

SEPTEMBER 2020

# WORLD BREEDING NEWS

*for Sport Horses*

65

Siegerstute Dressur  
Herwart v. d. Decken-Schau 2020

Breeder interviews

Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis

BN #286  
MSD  
Tiergesundheits



# *La Silla's horses on the Showground*



Wylder Rodríguez & Chogüí LS, winner Balvanera CSI2\* Clasico 1.45m August 2020

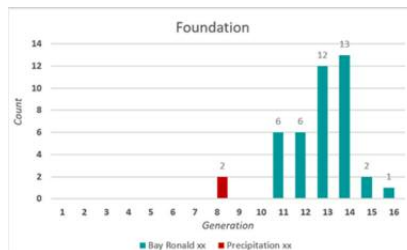


Simón Nizri & Castaña LS, Balvanera CSI2\* 1.45m August 2020

# CONTENTS

## 11 – TWO THOROUGHBREDS THAT SHAPED TODAY'S SPORT HORSES

*Precipitation was born in 1933 and died in 1957, Bay Ronald was born in 1893 and died in 1907, and yet these two stallions are still influential today in the world of sport horses, and it seems their influence is getting stronger as the two lines become more and more entwined...*



## 20 – REVOLUTIONARY 14-DAY CHILLING FOR NEW SEMEM EXTENDER

*University of Newcastle (Australia) scientist's Dr Zamira Gibb and Dr Aleona Swegen have spent upwards of eight years developing a revolutionary new method to preserve horse semen that allows it to live for up to two weeks post-collection at ambient temperatures.*



## 26 – THE ENDURANCE OF NARCOS II – BECOMING A LEGEND

*In the September 1998 edition of Breeding News, a 'bloodline' feature was published profiling Narcos II (Fair Play III - Gemini x Tanäel, breeder: Jean Brohier) which stated that he had, 'little by little, compelled recognition as the leading Selle Français sport sire, at a national level as well as internationally...*



## 29 – WBCYH SHOWJUMPING 2020: CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

*The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is enormous, with many events being cancelled due to the virus. This now includes the WBCYH in Lanaken, and its organizer Judy Ann Melchior, who describes it as 'one of the most beautiful equestrian events of the year for us.'*



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



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 34 **Estonian Sport Horse jumper breeding championships / ESHKS**
- 37 **CWHBA 26th Fall Classic Breeders' Sale goes online / CWHBA**
- 38 **Marbach State Stud stallion Hochfein passes away**
- 39 **Historic Delegates' Assembly for Hannoveraner Verband**
- 43 **Diverse and sophisticated Brazilian Sport Horse market / BH-ABCCH**
- 44 **Dressage championship for young horses in Poland**
- 48 **Gold medal mares and approved stallions for DWB / DWB**
- 50 **First Polish 'open' foal championship unites blood**
- 52 **The Rothwells maintaining tradition n Tinahely / HSI**
- 54 **KWPN paying close attention to correct leg conformation / KWPN**
- 60 **Niedersachsenhalle turned into a ballroom**
- 61 **Hanoverian young jumper and dressage horse champs**
- 62 **Lithuanian young horse finals celebrate breeding**

## DEPARTMENTS

- 5 **Editorial: An economic observatory FEI-WBFSH?**
- 7 **WBFSH Tribune: This is a call to arms!**
- 9 **Briefs and last-minute news**
- 58 **Auctions: The market does not recognize the crisis!**
- 62/63 **WBFSH News**
- 64 **Calendar of Events**

### PHOTOGRAPHS (COVER AND PG. 3)

COVER PHOTO – DRESSAGE CHAMPION MARE HANN.PR.A. ROMY (HANNOVERANER VERBAND)

CONTENTS PHOTOS – PG 3 (TOP TO BOTTOM): FOUNDATION GRAPH (BY GEMMA ALEXANDER); DR. ALEONA SWEGEN AND DR. ZAMIRA GIBB (COURTESY OF NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, NSW); NARCOS II RIDDEN BY FLORIAN ANGOT (PETER LLEWELLYN); LANAKEN ARENA 2019 (SÉBASTIEN BOULANGER)

## WORLD BREEDING NEWS

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*for Sport Horses*

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### ADVERTISING

Tel: +33 (0)6 80 14 41 83 (English and French)

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

E-mail: [editor@breedingnews.com](mailto:editor@breedingnews.com)

Internet: [www.breedingnews.com](http://www.breedingnews.com)

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Xavier Libbrecht

Jean Llewellyn

Alban Poudret

### LAY-OUT AND DESIGN

Jean Llewellyn

### WEBSITE AND ONLINE DATABASE

Peter Llewellyn

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# EDITORIAL

## AN ECONOMIC OBSERVATORY FEI-WBFSH?



The organizers of the World Breeding Young Horse Championship have decided to cancel the show which has been hosted in Lanaken for more than 25 years at Studfarm Zangersheide, led by Judy Ann Melchior, the daughter of its founder, Léon Melchior.

A difficult decision, as was the case for 80% of comparable sporting events around the world. A decision that has obviously impacted the economic health of the equestrian sector, as well for the show operators who need to finance their investments as well as structural and maintenance costs. Obvious it may seem but, with sincere thanks to Judy Ann Melchior for agreeing to put herself under the spotlight and be interviewed (starting on page 39), there is no easy formula to quantify this fall-out.

When asked: 'Beyond the sporting impact, the cancellation of the FEI-WBFSH Longines (WBCYH), what is the economic impact for the socio-professionals of sport horse breeding to the event?' The direct answer is almost non-existent: 'That a difficult question (...) On the occasion of this event there is a flourishing trade. I can imagine that the cancellation will have a negative impact on that (...). I am not sure, but I guess that 2020 will not be easy. Many people who don't have a great network could make use of events in order to meet other people, to show their breeding or showjumping products and so on (...).

And when our correspondent insists: 'Can you tell us what is the overall economic figure of the FEI-WBFSH Longines (WBCYH) for the sector? The answer is as clear: 'No. Nobody can predict the impact of this virus. I am not the person who is constantly occupied with statistics, revenue, expenses and so on. The only thing I know is that for many people it's highly probable that 2020 will mean a great financial loss. (...).

A frustrating but not unexpected answer, and undoubtedly sincere! The sport horse sector sorely lacks reliable economic information, statistics, in a word, 'data', allowing its actors to manage with lucidity and pragmatism as they often do in the business areas where they earn, most of the time, the money they

'invest' in their passion. A 'cultural' attitude, a way of 'governing' with instinct and/or emotion, because the money invested in the sector by its main actors is, for many, in pure loss or fiscal gain. It is mainly this money that irrigates the world of the horse; it is on the basis of this money that the socio-professionals then speculate and function well or poorly.

In another contribution to this World Breeding News issue (page 7) Dr. Edward Kendall, Executive Committee member of the WBFSH, former president of the Canadian Equestrian Federation is (really?) surprised by this lack of information: 'Imagine if we had generated this statistic for say the last twenty years. We might have some measure (beyond survival) of the resilience of the sport horse-breeding sector. We might have been able to provide breeders with information on the size and direction of their market segments. Perhaps it would assist in developing strategies for our 'governments' to grow the sector as a whole. In fact, how does one develop a strategic plan without data? And, in hard times how does one evoke a Plan B, if there was no Plan A!

'Instead, we harvested small pockets of information and kept it in silos with little long-term value. This approach has led to a fractured sector requiring ever higher levels of investment for similar or diminished returns.

'I would like to call out my own organization, the WBFSH, to redouble its efforts in building information bridges, in providing cogent analysis of the data it collects, and together with its partners to develop the infrastructure that will enable us to create a long-term strategy for sector growth.'

All right Edward. But don't you think that the FEI, an organization that holds some of the required information, should also cooperate in this project?

Don't you think that an economic observatory FEI-WBFSH, like the fair cooperation of the two entities in the young horse sector (FEI-WBFSH Longines for Young Horses) would be most useful and salutary?

**Xavier Libbrecht**

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# WBF SH TRIBUNE

## THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS!



*If these last few months have taught us anything, it's that 'Plan B' had better be good! We have to make investment decisions based on available advice that veers from a return to normal in six months to a lingering recession for two years. Equestrian sport and sport horse breeding might enjoy some short-term immunity. There are sunk costs that were never covered by sport and sales.*

*(\* 'Sunk costs' have two features: they occur early in the business cycle and they are not recoverable should the business fail or otherwise close. With respect to the horse industry these are typically improvements on property for breeding, riding, etc. Since the horse industry operates mostly part-time and/ or with low or non existent margins, the early investments are 'sunk' as decreasing lifestyle, that is never paid back.)*

*So hobbyists and commercial breeders alike will continue to produce and train animals. The question is, 'how long is the model sustainable?' At what point does our market contract due to attrition and lack of new entrants. If there is a single large threat from the shutdown of sport and recreational equestrian activity it may be that those with recreational interests will retire prematurely before they can be replaced*

*from the young riders and breeders.*

*There is a great deal of talk about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world economy. Economists have developed an ever evolving 'morning line', ranking Gross Domestic Products (GDPs) based on the extent of their contraction as a result of the business downturn.*

*What measures can be used to assess the health and direction of the horse industry? Is GDP useful? Given that horse production, sport and recreation is more of a lifestyle than a business decision, how relevant is this statistic to our sector. If GDP contracts 5% will the breeding industry respond, will horse sport reduce the number of events or will there be fewer participants. I'm not at all sure that we can answer those questions for two reasons: 1. I don't think there is a reference point. That is we have no real measure of the activity in the sector. 2. We have no ongoing measurements that might indicate if activity is increasing or*



*GDP measures government spending, industry spending, and consumer spending, with the first two having little relevance for the horse industry. Government inputs are relatively minor and industry spending tends to be tangential to the sector. Individual spending is certainly a factor, but since horses are considered a luxury item, general spending may not be the best indicator of where we are.*

So, as we look to an ever more uncertain future perhaps we should consider developing our own GDP statistic, at least as an indicator of past performance if not a window to the future.

What large-scale activities might be included? If we were to replace 'government' with 'institutional' spending then International (FEI), National (NSO) and regional organizations might be reasonable equivalents. These organizations tax participants and, to a certain extent, redistribute those funds to support activities according to some master plan. The Industrial component will be very hard to replace.

So, to continue with this line of thought, imagine if we had generated this statistic for say the last twenty years. We might have some measure (beyond survival) of the resilience of the horse breeding sector. We might have been able to provide breeders with information on the size and direction of their market segments. Perhaps it would assist in developing strategies for our 'governments' to grow the sector as a whole. In fact, how does one develop a strategic plan without data? And, in hard times how does one initiate a Plan B, if there was no Plan A!

Instead, we harvested small pockets of information and kept it in silos with little long-term value. This approach has led to a fractured sector requiring ever higher levels of investment for similar or diminished returns.

I would like to call out my own organization, the WBFSH, to redouble its efforts in building information bridges, in providing cogent analysis of the data it collects, and together with its partners to develop the infrastructure that will enable us to create a long-term strategy for sector growth.

Elsewhere in the August issue, WBN correspondent Celia Clarke has polled sector-leading experts for their view of the future. Of course, opinions varied, but generally they were positive about the survival of the breeding industry well into the future. On the other hand, this was sur-

vival, not growth, and the comments did not provide this reader with an impression of a thriving breeding sector for elite sport. There was an undertone suggesting the recreational market might be an opportunity for growth. This seems like sound reasoning, but it must be speculation since I am unaware of data that monitors the activities of the recreational sector, nor of the type of product that would appeal to this sector.

Monitoring recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be achieved using the metrics contained in the GDP. This is known to be disconnected from the recovery of individuals impacted by an economic downturn. It is likely also disconnected from the response of our industry.

For the international sport sector, perhaps there will be little medium-term impact (since gate revenues are not a large factor). Venues will solve the social distancing among competitors, relatively easily in elite equestrian sport, and life will go on.

Local and regional venues will probably not be able to solve the problems as easily. The investments required in order to follow public health guidelines may not be available and so we may see a decline in activity at this level. Fewer participants means fewer transactions and a reduction in the general liquidity of the horse retail market. So, while it is important that the marquis events get back on track, it is equally important that the gymkhanas, secondary services, and hobby breeders don't disappear from the industry.

**THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS!**

**Edward Kendall**  
**Executive Committee Director**  
**World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses**

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



# BRIEFS

**Oldenburg Stallion Days without audience:** The Oldenburg Stallion Days from November 19 to 21 in the Oldenburg Horse Center Vechta will take place this year due to the current Corona requirements without an audience. Therefore, there will be no ticket sales. However, you have the opportunity to follow the Oldenburg Stallion Days with all the highlights via livestream, and you will find all the updated news about the Oldenburg Stallion Days on the Oldenburger homepage under [www.oldenburger-pferde.com](http://www.oldenburger-pferde.com). Register your stallion easily and conveniently online for the pre-selection. The selection dates for the Springpferdezuchtverband Oldenburg-International (OS) take place from October 6 to 8. The dates for the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes (OL) are on October 9, 10 and October 12. You can find the registration form on our homepage under [www.oldenburger-pferde.com](http://www.oldenburger-pferde.com). If you have any questions, please contact Dr. André Hahn on Tel. +49(0)4441-935595 or at [hahn.andre@oldenburger-pferde.com](mailto:hahn.andre@oldenburger-pferde.com).

**Nelson Pessoa, a living legend of modern equestrianism,** was a brilliant rider, with more than 200 victories in the most important Grand Prix and derbys around the world during a 40-year career. Since retiring from the saddle, he has devoted himself to coaching, although many people may be unaware that Nelson Pessoa has had a successful passion for breeding. Seizing opportunities and the retirement of competition mares he has ridden or trained, he has genetically crossed them with his own stallions or those of his students. Consider Galoubet A, Baloubet du Rouet, and many others, alongside outstanding mares that have created a legacy for Pessoa breeding. Passionate about every project to which he commits, it has now been four years since Nelson Pessoa gathered together a group of breeding investors. Now over 84 years old, Nelson Pessoa's motivation is embedded in training, so he's decided to bow out of breeding in 2020. The 'Pessoa Auction' therefore represents the culmination of his breeding enterprise, and the opportunity for interested buyers to start theirs, to expand their bloodlines, acquire promising young horses, or a performer ready to win in the competition arena. The sales catalogue revolves mainly around a foundation mare who will also be available: Pandora (Kannan) who has won 1m55 classes. Pandora's eldest son, Ze Carioca, a nine-year-old approved stallion by Canturo, participated in the Winter Equestrian Festival this spring under the saddle of Rodrigo Pessoa. Ze Carioca's younger brother, the six-year-old approved stallion El London King, is a sublime copy of his sire, London, and has also enjoyed a series of successes. Cornetina, daughter of the sister of two champions, Divine Sensation by Diamant de Sémilly, is a three-year-old filly who will also attract great attention. Cornetino, a son of Cornet Obolensky out of Pandora, is a stallion candidate this year. Tinkabell, a 15-year-old mare who carried Rodrigo Pessoa in 1m60 classes will be sold, followed by a colt of the year by Ze Carioca. Bella Baloubette, Eleonore, Ginseng and Jigaro are six- to 11-year-old mares and geldings ready for the competition arena and complete the auction alongside youngsters still in breeding. The sale will take place online on September 14 and 15, 2020 on the web platform [www.pessoa-auction.com](http://www.pessoa-auction.com). You are invited to join Nelson Pessoa and other guests for the final 'live' hour of the 'Pessoa Auction' on September 15 at 8:30 pm. "During my career, I have always been interested in breeding and genetics. I love all of these horses, bar none. My desire is not to sell at all costs, but to sell to the right person." Contacts: Florence Montois: +32 473 21 53 09; Michaël Dorigo: +32 496 25 49 49; [info@pessoa-auction.com](mailto:info@pessoa-auction.com)/[www.pessoa-auction.com](http://www.pessoa-auction.com)

**In the blazing heat of the Verden dressage arena,** Hannover's best three- and four-year-olds were recently crowned. It was a neck-and-neck race in the class for three-year-old stallions, when the impressive Va'Pensiero (Vitalis x Fürstenball, bred by Zuchthof Düvel) collected scores of 9.00 and above throughout, with Hannah Laser in his saddle, and was finally awarded for this great performance with the yellow and white winning sash. Only short by one-tenth of a point came Rockabye, a son of Revolution x Belstaff, bred in Denmark by Sally Hjort. With his rider Sina Aringer, the bay achieved the highest score of the day with a maximum 10 for his canter. Bred by Joline Durand, Rock Festival (Rock Forever x Fürstenball, Rock Festival won the Hannoveraner Championships for three-year old mares and geldings with great ease, with his breeder taking the opportunity to present her powerful and athletic bay in the Verden dressage ring herself. Vice champion was Bond Street (Bon Coeur x Don Index), bred by Harry Heitmann less

than 10 kilometres from the show ground. The big-framed chestnut, with his impressive canter, was ridden by Friederike Tebbel. He does it again: Dancier (Dancier x Floriscourt), bred by ZG Broers and Weber, Aurich, collected top scores with rider Eva Möller and became champion of four-year-old stallions. He thus repeated his previous year's victory in the three-year-old class. The expressive black stallion received an even 10 for his canter and training. Vice champion was Bon Courage (Bon Coeur x Vivaldi). Bred by Dr. Christine Feichtinger, he was perfectly presented by Jessica Lynn Thomas. The most striking appearance in the class of four-year-old mares and geldings was Tom Jones KR (Tomahawk x Donnerhall), bred by Dr. Ulrich Kriebel. The bay, shown by Nicole Vater, is equipped with a tremendous canter and his dam, Dorata K, once represented Hannover's colours at the Bundeschampionat. In silver by the smallest fraction came Flintstone (Fürst Romancier x Angard) for breeder Kathrin Schuchardt. The bay, with Louise Noergaard Jesen in the saddle, was part of the dressage collection at the Elite Auction last October.



*Champion 3yo stallion: Va'Pensiero (Vitalis x Fürstenball, bred by Zuchthof Düvel)*

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# Two Thoroughbreds that shaped today's sport horses

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

GRAPHICS: GEMMA ALEXANDER

*Precipitation was born in 1933 and died in 1957, Bay Ronald was born in 1893 and died in 1907, and yet these two stallions are still influential today in the world of sport horses, and it seems their influence is getting stronger as the two lines become more and more entwined...*

Almost anyone who has even the faintest knowledge of jumping bloodlines knows the names Precipitation and Bay Ronald, but what is perhaps a little more surprising is the way these two have shaped modern dressage breeding in tandem; and what started out as a survey of two separate stallion lines became much more interesting in the process of researching the story.

Precipitation has had an enormous influence on dressage breeding mainly through his son, the French Thoroughbred, Furioso. Furioso's son Furioso II is the most influential stallion in modern sport horse breeding full stop, but let's not forget Furioso II's full-brother, Mexico, who stayed in France where he sired, Le Mexico who went to the Netherlands where his greatest influence has been in the dressage arena: Ferro, Negro, Rhodium, Rousseau, Blue Hors Zack and Ampère.

Why is Furioso II the most influential stallion of them all? In jumping, think, For Pleasure, Voltaire (sire of Concorde and Kannan), in dressage, Purioso, Cocktail, Jazz, Florestan, Fidermark, Florencio, Fidertanz, Foundation...

One of the most popular dressage sires in Germany Escolar, carries the blood of both Precipitation and Bay Ronald and this is a pattern we will observe again and again.

Escolar is by Estobar NRW, whose dam Florence is by Ferragamo, a grandson of Furioso II out of Florabelle, by Florestan, another grandson. There is more Furioso II on Escolar's dam, Firah Dinah L by Fürst Piccolo by Fidermark by Florestan. To underscore the dialectic of the two Thoroughbred foundation sires, Firah Dinah L's dam, Samira is by Sion, who carries three crosses of our other hero, Bay Ronald, one cross of Furioso xx himself, and there is even a grand-daughter of Precipitation, that does not come through Furioso xx.

When Gemma checked Foundation's pedigree back 16 generations she found that Bay Ronald appeared 40 times, and Precipitation twice.

The English Thoroughbred, Precipitation was the winner of seven races out of 10 starts. According to *Thoroughbred Breeding of the World*, edited by Rainer L. Ahnert: "He then won many long-distance races against the best in the land, crowning his distinguished career with a triumph in the Gold Cup at Ascot."

No doubt the most important son of Precipitation in the breeding of performance horses, has been Furioso. Unlike his sire, Furioso was a failure on the track – zero wins in 21 starts – but became a fabulous sire of jumping horses in France, with his son, Lutteur B, winning the showjumping individual gold medal at the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games. As we will see, the influence of Furioso is still strong in Germany and Holland and, if anything, getting stronger.

It was in Germany that the Furioso son, Furioso II would establish a dynasty that continues to dominate in showjumping and dressage to this day..

## *Furioso II*

Furioso II was out of the great Selle Francais mare, Dame de Renville, who produced a series of wonderful horses when mated with Furioso. The first of these was Mexico, who sired 20 approved sons, 20 dams of stallions, and famous international showjumping horses, including Laeken, Jexico de Parc and Heur de Bratand, while standing at the French National Stud of Le Pin. We have already noted the influence of his son, Le Mexico in the Netherlands.

Furioso II was imported to Oldenburg by master breeder Georg Vorwerk. He was attractive to the Oldenburg breeders as they wanted a half-blood stallion to help make the transformation of their mares to more modern lines, without too much direct Thoroughbred blood. Furioso II stood at Georg Vorwerk's stud in Cappeln from 1968 to 1985. He was leased to Zangersheide in 1986, and died in Belgium, that year.

It would seem he was exceptionally potent. Dr Roland Ramsauer had just started work at the Oldenburg Verband when Furioso II was in his prime, and tells a good story: "When I started he was five or six years old and he was very successful. At that time, he was covering 450 mares per season, natural covering! I was a university student at the time, and the professor told me, with natural serving, a stallion can cover a maximum of 200 mares. I said, 'Mr Professor, I am sorry but I know a stallion that covers over 450 mares'. He said, 'I don't believe that'. 'Then I will invite you to come to the station of Mr. Vorwerk and there you can see that Furioso covers for the first time in the morning, at

five o'clock, at eight o'clock, for the second time, and twelve o'clock, the third time. Three o'clock in the afternoon for the fourth time and seven o'clock in the evening for the fifth time, in the main season, May, June, July'. The professor saw it for himself, unbelievable, then Mr. Vorwerk said, 'let's go to the dining room and have a Schnapps'. The whole day, and up till the next morning, they were drinking and talking about Furioso and how he was found in France."

A brave Professor, indeed, as Mr. Vorwerk's schnapps drinking was as legendary as his skill as a horse breeder...

"There is another story. When I had been the breeding director for six months, I met Dr. Lehmann, the Director from Westfalia, and a very intelligent, well-educated man. He said to me, 'Herr Ramsauer, you are a nice man, and I will tell you one thing, how can you breed with this stallion who belongs in the zoological gardens, Furioso II?' I said, 'Dr Lehmann, that is not your job, that is my job and we believe that we can be successful with the breed of Furioso II, that will be the success of the Oldenburger'. And then, I think eighteen years later, there was Florestan, the big stallion in Westfalia, and I said, 'Oh, Dr Lehmann you are breeding with this zoological stallion from France and you get Florestan, what do you think about that?' He said, 'Florestan, that's another story'. I said 'it's not another story, it's a grand-son of Furioso II'. Then he stopped talking about zoological things."

◆ What was it about Furioso II that made him great? There were a number of horses that came from France at that time, but only two of them, Cor de la Bryère and Furioso, worked, and there must have been another 15 to 20 that disappeared?

"You're right, that was our problem too, to find another stallion after Furioso II. Vorwerk and I, we were traveling every year to France looking for stallions, and we tried three or four but they were not successful. Only Furioso II, with his Thoroughbred sire line, that fitted our breed so successfully."

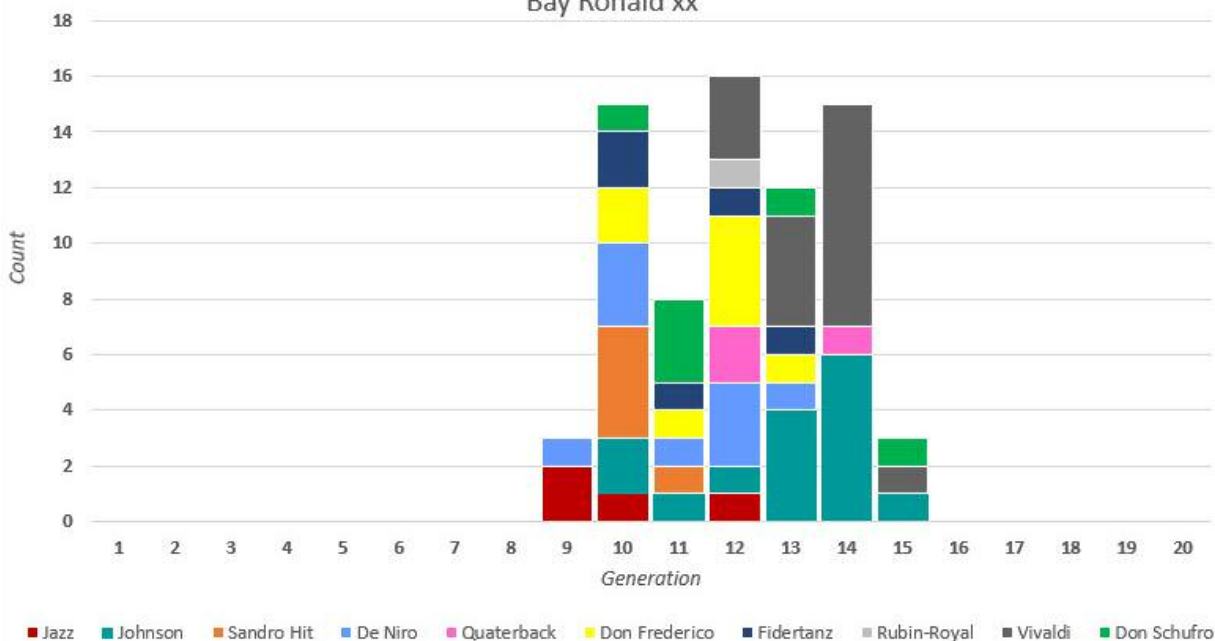
◆ What did he give?

"He gave everything. Performance, for showjumping horses, for dressage horses, three-day event horses. Mr Vorwerk, he was a genius, if he had not been there, I think Oldenburg might have gone to merge with Hanover, but he said, Oldenburg is Oldenburg and Furioso is Furioso, and he and Inshallah, the Anglo Arab, they are Oldenburg. The smart thing he did was that he had breeders around him, and they all had excellent mares, and he said, 'you never sell a filly, you keep it, and I will organize the next generation for you'. And the breeders believed him, and that is why he was so successful. They believed in him when he said, you have to change, go to Inshallah, go to Westminster, you go to Furioso. They believed the words of this outstanding breeder, Mr Vorwerk."

Initially Furioso II was mainly influential as the sire of jumping horses and for many years was ranked in the top three sires of leading money winners in Germany. His showjumping stars included: FBI (with Thomas Frühmann), Heissman (ridden by Eric van der Vleuten, then Michael Matz) and For Pleasure (Lars Nieberg and Marcus Ehning), but Furioso II had winners in all disciplines.

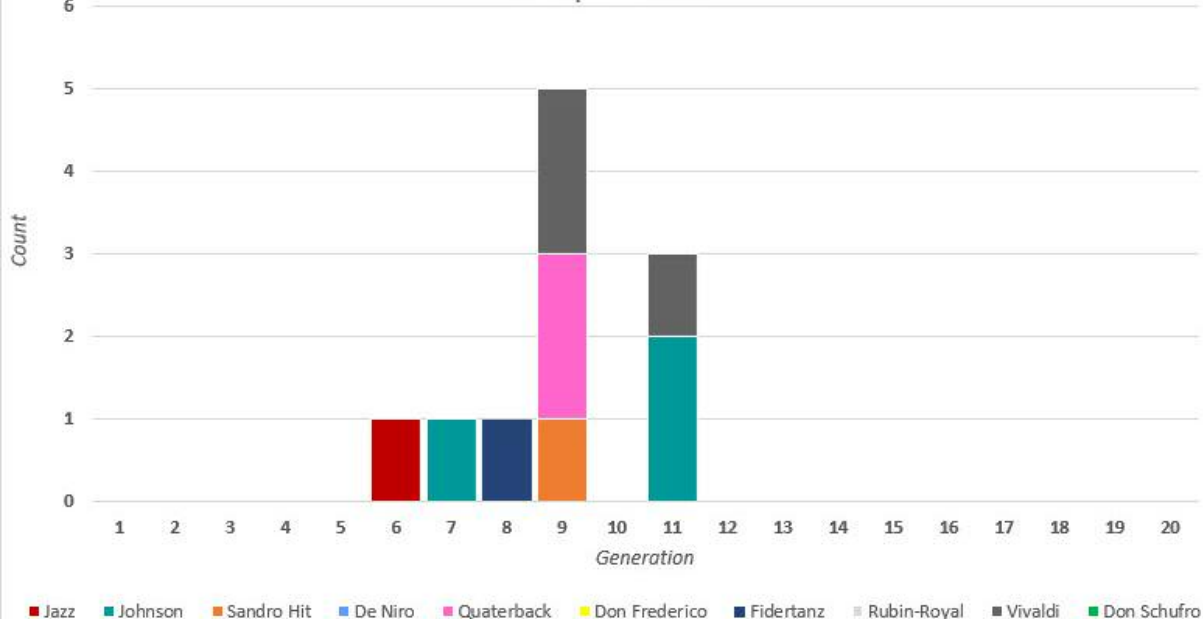
Although For Pleasure has been a hugely successful jumping sire in Germany (alas more as a sire of competitors

WBFSH Top 10 Dressage Sires  
Bay Ronald xx





## WBFSH Top 10 Dressage Sires Precipitation xx



than a sire of sires), as has another son in Holland, Voltaire, who has proven an excellent sire of sires, in recent years the attention has shifted to the dressage arena, thanks largely to Furioso II's Westfalian grandson, Florestan, sire of a string of excellent sons, most notably Fidemark, and grandsons – Farewell, Fidertanz, Falsterbo – and indeed the most popular German stallion of recent times, the great grandson, Foundation.

Charlotte Dujardin's current star, Mount St John Freestyle is a case in point. Her sire, Fidermark combines the two, Precipitation through Florestan and Bay Ronald through the damsire, Werther who has two crosses of Bay Ronald through his damsire, Marcio. Freestyle is out of a Donnerhall mare, and Donnerhall has three crosses of Bay Ronald, while also on the dam line we find more Bay Ronald, through Werther and Atatürk, who has two crosses of Bay Ronald.

We find the same mix in Foundation. The young stallion is a great-great-great-grandson of Furioso II, while Foundation's sire, Fidertanz, on his dam's side goes to Bay Ronald through Ravallo, a grandson of Ramiro, who is out of a Cottage Son xx mare and Cottage Son is a great-great-grandson of Bay Ronald. Foundation's dam is a great-granddaughter of Donnerhall, and Donnerwetter the sire of Donnerhall, has two crosses of Bay Ronald thanks to his dam Melli's great grandsire, Marcio xx.

In the Netherlands it has been Le Mexico who spread the Precipitation blood to the dressage arena, mainly through his son Ulft, the sire of Ferro, who in turn is the sire of Negro, sire of Valegro, and Rousseau, sire of Blue Hors Zack.

Blue Hors Zack's sire Rousseau is a great-grandson of Le Mexico, while his dam, Zsuzsa traces on her damline to Anblick xx, who was out of a Dark Ronald mare. Zack's dam is by Jazz, that most influential of Furioso II's great-grandsons, while Purioso, the Furioso II son, who brought the line to the Netherlands, is out of a mare by Martell – a great-grandson of Dark Ronald. Jazz's sire, Cocktail was out of a mare by Le Val Blanc xx by Val de Loir xx, out of Vali, a grand-daughter of Jock II xx, who is a grandson of Teddy out of a grand-daughter of Bayardo, two of the more important transmitters of Bay Ronald blood. Once again Precipitation and Bay Ronald combine to create the most influential of all the Dutch dressage stallions, Jazz – sire of Johnson, Olivi and Tango – along with scores of successful dressage competitors.

Current flavour of the month, Vivaldi, is by Krack C, whose sire, Flemmingh is a grandson of Lacapo, who is out of Larsa, by Capitano, a grandson of Cottage Son xx, so once again, Bay Ronald combines with Precipitation, since Vivaldi's damline is concentrated Furioso, his dam is by Jazz out of an Ulft mare...

### *Bay Ronald – the other side of the equation*

It is almost impossible to imagine the modern Holsteiner without the influence of Bay Ronald, think Son in Law xx, Ladykiller xx, Cottage Son xx. But he too has been influential in dressage, in Germany, think Woermann, Werther, Weltmeyer, Donnerhall, Lauries Crusador xx, even Breitling who has Bay Ronald on top and bottom, by Bolero but out of a grand-daughter of Der Löwe.

By the hurdler Hampton, Bay Ronald raced for four

years, and more than paid his way. A winner of the Lowther Stakes, the Limekiln Stakes, the City and Suburban Handicap and, at the age of five, the Epsom Cup. Described as a useful handicap horse, he was a sensation at stud, founding a line that still flourishes. His most influential sons were Bayardo, Dark Ronald (sire of Son In Law) and MacDonald II.

But before his worth could be proven, Bay Ronald was sold to France for £5,000 where his career as a sire really bloomed. In France he sired the mare Rondeau, dam of Teddy – one of the most important influences in Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, and the USA.

In Germany, we regularly find both Teddy and Dark Ronald, often on dressage pedigrees. Take the pedigree of Donnerwetter, the sire of Donnerhall. His dam, Melli is by Matador (Marconi x Marcio xx x Aventin xx x Teddy xx, and Aventin's dam's sire is Dark Ronald!) and out of Lilli by Der Löwe whose dam, Lehnsherrin xx is by Herold xx by Dark Ronald. World Cup I (and his brothers II-IV) is by Woermann whose dam, Mandat is by Marabou xx x Oleander xx x Prunus xx x Dark Ronald. World Cup's dam is Sendernixe out of Lünenixe by Lugano I by Der Löwe.

Or another of the great modern sires of the Hanoverian breed, Werther who is out of Meisterkrone by Marcio xx – once again two crosses of Bay Ronald in the breeding of Marcio's sire Aventin.

One of the most influential stallions in the transformation of the Holsteiner from work horse in the fields to sporting star, has been Ladykiller xx. Ladykiller is by Sailing Light whose dam, Solar Cygnet is by Hyperion, by

Gainsborough by Bayardo – while Ladykiller's dam, Lone Beech is by Fartuch by Apron by Son in Law by Dark Ronald.

Another of the Thoroughbreds that transformed the Holstein breed was Cottage Son by Young Lover, by Son In Law by Dark Ronald.

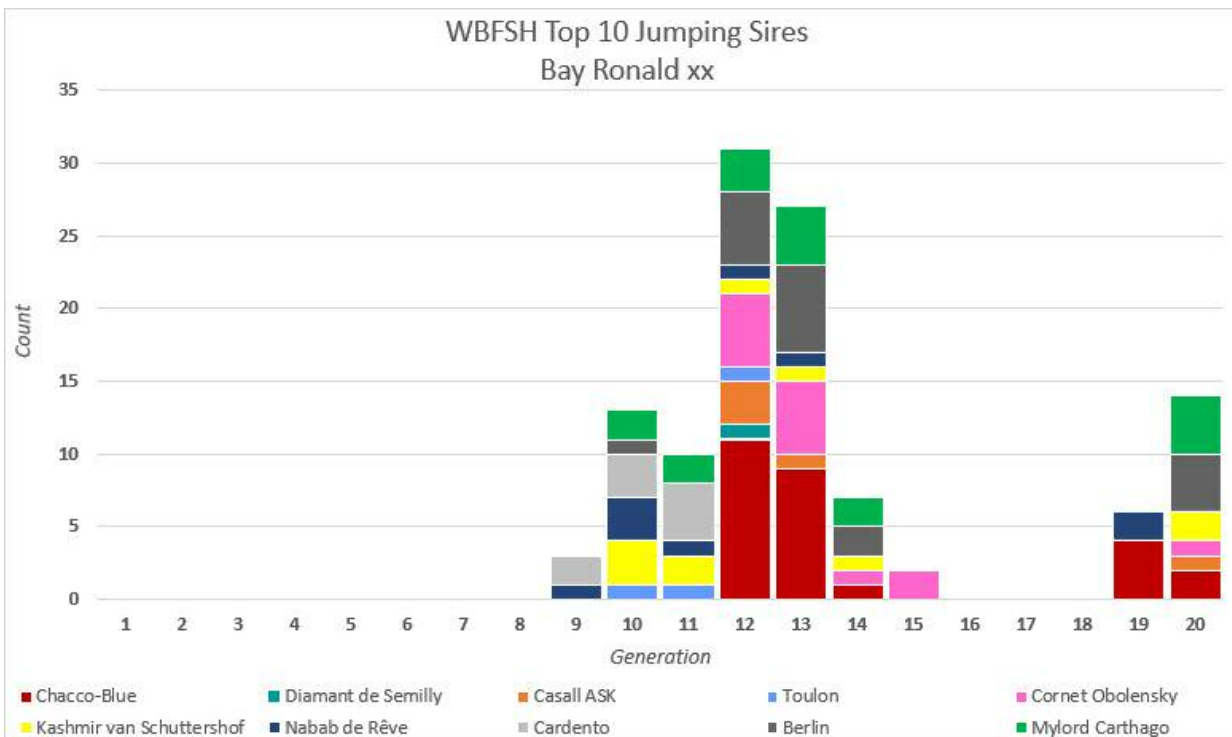
In more recent times there was the great jumping sire, Capitol I by Capitano (Corporal x Cottage Son xx) and out of Folia, who is by the Manometer xx son, Maximus. Maximus has three crosses of Bay Ronald.

It was through one of his British-born sons, Son In Law, that Dark Ronald was to dominate the bloodlines of the sport horse world. Son In Law was described as a plodding middle-distance horse, but he became known as a sire of slow maturing horses of great stamina.

Three of the most important sires in modern Holstein breeding trace to Son In Law: a grandson, Cottage Son, Ladykiller (though his second dam), and Cor de la Bryère whose sire, Rantzau is a great-grandson of Son In Law, but his dam, Quenotte carries the blood of Precipitation through her sire Lurioso and his sire Furioso.

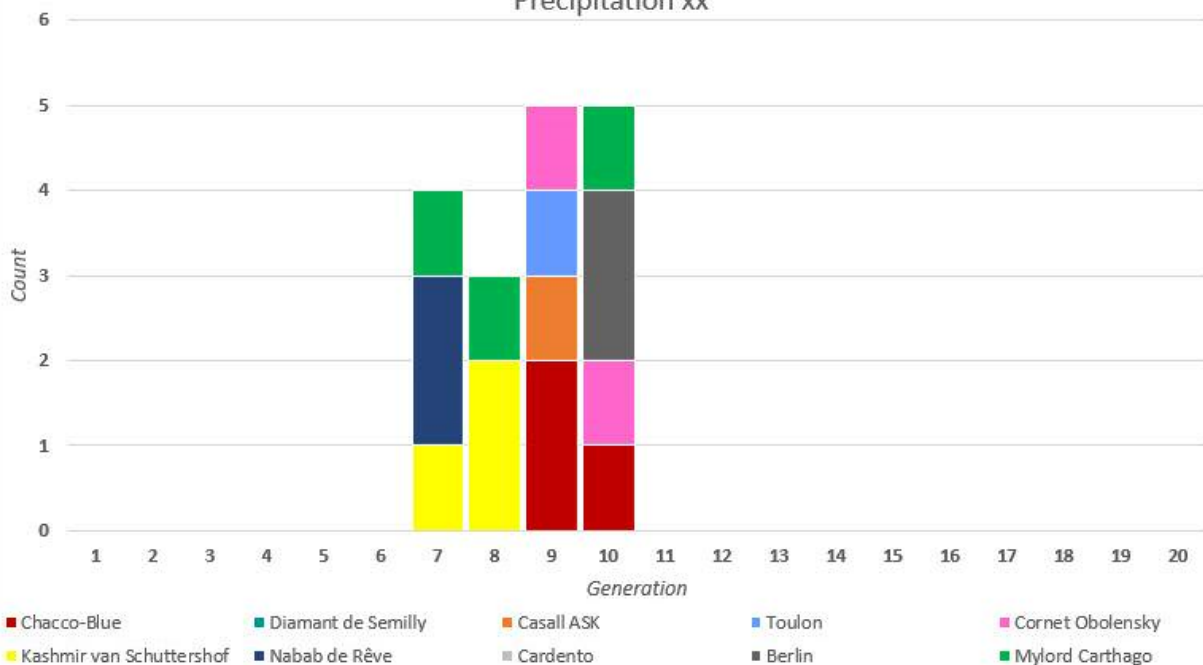
Son In Law's influence in the showjumping ring spread to New Zealand, Australia, and the United States through his son Beau Pere. As a racehorse Beau Pere was a real plodder, starting his career as a three-year-old, winning once, and at four winning two of four starts for lifetime earnings of just over £1,000. In his first two foal crops he produced six foals, of which two were relatively minor winners.

According to that excellent website, *Thoroughbred Heritage*: "Beau Pere was an imposing individual. He stood well over 17 hands and was broad as a bull, a physique with





## WBFSH Top 10 Jumping Sires Precipitation xx



unusual consequences. When he arrived in Kentucky by train, he would not fit in the horse van and had to be walked the few miles out to Combs' Spendthrift Farm outside of Lexington. Beau Pere was an unrefined individual with a thick neck, rather low withers (like his sire), and a long body. Photos also indicate that his pasterns were extremely upright.”

Beau Pere was sold to New Zealand for £500 where he was an instant success, topping the leading sire list twice after just three seasons. He was sold to Australia, where he was leading sire three seasons in a row. Beau Pere was purchased by Hollywood mogul, Louis B. Mayer and exported to California, where his daughter, Iron Reward, was dam of the brilliant Swaps.

Through his sons and daughters, Beau Pere influenced American showjumping. Mary Chapot's White Lightning was by the Beau Pere grandson, Grey Tower. Katie Monahan's jumper, Encore is out of Shirlee Steel, by the Beau Pere son, Polished Steel (Shirlee Steel is also the dam of Kerry Milikin's eventer, Landlady). Beau Pere's son Doctrine sired Sundancer (twice a winner of the American Invitational) and his full brothers, Easy Doc (a member of the Canadian equestrian team) and British team member, Turn on the Sun. Doctrine's daughter, Mity Doc, produced international showjumpers, Revlon Adam, and full-brother, Mity Wind, exported to Europe and licensed by Studbook Zangersheide.

Looking to the breeding of one of the current stars of Studfarm Zangersheide, Dominator 2000 Z, and once again we find the rich legacy of Bay Ronald. Dominator is by Diamant de Sémilly, a grandson of the influential Grand

Veneur, whose pedigree features four crosses of Bay Ronald. There is another cross, through Teddy on the pedigree of Diamant's dam, Venise des Cresles.

Dominator is out of the Holsteiner mare, Cephale who is by Cassini I, who is a great grandson of Corporal by Cottage Sun. Capitol is out of Folia by Maximus who carries a cross of Teddy and a cross of Dark Ronald.

Then we have Cor de la Bryère, out of Quinette by Lurioso by Furioso xx. Corde is by Rantzau, and on his papers we find all those familiar names – Son in Law, Teddy, Bayardo and Bay Ronald .

Cephale is out of a mare by Franklin, not a household name, but very much the mix we are looking at. Franklin is a great-grandson of Sparker, who has one cross of Teddy, three of Bayardo, and one of Precipitation. Franklin's grandsire Abendfrieden carries another cross of Bay Ronald, through the Dark Ronald son, Herold. Franklin's sire Feenspross, is out of a mare by Dschingis Khan by the influential Neckar by Ticino, by Dark Ronald. Franklin is out of Celia V by Caretino, more Bay Ronald, and Precipitation through Caletto II by Cor de la Bryère, out of Dekka by Consul by Cottage Son. Franklin's granddam is by Lavello by Lord (Ladykiller x Cottage Son), then there is another cross of Corde on the bottom line of the pedigree. Dominator's great-granddam, Imandra III rounds out the picture with more Cor de la Bryère and Cottage Son, through the stallion, Convent.

Gemma Alexander examined Dominator's pedigree back 16 generations and found that Bay Ronald appeared 61 times, and Precipitation five times.



**XV** FESTIVAL NACIONAL  
DO CAVALO BRASILEIRO  
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**NOVEMBER  
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In Hannover the influence of Dark Ronald has been strong. The influential Thoroughbred sire, Der Löwe, is out of a daughter of Herold, by the Dark Ronald son, Dark Legend. Another daughter of Herold, produced Abendfrieden, sire of Pik As, sire of Pik König.

In 1905, bred to Galicia, Bay Ronald produced Bayardo – who was the sire of consecutive winners of the English Triple Crown – Gay Crusader (1917), and Gainsborough (1918), who was the sire of Hyperion. So small was Hyperion that he was almost gelded, fully grown he was just 15.1½ hh but it didn't stop him on the racetrack where he won the Derby in record time and the St Leger. He was equally successful at stud, where he was ranked amongst the top-10 sires for 16 years.

Hyperion's influence on the jumping world has been huge in the United States, where his son Heliopolis was twice leading sire of racehorses. The great showjumper, Jet Run was out of a mare by Heliopolis' son, Heliodorus. Heliopolis' son, Grey Eagle, was the sire of A Little Bit, a silver medalist at the Pan American Games.

Another Hyperion son, Khaled, has through his sons, sired the jumpers, Black Market and Encore (winner of the Grand Prix at Fontainebleau and a USET team member). Khaled's most important son was the Derby winner Swaps, whose pedigree boasts two branches of the Bay Ronald line, through Khalad and also through his dam, Iron Reward, a daughter of Beau Pere. Swaps's son, Kudu sired the Canadian equestrian team horse, Stoic. Tudor Success, dam of Anne Kursinski's Olympic horse, Eros, was by the Swaps son Marbrino.

Another Hyperion son, Owen Tudor xx has been influential in performance horse circles right around the world. The Owen Tudor daughter, Idealist foaled Compromise, the sire of the Dutch jumping stallion, Lucky Boy xx. The Owen Tudor son, Abernant xx sired the USET jumper, Aberali, winner of the puissance at Aachen. Abernant also sired Abgar xx, another major jumping sire in Dutch breeding. Abgar has another Bay Ronald cross on his dam's side, she is by the Djebel son, Roc du Diable xx. Abgar also sired Pion, whose son Aktion was a dressage star for Gylla Dallos. Abgar was also important as a broodmare sire, particularly when they were bred to his stablemate, Joost. The cross of Ramiro over an Abgar mare produced the stallions, Zeoliet, Armstrong and Rolando.

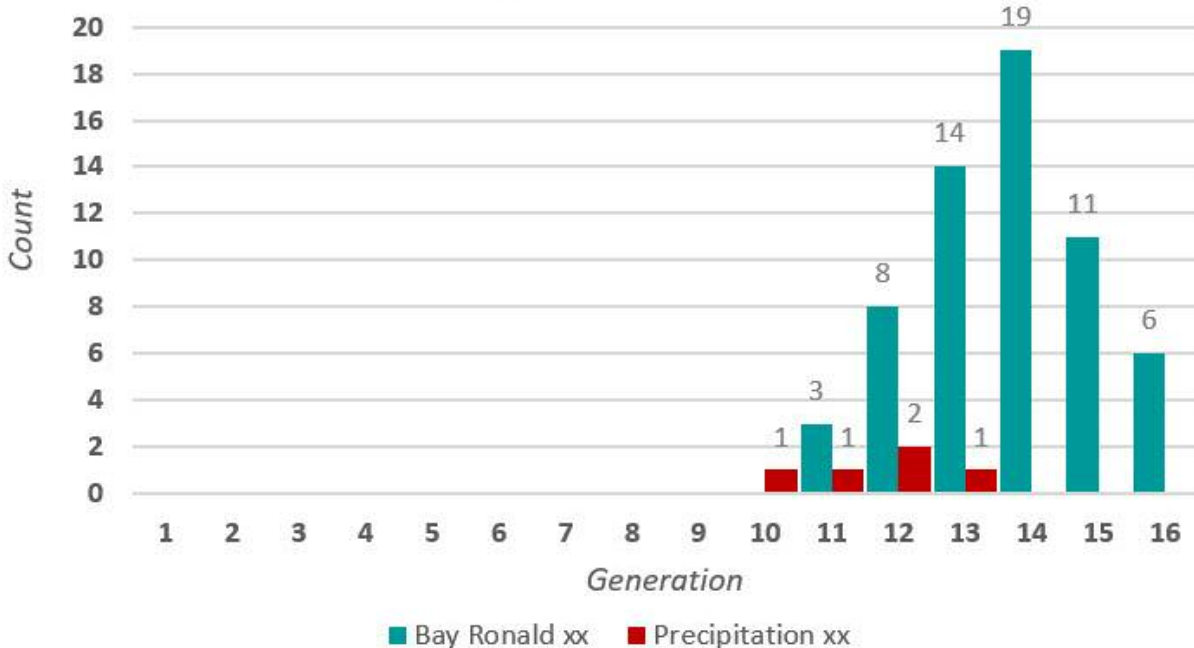
In Australia, the most successful eventing breeder has been Bud Hyem, whose broodmare, Sandrift, is the dam of Olympic gold medal winners, Kibah Tic Toc, and Kibah Sandrift. Sandrift is by Big Hat by High Hat by Hyperion. Big Hat is out of Gay Natasha by Prince Chevalier by Prince Rose who is out of the Bayardo granddaughter, Indolence. Gay Natasha is out of First Blush by Bobsleigh who is by Gainsborough, by Bayardo by Bay Ronald.

Sandrif is out of Drift by Beau Gift by the Melbourne Cup winning stallion, Marabou, who is out of Vivandiere, by Bucks Hussar by Son In Law.

Owen Tudor's son, Tudor Minstrel xx is the sire of Lauries Crusador xx, an extremely important 'refining' sire in Hannover, and a producer of real dressage talent.

Another influential horse on many performance pedigrees is the French stallion, Djebel xx. Djebel was the

### Dominator 2000 Z



champion two-year-old in France, leading money winner at three and five, and was three times leading French Thoroughbred stallion. Djebel's dam Loika xx is by Gay Crusader by Bayardo out of Coeur a Coeur by Teddy.

Djebel is the great-great-grand sire of the influential Hanoverian dressage stallion, Bolero (by Black Sky xx x Blast xx x Djebe xx x Djebel xx). Bolero returns the Dark Ronald line on his dam's side also, being out of Baronesse by Bleep xx who is out of the Hyperion mare, The Satellite xx. Bolero's influence was on the wane for a while but has come back with a vengeance thanks to Breitling and Belissimo, two

of the more important dressage sires of modern times. Indeed, Breitling has been the leading sire of Grand Prix horses despite only covering a handful of mares.

Or let's look at Isabell Werth's superstar, Bella Rose. She is by Belissimo by Beltain, with Bolero on the top line and additionally Bay Ronald on his dam side with a cross of Marcio. We can even locate lots of Bay Ronald blood in the pedigree of Bella's damsire, the French Anglo Arab, Cacique, with six crosses of Bay Ronald.

So profound has been the influence of Bay Ronald that it is almost a relief when you find a jumping pedigree that

<b>JUMPING SIRE</b>		<b>GENE</b>							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Chacco-Blue</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Diamant de Semilly</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Casall ASK</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Toulon</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cornet Obolensky</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kashmir van Schuttershof</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Nabab de Rêve</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Cardento</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Berlin</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mylord Carthago</b>									
	Bay Ronald xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Precipitation xx	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1



does not feature his name. He is certainly one of the most influential jumping progenitors of all time!

It might also be worth pointing out that while at the height of the WFFS hysteria – which thankfully seems to have almost completely disappeared – the Westfalian Verband suggested Dark Ronald xx was potentially ‘patient zero’ for the genetic disease. In a paper published in June 2020, researchers Xuying Zhang, Marc Hirschfeld, Renate Schafberg, Hermann Swalve, and Bertram Brenig have now scientifically proven through DNA sampling that Dark Ronald xx is not the culprit, so his sire is in the clear.

Nena Winand, one of the U.S.A's leading researchers on WFFS commented on Eurodressage: “At least it is now proven that Dark Ronald and Son of Law were not the source of the mutation, which was proposed by German statisticians, who used a flawed analysis that didn't account for transmission via dams. That is a big issue with these types of computer analysis.”

It's a relief because if Bay Ronald was a WFFS carrier, and Facebook had been around in 1900, we might have lost half of the equation that has shaped the modern sporthorse! ■

## GENERATION

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0	0	0	11	9	1	0	0	0	0	4	2
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	5	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	2	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Revolutionary 14-day chilling for new semen extender

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER AND ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AND ROSLYN NEAVE

*University of Newcastle (Australia) scientist's Dr Zamira Gibb and Dr Aleona Swegen have spent upwards of eight years developing a revolutionary new method to preserve horse semen that allows it to live for up to two weeks post-collection at ambient temperatures.*

The processes of chilling and freezing sperm have many detrimental effects on its fertility, and once thawed there is only a very limited window of time in which insemination must take place before the sperm becomes unviable. This new medium has been given the moniker 'NEW' extender, as both a nod to the University of Newcastle, as well as the fact it is... well... new.

Dr Zamira Gibb's background is in animal science; while working at the University of Newcastle, the university was approached by Harness Racing Australia about doing some work on improving semen storage options. Their main concern was that the quality of Standardbred horses in Australia was lacking behind those in America and France, and other countries where the industry is stronger. The use of frozen semen had not been widely adopted by the harness racing community in Australia due to the high costs and poor fertility rates, so they had found that the most effective way of bringing in new genetics was to shuttle stallions from one continent to another. What they were hoping could be achieved was the development of a medium for preserving

sperm that was devoid of any biological components (egg yolk and skim milk are both common components of currently used semen extenders), as removing such biological components would reduce a number of issues faced in the importation of such a medium. And so, the project was born, with the aim of developing a medium in which sperm could be stored for longer periods of time without freezing, without compromising fertility, that was logistically simpler to use and that was devoid of any biological material (besides the sperm itself).

Dr Aleona Swegen is a veterinarian who was working in Australia's Hunter Valley when the opportunity came up for her to further her studies with the University of Newcastle. A key component of her PHD was looking at sperm metabolisms in stallions, and particular mechanisms that could be beneficial for sperm survival. Due to the potential benefits for the semen extender project, Dr Ally came on board with the study. A breakthrough came when they determined how to alter the semen metabolism in such a way that the sperm used up its energy more slowly, over a longer period of time. They continued to chip away at the research, and ended up with something with the potential to be quite transformative.

This was not the first time interested parties had attempted to chill sperm for longer periods of time, however with most previous attempts people were simply taking existing extenders and trying to chill it at different temperatures. This never turned out to be successful, as a number of the ingredients that are beneficial to the sperm at low temperatures turned out to be deleterious at higher temperatures.

Dr Zamira Gibb explains how they formulated their study: "We basically started with a very simple medium that you'd use in the lab for experiments, so something that sperm are supposed to be incubated at body temperature in, so similar to your IVF kind of medium, which was nothing like the sperm storage media (the commercial ones), but we basically just built on that, and did some boring but necessary empirical studies where we sort of go "right, it's got an



*Dr Aleona Swegen and Dr Zamira Gibb*

energy source in it, let's try all of the energy sources at a range of concentrations, and narrow it down".

It takes a lot of time to do that work but it's really necessary to get the right formulation at the end of the day. And we had a couple of really serendipitous findings, so a few of the ingredients that we thought would maybe do bad things to sperm, we found did good things to the sperm, so we were actually using them for different reasons, and found that they had completely different effects. And a lot of Ally's work was based around that. So, with the metabolism work, things we thought would inhibit metabolic pathways actually just made them live longer, so that was very useful!"

The extender has undergone a small amount of fertility trials, with larger-scale trials planned for the future in conjunction with a group of Standardbred breeders in Victoria, Australia. Based on the initial studies, fertility of semen using the new extender is seen to be on par with natural breeding conception rates, considerably higher than the average rates for artificial insemination using chilled or frozen sperm.

Dr Gibb explains how she would like the larger-scale fertility trials to go, pending funding: "In an ideal world we would like to compare frozen sperm with our medium, which would require splitting an ejaculate, freezing half and using our medium on the other, and using the same mare inseminated on a different cycle".

During trials, the sperm showed no decline in fertility from collection up until day nine or 10, and then it began a slow decline towards day 14, but by day 14 was still on average above required motility level parameters. This gives users considerably more flexibility in the timing of their inseminations, and requires less frequent collections on behalf of the stallion.

With the semen living longer, I felt compelled to ask whether they had seen an increase in twin pregnancies; Dr Gibb responded: "It's funny you should say that because we got a lot of twin pregnancies in our mini fertility trial. We had two mares with double ovulations and the both ended up with twin pregnancies. That could be really advantageous if you're flushing embryos".

This new medium should also be beneficial for those stallions whose semen has not responded well to chilling or freezing by traditional methods; Dr Swegen explains: "There are certainly things about chilling and the effects of temperature dropping that have negative implements on the



*Helen Chugg with a young Vivant in New Zealand*

sperm, and there are stallions that don't tolerate that very well. And in addition to it just being a different storage medium, there are lots of factors that we have thrown at this medium that generally improve the fertility of the sperm".

Costs for inseminating will be roughly equivalent to current costs of artificial insemination with fresh or chilled sperm; transportation costs are also considered to be roughly the same. The cost of the extender itself is expected to be approximately double that of a fresh semen extender, however this cost is nominal in the breeding process. Due to the increased longevity of the semen, the logistical advantages of requiring less collections and shipments will also provide an economic benefit for breeders.

### *Mitigating transportation issues*

Transporting semen at ambient temperatures rather than being cryopreserved does increase the likelihood that bacteria or disease may also be able to survive; Dr Swegen explains the measures taken to ensure that this risk is mitigated: "The quarantine measures that are generally in place across Europe, and especially Australia, largely takes care of that. So, before a stallion goes in to a licenced collection centre he has to have tested negative for certain things.

"Also what we are hoping for is a system of processing where in order to be able to use this medium you have to be able to process the semen in a specific way before you put it in the medium, and that is partly because if you are going to have cells like sperm survive for such a long time in the medium, you may have other things surviving in there as well



like bacteria, and because of that we have additional steps in the process to prevent that happening, like centrifuging on a density gradient for example. So that part of the process, it doesn't get rid of everything but it does go a long way towards reducing the bacterial and viral loads that might be in a sample. And I suppose from a biosecurity perspective the other advantage is that it is free of any other external biological components like skim milk or egg yolk, and that actually makes it really bio-security friendly because a lot of the bio-security issues do come from those external things which may not even have anything to do with an equine pathogen, but may be found in those external components. So that probably gives it an advantage, and then it will be up to the regulatory bodies in each country to decide what sort of protocols are going to be in place for import and export. There is also an antibiotic component to the extender, and the pre-processing steps also aid in reducing pathogens".

Despite the new medium being completely synthetic, there were no adverse reactions seen in any of the mares during the fertility trials.

The key difference between this semen extender and those previously used, apart from the significantly increased longevity of the sperm, is that it is transported and stored at ambient rather than chilled temperatures.

Dr Gibb explains: "We found that the sperm stores best being held at 17 degrees, current methods of chilled semen are usually just chilled with an ice brick, so in the range of around two to 10 degrees. Pig semen is shipped at 17 degrees, so there are containers available, but they all require an external power source. What we have been using are the Equitainers, they make an oocyte shipping model that is supposed to hold temperatures at 18 degrees or similar. So we just use a wine fridge that we can set at 17 degrees, and store the cans in that, then we transfer them to the Equitainer and ship them in that, and then when they get to the other end, take them out and put them into your 17 degree fridge. So, it will require some small upgrades to infrastructure. Another option for shipping would be using thick-walled organ shippers, which are really thick-walled Styrofoam boxes that you could then fill with your saline bags that you could keep at 17 degrees, just to add extra ballast to it. But I'm sure Minitube will want to come up with something that is a bit less crude than that, but those will work fine!"



*Dr. Monika Esch, Head of Minitube Product Management Department*

Independent testing of the extender has been conducted in Europe by Minitube; the University is in late stages of negotiations, and it is hoped the product will be commercially available in September of this year. The best way to stay



*Gabi Chugg (née Kuma) on Cristalline and Chris Chugg on Cassiagio*

up-to-date with the progress is to keep an eye on Minitube's website for any announcements.

### *Minitube International commentary*

Minitube International is the worldwide leading supplier of products and services for artificial insemination, embryo transfer and associated biotechniques. For 50 years, Minitube scientists cooperate closely with leading AI centres, research institutions and universities all around the globe to increase know-how and develop AI technologies.

Dr. Monika Esch, Head of Minitube Product Management Department, explains: "Minitube Australia and the University of Newcastle are in close contact and interaction for many years. In 2012, Laureate Professor John Aitken of the University of Newcastle was selected by the ICAR committee as recipient of the Simmet Prize for Assisted Reproduction, which is sponsored by Minitube and recognises outstanding basic and applied research in the field of assisted reproduction of animals.

Concerning the new extender, we have been in touch with the research group of Dr. Zamira Gibb and Dr. Aleona Swegen for more than three years and pursue with great interest the developments and publications on that matter. We are proud to be partner in commercial-isation of this promising and revolutionary semen extender concept."

### *What do breeders think?*

And what do breeders on the ground think of this ground-breaking new medium?

Helen Chugg is the owner of Diamond B Farm, and is responsible for the sourcing, importation and subsequent exportation of stallion sensations Vivant van de Heffinck and Conquistador. Helen has many years' experience in the

breeding of top-level showjumping horses, combined with an undeniable passion for what she does. After a quick rundown of the product she said: “Of course, this could be a game changer for breeding here [Australia], being the opposite season [to Europe] could also work in our favour for getting access to those stallions we usually couldn’t. And the big bonus is that it is an Australian innovation, which means it will fit our very strict quarantine laws!”.

Gabrielle and Chris Chugg, while best known as top international competitors in the sport, also have a very successful boutique breeding business. Who could forget the great Cristalline – touted as one of the greatest mares of recent times, and with whom Chris claimed a top-10 finish in the 2016 World Cup Finals in Gothenburg when the mare was just eight – who was both sourced and produced by Gabi and Chris. They were extremely interested in this new extender, and Gabi had the following comments:

“I think this is very interesting and exciting! As a stallion owner this could potentially open up a lot more opportunity to get our stallions in to different breeding markets around the world. At the moment quarantining, collecting and freezing for semen to be sent overseas [from Australia] is very costly and time consuming - having to send the stallions to a facility interstate to be able to do this, so it doesn’t happen without its risks.

“Another issue we encounter here in Australia is the problem of clients that are in more remote locations and chilled semen can sometimes seem to go MIA and not reach them in time - something that could be a trouble of the past! Potentially having access to overseas stallions via this semen extender is also very exciting!

“Being able to reduce how labour-intensive and invasive preparing a mare for frozen insemination is... this would definitely make life a lot easier not having to be so exact with the timing of insemination and minimize scans... your mare will thank you! Win

win if you ask me!”

And what about applications beyond horses? While not directly applicable to other species, with some tweak-ing and optimisation the medium is also being developed for use in cattle, and also humans. The human trials are being done in conjunction with a company called Mem-phasys Ltd., with whom the University of Newcastle has been working for a number of years. While the extender cannot be directly transferred to other species, now the hard work is done the process of optimisation for other animals should indeed be a much simpler and streamlined process.

Dr Gibb says: “I think the formulation as it stands would work well with other equids, so I think it would be directly applicable to zebra, wild asses, the przewalski horses, things like that. I imagine it would be directly transferrable. But as we have found in other species you do need to optimise it; you need to swap things out and change things around; the bull formula is now completely different from what we started with. Now that we have done it with horses and have a recipe, we can sort of follow that same recipe, and we just find that each species has its own particular requirements, so it’s a long process but it’s fairly easy for us to do”.

There are also potential applications for work with endangered species; Dr Swegen explains: “I have a bit of a vision and some ideas for potentially this being really useful in the field, where semen needs to be transported from endangered animals or can be collected opportunistically – them being collared or tracked or examined for other reasons, and liquid nitrogen isn’t available, those kinds of applications. There is nothing official going on with that but we are always really open to collaborations, so if the opportunity comes up, we would be really interested to head in that direction. But at the moment there is nothing formally underway”. ■



# Polish Championships for Young Horses

**DRESSAGE**



**JUMPING**



**EVENTING**



# Championship Horses 2020

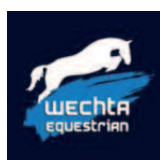


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# The endurance of Narcos II – becoming a legend

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

*In the September 1998 edition of Breeding News, a 'bloodline' feature was published profiling Narcos II (Fair Play III - Gemini x Tanäel, breeder: Jean Brohier) which stated that he had, 'little by little, compelled recognition as the leading Selle Français sport sire, at a national level as well as internationally....'*

‘At the end of 1997, his CSI winning progeny placed him seventh in the sires’ world ranking list, with nine of his sons and daughters being winners at this level.’ Over 20 years later, in the 2020 *Breeding News Worldwide Sport Horse Stallion Directory*, Narcos II still ranks in the top 50 sires of dams (35<sup>th</sup>).

## *Breeding for generations*

The success of Narcos II leaves nothing to chance. It’s the result of the enduring work and commitment of a family of breeders and riders which, through several generations of men and horses, has succeeded in selecting, testing, and getting the best out of bloodlines. Today, they flow into many studs well beyond the Manche region – which is situated in the most renowned breeding area of France: Normandy.

It is interesting to mention that both Narcos's sire (Fair Play III) and dam (Gemini x Tanäel) were born at Jean Brohier's stud farm. Brohier himself belongs to this wave of breeders' children who immediately after World War II made it their duty to introduce the horses bred on their farms into the breeding scene. They included the generation of well-known families like Levallois, Leredde, Navet, Pignolet, etc.

As a rider, Jean Brohier became a member of the French showjumping team and he took part in many Nations’ Cups riding, among others, the good Krishna, a mare that had been bred by his father, Alfred Brohier. Krishna belongs to the bloodline about which this article has been written as being connected with Narcos II. It pays homage to Jean Brohier, who passed away in July 2020, although he will be remembered for the vital role he played in making Selle Français breeding what it is today.

## *The legacy begins...*

Alfred Brohier purchased Vergonne, Gemini's granddam, after noticing one of her first offspring, Foudre de Guerre, then competing with the rider and breeder Philippe Henry. Foudroyant II, the sire of Foudre de Guerre, a contemporaneous horse and a rival to Furioso with whom he shared the lead in the sires of winning horses list, was not as

prolific as the latter, but also very much appreciated at that time by the young breeders and riders of Normandy, as he used to produce amazing jumpers.

His best offspring was probably Kenavo D, an Olympic team silver medallist in Tokyo 1964 with Janou Lefebvre (alongside Guy Lefrant, and individual gold medallist Pierre Jonquères d'Oriola). Vergonne was covered several times by Foudroyant and proved to be an exceptional broodmare. Her second offspring, Garcon Manque, became an 'elite' showjumping mare, best four-year old, exported to Spain, and returned to Alfred Brohier as a broodmare to produce Quenotte B, dam of Altesse, herself a dam of many sires, as well as Bolero I (ISO 134/72), Cyrano V, a good winner in three-day events, and Foudre de Guerre, a National Stud sire.

Garcon Manque is also the dam of Rush – CSI winner, Ulmaire – a very good winning showjumper, and Krishna – five-year old champion, whom we mentioned previously, and who later gave birth to Deesse II (by Uriel), French champion with Alain Hinard.

As his father was seeing the best being born out of Vergonne, Jean Brohier bought one of her first fillies – Il Pleut Bergere, by Foudroyant II. She was to have twelve foals, six of them being by Plein d'Espoirs, including Ritournelle C, winner of the four-year old Criterium, and Ultrason B, a winner in CSIO under the saddle of Marcel Rozier.

A few years later, Il Pleut Bergere gave birth to Gemini, by one of Ibrahim's sons, Tanäel, who proved himself to be a very good sire of dams. This same Tanäel sired Hilda B, who is perhaps best known as making the late Hubert Bourdy's career.

Il Pleut Bergere was then covered by the young homebred crack, Fair Play III, a marriage that produced the good Lisebeth, who became a broodmare at the home of Dr Gabillot, and who became the dam of the sire Totoche du Banney.

Larry II, a gelding also by Fair Play III, was a great winning horse with a rider who later became the coach of the French showjumping team, Patrick Caron. When Larry II was exported to Italy, he became a CSIO winner.

Mazarin V, a full brother to Narcos II, and a stallion himself, was a winner in France, but was exported to the USA where he died at a relatively young age. Then there was



*Narcos II carrying Florian Angot (FRA) to European juniors individual gold at Bourg-en-Bresse, France, in 1991*

like his sire, also inherited his quite common head, and was full of energy like his dam. He was successfully ridden by Jean Brohier, and also by his son Denis: first of his generation at the age of four, third in the five-year old national championship, 20<sup>th</sup> of his generation at six. Sadly, he died from tetanus at the age of nine, and the quality of his offspring made his premature death even more regretful and poignant.

Among Fair Play's most famous offspring we should name:

- Lude du Chatelier, who performed in CSIO ridden by Hervé Godignon (ISO 170/86)
- Larry II, a full brother to Narcos II, who was ridden in CSI by Patrick Caron (ISO 160/84), and a winner in CSIO for Italy
- Lolifant (ISO 158/87)
- Mary du Mesnil (ISO 161/89), and finally
- Narcotique (ISO 177/91), out of the famous Bourrée who was a good performing mare under the saddle of Pierre Durand.

During those years, Fair Play III covered Gemini four times, conceiving three top horses with her.

So, is Narcos II the masterpiece of this prestigious bloodline? At once, this tall, dark-bay horse impressed everyone. From his earliest competitions, at the age of four, ridden by Denis

Oreal II, another showjumping winner.

After Fair Play III's death, Gemini was covered by Kayack, producing a son who was closely related to Almé – Quat'Sous, a great performance sire under the saddle of Edouard Couperie (ISO 178/93).

Gemini continued to give successful offspring with Kayack, including Romarin III, Tamerville, and Urania II, all winners. With Uriel, Gemini produced Vercors, an approved stallion, and Scala, a broodmare, who herself produced stallions... well, a total of 12 offspring.

Narcos II has an inbreeding to Ibrahim, as being the grandfather of Fair Play III and for being the grandfather of Gemini, 3 x 3. Ibrahim certainly turned showjumping breeding upside down. By also being the sire of Almé. Ibrahim was discovered by Alfred Lefevre, like many other great Selle Français sport and breeding horses.

Fair Play III, the sire of Narcos II, strong and imposing

Brohier, he showed remarkable strength and ease. Put into the hands of Eric Navet, he won the five-year old championship, finished sixth one year later as a six-year-old, before following a celebrated international career and, at the same time, covering the mares who lined up at the gate of the Tamerville stud.

Eric Navet has a few special memories: "Since I was a kid I had a lot of admiration for Jean Brohier as a rider, a breeder, and a very special human being. I always admired his fluid and classical equitation with very soft and smooth hands. He's been for sure an inspiration for me as a rider. As a breeder, just like as a rider, he was ahead of his time and the success of his breeding program that Sylvie and Denis have been so good at updating speaks for itself. Lastly, as a human being. Everybody liked him because he was always open to speak about breeding and sport and people listened to him. He had a kind of a charisma mixed with a lot of



empathy for the people.

“Now, back to Narcos. He was the horse that took me to the highest level in 1986 and 1987 following the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles where I rode another stallion: J’t’adore. Narcos had an amazing scope and for a stallion a fantastic character. No fence seemed to be too high or too wide for him, which is the reason why my plan was to get to my second Olympic Games with him at Seoul 1988, but unfortunately Narcos got laminitis when we arrived at the show in Cannes the year before. The good news is that he got over it and ended up winning the individual junior European championship with Florian Angot. It is very rare that a horse returns to the sport after having suffered from laminitis, but Narcos was very strong mentally and he wouldn’t have given up. He undoubtedly remains in my memory as one of the best horses of my career.”

### *An outstanding career twilight*

At the time Narcos II began his career as a sire at the age of four, artificial insemination had not yet been authorized in France. Narcos II seriously floundered as he was travelling in Spain, and had a two year break from jumping. He competed again in 1989, and in 1991 he won the junior championship with Florian Angot, who recalls: “I was lucky to ride Narcos II after Eric Navet, I was 17 or 18 at the time. In the beginning it was difficult to get going with him because he was an extraordinary horse in terms of amplitude and strength. With Narcos II I have three European junior medals and as a young rider, including individual gold at Bourgen-Bresse in 1991 with the only double clear. It is thanks to this horse that my professional career was launched and I owe him a lot. And I can’t thank the Brohier family enough for allowing me to ride Narcos II.”

For Denis Brohier, he liked to cross Narcos II with mares with close Thoroughbred blood ties, with a fine head, and left it to Narcos to bring his typical strength, energy, and amplitude.

How does Denis look back at the period with Narcos II? “Narcos II is for me one of the best souvenirs in my life. As a foal he already had a very nice model. When he was three years old his free jump was incredible, amazing. Suppleness, scope, strength, good head. I enjoyed a lot riding him when he was four-, five-, and six-years-old, although it was sometimes difficult for me to control his power between the fences. Therefore, my father and I decided to choose the best French rider for him, I mean Eric Navet. It was such an enchantment to watch them competing when we had the opportunity to share the best international shows. Narcos II gave me good stress, satisfaction and happiness.”

### *Narcos II’s role in breeding and sport*

Narcos II, Selle Français Originel, is the sire of 1,484 products registered in the French database, including 1,406 Selle Français. He is also the damsire of 2,684 horses including

Nino Des Buissonnets, the 2012 London Olympic champion with Switzerland’s Steve Guerdat. In terms of the sporting performances of his production, Narcos II produced 20 international ‘grand champions’ (performance indices  $\geq 160$ ), the best four being: Viking du Tillard (member of the French team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games as well as European championships under the saddle of Hervé Godignon - ISO 185); Twist du Vallon (ISO 179); Ulane du Plessis (ISO 175); and Urbain du Monnai (ISO 174).

If we look closer at Viking du Tillard (Narcos II - Quanagra x Galoubet A, bred by Bernadette Lejeune) we see that Quanagra had five offspring by Narcos II. Bernadette Lejeune recalls the story behind: “I am not a traditional breeder. I was an amateur rider and when I got married I told my husband that I would like to start with breeding. We purchased a farm in Normandy and started to look for mares and I liked a mare very much that wasn’t for sale, but eventually she became mine. The next question was what stallion are we going to use and, to be fair, at that time there were only two that really stood out, Jalisco B (Almé) and Narcos II. As my mare is a half sister to Jalisco B, he was out, so there was only Narcos II. Viking du Tillard became the first foal I ever bred and he was so powerful and strong. He always jumped out of the fields. He knew his power and this was also with his breaking in. For me this was a completely different world. It was very special for me that Viking du Tillard went to the Olympic Games.”

Among Narcos II’s 717 Selle Français-bred mares, more than one third (278) obtained the ‘elite elevate’ label, which rewards broodmares of the best genetic level of the Selle Français Studbook. A total of 151 were evaluated ‘elite model and gaits’, and 36 were classified as ‘elite sport’, thanks to their international results in showjumping. Among them, only nine obtained these three best broodmare labels and, therefore, carry the rare distinction of becoming ‘triple elite’ – sport, breeding, and model and gaits. They are: Anisette Breceenne, Berceuse Kerellec, Dumba, Flopre de la Sapaie, Hurioca, Lefte de Talma, Star Lorraine, Ulane du Plessis, and Venus du Plessis.

Narcos II is the sire of 32 approved stallions including Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, currently 13<sup>th</sup> in the WBFSH stallion world ranking list. He is also the damsire of 31 other stallions producing for Selle Français, including Nippon d’Elle, winner of the Nations’ Cup in CHIO Aachen.

### *The Brohier tradition continues*

Today, Denis Brohier manages the Tamerville stud alongside his wife, Sylvie Brohier. Their farm is located in the very cradle of Selle Français breeding, a stone’s throw from the WWII Normandy landing beaches. It is a land that is highly appreciated as a region of sport horse stud farms.

To give the final word to Denis Brohier: “It is amazing that we still speak of Narcos II today, especially through Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve.” ■

# WBCYH showjumping 2020: CANCELLED due to Covid-19

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: SÉBASTIEN BOULANGER

*The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is enormous, with many events being cancelled due to the virus. This now includes the WBCYH in Lanaken, and its organizer Judy Ann Melchior, who describes it as 'one of the most beautiful equestrian events of the year for us.'*

The showjumping FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, which was due to take place from September 16-20 was already destined to be reshaped in 2020 due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19. In a press release Judy Ann Melchior wrote: "The FEI-WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, which was due to take place from September 16-20, was destined to be reshaped in 2020 due to the restrictions concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Until the last minute, the organization tried to redraw the plans and create an event that would be as safe as possible for everyone; for riders, breeders, visitors and employees as well as for the horses. The decisions taken during the Belgian Security Council of July 27, however, obliged us to cancel this year's edition of our beloved event definitively. Although it is with regret in our heart, the organization of course respects the measures taken by the government in function of general public health." On behalf of World Breeding News, I interviewed Judy Ann Melchior on this topic, as well as Mr Marino Keulen (the Mayor of Lanaken), as well as several riders, and the breeder of one of the world champions.

## *Judy Ann Melchior*

◆ Judy Ann, did you imagine, at the end of March, when we were at the beginning of the pandemic, that you might have to cancel the FEI-WBFSH Longines WBCYH in September, or did you think that the crisis would be over?

I was afraid of it. On the other hand, I was waiting to see how this crisis was evolving. I don't have any knowledge about this virus. I was hopeful that this virus would attenuate a little bit during the summer. At that moment it was difficult to estimate. We carefully started up the organization, with a certain restraint.

◆ Was it a difficult decision to make?

No, because the situation was very clear. If I'd had to cancel this world championship in March, it would have been very difficult. Because of our careful start up, we could wait quite late to take our decision. Of course, it is a pity that we have to cancel this event. During the whole year before the start we are looking forward to this happening. We received

several signals telling that the virus was evolving in a bad way. We may not organize a great event with many spectators.

◆ Who decided to cancel the event?

The decision to cancel this event was based on a dialogue between ourselves and the Lanaken municipality. But of course, the stricter measures were taken the day before by the Security Council. Once these measures were taken, the situation was very clear. It was not the right moment to bring together many people. You must not forget that we count almost 80,000 spectators during our WBCYH event, coming from Europe, South America, Canada, and so on.

◆ In case of an outdoor event, you are allowed to welcome 200 spectators.

Yes and no. It's the municipality that takes the decision. Each municipality decides on its own. Nowadays, we have a dialogue with the Lanaken municipality about the organization of the Belgian championship showjumping, a closed-door event, so without spectators. Even that is not easy. The Security Council announces several measures, but in each municipality it can be different.

◆ Are you aware of Covid-19 cases in your environment?

In our inner circle we were lucky that nobody was infected. However, family members of some of our employees as well as one of our suppliers were unfortunately tested positive. In our company nobody has been infected. We have taken many measures. We also made use of work-at-home and worked with several teams who didn't have physical contact.'

◆ Beyond the sporting impact, the cancellation of the FEI-WBFSH Longines WBCYH, what is the economic impact for the socio-professionals of horse breeding faithful to the event?

That a difficult question. I know that this world championship means a lot for many people. On the occasion of this event there is a flourishing trade. For many people, 2020 will be or become a difficult year. Each event, such as for instance the Z-festival, is a market place where sellers and buyers can meet each other. Thanks to live-stream one can watch in real time several events. Many people who don't have a great network could make use of events in order to meet



July 20, 2020

The FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, which was due to take place from 16 – 20 September, was destined to be reshaped in 2020 due to the restrictions concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Until the last minute, the organisation tried to redraw the plans and create an event that would be as safe as possible for everyone; for riders, breeders, visitors and employees as well as for the horses.

The decisions taken during the Belgian Security Council of July 27, however, oblige us to cancel this year's edition of our beloved event definitively. Although it is with regret in our heart, but of course the organisation respects the measures taken by the government in function of general public health.

Zangersheide sincerely wishes to thank all of its partners who have worked with us until the last minute to facilitate the organisation of this event, as well as the sponsors who still wanted to support us despite the difficult situation.

"The cancellation of the FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken, Belgium is very disappointing for everyone involved, and we understand that this has not been an easy decision to make, but with the uncertainty arising from the impact of Covid-19, we must continue to place utmost priority on ensuring the health and safety of our athletes, officials and all those involved during this challenging time", FEI Jumping Committee Chair Stephan Ellenbruch said. "We will continue to support Lanaken as the host of these great championships in the years to come and thank the organising committee for the work done up to now and for their courage in making this very difficult decision in this unprecedented situation."

The FEI WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses is one of the most beautiful equestrian events of the year for us. We will make the most of the available time to make the 2021 edition even more beautiful!

Stay safe, take care of each other! See you soon,

Judy Ann Melchior

*Cumano Alpha Z, Kazan Z and Querido Z will be processed without invoices to breeders for the purchase and gestation fee in 2020. The full stud service fee (purchase + gestation fee) will be invoiced after registration of the birth of a live foal born from insemination with this semen in 2021.)*

◆ Despite this current situation, I have the impression that great breeding activity has continued?

Yes, that's correct. Many people are breeding. I have the same feeling. A lot of breeders remain invested in breeding, which is very important. Compared to 2019, the number of coverings this year by our stallions is increasing. We are very happy about this breeding season. On April 7, we changed the general conditions concerning support for breeders in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic to encourage and help breeders to continue breeding in these uncertain times.

In the case of people who have to deal with technically unemployment or with a loss of their revenues, we wanted to limit the risks. They will receive the invoice after the birth of the foal in 2021. We didn't know how breeders would welcome this measure. But we thought that this was the best way to provide that would allow breeders to continue their activities. If a breeder doesn't breed one year, their revenue

will fall the following year because he won't have a foal to sell. We wanted to avoid a downward spiral.

◆ Can you tell us what is the overall economic figure of the FEI-WBFSH Linges WBCYH for the sector?

No. Nobody can predict the impact of this virus. I am not the person who is constantly occupied with statistics, revenue, expenses and so on. The only thing I know is that for many people it's highly probable that 2020 will mean a great financial loss. Some people have a large network and will be able to sell a foal or horse, others will not have this chance. But I can't give you the answer on questions like: Who? How many? Which figure?... I hope that it turns out better than was expected.

(The following news flash appears on Studfarm Zangersheide's website: *From 07/04/2020 onwards orders of semen from stallions Adonis Butterfly Z, Air Jordan Alpha Z, Aktion Pur Z, Asca Z, Caesar Z, Codex Diaz Z, Colorit Z, Comilfo Plus Z,*

will fall the following year because he won't have a foal to sell. We wanted to avoid a downward spiral.

◆ Moreover, we shouldn't forget that that it's more difficult to sell a yearling than a foal.

That's correct. And that's why we organized many video days in order to help breeders who own foals that we couldn't select for our auctions. Even when we organize many auctions, we can't sell all Z-registered foals that are for sale. We delivered the breeders with pictures and videos of their foals, for free! On this occasion we have tried to take pictures and film as much as possible. We selected a great number of as many foals as possible for the online auctions and the Quality Auctions. We held four online foal auctions. The Quality Auctions will take place on September 18 and 19. All the breeders of foals that were not selected received free pictures and a video. They can use this to post on our 'Breeders Auction', Facebook, or other social media, or even on their own website. The pictures and videos have been taken by professionals. It's easier to sell via such channels than selling a foal in a meadow. We filmed





*Lanaken 2019*

twice in the Netherlands, once in Germany, once in France, and eight times in Belgium.'

◆ **What about the approval of stallions show postponed until the fall?**

We will organize our stallion approval in the first week of November in the Equestrian Centre of Peelbergen.

◆ **Do you think everything will come back 'as before'?**

I hope so. I really hope that we will get rid of this virus as soon as possible, but I think that we may have to live with it. Covid-19 will not disappear in the very near future, and I hope that there will be a vaccine soon. Will the vaccine protect everybody and in all circumstances? I don't think so. We will have to learn to live with it. But I can't imagine that a rider will travel within three months to Doha and one month later to Shanghai and so on. We have to find a way of life with the smallest risk and meanwhile trying to reduce the economic impact as much as possible.

◆ **What reflection inspires you this crisis for the future of equestrian sports?**

In my opinion, I think people will keep investing in sport horses as horse sport is passion and passion will never disappear. Who knows what will happen? I am not a fortune teller, but with Zangersheide we will do everything in our power to support our breeders. It's our job to be there for our breeders, even in difficult days! My main focus is to make sure the number of breeders who can sell their foals and keep on breeding is as high as possible!

*Valentijn De Bock and Dieter Laheyne – riders*

It's not only breeders, owners, traders, and stallion keepers who are disappointed about the cancellation of Lanaken 2020, but also many riders who have competed with young horses, including Valentijn De Bock and Dieter Laheyne.

Talking about the world championship for young horses in Lanaken, De Bock has a great experience. "In 1998, I won the world championship for five-year-old horses, riding Loncorde B (Concorde - Goldy x Aram). Six years ago, with Homer de Reve (Nabab de Rêve - Watina Heartbreaker x Heartbreaker) I finished fifth in the seven-year-old final. In 2002, I participated with two horses in the five-year-old final, namely Uheer (Nabab de Rêve - Anna x Etretrat, BWP performance family 10) and Usha van't Roosakker (Chin Chin - Rosanne van de Withoeve x Major de la Cour, BWP performance family 100). Uheer was sixth in the final. These are not the only ones, as I have a long list of horses I've ridden in the WBCYH."

According to De Bock, this event means something special: "Talking from a personal perspective, it means as much as a five-star rider at Aachen. During the whole year I am working with Lanaken as the ultimate aim. First of all, it's the world championship, which means that many valuable showjumpers participate. All the great sport stables, such as Stephex, for instance, are present and very well prepared. Everybody wants to win, something I've only established in Lanaken. This world championship is the summit for everyone who deals with young showjumpers; it's the highest possible performance. Lanaken provides the answer to the question, 'how good, or not, is my horse?', because it's qualities can be

compared to those of others of the same generation.

De Bock also explained what the cancellation of the 2020 edition of this world championship will mean to him: "Since the start of this championship, it will only be the second time in a row that I can't participate. In the beginning this event was called the Benelux championship. Since then I have been participating in every edition and reached a final every time. Last year, I couldn't enter because I was in hospital with pneumonia. It's a pity that it can't be organized because it's also the first time that I haven't participated in the intense qualifying heats during the cycle for young horses. The reason is simple: we can't qualify for a world championship that won't happen."

Another disadvantage of the cancellation is, according to De Bock, the lack of trade. "Two years ago, I participated in the six-year-old final riding Houdini van de Dijk (Vigo d'Arsouilles - Vencedor H. x Oklund). We sold Houdini in Lanaken to Abdel Said, and the horse was subsequently sold via Cian O'Connor to the United States. When I was riding Usha van't Roosakker in the five-year-old final, the owner received a very high bid from Egbert Schep, which wasn't accepted, otherwise it's possible Usha's story could be quite different. She had all the qualities, but she was very hot. She had a lot of blood and was very sensible."

In the past, Dieter Laheyne was also very successful at the WBCYH: "In 2011, I finished eighth in the five-year-old final riding Geena van't Roosakker (Darco - Babbe van't Roosakker x Kannan). In 2015, I was riding three horses in two different finals: the five-year-old Elicia de la Pomme (Vagabond de la Pomme - Naïs de la Pomme x Darco) and Kendy Belle van't Roosakker (Echo van't Spieveld - Fa-Belle van't Roosakker x Berlin/ex Caspar), plus the seven-year-old Iriana van het Keysersbos (Thunder van de Zuuthoeve - Tijana van Westuur x Heartbreaker). One year later, I was a finalist with the five-year-old Fantasie VHW Z (Filou de Muze - Gin van het Waterschoot x Canturo). I can still remember very well my first participation in this world championship. It was the first time that the event was held on a sand arena. On that occasion I rode two finalists, namely Question Mark van de Vijf Bunders (Toulon - Elvira x Saluut) and Azzaro van het Hagenhof (Mr Blue - Orlien x Lys De Darmen), when Question Mark finished 13th. So, my first experiences were very great."

According to Laheyne, "the WBCYH is something special. There are only a few showjumping championships for young horses, so Lanaken remains special. Each year I try to qualify for this event as it's so nice to ride there. Well organized and there is a very good atmosphere and a marvellous infrastructure. It's very difficult to qualify for this world championships, and qualifying for the final is also difficult." Regarding the cancellation of this year's event, he added: "It's a pity, but I can understand this decision because the Covid-19 virus is still very much alive. Moreover, it's not pleasant to organize an event without spectators. I am currently riding several promising youngsters who could participate at this world championship. At the beginning of

this season I was focused on it, so the cancellation will mean we can't trade in Lanaken this year. It's also an occasion when one always meets people whom we don't often see.

"The event is also a kind of education. If a youngster makes a fault and the reaction is good, then I am happy because the horse makes progress. A horse who makes two faults each time is not so good, so although the results are important, the experience is even more important. If a five-year-old showjumper starts the season and learns a lot by the season's end, then it's a good thing. It means the horse has made progress and evolved in the good way.

"This year the sport season was short and the horses had to do a lot within a short period. I only participated in six heats of the classic cycle for young horses, but over eight consecutive weeks is too much. During the first three months of the break-out of Covid in Belgium I trained the youngsters, but during that period they didn't gain experience. Especially for four- and five-year-old horses, it's important that there are one or even two weeks between two heats so that during this period, they can do some other things."

### *Rony Thys – breeder*

Rony Thys was the breeder of Mystic van't Hoogeinde (Echo van't Spieveld - Geena van't Roosakker x Darco) who became world champion in Lanaken 2018 in the six-year-old category. Thys said: "I have been attending the world championship every year for around 25 years, since it was organized in a grass arena, so it's always on my agenda. We get to see the best young showjumpers in the world and can also meet breeders from other countries, which is highly regarded by me. It's fantastic that as a breeder I was able to experience my own product Mystic van't Hoogeinde winning the world title. I will remember that for my entire life. One can work towards it a little bit, but not completely. The best of the best horses and riders participate at the world championship. I have often said that it wasn't until eight or ten days after winning the world title that I realized it was real. It's not all about luck. You must have a good horse and rider, plus they both must be in great shape on the day of the final. Winning in Lanaken is once in a lifetime, and undoubtedly, the greatest success of my career. That's the icing on the cake. It couldn't be more beautiful. I am only a small breeder and try to do well. I breed two or three foals every year, very exceptionally once four.

"The horses have to jump well on Thursday, Friday and also if they reach the final also on Sunday. I hope to reach once more a final a horse from my own breeding..." (Laughing) "but I can't count on winning anymore. Some riders arrived in Lanaken with a whole truck-load of horses, while I arrived with one horse and took the world title. I am not nervous by nature, but when I saw Mystic performing in the final jump-off I seriously sympathized."

Last year, Mystic claimed a great number of victories in international showjumping competitions for young horses, in partnership with her rider Jeroen De Winter. "She has



*Marino Keulen*

always jumped very well. She once had a minor injury, so she is used sparingly. We are slowly building her up and don't have the intention of letting her jump at the highest level now. It is not until they are nine, 10 or 11 that they come to the top, so it's not easy. Staying at the top is even more difficult, but that's

typical in top sport."

Talking about top sport, Thys continued by saying; "The oldest product that I bred out of Mystic's dam, Geena van't Roosakker, is called Jivaro van't Hoogeinde (sporting name Jivaro Imperio Egipcio). In partnership with Brazilian rider Francisco José Mesquita Musa, this full brother to Mystic performs at 1m55 to 1m60 level. And in a good way! Kheros van't Hoogeinde, another full brother to Mystic, also competes internationally at 1m60. Jes van't Hoogeinde, a daughter of Toulon out of Geena, also jumped at a good level under the saddle of Wilm Vermeir. Geena has produced several top showjumpers." Mystic herself was sold as a half share to Erik De Winter and his son Jeroen. "Those are very decent people to work with. Jeroen is a very passionate, talented young rider. He has both feet on the ground, a quality that he inherited from his father."

While breeding horses can be an expensive hobby, Thys explained that it's sometimes nice to sell: "Yes, had I not sold Geena at the time, I would not have been where I am now as I sold half to Jos Lansink. That happened in Lanaken. Geena was five at the time, too early to sell her, but I told Jos I would give him the change the following year, which is what happened. Geena participated in Lanaken as a five-, six-, and seven-year-old. I have a lot of respect for Jos. He is a correct businessman, very honest and respectful, so we've shared Geena in common ownership for a year, and then did a good thing by reselling her to Janika Sprunger who has made a good career with her. Later, Hans-Dieter Dreher jumped with Geena for a while. She has everything to make it, and with the appropriate rider she could do 1m60 as she's very strong. She also has an incredibly good attitude and the ability to jump over a house, so to speak."

Talking about horses and money, Thys said; "If no money was involved, far fewer horses would be kept. For me, it is a hobby. Sometimes we need to sell in order to cover the costs. If you live with your heart and soul for the horses, then the rest will follow by itself. A breeder who only thinks about money will often be disappointed."

## *Marino Keulen – Mayor of Lanaken*

Confirming that he'd attended the WBCYH frequently in the past "more than 20 editions," Keulen said; "Above all, I have seen it grow from a great showjumping tournament into a worldwide event where the set-up and all the stands were attractions in their own right, alongside the sporting highlights."

◆ In your capacity as Mayor of Lanaken, what does the practical organization of this world championship in normal circumstances mean to you and your infrastructure?

It's very intense, especially for our Emergency Planning and Mobility services. It also means busy days for our police forces. Naturally, in the course of time, many things have become routine, but that is precisely where the danger lies. The municipality is responsible for super-vising compliance with safety regulations. So, we have to stay alert and reasonable.

◆ Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the organization of events, so to what extent was there consultation with the Melchior family?

The contact between the council and the Melchior family is good. Everyone is professional enough to realize that we have to take each other into account when it comes to coordinating sporting ambitions and enforcing safety regulations. For the municipality of Lanaken, everything that happens at the Melchior family's studfarm is a golden opportunity to build our reputation all over the world. The Z logo is world-famous, from the North Pole to the South Pole. It's the life-work of Léon Melchior, the founder and driving force.'

◆ I assume that the Melchior family did its utmost to organize the event. Who decided to cancel?

The Melchior family spontaneously chose not to host the world championship this year. That's very intelligent and shows a great sense of responsibility. An event with 15,000 attendees in these coronavirus times is tantamount to courting disaster. You must not challenge luck.

◆ What are the economic and social consequences of this cancellation for Lanaken?

As a result of the cancellation, the hotels and B&Bs lose income. That's a pity because coming at the end of the summer season (the last part of September) having a full hotel or B&B thanks to Zangersheide was always a nice bonus.

◆ Obviously, the cancellation will be tough for the Melchior family, so what's your message for Judy Ann and her team?

Never give up! There will also be post-Corona times, so try to focus on that. Corona is a killer and takes the whole world hostage. Everyone experiences the health risks and economic disadvantages of it, so it's not an easy time, but it will also pass. ■



# Estonian Sport Horse jumper breeding championships

BY LIIS IRA / ESHKS

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIIS IRA

*At the end of July one of the most important events for Estonian Sport Horse Breeders was held: the Breeding Jumping Championships 2020. The following report is an Association overview of Estonia's currently active young horse riders, breeders, and the good genetics of the winners and best-placed horses.*

For the second year in a row, the championships were held at Perila Equestrian Center near the Estonian capital city, Tallinn. The centre has one of the best and largest outdoor arenas in Estonia. By that time, there were no coronavirus restrictions in place, but as many shows were cancelled at the beginning of the season, many of the four-year-old horses struggled with difficulties due to their lack of showing experience.

## *Four-year-old horses*

In Estonia, the young-horse classes start with four-year-olds, in which approximately 30 horses were entered on the Saturday, with around half the field jumping faultlessly at 0m90. In order to increase the level of competition, the Finnish course designer, Tomas Kiviranta, set a much more difficult 1m00 track for the Sunday. This produced eight clear rounds, but reduced the field to one combination in the jump-off: Jaagup Kallas riding the Estonian Sport Horse (ESH) Florian, out of Team Nijhof's Floris TN (Carry's Son),

whose breeders and owners are Kadi and Ave Kokla. Kallas is, in fact, one of the best Estonian three-day evening riders who also participated at last year's World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France, where he finished 18th in the six-year-old class.

Catlin Vatsel and ESH mare Heliiny (Hugo V X Bison), bred by Iti Kall claimed second place. Heliiny's sire, Hugo V was bred by Peeter Viiard, a long-time breeder who is also known for importing the stallion A Pikachu de Muze into Estonia. In 2006, this stallion won the six-year-old age group in the showjumping WBCYH in Lanaken with David McPherson in his saddle.

Third place went to Susan Kaleta and ESH stallion Breezer LT (Bamako de Muze x Lupicot), bred by Andrus Kallaste. Kaleta is also very good at presenting young horses, and last year participated in the Lanaken WBCYH with the six-year-old ESH Herrera, with whom she jumped some nice clear rounds.

## *More experienced five-year-olds*



*Four-year-old winner, Florian, out of Team Nijhof's Floris TN, ridden by Jaagup Kallas*

A total of 18 out of 31 horses jumped faultlessly on the Saturday and qualified for Sunday's final with the fences at 1m15. In an interview following his victory, Hanno Ellermann said; "there was really something to jump." The course was technical and with a maximum height, which was overcome by Ellermann jumping two clear rounds as well as a flawless and speedy jump-off with ESH Kristallo (Kontador vd Doornendonkhoeve D'12 x Zambesi), bred the Ellermann family itself. The winner's sire is by BWP stallion Nabab de Reve (damsire Qerlibet Hero) from the famous mare line Fragance de Chalus. Kristallo's motherline, S98Z x Palmira, descends from a Russian Trakehner line responsible for some some GP level showjumpers.

Second place by a few seconds went to Paul Argus and ESH mare Dark Jewel N

(Diatendro x Zidane Velvet). She was bred by Peeter Raid, a long-time breeder who was recently awarded a special prize from the Estonian Sport Horse Breeders Society as the 'best breeder' of the past 20 years by the competition results of his own-bred horses

Dark Jewel is out of the line of elite mare Thisbe, which has produced many magnificent jumpers, including Herold N, ridden internationally by Luca Moneta. Rider Paul Argus – fresh from becoming Estonian showjumping champion – will be remembered by Estonian breeders as the rider who partnered the six-year-old Pingo Pong V into sixth place at the 2017 WBCYH in Lanaken.

Third place went to Clara II JP (Contatour P x Landfriese I). This mare is a second generation product of breeder Joel Jürisson who was recently elected as the new chairman of the board of ESHBS. Clara II JP's sire, Contatour JP (Clinton) is the first and, so far, the only stallion born in Estonia who was licensed by Zangersheide studbook. The stallion descends from one of the best damlines in the Netherlands, that of Moujke, who has produced many international showjumpers



*Hanno Ellermann riding five-year-old winner, Kristallo (Kontador vd Doorndonkhoeve D'12 x Zambesi)*

and stallions, such as rising team Nijhof star Jamboree TN.

### *Testing 1m20-1m25 level for six-year-olds*

The top of the six-year-old class saw three horses who travelled to Estonia from Germany and the Netherlands, with the championship title going to Renek Rosenberg riding the grey Holsteiner Ciorana TT (Cassini I x Acord II), bred by Karl-Heinz Markussen, owned by Tsura Talu Oü. Finishing second was Hanno Ellermann's Jolly Jewel J (Embassy II x Up To Date) whose breeder and owner is the Jacoba Stud, ahead of Heiki Vatsel riding Jabalou, a KWPN gelding by Balou du Rouet x Carthago, who was bred by W.C. van Dam, and is owned by P.Geerink and H.Vatsel.

He was followed by Linda Randpere with the ESH Zuriso (Zento x Cade Z), bred by Piret Kuriosoo and Andres Udeküll, who posted the fastest time in the jump-off but at the expense of one rail. In fifth place we find ESH mare Jacqueline, bred and owned by Talliteenuste Oü, under the saddle of GP-level rider and former Estonian champion, Urmas Raag. Jacqueline finished last year's competition as the five-year-old champion. ■



*Linda Randpere riding Zuriso (Zento x Cade Z) – runner-up and best Estonian Sport Horse in the six-year-old category*



# Marbach State Stud stallion Hochfein passes away

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: MAX SCHREINER, STEPHAN KUBE

*The Marbach state stud stallion Hochfein (His Highness x Feiner Stern) has been euthanased after facturing his fetlock. "Anyone who has experienced Hochfein once will not forget his special stallion personality," said Landoberstallmeister Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck who has him in the 2020 stallion distribution plan for his final breeding season. Hochfein was considered one of the most typical sons of His Highness.*

His résumé was exemplary. Bred in 2004 in Wörpswede by Hans-Hermann Kober, the noble Hanoverian black stallion was presented by Jens Meyer in 2007 at the South German licensing in Munich and sold to Marbach as a premium stallion. There he developed into a popular stallion, a successful dressage horse, and an all-round talent and teacher for countless trainees.

At first, Hochfein and Irina Oberthür collected ribbons in riding horse championships and advanced tests up to class L. He was later taken over by training manager Rolf Eberhardt, who placed Hochfein in dressage tests up to Intermédiaire I. He literally walked through the fire with Rolf Eberhardt in the Equitana Hop-Top Show, and in the stallion parade arena, the two of them flew over the 'big pond' in the state stud quadrille. He was also presented at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, Canada, together with colleagues from all over Germany as the cultural property of the German state studs.

At the Marbach Classics he was always one of the highlights of the program, showing dressage classes at the highest level, bridled only on a curb or with a neck ring. His enormous rideability and his trust in his rider impressed countless spectators. Fondly remembering his long-time



*Hochfein*

sporting partner, Rolf Eberhardt said; "We were a great team. Hochfein was a very people-oriented and sensitive stallion. He taught me how to ride very fine, soulful, because otherwise we wouldn't have come this far together."

In countless photo shoots, including with the world-famous horse photographer Gabriele Boiselle, he was a popular model because of his nobility.

Hochfein was used for breeding at the Marbach and Biberach service stations and was also popular with the breeders. His eagerness to work, his light-footed, dance-like movements, expansive steps and, above all, the highest rideability with the best interior, he passes on to his offspring. Many of his children are involved in sports and leisure activities and are loyal partners to their owners.

As a wonderful stallion, Hochfein has certainly earned his place in the special memories of a great many studs. ■

[www.gestuet-marbach.de](http://www.gestuet-marbach.de)



*Hochfein under the saddle of Rolf Eberhardt*



# CWHBA 26<sup>th</sup> Fall Classic online

BY GAVIN PEARSON / CWHBA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: LORRIE JAMISON

*For 25 years the Canadian Warmblood Alberta Chapter has hosted the Fall Classic Breeders' Sale, which has become known to buyers across North America as an auction to attend to see what quality Warmblood riding horses, mares, young stock, and embryos would be presented for sale.*

This year marks the Fall Sale's 26<sup>th</sup> year, and will be run as a fully online auction, and an extraordinary effort is needed to ensure these sales are well presented and showcase the horses in the best light. Jennette Coote, of MJ farms has, over the years, chaired the sale and spearheaded its success. This year Gavin Pearson has taken on the role as Chair and with his Co-Chair Katrina Van Den Bosch and the sale committee, have planned to make this first Online Fall Classic Sale Auction as successful as previous sales have been. Much success thus far has come from the volunteers and support from CWHBA members and breeders.

Special recognition goes to Klondike Victory Farm, Old Gate Farm and Valleyfield Farm for their support.

The horses to be presented have all been videoed and photographed at Old Gate Farm or Valleyfield Farm, shown in-hand, at liberty in the arena, and working the chute. Riding Horses are also videoed under saddle. This year's collection represents some of the best international pedigrees, such as Quick Star, Chaccon Blue, Cardento, Concorde, Darco, Donnerhall, Ferro, Weltmeyer... These horses will be available for viewing September 10 on [www.FallClassicSale.com](http://www.FallClassicSale.com). Buyers interested in seeing horses in person

and trying out riding horses are encouraged to contact the sale administrator, to put them in contact with the consignor to organize a viewing. The online auction is live from October 2-5.

The sale committee is excited about this year's achievement and presentation and hopes for widespread participation in the Fall Classic Sale's 26<sup>th</sup> year – its first year online. ■



*Auction lot, Nikita*



[www.stutteriask.dk](http://www.stutteriask.dk)



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# Historic Delegates' Assembly for Hannoveraner Verband

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNOVERANER VERBAND

*At a Delegates' Assembly on August 24, 2020, the Hannoveraner Verband elected a new president: Dr. Hinni Lührs-Behnke (48), who said "The breeders are the heart of the association." Ernestine Zwingmann from Lindwedel became chairwoman of the newly created supervisory board.*

It was a delegates' meeting that will go down in the history of the Hannoveraner Verband, because in many areas a course will be set anew after the structural reform decided last February. Following this structural reform, numerous association committees were newly created. In the nine-and-a-half-hour marathon sitting in the Niedersachsenhalle, Carsten Leopold, Bassum, was elected deputy president. He had previously been elected to the four-member presidium for the areas of finance, law and personnel. Harald Thelker, Venne, was elected for the field of loyalty to/of breeders, while Matthias Klatt, Hahausen, will take over dressage within the presidium, and jumping will be managed by Hergen Forkert. The delegates also elected Dieter Meyer, Verden, for the marketing division.

Alongside Chairwoman Ernestine Zwingmann, further members of the five-member supervisory board, whose main tasks are to advise and supervise the presidium, will be Hendrik Hüsker, Syke-Wachendorf, as deputy chairman, as well as Matthias Bug, Petersberg, Achim Schacke, Wittingen, and Matthias Grupe, Groß Sisbeck.

Stefan Blanken, Hepstedt, and Anja Rietbrock, Sottrum, were elected to the Dressage Breeding Committee. Heide Peters, Hammah, and Oliver Ross, Thedinghausen, form the Showjumping Breeding Committee, while Iris Schless, Kevelaer, and Ulrike Edel-Heidhues, Bad Harzburg, focus on eventing. Last but not least, the delegates elected Norbert Bramlage, Dinklage, as Good Governance Officer. The

chairmen of the district associations are still part of the committees. The newly elected presidium and committees will take up their work when the changes to the statutes that have become necessary for the structural reform have been confirmed by the responsible district court.

After a detailed review of the past year at the first assembly of delegates at the beginning of the year, Wilken Treu described the financial situation in his annual report and announced the 'black zero' result. "Many events were cancelled. We want to encourage you to get going again next year," he said. Breeding Director Ulrich Hahne also drew a positive balance of the breeding events, the highlight of which was the Herwart von der Decken-Show.

There was a longer discussion on the topic 'elimination of the age limit,' which was voted on twice due to uncertainties in the interpretation of the motion. Also the discharge of the board and the management was only carried out after detailed consultation. For the discharge, the 2019 fiscal year was divided into three sections. On May 13, the then Managing Director Dr Werner Schade resigned. The delegates did not grant discharge for this period. In the following months, the management of the company was in the hands of Deputy Managing Director Dr Henrik von der Ahe. On December 1 Wilken Treu became managing director. For this time the management was discharged, while the Board was not discharged.

Traditionally, the Fritz von der Decken Prize is awarded at the delegates' assembly to the most successful stallion raiser of the past ten years. For the second time after 2009, this valuable award went to Heinrich Behrmann from Stedebergen. Vanessa Feuerstein, speaking on behalf of the young breeders, emphasized the outstanding successes of Hanoverian and Rhineland young breeders last year at the Federal Competition in Schwaiganger, and at the World Championships in Stadl Paura, Austria. ■



*l-r: Hergen Forkert, Harald Thelker, Dr. Hinni Lührs-Behnke, Carsten Leopold, Dieter Meyer and Matthias Klatt*





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#### Selle Français Stud-Book contacts :

Bérengère Lacroix · [berengere.lacroix@sellefrancais.fr](mailto:berengere.lacroix@sellefrancais.fr) · +33 (0)7 63 84 96 73  
Laure Bertrand · [laure.bertrand@sellefrancais.fr](mailto:laure.bertrand@sellefrancais.fr) · +33 (0)6 77 32 16 45



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### **Contacts Stud-Book Selle Français**

Bérengère Lacroix · [berengere.lacroix@sellefrancais.fr](mailto:berengere.lacroix@sellefrancais.fr) · +33 (0)7 63 84 96 73  
Laure Bertrand · [laure.bertrand@sellefrancais.fr](mailto:laure.bertrand@sellefrancais.fr) · +33 (0)6 77 32 16 45





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# Diverse and sophisticated Brazilian Sport Horse market

BY ROBERTA MILANO / TRANSLATED BY LUIZ ROCCO  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ABCCH

*Responsible for generating R\$16.15 billion/year and supporting 3.6 million jobs, the horse market for Brazilian agribusiness sees equestrian sports as one of its differentiated activities. Diverse and structured, with 5.3 million head of livestock, and occupying fourth place in the world ranking according to squad size, Brazil's horse industry is constantly evolving.*

Diversified and organized, with 5.3 million head of livestock and occupying the fourth place in the world ranking in squad size, the horse industry in Brazil has been constantly evolving.

In terms of breeding, 35 national and imported breeds are officially recognized in Brazil, including horses and ponies, 17 of which have their own associations, as in the case of ABCCH (Brazilian Sport Horse Association), responsible for the Brazilian Sport Horse studbook and Friesian studbook.

The horses of national breeding, the BHs, which today are seen not only in Brazil, but in arenas around the world, whether in the United States or Europe, have excellent jumping mechanics, courage, intelligence, elegance in movements, and their characteristics make them fit for any type of jumping, dressage, or eventing competition. The traditional breed whose formation began in the 1970s, has evolved in past decades, achieving a production of high-performance horses that are already present in international competitions, including the Olympics, Pan-American, World Equestrian Games, etc.

The Brazilian Sport Horse Association, an entity based in São Paulo, within Parque Fernando Costa, better known as Parque da Agua Branca, collaborates with the positive statistics of equine culture, in which it numbers more than 30,000 horses registered in its studbook, with an average of 800 to 1,000 new foals per year.

The purchase and sale of pure-bred horses has been going on for a long time, but the expansion of the market



*Mezzaluna TOK (Corland x Quinar Z)  
ridden by Roberto Previtali (ITA)*

has helped to better structure the trade. This is also the reason for the increasing number of auctions in different cities in the country with the 'show-case' being

chosen by each breeder. We can also affirm that with the study and improvement of genetics, breeders select and produce new horses due to the genetic load, betting high on success either because of the potential to be reached or in the possibilities of trade.

Several surveys point to Brazil as the largest equine embryo producer in the world, with a share of over 40% in this market, ahead of other powers in this practice, such as Argentina and the United States.

Over the years, breeders of the BH horses have understood that adding quality is the main goal of selection in Brazil. Therefore, the squad grows in a structured and controlled manner. In other words, we can affirm that the improvement of the standard of BH products concentrated in the detailed study of crossings and in the performance of the motherline, has allowed Brazilian to extend beyond its national borders, importing and exporting excellent horses either for sport or for reproduction.



*Landpeter do Feroletto (Landritter x Wagram) with Federico Fernandez (MEX)*



*SL Brazonado (SL Bahuarte x Silvestre) with Felix Hassmann (GER)*

Another advantage of investors is the local currency, in this case the Real, in relation to the breed's international demand. And so, BH proves in numbers that it has a lot of liquidity and that it is a good investment to be acquired by owners and traders from all over the world. ■

*(Photos show BH horses competing with foreign riders.)*

# Dressage championships for young horses in Poland

BY AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: AGNIESZKA WIATROWSKA AND PRIVATE COLLECTION

*Katarzyna Milczarek – the best Polish dressage rider (10 times champion of Poland, 22 medals altogether), as well as a breeder – has created the Sport Dressage Championships for Young Horses – the ‘open’ alternative to the official PZHK Polish Championships for Young Horses. The second edition of this event took place in Solec Kujawski, Poland in early August.*

◆ How did you come up with the idea to organize these championships?

I am pretty familiar with the Polish market for dressage horses and its needs – many riders choose foreign geldings which are safe, great movers, and have great papers. Thus, I came up with the idea of organizing the Sport Championships of Young Dressage Horses without qualifications and with the participation of foreign geldings of great origin. My son Tom, who’s also a showjumper (up to 1m45) told me about the showjumping championships in Srem, and it makes sense for dressage.

Besides, organizing qualifications for young horses (MPMK) which involves travelling with young horses all around Poland as there are not too many qualifiers, makes it more difficult, and the finals in Strzegom are too far for some of the riders.

I have to admit that the prestige of MPMK has decreased compared to the times when I took part in the show myself. The lower volume of horses entering has caused the loss of quality in the show itself. There are so many great stallions all around the world, so keeping a stallion just to get it through

the championships is pointless – a stallion has to be exquisite to be used in breeding. Our formula enables more horses to participate in the show and consequently supports better sport rivalry.

◆ How have your own horses changed in terms of their origins over the years?

My stallion Ekwador (Heraldik xx - Enigma x Corofino I), the triple Polish dressage champion, was Polish half-bred (sp), another was Latvian, and the rest were German. Ekwador gave a couple of good horses which were nicely sold, and he was eventually sold to Belgium where at the age of 20 he’s still used for breeding and last year received an honorary license.

My wish as a rider and as a breeder is to have a horse that can compete at GP level – it’s a guarantee that he’s brave, has a good head, and is hard-working. It’s even more important for me than how high he elevates his legs.

The main reason for using foreign-bred horses was that Polish breeding after the political transformation was going through a difficult period. No donations, fewer and fewer

broodmares, not enough good horses. For a very long time we did not have a good Polish half-bred dressage stallion. A couple of years ago I imported Santana, who is by Sandro Hit out of a Rhodiamant x Weltmeyer dam. Now he is 20 and I’ve been using him for five seasons.

I’ve talked to breeders on many occasions and heard them complaining that they could not access the semen of a good dressage stallion here locally, now we have foreign stallions available, but there is no illusion that we will catch up with the rest of the world using Wielkopolska (wlkp) stallions or showjumping stallions, which we have a lot of. A few years ago a Polish breeder living near Lublin (in the east of Poland) found it challenging to buy semen from a foreign dressage stallion. Then I bought Santana, now Cichon Stallions are doing a great job. Frozen



*Paulina Tomczak riding Donatan*





*Hubert Jankowski with Idwinaretto*

semen is still a problem here locally while embryo transfer in the western Europe is a norm.

Personally, I have been quite successful in breeding. My Ekwador gave a couple of good horses, and I managed to breed a double Polish dressage champion: the mare Stella Pack Ganda (Celtic - Grammy x Gluckspiltz).

In the past Polish breeding was great, but these days it consists mostly of many private breeders who breed insufficient horses to raise the quality. So far the idea of creating a one-and-only Polish Sport Horse is just an idea.

The truth is that the best riders in the world ride the best horses and they dictate the terms in both sport and breeding. We just have to do what we have to do."

### *Young horse champions*

The second edition of this new championships which took place on the first August weekend 2020 was a huge success, not only in terms of entries, with over 140 horses across all the classes, but also a great overview of young dressage prospects of many breeds and coming from different bloodlines.

So, allow me to present the winners of the second edition of Sport Championships of Dressage Horses in Solec Kujawski.

The three-year-old test was won by the Hannoverian stallion Fursten Spinne (Furstenlook - Christina x Christ), ridden by Adrian Seliga and owned by Joanna Szulc. Seliga also rode the runner-up, Romeo Von

Furstenball (Furstenball - Rozalinda Wood x Bretton Woods), ahead of Piotr Krol and Flashback (For Romance I x Rieke). The test itself was technically different, as the horses were presented in a group which made it easier to evaluate their movements and qualities.

The four-year-old test winners was Paulina Tomczak riding a pretty black Polish half-bred stallion Donatan (Bon Coeur - Dream Girl x Rhythmus S), bred by the Opypy Horse Stud. This couple scored 8.52 in the semi final, 8.16 in the final.

Runner up was Tomasz Jasinski and the charismatic chestnut stallion DRP Carlos (Santana - Carla) bred by Katarzyna Milczarek, ahead of Urszula Krzewicka and grey Polish half-bred gelding Bosa Nowa Hit (Sandro Hit - Bossa Nova x Carvano), a half-brother to Breakdance ridden by Aleksandra Szulc, multi-medalists of the Polish Championships for

Young Horses.

After the prize-giving I had a chance to talk to the winners: rider Paulina Tomczak, and Donatan's breeder Marzena Chentkowska.

According to Tomczak: "Donatan has been under the saddle only for a couple of months. He is very rideable, elastic, and soft in his gaits. His canter is superb, the trot is very elastic, and his walk widely covers the ground. He has a great talent for collection. He's already well balanced and a great dressage prospect. My dream is to go with one horse all the way from the very beginning to GP. A horse's health matters the most. That's the biggest challenge in this sport."

Chentkowska added: "Our next competition will



*Tomasz Jasinski riding Carlos*





*l-r: The mare First Class, Tomasz Czajkowski (owner of First Class) Katarzyna Młczarek, and Hubert Jankowski on board the mare Idwinaretto*

probably be Strzegom (PCYH). We would like to get him licensed there. Then five-year-old classes. We do hope he will keep on developing like this. He is by Bon Coeur x Benetton Dream x Brentano II x Bolero. His dam's sire is Rhythmus S and then back to Weltmeyer. His dam Dream Girl is one of our best broodmares."

#### Medallists in 5yo age-group

- 1st – Gabriela Jaworska and Westphalian chestnut Dream Boy (Destano [Hann] - Fleury Girl [Westf] x Fleury [Westf]) bred by Gestüt Sprehe, owned by the rider.
- 2nd – Aleksandra Krywult and chestnut DSP stallion Lari Fari (Luis Figo [DSP/ex Bad-Wü] x Pink Floyd x Don Diamond), bred by Zuchthof Galneder. Also winners of Polish Championships for Young Horses 2019 in the four-year-old category.
- 3rd – Justyna Stasiulewicz riding black Trakener Pikaso (Ice Age [Trak] - Plasta [Trak] x Fetisas [Trak])

#### Medallists in 6yo age group

- 1st – Gabriela Jaworska and bay Oldenburg Daily Deal Junior (Daily Deal - Rasada x Furst Heinrich) bred by Wioletta Pietrzyk.
- 2nd – Dalia Katinaite-Pranckeviciene riding Hanoverian mare Amica (Ampere - Rodiva)
- 3rd – Zofia Mordzelewska and Polish half-bred Barnado (Arriba Z - Bakara sp x Love Affair [Hann]).

Gabriela Jaworska, who brought seven horses to Solec seven can definitely be happy with the outcome, as two of them won their age-group tests: "Dream Boy is one of my biggest successes. I bought him when he was only two-and-a-half. I went to see a different horse in the stables of Bogdan

Kubiak and this chestnut stallion caught my eye despite the fact that people tried to talk me out of buying him. I've been working with him since the very beginning. I've had my moments of doubt. He's a dominant and demanding horse who every day teaches me to be humble. On the other hand he's very brave. In the dressage arena he becomes a warrior.

"Daily Day Junior is completely different. I got to train him as soon as he accepted the rider. He quickly learned to feel the rider and his intentions, plus he has a very good character and a head."

The 7 year old test was dominated by great mares:

- 1st – Hubert Jankowski and KWPN mare Idwinaretto (Everdale - Aliska K x Johnson)
- 2nd – Hubert Jankowski and Oldenburg mare First Class (Foundation - Samantha x Sandor Hit)
- 3rd – Anna Grygier-Wojtowicz and Polish half-bred gelding Shadow (Rammstein - Skaja x Danone)

Jankowski recalls his results with his two mares: "Both mares came to our stables two years ago – they were kind of 'raw', rideable at a basic level. I've been working with First Class since the very beginning and with Idwinaretto for a year. They both needed time to mature and start cooperating with the rider. Now they're becoming ready to show their true talent. These were the first competitions when they trusted me completely, were not so disturbed by the whole vibe of the show, and were focused on the job. Now they're both well prepared to meet the requirements of their level. Plans? We're getting ready for the Small Tour and will work on the details.

"Idwinaretto is more expressive when it comes to movement. She has bigger amplitude



*Gabriela Jaworska riding Dream Boy*

which is a great riding experience. On the other hand First Class is easier technically.

“I can see how much both the organization and the sporting level of the championships have improved compared to its first edition. This year there were better horses better prepared and presented, which allows you to look at the future of Polish dressage with hope. I’m also very positively surprised with the work of our judges. They were very efficient and professional.”

Concluding the results, the eight-year-old test was won by Marcin Woldanski and chestnut DSP Fantastic Surprise (Florencio I - Worldly Grace/Weltregent H).

The quality of the presented horses was also recognized by the judges. To summarize, Peter Holler, the five-star judge from Germany commented on the quality of horses: “I’ve been to Poland a couple of times before and I have to admit they are going forward step by step. This year it was really a big improvement in what we saw. You really see that riders have improved and that they put much effort into it, and it shows. Because of this the quality of the horses has become better and the quality of riding has become better.

“There were some horses in the four-year-old tests which caught my eye, one was ridden by Tomek Jasinski (Carlos) who was a very dynamic horse, and the other one was very good too (Donatan). It caught everyone’s eye from the first moment it entered the arena.

“With the best quality horses it’s often like this. When the flying changes come and the training, the quality is lost a little bit, but with five-year-olds the quality is not yet spoilt. They are still young horses and nobody asks them for much so they are mostly better than six-year-olds.

“The presentation of horses is absolutely better. They used to ride like in the Russian system which was deep in their mind – very technical and not so subtle. Very different from what’s happening today. Now you can see really good people are starting to ride better and all the tests including GP in other places are improving. On the one hand it’s not so easy for such a small federation, but on the other hand Poland has a very long tradition in riding. It would be a shame if they did not get to a certain level. I’m pretty sure than in three to four years some of the upcoming people will be able to build a team. For now it’s only Katarzyna Milczarek, Aleksandra Szulc and Zaneta Skowronska – these people are the best in Poland. But they are some good people coming up like Hubert Jankowski or Marcin Woldanski.”

Regarding breeding trends, Holler said; “Now breeding is becoming so global and it’s easy with embryo transfer, sending semen around the world it

becomes closer and closer, but still there are very different types of stallions and the offspring are different too. Worldwide breeding has improved a lot, also in the countries where it was not even so popular like in South Africa, even Malaysia, Japan – they all use stallions from here (Europe) and it’s all going up. Online auctions are more and more popular and the same with competitions – people are doing it through video.”

Holler was also positive about the ‘open’ category: “It’s good because it gives chances to more people and horses, while the other way is more nationalistic in perspective and it’s not very modern at all.”

Lukasz Walter the main judge of the championships was also very satisfied with the outcome of the competition: “I’m happy that compared to the first edition there were more horses this year with greater dressage potential. The four-year-olds were the best presented category. Two medalists – the Polish half-bred Donatan and the runner up, Carlos, from Sandro Hit’s line – are worth keeping an eye on.

“I only think that three-day marathon might have been too harsh for such young horses and it would be advisable to cut down the number of four-year-old tests to two instead of three. I also enjoyed the five-year-old winner – Dream Boy and would like to praise the horse for his elasticity and ease of movement. Good quality horses were just a starting point. The quality of presentation was also very important. Our goal as judges was to point out the right direction in which a rider and a horse were heading. We wanted both to judge and to educate the riders. And as a breeder I also hope that these championships will become a great promotion of young horses and that will increase their chances to grow into great Grand Prix horses of which we don’t have so many right now in Poland”. ■



*Ekwador (Heraldik xx x Corofino I)*



# Gold medal mares and approved stallions for DWB

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

*Danish Warmblood's saddle gradings have been conducted differently this year, as the Elite show has been cancelled due to assembly restrictions in connection with coronavirus. Nonetheless, a total of 39 newly graded mares have been awarded a breeder's medal, of which three dressage mares were awarded gold.*

At each saddle grading the best mares are selected for a final and from among these mares the breeder medals are awarded in bronze or silver. Then the best silver medal mares can be nominated for the possibility of being awarded a gold medal. There were three of them at the saddle grading that took place at Blue Hors in August, and at a subsequent meeting the Breeding Committee decided to award these three mares a breeder's medal in gold.

Vestermarkens Shakira is by Sezuan x Tailormade Temptation, bred and owned by Kirsten Buus. This mare has an eminent canter for which she was granted a 10, and on top of her exceptional functionality and willingness to perform she also displays a beautiful and feminine type.

The black beauty Borussia L by Bon Coeur x Hohenstein is bred and owned by L Horses, and her dam Hotiana L is also the dam of the four-year-old mare Beleste L who was awarded a bronze medal. Borussia L is highly rideable and very functional in all three gaits.

The very noble and elegant Fransisca from Henrik Hansen claimed the championship title of two-year-old mares last year. She is by Franklin x Blue Hors Romanov, and her dam Rapitala is a very special lady who, among several top horses, is the dam of the only triple world champion young horse mare, Fiontini, who is now an international Grand Prix horse under the saddle of Severo Jurado Lopez. Fransisca is of outstanding type and she excels with very active hindlegs.



*Fransisca was last year's two-year-old champion filly*

Spokesman for the Breeding Committee, Claus Hansen is very happy with the overall quality of this year's saddle gradings which represents one of the smallest crops in many years. Nevertheless, the quality of the best mares equals that of former years' top mares.

## *Final approval for US-based DWB stallions*

Jumper stallion Charmeur PH DVH 1312 by Cabachon x Come Back II and dressage stallion Tempest WT DVH 1314 by Tailormade Temptation x Andiamo have earned their final



*Beautiful Borussia L is a very rideable and functional mare*



*Vestermarkens Shakira oozes of quality and functionality*





***Charmeur PH and Tallin Farm rider  
Christoffer Nerøving Møllekær***

approval in Danish Warmblood.

The seven-year-old Charmeur PH, owned by Tallin Farm, NJ and bred by Mogens Nielsen earned final approval via his sports results this year which required a minimum of five clear rounds in minimum 1m30 jumper classes at USEF shows. Charmeur PH was purchased and imported from Den-



***Tempest WT and Elly Schobel***

mark by Charlotte and Brian Bech-Hansen from Tallin Farm as a foal and is to our knowledge the first US-based jumper stallion to reach final approval in the NADWA testing system.

Five-year-old Tempest WT, owned by Elly Schobel Dressage SC and bred in the US by Kathy Sweat Schultz also earned the final approval via his sports results. The requirements for five-year-old dressage stallions require a score of 65% or better in two USDF-sanctioned competitions from two different judges at first level or higher, at least one of which must be the FEI test for five-year-olds.

On top of the final approval, both stallions have also been awarded with the DWB breeders medal in Bronze.

### ***RIP Pari Lord***

From Ab Initio Farms we have received the sad news of the passing of Elite DWB mare Pari Lord ERDH 5302, born 1996. Pari Lord by Loran x Astaire x Raimondo was bred in Denmark by Ruth and Jørgen Søgaard, Stud Horsfeldt and is out of the famous DWB Pari-dam line which has produced a number of top-dressage horses.

Pari Lord was one of the original mares imported to the US in 1998 by Mr. Richard Freeman of Oak Hill Ranch to help



***Grand Prix star Paragon under his owner  
and regular rider Heather Blitz***

renew the Oak Hill breeding program for Danish Warmblood horses. For the last 13 years, Pari Lord has resided with Matt and Ashley Garver, Ab Initio Farms.

During her career as a broodmare, Pari Lord has produced no fewer than 15 offspring. Among those are several RDH-graded mares, the bronze medal mare Pacifica by Blue Hors Future Cup and last, but certainly not least, Paragon by Blue Hors Don Schufro, bred by Oak Hill Ranch. Under Heather Blitz, Paragon became an international Grand Prix horse and was selected as the U.S. Olympic team reserve for the 2012 London Games.

### ***Successful DWB streaming auction***



***Most expensive foal was the expressive  
and super moving Vestermarkens Kenzo***

On August 16, Danish Warmblood hosted its second streaming foal auction in collaboration with Blue Hors Dressage. With an average price of DKK98,000 and a sales percentage of 79% the auction committee

was more than happy with the result. "It has been a really great auction today, where we have sold many of our breeder's foal, and I think that once again we have proven the justification of these smaller auctions", said DWB director and auctioneer, Casper Cassøe, after the auction.

The colt Vestermarkens Kenzo by Blue Hors Kingston x Tailormade Temptation, bred by Kirsten Buus was the auction's price highlight. The colt was purchased by Blue Hors Dressage at the top price of DKK260,000 after a bidding duel with a German bidder.

The next DWB streaming auction – Nordic International Sales – will take place on September 5 in collaboration with Equitour Denmark by Helgstrand Dressage. ■

# First Polish ‘open’ foal championship unites blood

BY AGATA GROSICKS

PHOTOGRAPHY: OLIWIA CHMIELEWSKA

*On August 1, 2020, at the Salio Equestrian Center right outside the city of Lodz in central Poland, Tyszko Horses together with Cichon Stallions organized the first ever Polish ‘Open’ Foal Championships for all Polish-bred foals registered with all studbook members of the WBFSh – thereby uniting a variety of bloodlines.*

Although the timing was short, and only three weeks before the set date, the organizers finally decided to go ahead and open the list of entries. They were, therefore, spontaneously met with such huge interest from among local breeders which exceeded their expectations. Finally, during the one-day event, an international jury – including Katarzyna Wiszowaty, Georg Bruns, Bernard Demets and Joris van de Oetelaar (chairman of the Anglo European Studbook) evaluated 87 foals born this year in Poland.

Joanna Rosicka-Tyszko, one of the organizers of this Polish Open Foal Championships commented on the outcome and the success of the event: “It was a spontaneous decision, although we started discussing such event among breeders back in the beginning of the year. Then Covid-19 came on stage together with all the restrictions that followed, but many breeders were still making enquiries about foal shows and mare tests. We checked the sport calendar for the summer season and found a slot in it – the first weekend in August. So, we took a risk, decided to organize the first ever open foal championships and set up the date. We expected maybe 40 to 50 foals to turn, but the number of the entries went far beyond that. A total of 87 altogether, including 60% showjumping and 40% dressage foals, all judged by an



*Champion showjumping filly Natielle (Emerald van’t Ruytershof - Giselle II x Levisto Z)*

independent international jury.

“We naturally invited representatives of all the WBFSh studbooks to participate in the show, suggesting that each one could create their own price for the best foal representing their stud book in the championships.

“Our goal is to organize such event every year in the future. The success of the show has motivated us to go with the flow and think that we could change it into a two-day festival which would gather breeders from all around Poland. Such a great spot on the map of Polish breeding. The breeders were very eager to come and see for themselves which bloodlines and which stallions are popular this year, so they can use this knowledge and this stallion for their mares. They want to know what types and horses are in fashion. And they simply want to ‘meet and greet’ and to exchange their opinions with other breeders and to compare their horses.”

## *Showjumping foals*

Champion filly was Natielle (Emerald van’t Ruytershof - Giselle II x Levisto Z) bred and owned by Tomasz Olszewski. The filly is by a great showjumper and the popular breeding stallion, Emerald, ridden by Harry Smolders. Her granddam is a full sister of the legendary Cardento, while her half sister, Lady Cardenta (Cornet Obolensky), was the most expensive



*Champion dressage colt, Vincento Chan K (Vivino - Contenssa Chin K x Chin Chan K)*



foal of the Flanders Auction 2018.

- First vice champion filly: Easy White 'G' (Hickstead White - Electric Girl x Coupie) bred and owned by Pawel Gaszka.
- Second vice champion filly: Nil'Chi Greenhills (Ludwig As - Nanetta II x Calido I) bred and owned by Kamil Ogorek
- Champion colt: Nottingham II S (Glasgow van't Merelsnest - Nestia S x Romualdo) bred and owned by Hubert Szurik, out of the same dam as Polish-bred stallion Nevados S, the current showjumping team champion of Europe. His full brother, a two-year-old stallion Nottingham S won the Jaruzyn Polish half-bred Foal Championships 2018.
- First vice champion colt: Chilly Chimi Z (Cicero Z - Cimba x Castillo), bred and owned by Iwona Kruszynska.
- Second vice champion colt: Call Me Blue (Chacoon Blue - Zenzi x Clarimo), bred and owned by Jakub Rawecki.

### *Dressage foals*

Two fillies shared the championship title in first place.

- Viviana G (Vitalis - Quitie G x Quaterback) bred and owned by Pawel Gasinski. This pretty and proportionally built filly immediately caught the eye of the judges who highly valued her gaits. It's no wonder, as she comes from the Vivaldi line and her damsire is the stallion Quaterback, well-known for his outstanding trot.
- Furst Red Lady (Furst Toto - Christina x Christ) bred and owned by Adam Majko. Another champion filly in the dressage category comes from the Furst Toto line whose sire Furstenball has as many as 75 licensed sons.
- Second vice champion filly: Dona Luxuria (Don Luxury - Pauletta x Iland) bred and owned by Alicja Frischke-Szulc.
- Champion colt: Vincenzo Chan K (Vivino - Contenssa Chin K x Chin Chan K) bred and owned by Zdzisław Kaminski. The youngest and the best colt comes directly from the super dressage stallion Vivaldi line and is also advanced in Thoroughbred according to the latest trends in breeding of sport horses.
- First vice champion: No 71 (Furst Toto - Summer x San Remo) bred and owned by Izabela Chodrowska.



*Viviana G (Vitalis - Quitie G x Quaterback)*

- Second vice champion: Zack In Black MM (Heiline's Zanzier - Vestgaardens Olympia x Blue Hors Don Olymbrio) bred and owned by MM Brothers Ltd.

By the end of the day the judges chose the Super Champion of the Show, and this award went to a beautiful dressage mare Viviana G (Vitalis - Quitie G x Quaterback) with 9.25 for gaits, and overall score of 8.75 points. She was bred and is owned by Pawel Gasinski, who explained his victory: "I've been breeding horses for 28 years now and this is like my dream come true. It's really great when other people appreciate your job. This award is like a crowning achievement of my work. I've come here to Salio Equestrian Center with two of my foals. My other filly came fifth. And I have to praise the way the Championships were organized in terms of safety for the horses as well as the breeders.

"I breed only dressage horses. At the moment I have ten broodmares – three by Quaterback, one by Romanov, Weltregent, Floriscout and Bretton Woods, and so on. My best foals have come from mares foaled by Revolution, and now Vitalis. This year I've had nine foals by Vitalis and one by Vivaldos. Why Vitalis? Because I heard that his offspring are very rideable. I care about the sport future of my horses and many of them can be seen in the dressage arenas. The majority of my horses have been sold to Polish riders although I've had foreign clients too.

"I register my foals in the OLD Stud Book. It's a longtime cooperation and I really appreciate the terms.

"My Viviana G will be for sale. One of the judges here liked her so much and has already expressed interest in buying her. She will participate in the Cichon Foal Auction organized on September 5 during the Polish Dressage Championships. I'm really looking forward to it as this is going to be the first hybrid auction organized both on the premises in Radzionkow and Online."

It's worth mentioning here that last year another filly bred by Pawel Gasinski – Josephine G (Jovian - Bretton Woods) reached the highest price at the Cichon Foal Auction 2019 and eventually sold for €25,000.

The huge and unexpected success of this Open Foal Championships proved that Polish breeders are really yearning for such events. With uneven luck so far, the Udorz breeding championship was cancelled this year due to Covid-19, while the September Rieczna Open Foal Championship is still on the schedule, as well as October's Jaruzyn Polish half-bred championships organized by PZKH. Let's hope the breeders will get another chance to present their foals, the quality of which are really getting better with each passing season.

What's even more important – this Open Foal Championships confirmed that it is the value of a horse that really matters, not its passport. As we had winners in each category representing different studbooks – Oldenburg, Holsteiner, PZHK... – it is a clear indication that the future belongs to just such an open formula, especially in Poland where breeders tend to register their foals with various European studbooks. ■



# The Rothwells maintaining tradition in Tinahely

BY NADIA REA

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURENCE DUNNE, SUSAN FINNERTY

*Horse Sport Ireland's breeding department recently sat down with the Rothwell family in Tinahely, Co. Wicklow to discuss the history of their breeding operation in the Wicklow hills, and, their future plans. 'Greenhall' is the prefix of the Rothwell family farm and all their stock. It originates from the townlands of Greenhall, Tinahely where the farm is located.*

It's a family-run farm, with Derry, Emily, Sharon and Mary Rothwell all actively involved. It's a mixed farming enterprise, of horses, cattle and sheep.

Before the Rothwell family were resident in Greenhall, Derry's grandfather John Rothwell farmed in Courtown, Gorey, Wexford, but moved to Tinahely when his son Derek senior was just two years old back in 1924. The farm in Tinahely then continued to be farmed by Derek Snr.

Derry tells us, "It was always a mixed farming enterprise and in those days the broodmares would have also worked the farm, so they needed to be very versatile and bred to function. As time passed, my father focused more on breeding the traditional quality sport horse, and Thoroughbreds. Dad was an active member of many organisations. He was county chairman of the IFA (Irish Farmers' Association) and played an instrumental role in setting up the equine section of the IFA while acting as vice chairman. He was a loyal supporter of point-to-points and kept many point-to-point racehorses over the years. We actually still have four Thoroughbred mares breeding today."

Mary continued to explain; "Derek was very passionate about the conformation of horses, so much so that he was a founder member of the Irish Shows Association and one of the instigators behind the junior judges' course. Derek Snr bred many RDS (Royal Dublin Society) winners but held the Pembroke Cup (owner/breeder prize) in the highest esteem, as the pinnacle for any breeder."

"Derek had a mare, Miss Muffet (ISH), by Darantus (TB) out of Battlemaid (ISH) by Battle Burn (TB) who bred Jack Horner (1986) by Varano (TB) that won in HOYS".

Derry added; "I retained two of her fillies by Laughtons Flight (ISH) – Miss Flight (ISH) and Darantus Flight (ISH). The purpose of holding onto these traditional bloodlines was to breed event types that would hopefully perform to the top level. I was very fortunate that this paid off and that these mares bred five-star eventers. Brave Heart by Billies Bank (TB) and stallion Barnaby Flight (ISH) by Young Barnaby (TB)."

As Derry got more involved in the farm, he showed a lot of pedigree Simmental and commercial cattle with great success. His horse enterprise gradually grew, taking the more

dominant role and claiming the family's interest. Two of his early purchases Barrowstown Girl (ISH) and Cailin Deas (ISH) were to become the foundations of his broodmare enterprise.

Barrowstown Girl was by Touch Stone (ISH) out of Fermanagh Girl (ISH). Most of her progeny were winners in the RDS, most notably Greenhall Flowing River (ISH) by Weavers Web (TB). Mary tells us, "she holds a record for winning all four Irish Shows Association All Ireland Championship titles. From foal to three-year-old, and in the RDS she was champion filly as a yearling, two-year-old and three-year-old, as well as taking supreme young horse champion title as a yearling and two-year-old. Derry has always tried to retain a filly from his mare lines to keep the line alive. The Barrowstown Girl line remains with a filly by Porsch (BWP) and a filly by Chillout (ISH).

Greenhall Cailín Deas (ISH) by Mister Lord (TB) out of Bassom Lady (ISH) by Bassonpierre (TB) was purchased as a two-year-old. Mary elaborated; "She was a prolific winner in the show ring, hunter broodmare champion in the RDS, and breeders champion. She was also closely related to many



*Mary Rothwell with Greenhall Wishing Well (ISH) by Crosstown Dancer (RID) out of Greenhall Miss Cruise (ISH) by Cruising (ISH)*



*Mary Rothwell with Millennium Cruise (ISH) by Cruising (ISH) out of Greenhall Cailin Deas (ISH) by Mister Lord (USA)*

performance horses, including Big Ed, jumped by Robert Splaine. She turned out to be an exceptional broodmare. Her progeny has gone on to breed international show jumpers and eventers as well as top class show horses in hand and under saddle. Out of Cailin Deas, we have retained five mares in the herd. Three are by Cruising (ISH), one by Porsch (BWP), and one by Colin Diamond (ISH). Millennium Cruise (ISH) and Greenhall Dot (ISH), who are both by Cruising (ISH), have been crowned RDS Breeders Champion in 2011 and 2012, and the third Cruising daughter, Greenhall Miss Cruise (ISH) is dam of the RDS ridden hunter champion mare and reserve supreme ridden hunter champion, Greenhall Wishing Well (ISH)."

Most of the mares are home-bred, but another mare purchased by Derry was Greenhall Indicator (ISH) by Limmerick (HOLST) out of Weavers Wonder (ISH) by Weavers Web (TB), which he has had from a yearling. Derry elaborates; "This mare has herself been very successful winning, champion filly in the RDS, champion

Joan O'Connor and was ridden by Sarah Ennis for these results. She is also the dam to HOYS working hunter qualifier Brooklodge Merryman (ISH), who is a 2013 gelding by Mermus R (KWPN).

Mary added; "Overall there are around 20 broodmares breeding annually in Greenhall. Dad and I have a simple breeding plan in mind, which is quite similar to Derek's. We wish to produce a quality, correct animal primarily, but incorporate bloodlines that can go down the route of ridden hunter, showjumpers, and eventers.

In conclusion, she said; "We are very lucky to have some of the good old traditional bloodlines, including Cruising, Laughtons Flight, and Weavers Web, etc. We aim to produce good looking, athletic animals to compete in many different disciplines. Our stallion choices are based on suiting our mares, and so far we have been very lucky to breed horses to be successful as showjumpers, eventers and in showing, both in-hand and under saddle. We hope for continued success". ■

broodmare in Balmoral and reserve champion in the RDS breeder's championship. One of her progeny, Greenhall Granuaile (ISH), by Frankfort Boy (IRE), had great success in 2019, when they were crowned 'Stepping Stones' league winners, and the 'Young Event Horse' series league winner. Greenhall Granuaile (ISH) is now owned by our neighbour



# KWPN paying close attention to correct leg conformation

By KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY KWPN

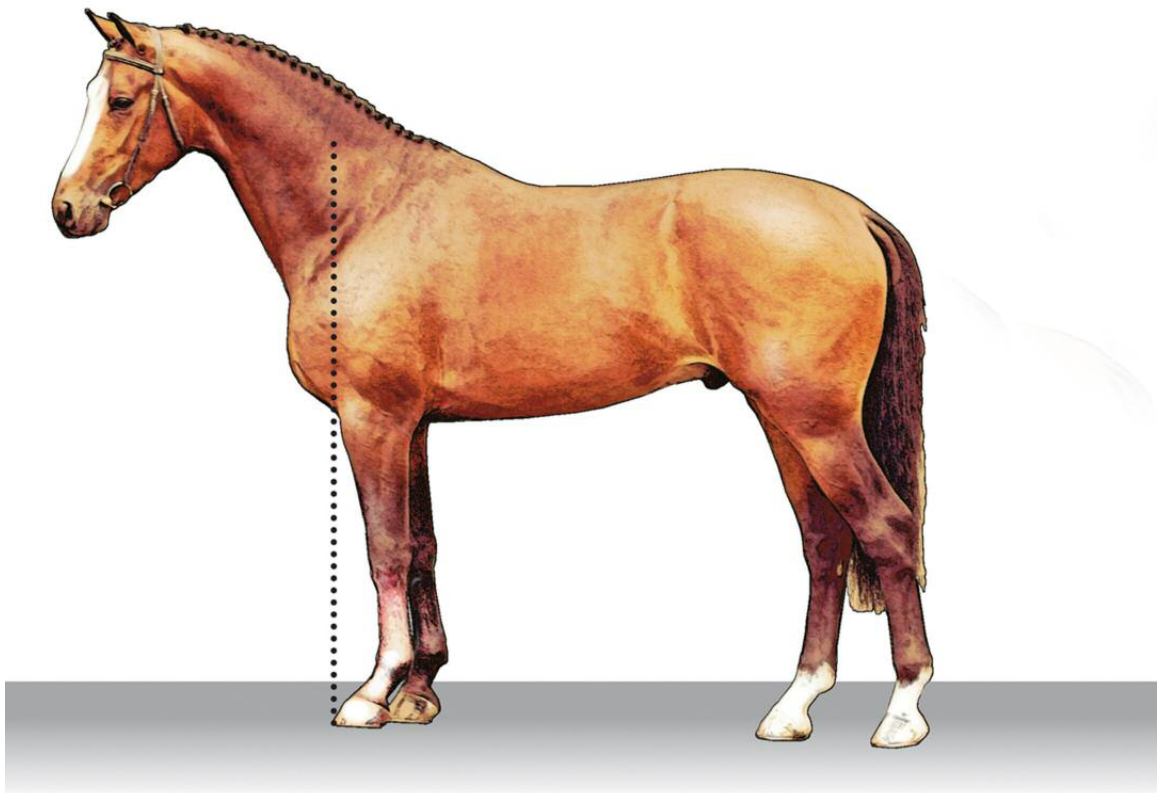
*The KWPN pays close attention to correct conformation, which allows the horse to perform its work easily and, as a result, enjoy a long sport career. Correct leg conformation is an important part of this concept. Together with inspectors Floor Dröge and Henk Dirksen, we shine a light on this subject.*

When a horse is presented at a KWPN inspection, the jury first evaluates its stance and conformation. By viewing it from both the side and the front, they can observe the various leg angles. The evaluation of the front legs begins with an assessment of the horse's stance relative to its body. Senior dressage inspector Floor Dröge explains: "The front leg should stand straight under the body. This way, the horse can easily bring the leg forward and develop scope in the stride. However, the leg in some horses is positioned slightly under the body, which we call 'camped under'. This need not be a problem, but you can see it in the movement

sequence: the horse can't bring its leg forward as easily and doesn't have as much shoulder freedom.

Senior jumper inspector Henk Dirksen also sees this issue in show jumpers: "You often see that these horses jump slightly over the front leg, which comes at the expense of the front leg technique." However, this issue does not have veterinary significance.

Next, the jury draws an imaginary straight line through the front leg. Dröge: "We then look if the leg is over- or back at the knee. We don't consider a bit of either bad, but never too much! We regularly see horses that are fairly back at the



*Normal vs. cramped under (see following page for comparison illustration)*



knee, in which the knee is positioned behind the plumb line and relatively overstretched. We hear from practice that this regularly leads to accelerated wear and tear.”

Dirksen: “In showjumpers, we sometimes see horses with an over-at-the-knee front leg. It certainly doesn’t put them at a disadvantage: they use their knees better and, as a result, seem to have less wear and tear.” Over-at-the-knee conformation is rare in dressage horses.

### *Paying attention to the hooves*

The jury also views the hoof angle and the height of the heels from the side. Dissimilar feet lead to an asymmetrical gait. And with reduced load on the back half of the hoof, the hoof mechanism is less functional. If the differences are very great and, as a result, the asymmetry is very significant, it can be a problem. Dröge: “Obviously, dissimilar front feet are a disadvantage for a horse. These horses always move out of balance, like having a sneaker on one foot and a heel on the other and then having to run a marathon like that. This regularly causes problems that eventually manifest as wear and tear, and lameness.”

Next, the jury views the horse moving away and towards them on a straight line. This procedure allows them to properly evaluate the stance of the front feet, viewed from the front. If the horse’s feet are turned outward, we call this

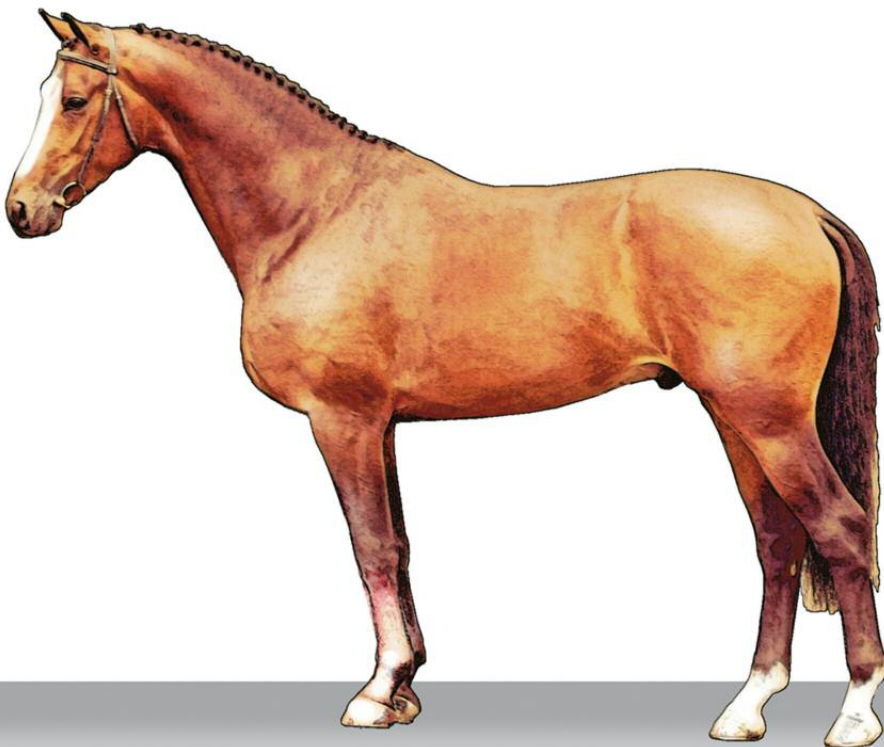
‘toed out’; conversely, if the feet are turned inward, we call this ‘toed in’.

Dirksen: “We always strive for a correct stance, but we sometimes overlook a toed-out stance, provided that it’s not too severe. We take more issue when the front feet are toed in.”

Dröge: “We always evaluate a horse for this in the walk. If the horse is standing, it can look very different. It’s especially important that the foot is placed down flat. If the horse loads the outside or inside more, then that’s a problem.”

### *Hind-leg angle*

Next, the jury assesses the angle of the gaskin relative to the hind cannon bone. If the angle is large, the hind leg is straight; conversely, if the angle is small, the hind leg is bent and the stance referred to as ‘sickle hocked’. The hind leg stance can certainly influence a horse’s durability. A horse with a hind leg that’s too straight usually can’t bend its hind leg as well. In contrast, a sickle-hocked hind leg is already more bent and therefore is more functional; but an angle that’s too small will result in a greater load. A straight hind leg bends less and therefore increases the risk of suspensory ligament problems, certainly when combined with a weak pastern angle. As a result, much more pressure is put on the



*A horse is considered ‘camped under’ if the front leg stands obliquely rearward instead of perpendicular to the ground*

suspensory ligament. The most ideal hind leg conformation facilitates the most functional use. Dirksen: "For a jumper, we'd rather see a bit straighter hind leg than a sickle-hocked one, as long as it's not too straight. A somewhat straighter hind leg can develop more power, but there are also enough show jumpers with a more sickle-hocked hind leg. A hind leg that's too sickle-hocked, however, leads to a lot of wear and tear. But you see more exceptional cases here than with dressage horses."

Dröge: "A hind leg that's too sickle-hocked appears to bend very well but can be far less effective for carrying. A somewhat straighter hind leg can develop more power; but if it's too straight – certainly combined with a weak pastern stance – it can lead to suspensory ligament problems in dressage horses, which is a known issue."

### *Deviations and/or abnormalities*

The jury then evaluates conformation. In evaluating the stance of the hindleg (the extremes being sickle-hocked and straight), four abnormalities may be noted. The first of these is "cow-hocked". A horse is cow-hocked when the hocks are turned too far inward and the knees outward. Again, the joints are unevenly taxed, wearing it down at the expense of power in the entire leg.

Other abnormalities are being tied in below the knee and an abnormal hock. When the horse is tied-in below the knee there is a (too) sharp of a transition from the cannon bone to hock, where the latter is often short or under developed. And that is actually an even bigger problem because most of the power is developed in those joints.

An abnormal hock is noted when there is a curb on the lower cannon. We speak of a curb when one of the little

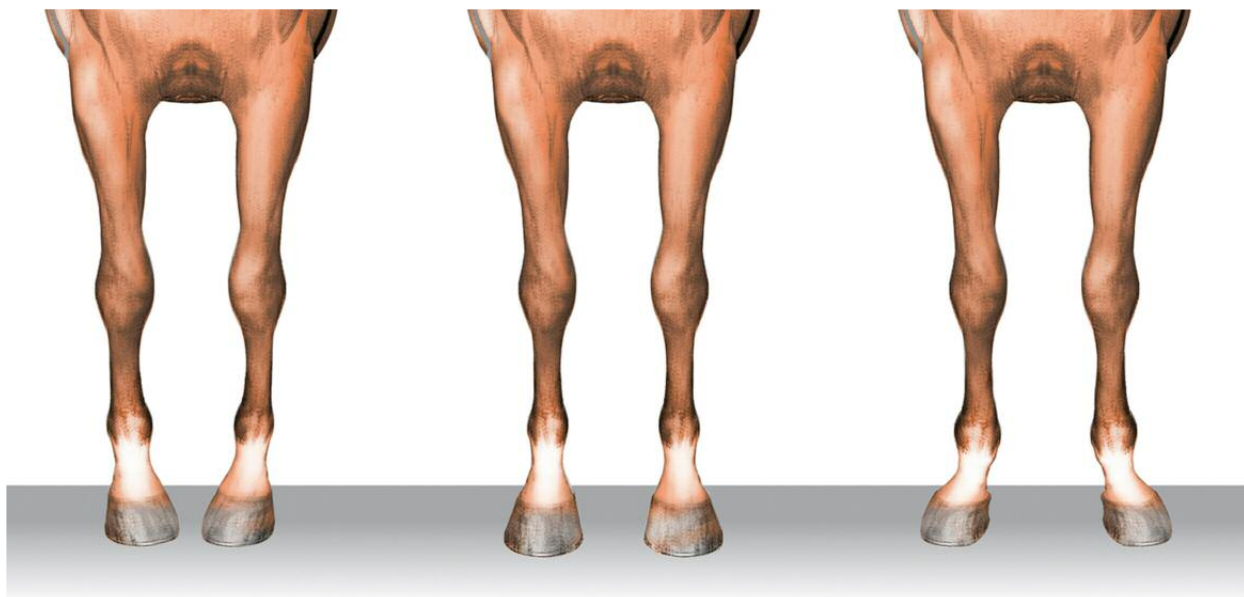
bones that form the hock is slanted; this is visible diagonally on the back side of the hock. Because a major tendon also runs there, such a slanted bone can quickly lead to lameness. Therefore a curb can be a risky abnormality and if extreme, can be for grounds to not be accepted into the studbook. Even a horse with a less pronounced curb may be precluded from entering the studbook if it is accompanied by a strong sickle-hock and tied-in cannon.

A curb on the upper part of the cannon is not listed as a deviation because it is only a thickening of the top of the splint bone and does not entail any objections or restrictions

Notes are also taken about abnormal stifles, even though the evaluation can only be limited. Only the swollen knee and faltering movement are clearly visible. If these are seriously present, the horse will not be accepted into the studbook.

Dirksen: "We can name enough examples of horses with a hock that's not perfect but still do well in the sport. But because it's so hard to see from the outside exactly what's going on, we should always strive to use only horses in breeding that are completely correct. What we also find very important is symmetry. If there's a very slight abnormality, we can still live with that; but if it's unilateral, then that's a much bigger problem. Like in the front feet, you'll always get asymmetry in motion as a result."

Dröge also points out the risks of an under-sized hock joint. "We want well developed hock joints so that there's enough room for good mobility and the absorption of forces. What we also sometimes see in dressage horses is a long hind leg that really stands out behind the mass. Such a horse will always have to take a big stride forward and therefore is less able to optimally bring the hind leg under. As a young horse, this can sometimes look spectacular – also



*Stance front feet – l-r: Toed in – Correct – Toed out  
The stance of the front feet is assessed in the walk. It is especially important that the foot is set down flat*



*Stance hind legs – l-r: Sickle Hocked – Correct Hind Legs - Straight*

*If the angle of the gaskin relative to the hind cannon bone is large, the hind leg is straight; if the angle is small, the leg is referred to as sickle-hocked or bent*

because it often goes hand-in-hand with a lot of flexibility and scope – but in the long run, it’s less functional. The hind leg is literally and figuratively too far away.”

***Both front and behind***

Pastern angle is also important in both the front- and hind leg. If it is very sloped or ‘weak’, the pastern drops too far due to hyper-extension of the surrounding structures; or if it is straight, the pastern and pastern joint have little mobility. Both inspectors point to the danger of a weak pastern stance: “We see increasingly more horses with a weaker pastern. This often gives more elasticity in motion, but watch out, because it shouldn’t be too weak. It’s for good reason that several years ago we also started scoring the hind leg pastern angle. We really have to watch that this stays strong enough.”

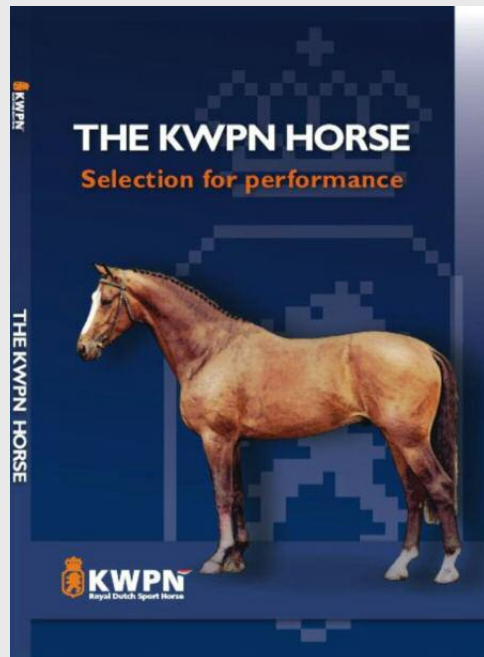
A weak pastern stance puts more stress on the suspensory ligament with possible injuries as a result. This often creates problems, certainly with a straight hock. If you more or less have a normal foot shape with a weak pastern position, it may still be all right; but if you also have a horse with little heel, then there’s really an increased risk of injuries. It is always better to have a correct horse than a horse with stance abnormalities. It contributes to the proper functioning and quality of a horse’s movement. Breeding should therefore always strive for correctness. Dröge: “We look at the inspections from a breeding perspective. We want to breed as correct and healthy as possible. For an individual sporthorse, a less ideal leg stance isn’t such a big issue; but it shouldn’t be a problem on the population level.” And Dirksen concludes: “Our predecessors have always selected for correctness. I think that’s the power of the KWPN. And look closely: the higher you go in the sport, the greater the percentage of correct horses. That says it all.” ■

**‘THE KWPN HORSE - SELECTION FOR PERFORMANCE’**

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The book is equipped with detailed illustrations and contains a practical link to video footage of forms of movement. You can order this book at the online KWPN Webshop.





# Auctions: The horse market does not recognize the crisis!

BY AURÉLIE COVINI

*Driven by the gloomy context of Covid-19, auctions are constantly reinventing themselves. Ever more numerous, especially online, they offer an increasingly wide range of horses, in particular thanks to breeders and dealers who do not hesitate to launch and organize their own sales. More than 2,250 horses were traded in public sales in under four months, generating a turnover of more than €35 million!*

One wonders if the coronavirus pandemic has not ultimately given a major boost to the development of online sales. Not many days go by without buyers taking the opportunity to purchase a horse on the Internet.

Coincidentally, 100 sales were organized for the period from May 2020 to August 22, although a few have not communicated their results so have not been included. Suffice to say that sport horse auctions do not seem to be in crisis. In fact, a fairly recent phenomenon is growing; that of sales organized not companies or auction houses, but by the breeders themselves. Thus, among the results, more of the larger studfarms have organized their own sales, allowing them to market a wider range of horses directly, and without recourse to a commercial company or a studbook who often work with a large selection of 'elite' horses.

If Schockemöhle's sales have long been essential, we see large stables like Van Olst, Helgstrand and HDC, organizing their own auctions, often helped by online sales platforms increasingly present in these 'remote' organizations.

New sales have appeared in the landscape in recent months, such as the Trigon Auction launched by speaker Frederik de Backer, alongside Stal Tops (Olympic gold medallist and founder of the prestigious Longines Global Champions Tour), and the Van de Lageweg family (VDL Stud). The Trigon Auction platform will offer breeders and investors the possibility to sell and buy foals, two- and three-year-old horses, broodmares, frozen embryos, and sport horses in recurring auctions throughout the year. Janko van de Lageweg, co-founder of Trigon Auctions said, "It is the first time that three players in different fields have joined forces to support breeders in the sales of their foals and assist clients in choosing the right investment. This is literally the bridge between breeders and buyers." The VDL family also organizes the well-respected WEF Sporthorse Auction in Wellington, FL, in cooperation with Equestrian Sport Productions, and partners in the successful De Wolden Summer Sale. "Online auctions are a fairly new medium to buy and sell horses and the market has grown in size and scope over the last years. Selling or buying online requires enormous trust between the client and the auction house".

Carlos Pinto, his partner Willemijn Poels, and Steve

Tinti have also organised a new auction 'The Collection', in May. A total of 16 horses from various stables were offered for sale through this online auction, some of them claiming the highest prices for showjumping horses in recent months. While the organizers may have encountered some technical problems with the online auctions due to overloading the site, the auction turned out to be a great success. Corlou (Cornet Obolensky x Baloubet du Rouet), a five-year-old stallion reached the top price of the auction of €252,000 and was sold in the Netherlands. Contharga Fly, a promising seven-year-old mare, daughter of the high profile Conthargos (dam by Sir Shutterfly), was knocked down for €200,000, while another seven-year-old mare, Baloubelle (Baloubet du Rouet x Cassini II) sold for €150,000. According to co-organizer Willemijn Poels, this auction was a success from the start: "The idea of also placing hunters in the catalogue was good for reaching different clients. We saw that, apart from the targeted markets such as the United States and Canada, other nations have also shown a lot of interest in these uniquely chosen horses."

Also, for the first time in France, the Riverland stud organized its own auction in August, at the stable and online. And although maybe all the results had not been published at the time of writing this article, Gella de Riverland, a four-year-old mare by Vigo d'Arsoilles, and out of a Diamant de Semilly dam, sold for €93,000.

This pattern of 'hybrid sales', online and on-site at an event, is a developing tendency, as was seen in Holstein this summer as well.

For dressage horses, big prices came from Germany during the first Hof Kasselmann Online Auction on May 23, which saw a collection of 12 young dressage horses from Gestüt Osthoff and Gestüt Lewitz attract bidders from all around the world. Bussarto (Buckingham x Likoto), a dark bay stallion, was bought by a private dressage stable in the south of Germany for €384,000. During this auction, For a Hit (Finest x Donnerhall), also sold for €304,000 to a customer of David Wilson's W-Farms in the USA, while Vilano (Vivaldi x Don Schufro) moves to Luxembourg for €186,000.

The Oldenburg Online special edition auction in June

achieved the second highest price of that month for the four-year-old Mister Universe (Morricone I x San Amour I) bred by Dr. Gisa Löwe, which went under the hammer for €340,000 to new owners in Switzerland.

The top price for a foal also came from this Oldenburg auction. The strong moving beauty queen Imagination (Imposantos x Fürst Romancier), bred and exhibited by Wilfried Fleming from Löningen, sold to one of the world's renowned dressage stables for €133,750.

For a showjumping foal, the top price was achieved by Con Gusto JT Z (Chacco-Blue) during the BWFA Seacoast Stable auction at the beginning of August. Happy Days Z, the dam of Con Gusto JT Z, is a full sister to Grand Prix horse Hardrock Z.

The third quarter of the year is usually a strong sales period, especially for foals, so this trend of a very active sales market will be confirmed in the coming months. It will also define whether the Covid-19 crisis will finally get the better of enthusiasts, riders, and investors in terms of buying horses. ■

Stallion ranking (sales between May 1 - August 22, 2020). The results include 2,257 horses sold: 715 dressage, 1,542 showjumping. Total dressage 715 horses sold and 1542 jumping horses sold.



*Imagination (Imposantos x Fürst Romancier)*

**SHOWJUMPING STALLIONS**  
RANKED ACCORDING TO TOTAL SALES IN €

Name	Sales total	Volume	Average
Cornet Obolensky	1,301,280	65	20,020
Conthargos	882,500	40	22,063
Chacco-Blue	836,000	31	26,968
Exelero 2	623,000	10	62,300
Emerald	613,532	37	16,582
Diamant de Semilly	595,851	36	16,551
Vivant	544,500	14	38,893
Messenger	526,500	8	65,813
Comme il faut	520,601	38	13,700
Chacoon Blue	520,500	18	28,917
Casall	500,830	28	17,887
Cicero Z ban Paemel	422,750	14	30,196
Dominator Z	402,551	25	16,102
Big Star	369,390	18	20,522
London	318,500	8	39,813
Eldorado vd Zeshoek TN	311,450	28	11,123
Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve	286,531	21	13,644
Baloubet du Rouet	242,000	7	34,571
Action-Breaker	236,500	5	47,300
Diarado	233,515	19	12,290
Nabab de Reve	233,500	6	38,917
Vigo d'Arsouilles	212,500	13	16,346
Diacontinus	191,750	14	13,696
Verdi TN	191,370	14	13,669
Arezzo Vdl	187,500	10	18,750
Kannan	183,500	11	25,273
Casanova	183,000	4	45,750
Hardrock Z	165,000	17	9,706
Zirocco Blue	161,000	9	17,889
Balou Du Rouet	161,000	9	17,889
Tobago Z	157,751	15	10,517
Grandorado TN	152,500	17	8,971
Balou du Reventon	152,250	9	16,917
El Barone III Z	150,000	12	12,500

**DRESSAGE STALLIONS**  
RANKED ACCORDING TO TOTAL SALES IN €

Name	Sales total	Volume	Average
Morricone I	461,000	8	57,625
Vitalis	298,750	20	14,938
Viva Gold	210,750	14	15,054
Vivaldi	196,000	2	98,000
Valverde	180,000	9	20,000
Millennium	177,750	11	16,159
Livaldon	145,250	8	18,156
Totilas	137,000	6	22,833
Vivaldos	127,500	10	12,750
San Amour I	125,500	3	41,833
Secret	118,000	7	16,857
So Unique	117,250	9	13,028
Vaderland	116,000	8	14,500
Sir Heinrich	89,250	7	12,750
Hope OLD	73,500	4	18,375
Libertad	71,000	2	35,500
Valdiviani	70,750	5	14,150
Spörcken	66,000	3	22,000
Springbank II VH	64,500	4	16,125
Quaterback	60,750	3	20,250
Sezuan's Donnerhall	56,250	5	11,250
Sir Donnerhall I	56,250	3	18,750
Rock Forever NRW	50,000	3	16,667
Sarotti Mocca-Sahne	50,000	1	50,000
Q-Sieben	49,000	5	9,800

# Niedersachsenhalle turned into a ballroom

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNOVERANER VERBAND

*The Niedersachsenhalle in Verden was the magnificent stage for the best three-year-old mares from Hannover and the Rhineland when the Hanoverian-bred Pr.A. Romy became dressage champion mare at the 13<sup>th</sup> Herwart von der Decken Show, while Hanoverian Pr.A. Charlize was awarded the yellow-white winning sash in the class for showjumping mares.*

Due to the corona pandemic, the Herwart von der Decken Show took place in the Niedersachsenhalle and not on the newly designed show ground. Besides board member Jörn Wedermann and breeding director Ulrich Hahne, the Danish horse expert Ib Kirk from Katrinelund Stud formed the judges; trio, and the excellent three-year-olds turned the auction hall into a glittering ballroom.

Like a prima ballerina Pr.A. Romy (Revolution x Belissimo M (bred and exhibited by Gestüt Greim, Bärnau), danced around the triangular course with a sure touch and was celebrated by the audience. Descending from foundation mare Sefaza, one of the most successful Hanoverian dam lines, Romy, a dark-chestnut mare, set new standards for walk in order to become sovereign dressage champion mare.

The privately owned stallion Revolution, whose career began five years ago at the same place with a spectacular appearance at the Verden licensing and stallion sales, is thus providing a highlight with a representative of his first crop.

The reserve champion mare Bon Bon (Bon Coeur x Waterford (bred by Marion Gabel, Kreuzebra, exhibited by the breeder and Eike Bewerbungen, Oldenburg) left virtually no wishes unfulfilled: Impressive in expression and with a strong back, she has powerful hindquarters and modern riding-horse qualities. Since she has not yet appeared at a



*Dressage champion mare Hann.Pr.A. Romy*

mare show, she can now also call herself a Hannoveraner premium candidate. A total of 53 dressage mares competed for the coveted title and, according to Ib Kirk; "We were excited about the Hannoveraner dressage mares. I am not surprised that the quality was so high."

The crown of the 19 mares with jumping genes was set on the head of a daughter of Hann.Pr.A. Charlize (Chacoon Blue x Stolzenberg), bred and exhibited by Hermann Nehus, Haren. In free jumping, this modern, sporty bay from the dam line of Flimmerkind convinced with high elasticity. Equipped with spirit and wonderful type, she simply led the field.

The vice champion, Poppy Lifton (Perigueux x Cheenook) bred and exhibited by Gestüt Waldsee GmbH, Bad Zwischenahn, was barely inferior. The bay was born with talent as a full brother of her dam competes at S-level. Not only can she be happy about this title, she was also awarded the Hannoveraner 'premium' on this occasion.

Traditionally in the Hanoverian breed the use of Thoroughbred stallions is popular. A prime example of the importance of noble blood is Hann.Pr.A. Ixxi CE (Il Divo xx x Don Frederico), bred by Indra Wallner, Moltzow, and exhibited by Claudia Hein-Riemann and Eduard Riemann, Alsbach. This vividly modelled bay with committed movements was judged to be the best half-bred mare. ■



*The two winning mares: Hann.Pr.A. Poppy Lifton (left) and Hann.Pr.A. Charlize*



# Hanoverian young jumper and dressage horse champs

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNOVERANER VERBAND

*Hannover's young showjumping and dressage talents showed their best sides in Verden when new champions were crowned at the newly built show grounds on the Lindhooper Straße. Valensky, Starrico, Karajan, Dolciario, Feingefühl*

The decision was exciting in the four-year-old class when the best of the qualifiers in the final came at the end. The Celle State Stud stallion Valensky (Valentino x Cornet Obolensky), bred by Hendrik A. Könemann, ridden by Sven Rudolph was the outstanding individual who coped best with the extreme heat. Although only one-tenth of a second separated him from the winner of the qualifier, Otto de la Roche (Orlando x Check In), bred by Elke and Claudia Tegtmeier, whom Oliver Ross rode with masterful precision to claim the vice champion's title. Third place went to the son of Diacontinus x Quebec, Dracarys, bred by Carsten Frerichs, with Oliver Cordes in the saddle.

There was also a starter in the five-year-old age-group who didn't rise to the top in the qualifying round, when Tobias Meyer presented Starrico (Stolzenberg x Carrico), bred by Tanja Reupke, in the final to claim the yellow-white sash. Although he's a gelding, the powerful jumping chestnut is also owned by the Celle State Stud as a training horse.

Second place went to the winner of the qualifier, the privately owned sire Valencio (Van Gogh x Vulkan), bred by Norbert Bramlage, and ridden by Patrick Döller, ahead of the Rhinelander Campino MR ( Colestus x Clinton), bred by Marius Rittstieg, under the saddle of Roman Duchac. The athletic bay is no stranger to Verden having won the five-year-old championship last year, as well as the free-jumping competition of the Hannoveraner Jumper Breeding Program two years ago.

There was a popular six-year-old victory when the Stakkato Prize was awarded to Karajan (Kannan x Verdi). Bred by Werner Schultze, Karajan not only won the qualifier with Christian Temme, but was also unbeatable in the final.

Stuntman, a son of Stakkato x Cristo who was bred by Siegfried Buhl, Syke, and ridden by Marvin Drenkhahn won the silver medal, ahead of another son of Stakkato, bred by Dr. Alexandra Görgens, who completed the podium when Holger Prekel steered Sterling AG (Stakkato x Calypso II).

## *Future dressage stars*

The mare Feingefühl danced to the title of five-year-old dressage horses, while stallion Dolciario lead the six-year-olds with his high basic quality.

In the strong five-year-old field, Feingefühl (Fürstenball x Farewell III), bred by Gaby Heye-Hammerlage, under the saddle of Sandra Kötter became the outstanding Hannoveraner Dressage Horse Champion. According to the mare's delighted breeder, "I didn't think we would win with the big competition." This was just another highlight in the still-young career of the expressive dark bay. Exactly two years ago, the Hannoveraner premium candidate became reserve champion mare of the Herwart von der Decken Show and won the Hannoveraner Riding Horse Championships for three-year-olds. This was followed by a convincing victory at the Bundeschampionat in Warendorf.

Two licensed stallions followed in second and third place, with the runner-up being the athletic Fun4ever (Feedback x De Vito, breeder: Gerd Pigge), who was masterfully presented by Felix Hilmer. The half-brother of the Grande Prize winner Foundation, who has meanwhile arrived at Grand Prix level with Germany's Matthias Alexander Rath, has already entered the Verden auction stage twice. At the foal auction in 2015 and at the stallion sales in 2017 he was one of the pearls of the collection.

Third place went to Fürst Toto, a son of Fürstenball x Totilas, bred by Paul Schockemöhle, who was competing in the very first horse show of his career in Verden, and did so with impressive performance, when Isabel Freese rode the dark bay in trot to the day's high score of 9.0.

It was similarly exciting in the class of six-year-olds. when Dolciario (Danciano x Don Frederico), bred by Christin Eggersgluß, recieved the highest overall score. The beautifully shaped stallion from the dam line of Sporthaus was sensitively guided through the movements by rider Eva Niklova. "He presented himself very evenly in his basic quality and has high rideability qualities," said judge Anna von Holten-Jungheit in praising the new six-year-old dressage champion.

No fewer than three geldings can call themselves vice champions with exactly the same total score: Quintessential (Quantensprung x Donnerhall), bred by Renate Lange, ridden by Jörn Kubelke; Don Mateo (Don Juan de Hus x Royal Highness), bred by Axel Windeler, ridden by Anna-Sophie Fiebelkorn (silver in 2019, third in the Bundeschampionat), and Fürst Fluidu (Fürstenball x Rotsporn), bred by Iris-Maria Berger, with Sophie Duprée in the saddle. ■

# Lithuanian young-horse finals celebrate breeding

BY ELENA ZOBOVA

PHOTOGRAPHY: ELENA ZOBOVA

*Despite the last-minute cancellation of the showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, youngsters from five to seven years competed in the Lithuanian national championship at the Harmony Park venue, 40 kms from Kaunas city to receive the honour of being the best in their age group.*

A perfect infrastructure and more than 50 horses representing 15 different studbooks contributed to the presence of riders, owners, breeders, and spectators. Courses were fairly built by the experienced course designer Szymon Tarant from Poland, which demanded exceptional showjumping qualities as well as speed from all the participants.

## *Five-year-old champion Quidam Stakkato*

From 24 presented horses, 14 qualified to start in the final and eight subsequently contested the jump off, in which a Hannoverian-registered and OS-approved stallion Quidam Stakkato and his Lithuanian rider Matas Petraitis claimed victory. Obviously Petraitis knew that he had a careful horse with big heart under the saddle, as throughout the championship the stallion didn't touch a single fence.

Coincidentally, Quidam Stakkato already has a colt Bishop du Rouet (out of Ballie du Rouet x Balou du Rouet), born May 15, who had been presented for the Baltic Hannover foal evaluation. Bred by Tessa Pfeil, Quidam Stakkato is a son of Quidamus out of So Nice P by Stakkato. Quidamus goes back to the well-known progenitor Quidam de Revel (Jalisco B - Dirka x Nankin), while his dam Gabienne is a daughter of another Jalisco B son, Epsom Gesmeray. The State Premium mare So Nice P also produced two approved stallions: Calido's Son (Calido I), stationed

with Paul Schockemöhle, and Quintet (Quintender), who is jumping with Denmark's Laila Pedersen. "As a foal he was always up to something funny," said his breeder Tessa Pfeil. She continued by saying; "Besides really good movements, he was always put nice together, never looked ugly. He has had always a sweet temperament. Quidam Stakkato liked working and was always willing to work with us. Free jumping was amazing for him, he had such quick feet and knew exactly how to use his body. It looked like he could jump the moon! I am really happy that he was bought by the Petraitis family and is working with such a talented rider like Matas, who can develop his best qualities."

Another stallion ranked second – the Holstein-registered Congratulation, owned by Hobby Horse, a son of Colman out of Zisterne I by Carlos DZ, ridden by Gintare Malinauskaite. She explained: "This stallion has a quite nice character, he is very careful, never refuses to jump and is always trying his best for me".

Bronze in the five-year-old age group went to a KWPN-registered mare, Kantara (Guidam Sohn - O.Peters Girl x Peter Pan) under the saddle of Vincas Civinskas. "Last summer Kantara had a foal, whom she unfortunately lost so I started to rider her in autumn. This championship was her first serious competition around 1m10 courses. Kantara learns fast, never stops, and likes to go on a hack," Civinskas said.

## *Six-year-old champion Palladium KJV*

In the six-year-old final 10 combinations jumped clear and qualified for the jump-off. All three medal winners were faultless, and the title winner was a Westphalian-registered stallion Palladium KJV with Danielius Gutkauskas in the saddle. Palladium KJV is a son of Lancer III out of Pectoral, a daughter of Cornet Obolensky. According to Gutkauskas; "This stallion is a natural-born jumper and has all the qualities a rider can only dream of. He is quick, careful, strong, he wants to please his rider, and is always willing to work. Next year we are planning to take him to Lanaken, because we really believe he can show his great potential among the best showjumping seven-year-old horses."

Vice-champion Cornet's Cloud, also a stallion with



*Palladium KJV, 6yo champion with Danielius Gutkauskas*

Kristupas Petraitis – the younger brother of Matas – is by the world-famous sire Cornet Obolensky. His dam Que Sera is a Holsteiner-bred by Quidam de Revel, owned by Zhashkiv Equestrian, Ukraine. The Petraitis family went to Zhashkiv Equestrian to get acquainted with the legendary stallion Cornet Obolensky and, at the same time, to find future talents for their stables. At that time Cornet's Cloud was a two-year-old and after free jumping they chose this grey. He was quite small and fat, but already showed excellent technique and power over the fences. Aiste, the life partner of Kristupas Petraitis explained: "You could immediately notice that Cornet's Cloud has a very strong character. He was always a leader in the herd and was always breaking something, escaping, and never settled down. On the other side, this stallion is very friendly with people, likes attention very much, but he has probably escaped from everyone in our stables. If he wants to go somewhere, he will go no matter how many chains or lunging reins you have. The best quality of Cornet's Cloud is that he is a real fighter – safe, trustable, strong and honest – a true war horse. Like Kristupas jokes, we hardly ever had a horse with such character and personality in our stables before."

Bronze went to Jewel W, a KWPN-registered gelding by Numero Uno son El Primero out of Forever W by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve. He was ridden by Kostas Gaigalas.

### *Corlander wins seven-year-old title*

Well, the seven-year-old final – the seventh year of a horse's life – is often seen as a career turning point. The 2019 Lithuanian national champion Irmantas Grikenis claimed victory on this occasion riding a DSP-registered stallion Corlander (Calido I - Cassandra c Condor). Calido I represents the enormously influential Holstein C line of Cor de la Bryère with no influence from the other C line of Capitol I. The dam of Corlander goes back to Cor de la Bryère again, with a shot of Achill-Libero H and a dash of Polydor.

Second place went to a Lithuanian riding mare Kuba, ridden by Danielius Gutkauskas. She is by the Latvian Warmblood stallion Calgo, who has an infusion of Holsteiner blood since he is by Ciano x Carano. Carano takes us back to Capitol I with a dash of Cor de la Bryère and a splash of Fasolt. Calgo is out of mare by Gvidons (Guidam), bred in Latvia, then it's Danish Warmblood Lemmon. Kuba's dam is by Cattio, a son of Calido I, and then on the dam's side we find the cross of Hannoverian-Trakehner stallions.



*Irmantas Grikenis claimed 7yo championship victory riding the DSP-registered stallion Corlander (Calido I - Cassandra c Condor)*

In third place there is yet another mare, this time bred in the Netherlands, owned by Petraitis family and ridden by Matas Petraitis. Ivita is registered with KWPN as a daughter of Harley VDL out of Evita by Corland. The pedigree of Harley VDL combines the genes of Heartbreaker (Nimmerdor - Bacarole x Silvano) – who performed at international level with Dutchman Peter Geerink, with one of their highlights undoubtedly being fourth place in the Aachen Grand Prix – and the legendary grey Carthago Z (Capitol I - Perra x Calando), who competed at the highest level worldwide with Jos Lansink. The dam sire of Ivita, Corland (Cor de la Bryère - Thyra x Landgraf I), is from the famous Holsteiner line 104A, which goes directly back to Retsina, a two-time winner of the Hamburg Derby. Besides being the sire of several approved stallions – to mention but one, the outstanding jumping stallion Bacadi VDL (out of Supardi by Kannan GFE) – Corland has also been influential through his excellent breeding daughters, who gained the predicates 'preferent' and 'prestatie', like Ivita's dam Evita. Ivita herself has a great heart, so it's in her nature to be very fast and competitive. She also has all the characteristics of a chestnut mare so sometimes she wants to go her own way.

In conclusion, it's necessary to mention that this year I was extremely happy to see all these promising young horses. They have blood and with modern crossings are showing great competitive abilities, which are highly important in sport horse breeding. These young horses have impulsion, demonstrated strength, jumped well, have nice reactivity, fast reflexes, and showed great elasticity too, with very nice locomotion. There is no doubt that we will see them in the show jumping arenas next year. ■



## IMPORTANT DATES 2020

- October 15 - 18 FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France
- October 11 - 15 October WBFSH General Assembly and Seminars via web conferencing
- December 9 - 13 FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Verden, Germany.

## WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST - BREEDERS OF DRESSAGE HORSES

31/07/2020 (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/Oldb/m Blue Hors Don Schufro x Sandro Hit) 102ZI90 Inge Bastian (GER)	2,753
2	Emilio (2006/Westf/g Ehrenpreis x Cacir AA) 103UX58 Heinrich & Wilhelm Strunk (GER)	2,579
3	Damsey (2002/Hann/st Dressage Royal x Ritual) GER45558 Hengsthaltung Kothe (GER)	2,454
4	Daily Mirror (2004/Westf/g Damon Hill x Florestan I) 105LM91 Dieter Kellermann (GER)	2,403
5	Zaire-E (2004/KWPN/m Son de Niro x Jazz) 102VM17 Empelaer Stoeterij (NED)	2,373
6	Desperado (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi x Havidoff) 104BD64 Andeweg Family (NED)	2,299
7	Suppenkasper (2008/KWPN/g Spielberg x Ips Krack C) 105DN05 F. van de Poel (NED)	2,239
8	Duke of Britain (2007/Hann/g Dimaggio x Rubinstein) 103LO51 Sarah & Tony Pidgley (GBR)	2,208
9	MSJ Freestyle (2009/Hann/m Fidermark x Donnerhall) 105BZ34 Stephan Kurz (GER)	2,002
10	Sir Donnerhall II (2006/Oldb/st Sandro Hit x Donnerhall) 103RO36 Maik Kanitzky (GER)	1,975

### ■ IMPORTANT DATES 2020

### ■ WORLD RANKING LISTS

## 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 JUMPING HORSES

Ranking: 31/07/2020 (including validated FEI results from 01/10/2019 to 31/07/2020)

Rank	Name/YOB/Studbook/Gender/Sire/Damsire/Points/FEI ID/Breeder	
1	King of Diamonds (2010/BWP/st Prince van de 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	Baloussini (2009/DSP/st Baloussini x Ramos Z) 103UA84 Peter Scilard (GER)	980
4	Bushi (2006/KWPN/g Contendro II x Nairobi) 103RX17 Gebr. Van der Steen (NED)	888
5	Chalou (2009/OS/st Chacco-Blue x Baloubet du Rouet) 104MK27 Gestüt Lewitz (GER)	880
6	Evita Sg Z (2009/Z/m Verdi TN x Codexco) 104XA49 Unknown	865
7	Killer Queen VDM (2010/BWP/m Eldorado van de Zeshoek x For Pleasure) 105HC59 Bruggeman-Carpentier (BEL)	820
8	Volage du Val Henry (2009/SF/m Quidam de Revel x Cassini I) 104QB81 Mme Helene Amar (SUI)	793
9	Rouge de Revel (2005/SF/st Ultimo van ter Moude x Quouglof Rouge) 103CE16 Pottier/Glaser (FRA)	788
10	Pablito van Erpekom (2006/Z/g Pablo van Berkenbroeck x Udarco van Overis) 104SE76 Willy Ulenaers (BEL)	775

## WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST - BREEDERS OF EVENTING HORSES

Ranking: 31/07/2020 (including validated FEI results from 01/10/2019 to 31/07/2020)

1	Don Quidam (2008/KWPN/g Quidam x Amethyst) 105EI33 J.M. Schurink (NED)	134
2	Tzinga d'Auzay (2007/SF/m Nouma d'Auzay x Masquerader) 104CS60 Gimenez & Monteil (FRA)	124
3	FRH Butts Avedon (2003/Hann/g Heraldik xx x Kronenkränich xx) GER45658 Friedrich Butt (GER)	123
4	Toledo de Kerser (2007/SF/g Diamant de Semilly x Papillon Rouge) 104IR52 Kerstin Drevet (FRA)	111
5	Romantic Love (2005/SF/g l'Arc de Triomphe [Oldbg] x Shercame) 103HU70 Lydia Gallong (FRA)	109
6=	Quality Purdey (2006/OS/m Quality x Leonid) 104CB64 Helga Rolfs (GER)	108
6=	Leporis (2011/Holst/g Lasino x Heraldik xx) 105US17 Unknown	108
8	Zagreb (2004/KWPN/st Perion x Nagano) 103AT53 H.J. Leyser (NED)	100
9=	Aisprit de la Loge (2010/SF/g Quppydam des Horts x Dollar du Murier) 105HN76 SCEA Elevage de la Loge (FRA)	96
9=	Api du Libaire (2010/SF/g Fusain du Defey x Tresor de Cheux) 105RM97 Annick Duchene (FRA)	96

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

## 2020

### SEPTEMBER

#### 2-6 Warendorf (GER)

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

#### 7 Chieming-Ising (GER)

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

#### 7-14 Online (NED)

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

#### 11-16 Verden Online (GER)

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

#### 21-28 Online (NED)

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

#### 23-27 Flyinge (SWE)

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

### 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)

93<sup>rd</sup> Oldenburg Fall Elite Auction

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

Hanoverian Elite Auction of 2yo stallions and foals with Gala Show  
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

#### 16/17 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)

Holsteiner Verband stallion licensing  
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@pzvst.de / www.pzvst.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  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

#### 23-25 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Verband stallion licensing  
Tel: +49 (0)251 32 8090  
Fax: +49 (0)251 32 80924  
info@westfalenpferde.de  
www.westfalenpferde.de

### DECEMBER

#### 9-13 Verden (GER)

Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 67 37 68  
turnier@verden-turnier.de  
www.verden-turnier.de

#### 9-13 Verden (GER)

Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses  
Tel: +49 (0)4231 67 37 68  
turnier@verden-turnier.de  
www.verden-turnier.de