during the Polish Championships for Young Horses.

As a WBF SH member for over 10 years, PZHK has observed with satisfaction the organisation having an increasing influence on sport horse breeding, showing the challenges modern sport horse breeding will be facing, as well as setting new directions, such as, for example, genomic selection.

Andrzej Stasiowski
Director

Polish Horse Breeders' Association

(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

Covid-19 moves into 2021 with the cancellation of the CSI-W Amsterdam, scheduled to run from January 28-31. In an announcement delivered on September 9, the organizers said: It is with a feeling of great sadness that the organization of Jumping Amsterdam had to make the decision to cancel the 2021 event. [...] Due to the current corona-related measures and the uncertainty that presently prevails in the Netherlands, it is considered irresponsible to proceed with the event, both in terms of health of all parties involved as well as financially.” According to Paul Riemens, CEO of RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre, and Chairman of the Board of Jumping Amsterdam; “We will definitely miss the team spirit, the get-together with all the people involved [...]. However, we do not want to take any risks whatsoever when it comes to public health. Moreover, from a financial viewpoint, it is not justifiable to incur expenses at a time when uncertainty rules and measure are continuously adjusted. In order to safeguard the continuity of Jumping Amsterdam in the long term, it is therefore more sensible to miss one year and to focus on the 2022 edition. International showjumper and winner of the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ qualifier in 2021 added; “These are uncertain times, especially for organizers of events. I understand very well that Jumping Amsterdam does not wish to take any risks. We riders are, of course, extremely disappointed. [...] Jumping Amsterdam is one of the best. It is a fantastic event with three days of top sport, an incredible atmosphere, especially for us on home ground. It is most certainly a great loss.”



*Winner of 2019 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ qualifier in Amsterdam, Marc Houtzager (NED) riding Sterrehof's Dante
Photo: FEI/DigiShots*



Berlin, ridden by Gerco Schröder (NED)

Farewell to Berlin (Cassini I - Estia x Caretino), Holst. Stamm 890, bred by Josef Unkelbach, who has died at the age of 26. (See our full profile of this brilliant stallion starting on page ...). In partnership with Dutch Gerco Schröder Berlin shone at the highest sporting level, including team gold at the 2006 World Championships in Aachen, European team gold in Mannheim 2007, as well as numerous Grand Prix wins, and runner up in the Barcelona Super League. It was Jan Tops who first noticed Berlin, then Wim Schröder saw his jumping capacity carefully at Tops' place and immediately bought him. “Under the saddle he gave you that special feeling,” Schröder explained about the early days. Their first show was in 2002 in the Youngster Tour, and the following year Berlin was competing at the European championship in Donaueschingen. Coincidentally, Wim Schröder's younger brother, Gerco, took over the ride in 2005, when Berlin was 11, and while Wim was recovering from a broken leg. The rest is history. Gerco Schröder and Berlin were seen as the superstars of WEG

2006 when they jumped clear as the anchor pair to secure team gold for the Netherlands. Berlin leaves behind several approved sons, including Gaspahr (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, bred by C.J.P. Helderma); It's Possible SRK (Guidam de Revel, bred by J. Hiemstra and L. Hiemstra-Bleyie); Jerommeke SB (Glock's London, bred by H. Hartlief); Zerlin M (Concorde, bred by A. de Jong); and Zurich (Quinar, Holstein stamm 6786, bred by Duofarm BV). Within barely a month Gerco Schröder has lost two of his career-making horses when his two-time Olympic mount, Eurocommerce Monaco (Locato x Romino) also passed away at the beginning of September at the age of 29.

CWA

Digital passport solution proposed for European horse movement. The International Sport Horse Confederation (IHSC) Taskforce for Brexit and European Union (EU) Animal Health Law has formulated a digital passport solution to ensure the efficient cross-border movement of sport, racing and breeding horses from 2021. The proposed solution would allow for the free movement of horses between Great Britain and Europe following the end of the Brexit transition period in December 2020 and would also meet the requirements of the new EU Animal Health Law Legislation, which comes into force at the beginning of next year. (The complete text of this digital passport solution is published on pages 46 in this issue.) According to our long-time UK correspondent, Celia Clarke, the main concern at the moment is that unless studbooks are given approved status by the EU post-transition, such initiatives will come to nought as lack of such recognition will immediately put at risk the high health status of equines with UELNs and passports issued by UK studbooks and will make both exports and imports of breeding stock and their products (particularly frozen/chilled semen, frozen embryos, oocytes and zygotes) impossible because of the lack of formal recognition of their status by the EU. Accordingly, the UK government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), is being pressed hard to get recognition of UK studbooks approved by the EU as soon as possible.



Superstars of Aachen 2006 WEG – Team gold for Berlin and Gerco Schröder (NED)

Berlin: A special stallion and a wonderful sporting career

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, PRIVATE COLLECTION, AND COURTESY YEGUADA CAMPOS

Berlin/ex Caspar was a very special stallion. Following a wonderful competition career with Dutch brothers Wim and Gerco Schröder, he proved himself to be an exceptional sire. He passed away in September 2020, at the age of 26 at the Stud 'de Radstake' of Johan Venderbosch.

When all the Eurocommerce horses were necessarily sent to auction, the Netherlands almost lost Berlin. Luckily Stoeterij Duyselshof stepped in to buy him to ensure he would remain in the country. Wiebe van der Kleij recalls: "Berlin not only had a lot of success in sport, he also showed himself to be a great sire. It is not without reason that he became 'preferent' in 2018 with KWPN. I told Wim van der Leege (owner from Stoeterij Duyselshof) that a stallion with such a performance record should stay in the Netherlands. We were very lucky that we could buy him."

Winning team gold at the Aachen 2006 World Equestrian Games under the saddle of Gerco Schröder was one of Berlin's career highlights, when they also finished sixth individually. They were also members of the gold medal team in Mannheim 2007 at the European championships.

His offspring have since shown that they have inherited his quality for showjumping. His son, Zerlin M out of Tatjana Bo (Concorde) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Michel Hughes. Others who are competing at the highest level: Caspar 232 out of Pagrada (Padarco van't Hertsveld) is jumping at 1m60 with Emanuele Gaudiano; Basic out of Janien (Dutchboy) 1m60 with Guy William; Vip du Forezan out of Queen Girl Kervec (Diamant de Semilly) 1m60 with Spain's Paola Amilibia.... and the list goes on.

Solid Holstein roots

Berlin descends from a very strong Holsteiner mare line: Stamm 890, which has split into several branches – aside from the one that produced Berlin, we have another that produced the world famous Casall Ask (Caretino - Kyra XVII x Landgaf I), and also produced yet another 1m60 horse, Capone I (Contender - Winja x Ladalco).

Already in the late 1930s early 1940s the good reputation of this motherline was known in Germany. Aloysius Pollmann-Schweckhorst received advice about this damline from Major von Jenen, who said: "Buy a filly from Stamm 890 if you want to build up a good damline." So let's take a closer look at the line from Berlin descends.

Berlin's success story starts with the mare Bizarre (Cromwell - Kamille x Maki I) born in 1965, bred by Wilken Boje from Trennewurth, who then sold her to the Jahr family

who live in Hodorf.

Isabel, the daughter of Alexander Jahr who purchased Bizarre, recalls: "My father bought Bizarre on the advice of our farm manager Friedrich von Soosten and breeding advisor Gerd Prien around 1967. Bizarre was two years old when we bought her, and it's interesting to mention that Gerd Prien bred Bizarre's sire, Cromwell (Cottage Son xx - Fera x Heidelberg). We later used Maximus (Manometer xx - Stoer x Heilbutt) with her, who was bred by Friedrich von Soosten, so they not only advised us but were also actively involved in the breeding that shaped Berlin's motherline.

"Bizarre had a super character. Her type could handle Thoroughbred really well and that is why we used Freeman xx (Hard Sauce xx - Ruffino xx x Como xx), who was imported to Holstein by my grandfather. My first competition horse was Nelke (Freeman xx) out of Bizarre, that is why Nelke stayed at the Constanzehof to become a broodmare. Sadly my father Alexander Jahr has passed away, so my husband and I now run the farm."

Nelke is through Fabella (Corrado I) grandmother to four 1m40 and higher jumpers: Kabella (Rebel Z II) 1m45 with Frank Plock; Cando 2 (Candillo) 1m60 with Omer Karaevli; Caliku (Candillo) 1m40 with Niklas Engemann; Romantika S (Candillo) 1m45 with Josta van Straaten; and Calgary (Concerto II) 1m50 with Francisco Fleming de Oliveira.

Bizarre is also grandmother to Feodora (Farnese - Historie x Marlon xx). Elmar Pollmann-Schweckhorst recalls: "Bizarre's granddaughter Feodora had already won three 1m40 classes with me as a seven-year-old, then I sold her to Fritz Fervers. He rode her to become German champion, and won team gold and individual bronze at the European championship for juniors in Bourgen-Bresse, France, in 1991." Both Historie and Feodora were bred by Alexander Jahr.

Ostia (Frimella)

The success of this line is also tied to the success of another famous jumping family: that of Pollmann-Schweckhorst. It started with father Aloysius who took over the family farm in 1953 and continued breeding horses as

well as competing in jumping. His son Elmar Pollmann-Schweckhorst took over the farm in 1990 with his wife Christiane. He is also the author of several books on showjumping. Elmar's son Philip is the latest generation of this famous family's jumping riders. Elmar's brother Alois was a very successful as an international jumping rider and is now a top trainer.

Full sister to Nelke is the mare Ostia, another mare bred by Alexander Jahr. Ostia was purchased by Aloysius Pollmann-Schweckhorst. His son Elmar recalls: "It was summer 1979, when I went with my father to Holstein to look for jumping horses. We discovered in a field at the breeding farm, Constanzehof, an expressive black-brown Holsteiner half-blood mare with good gaits. She descends from the Thoroughbred stallion Freeman xx out of Bizarre. Freeman xx did not really produce jumping horses, but Bizarre passed her jumping genetics on to her offspring. She is the dam of Modesto (Marlon xx) with Lene Nissen-Lembke, who was third at the German championship for female jumping riders in 1976 in Donaueschingen and became approved for Swedish Warmblood. Bizarre also produced the internationally successful Urioso daughter, Cuba."

Elmar's brother Alois remembers Cuba well: "She was a very special mare with a lot of blood. Elmar invested a lot of time in this mare. Elmar took Cuba with him to the armed forces so he could train her. I took over the ride from Elmar to compete with her and together we won the Grand Prix of Verden. In that time, the show in Verden was something special."

Elmar continues: "My father recommended Bizarre's two-year-old daughter immediately to his friend to purchase: the salesman Josef Unkelbach from Cologne, who just started to set up a small breeding farm for jumping horses. The mare, Ostia, had presence, was noble, correct in conformation (except for a stronger angle in the hock), strong in her back and long lined. With these qualities you could select for breeding out of a wider range of Holsteiner stallions.

"We covered Ostia before we put her into sport. We used Caletto I (Cor de la Bryère - Deka x Consul) in her first year as a broodmare, who later with Michael Rüping would become European and German champion. The resulting foal from Ostia by Caletto I is the mare, Tafina. In her second year as broodmare we used the Holsteiner approvals champion (1978) Fernando (Farnese - Coconella I x Consul). He was a larger-calibre stallion, almost a pure-bred brown Holsteiner, and he had a hunter type. The result was the not very big mare, Vardana.

"Ostia's sport name was Frimella. She showed a very good willingness to perform, good scope and she was very brave. She didn't jump with the best bascule and also not with the best front leg technique, but the use of her hind legs was outstanding. With my brother, Alois, she was internationally successful in Nations' Cups, Grand Prix classes and the German championships, and later she competed with Willi Melliger, including at the CHIO Aachen."



Bizarre (Holsteiner stamm 890), with Frimella

Elmar's brother, Alois, rode Frimella in international sport, and recalls: "I rode Frimella in my first World Cup qualifier in Dortmund, my first Nations' Cup in La Baule, and my first German championship. For me she was the bridge between my time as a young rider and entering the world of senior riders. She had the looks of a Thoroughbred and she was also a bit hot, sensitive, but had at the same time a perfect willingness to perform. She could turn and stretch with a lot of elasticity in her body. I rode her for about five years. We sold her, thanks to Paul Schockemöhle where I'd started to work, to Willi Melliger who was looking for a good horse. Frimella was for me a very special horse, she never let me down." The breeding cooperation between Unkelbach and Pollmann-Schweckhorst kept Vardana for breeding and to continue this line.

Ostia's daughter Lorina II (Lombard) jumped at 1m60 level with Daniel Etter. Her owner, Andrea Etter recalls: "She was Swiss horse of the year and won the Swiss showjumping championship with my brother Daniel. Here in Ireland she has five-star broodmare status, the highest possible. Lorina's daughter by O-Piloth was selected among the best 15 broodmares in Ireland. Her son Mr. Nelson B (Radolin) was just approved by HSI (Horse Sport Ireland)."

Ostia's daughter Tafina produced four horses that have competed at 1m40 level and higher: Licapo (Libertino I) at 1m60 with Luciana Dini; Lorient 265 (Libertino I) 1m40 with Thorsten Wittenberg; Silvercap (Silvester) at 1m45 with Axel Fromm; and Locarno GZ (Lord) at 1m40 with Ernst Wettstein. B-Legende (Lombard) has had sporting success in Switzerland, and her daughter F-Legrundy (Grundyman xx) jumped at 1m40 and Puissance with Sebastian Otten.

Nicknaming Vardana 'Micky Mouse'

According to Elmar, Vardana looked so small he wondered if it was worth breeding with her: "We gave her the nickname 'Micky Mouse', she needed a lot of time to grow, but she had a good topline. Also her type, her basic gaits, jumping manners, and rideability were below average. I remember that I asked my father if you should even breed with such a mare. He answered: 'Just wait, she will produce

good quality, because she is excellently bred.' And so it happened: with the most different stallions she produced 1m40 and higher jumping horses. Besides her strong topline she also passed on soundness and her fighting spirit."

Vardana produced the following 1m40 jumping horses: TUT Animus (Altano Z) with Stephanie Fleer; Alo's As (Alcatraz) with Stefanie Fleer; and Lancino 13 (Lavaletto) with Sven Goggi.

Fiosa (Caretino) is a daughter of Vardana who produced four 1m40 and higher show jumpers; Mykene (Cassini I) 1m40 with Yuka Watanabe; Cockatoo (Cassini II) 1m40 with Markus Friedel; Cesar 61 (Corrado I) 1m40 with Matthias Ketelsen; and Lancerto (Lancer II, who is also an approved stallion for Holstein and Oldenburg) 1m50 with Mario Walter. Fiosa's approved BWP son Confio C (Con Air) was sold to China.

Vardana's Columbia (Columbus) produced the 1m60 jumping horse Taenzerin 5 (Tanzer) partnered with Khalid Ali Al Junabi.

Ondine (Contender) is the dam of Holsteiner-approved stallion Carentan (Caretino) who is competing at 1m45 level with Nicolo Patrone. Half-sister to Carentan is Zostia (For Pleasure) jumping at 1m45 with Kristen Collins, who also has an approved son: Carleyle (Connor) who won his stallion performance test in Schlieckau with very good notes and is competing at 1m45 under the saddle of Gregory Wathélet. Half-sister to Carleyle is Qolivia (Quadros) who passed her mare performance test with a 9.50 for jumping.

Philip Pollman-Schweckhorst has ridden several horses from this line and says: "The horses that I know from this Stamm all have very good scope, they show quality at the jump, and they have an outstanding willingness to perform."

Estia (Cathleen)

Vardana is also the dam of Estia (sport name Cathleen) about whom Elmar said: "An outstanding daughter from Vardana is the Caretino mare, Cathleen. She trotted maybe a little bit out from behind and jumped a bit straight, but she had a class you rarely find. She received at her mare performance test a 9.50 for jumping. It was my father's suggestion to use Caretino (Caletto II - Isidor x Metellus, Stamm 826) for Vardana. Caretino impressed Mr. Unkelbach and my father with his quick reflexes, and that he was so careful during free jumping."

Estia started to compete after she gave birth to a beautiful colt. Later more about this colt. First more about her competition record. Alois Pollmann-Schweckhorst said: "Cathleen had a lot from her father, Caretino, in jumping a bit straight. I jumped with her at the Bundeschampionat, and Cathleen had this outstanding willingness to

perform like every horse from this line that I know."

Marc Wirths was Cathleen's regular rider for a long time: "Cathleen was a fantastic horse with a super character. She was very special to me as she brought me into the higher levels of showjumping. I rode my first Grand Prix with her, and we were placed at 1m60 level." her my first Grand Prix and we were placed at 1.60m level."

Estia's time in Spain with offspring

In 2006 Estia was sold to Spain. Together with the full sister of Berlin and a half-sister, Cestia (Calato), she went to the breeding operation Yeguada Campos, owned by Eduardo Campos, who had to work hard in order to buy the mare: "I just kept trying to buy Estia until finally I got her. I was impressed with Berlin ever since I saw him jumping, always in a spectacular way. To be honest my main hope was to have a big grey stallion like Berlin out of Estia, but when I finally got her pregnant again to Cassini I, we got a black colt. Now I am very happy with him.

"I also bought a full sister to Berlin, but she arrived very sick from the journey to my place and we could do nothing for her. She died a few days later in a clinic.

"Out of Estia we have some promising young stallions. Some of them are already approved, like Klark Kent C (Clarence I), who is currently jumping at 1m45.

"Clarestia C, the mother of Cobolensky and Mont Blanc C is one of the most special horses we have. She is very complete. We were thinking of putting her into sport as she was a great jumper, but we also thought she would be great in breeding and it seems it was a good decision as her two first sons are already approved in Holstein and BWP. These two stallions are extra special because Cobolensky and Mont Blanc C were born out of the same flushing by embryo transfer.

"I really believe in this motherline. I always thought that Berlin was not an accident as he came out of a very good



Estia in 2009 (age 19) at Yeguada Campos

motherline where all the mares had success in the family. The young horses we have out of the family that are having success are proving that theory.”

Eduardo and his partner Eva van Eeckhoudt have already bred five approved stallions out of the direct line of Estia: Casslin (Cassini II); Caspar II (Cassini I); Klark Kent C (Clarence I); Cobolensky; and Mont Blanc C (Cornet Obolensky).

A few days after the passing of Berlin, I talked with Eduardo Campos who said that Estia is still alive and is enjoying her days in the field – now at the age of 30.

Berlin arrives

The beautiful colt out of Cathleen would later become the famous stallion Berlin, and Elmar was pleased with the choice of stallion: “I stood up for the decision of using Cassini I (Capitol I - Wisma x Caletto II) for Cathleen. This stallion impressed me as a young horse with his scope and perfect manners. At that time Cassini I was only five years old. I thought Cathleen could be the ideal mare for him to handle his weaknesses. Cathleen had blood, was careful, had hardness, an alert mind, and a good topline and knee. On top of that I thought it would be interesting to double up the blood of Caletto II who died too early. The future would show that making the cross of Capitol I and Caletto II would



Estia with Berlin II

become a perfect match.

“I have to add that the breeder’s alliance Unkelbach/ Pollmann-Schweckhorst has worked for more than 30 years with our friend Hobe Bernhard, who gave us advice for stallions and for the mares. Also most of our foals were born there or raised there in the past.”

According to Elmar, “Berlin’s most outstanding characteristic as a foal and yearling wasn’t really his beauty, he was a bit heavy. But he was simply a star. He had an unsurpassable aura, if he jumped over one cavaletti he jumped every time around a meter higher than necessary.”

Berlin’s sporting career

Stefanie Fleer rode Berlin as a young stallion, and as a six-year-old he caught the attention of Jan Tops who sold him to Eurocommerce. Wim Schröder had his first show with Berlin in Neumünster, Germany, which is in Holstein. Wim also had success with Berlin at international level. In 2002 they won the Grand Prix (1m50) of Valkenswaard, and in 2004 the Verona Grand Prix. In 2005, Gerco (Wim’s younger brother) took over the reins because Wim had broken a leg. Together, Gerco and Berlin became an important part of the Dutch showjumping team, and Berlin proved himself to be an excellent championship horse. One of the most special moments in Berlin’s sporting career was the 2006 World Championship in Aachen, where the pair were decisive in winning the team gold medal for the Netherlands.

Gerco Schröder explained; “I will never forget the last round at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in 2006. He jumped fantastic and made sure we won gold with the team, which is something you normally only dream about.

“His best qualities are his scope in combination with his super disposition. I have been riding quite a few of his offspring and they all excel in being careful, and they are good characters.”

Berlin’s breeding career

According to online data, Berlin has 77 approved sons. Of these 77 stallions, 12 have jumped or are still jumping at 1m60, including the BWP ambassador Bull Runn’s Faustino de Tili (out of Bijou van de Vijfheide x Darco, bred: by Lieven and Tim Bruyneel-van Tricht) under the saddle of Kristen Vanderveen. Or H&M Extra (out of Wucinda x Heartbreaker, bred by G. van de Winkel) ridden by Olivier Philippaerts.

For KWPN, 127 mares have been presented for approval, and over time two have been awarded ‘prestatie’ and two are ‘preferent’. A total of 67 mares have received their sport predicate for jumping at 1m30 level with six points. In Germany with the FN he has 88 offspring who are jumping at 1m40 and higher. Berlin has a total of 836 offspring registered with KWPN. In France he has 304 registered offspring, including 142 offspring coming from other studbooks, plus five who are bred out of an Anglo Arab mare.

French breeder Arnaud Bernollin is especially enamoured with Berlin: “I have used Berlin a lot, but your mare needs to have a lot of blood. He gives the offspring more scope, a good topline, and a lot of strength. He could have been used a lot more, and I think he is rather sought-after. People are just discovering him properly. He is still a modern horse. I want to try him as a sire of a broodmare, that is the next step, that I want to keep a filly by him. I have a good Heartbreaker mare for him.”

Another French breeder, Claire Besson from Le Haras de Gravelotte recalls: “I met this stallion during his first participation in the CSI of La Baule. Convinced by his sporting qualities, I distributed his semen for many years exclusively in France until the bankruptcy of Eurocommerce, maybe 10 years ago. I love his production. He brings scope, strength, size, and his products are all extremely nice, generous under the saddle, confident and endearing. His production is fairly discreet, but most of his offspring are jumping at a high level. He is very well ranked each year in the list of the best sires of young horses in France, but also more generally in the world.”

With Jérôme Aguetaz of Elevage du Forezan we conclude the quotes from French breeders: “I used Berlin for his appearance and modern model, but also for having Caretino in the bloodline and coming from the same damline as Casall [and produced VIP]. I used Berlin again with the help of ICSI to make a full sibling of VIP, but the embryo didn’t survive in the surrogate. I still have semen with Aventeia in Italy so I will try again this year because he crossed perfectly well with my own-bred mare Queen Girl Kervec (Diamant de Semilly - Jolly Girl de Kervec x Darco). When I bought her I went to see the seven-year-olds in Fontainebleau when her uncle, Mylord Carthago, was jumping and I said to myself that if I could have a horse that could win the championship it would be great. Queen Girl Kervec made it to the seven-year-old final with my childhood friend Julien Gonin, but finished 13th in the end. Then VIP arrived. He was the best seven-year-old by earnings, €20,000, before the final. So I asked Julien to go and do the final with him, saying that we had the horse who could win. It was a dream as he was the only horse to not have a fault in the whole championship. Then he left for Mexico where he finished second in a World Cup qualifier with this new rider [Federico Fernandez, who gave VIP to his wife, Paola Amilibia, to compete in 2020]. I will still try to use Berlin on Queen Girl Kervec or on a daughter from her.”

Berlin ‘preferent’ (2018)

Berlin has several good offspring in sport and approved sons all over Europe for the Anglo European Studbook, BWP, Oldenburg International, SF, ZFDP, Zangersheide and



Berlin under the saddle of Gerco Schröder (NED)

KWPN. He ranks 34th in the WBFSH jumping stallion ranking, and from online data is number one for his promising stallions.

His good results in sport and breeding were the reason he was awarded the KWPN ‘keur’ predicate in 2014, according to the KWPN website; ‘Under Gerco Schröder, the Cassini I son performed at Grand Prix level for numerous years. Since then, a number of offspring from his first years at stud have become top competitors in their age groups. Furthermore, Berlin offspring are achieving their first successes in the Grand Prix; for example, Zerlin with Jos Lansink. Berlin’s approved son Zurich, another stallion from his first year at stud, was the champion of the KWPN stallion selection. In addition, Berlin is a producer of exceptional mares. He is available at De Radstake.’

In 2018 Berlin was ‘preferent’ predicate awarded: ‘Being awarded the predicate preferent is the highest quality distinction that an approved stallion can receive. To be eligible for this, the stallion must already have a keur predicate. Within this group of stallions, the individual must distinguish himself in a remarkably positive way on the movement and conformation qualities of his progeny. His offspring must be at least 11 years of age or older and have a sport index higher than 140, with a reliability of at least 85%. Just as with the keur predicate, a sport index of 140 or higher does not necessarily mean that an approved stallion becomes preferent. The conformation inheritance plays an important role here too. It is also important for the preferent status that the stallion clearly passes on positively in the male line.’

Josef Unkelbach puts it very well: “To breed a stallion like Caspar (Berlin) is a dream for every showjumping horse breeder. A stallion that does not only belong to the top of the world in sport, but who is also helping to develop the international showjumping breed. We, Elmar and I, were there at WEG in Aachen, where he helped with his crucial ride towards the Dutch team winning gold. That was an unreal moment, for which I will be thankful for the rest of my life.” ■

New Dutch and German dressage champions 2020

By CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI

On the same third weekend of September both in Ermelo, the Netherlands and Balve, Germany, the respective national dressage championships took place, and saw Edward Gal with a stallion, Glock's Toto Jr, and Isabell Werth riding her mare, Weihegold, reign supreme.

While in Balve a number of mares were a force that produced amazing results, with Weihegold (Blue Hors Don Schufro x Sandro Hit, bred by Inge Bastian) dancing Isabell Werth to her 16th German Masters title, in Ermelo it was the stallions that represented the highest honours, with Glock's Toto Jr handing the Dutch title to Gal.

In fact, in Ermelo, Glock's Toto Jr (Totilas x Desperados x Rotspon, bred by Judith and Sönke Schmidt) competing for only the third time at the highest Grand Prix level, put a spell on the small audience as well as the judges. Likewise, on his rider Edward Gal, who was able to celebrate his 11th Dutch Masters win with a very emotional ride, bringing back the fairytale dressage moments of his sire Totilas when he first entered the dressage scene.

Power, athleticism, a sort of magical aura, it all seemed like Totilas within his only nine-year-old son, who had already received nines for his extended canter, passage, and transitions. An emotional Edward Gal said: "It is exactly 10 years ago today that I rode this freestyle to music composed by Joost Peters with Totilas in Kentucky. And I never thought I would ride it once again. But today I sat on his son and it was simply incredible. I felt my own tears coming up and I was really overwhelmed by everything. Toto has nearly the same behaviour – so smart and cuddly, and he really looks very similar to his father in everything. With his lack of experience today he was even better than yesterday in the Grand Prix. This is so promising."

Gal ended on the highest place on the podium, thanking his trainer, Nicole, partner Hans Peter, his Glock team and, of course, all his fans. "You went along with me through ups and downs, really happy and really sad moments. Today we are sharing a really special and really wonderful moment. Thank you."

Winning silver, the second stallion, was an energetic and expressive Dream Boy NOP (Vivaldi x Ferro x Balzflug, bred by Tim Coomans) with Hans Peter Minderhoud, who had already won the Prix St Georges championship showing his seven-year-old stallion Invictus (Jack Sparrow x Glock's Voice). Minderhoud was very happy winning silver in the senior GP championship, teasing: "Being second is the story of my life."

The third stallion Desperado NOP (Vivaldi x Havidoff, bred by the Andeweg family) won bronze with Emmelie

Scholtens, who said that because of the Covid times, she had really missed the showing routine, and started in fifth place in the first test.

Bronze was, in fact, almost won by the best gelding in the championship, Ben Johnson (Johnson x Ferro) [editor's note:

bred by our own long-time correspondent Claartje van Anandel], who rode an impressive and almost faultless championship, finishing third in the GP Special, and fourth in his new Freestyle under the saddle of Marlies Van Baalen.

Super mares

In Balve some super mares were once again on top. In the Grand Prix Special, Jessica Bredow Werndl and Dalera (Easy Game x Handryk x Hogenstein, bred by Silke Fass) produced the best performance and celebrated her first national championship title. Her thrilled rider praised the 13-year-old mare, but in the Freestyle, even her personal best of 89.350% was not enough for a second win. The last pair into the arena, Werth and Weihegold took gold, also drawing praise from Werth: "This was one of her very best Freestyles. I know nothing that could have been any better. 'Weihe' gave everything from beginning to end."

Bredow-Werndl also said how proud she was on the growth, development, and shape of Dalera. "Being second best will only make training even more intense, and happy to become better myself. As for my mare, everything is very easy."

Quite happy also was Dorothee Schneider, riding her first championship with the 12-year-old Faustus (Falsterbo x Forrest xx, bred Heino Bruns), while Showtime FRH and DSP Sammy Davis Jun are enjoying their rest. Schneider and Faustus won bronze in both the GPS and in the Freestyle. ■



Isabell Werth and Weihegold

Champion BWP foals descend from popular sires

BY JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO

Schwarzgold, Fürst Jazz, Echo van't Spieveld, Kasanova de la Pomme. Charisto vd Heffinck, and Comme d'Api vd Hacienda Z all sired champions during the BWP national foal championships.

Finally, able to attend a foal championship! No evidence of coronavirus during the current times when on September 12, the Vanderhasselt family hosted the National BWP and BRP foal championships.

In the option 'showjumping', Charisto van de Heffinck (Casall - Athena IV x Cristo) was the top supplier with three descendants, followed by Amadeo van't Vossenhof (Asca Z - Caloma II Z x Carthago) and Pegase van't Ruytershof (Comme II Faut - Gianthina van 't Ruytershof x Cartani), who each had two descendants in the finals. With regard to dressage foals, Le Formidable (Bordeaux) was represented twice in the finals.

Success for United vd Bisschop

Bred by the De Craene family of Studfarm Den Bischop, United vd Bisschop won the series for showjumping colts born after May 15. Tom de Craene had this to say about this son of Comme d'Api vd Hacienda Z out of Roxette vd Bisschop. "Roxette is a three-year-old dam. We had the intention of keeping her for our breeding and sport stable, but she has now been sold to Lander De Bruyn. He saw her in a free jumping session in our stables and was determined to buy her. Adding: "I won't drive home until the sale of that horse is completed." I told him this would be difficult as we wanted to keep her, but we finally made an agreement so we can flush a few more embryos. "To be able to buy this dam he also had to buy seven other horses!"

Roxette is by Vigo d'Arsoilles. "Her dam, Zaroka, is a Heartbreaker x Voltaire mare. She is a half-sister to U2 (by Burggraaf) who jumped in partnership with a lesser known rider. We bought Zaroka about 10 years ago, on the advice of Dany Van Lombergen. I then did some research about her pedigree and saw that she belonged to U2's family. Desteny van het Dennehof also belongs to this breeding family. In partnership with Grégory Wathélet, Desteny performed at five-star level. Desteny's dam is a full sister to U2 and, therefore, a half-sister to our Zaroka. It's a small, but highly valuable family," De Craene explained.

United vd Bisschop also has a full sister, called Ulena vd Bisschop (Comme d'Api VD Hacienda Z), whose sire stands at stud with Tom De Craene. "Comme d'Api performed at 1m60 level under the saddle of Daniel Deusser, who was riding for

Jan Tops's sport stable at the time. Before the start of his sport career, Comme d'Api had a very limited production. It is noticeable that half of them are in international sports, including Hello Mr President who has already won two Global Champions Tour showjumping classes. I noticed Comme d'Api and his production early on and then said 'the day he comes out of sport he should get every opportunity in breeding and I will try to buy him', which is what I've done. The offspring we have from Comme d'Api are still very young. His descendants are magnificent. They have size, height, and blood, and can jump with excellent manners. His offspring also stand out in color. They usually have a lot of white markings. In addition, I can tell you that so far I have not seen any chestnut descendant of Comme d'Api."

Udo van de Beemden

Udo van de Beemden (Echo van't Spieveld - Clarisse x Con Air) won the series for showjumping colts born before May 15. He was bred by Willy Hendrix, who said: "I have never bred more than two foals per year. In fact, two is the exception



Udo van de Beemden

rather than the rule. I prefer to breed with one good dam. Now I am retired, but before I have always had a busy working life. I breed purely as a hobby and have been doing this for more than four decades. Today I only breed with one dam, being Clarisse. Montevideo van de Beemden and Udo van de Beemden are my greatest successes as a breeder so far.

“Clarisse is a Holsteiner dam. She is by Con Air out of a Caretino dam and belongs to the very valuable breeding family 730b. I bought Clarisse from Paul Maïs as a three-year-old. Seven years ago, she won the series for five-year-old dams, option showjumping, at the BWP national conformation championship.”

Hendrix had a good reason for buying Clarisse: “At the time I had Harmonie XXXI, a Cantus x Ahorn Z dam. She is the dam of the approved stallion Quapriccio vd Beemden Z, as well as the granddam of the approved stallions Kreator-B and Montevideo van de Beemden. As Harmonie got older, I approached Herman Bode at one point and told him that I was looking for a breeding dam. Herman advised me to go and see the dam Clarisse at Paul Maïs’s farm. When I saw Clarisse it was love at first sight, so to speak. She was exactly what I was looking for. I bought her immediately. Clarisse had no sport career as I’ve used her exclusively as a breeding dam.”

Clarisse produced several descendants, including Papillon, Sorento, Rogano, Sogano, Torre, and Udo van de Beemden. According to Hendrix, “I sold two or three of them to Paul Maïs. The German stallion keeper Gerd Sosath also owns one of Clarisse’s offspring. They are all top products. Udo is also no longer in my possession. Last winter, I sold him unborn to Vincent Coppens.” Hendrix continued; “Clarisse is now in foal to Cabrio van de Heffinck. Even though that foal won’t be

born until next year, three people are already interested in buying it. They know how I treat my horses and foals. I can easily sell my foal every year. If you know that stallion keepers such as Wim Schoukens, Paul Maïs and Gerd Sosath come to me to buy foals, then I don’t think I’m doing badly.”

Older showjumping filly: Una van den Bosdam

At last year’s foal championship, Freddy De Vos caused a stir by winning the national title with his breeding product Thiam van den Bosdam, a daughter by Pegase van’t Ruytershof out of Bethsabée van de Maltahoeve. This year, he won the championship again, thanks to Una van den Bosdam, who won the showjumping option series for fillies born before May 15 – and she is a half sister to Thiam van den Bosdam. This time the sire is not Pegase, but Kasanova de la Pomme. “It’s true recognition for Bethsabée and her performance family,” De Vos said. “Neri van de Maltahoeve, a daughter by Skippy II, produced a few other horses from the 1m50 to 1m60 circuit besides Bethsabée, including Azucar van de Maltahoeve, Fara van de Maltahoeve, and Habibi van de Maltahoeve.

“Before her sports career in the United States, Bethsabée became the dam of Jin van de Maltahoeve. This Toulon daughter was also active in sport, and I have since bred several of Bethsabée’s descendants. They usually have a good conformation of the legs and, moreover, they can move well and are very manageable. The latter is of course partly related to their upbringing at young age. Sometimes the upper part could be a little bit more beautiful. Most of Bethsabée’s descendants are still quite young. Next year, a son of Eras Ste Hermelle out of Bethsabée will be presented at the BWP stallion expertise. I would like to breed more descendants from Bethsabée, but one must not forget that she is 19 years old, so maybe I should consider ICSI. There was a lot of interest in Una, but I’m not sure yet whether I will sell her or not. Never say never.” If all goes well, Bethsabée’s offspring will be expanded next year with a foal by Corydon T&L.

“I have known Bethsabée for a long time and she was broken by Stefaan De Smet. When she was six-years-old she was sold to Stephex where she jumped at international five-star level in partnership with Kean White. When she came back to Belgium, I was able to buy her, and I am very happy about that. Bethsabée was and still is a large, strong dam with good leg conformation,” De Vos said.

Younger showjumping filly: Urte vd Heffinck

Bred by Studfarm ‘Van de Heffinck’ aka, the Hamerlinck family, Urte vd Heffinck won the series for showjumping fillies born after May 15. With regard to Urte’s dam, Qadira van den Bosdam, Hubert Hamerlinck said: “I bought Qadira as a foal at the auction in Beervelde. Qadira is four years old now and very promising. She jumps very well in free jumping, with a lot of technique and scope. She also has a really good mentality. Today, being smart, just like the mindset, is very important. The era of riding difficult horses has passed. The horses must



Una van den Bosdam

now be simple and think for themselves. Qadira also belongs to a valuable performance family. Out of Qadira's dam, Bethsabée van de Maltahoeve, daughter, became national champion today."

Hamerlinck is very happy with the national title, but: "My greatest pleasure is that from Urte's sire, Charisto vd Heffinck, five foals have participated at the national championship and three of them were finalists. That really pleased me. They are foals from Charisto's first crop. He himself has a very nice character. He jumps and moves with a lot of elasticity, which his foals well inherit."

Best dressage filly, Ulana van de Kempenhoeve

Traditionally, Marc Dries, the key figure behind the successful studfarm 'van de Kempenhoeve' takes part in the national championship with a few dressage foals. Last year, he won the national title with a colt, called Titalis van de Kempenhoeve. This time it was again a hit, with Ulana van de Kempenhoeve.

Ulana is by Fürst Jazz. Dries said: "Ulana's dam, Golinde van de Kempenhoeve, is a young mare who was injured in training before we started breeding with her. In 2015 she produced a colt by Nespresso. Last year, she gave birth to a foal by Morricone, and this year one by Fürst Jazz. Golinde is a beautiful Apache daughter who can move very well. Ulana inherited her dam's conformation and strong movements. Golinde is currently in foal to Secret."

Dries not only bred Ulana and her dam Golinde, but also Golinde's dam Candida van de Kempenhoeve. "That is a De Niro x Gotthardsen x Wendekreis mare. Candida's dam, Gitta, is a Hanoverian mare that I bought from Paul Maïs. At the time he imported several Hanoverian mares, and Gitta was one of them. She won several conformation contests, including the BWP national championship."

What are the future plans for the foal? "I sold Ulana during the championship. After her first presentation, someone was interested in the foal. When Ulana was selected to participate in the final, two people were interested. I was offered an attractive price and then decided to sell the champion foal on the spot. It is important to show your foals because 2020 is a sad year. The BWP national foal championship is the first event at which we can show our breeding products. We participated with six foals. Three of them were selected for the finals. I'm very happy."

Unico VD, best dressage colt

Unico VD (Schwarzgold - H Black Lady x Lord Leatherdale), bred by Herman and Ingrid Van Den Broeck-Daeleman, won the series 'dressage colts'. Talking about Unico's dam, Van Den Broeck said: "She is a full sister to the approved stallion Chippendale. There has been some commotion around this son of Lord Leatherdale. It even came to a lawsuit between Gertjan van Olst and Al Khalifa. We bought H Black Lady as a three-year-old at a Van Olst



Urte vd Heffinck with dam Qadira van den Bosdam

auction. She can move exceptionally well. Free semen from a stallion of our choice was linked to the sale, so we chose George Clooney. Out of this combination a colt was born in 2016, named Querido. That was the first foal we bred out of H Black Lady. As a foal Querido won the foal championship in Geel, as well as the foal championship in Pulderbos. Two year later, Querido triumphed in Sint-Niklaas in a competition in which conformation and movements were assessed."

In Unico VD's dam line we also meet some showjumping blood. H Black Lady's great-grandmother, Felicita, is the grandmother of the performer Victory vd Laarseheide. In partnership with Bassem Hassan Mohammed, Victory jumped on the international five-star circuit. Mr. Acobat, a Grand Prix horse that won the Fontainebleau GP under the saddle of Eric Navet, belongs to the same performance family. "It's a family that is known for its dedication, willingness to work, and good character," Van Den Broeck explained.

H Black Lady also produced Talisa VD, by Don Martillo, the stallion who won the final of the world championship for five-year-old dressage horses in Ermelo in 2017. Last year, Talisa ended second at the foal championship in Pulderbos. Unico's sire is Schwarzgold. Van Den Broeck continued: "My wife and I are crazy about a lot of blood. Thoroughbred is a bit difficult and dangerous to anchor. We went to the Trakehner stallion expertise because in the Trakehner Verband we often see horses with a lot of blood and many good dressage horses. We saw Schwarzgold at work during the expertise and saw that he is a beautiful stallion and one of the top among the Trakehners. Unico VD has a lot of blood. Since we are so satisfied with him, we crossed his dam with Schwarzgold again." ■

Donnerhall: Paying tribute to a legendary dressage sire

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN AND FEI

Bred by Otto Gärtner, the great stallion was born in 1981 and died in 2006, but not before he established a dynasty that continues to dominate international dressage to this day. Donnerhall was the founding stallion at one of the first truly glamorous private studs – Grönwohldhof. It was a trend that was to strengthen and grow in the 1980's as the private studs that reflected the affluence and taste of their mega-rich owners mushroomed.

Grönwohldhof with its mill pond and waterwheel, its beds of azaleas, and picture perfect paddocks with foals with neatly trimmed tails, set the standard. Sadly in recent years, many of those famed Oldenburg studs – including Grönwohldhof – have disappeared.

But beautiful as Grönwohldhof may have been, it was also brilliantly designed and laid out so that the founder, Otto Schulte-Frohlinde, who was confined to a wheelchair, could observe all of the operations of the establishment via closed circuit vision in the central control room, from which the various wings of the main stud building fanned out.

There was the round court at the centre, usually packed with the luxurious tack boxes of visiting teams, celebrity riders, and the rich and hopeful. Off to one side, in the centre of the riding hall sat Herbert Rehbein, like an oriental pasha, surrounded by his followers, as he directed the activities of the dozen or so riders in the school at any one time.

And what riders he produced! Riders like Martina Hannöver, Ingo Pape, Susan Draper (now Pape), Falk Rosenbauer, who came out of the stables themselves – and visitors from all over the world.

Although the Swedish Olympic competitor, Gaspari (Parad [Trak] x Haffner [SWB]), was the first of the modern stallions to combine stud and competition, Donnerhall was an imposing presence on the competition scene, and was a magnet for mare owners at a time when suddenly the breeders realised that there was a market for dressage horses and that they were easier to sell than jumpers. In the past dressage horses had largely been the ones that wouldn't / couldn't jump, now they were THE market, particularly in Hanover and Oldenburg as wealthy Americans flocked to Germany waving their cheque books.

Not a 'good family'

It must be admitted that Donnerhall hardly comes from a 'good family'. Admittedly his sire, Donnerwetter disappeared into the wilds of the United States in the mid

seventies, but while there were a couple of Donnerwetters 'gracing' the German dressage arenas, they were rather ugly, untalented creatures. Even Donnerhall's famous rider, Karin Rehbein in an interview I conducted in 2000, drew attention to the distance between Donnerhall and his siblings.

"Look at Donnerhall's full-brothers, you couldn't compare any of them to him. In appearance, in everything about him, the full brothers don't come anywhere near Donnerhall. There were even two brothers who competed Grand Prix, but they were nothing compared to Donnerhall. They don't even look the same, don't move one little bit the same," Karin told me.

When she first started riding the liver-chestnut stallion at the age of four, she thought 'this horse could be something'. "He was always a good horse to train. Good in the head, he was always straightforward and learnt everything really quickly. He is still fantastic, he could still go out and win right now."

To see Donnerhall compete was to marvel at the imposing power of the big stallion, but surprisingly, even though Mrs Rehbein is not very tall, and certainly not very big, the ride he gave her was 'very good'. "He was very soft. Sometimes you had to hold him a little bit through, but you have to do that with every horse."

Donnerhall's talent was apparent right from the start, and he scored 131.92 to finish second in his performance test at Adelheidsdorf in 1984. Donnerhall's competition career is the stuff of legend. He won many Grand Prix class, Grand Prix Specials and Freestyles for Karin Rehbein.

In 1994, Donnerhall was individual bronze medallist (and team gold medallist) at the 1994 World Championships in The Hague. Donnerhall won the European World Cup Freestyle League final standings twice, in 1997 and 1998. He retired from competition in 1998.

What Donnerhall seems to give to his offspring, is a trainability and a strength to handle the more collected work, even if their natural paces are not so spectacular. It would seem that the mix of Donnerhall and a large drop of 'blood' (Thoroughbred that is) in the dam is more likely to

produce competition horses. Donnerhall's son Davignon was out of a Pik Bube mare as was another of the early sons to shine, Don Primero, again out of a Pik Bube mother.

The Pik Bube influence

Pik Bube was by Pik König, a half blood by Pik As xx, and there is more Thoroughbred on the dam line with a cross of Der Löwe xx.

The man who discovered, De Niro, Donnerhall's number one son, Burkhard Wahler, questions the prevailing wisdom: "I love to buy the Donnerhall blood but I don't like the very popular Donnerhall x Pik Bube cross – very heavy big horses, and I didn't like that so much because I am from the other side, from the Trakehner side and I like more an elegant horse. I really liked De Niro, because he was out of a mare with Wiesenbaum x Akzent breeding. Akzent is through Absatz, Trakehner, Wiesenbaum is from Thoroughbred – so in my opinion, this was a very interesting bloodline."

Jan Tönjes who before he became editor of St Georg magazine, worked with the Oldenburg Verband, has a different explanation, finding his answer in the heritage of the coach horses that disappeared in the creation of the modern sport horse.

Why Donnerhall became such a dominating force? How? His dad really only made one horse, his full brothers were duds...

"It has in my opinion, two reasons. First of all, and it is in the breeding, he is a very solid type of horse, with this third dam still belonging to the old Oldenburg Coach type. When he was certified, even then, people thought he was not the modern type. He had a bit a head, but always loads of expression in his eye, his croup was not the ideal but these coach horses were two things: they were eager to work every day, they had a super attitude, which always helps, rideability is always something you would associate with 'D' rather than 'W'. Plus, they had to stay sound conformation-wise. I can't say that Donnerhalls are the soundest horses in the world but look at some of the other lines – you buy them and then you keep them doing the job, but not too much, with the Donnerhalls you can ride them, they are tough guys, and again, maybe you don't need to train them as much as the others, so they don't have the mileage which helps their soundness again. These are the two things that I think make the Donnerhall line the complete package."

Nineteen-ninety-seven saw the first of the Donnerhall grandsons to star at the Bundeschampionate, with the gelding Duvalier (by Davignon out of a Bolero mare) winning the five-year-old dressage title – while the following



Donnerhall (Donnerwetter [Hann] - Ninette [Oldbg] x Markus) ridden by Karin Rehbein in the 1998 World Equestrian Games in Rome

year, this class was won by the black Donnerhall son, Del Piero (out of a Matcho AA mare).

The Donnerhall son, De Niro (out of a Akzent II mare) started competing at Grand Prix level at the tender age of seven. He was never a Grand Prix star, but in later life acted as a wonderful schoolmaster for Burkhard's daughter, Therese, but of all the sons, De Niro has been the most successful sire.

De Niro was number one on the 2013 WBFSH dressage stallions rankings, but on the 2014 standings he dropped to second, with 25 horses adding to his total points. In 2015 he is back where he belongs, number one with 29 representatives. The first five are all genuine international stars: Desperados, Delgado, d'Agostino, Glock's Voice, and Dablino.

On the 2016 WBFSH standings he was once again in first place. I asked Hanoverian breeding expert, Ludwig Christmann what made De Niro such an exceptional sire:

"I think you should probably talk to the riders and trainers, I think it is the minds that they like. When I talk to Mr Sprehe about Desperados, he says the horse is always fit,

even if it is 35 degrees like in Rio, he always does his job. They have the talent for collection and the higher movements, but it is the mind that makes them so special.”

On the 2017 WBFSH standings, De Niro was the number one dressage stallion, with points provided by 27 representatives. Four horses accumulated more than 2,000 points alone in the year: Supa Nova II (Weltmeyer), Glock's Voice (Rohdiamant), D'Agostino (Shogun xx) and Dablino FRH (Wanderbursch). De Niro is once again in first place on the 2018 WBFSH dressage stallion rankings, but in 2019, dropped to fourth.

One thing that sets Donnerhall apart from both Weltmeyer and Rubinstein, is his ability to sire successful stallions sons who in turn produce successful stallion sons.

One of the most striking examples is Desperados FRH who was born on 2 June 2001 and sadly, he died in February 2020, but not before he achieved greatness with German team member, Kristina Bröring-Sprehe. By De Niro, Desperados was out of a mare by the best son of Weltmeyer, Wolkenstein II, out of a mare by the French Anglo Arab, Matcho, which perhaps accounts for his lovely black coat.

Like so many great stallions, Desperados was rejected at the Hanoverian stallion licensing before becoming the most expensive, non-licensed stallion at auction and sold to Gestüt

Sprehe – the studfarm owned by Kristina's father and uncle.

Desperados went on to win the 2004 Bundeschampionate as a three-year-old and claimed bronze at the 2005 Bundeschampionate. Trained and competed by Falk Rosenbauer, he moved up to Grand Prix level and won the 2010 Hamburg Dressage Derby. In 2011 Kristina Sprehe took over the ride and they became the Otto Lorke Prize recipients. They won medals at the 2012 London Olympics, 2014 World Equestrian Games, and 2013 and 2015 European Championships.

In the 2020 Hanoverian stallion book, we see that Desperados's own winnings amounted to €590,149, with 343 progeny in competition for winnings of €226,932. Fifty three have already competed at S level dressage.

And there may be more to come, the Desperados FRH progeny with the most winnings so far is the young stallion, Destiny OLD, who is already a successful Small Tour competitor with Kristina. Destiny is out of a Sandro Hit x Argentinus mare.

World champion Damon Hill

Another enormously successful competitor son of Donnerhall has been Damon Hill (out of a Rubinstein



World champion Damon Hill (Donnerhall) with Helen Langehanenberg (GER)

mare). Twice a world champion young horse with Ingrid Klimke and Helen Langehanenberg, he went on to star at Grand Prix with the latter: individually fourth in the London 2012 Olympic Games, World Cup champion in 2013, and second individually in the 2014 WEG in Caen, France. As a sire he seems to have produced many good young-horse competitors, but has yet to sire a top competitor in the 'big' sport.

Don Schufro is another out of a Pik Bube mare, Fiesta (whose full-sister was the dam of Don Primero). As a competitor he was a respectable Grand Prix competitor but not as successful as Damon Hill, although he has been more successful as a sire. His most successful product is Isabell Werth's superstar, Weihegold. Luckily it was not discovered that Don Schufro carried the WFFS gene until he was old and retired from breeding.

Another valuable son, Don Frederico, also tested positive, leading to the suggestion that Donnerhall himself was a carrier. Lucky then that Donnerhall had his chance long before the 'World Wide Facebook Freakout Syndrome' arrived to destroy his breeding career....

The 2011 Hanoverian Stallion book (the last in which he appears) records that Donnerhall has had 998 competitors, 840 dressage competitors (226 at advanced level) – and even 97 in the jumping ring – for total prizemoney of €2,137,490. Far and away the most successful of these progeny has been the mare, Donatha S, who won €174,242 followed by Don Schufro with winnings of €109,257. At that point, there were 40 horses with dressage winnings of more than €10,000.

Donnerhall had an FN dressage ranking of 150, jumping, 77. His Hanoverian ranking was 158 for dressage and 75 for jumping. He was the sire of 50 (!) licensed sons at that stage.

Donnerhall was ranked fifth on the WBFSH rankings for 2013 based on FEI recorded performances, with most of his points earned by three of the world's top 10 – Damon Hill, Donnperignon, and Digby – with one son, De Niro, ranked number one, and another, Don Schufro, in sixth place.

The 'D' line horses were out in force at the London 2012 Olympic Games. By Donnerhall himself, we find three, Donnperignon, Damon Hill, and Digby. De Niro provided Dablino, Donnerfee, and Desperados, then we have D'Niro (by D-Day), Diva Royal (by Don Frederico), Don Auriello (by Don Davidoff), Dorina (by Don Schufro).

Looking at the dressage start list for the 2014 WEG in Normandy, Donnerhall was once again the dominating influence. He, himself, was represented by four competitors, a total only matched by his son, De Niro. Donnerhall was further represented by two sons, Donnerschlag and Don Cardinale. Another son, Don Gregory was represented by two of his sons, Don Davidhoff and Don Ruto. De Niro's son, Danone I was also the sire of one competitor. That's thirteen D-liners out of 103, almost 13%.



Desperados (Donnerhall) ridden by Kristina Bröring-Sprehe (GER)

In the Freestyle, the percentage of D's rose to 46.66% (seven out of 15). Three by the grand old man himself, the rest by four of his sons.

At our last major international competition, the ill-fated 2018 World Equestrian Games, the top 12 in the Special, was dominated by the Donnerhall 'D' line with five representatives in the Special (the only individual competition we got to see with the cancellation of the Kür), and once again De Niro the most influential Donnerhall son, with two of his own, and one by his son Danone (Weltmeyer).

At one stage, dressage breeding was billed as a battle of the big three: Rubinstein, Weltmeyer, and Donnerhall with passionate advocates rallying behind 'their' champion. Indeed it has been suggested that the reason Hanover took so long to introduce the D line into their stallion ranks (remembering that at the time, Dr. Bade as the head of the state stud Celle, had first choice of the licensed colts, and passed on De Niro) was that Dr. Bade did not want to promote a 'foreign' (ie. Oldenburg) stallion. Since then the W and R stars have waned, while all the while, quietly in the background, Florestan was continuing an F line that may in time supercede the D – but that will be the subject of our next breeding tribute.

Donnerhall we salute you... ■

Gene editing to produce ‘super sire’ stallions

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

On September 15, the BBC News website¹ published an article by their environment correspondent, Helen Briggs, which opened by saying: ‘Scientists have produced gene-edited animals they say could serve as ‘super dads’ or ‘surrogate sires’.

The article continued; ‘The pigs, goats, cattle and mice make sperm carrying the genetic material of donor animals’ with researchers using a hi-tech gene editing tool to knock out a male fertility gene in livestock embryos. ‘The animals were born sterile, but began producing sperm after an injection of sperm-producing cells from donor animals.’ According to the US-UK research team, ‘The technique would enable surrogate males to sire offspring carrying the genetic material of valuable elite animals.’

This concept has been developed as ‘a step towards genetically enhancing livestock to improve food production’ and, according to Prof Jon Oatley of Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine; “This can have a major impact on addressing food insecurity around the world. If we can tackle this genetically, then that means less water, less feed, and fewer antibiotics we have to put into the animals.”

The article explained that ‘the surrogate sires were confirmed to have active donor sperm. And the mice sired healthy offspring that carried the genes of the sperm donor.’ While larger animals have not yet been bred, Prof Bruce Whitelaw of the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, said the study provided a powerful proof of concept. “This shows the world that this technology is real. It can be used. We now have to go in and work out how best to use it productively to help feed our growing population.” According to the researchers, the technology could also help in the conservation of endangered species, but the speed at which the science could be put into action would be influenced by policymakers.

In a pre-emptive strike, the UK government last month announced its intention to hold a consultation in the Fall on whether to allow such gene editing. Adversaries have already vented their opposition to the concept, arguing that ‘it simply accelerates the process that would have happened anyway with selective breeding.’²

Gene editing concept explained

The gene editing concept known as CRISPR was explained in New Scientist³ in 2018 as ‘A technology that can be used to edit genes and, as such, will likely change the world.’ It went on to explain the simple essence of CRISPR as being ‘a way of finding a specific bit of DNA inside a cell,’ after which the next

step in CRISPR is gene editing, usually to alter that piece of DNA. ‘However, CRISPR has also been adapted to do other things too, such as turning genes on or off without altering their sequence.’ Adding; ‘There were ways to edit the genomes of some plants and animals before the CRISPR method was unveiled in 2012, but it took years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. CRISPR has made it cheap and easy.

‘CRISPR is already widely used for scientific research and, in the not too distant future, many of the plants and animals in our farms, gardens or homes, may have been altered with CRISPR. In fact, some people are already eating CRISPRed food.’

Cloned testicles

Earlier in September, New Scientist had also published an article entitled; ‘Cloned testicles let goats father the offspring of another male’.⁴ Essentially, the purpose of this process is to speed up livestock breeding wherein biologists ‘created pigs, goats, and mice whose testicles are effectively clones of those of a different male, meaning these animals father that male’s offspring’, effectively allowing farmers to breed animals with certain desired characteristics.

Sport horse perspectives

I’m sure we all remember Dolly, the sheep,⁵ the first mammal cloned using the process of nuclear transfer – also resulting from research undertaken at the Roslin Institute of the University of Edinburgh. Dolly was born in 1996 from the proceeds of three mothers: one provided the egg, another the DNA, while the third carried the cloned embryo to term.

Since then other animals have been successfully cloned, including pigs, deer, bulls and, of course, horses. The latter remains a controversial, if not contentious, issue today, with very few sport horse breeders turning to cloning as a way of perpetuating ‘legendary’ bloodlines.

One horse sport in which cloning has become not only common, but even fashionable, is polo, which has reportedly been transformed by the use of champion-pony clones.⁶

A *Vanity Fair* article published in 2015 outlined how Adolfo Cambiasso – one of the greatest polo players of all time – lost Aiken Cura, his beloved champion stallion in 2006, but had the

forethought to make what some considered to be a curious request of his veterinarian before the horse was euthanized through injury. Cambiaso asked for a skin sample to be deep frozen thinking that maybe, one day, he could do something with the cells.

Fast forward 10 years, when a 'clone' of Aiken Cura was bred and trained for competition. Since then, Cambiaso has become a cloning advocate whose company Crestview Genetics, founded by Texan Alan Meaker, and alongside Argentinean tycoon Ernesto Gutiérrez, has created many clones of Cambiaso's champion polo ponies who have played in top tournaments. Not only cloning for themselves, but also for other international polo players who are prepared to invest the \$120,000 per horse.

Polo is the most 'open' to cloning of all the equestrian disciplines, with no restrictions on which breeds players can use to compete, and with an extremely progressive governing body that allows experimentation with any breeding technology that might elevate the level of play. So, will 'gene editing' also be seen in the future of polo breeding?

WBFSH statement on cloning

Following a joint meeting of the WBFSH Board and Executive Committee in Brussels in March 2007, the following statement of cloning was issued:

'Currently there is no legislation that prohibits cloning. The method is used broadly, in the medical industry, in agriculture, as part of future welfare and health solutions, and as a method of breeding.

'The Board and the Executive Committee wish to adopt a pragmatic attitude towards cloning although basically the ethics of the method are considered doubtful and despite the fact that breeding progress as a result of cloning is estimated to be limited if any. Breeding progress is connected with the generational change.

'It is not likely that future legislation is going to forbid cloning. Thus, the individual studbook needs to decide whether clones can be part of the breed improvement programme or not. It is likely, though, that future EU-legislation will prescribe a formal registration of clones as it already prescribes registration of all horses.

'Such registration would open up a possibility to follow the clones closely and to see if they actually could have a positive impact in the sport and/or in the breed.

'However, when or if registering the clones, it is very important that the name of the clone includes the word clone, and that the passport of the clone has very clear indications of the origin (for instance breeder of the donor and producer of the clone).

'If studbooks choose to allow clones and their offspring to enter the breed improvement program of the studbook, it is recommended that they be tested as individuals and not just accepted as being equal to their donors in performance.

'The WBFSH will be pressing the European Union for legislation in the field of cloning.' Since then, of course, some

of the best-known names in equestrian sport have been successfully cloned – Quidam de Revel, ET, Gem Twist, Air Jordan Alpha Z, Chellano Alpha Z...

EU bans cloning

On June 17, 2015, the European Parliament in Brussels issued a press release entitled, 'Ban not just animal cloning, but cloned food, feed and imports too, say MEPs'.⁸ This included the outlines of a draft law to 'ban the cloning of all farm animals, their descendants and products derived from them, including imports.'

Some three months later, the European Parliament voted in favour of implementing the law by a substantial margin. And, although horses have not been designated as 'farm animals' at least since WWII, the FEI subsequently decided to ban clones from competition, much to the consternation of those breeders who had already produced cloned sport horses.

Modern breeding technology run amok!

As referenced in the Horse Sport Ireland sub heading of the article on page ... 'Advances in reproductive technology, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer, have enhanced the dissemination of superior breeding genes. These artificial reproductive techniques have also strengthened specific sport horse breeds and populations through targeted cross-breeding programmes. However, these techniques have also accelerated the potential spread of abnormalities via hereditary genetic conditions.'

This statement well illustrates that there is a very fine dividing line between the pros and cons of any type of 'genetic engineering' and that a balance must be maintained to ensure that modern breeding technology doesn't run amok! ■

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Successful Marbach mares

BY PRESS RELEASE / JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: CLAUDIA GILLE-EBERHARDT

A total of 19 mares took part in the mare performance test in the field in Herbertingen. The main and state stud Marbach presented with Quirine (Quiwitino - Smilla x Stanton) who was the undisputed winner with a weighted final score of 8.58.

The panel of judges alongside Dr. Gerd Sickinger and Karl-Heinz Vollmer awarded a 9.0 three times for walk, canter and jumping style, plus a 9.5 for ability. Quirine was presented by Theresa Mayer.

Third-best Marbach mare of the three-year-olds with a weighted final score of 8.10 was the large-framed Her Majesty (Helium - Flower x Bordeaux) under the saddle of service manager Melanie Lott. Her Majesty scored particularly well with her high rideability, which her third-party rider Simon Metz certified with a smooth 9.0. Her Majesty, bred by Matthias Schönenberger from Hohentengen, was a Riedlinger auction foal and was bred by State stable master Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck purchased to

strengthen the herd of main stud mares.

Also third in the group was the three-year-old mare Damona (Damon - Matrix x Metter) presented by Dorothee Mesam. Damona convinced with three good, basic gaits, although her beautiful uphill canter was awarded an 8.5. Overall, she finished the exam with a weighted final grade of 7.68, and Damona is now for sale.

Damona's full sister Demonin is already integrated into the main stud herd, with a foal at foot by Durello, and is in foal again by Vermeer.

You can find detailed information about the oldest state stud in Germany on the website: www.gestuet-marbach.de



The Marbach team alongside State stable master Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck (right) and training manager Rolf Eberhardt (left)

Medal winners earn top prices in Vechta

BY PRESS RELEASE / JEAN LLEWELLYN
PHOTOGRAPHY: FELDHAUS

Oldenburg friends from all over the world secured their future stars during the 19th Elite Foal Auction with first-class pedigrees. In the dressage foal collection, the legendary Donnerhall line impressed with a strong moving Damon Hill son. The jumping foals shone with offspring by Cornet Obolensky, who set the top prices with his son and granddaughter.

The price peak at €41,000 was Don Royal (Damon Hill x Rubin-Royal x Figaro), bred and exhibited by Vivien Rudolph from Kirchzellersen/Lower Saxony. The strong moving stallion prospect will stay with a dressage lover in Germany in the future.

The second price peak at €27,000 was Zypriana (Zackerey x Florencio I x Lord Liberty G), bred and exhibited by Frank Grote from Neuenkirchen/Lower Saxony. From the Rulli-Rudilore dam line: the Grand Prix winners; Horizon, with Adrienne Lyle (USA); Glock's Romanov/Hans Peter Minderhoud (NED); and Rubin Royal OLD/Hendrik Lochthowe (GER). This elegant movement artist will stay with a good Oldenburg friend in Germany.

In the jumping foal collection, two Oldenburg elite foals advanced to price peaks with €14,000: On the one hand, it was Come Together (Comme il faut [Cornet Obolensky] x Casall x Cassini I), bred and exhibited by Jochen Willen, Lönningen/Lower Saxony. From the same 776 damline came the sires Ramiro, Acorado I and II as well as Lordanos and the top mare Vienna Olympic –



Don Royal (Damon Hill x Rubin-Royal x Figaro)

Im60 m under Sheikh Ali Al Thani (QAT). This filly will move to regular customers in Switzerland.

At the same price peak was Cortez (Cornet Obolensky x Diarado x Argentinus), bred and exhibited by Franz-Josef Broxtermann from Wardenburg/Lower Saxony. From the Feldgold damline: the top horse Seldana di Campalto, silver medal winner at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky under the saddle of Abdullah Al Sharbatly (KSA). This colt will bring joy to friends in Russia in the future.

Thirteen out of 22 auction candidates were bought by Oldenburg friends from abroad: Switzerland (three), Austria and Hungary (two each), plus one apiece for Belgium, France, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and South Africa.

The 19th Elite Foal Auction was a shining market example, with an average price of over €14,200, and total sales of €312,750. ■



Zypriana (Zackerey x Florencio I x Lord Liberty G)

National equine health data: Knowledge is power

BY SONJA EGAN / HSI

Advances in reproductive technology, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer, have enhanced the dissemination of superior breeding genes. These artificial reproductive techniques have also strengthened specific sport horse breeds and populations through targeted cross-breeding programmes. However, these techniques have also accelerated the potential spread of abnormalities via hereditary genetic conditions.

A hereditary trait concerns the familial passing of a particular gene from one generation to the next. This passing can also be described as 'inherited'. However, when discussing heritable factors, it is important to discriminate between environment and biology. Heritability is defined as the variation between the genotype and the phenotype, or simply genetic and environmental variation. In humans a child may 'inherit' their parent's political views – this is an environmental factor, based on the child's upbringing, not a biological factor.

Here we are examining biological and environmental heritability's concerning specific traits. These may include desirable traits such as horse colour and height, but also less desirable traits, such as Osteochondrosis (OCD) and Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS). Additionally, anthelmintic resistance is a growing problem in livestock, related to environmental factors, where worms and parasites have adapted to the use of the same treatment over time, causing challenging worm burdens in certain populations. An understanding of a potentially more prone cohort may support meaningful investigation and changes to existing management practice.

Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS)

WFFS is genetic condition, typically found in Warmblood horses, which effects the foals' connective tissue. The condition is characterised by fragile skin and mucous membranes causing painful skin blistering; hyperflexible joints, floppy ears, excess fluid in the foetus, potential abortion, and premature birth. There is currently no treatment or cure for the syndrome, thus, affected foals must be euthanised immediately if born alive.

Currently, there is no clear understanding of the prevalence of the gene in Ireland. However, some studs have initiated their own testing; detailing stallion carrier status to their clients. Much of the renewed focus on WFFS is due to

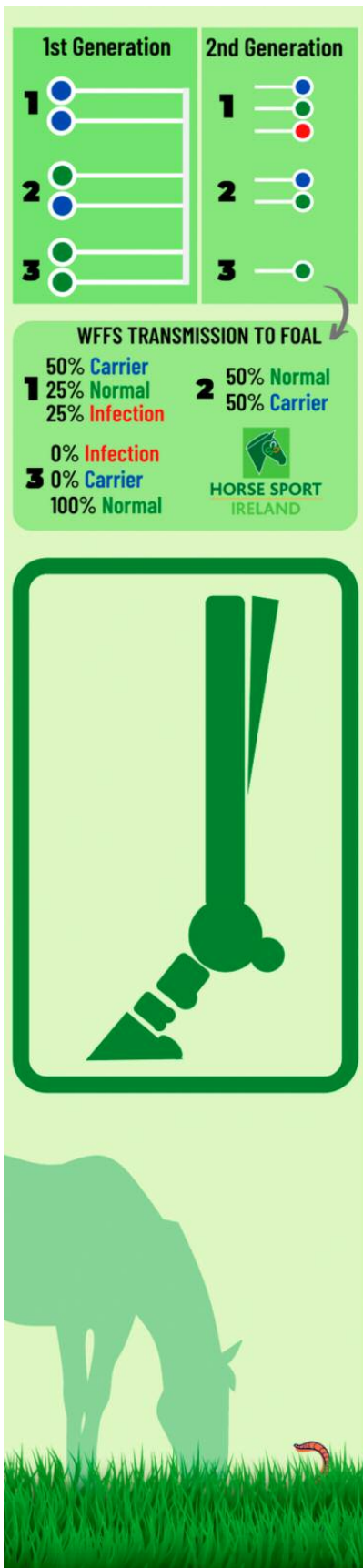
widespread coverage of a case in Texas in 2018. The incidence of WFFS carrier status in the global warmblood/sport horse population is estimated at 9-11%. However, research has suggested that the percentage of carriers is likely to be higher due to the lack of widespread testing schemes. Further to this, it is relatively unknown if and how much this genetic mutation affects other breeds; a small percentage of carriers have been identified in non-sport horse populations.

An improved awareness of the level of genetic carriers would allow Irish breeders to minimise the risk of breeding a fatally infected foal and the associated economic impacts. To improve understanding of the condition and incidence in equine populations, several studbooks and breed societies, such as the KWPN and Westfalian studbooks, require genetic testing and disclosure of a horses' WFFS status. In 2018 HSI began compulsory WFFS testing of all stallions undergoing HSI studbook inspection.

Currently the only way to prevent the breeding of WFFS-affected or carrier foals, is to test the proposed mating pair (sire and dam) prior to covering and determine the carrier status of both equines (see figure). However, it is not feasible to test all breeding equines at this time. Thus, in order to utilise these testing regimes to benefit all Irish breeders, HSI are now offering free WFFS testing for the 2020 foals of interested owners. The result of these tests may also help Irish breeders to discern their mares' WFFS status. Such that, if mares are bred to a stallion with a known negative WFFS carrier status and the foal returns a positive WFFS results, the gene has been inherited from the mare.

There are no known health implications for carrier horses, the risk of contracting the fatal WFFS condition occurs only when both the dam and sire breeding pair are carriers of WFFS. However, nationwide testing would, in the first instance, improve our understanding of the incidence of WFFS carrier status in Irish equine populations. It is important to gather this information on WFFS incidence to





support Irish breeders in preventing further transmission of carrier status to foals and potential breeding equines. More importantly, the results of this testing scheme can be used to empower breeder decision making by avoiding the mating of two carrier animals. This will effectively eliminate the risk of breeding a fatally affected foal.

X-Ray Screening Scheme

More recently, HSI launched an x-ray screening scheme for Irish breeders/owners of young fillies/mares aged 2-5 years old. The scheme is open to fillies/mares who meet specific performance requirements. Ponies are also eligible to receive funding under the scheme but must also meet the pony-specific performance criteria. The scheme is targeted at the mare/filly population as the existing stallion inspection process incorporates x-ray screening. Thus, evaluation of the mare herd will generate knowledge of the potential Irish broodmare population; and support breeding decisions, underpinned by sire and dam screening findings.

This scheme does not target one specific heritable or heredity trait; rather it seeks to investigate and document normal and abnormal bony changes in the filly/mare population. However, the age bracket attempts to eliminate some environmental changes caused by exercise load, performance, and typical ageing – this will improve our ability to discern heritability. Thus, the scheme was conceptualised under three main objectives:

1. Provide breeders with an accessible x-ray screening programme for their own personal use (for example, benchmarking their breeding herd)
2. Document the prevalence of osteo-abnormalities and the degree of bony changes in the Irish young mare/filly population
3. Use the data as a benchmark for bony changes in the Irish herd and disseminate this information in a scientific journal/scientific conference(s).

Conditions such as OCD and navicular have both environmental and heredity factors. OCD is often referred to as chips or bony fragments present on x-rays, they may also originate through incorrect management practice; nutrition, mineral content, and exercise regime. These fragments may have a significant, or no impact, on the horse's performance output. However, their presence is often detrimental to the prospect of a valuable sale. On the other hand, navicular disease, a progressively degenerative and crippling arthritis of the navicular bone, bears a stronger hereditary component. However, this hereditary component has been greatly reduced though the conscientious removal of effected equines from the breeding herd.



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Anthelmintic Resistance

HSI has engaged a specialized research group to carry out widespread testing of the Irish equine herd to determine the incidence of anthelmintic resistance. There are three main drugs that have been used to treat and prevent parasites in the horse; benzimidazoles (i.e. fenbendazole), tetrahydropyrimidines (i.e. pyrantel), and macrocyclic lactones (including moxidectin and ivermectin). These drugs have been used for over 50 years and have been useful in reducing clinical disease. However the parasites have adapted over time to become resistant to these drugs, making them less effective at preventing and treating infestations. This has the potential to have serious health implications for young horses or those who are prone to frequent

infection due to parasite burdens.

Many international studbooks have developed policies to both acknowledge and address the challenges presented by evolving environmental factors and heritable conditions in the breeding herd. Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are looking to champion research into these areas; expanding the breeding sectors knowledge of the influence of heritable and environmental factors, which will support equine breeding decisions and outcomes. This enables HSI to capture the incidence of these traits across the entire Irish equine herd rather than focusing solely on one specific studbook. Thereby facilitating the initiation of a robust nationwide equine health screening. ■

A special year: 17th Bavarian Elite Warmblood Foal Auction

BY PRESS RELEASE / JEAN LLEWELLYN
PHOTOGRAPHY: LVDP

For the first time, the September auction of the Bavarian Horse Breeders Association was integrated into a sporting event when the well-known Wiesn tournament of the Reitakademie München e.V. offered a top-class setting for the collection of the 17th Bavarian Elite Warmblood Foal Auction selected by Sales Manager Norbert Paul.

In compliance with strict conditions, the first and only auction of the year was held in wonderful weather and in front of well-filled stands in the venerable Olympic riding arena.

The vet check the previous evening and the first presentation at lunchtime on the Saturday attracted many interested parties and the foals caused quite a stir before the first chairman of the regional association Georg Ochs opened the auction punctually at 5:00 p.m. Following his brief address, auctioneer Thorsten Castle took over the microphone and made the first offer of the evening, a large-framed filly by Gouvernant VDL x Dimaggio bred by Gabriele Eder, Osterhofen, who went under the hammer successfully for €7,000.

A young aspirant stallion by Vingino out of a Levantos I dam, who saw the light of day at Franz Hauschka's in Markt Nordheim, has already blossomed from a birth chestnut to a handsome grey. As number two in the catalogue, he'd already made the hearts of some bidders beat faster and so the rosewood hammer came down at €9,000 after an exciting bidding duel.

Another very promising stallion candidate by Caytens x Viscount bred by Anton Schindele, Unterthingau, was secured by stablemaster Cornelia Back for the main and state



Bred by Franz Hauschka, a colt by Vingino x Levantos I sold for €9,000

stud in Schwaiganger, so we will hopefully see this young man again in two years time at the Stallion Days of the German Sport Horse (DSP).

Likewise, the black son of the Birkhof sire Bohemian out of the Savoy x Sirtaki mare was purchased by Georg Albert from Munich, who is known to have a knack for selecting promising young sires.

However, it was the eagerly awaited catalogue number 14 who became the most expensive offer of the evening. The beautiful, strong-moving filly out of the premium mare Romy x Amazing Spirit comes from the breeding expertise of Werner Sepp, Unterthingau, and had already presented herself with absolutely superior qualities during her selection in order to secure the foal premium. The For Romance I daughter had already aroused desires in the run-up to the auction and sparked an exciting bidding duel between two interested parties, which auctioneer Thorsten Castle was finally able to end at €12,100 in favor of a Munich buyer.

The overall result of the 17th Bavarian Elite Warmblood Foal Auction totalled €128,900 for the 19 foals sold, suggesting an average price of €6,784.20. ■



For Romance I daughter fetched the top price of €12,100

Solid prices for high quality foals at Nordic auction

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB
PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

The Nordic International Sales foal auction was successfully conducted at the end of September, in a cooperation between Helgstrand Dressage and Danish Warmblood, and clearly indicated that the current Corona situation is no hindrance to high quality foals achieving top prices.

In fact, five foals were sold for more than €30,000 and no fewer than three foals changed hands for €50,000 and higher. The collection was comprised of 15 quality foals out of which 13 sold for an average price of €25,000.

The beautiful black filly Gørklintgårds Blackberry (Franklin x Gørklintgårds Santos), from the renowned breeder Jørgen Ravn, became the auction's price highlight with a knock-down price of €56,000, but she was not alone at this high level. The handsome colt Gammelenggårds Galiano (Grand Galaxy Win x Blue Hors Don Romantic) became the most expensive colt, changing ownership for €54,000. The bay colt was presented by top breeders Stald Heiline in a cooperation with Nanna Jønsson.

Bids were placed from clients in Austria, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK via telephone and the internet. A Canadian buyer acquired the supple-moving chestnut colt Casper Janeiro (Platinum x Dancier) from the breeders Lena and Ulrik Kristensen for the princely sum of €50,000.

Local buyers from Northern Jutland, both return customers, secured some of the most sought-after filly foals; Tjørnegårdens Tennessee (Janeiro Platinum x Blue Hors



Gørklintgårds Blackberry (Franklin x Gørklintgårds Santos)

Hotline) from Christina Reslow, and Flying Tabata Pilekær (Jameson RS2 x Ferro) from Lars Langendorff and Anne Mette Rossen, sold for €44,000 and €31,000 respectively.

Head of the Danish Warmblood auction committee, Ulrik Kristensen, was delighted with the outcome of the auction and describes it as a major success. He underlines that the organizers owe this success to the breeders who have had the courage to retain their top foals for this auction. "Earlier this year, the Corona situation held all the prospects of a challenging season, but nonetheless it has been possible to sell foals for top prices on a totally different market. It has required innovation and adaptation including a new set-up with online bidding – a set-up that will be a part of our future auctions. We have great expectations for our coming auctions – also in 2021," Kristensen concluded.

The final Danish Warmblood foal auction this year will be the DWB World Cup Auction held at the World Cup qualifier at Vilhelmsborg on 16 October. ■

<https://bid.varmblodauktion.dk/auctions/f4b2b4c8-09b7-42b0-b59e-08d82a3f8dda>



The show hall at Helgstrand Dressage framed the Nordic International Sales

Dressage young horse French champions crowned

BY PRESS RELEASE / JEAN LLEWELLY
PHOTOGRAPHY: LES GARENNES

Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, the Grande Semaine de Dressage concluded the last week in September by crowning the classic cycle champions in the three young-horse age-groups: four-, five-, and six-year-olds.

Having accommodated a change of dates due to coronavirus, the two-week event, will conclude with the national showjumping finals that run from September 29 to October 4 in Fontainebleau.

Statistically, the dressage competition saw an overall increase in entries from 2019, especially in the two older age-groups:

4yo:	31 (2020)	39 (2019)
5yo:	30 (2020)	18 (2019)
6yo:	15 (2020)	12 (2019)

In total, between the disciplines, 2020 will see 841 entries, against 875 in 2019.



*Six-year-old dressage champion, Portuguese Sport Horse James Bond de Massa (Bravour B/aka Bon Bravour [KWPN] - Xixirita [PRT] x Xaquiro CIP [PRT]), bred by Sylvain Massa, ridden by Arnaud Serre
* PRT = part-bred Lusitano*



Five-year-old dressage champion Djembé de Hus (Damon Hill [Westf] - Elfe/aka Australia x Argentinus [Ham]) bred by Xavier Marie, ridden by Jessica Michel-Botton



Four-year-old champion Maximus Jung HP du Wincke (Morricone [Oldbg] - Florencia x Florencio 2/aka Florencio [Westf]), bred by Philippe Jung, ridden by Jessica Michel-Botton

The Brazilian Sport Horse 'gold' broodmare program

BY ROBERTA MILANO (TRANSLATION: LUIS ROCCO)

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY ABCCH

This project aims to identify and disseminate the quality of the Brazilian Sport Horse Breeding Association (ABCCH) broodmares, for the valorization of their products and to promote their greater use in the marketplace.

It's necessary, in the first instance, to understand the general guidelines of the ABCCH's Gold Broodmares' Program:

Elite mares

1 Have produced a son who participated in the Olympic Games, World Equestrian Games, World Cup Final, or who has won a CSI five-star Grand Prix, and/or;

2 Have been the leader of the ABCCH statistics as 'mother of a horse athlete' for points over a period of three years, or;

3 To have been among the five ABCCH statistical leaders as 'mother of a horse athlete' for five years.

Premium Mares

1 Have been classified among the three best mothers of horse athletes for points scored in the ABCCH statistics, or;



'Competition' mare Catira Jmen IX (2015/BH Calisco JmenOlinda Jmen x Oramé [KWPN])

Gone Away (Cornet Obolensky - Come Prima x Kamm)

2 Have produced a son who participated in a Pan American Games, or;

3 Have produced two sons who ranked in the first three places in CSN 1m45 or higher. or;

4 Have produced five grandchildren who ranked in the first three places in CSN 1m45. or higher, or;

5 They have produced a son who has won a national championship for senior riders, or top senior champion.

Daughters of 'elite' mares automatically receive the special certificate.



'Competition' mare Quiet van't Zorgvliet (2016/BWP Cornet Obolensky - Noblesse van't Zorgvliet x Vagabond de la Pomme [sBs])

Competition mares

Technical evaluation of foals in the range of two, three, or four years, based on the following predicates: pedigree, morphology, movement, and free jumping.

These broodmares after being registered in the merit book will receive a new genealogical record in which the identification of their name is accompanied by the predicate corresponding to their graduation.

The Gold Broodmares' Program will allow the market to identify and learn about the mares who distinguished themselves in terms of national breeding. The format was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of São Paulo and, consequently, by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The judgement

The judgment for 'approval of competition mares' must be made by a minimum of one and a maximum of seven judges. The scoring system will be comparing each individual with the ideal prototype of the modern sport horse and the scoring will follow the rules provided within this regulation. The final score of each individual will be formed by the arithmetic average of the final score of each judge, and in case the committee is formed by five or more members, the lowest and the highest score awarded by the judges will be discarded.

According to the Judging Table, every candidate will be led in hand around a triangle, will be analyzed and scored in season, and in motion, at a walk and at a trot. The morphological judgment will be made by the scoring system, comparing each candidate with the ideal breed prototype.

There will also be two assessments of free jumping on an oval track.

Registration for this category for the XVth National Festival of the Brazilian Sport Horse will soon be open on the ABCCH website. The biggest event of national breeding will be held in São Paulo (BRA) at Clube Hípico de Santo Amaro and hopes to welcome broodmares from all over Brazil.

Approval and awards

After a rigorous evaluation by the judges, the candidates who obtain an arithmetic average equal to or greater than 8.0 (eight) will receive the 'Competition' title. The highest rated mares will be declared champions of the respective categories (two, three, and four year olds), and will receive a special award

The Grand Champion Competition mare will be declared, as the individual with the highest score among all the categories. Mares with a Competition title will be exempt from the registration fee for five of their products. ■



Quiet van't Zorgvliet (Cornet Obolensky)

Past champions deliver foal champions in Lithuania

BY ELENA ZOBOVA

PHOTOGRAPHY: ELENA ZOBOVA

The 2020 Baltic Hanoverian Breeders' Association (BHVŽAA) foal evaluation event took place at the home ground of the Petraitis family – the Audruvis horse facility in the northern region of Lithuania, where local horses were bred and raised for decades.

The event was brilliantly organized by the BHVŽAA team, headed by Audron Petraitis. Nowadays this actively expanding association unites over 70 members, cooperating with other WBFSH member studbooks from throughout Europe, including Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Estonia, and Latvia.

It was extremely enriching to see all these foals, as there were plenty of good ones to see! Enjoyably noteworthy were the foals from an excellent jumper Bacardi OLD (Balou du Rouet - Jovena x Argentinus); the best six-year-old show-jumping horse of the Baltic countries Westphalian-registered Cornet's Cloud (Cornet's Obolensky - Que Sera x Quidam de Revel); and Landru. These three stallions really stood out, particularly Landru. The bay four-year-old KWPN-registered son of well-known showjumping stallion Baltic VDL (Quaprice Bois Margot - Nellandra x Jus de Pomme) out of Afilithya (Indoctro) who, in his first breeding season, has already produced chic and correct foals, that are

impressive in appearance and movement as well.

Champion filly, Beauty of Bacardi

All 21 presented foals were judged on correctness, movement, appearance, general impression and maternal lineage, with the champion filly title going to the Baltic Hanoverian-registered Beauty of Bacardi (Bacardi - Beauty Girl x Boegegaardens Boney M) bred and owned by Sigita Petraitis.

This filly is by an Oldenburg-registered stallion Bacardi OLD (Balou du Rouet - Jovena x Argentinus), who won the 2015 Sires of the World title in Lanaken under the saddle of Marc Bettinger, as well as recording a number of victories in international Grand Prix classes. Among the offspring of this stunning sire there are successful horses in both showjumping and breeding.

To name, but a few: Baltic Star II/ex Mon Ami Bacardi, out of Modera Sunny (Chalan), competing at five-star level competitions with US international Kent Farrington; the stallion Baccaratz, out of Carmesine (Carson ASK), who jumped 1m40 classes under the saddle of Latvian rider Kristaps Neretnieks first and then under Elisa Held from Germany; Bacara out of Cantana (Cantona M), who was successful in 1m45 classes with Matas Petraitis and is the breeding mare in Audruvis at the present time; the stallion Boržomis out of Renda (Rover), who participated in numerous national competitions with Kristupas Petraitis, as well as siring some rather promising jumping horses; and the chestnut mare Edvinn out of Trakehner dam Elis (Heleris), who is bred, owned, and ridden by Stasys Jasas.



Beauty of Bacardi (Bacardi - Beauty Girl x Boegegaardens Boney M)



Vice champion colt, Baltic Boy (Landru - Bairona x Baironas)

Top-placed Lady Carlotta and Electra Minka

Second place went to the Baltic Hanoverian-registered Lady Carlotta (Landru - Carlotta x Carleone), also bred and owned by Sigitas Petraitis. Her sire Landru was a winner among three-year-old stallions in Lithuania last year, scoring 10 points for his jumping ability, which was certainly not due to luck seeing that he blends the outstanding performance genes of the world-famous sires Quidam de Revel, Jus de Pomme, Indoctro and Ramiro Z. The dam sire of Lady Carlotta is also a jumping stallion, the KWPN-registered Carleone, owned by the Petraitis family. Carleone has inherited a lot of power and the excellent jumping technique of his great sire Casall ASK, while his dam Nizza VIII is by Corofino I.

Placing third was the Oldenburg-registered Electra Minka (Baloutaire PS - Erla-Minka M x Numero Uno) owned

by Tomas Tamin-skas. Baloutaire PS combines the absolute elite of the world's best showjumping stallions, like his sire Balou du Rouet and his dam sire Chacco-Blue. His Sporty and powerful foals with balanced movements are very popular.



Champion colt, El Toro (Eisfreund - Sicilia x Sir Salut)

El Toro wins champion colt title

The champion colt title went to the Baltic Hanoverian-registered El Toro (Eisfreund - Sicilia x Sir Salut) bred and owned by Agnius Grigali nas. The Trakehner stallion Eisfreund (Amiego - Eisperle x Diamant), bred in Germany by Ute Sander, has been used in breeding in Lithuania since 2007. His sire Amiego (Händel - Abiza E x Maharadscha) – the maternal brother of the legendary Olympic star Abdullah – was purchased as a yearling by John Krenger, who owned him throughout the rest of his life. The stallion was approved in November of 1976 by the American Trakehner Association. He managed a remarkable performance career despite a serious hip injury in 1977, which forced his owners to confine him to a sling in a standing stall for six months. In 1987 while on loan to the Bermuda eventing team, Amiego won a bronze medal at the Pan American Games under the

guidance of Peter Gray. Due to the great interest from Germany, he was shipped to Europe in December of 1989, where he was formally approved as a breeding stallion by the Trakehner Verband. The stories of how he effortlessly jumped out of the inspection arena are still told today. During his brief stay in Germany he covered an astounding 121 registered Trakehner mares. Sadly he died a few short months after returning to North America.

The vice champion colt was a handsome grey Baltic Hanoverian-registered Baltic Boy (Landru - Bairona x Baironas), bred and owned by Sigitas Petraitis. His maternal grandsire an eight-year-old Baltic Hanover-registered stallion Baironas (Bacardi OLD - Lora x Lordano), also bred and owned by the Petraitis family, and recording significant results in the national and international show jumping arenas under the saddle of Kristupas Petraitis.

Best dressage foal

The judges chose the best dressage foal as well, and this award went to the beautiful black-bay Baltic Hanoverian-registered colt Kitto (Kaven 'L' - Rivjera x Ramazotti Star), bred and owned by Gintar Šakyt. Kaven 'L' is a KWPN-registered stallion by Gaudi SSF (Totilas) and out of Zerena E (Obelisk).

This event demonstrated once again that Lithuanian breeders are inspired and motivated to continuously improve. Together with its breeders, the Baltic Hanoverian Breeders' Association is charting a course that will be resulting in modern sport foals, using the cream of the crop in maternal bloodlines combined with sires that are gifted in sport. The Association already has its own style and is not afraid to experiment. ■

British Columbia's vibrant breeding industry

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY CWHBA, TOTEM PHOTOGRAPHICS

Canada's most western province is this month's feature in our ongoing series about Warmblood breeding in Canada. Most people are familiar with the slogan 'Beautiful British Columbia' as a tourist mecca, but few people are aware of its vibrant Warmblood breeding industry.

With a vast Pacific Ocean coastline plus Vancouver Island, a large portion of British Columbia (BC) enjoys a relatively mild Mediterranean climate. Snow when it comes to the coastal plain is very short lived. In contrast the interior of the province is composed of a series of mountain ranges with fertile valleys culminating in the eastern portion with the famous Rocky Mountains. Parts of the interior can be extremely dry and suitable for vineyards and fruit growing, while the northern section has forest and excellent ranch land.

Breeding operations are therefore divided into four distinct areas: Vancouver Island, the lower mainland, the interior and the north. Each area is confronted with different advantages and challenges. Island breeders are generally small scale operations, confronting relative isolation and higher production costs, but enjoying mild weather year round that is conducive to a very active and closely knit equestrian community. The lower mainland outside the city of Vancouver is the most densely populated area and while the weather is generally mild, it can be rainy in the winter months. Again breeding operations are small scale and focused on high quality to meet the demand for performance horses that are required for the very active competitive amateur and professional shows. Having a very competitive environment with high quality shows hosted by Thunderbird Show Park,

Milner Downs, Maple Ridge Equestrian Center, Southlands Riding Club and others is a significant asset for breeders who are able to showcase their breeding programs to an appreciative audience.

In the dryer interior and the



Lanzar

sound horses and the natural environment fosters sane, happy dispositions.

In all, B.C. is a truly remarkable province with tremendous variety and beauty. Warmblood breeders in B.C. have enhanced the natural advantage of their great province with judicious selection and pedigree knowledge. The overall quality of Warmblood horses bred in this province is outstanding thanks to some of the pioneer breeders that helped set the standards in the early 90's. People like Jim and Leny Boersma, who brought their knowledge of the Dutch breeding program to the southern interior of B.C. and Michael Rabe, whose Hanoverian connections contributed to setting high standards.

British Columbian breeders, like breeders in other regions have embraced frozen semen and accessed some of the world's best stallions. At the same time a number of very high quality stallions have been imported over the years so that breeders can choose to use local stallions without compromising quality. With all its natural beauty and a climate amenable to man and horse, BC is a great place to raise Warmblood horses. ■



Hay fields in BC interior

NZ competition season reopens.... At last!

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

The New Zealand 2020-21 competition season is finally under way after a series of Covid-19 complications and cancellations. The first FEI-level competitions have now been held in eventing, jumping and dressage, to the delight of breeders, owners, and riders across the country. And, so far, Hanoverians have put themselves into the spotlight.

The first jumping Grand Prix took place at Feilding Spring Show in the lower North Island and saw a stunning victory for Graffiti MH. It was a small class – tiny, in fact – with only six horses in the running. However, all of them have fine international blood running through their veins, and have had GP wins or high placings.

Graffiti MH (Graf Top - Elodie x Earl) and rider Melody Matheson also won this class in 2018. With her good looks, huge amount of style, and presence, Graffiti is gorgeous – there's no other way to describe her. She was bred by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians who part-owns her with Angela Miller of Hawke's Bay. Her dam, Elodie (Earl - Whitsun x Weltmeyer), has been sold, but had a second daughter for Matthews before leaving the stud. This is Ballerina MH (Bonifatius), who also has three of daughters of her own, the eldest of which is Graffiti's three-quarter sister, Graffiene MH (Graf Top), born in 2018.

A 2017 Ballerina daughter, Fendi MH (Fürstenball), was a 'premium' foal at the 2018 Hanoverian inspection tour under Volker Ehlers, and a 2019 daughter, Sapphire MH, is by the imported German-bred Oldenburg, Swarovski (Sandro Hit - StPrSt Herzdame x Don Gregory). Swarovski, a 'main premium' Oldenburger, stands at Renai Hart's River Park Farm in Auckland. His progeny here are all still young, but look impressive. So, Graffiti MH has a very nice group of young female relatives waiting in the wings.

Graffiti herself, after some successful Level 2 dressage outings and a fourth in her only eventing start, won her first jumping competition – a five-year-old show-hunter class, which was also her first outing with Matheson. She had age-group showjumping wins at the ages of six and seven, including the seven-year-old Horse of the Year title in 2017. She was the only horse to jump fault-free in the Feilding competition.

Second place went to Central Park (Euro Sport Centavos - Silk and Spice xx x Omnicorp xx), a nine-year-old gelding bred by Imogen Neale. He belongs to and is ridden by 67-year-old showjumping veteran Maurice Beatson, and has had a number of good results, particularly as a seven-year-old (2018-19). His dam, Silk and Spice xx, is a Hanoverian Studbook mare, and his sire, Euro Sport Centavos (Escudo I

- St.Pr.Sr. Anabell x Argentius) is a Hanoverian bred in Germany by Heinz Schuette, from Stamm 4191603, Schridde 261. He was New Zealand's 2015 Horse of the Year as well as the leading stallion, and had proved to be a top sire of jumpers and eventers.

Third went to an 11-year-old German import, the Holsteiner mare LT Holst Bernadette (Askari - Tamara XVI x Casall), who was bred by Reimer-Detlef Hennings of Bendorf. Her dam, Tamara XVI is a Bezirksprämie mare from Stamm 4851. She belongs to her rider, Robert Steele, and was imported by LT Holst's Ewen Mackintosh, as was the fourth place-getter at Feilding: the wonderful LT Holst Andrea (Casall Ask - Palaune x Lavaletto), who is the current NZ Horse of the Year.

Another by Euro Sport Centavos, WSH Centaur (ES Centavos - Santaurian xx x San Luis xx) was fifth for owner/rider Daniel Webb. He is a nine-year-old gelding bred by Emily Gray. The mare Gold Locks (Lansing - Goldilocks x Ironclad xx), bred, owned, and ridden by Maurice Beatson, was sixth. She, too, is by an imported German sire, the very influential Holsteiner Lansing (Landgraf I - Monoline x Roman), who stood at Golden Grove Stud from 2003 until his death at the age of 29 in 2015. He was from Holst Stamm 8777.

Three-star eventing

Three-star short-format competitions have already taken place in both islands: one at the National Equestrian Centre in Taupo (North Island), and one in Canterbury, down south. Thoroughbreds were dominant at both, which is common here, but didn't have it all their own way.

The CNC3*S in Canterbury was won by Shoot the Breeze xx (Sunray xx - Sea Nymph xx x Yachtie xx), who was bred by B. and M. Cooney, and is owned and ridden by Kirsty Sharapoff. The dam-sire Yachtie xx, who raced on the flat, left a number of progeny who could jump. Shoot the Breeze is a 14-year-old gelding, with a lot of good form at this level.

Second place went to Astek Victor (Voltaire II - On Song x Spectacular Love xx), bred by Sue Fowler at Astek Lodge. The 10-year-old Warmblood gelding is owned and ridden by

Lucy Turner; the pair won the ESZN Young Rider Eventing Series in 2018/19 and have had both long- and short-format CCI3* wins. He is yet another example of the super progeny left by his sire, Voltaire II (Voltaire - Daydyne ster prest x Nimmerdor).

This outstanding KWPN stallion, initially named Kimbel, was bred in the Netherlands by H.J. van der Wal of Groningen, sold to Jan Greve of de Watermolen in 1992 as a foal, and imported to New Zealand as a two-year-old. In 2010, having stood only in this country, he was ranked eighth in the world for eventing by the WBFSH. He retired from breeding in 2016, and died the following year.

The Little Prince xx (His Royal Highness xx - Regal Mystery xx x Vice Regal xx) was third at the Canterbury event. He is a 13-year-old gelding bred by Richard Otto, owned by Merle Ogilvie and ridden, like the winning horse, by Kirsty Sharapoff.

Taupo hosted a CCI3*-S+, with jumping at four-star level, which provided a fairly serious challenge. The winner was Your Attorney xx (Legal Option xx - Polar Crown xx x Carry the Crown xx), a 16-year-old Thoroughbred who also won Puhinui 4*-S in March. He is owned and ridden by Diane Gilder, and was bred in Australia by Vantage Hill Bloodstock.

Rockin It xx (Traditionally xx - Tilja xx x Honour Grades

xx) another 16-year-old Thoroughbred gelding, was second for owner/rider Abbey Thompson. He was bred by D. and I. Mackay.

Alto et Audax (Northwood Jet Stream - Croftlea Amazon xx x Zabalou xx), a 10-year-old New Zealand Sport Horse gelding bred by Imogen Neale and ridden by his owner, Beth Wilson, was third. This horse's paternal grandsire is the wonderful IRD Coalman's Touch (Touch of the Blues), who was bred in Wales by Roger Lightfoot. His maternal grandsire Zabalou (sometimes spelled Zabalu) is the son of Aberlou xx, one of the most revered Thoroughbreds in NZ eventing breeding. (Incidentally, Aberlou xx is the damsire of the horse who finished third in the CCI3*-S at Taupo – see below.)

It was a Hanoverian-Thoroughbred cross who claimed the win in the CCI3*-S at Taupo, and a New Zealand Stationbred who finished second. The winner was Anonymous (Anamour - Morning Star xx x Classic Fame xx), bred by Linda Hunt, owned by Raewyn Lawrence, and ridden by Abbey Lawrence. It's rare to see competition results of any discipline in this country without the name of Anamour (Aalborg - Lucille x Lombard) among the place-getters' pedigrees – as this article will show. And, although he was mostly noted for dressage progeny, he sired plenty of



Graffiti MH (Graf Top - Elodie x Earl) and rider Melody Matheson

top eventers here, including Henton Attorney General who won Boekelo three-day event in 2013. Anamour was bred in Germany by Rudolf and Reinhard Bösch at Zuchthof Bosch; he was from Stamm 1189109, Schridde 439.

Second in the CCI3*-S went to Ngahiwi Lenny who was bred by the very successful Bruce Holden at Ngahiwi Station. Lenny's sire and dam are unrecorded, which isn't particularly strange for a Stationbred. He is a 17-year-old gelding, owned by Deidre Stirling and ridden by Savanna Stirling, as is the horse who came third, Drums 'N' Roses (Drums of Time xx - Aberrose x Aberlou xx).

From NZ to the UK

The nine-year-old Ricker Ridge Sooty GNZ (Caretino - Quantum Flash xx x Tristaking xx), a Holsteiner-Thoroughbred cross, bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud in Christchurch, had a British Eventing OI win at Burgham and finished seventh in the CCI-S 4* at Burnham Market in September, ridden by Samantha Lissington who part-owns him with Pip McCarroll.

RR Sooty GNZ was 2019's three-star Eventing Horse of the Year, and moved in that same year with Lissington to the UK, where she is now based.

Hanoverians dominate dressage

The few dressage competitions that have gone ahead during Covid restrictions revealed some interesting pedigrees in placings across the levels – and a predominance of Hanoverians.

In Rotorua, Vanessa Way's very promising eight-year-old Hanoverian gelding Timbermill Prequel (Prestige VDL - Crystal x Dream Boy), bred by Kerry Sanders at Timbermill Sport Horses, won the Small Tour (FEI). His damsire, Dream Boy (Dream of Glory - Erntekrone x Eisenherz II), was a licensed Hanoverian from Stamm 1192208, Schridde 718, bred by Gustav Eylmann in Germany. The glamorous chestnut sired numerous winners here, many of them similar to him in looks; however, his grandson Prequel, while handsome, is not among that number as he's a bay. He was the 2020 seven-year-old dressage Horse of the Year, and has begun his eight-year-old season in grand style.

A Hanoverian finished second in this class too: the 11-year-old mare Royal Dream (Royal Blend - Wild Dream x Worldwide PB) bred by the late Tracey Blackmore at CHS Hanoverians and owned and ridden by Haydee Wells-Parmenter. This lovely chestnut mare was 2019's Level 4 Horse of the Year and has the blood of Rotspon, Rubinstein I, Weltmeyer, Brentano II and – yes, Anamour – in her very impressive pedigree.

Third place went to another Hanoverian mare with good bloodlines; the 12-year-old Parkridge Donnamour (Don Frederico - Parkridge Arita x Anamour). She was bred by Carol Eivers of Parkridge Stud and is owned by her rider Peter Barke and Debbie Barke. Note the Anamour

connection...

Another wonderfully bred and well-performed Anamour flagbearer, the nine-year-old Rheinlander gelding Wisdom WDS (Whisper - Alessandra x Anamour) was an Advanced winner at Canterbury. He was Level 1 Champion in 2017, and Level 2 Champion in 2018, and is making his way impressively up the grades. Wisdom WDS was bred by Kieran Walton of Walton Dressage Stables, and his dam is a gorgeous-looking mare whose own mother is an Irish Sport Horse. His sire, Whisper (Weltmeyer - St.Pr.St. Feine Dame x Feiner Stern) was an exceptional talent and a licensed Hanoverian, also known as Weltstar 38. He was the first fully approved Weltmeyer son to stand in New Zealand, and made an invaluable contribution to the gene pool in his all-too-short life.

The Small Tour Prix St Georges in Canterbury was won by Beanie (Favoney - Jacobina x Ramirez), ridden by owner Corey Miln. This 12-year-old mare finished sixth in the Advanced title class at Horse of the Year 2020, and has had plenty of good results. Unfortunately, her breeding, apart from the magnificent KWPN Ramirez (Ramiro Z) is hard to trace, but she is listed as a Thoroughbred cross.

Hanoverians have had certainly had a flying start this season, and another – the elegant 12-year-old gelding Fernando MH (Fürst Jupp - Widia x Winterkoenig.) bred by Matthews Hanoverians, owned Robyn Archibald and Nicki Ford, and ridden by Nicki Ford, finished second in the Prix St Georges.

Another Hanoverian, making her first appearance at a show, had a very good preliminary win in Canterbury: the lovely five-year-old Dulcet (Dante Weltino - Farah x Fürst Romancier) whose performance scored 75%. She was bred by Janne and Georgia Worth, and is owned and ridden by Cherie Pearson. And, she wasn't the only eye-catching Hanoverian youngster, as the six-year-old gelding Zodiac DW (Zonik - Ala Mode x Anamour) – note that damsire – had a good win at his first Level 3 start; he was bred by David Woolley, and is owned and ridden by Sophie Griffith.

Lastly, but far from least, was the magnificent debut of the four-year-old Rheinland gelding, Falcon O (Fürstenball - Vollrath Latika x Lessing), who scored a colossal 86%. He was bred by Dr Anne Stewart of Ohuatahi Warmbloods, and is a really exciting prospect for his owner/rider, Candice Nichol. He has a pedigree which includes Fürst Heinrich, Londonderry, Lauries Crusador and Donnerhall (twice). In his damline are two of New Zealand's Hanoverian supersires, both German imports: the D-line Dynamit (Dynamo) and G-line Genius (Garibaldi).

Falcon O has a full sibling, Fürst Of All O, who was the top Rheinland foal of the 2018 Hanoverian/Rheinland inspection tour. He, too, was bred by Dr Anne Stewart at Ohuatahi Warmbloods. ■

Polish 'hybrid' auction and new dressage champions

BY AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: LUKASZ KOWALSKI

September was a busy month in Poland, which saw the first ever Polish 'hybrid' auction, as well as the 2020 dressage championship. Both events took place in Radzionkow, at the premises of Cichon Dressage.

The third edition of the Cichon Foals Auction was the first ever Polish hybrid auction. In other words, an online auction opened on September 3, and ended on Saturday, September 5 – both online and in the Cichon Dressage premises during the 2020 Polish dressage championships.

The organizers offered a collection of 15 foals representing Cichon stallions and their foreign partners, Helgstrand Dressage and Deckstation Schockemöhle. The foals were carefully selected with 11 of them being the offspring of well-known dressage stallions including Vitalis, Fürst Toto, and D'Avie. Four of the foals came from acclaimed showjumping damlines and were by such stallions as Balou du Rouet, Chacfly PS, Casalco, and Kanndarco. While seven were Polish-bred PZHK foals, four were Oldenburg, alongside one apiece representing Hanover, Zangersheide, Danish Warmblood, and AES.

The auction was considered to be quite a success with 10 foals sold for the total amount of €77,200 (an average of €7,720). The most expensive foal of the auction was the PZHK dressage colt sp Cerewicz (Goldfinger VDT - Ciara x Corrado Son), bred by Zbigniew Kruk, who sold to an American customer for €10,200.

The balance of the sold foals will remain in Poland and were bought by local riders who found them attractive enough to invest in future dressage or showjumping prospects.

Among them was a beautiful palomino PZHK colt, Zandro Golden Jazz-J sp (Goldfinger VDT - Zaira J x Banderas), bred by Justyna Jaskulska, and sold for €6,800 to Grand Prix rider Dominika Krasko and Aleksandra Wrobel. An Oldenburg colt, Vinicius G (Vivaldi - Wey x Weltregent H) bred by Pawel Gasinski, was sold to the family of Dionizy Polikowski, the current children's champion of Poland. Another foal bred by Pawel Gasinski – an Oldenburg filly Viviana G (Vivaldi - Quitie G x Quaterback), the super champion of the 'open' foal championships organized at the beginning of August 2020 reached the highest bidding price of €17,000, but the breeder subsequently decided not to sell her.

The auction season in Poland is not yet over, but will now follow European trends and move to the 'virtual world'.

New Polish dressage champions

The Polish Dressage Championships which took place in the first weekend of September in Radzionkow were interesting for a number of reasons. Firstly, due to the absence of multiple champion of Poland, Katarzyna Milczarek, which meant a newcomer, Magdalena Jura, was crowned. Secondly because Jura's victory also drew a few years of hegemony to a close, during which foreign-bred dressage horses have completely dominated the Polish medals podium.

The horse that carried Jura to the champion's title is the bay 13-year-old Polish-bred PZHK gelding Ron (Samba Hit II - Rewia wlkp x Rabus wlkp) bred by Malgorzata Lisiecka. His sire's roots are undoubtedly German with the Oldenburger Sandro Hit as his grandsire, yet his dam, Rewia, bred by Lubnica stud, comes from a genuine Polish Wielkopolska bloodline, with her sire Rabus being bred by the Posadowo Horse Stud, while her dam, Replika was bred by the Pawlowice Stud.

A long history

Magdalena Jura and Ron have already had quite a long history together: "Ron is my second Grand Prix horse. He is very tall – 184 cms at the withers – and has very long legs. We bought him when he was only four-and-a-half years old following the advice of the coach Jaroslaw Poremba who remembered his damsire Rabus and considered him a very gifted horse. Ron was supposed to be a horse for my husband; calm, with a good head, and a kind of pretty. But I started working with him and when Ron turned five we gave it a chance and tried to qualify for the Polish championships for young horses. We were unlucky and did not make it to the finals because the judges found his balance to be lacking due to his long legs. So, I thought I would give him more time. If not today, maybe tomorrow. We started working slowly yet surely. And Ron turned out to be such a talented student and became a Grand Prix horse at the age of eight. He is one of a kind. He always does his best and really deserves to be noticed.

"Throughout all this time we have been mostly training by ourselves, although we have consulted some acclaimed coaches as Klaus Balkenhol, yet Ron requires an individual



Magdalena Jura riding her 13-year-old Polish-bred PZHK gelding Ron (Samba Hit II - Rewia wlkp x Rabus wlkp) to victory in the Polish national dressage championship

approach and we achieve the best results when training at home”

Magdalena Jura and her husband, Bartosz, also breed dressage horses at their stud outside Gorzow Wielkopolski in the western part of Poland. “At the moment our five mares are in foal by great stallions such as: Goldfinger VDT (Jazz x Ferro), Heiline’s Zanzier (Blue Hors Zack x De Niro), Janeiro Platiunum (Sezuan x UB40), and Franklin (Ampere x Ferro), so next season we are expecting a handful of great dressage foals”.

The Silver Medal and the title of vice-champion of Poland was won by Zaneta Skowronska-Kozubik and the DSP gelding Romantic-P (Rosenstein 7 x Furst Heinrich), with bronze and second vice-champion going to Mateusz Cichon and the Hanoverian gelding Herzregent 2 (Blue Hors Hotline x Alabaster).

It’s virtually impossible to predict whether this victory of a Polish-bred horse will be followed by many more PZHK-registered dressage horses winning a most important title in sport. Nowadays, with the variety of bloodlines and the liberty

of choosing the studbook when registering a foal in Poland it is perhaps not likely. But what’s also interesting is the presence of the showjumping damline in the pedigree of the victorious horse, and the fact that successful young horses don’t always progress to Grand Prix level. On the contrary: Horses such as Ron, who wasn’t successful at a young age as he needed to grow into his body, can mature to become great Grand Prix horses given the time and the right training.

And last but not the least – the damline of the one and only Sandro Hit (Ron’s grandsire) goes all the way back from his dam Loretta to the Polish-bred Wielkopolska stallion, Barabasz, born in 1954! ■

Breeding stallions: What is progressive motility?

BY PAUL LOOMIS

The most commonly used measure of semen quality is sperm motility, specifically 'progressive motility'. But what exactly does that mean and how is it determined? The minimum post-thaw 'progressive motility' generally recommended for commercial distribution of frozen semen is 30% to 35%.

This article will address some of the factors that can affect the assessment of sperm motility as well as the various problems associated with techniques used for determining 'progressive motility'.

The problem with subjective motility

One of the main problems with using motility as the basis for determining the expected or even guaranteed quality of frozen semen is the variability between technicians or laboratories in subjective estimates of sperm motility. Determining progressive motility subjectively involves visually scanning several fields of motile sperm under a microscope and estimating the percentage of the population that are moving in a progressive fashion. Experienced technicians all trained in a single laboratory can become very consistent between one another in their estimations of progressive motility. However, when two technicians from different laboratories assess the same sample there can be tremendous variability in the reported values.

When a mare owner purchases frozen semen they are expecting that the quality will meet minimum standards after thawing. They expect that analysis of the semen at the time of breeding will confirm the quality that was reported by the seller or the laboratory that froze the semen. However, if those assessments are made subjectively, either by the freezing lab or the veterinarian performing the AI, then they may be worlds apart in their estimation of progressive motility. This can lead to problems between stallion owners and mare owners or frozen semen brokers and the purchasers of those doses of semen.

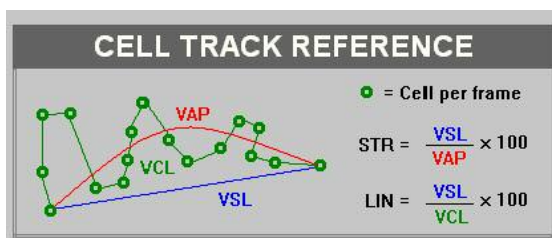
Technology to the rescue

Several years ago when I was working with engineers and programmers at Hamilton-Thorn Research on development of computer assisted sperm motility analyzer technology (CASA), I was asked what motion parameters were important to measure for the analysis of equine sperm motility. This new technology allowed us to track sperm motion very precisely and make calculations on any number

of motion parameters. I told the programmers that the percentage of 'progressively motile' sperm in a sample was the standard measure of semen quality and that is what was used to calculate insemination doses. They asked me to define 'progressive motility'. I replied what I had always been taught and what I had always taught others which was 'the percentage of sperm moving in a relatively straight path with reasonable velocity'.

'Well, how straight is relatively straight, and how is that measured, and what velocity is reasonable, and how is that measured' was their response. So the advent of CASA required a more precise definition of what motion characteristics distinguished a progressively motile sperm from a non-progressively motile sperm. Using these objective systems we can measure the actual velocity in microns per second of hundreds of sperm in a matter of minutes.

Most systems will measure two or three types of velocity. Curvilinear velocity (VCL) is the distance over time of the actual path of the sperm head whereas path velocity (VAP) is the distance along a five-point mathematically smoothed path that the sperm travels over time. A third velocity measurement 'straight line velocity' (VSL) is the straight line distance between the position of the sperm head in the first frame of analysis and the position of that sperm head in the last frame of analysis over the fixed time of analysis. We can also measure the ratio of how straight the paths of those cells are over time. These are expressed as 'percent straightness' (STR) or percent linearity (LIN). STR is the ratio of the straight line velocity (VSL) to the average path velocity (VAP) expressed as a percentage, and LIN is the ratio of VSL over VCL. The diagram below illustrates a theoretical sperm path and how these parameters are calculated.



So when using an 'objective', rather than a 'subjective' measure of sperm motility, there should be no discrepancies between two labs that are both using the same CASA system in the analysis of progressive motility. Unfortunately this is not necessarily the case.

Actual sperm motility can be influenced by a number of factors such as thawing rate, type of extender used to dilute the sample, incubation time and temperature, type of slide or chamber used to view the sample, and temperature of the microscope stage. There are also a number of instrument-related 'user-defined' factors that do not affect the actual motility of the sample but may significantly influence the analysis results and the measurement of progressive motility. These include: concentration of sperm in the diluted sample, selection of fields for analysis, number of frames analyzed, framing rate, and the threshold limits for VAP and STR that are used to 'define' progressive motility. In the CASA system and in all systems used by Select Breeders Services' affiliate laboratories, a progressively motile sperm is defined as one which has a velocity (VAP) > 50 mic/sec and a straightness ratio (STR) > 75%.

Laboratory definitions of progressive motility

Other laboratories may set up their CASA systems to have more or less strict requirements for a sperm to be considered progressive. For example, some labs use a much less strict definition (> 30 mic/sec for the VAP threshold and > 50% for the STR threshold). A sample that is reported to have 40% progressive motility by lab A (using the less strict definition) may be analyzed by lab B (using the more strict definition) and yield a very different value for progressive motility. This value may be well below 30% even though they are measuring the same exact sample and using the same sophisticated CASA system.

For this reason it is important that comparison of reports of sperm motility as determined by CASA from two different labs be accompanied by a description of the analysis setups used. One must also recognize that there are other sources of variability which cannot be controlled. Even when two straws from the same ejaculate are thawed separately and analyzed separately on the same CASA system there is straw to straw variation in the measurements for progressive motility so we can expect as much as 5-7% variation in progressive motility between individual straws from the same ejaculate.

The bottom line

It is fortunate for those of us working with sperm that these cells are motile cells. We know that a dead sperm is non-motile and that when sperm are damaged it can affect the nature of their motility. We also know that motility is required for fertilization, and that stallions whose sperm exhibit a high percentage of progressively motile sperm in the ejaculate tend to have higher fertility than those that

have a low percentage of progressive motility. Measuring the quality of sperm motility before and after semen preservation (cooling or freezing) gives us an indication of how well that population of sperm survived the stresses of the process.

However, motility is just one indicator of relative cell health that is easily observed and measured. Fertilization is a complex process involving numerous functional attributes of both sperm and oocyte. Some of these we can measure but many more we cannot. That is why some stallions, with apparently normal sperm production and quality based on all the available laboratory tests, are considered infertile. They are lacking in one or more of these functional attributes that we cannot measure or don't even know exist. So a sample that has > 30% post-thaw motility is certainly not guaranteed to have any specific level of fertility. Also, a sample that has less than 30% motility may have quite good fertility if adequate sperm numbers are included in the dose.

The value of post-thaw sperm motility

So what value is there in measuring post-thaw sperm motility and striving to establish minimum standards for post-thaw quality for commercial semen? The value is in eliminating the majority of poor-freezing stallions or poor quality samples that make their way onto the market. If the sample has very poor post-thaw motility it is more likely to have poor fertility when compared to a sample that has very good post-thaw motility. The value of 30% is an arbitrary number and it is likely that a sample that is 25% progressively motile may be just as fertile as one that is 35%. A sample that has a lower percentage of motility after freezing and thawing has likely been more damaged than a sample that retains most of its motility through the process. By eliminating poor quality semen from commercial distribution we maximize the chances for success.

Use of objective systems for determining sperm motility such as CASA reduces the variability in motility estimates due to subjective bias. As an industry we should strive to adhere to minimum standards for post-thaw semen quality that is used in commercial breeding to protect all parties involved. ■

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Press Release

Lausanne (SUI), 14 September 2020

Digital passport solution proposed for European horse movement

The International Sport Horse Confederation (IHSC) Taskforce for Brexit and European Union (EU) Animal Health Law has formulated a digital passport solution to ensure the efficient cross-border movement of sport, racing and breeding horses from 2021.

The proposed solution would allow for the free movement of horses between Great Britain and Europe following the end of the Brexit transition period in December 2020 and would also meet the requirements of the new EU Animal Health Law Legislation, which comes into force at the beginning of next year.

The digital passport system would simplify the movement of horses by providing authorities of EU countries with fail-safe information on the horse's identity, as well as real-time monitoring of its movement and ownership information. These passports would also contain up-to-date vaccination and medical records, allowing for a higher level of monitoring and prevention of potential disease outbreaks.

The digital passports would be available and operational from the beginning of 2021, although paper passports would continue to be issued as is currently required by the EU. Ultimately, if the system is approved by EU Member States, it could be used as an alternative to paper passports.

It is hoped that the solution, based on existing EU legislation and agreements, will gain strong support from the main stakeholders in the European horse industry. If adopted, it would ensure a level of identification, biosecurity and disease detection that goes beyond the scope of what is currently contained in the new EU Animal Health Law legislation.

The IHSC Task Force is the result of a unique collaboration that has brought together the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), the European Equestrian Federation (EEF), the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) as well as the International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation (ITBF), the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Association (EFTBA).

"This is an unprecedented show of solidarity for the horse industry in Europe," FEI Veterinary Director and Chair of the IHSC Task Force Dr Göran Akerström said.

"Great Britain's decision to leave the European Union, the difficulties in implementing the new Animal Health Law legislation, as well as the problems created by the global pandemic stand to adversely impact a regional industry

which generates an annual revenue in excess of €50 billion and provides employment for more than 500,000 people.

“Any obstacles to the cross-border movement of horses and associated personnel would result in huge economic losses to Britain, Ireland and France, as well as other EU Member States such as Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Italy.

“It is imperative that we put in place systems and processes to ensure the efficient and safe cross-border movement of horses and this digital passport would play a key role in that.”

The Task Force has met every week since May to work on solutions that will ensure the unhindered movement of horses with guaranteed high health status, as well as the temporary movement of essential, skilled people such as grooms, trainers, riders, jockeys and veterinarians across EU borders.

The long term aim is to create a Europe wide network of databases which registers a horse’s identity, allows for an equine to be easily located and identified, and ensures the secure movement of horses anywhere in Europe.

About IHSC Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law

The Taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law comprises representatives from the key European Sport Horse and Race Horse industries. It was formed by the International Sport Horse Confederation (IHSC) - constituted jointly by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

Its purpose is to work with Governments and key individuals to devise and present solutions which would facilitate movement of Sport Horses and Thoroughbreds (competition, training and breeding animals) across the EU and including between the EU and the United Kingdom post Brexit and the implementation of the EU Animal Health Law.

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KWPN horses in international driving

BY CHARLOTTE DEKKER / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIRK CAREMANS AND KRISZTINA HORVATH

The KWPN harness horse enjoys unprecedented popularity as a driving horse, for more than 63% of the singles results are linked to a KWPN horse which is registered in the harness horse breeding direction; the same is true for more than 72% and 70% of the respective pairs and four-in-hand results.

Harness horses account for the lion's share of entries of KWPN horses which actively compete in driving. However, a significant percentage of international KWPN driving horses are registered as riding horses, as there was no distinction between dressage horses (which clearly score well in driving) and jumpers until 2006.

If we also consider entries in major championships, the KWPN studbook – and its harness horse specifically – are very well represented. For example, at the last major four-in-hand championship alone, the 2018 World Equestrian Games in Tyron, almost half (47.4%) of the participating horses were KWPN harness horses; and more than 57% of all entries were KWPN horses. These data reflect a more than 25% increase in KWPN horses compared to the 2010 World Equestrian Games and demonstrate that they have become increasingly more popular with national and international drivers.

Internationally renowned

The increasing popularity of KWPN horses is due in part to their successes in the hands of international elite four-in-hand drivers, such as Australian Boyd Exell and Americans Chester Weber and James Fairclough. For example, with horses in Boyd Exell's team including the second round viewing stallion Carlos (Urgent x Manno, breeder: J.H. Gast) and Celviro (Vulcano x Waterman, breeder: H. Meyering), the Australian won the individual gold in Tryon in 2018 and, as a result, holds the reigning World Champion title. Carlos and Celviro – the latter a full-brother to the KWPN stallion Delviro HBC – had already achieved much success and won a medal as a pair with Jozsef Dibak of Italy.

American Chester Weber, who started in the competition with four KWPN horses – all harness horses – took home the individual silver and contributed to the team gold. In his team were the Patijn son Asjemenou (ds Manno, breeder: R.A.G. of Klooster), Boris W (Talos o Fabricius, breeder: L. van de Put), the selected stallion First Edition (Waldemar x Manno,

breeder: G. de Vaan), selected stallion Splash (Nando x Cambridge Cole, breeder: J.A. Slijkhuis) and Reno (not KWPN).

Weber's compatriot James Fairclough, who ended 11th individually, contributed to the team gold with four KWPN horses: two harness horses and two dressage horses. They were Bento V (Unieko x Immigrant, breeder: Van Vemde family), Citens (Tendens HBC x Fabricius, breeder: H.T.A. van Wee), Dapper (Vivaldi x Voltaire, breeder: R.J.M. Schoenaker), Zenden (Metall x Cocktail, breeder: H.C. Vonk) and Caletta (not KWPN registered).

The third American team member, Misdee Wrigley-Miller, also earned a medal thanks to her four KWPN horses, among them three Plain's Liberator offspring: Beau (Plain's Liberator x Balmoral, breeder: H. van Maurik), Bolino D (Plain's Liberator x Unitas, breeder: A. Doornbos) and Calipso (Plain's Liberator x Manno, breeder: H. Meyering). Other horses in Misdee's team were the Manno son Bravour, also bred by A. Doornbos, and Daan (not KWPN registered).

Further evidence that Dutch drivers are crazy about Dutch horses is the team that Koos de Ronde used in the same competition to help win the team silver and finish fourth individually. His team

was comprised of the harness horses Alino (Manno x Koblenz, breeder: W. Ujttewaal), Cupido (Unieko x Fabricius, breeder: D.R.C. Jilesen), Emir Morocco (Morocco Field Marshall x by Manno, breeder: S.A. Korevaar), Zerino (Sire x Manno, breeder: J. Holties) and Zimon (Roy M x Renovo, breeder: J.T. Seinen).

KWPN success at World Championships

At the 2018 Driving World Championship for singles in Kronenberg, KWPN horses also dominated. Two of the horses that took the podium were Dutch bred, and four KWPN horses were among the top eight. Saskia Siebers drove to silver with Axel (Tolando x Naturel, breeder: M. van de Broek), the horse with which she won the bronze in the 2016 Driving World

KWPN DATABASE

The KWPN Database is an ever-growing source of information. Recently, we added a significant amount of data on KWPN horses which compete in international driving. As such, the database now contains more than 1,000 new sport results from FEI singles, pairs, and four-in-hand competitions.

Championship for Singles in Piber, Austria.

In the same championship, the Netherlands captured the team gold for the first time, thanks in part to Axel's outstanding performances. As a youngster, the Tolando son drew notice with his talent for driving. In 2012, he won the bronze in the first edition of the KNHS/KWPN Championship for Young Driving Horses at the KWPN Championships.

Another notable performance of the 2018 Driving World Championship for Singles came from Marion Vignaud of France, who drove the Marvel son Winston W (ds Fabricius, breeder: J.W. van Wessel) to third place and contributed to the team silver for France. Two years prior, the duo had finished fourth individually in the World Championship and won the team silver in 2014. In that championship, eighth place was for the Moneymaker daughter Ann in Time G.W. (ds Renovo, breeder: G.G. Wilting) with Germany's Phillip Faisst.

The 2018 Driving World Championship for Singles also saw a good performance from Switzerland's Stefan Ulrich, who ended sixth individually with the Polydox son Pamino U (ds Blanc Rivage, breeder: H.G. Spronk). His father Werner Ulrich had successfully competed Pamino U in World Championships for pairs and four-in-hand, boasting achievements including a fourth-place finish with the Swiss team in the 2016 World Championships in Breda.

Golden team of KWPN horses

Last year, the Driving World Championship for Pairs in Drebkau, Germany, was another successful championship for the KWPN. Hungary claimed both the team and individual gold, with Martin Holle winning the latter. Holle owed his achievement to Dior (Vulcano x Ahoy, breeder: M.N. Breugem), Cheron (Patijn x Waterman, breeder: A. Epskamp) and the second round viewing stallion Eppie (Victory x Marvel, breeder: W. Blokland).

In 2015, Eppie and Dior were part of the Italian team with driver Claudio Fumagalli, who drove to the silver and sixth place individually. Martin Holle subsequently took over the reins and captured the individual and team gold in the 2019 World Championships, repeating his success from 2017 in the World Championships at Lipica.

Holle's teammate Kristof Osztertag is crazy about Patijn blood, for the three horses which contributed to the team gold are all Patijn offspring. They include Baccardi (ds Manno, breeder: M. van der Zwaag), Derrick D (ds Renovo, breeder: A. Doornbos) and Dubai (ds Waterman, breeder: F. Bruinsma).

Jozsef Dobrovitz Jr., who ended fifth individually, completes the Hungarian team with his Indiaan (Cizandro x Moneymaker, breeder: A. Berends) and Ingmar (Cizandro x Unieko, breeder: H. van Boven). His third horse, Tulip, is not KWPN registered.

In the 2014 Driving World Championship for Singles in Hungary, Germany captured the team gold with a team of KWPN horses, except for one. The individual gold medal was for Dutchman Wilbrord van den Broek.

The Netherlands goes for Dutch

Last year at the Driving World Championship for Pairs in Drebkau, the Dutch owed team silver mainly to KWPN horses. Stan van Eijk posted the best individual result, finishing third with KWPN Zorac (Caricello x Metall, breeder: J.C. Dekker) in his team. While Antonie ter Harmsel ended ninth individually with KWPN horses Enola ster (Victory x Ganges, breeder: T.M. Mittendorf) and Zardonis ster (Patijn x Fabricius, breeder: M.J. van Bruggen).

Completing the Dutch team was Geert Dijkhof with his KWPN horses Bahrein (Patijn x Wilhelmus, breeder: J.J. de Bree), Carino (Ulandro x Fortissimo, breeder: M.J.A. Buitink) and Goirgio (Vaandrager x Plain's Liberator, breeder: P. de Groot). This last horse is a half-brother to the KWPN stallion Idol (Manno). Dijkhof ended 16th individually.

The individual silver in this championship was for Sandro Koalick of Germany with Dutch-bred second round viewing stallion Fasco (Vaandrager HBC x Plain's Liberator, breeder: H.B. Kleyne Snuverink), Hertog Jan (Bakboord HBC x Torino, breeder: P. Rook of Krimpen) and Don Qui Chot (Unieko x Waterman, breeder: J. Veldhuizen). The remaining drivers who finished individually in the top 10 likewise used primarily KWPN-bred horses – for which we can be rightfully proud!

Versatile top horses

In total, 155 driving horses have performed internationally in more than one division. Mostly, these horses competed in the pairs as well as in the four-in-hand. A few times, four to be exact, a horse has advanced to the international level in the singles, pairs and four-in-hand. Those horses are definitely versatile! We've already mentioned some of these horses, such as the Polydox son Pamino U, who has achieved success for Switzerland with both Stefan and Werner Ulrich.

We also mentioned Bolino D (Plain's Liberator), American Misdee Wrigley-Miller's team horse. Bred by the Doornbos family of Beilen, the Plain's Liberator son had competed in two Driving World Championships for Pairs with Austria's Gerald Rössler, placing 12th and 16th individually. In 2016, Bolino D showed in the Driving World Championships for Singles with Marisa Rössler. Incidentally, the Doornbos family has bred multiple successful driving horses.

Call me Okydo (Victory x Harmonie, breeder: A. Hilverda) has also achieved success in all three driving divisions. Christian Schlögelhofer of Austria competed him in the pairs and four-in-hand, but he also started in the singles.

The black horse Zwart (Selleen x Waterman, breeder: R. van de Put) was mainly shown by France's Cadi Verna, with competition highlights including the Driving World Championships for Pairs in 2013 and 2015, placing 20th individually and 6th with the team in the last championship. Maxime Maricourt (FRA), used Zwart in the four-in-hand; and now he is part of Englishman Wilf Bowman-Ripley's four-in-hand.

Searching for your future driving talent? salespromotion@kwfn.nl

**TABLE 1: BREEDING DIRECTION
DRIVING STANDINGS: SINGLES**

Harness horse 155 (63.3%)

Riding horse 41

Dressage horse 33

Jumper 10

Gelder horse 6

Total 245

**TABLE 2:
DRIVIN**

Harn

Harn

D



In 2018, the reigning four-in-hand world champion Boyd Exell drove horses in... The horses had achieved previous success...

BREEDING DIRECTION

DRIVING STANDINGS: PAIRS

harness horse 327 (72.3%)
 Riding horse 43
 Dressage horse 55
 Jumper 13
 Gelder horse 14
 Total 452

TABLE 3: BREEDING DIRECTION

DRIVING STANDINGS: FOUR-IN-HAND

Harness horse 302 (70.2%)
 Riding horse 70
 Dressage horse 33
 Jumper 14
 Gelder horse 11
 Total 430



cluding Carlos (Urgent) and Celviro (Vulcano) to a gold medal victory in Tryon.
ess in the pairs with Italy's Jozsef Dibak



The KWPN enjoyed success in the 2019 Driving World Championship for F
KWPN horses Dior (s.Vulcano), Che



Pairs, with Hungarian Martin Holle taking home the individual gold with his Iron (s.Patijn) and Eppie (s.Victory).

WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF DRESSAGE HORSES

30/08/2020 (including validated FEI results from 01/10/2019 to 31/07/2020)

Rank	Name/YOB/Studbook/Gender/Sire/Damsire/Points/FEI ID/Breeder	
1	Weihgold (2005/Oldbg/m Blue Hors Don Schufro x Sandro Hit) 102ZI90 Inge Bastian (GER)	2,753
2	Dalera (2007/Trak/m Easy Game x Handryk) 105AH62 Silke Fass (GER)	2,605
3	Emilio (2006/Westf/g Ehrenpreis x Cacir AA) 103UX58 Heinrich & Wilhelm Strunk (GER)	2,602
4	Damsey (2002/Hann/st Dressage Royal x Ritual) GER45558 Hengsthaltung Kothe (GER)	2,454
5	Daily Mirror (2004/Westf/g Damon Hill x Florestan I) 105LM91 Dieter Kellermann (GER)	2,403
6	Zaire-E (2004/KWPN/m Son de Niro x Jazz) 102VM17 Empelaer Stoeterij (NED)	2,373
7	Desperado (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi x Havidoff) 104BD64 Andeweg Family (NED)	2,299
8	Sammy Davis Jr. (2006/DWP/g San Remo x Wenckstern) 105KW44 Hans and Heidi Volkert (GER)	2,284
9	Suppenkasper (2008/KWPN/g Spielberg x Ips Krack C) 105DN05 F. van de Poel (NED)	2,239
10	Duke of Britain (2007/Hann/g Dimaggio x Rubinstein) 103LO51 Sarah & Tony Pidgley (GBR)	2,208

WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF JUMPING HORSES

1	King of Diamonds (2010/BWP/st Prince vd Wolfsakker x Rubioso N) 105VO28 Eline Tack (BEL)	1,050
2	Denver (2008/KWPN/g Albführen's Memphis x Chico's Boy) 104VB85 M.G. & A.A. Woertman (NED)	1,005
3	Chalou (2009/OS/st Chacco-Blue x Baloubet du Rouet) 104MK27 Gestüt Lewitz (GER)	990
4	Baloussini (2009/DSP/st Baloussini x Ramos Z) 103UA84 Peter Scilard (GER)	980
5	Rouge de Revel (2005/SF/st Ultimo van ter Moude x Quouglof Rouge) 103CE16 Pottier/Glaser (FRA)	970
6	Bushi (2006/KWPN/g Contendro II x Nairobi) 103RX17 Gebr. Van der Steen (NED)	968
7	Evita Sg Z (2009/Z/m Verdi TN x Codexco) 104XA49 Unknown	870
8	Volage du Val Henry (2009/SF/m Quidam de Revel x Cassini I) 104QB81 Mme Helene Amar (SUI)	853
9=	Killer Queen VDM (2010/BWP/m Eldorado vd Zeshoek x For Pleasure) 105HC59 Bruggeman-Carpentier (BEL)	820
9=	Dana Blue (2008/KWPN/m Mr. Blue x Hemmingway) 104MI51 J.A.M. Bocken (NED)	820

IMPORTANT DATES 2020

- October 11 - 15 October WBFSH General Assembly and Seminars via webinar
- December 9 - 13 FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Verden, Germany.

WORLD RANKING LISTS

IMPORTANT DATES 2020

STUDBOOK MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

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



WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF EVENTING HORSES

1	Don Quidam (2008/KWPN/g Quidam x Amethist) 105EI33 J.M. Schurink (NED)	134
2	Triton Fontaine (2007/SF/g Gentleman IV x Nightko) 104LX44 S. Pelissier-Coutureau (FRA)	127
3	Tzinga d'Auzay (2007/SF/m Nouma d'Auzay x Masquerader) 104CS60 Gimenez & Monteil (FRA)	124
4	FRH Butts Avedon (2003/Hann/g Heraldik xx x Kronenkranich xx) GER45658 Friedrich Butt (GER)	123
5	Birmane (2011/SF/m Vargas de Ste Hermelle x Diamant de Semilly) 105RP50 SCEA De Beliard (FRA)	122
6	Happy Boy (2012/KWPN/g Indoctro x Odermus R) 106CI15 Rijpma (NED)	112
7	Toledo de Kerser (2007/SF/g Diamant de Semilly x Papillon Rouge) 104IR52 Kerstin Drevet (FRA)	111
8	Romantic Love (2005/SF/g l'Arc de Triomphe [Oldbg] x Shercame) 103HU70 Lydia Gallong (FRA)	109
9	Quality Purdey (2006/OS/m Quality x Leonid) 104CB64 Helga Rolfs (GER)	108
10	Leporis (2011/Holst/g Lasino x Heraldik xx) 105US17 Unknown	108

STUDBOOK MANAGEMENT PLATFORM TO AID SMALLER STUDBOOKS

The World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses recognizes that smaller member studbooks may not have the technological infrastructure to fully participate in some of the international initiatives that the WBFSH has and will undertake. One of these important activities is the WHIRDEC (World Horse Identification and Registration Data Exchange Committee) project to create a platform called HorseLink, for secure data exchange, so that pedigree and horse identification via UELN and chip number, may be verified between studbooks. In keeping with its mission to foster and support cooperation and collaboration, the WBFSH has worked with Delta Horse to incorporate the new HorseLink in its studbook management system, Equis. This system is used by over 30 studbooks world wide.

The Equis platform is accessible from anywhere and incorporates cost structures that are scalable to any size organization. This innovative platform offers complete back-end office services for member management, service payment, and all the organizational needs to run an efficient office. The public window, is your website, members can interact just as they always have. Equis incorporates HorseLink. This special utility permits server enquiries based on UELN or chip number between studbooks and other bodies. Equis also provides special applications modules to record field information such as inspections, or to create a foal sketch.

A second very important initiative is the exploration by the WBFSH of creating a genetically based International Breeding Value. It is hoped that it will inform breeders as they plan their future breedings. The IBV will include correlations between genome and performance. To obtain performance data for this, WBFSH will capitalize on its relationships with the FEI and national sport federations to compile performance histories for potential breeding stock.

Many larger studbooks already use this type of information to generate internal rankings. However, in the IBV the ranking values will not be studbook dependent. We anticipate that larger studbooks already have the internal data infrastructure to participate in this exciting program. We also anticipate that smaller studbooks may not. Since it is the intent of the WBFSH to develop an IBV that includes data from all its member organizations, an inclusive solution must feature a secure data exchange platform for all members. Equis and HorseLink can be that solution. Key to the development of an International Breeding Value, Equis permits the secure exchange of data with the WBFSH, laboratories and sport federations.

The WBFSH is hoping that member studbooks with limited resources will be able to take advantage of this offer which will facilitate full membership participation in the important initiatives described above. We encourage all that require additional digital resources to consider Equis, as sharing a common platform will facilitate data exchange.

For questions about WHIRDEC and HorseLink contact Emilie Goulas (whirdec@ifce.fr). For the International Breeding Value please contact Nadine Brandtner (nadine.brandtner@wbfs.org). For enquires about Equis please contact Max Becherer (max@deltahorses.nl). www.deltahorses.nl

Please note: The WBFSH has no financial interest in DeltaHorse nor its platform Equis. It supports the data exchange capability of Equis as an effective tool for data verification and the IBV initiative.

ALTHOUGH MANY EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH THIS CALENDAR WITH ONLINE INFORMATION FOR AUCTIONS AND EVENTS WHEN DATES AND TIMES ARE NOTIFIED TO US

2020

OCTOBER

30/9-4/10 Flyinge (SWE)

Swedish Warmblood Equestrian Weeks
– Jumping
Tel: +46 (0)46 646 50
info@swb.org / www.swb.org

2/3 Vechta (GER)

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

2-5 Online (CAN)

CWHBA Alberta Chapter –
Fall Classic Breeders' Sale
Tel: +1 403 801 4111
www.fallclassicsale.com

2-6 Flyinge (SWE)

Swedish Warmblood Breeders Trophy
in Jumping and Elite Foal Auction
Tel: +46 (0)46 646 50
info@swb.org / www.swb.org

5 Flyinge (SWE)

Swedish Warmblood Elite Auction
Tel: +46 (0)46 646 50
info@swb.org / www.swb.org

5-12 Online (NED)

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

9/10 Verden (GER)

137th Hanoverian Elite Auction of 2yo
stallions and foals
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

15-18 Neumünster (GER)

Trakehner Verband stallion licensing
Tel: +49 (0)4321 90270
Fax: +49 (0)4321 902719

info@trakehner-verband.de
www.trakehner-verband.de

16 Wilhelmsborg (DEN)

Danish Warmblood World Cup Auction
Tel: +45 (0) 87 47 54 00
varmblod@varmblod.dk
www.varmblod.dk

16/17 Mönchengladbach (GER)

Rheinland Verband stallion licensing
Tel: +49 (0)2166 621 9110
Fax: +49 (0)2166 621 9120
ud@pferdezucht-rheinland.de
www.pferdezucht-rheinland.de

21-24 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Verband stallion licensing
and stallion sales
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
Fax: +49 (0)4231 67312
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

29-31 Neumünster (GER)

50th Holsteiner Verband stallion
licensing and elite riding horse auction
Tel: +49 (0)4121 49790
Fax: +49 (0)4121 93629
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

NOVEMBER

2/3 Marbach (GER)

South German Association Riding
Horse Auction
Tel: +49 (0)35 207 89631
verkauf@pzzvst.de / www.pzzvst.de

14 Verden (GER)

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

19-21 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburg Verband Stallion Days, main
licensing
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
Fax: +49 (0)441 935599

