

FEBRUARY 2021

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# WORLD BREEDING NEWS

for Sport Horses

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BN #290

**Breeder interviews**

**Stallion profiles**

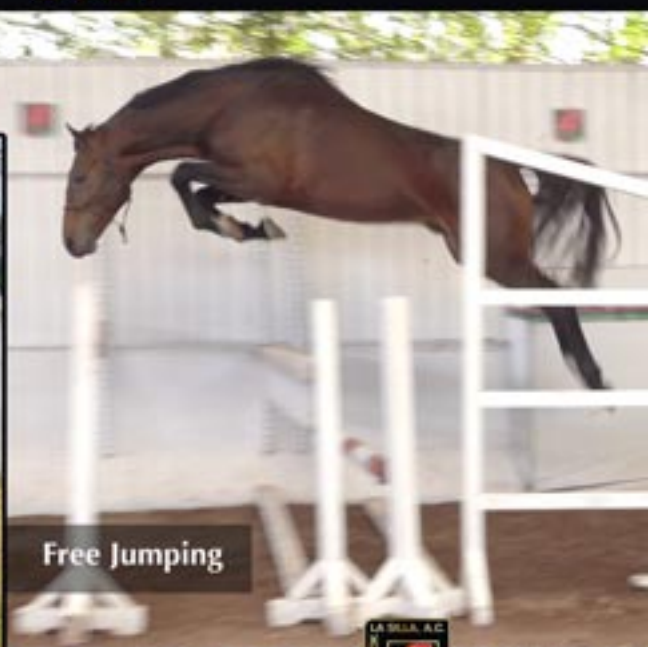
**Bloodline analysis**



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CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL | MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG | CELIA CLARKE  
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## WORLD BREEDING NEWS

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# EDITORIAL

## WBFSh-BN PLATFORM – TRUE SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL MEDIA



**A**t the beginning of each breeding season, activities are 'normally' in full swing for stallions with competitions, presentations, selections, new editions of catalogues.

It is the time of popular conclaves between enthusiasts and specialists, time to observe, to judge and compare, discuss, negotiate.... In short, decision time in terms of progressing a breeding project. An essential period, vital to the dynamics of the activities of an economic sector that brings together some 150,000 breeders; members of one or another of the 75 studbooks under the WBFSh umbrella.

However, Covid-19 is changing everything. One after the other, organizers of great sport horse assemblies have had to cancel or alter their plans, some satisfying themselves with the option of online broadcasting from pre-recordings which are as relevant as possible. A new exercise for most organizers, with limits and antagonisms. How to be both technical (the goal of the show), and recreational to satisfy all commercial purposes (also necessary)?

The leader, and one of the very first on the 2021 calendar, KWPN, had to abandon the Den Bosch Brabantshalle, its usual fiefdom, for that of Ermelo, its administrative headquarters, and will broadcast from February 2-6 (KWPN TV App). Will others follow?

In France, the 'days of Selle Français' in Saint-Lô from February 19-20, and in Germany, for example, the stallion competition in Elmshorn (February 20 on Clip My Horse), then the testing of three-year-old Holsteiner mares under saddle....

In Denmark, where dressage culture is very strong, the major show in Herning at the beginning of March has been cancelled, while sBs in Belgium, in compliance with sanitary requirements, will organize their official stallion expertise (March 5-7) behind closed doors.

Overall, while many studbooks saw an increase in the volume of births and registrations, as well as mare coverings during the 2020 season, this evolutionary development must be closely monitored in 2021.

Contextually, the communication platform devel-

oped by the WBFSh in partnership with World Breeding News, that you are now reading, makes absolute sense (<https://breedingnews.com/wbfsh-breeding-news-platform/>). It assembles all the actors of the community of sport horse breeders throughout the world – studbooks, organizers, breeders, and also all the producers of goods and services related to our activities – empowering the pooling of knowledge, projects, successes, opinions. Its creation and development make it possible in these times of crisis to keep in touch, to share, to explain, to adapt, to innovate, to encourage...

The inspiration and confidence of the WBFSh marketing team, led by vice-president Chris Gould (Canadian Warmblood) at the launch of the platform in 2019, deserves to be remembered and applauded. Continuity is now ensured by Eva Maria Broomer, whose commitment guarantees youth and energy, testified by her organization in November 2020 of the first 'virtual' general assembly of the Federation, during which she was elected to one of the posts of vice president. WBFSh President Jan Pedersen, issued a timely reminder to studbooks, his [letter of November 18, 2020](#).

Its leitmotiv? 'Unity is strength'. Should breeders and their representatives weigh in with decisions related to the evolution of equestrian sport? Are they not essential actors? Should they not be better rewarded? For this they need a voice, a unique but pluralistic communication organ, as in an orchestra where different tones provide meaning to the musical work.

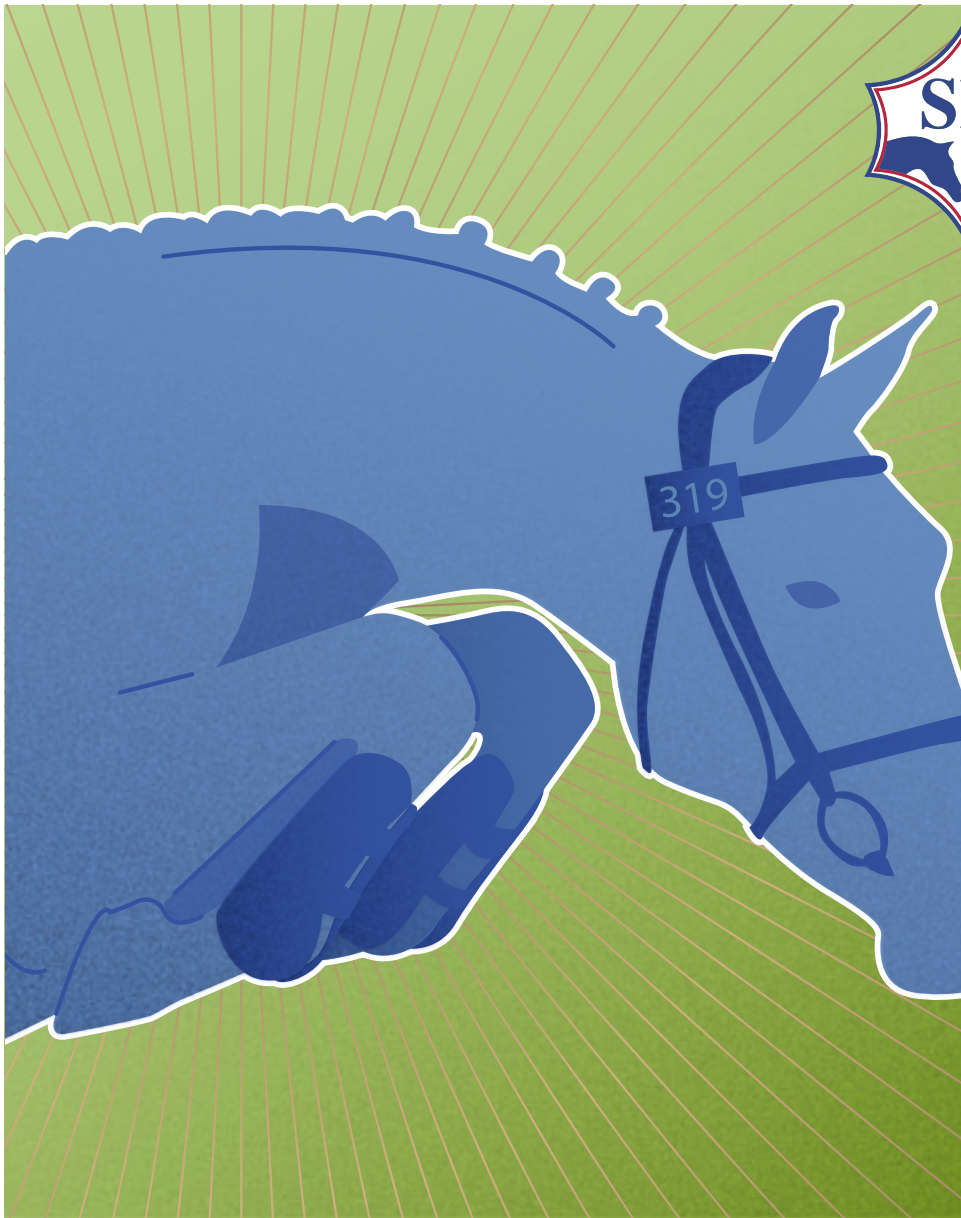
It's worth noting that social media is a double-edged sword and often a source of approximations and confusion. The WBFSh-BN platform has only one goal: To serve the cause of breeders, so let's call it 'socio-professional media.'

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm, flexibility and efficiency of WBN's editorial team led by Jean Llewellyn, as well as Peter's Llewellyn's IT engineering and support, without whom the development of this WBFSh-BN platform would have been wishful thinking!

**Xavier Libbrecht**

The Selle Français Stud-Book organize  
**19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**Championship, Masters, Performers**



**Saint-Lô**

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# WBFSH TRIBUNE

## WBFSH PLANS ANNUAL STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT



**A** theme that has been repeated more than once over the past two years in this column and other articles has been the uncertainty facing the horse industry in light of the pandemic, climate change, and shifting

societal priorities.

There has been more than one call to arms for breeders and horse owners to demand action from their organizations; to lobby governments, to embark on research and to educate the public.

The reality is that there is no groundswell from the horse community that is being felt by those of us that serve in some representative capacity in these bodies. As has been pointed out more than once, our industry remains firmly preoccupied with its immediate problems. Horse sales, feed prices, genetic selection, and competition results dominate our daily concerns. Nevertheless some steps are being taken.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a press release about the restructuring of the WBFSH departments. You can read in some detail the changes being implemented. In large measure these changes are designed to better align the departmental mandates with the long- and short-term strategic plans. The restructured Department of Development for which Edward Kendall and I have responsibility, is mandated to promote collaboration between studbooks and seek ways to enhance and support our industry through direct services, consultation, and other means.

One very important initiative is the vision of an Annual State of the Industry Report. It will be our goal to make this as comprehensive as possible, covering not only statistical information, but reporting trends and issues that are affecting the long term viability of the industry. It is anticipated that this document will help our organizations and breeders make strategic decisions and at the same time provide us with a tool to inform public policy at all levels of government.

As with any large industry, financial and infrastructure elements tend to define its impact or scope. Of course, there are many intangibles that define our industry: cultural norms and emotional associations that are attached to the horse and its place in our society.

This Report at first may not provide insights to all the open ended questions we have, but, over time, we can assemble the information necessary to chart a course for our industry to navigate issues like climate change and animal welfare into the future.

This will be a large task. To our knowledge, no such report has been created for many years. We will need your help and cooperation. The quality of the Report will be governed in large measure by the timelines and quality of the data we collect. So it is vital that studbooks, breeders, retailers, private and public institutions do their best to fulfill information requests.

Finally, if you feel that you can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@wbfs.org](mailto:info@wbfs.org).

**Chris Gould**  
Vice President  
Department Development





# KWPN STALLION SHOW

From 2 - 6 of february 2021

For more information go to:

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entire program  
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The 2021 edition can only be followed online via KWPN.org & KWPN.tv.





# BRIEFS



*Herbert Strobel (Photo: Gille-Eberhardt)*

**Horse management master Herbert Strobel** celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the main and state stud Marbach in December 2020. State stable master Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck presented the foal-rearing department manager at the Vorwerk Schafhaus with the certificate from the State of Baden-Württemberg and praised his services: “Herbert Strobel is a real Marbacher, a horseman through and through, who was born with love for animals and people”. He is the fourth generation member of his family to represent the main and state stud Marbach. “That is something very special,” she concluded. Both his grandfather and father shaped entire generations of stud farms, and were role models in the management of the farms entrusted to them. They passed this on to Herbert’s brothers and Rainer Strobel, who passed away a few years ago. Herbert Strobel took the inside track towards the company and his father’s horses, and now passes this on to his trainees. “The stud farm and the rearing of foals has always been a life’s work for the whole family, and training, whether of people or horses, is a passion of ours,” explains Herbert Strobel. “I grew up with horses and had my own I’ve enjoyed raising, so that people and horses get the best possible training.” Herbert Strobel himself started as a trainee in breeding and husbandry in 1988 at the main and state stud in Marbach. After completing his examination to become a master horse manager, he worked for a few years in other companies until he finally returned to his roots in Mar-

bach in January 1998, first as an employee, then as manager of the Schafhaus farm, which belongs to the St. Johann stud farm. Since April 2017, he has taken on the responsibility as the foal-rearing department manager at the Vorwerk Schafhaus. There, 30 fillies and 30 young geldings are reared and 25 retired horses are kept, for which a total of 60 hectares of pasture area and spacious stables are available at Vorwerk. Herbert Strobel’s team includes three trainees and one employee, who primarily looks after the sheep-testing station located at the Vorwerk Schafhaus. In addition to the extensive tasks at the Vorwerk Schafhaus, Strobel is involved in the Marbach stallion parades. Here he regularly shows his creative side in the design of charts. The father of four now looks to the future: “I want to educate myself and personally advance the stud and the farms.” In his opinion, this also includes continually developing the company, for example through innovative forms of husbandry. <http://www.gestuet-marbach.de>

**At the beginning of January**, the Holsteiner Horse Breeders Association meeting was hosted in Elmshorn when 17 stallions were judged by the licensing committee. Of this group, two left the Fritz-Thiedemann-Halle with a coveted license, with five being admitted to the breeding trial. For Stephan Haarhoff, who has succeeded Dr. Thomas Nissen as the new breeding manager, his role has started, with this being the first event in this position. “The large number of stallions registered for the January licensing was very pleasing, and they impressed with interesting pedigrees and blood diversity,” he said, adding: “With Innenminister xx, a Thoroughbred also convinced the committee and received positive approval.” Approved: Innenminister xx (Masterstroke xx), bred and owned by Gestüt Hof Warendorf; Damocles (Dominator Z), bred and owned by Manfred von Allwörden. Five stallions admitted to the breeding trial: Vigarò (KWPN/2002 Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve -Kiaralda x Renville) bred by C. Wernsen, owned by Hengststation Bachl; C-Khatou-S (KWPN/2015 Chaman - Erachelle-S x Toulon), bred by the Van Straaten Family, owned by Oriasema Helasuo (Finland); Diamant van Klapscheut Z (BWP/2016 Diamant de Semilly - Koriana van Klapscheut x Cicero Z ZR), bred by Stoeterij Mivaro, Belgium, owned by Sven Völz; Eclips VDL (KWPN/2016 Etoulon VDL - Veraya x Lux Z) bred by D. de Jong, owned by Wiepke van de Lageweg BV (Netherlands); Catoki Junior (Oldbg/2018 Catoki - Betty Balou x Balou du Rouet), bred by Hendrik Hüsker, owned by Viktor Nyiri (Hungary).



*Innenminister xx (Masterstroke xx)*

**On January 21, the SHF Board of Directors** elected the new Executive Committee of the Société Hippique Française: Executive Committee: President – Michel Guiot (ANR); vice-president – Yves Leroux (co-opted); Treasurer: Gérard Rameix (co-opted); Secretary – Marie-Dominique Saumont-Lacoeuille (ANR); Jean-Luc Dufour (breeder); Alain Fortin (rider); Yves Gay (ARE); Aurélien Lafargue (ARE); Jacques Lavergnat (co-opted); Geneviève Megret (owner); Jacqueline Rionde (ANR); Jean-Baptiste Thiebot (ARE). Administrative Council/Socioprofessional Electoral College: François-Xavier Boudant (rider); André Chenu (owner); Jean-Luc Dufour (breeder); Paul Hubert (breeder); Alain Fortin (rider); Olivier Jouanneteau (owner); Frédéric Lavoinne (breeder); Geneviève MEGRET (owner); Jérôme Ringot (rider). Electoral College for the Association of National Breeds: Pascal Cadiou (SF); Yves CHAUVIN (SF); Michel Guiot (SF) – president; Alain James (ANAA); Michel Le Nagard (‘other’ breeds); Jean-François Noel (SF); Jacqueline Rionde (ACA); Marie-Dominique Saumont-Lacoeuille (PFS) – secretary; Stéphane Chazel (ACA).

# Calido I: A multi generational influencer par excellence!

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: SPORTFOTOS LAFRENTZ , TESSA PFEIL AND PETER LLEWELLYN

*Standing as proudly as a Shagya Arab, the Holsteiner stallion Calido I is the second in our series profiling stallions who celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021. Calido I (Cantus - Baroness VII x Coriander, Stamm 5064) had a modest career as a young horse in showjumping, but Maas J. Hell saw his qualities as a stallion and kept him exclusively for breeding. It was an inspired decision!*

Bred by Matthias Kahler, the well-known Calido I is currently ranked 74<sup>th</sup> in the WBFSh top-100 list for showjumping sires, but what is the story behind this grey phenom?

## *Childhood holidays in Schleswig-Holstein*

Matthias Kahler grew up in the German state of Hessen, and every two years travelled with his parents to Schleswig-Holstein for a two-week vacation in St. Peter-Ording. He shared his father's interest in horses, and as he grew older they started attending the foal brandings organized by the Holsteiner Verband in the area. It was a social gathering of local and foreign breeders who were interested in buying Holsteiner horses. It was also an ideal time to learn about bloodlines and to get to know breeders. So the story of Calido I began with a father and son who became passionate about the Holsteiner horse.

Heinrich and Matthias Kahler are named as being co-breeders, and although Matthias was registered as the official owner of Calido's dam, Baroness VII, breeding was very much a joint passion. Matthias Kahler recalls: "Baroness VII

was bred by Christian Petersen. He had built up the mareline for several generations and almost every horse from this line during that time was bred by Christian Petersen. It was quite a small mareline. Today I live near Cloppenburg, but I come from Hessen.

"A year before we purchased Baroness VII as a foal, we purchased a colt by Capriccio out of the same mother (Kollet, by Roman). This colt was not at the breeder's farm, so my father became curious and wanted to know more about the mareline and wanted to get to know the foal's mother. We contacted Christian Petersen and also went to visit with him, which was when we noticed that Kollet had a foal by foot, a filly by Coriander. My father immediately decided to buy her.

"At the time I was quite young, but when I was finished school I started an apprenticeship as a rider with the Kahlke family in Neuendeich (Schleswig-Holstein). I took, Careful (the Capriccio foal), with me and jumped with him in lower classes. He was later approved for ZfDP and became champion in Lentföhrden. Baroness VII also came with me and we presented her in Elmshorn to be registered, where she received good notes. Dr. Nissen congratulated me saying that I had such a super mare. She was very blood-typed and looked like an Arab horse. She was almost black at the time (but turned grey). During my time at Kahlke I grew into the breeding of the Holsteiner horses and did a lot of thinking about finding the right stallion for Baroness VII.

"When I was riding Careful at shows I noticed that the riders of Maas J. Hell were riding the first generation by Cantus. They were appealing to me because they all had an active hindleg, and I liked the type. So I went to study the pedigrees and I thought it was very interesting with the in-breeding to Ramzes x and Cottage Son xx. However, during that time Cantus was not very popular because he was tall and heavy and had no successful offspring as they were still too young. Despite everything I decided to use Cantus for Baroness VII and the



*Calido I*

resulting foal was Calido I.

“He was born at my parents’ farm in Hessen. He was very light, modern and elegant in type, like his mother. I had him branded at the Holsteiner Verband in Elmshorn through Gerard Muffels. Nobody there believed that he was by Cantus, they thought of many other stallions but not Cantus!

“Calido I’s story could have gone in a very different direction, because at first somebody else was interested in buying Calido I as a foal. He showed his canter and walk but wasn’t interested in showing his trot, so the buyer wanted to play the price down and asked if the foal could trot. My father replied very coolly, ‘No, I have never seen the foal in trot.’ Through my time in Holstein I already had contact with Maas J. Hell and eventually he bought two foals, Calido I and another (also by Cantus) with whom he was growing up. If I recall correctly, he bought them both from seeing a video. The first potential buyer then regretted his mistake and even tried to buy Calido I from Maas Hell, who refused to sell him.

“Calido I was perfectly managed by Maas Hell, and his mother than received considerable attention, too. Unfortunately she only had five offspring, all her colts being purchased by Maas Hell, and three out of the four were approved. Her Acord II son, Atlas, jumped at 1m60 and competed at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen. In fact, he jumped internationally for four countries in FEI Nations’ Cup and Grand Prix classes. In November 2013, at 17 years of age, he broke the World Record Side Saddle High Jump over 2m07 at the National Horse Sport Arena in Ireland ridden by Susan Oakes.

“Catango, Baroness VII’s son by Carthago, jumped at 1m50. The full brother of Calido was approved for the Holsteiner Verband as a two year old in Neumünster and was sold to Russia, but died too early due to colic. Her second foal was a filly by Landgraf I. In hindsight we could say that we made a mistake, because we thought that Baroness VII would give us more foals. Graefin XI was not as elastic as her mother and I really thought that Baroness VII would give us more fillies.

“After I finished my apprenticeship with the Kahlke family I studied agricultural and did my practical semester at Zangersheide. That was my biggest dream. But León Melchior was difficult and not too keen about it, until Alex Korompis explained to him that I was the breeder of Calido I. He managed to get me in, but only because Calido I had just started to make a name for himself. Alex noticed that the line of Calido I was very interesting and asked if we had a mare for sale. They purchased the Landgraf I mare unseen. After that we could no longer get Baroness VII in foal, but she lived to almost 30.”

### Thirty years in Klein Offenseth

Calido didn’t have a career in sport. He jumped as a young stallion under the saddle of Thomas Mohr, but stopped competing at the age of five. Many breeders had already used him he was younger, and from his first foal crop he already had two 1m60 jumping horses. In his second crop were 13 1m60 jumpers, and in his third year this had risen to 19 1m60 horses, including Coupe de Coeur (out of Adele by Lincoln, Stamm 4232).

Coupe de Coeur had quite a career under the saddles of riders such as Rene Tebbel, Philipp Weishaupt, Henrik von Eckermann, and Ludger Beerbaum. This remarkable stallion had quite a journey and now belongs to the stallion station of Ludger Beerbaum.

Almuth Blaschke is head of the stallion station and says: “Coupe de Coeur was a reliability in sport. He was very classic to ride, was very nice to ride, and has everything you need for top level. He has a great willingness to perform, is very uncomplicated, and became successful in sport. He also comes from a very successful damline. His mother, Adele, produced four offspring who are jumping at 1m40 and higher. He started late in breeding but his first offspring are just coming in sport and he has already quite a few that are jumping at 1m40. He is in Germany and is currently standing at stud at Haupt- und Landgestüt Schwaiganger.”

In 2008, Calido I was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the WBFSh sire

<b>CALIDO I (1991)</b>	<b>CANTUS</b> HOLST (1981)	<b>CALETTO I</b> HOLST (1975)	<b>COR DE LA BRYÈRE</b> (SF/1968)	<b>RANTZAU XX (1946)</b> QUENOTTE (SF/1960)	<b>FOXLIGHT XX – RANCUNE XX</b> LURIOSO (SF) – VESTALE DU BOIS MARGOT (SF)
			<b>DEKA</b> (HOLST/1967)	<b>CONSUL HOLST (1960)</b> OEKONOMIE (HOLST/1955)	<b>COTTAGE SON XX – ISOLDE (HOLST)</b> MATADOR (HOLST) – FAHRE (HOLST)
		<b>MONOLINE</b> HOLST (1975)	<b>ROMAN</b> (HOLST/1960)	<b>RAMZES X (AA/1937)</b> DORETTE (HOLST/1945)	<b>RIITERSPORN XX – JORDI (SHAGYA)</b> MONARCH (HOLST) – SCHELLE (HOLST)
			<b>USA</b> (HOLST/1960)	<b>MARABU II (HOLST/1946)</b> JOSSA (HOLST/1950)	<b>MANDI I (HOLST) – HOLSATIA (HOLST)</b> ALLER (HANN) – FULY (HANN)
	<b>BARONESS</b> HOLST (1987)	<b>CORIANDER</b> HOLST (1982)	<b>CORIOLAN</b> (HOLST/1978)	<b>CALYPSO II (HOLST/1974)</b> INDERIN (HOLST/1972)	<b>COR DE LA BRYÈRE (SF) – TABELLE (HOLST)</b> CAPITANO (HOLST) – UNGARIN (HOLST)
			<b>PRIMADONNA</b> (HOLST/1978)	<b>CONSTANT (HOLST/1972)</b> ILKA 3 (HOLST/1972)	<b>COR DE LA BRYÈRE (SF) – ELLA (HOLST)</b> FANTUS (HOLST) – CICILLA (HOLST)
		<b>KOLLET</b> HOLST (1973)	<b>ROMAN</b> (HOLST/1966)	<b>RAMZES X (AA/1937)</b> DORETTE (HOLST/1945)	<b>RIITERSPORN XX - JORDI (SHAGYA)</b> MONARCH (HOLST) - SCHELLE (HOLST)
			<b>BORADE</b> (HOLST/1965)	<b>ALDATO (HOLST/1958)</b> AHNE (HOLST/1945)	<b>ANBLICK XX - KRETA (HOLST)</b> HEIKENDORF (HOLST) - NARALE (HOLST)

Friederike 'Frieda' Bünning, has been Calido I's groom for eight year, alongside other older stallions at the Maas J. Hell stud, so there is naturally a special connection: "It's difficult to describe what I feel. For one thing it is his age that is already very special and he needs different care to the younger horses. His character is also very special. Yes he is 30 years old but he doesn't act his age. Also, besides feeding time, I can't expect a normal routine with him. One day he likes to be cuddled and the next day he's not interested. Brushing is not his favourite moment at all because he doesn't like to stand still. Every day is different, so I can't really say that there are regular things he likes and doesn't like, so that also makes him special.

I have great respect for his age because he's not a normal 30-year-old, but is always happy when I enter his box. Other people at our stable, including the vet, say he's a different horse when I'm away, but he always know exactly when I bring him his food.

Everything about him is very special!"



ranking thanks to his foal crop of 1998 producing 12 1m60 jumpers, including Nobless M. In 2009 Calido dropped one place to 14<sup>th</sup>, rising again to 13<sup>th</sup> in 2010. He'd dropped to 25<sup>th</sup> in 2011, but for 12 years in a row has been in the top 100 WBFSH sires in the world. Although he has been standing for a short while with Paul Schockemöhle, he's otherwise remained at Maas J Hell's Klein Offenseth studfarm. There's no doubt that Maas J. Hell had a tremendous good eye for quality.

### *Magdalena Hell remembers...*

Calido I and Magdalena Hell (83) have a very strong connection as they've been together for 30 years. She used to visit Calido I every morning and every evening, but lately she's been noticing that age is catching up with her. She recalled: "I always joined my husband when he visited breeders or other people when he was still alive. He was working in Elmshorn but I was at our farm and these trips were unforgettable. They were so important for me.

"My husband purchased Calido I as a foal, and I am so happy that he is still feeling so well. When he is outside in the paddock he is right next to my house, and I always say to him that he hasn't aged a bit and that we both need to live a few more years! It is not that self-evident that we've stayed together for 30 years. We should be thankful for reaching this age and that Calido I is still around, because he means everything to me. Also because he was such a shining light and that he has stayed in such good condition. I am very proud of him because, although we had more horses, there are only a few who stepped forward and claimed your heart, and Calido I is one of them. Horses are the thread that links my memories.

"My best is that Calido always presented himself so well and that he was there to comfort me. When I stand in front of his box and we look at each other I'm grateful that he's reached this age. It is difficult to look back in time as we have shared a life together, although I believe being loved by Frieda (his groom) and me have helped Calido a lot. I really believe that the environment surrounding the horses should be correct, and it's really special that he's lived here his whole life, which has brought extra quality to my own. Greeting him in the first box when you enter the stable becomes more valuable as you get older."

### *Selling the studfarm...*

In 2011, Herbert Ulonska purchased the Klein Offenseth studfarm, including the horses, with the provision that Magdalena Hell could remain in her home. I talked with him about Calido I.

◆ **What does Calido I mean for Stud Maas J. Hell and for yourself?**

Calido I is the traditional flagship of the stud. There is a strong emotional connection between Calido I and the stud.

For me personally it was very much clear when I purchased the stud in 2011 that Calido I belongs at the stud. I look with great respect back to Maas J. Hell who discovered this stallion as a foal and who also led Calido I to his breeding success.

We try to do everything for Calido I that makes him feel well. Frieda is in charge of the older stallions and really loves Calido I. He is fed five times a day, Frieda brushes him every day, gives him a massage, and the vet visits every week to see how he's doing. He goes out into the paddock or arena every day, and you can see he's feeling good. It is very rare that stallions reach this age, so it will be difficult to find a successor, especially given his success in breeding. But I now with great interest to the six-year-old Quiwi Capitol (Quiwi Dream - Z-Capitola I x Cero I, Stamm 173, bred by Harm Thormählen). I truly believe that this stallion is something very special and my rider, Takashi Haase, thinks so too. His mother is by Cero I, a son of Calido I, and in his 50-day test he twice scored a 10, and four times a 9.50. Also, Quiwi Capitol's offspring look very promising."

### *Calido I's breeding career*

Calido was approved as a two-year-old during the Holsteiner stallion approvals in Neumünster. Now he is approved for at least eight studbooks including the BWP and SWB, having produced around 100 offspring that jumped at 1m60 level. So, let's take a look at his direct offspring, and those where his name appears as the damsire.

Frank Timmreck is the breeder of the stallion DSP Cashmoaker (Calido I - DSP Lafayette 141 x Lafitte), who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Denis Nielsen. He recalls why he used Calido I: "In 2001 the stallion station Maas J. Hell opened an extra stallion station here in the area. I had already seen him once during a stallion presentation in Schleswig-Holstein and afterwards I went to look at him here. He was beautiful, and he was being ridden back then by a 12-year-old boy. He had an amazing temperament, so it was obvious for me that I was going to use him. I was convinced by his type. In the beginning I was very careful with Calido I and used only one mare for him, until there were some years that I used him for all my mares. The Calido I combination just worked.

When his first offspring came into work I was very pleased by their carefulness, their willingness to work; they wanted to jump and they wanted to stay clear. We were right away lucky with Cashira I (Calido I - Lagune 11165 x Lear), as my son rode her up to 1m50 and then we sold her to the USA. We used Calido I in total 13 times. We then also had his daughters that we used for breeding. I only breed with one mareline, and out of that I have two broodmares from Calido I and some of their daughters. The full sister of DSP Cashmoaker first had a foal before she went into sport, then as a five-year-old she won 13 classes, from 1m10 up to 1m30 in one year. Later, after we sold her, she was placed up to 1m45.

I have Calido I now in the second, third, and even already in the fourth generation of my mareline. We currently also have a home-bred stallion at the DSP approvals who has Calido I in his third generation.

One of our Calido mares also produced the 1m60 jumping horse Django Unchained T (Diarado) under the saddle of Hans-Günther Blum. (This stallion just last week became the champion jumping stallion during the 2021 DSP approvals. A very modern son of Eldorado van de Zeshoek out of Depeche Mode T by Diarado x Calido I).

Calido I added willingness to perform and a good type to my breeding. He also added good movement, a great uphill canter, and an active hindleg. He has already given us several horses who have jumped at 1m40 and higher including, DSP Cashmoaker who jumped at 1m60. Calido I really stamps his offspring, even over several generations. It is a real plus when I want to buy a horse and I see Calido I in the motherline."

Harm Thormählen is the breeder of Cero I (Calido I - Larsa I x Come On, Stamm 3615), who passed away too soon. He jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of François Mathy Jr. Thormählen recalls: "Calido I was himself a very modern stallion and his motherline was very good. His grandmother, the Roman mare, had already produced the 1m60 horse Little Rock (Landaris) under the saddle of Jenny Zoer. This horse was the reason I used Calido I. He is the same age as Fein Cera and they competed as young horses in the same classes. Calido I jumped during the warm-up and in classes only two centimetres higher than he needed to, and never higher than that. Back then he was already a very noble horse, and still is at the age of 30.

Calido I had a very positive influence in my breeding. He produced modern horses with a lot of rideability, the

mares gave the scope. With Larsa, by Come On, he produced Cero I, who was a very special stallion. It is amazing that he is still so fit for his age."

Gerd Magens is the breeder of Nobless M (Calido I - Suehne x Landgraf I, Stamm 8769) who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Pius Schwizer. He recalls: "I saw Calido I when he was still young and I thought he was very good. On top of that, Calido I is a son of Cantus, who has already been a good match with our damline, because Come On (Cantus) is a half brother to Nobless M. We have used Calido several times."

Jessica Magens, Gerd's daughter-in-law also recalls: "I started Nobless M under saddle and rode her at her mare performance test. She was a dream to ride, very sensitive, with amazing movement (especially her canter) and she was very confident. You could already see her outstanding quality when she was free jumping (for which she received a 10 at her mare performance test). My father-in-law said that if there had been a 12, she would have received that. She was then sold in foal to Mr. Meindl, because we have a very good relationship with him, and he usually visits once a year so we've always followed her career. Already as a foal Nobless M was very confident and curious."

Dirk and Caren Oldekop are the breeders of Caleri II (Calido I - Haamoon x Leonid, Stamm 3389) who was jumping at 1m60 under the saddle of Zuzana Zelinkova. They bred six offspring out of Haamoon by Calido I, and Dirk Oldekop explains: "Calido I is a true stallion, his type and charisma are very special. It was his soundness and charisma that had me convinced. I think we had in total 10 offspring by him as it was really good for us to have Calido I on the dam side.

"A German television program was recently broadcast about the 30-year-old Calido I, and it's incredible that he's still in such good shape. It now appears that his age is starting to count as last year there was no filly by Calido I in the foal registration catalogue of the Holsteiner Verband. In the past Frau Hell often came to me with Thomas Mohr and most of the time they purchased all the foals. There was a moment when Frau Hell stood in front of the full sister of Caleri II and said 'I would bring her with me too if I still had something to say.' Caleri II has a full sister in France, a full brother in Mexico and there is one in South Africa. Calido I is Frau Hell's favourite stallion, and she always went to see Calido I first when she did her rounds.

"It was for us very special for us to see Caleri II in sport, and we even went to Sweden to see him at the



Star showjumper Coupe de Coeur (Calido I - Adele x Lincoln) ridden by Ludger Beerbaum

European championships. That was for us a very special event. You see breeding is our hobby, we don't need to make our living from breeding. Our breeder's heart is beating faster through the success of our horses. Zuzana Zelinkova has co-purchased a colt with us by Acodetto, out of the same mother as Caleri II. She is also really fond of Caleri II."

Winfried Krautwald purchased a filly by Calido I from Maas J. Hell, Lyssah (Calido I - Falke I x Ahorn Z, Stamm 8819, bred by Max Meyer). This filly became a very special filly, as Winfried Krautwald recalls: "I really thought that Calido I was an interesting stallion. A very modern stallion and I liked his charisma and character. I live in Westphalia but I came and still come often to Holstein.

"When Calido I was still competing I went twice to a regional show where he was jumping. I watched him from the moment he came off the truck until he went back on the truck again. I then asked Maas J. Hell to find me an offspring and he showed me four foals. I decided to buy Lyssah. I never saw her trot as a foal, but she had a very good walk and a good canter. This mare became reserve champion at the elite mare show of the Holsteiner Verband in Elmshorn. I remember that Dr. Gerd Lehmann came to me and said he didn't understand why she didn't become champion. She had an excellent mare performance test, with a 10 for jumping and several nines, including from the test rider for her canter.

"With Calido I the line of Lyssah really started to bring performance horses, in both dressage and jumping. She was selected to go to the international mare show in Brussels in 2000, where around 12 studbooks are each represented by three mares. The judges awarded notes for conformation, movement, and free jumping, and Lyssah took her revenge by becoming the champion. After that she started her jumping career, and was also competing in dressage under the saddle of Oliver Oelrich. Toni Hassmann then started to jump with her, and his brother, Felix, took over and jumped at 1m50. She was for me a once-in-a-lifetime horse."

### *An exceptional damsire*

Calido I not only sired top-class direct offspring, he also did excellent work as a damsire. We take as an example the Zangersheide-registered mare C-Unonyme van het Lindenhof Z (Calido I - Reve van het Lindenhof x Nimmerdor, bred by de Brabander-Ameloot). Charlotte Ameloot recalls: "I think we were one of the first breeders in Belgium who used Calido I. It was the first foal out of Reve van het Lindenhof, and I believe Calido I was five years old when we used him. He is a modern stallion and we wanted to modernize our offspring.

"I saw him a few years ago during an open day at stud Maas J. Hell. The owner of the stud rode him and fell off. I remember this because Calido I was already in his 20s, and I liked his cheekiness. You still see his character in the recent video that was posted of him at 30. I like it when horses are awake.

"Calido I was really a good match with Reve van het Lindenhof, and C-Unonyme van het Lindenhof Z gave outstanding offspring. Her first colt, Beaufort van het Lindenhof (Quick Star) jumped at 1m60. Her next colt would be Gin Chin van het Lindenhof (Chin Chin) who eventually jumped at 1m65 under the saddle of Geir Gulliksen, although he received his education from Marcus Ehning. The last offspring out of C-Unonyme van het Lindenhof Z is Keros van het Lindenhof (Cachas) who is an exact copy of Calido I. In our line there was a lot of scope but the elasticity was missing, and that's what Calido I really added to the line through C-Unonyme van het Lindenhof Z. She jumped a bit as a young horse, but we put her relatively early into breeding, although she had all the ingredients to become a top sport horse.

Calido I really gave our horses a pleasant character; he is a fantastic stallion. We were not able to register the foal with BWP at the time C-Unonyme van het Lindenhof Z was born, so we had to register her with Zangersheide. Normally we register all our horses with the BWP, but I absolutely wanted to use Calido I. In fact, I would have used him more often, but we had bad luck with Reve van het Lindenhof. She had several colic surgeries and was no longer able to carry foals herself."

### *The final word to Dr. Thomas Nissen*

Calido I and I have shared 30 years of Holsteiner breeding. I was a member of the committee that approved him 28 years ago, and last November he came to Neumünster for my retirement ceremony.

As a young horse Calido I was a serial winner in tests for young showjumpers. As a sire he really managed to breed well. He produced horses with a good type and we already had top mares from his first years of breeding. For example, Winfried Krautwald had an outstanding mare by Calido I who came to our mare performance test as a three year old, when she was already very good.

There were also some years when people thought that Calido I would not become the sire that he eventually became. They questioned whether he would produce offspring that were good enough for the highest level. This thinking changed completely after Coupe de Coeur started jumped at international level. Nobless M was also a role model for Holsteiner breeding.

Calido I nowadays belongs to the top sires of the Holsteiner breed. He fits perfectly into the row of Caretino, Cassini I, Contender, and Corrado I, cementing his place as a top sire in the history of the Holsteiner horse.

Calido I's role as a damire has been equally influential. With Calido I daughters you have a good foundation for breeding and you have the interesting blood of Cantus. It was difficult to get Cantus blood on the father's side as there are few of his sons in breeding. But it's good that we have the genetics of Cantus through Calido I. It shows the heritability strength of the Cor de la Bryère line, through his son Caletto I, Cantus, and then Calido I. ■

# Marion Hughes – Part 2:

## Long lines, run deep!

BY DR. HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY HUGHES HORSE STUD

*In last month's World Breeding News, our correspondent, Helen Sharp, joined Marion Hughes at her stud farm in Kilkenny and talked about breeding, competition, and family – the latter encompassing generations of knowledge and experience. In Part 2 Marion recalls the highs and lows of life on the competition circuit, and what she might breed that will have the star quality to carry her and husband Miguel Bravo's daughters to a future Olympic Games!*

◆ You had earned your stripes on the international circuit, and the 2004 Olympics were on the horizon, can you talk us through your Olympic journey?

At the start of that year, nobody else was thinking we were going to the Olympics, but we had it in our heads. I had a brilliant horse called Transmission by Cavalier Royale but he wasn't ready for the Olympics. No one really took much notice of [Heritage] Fortunus, but I was the fifth Irish team member in Rome, so Fortunus and I jumped: I ended up going double clear in the Grand Prix, as did Kevin Babington and Cian O'Connor. After that good result, the chef d'equipe had no choice but to put me on the team for Lucerne the following week. That was the first time I had been back to Lucerne since my Dad died there. I went back anyway, and I was clear, which was an excellent result for Fortunus and my first Nations' Cup! I'm sure my Dad must have been with me all the way because I ended up being on the next team in Rotterdam, I had clear and four there. Next, I jumped in Aachen, and I had a clear there too. The first round I had two down and just a bare toe in the water, and then the second round, I came out and jumped clear. After Rotterdam, I competed at Hickstead on Transmission, and he had gone well. Then I got on the Aga Khan team with Fortunus, and we won the Aga Khan! [The Nations' Cup Trophy presented at Royal Dublin Horse Show.] I jumped, got on the team, and ended up going to the Olympics.

◆ Both you and Heritage Fortunus (Foxhunter x Metellus) had such an impressive run to get to the Olympics. Still, it didn't quite go to plan on the day of the Nations' Cup part of the Olympic performance, did it?

It was a fantastic year, the whole run-up to the Olympics was great, but the horse wasn't fortunate there. I had done two rounds, and everything was going well, the plan was good. I jumped the fourth fence, and I jumped the fifth fence, it felt just like when a horse has bandages, and he stands on the bandage! He had stood on his shoe, he had side clips and the shoe twisted, and he stood on the clip. Every time he stood on the shoe, he was hobbling lame.

When it came to the water fence, the minute I jumped it, he just crumbled, because he had to stretch and he just crumbled on landing. We kept going towards the corner, then straight away, oxer, oxer with five strides. The longest five strides! He jumped the first oxer, and then I tried to go up on the five strides, but he couldn't canter, he was getting worse and worse. Eventually, I had to get off him and walk him out of the ring. We took him out, and they pulled the shoe off him, and I presumed we weren't going to do anymore – he was completely lame. That was in the morning, but the second round was at eight o'clock in the evening. So, the vet and team iced him, and then they cut out where the foot was bruised. And all the icing, icing, icing, icing! He was 50% better, but I still thought I wasn't going to jump. It was so traumatic the whole thing; I was thinking, 'Oh! my God, do I even want to jump again?' It was a hard thing to get through, must have been one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life. Eventually, in the last hour, we had him sort of sound. So, the shoe went back on him, and then I had to go and jump again...

◆ What did you think as you went back into the ring?

It was like a nightmare! How the hell could that happen? However, off we went, he jumped around the course, and I think I had two down. Still, it was a massive track, so to have two down was good, even for him to have the motivation. He must have been worried in his head, and he was a careful horse, he was a super careful horse, but he needed that belief in himself. He jumped really well, and we got through it. But it's funny how things work out – the team as a whole hadn't done so well anyway, everybody had a fence or two down. Cian O'Connor got into the final, and he won, and then he lost – it was such highs and lows those Olympics! Having said all that, it was really good to be there. It was hard work to get through it. But whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Fortunus was sold straight after the Olympics because that was the deal, we'd produce him to sell him.

◆ Heritage Fortunus was sired by the world-renowned Hanoverian sire Foxhunter whose pedigree includes Retina





**Winning the Nations' Cup Aga Khan Trophy in Dublin**

**(l-r) Marion Hughes/Heritage Fortunus; Billy Twomey/Luidam; Irish Chef d'Equipe, Col. Ned Campion; Cian O'Connor/Annabella; Jessica Kürten/Quibell**

the dam of the mighty Quickstar. His dam Merabell is by the Holsteiner stallion Metellus, from the same family as Calvaro. He currently has 73 progeny competing, many jumping 1m45-plus, including Heritage HHS Fortuna, whom you jumped to 1m60 and who was out of Cavalier Royale mare, Dreaming of You. Although you sold Fortunus, you had used him a little as a sire while he was with you. Can you talk us through the most exciting progeny you have by him?

We have a good few by him, HHS Burnchurch is very talented [currently ridden by super-talent Mikey Pender at 1m60 and is out of China Cavalier by Cavalier Royale]. When we had Fortunus here, he'd be covering some mares naturally, and we had some frozen semen from him as well. We used him over the last few years, and I must say, he has produced careful horses, just like himself. He was a beautiful blood horse; I loved him.

◆ Maintaining the connection with your father's innovation, you have bred successfully with several Cavalier Royale mares producing horses such as 1m60 HHS Fava, HHS Burnchurch, and 1m45 HHS California. Can you talk us through some of the mares which became the foundation to your breeding programme and how they came to you?

After the Olympics, I continued to compete with Transmission who was by Cavalier Royale and out of a Diamonds are Trumps mare. That Diamonds are Trumps mare had come back from Switzerland through Max Hauri. HHS BR Charlton's granddam – Charlton is another good horse that I rode, he's Cavalier Royale as well – had jumped in Switzerland. In the nineties not many Swiss people wanted to breed; it was too expensive for them to breed horses. If they had a horse that was getting a bit old, say 17, they'd send

them back to Ireland if that's where they came from. Max would give them to my Dad, and they had some deal, he'd get the first foal, and then we'd keep the mares. So, it gave us a chance to get good broodmares.

We had a certain number of our own broodmares already, but a few of our good ones had left Ireland as young horses, and we got them back then as 17 year-olds. They had been proven competition horses; some had jumped to 1m50. Many of them were King of Diamonds mares, for example Charlton's grandmother came back from Switzerland. She was by Audience, a Thoroughbred. So, we then bred her to King of Diamonds. The Hatton family had King of Diamonds, and they are based just over the road. They had Imperious [xx] as well. We had a lot of good Imperious horses back then, but they could be really difficult to ride! Oh, they'd plant you! When we had Vivaldi, I

was only 15, and he was challenging. And my father was a bit afraid that he'd give me a fall, so he sold him to Max. They were special, but that's what made them so athletic. They were good adventurers as well.

◆ Your father's decision to bring Cavalier Royale to Ireland has resulted in many quality competition horses and outstanding broodmares. How was he received when he first came into the country?

Well, he wasn't approved! There was a huge row about him not being approved – nobody wanted a foreign horse. And he was successful. He won. You see, in Ireland, if a horse produces nice foals, breeders will go back to the stallion. When Cavalier had three-year-olds on the ground, they won in Mill Street, and they won in Dublin. Then there were the four-year-olds...They won too. He ended up covering 200 to 300 mares across his career.

◆ What did you see emerge from Cavalier's influence?

That outcross made horses much more rideable. All my Irish horses like Flo Jo, barely could get up on the four strides or barely could get up on the five strides – you were struggling majorly. But with Cavalier's influence, with HHS BR Charleton for example, I could take out a stride anywhere I wanted to. His mother was a fantastic mare too: she was King of Diamonds, and she actually had huge scope. She was a good mover as well, but I suppose you got that really big canter from Cavalier. The dam was an excellent mare and had blood, and even though she was King of Diamonds, she had a lot of quality. She was actually tough to ride but had huge potential. Crossing her with Cavalier just added what was needed to improve for the sport.

◆ It's amazing the Cavalier Royale story really, because you can still go out to any competition on any weekend, and you can spot a Cavalier horse.

Yeah, and you know as broodmares they're proving to be great foundation mares. You know even my best pony, the pony that my daughter Molly rode in the European Championships. The mother was by a son of Cavalier. He was a two-year-old colt by Cavalier, and you can see the Cavalier come out in her.

◆ It's amazing, because it's the stallion legacy, but it's also your Dad's legacy; they are inextricably connected. Your Dad's decision and faith in the stallion is alive and out there flourishing in the sport.

Yeah. But only for Cavalier in Ireland, he's kept it going and moved things on, he's filled a gap.

◆ Turning to your own breeding programme, you have two stallions on offer who are proving to be successful sires, HHS Cornet and Quality Time TN (Quantum X Cantus). Zoï Snels rode Quality Time TN and said of him: 'Quality Time gets me to a higher level in the sport; I really owe that to him. Quality Time is careful and has unlimited power and has 100% dedication. He would always bring me to the finish in any class. And this top attitude he passes on because his offspring have it as well.' Can you describe him and his potential a little more?

Everything indicates that Quality Time is going to be a true foundation sire of showjumpers. KWPN has approved his son Floris TN. His daughters Féline and Fadessa H2 received fantastic scores of 83 and 86.5 points for the KWPN mare test.

Floris van Leuken bred Quality Time, a son of the well-known Quantum – sire to Grand Prix showjumpers such as

Quintero la Silla, GK Quentin, Karatina, and Quin Chin. Also, Quality Time was bred out of an excellent dam line: Granddam Jessika II produced the valuable stallion Goodwill, and out of this same Holsteiner dam line 1463, the Olympic show jumpers Lanciano and Lucilla II were bred. Ridden by Jeroen Dubbeldam, Quality was among the Netherlands best combinations becoming Dutch champions.

◆ HHS Cornet is by Cornet Obolensky. He's out of your talented 2011 OBOS Quality mare, HHS Geneva, who I am so sorry to learn you tragically lost very recently. HHS Geneva was showing such promise having already won several competitions including the Boomerang in Millstreet. Can you tell us a little about her son HHS Cornet?

The nice thing about him, he's giving a great stamp. Great heads, he reminds me of Cavalier, because they're all bay-brown and I haven't seen a chestnut yet. He's giving a stamp, which is good for the breeders because, at the end of the day, you have to have a saleable horse – not all the horses will be superstars. Okay, we're all looking to breed a superstar. But actually, I suppose it goes back to what you were saying about some breeders wanting to specifically breed eventers now.

An event horse is nearly more valuable than a showjumper as a five-year-old or a six-year-old because people buy an event horse and want to produce them. They're happy to look after them and keep them as a five-year-old and produce them to eight, and slowly, as the Swiss people wanted years ago – they love their horses. They give them time, and they produce them. Nowadays, however, everybody wants the best showjumper in Ireland, the freak, the one-in-a-million.

The nice horse that needs time to develop, he's not so valuable. So you have to keep him for another year and put more money into him. A five-year-old eventer is worth more money than an above-average showjumper. Nowadays the whole crossover of show-jumping and eventing, it's not far off the same sport. Originally when we sold horses to Switzerland when we'd have one that was bad in front, we'd say, 'Oh that's an event horse,' and they didn't care about it being bad in the front. Whereas now they wouldn't dream of buying one bad in front for eventing. And they also have to jump up to 1m40 minimum, then the dressage and balance are so important. So I could see why as a breeder if you produce 10 foals, at least if you have 10 nice types, you can make some money. They have much more chance to be a showjumper if they're a nice type and attractive and athletic.

It doesn't matter how many mares you have that are good, if you get one superstar out of 10 you'd be fortunate, or one out of a hundred you'd be fortunate! But if you have a few nice ones out of 10, then you can sell those. But to



*Michael Pender riding HHS Javas Gucci*

get that superstar? That superstar is a freak and happens with a bit of luck when all the dots line up together, you know?

My Dad always used to say, the stallions are nearly dead before you realise they're good enough, and then the semen starts to get worse.

◆ Regarding your Dad and Max Hauri, I suppose, their interest was in improving things. Your Dad was trying to add something, to identify something that was missing, and improve it. From the way you discuss your horses and the sport context, you always seem to be coming from a position of improving the animal in front of you, specifically for competition. Is that the case?

I'm always looking for a horse with the idea that it might take my daughters to the Olympics. And to do that, ideally, you want a nice 16.2, 16.3 (167-169 cms) horse. You have to be careful that you don't start to breed small and then you need to throw a bigger stallion on them again to get the height back. Ten years ago I had a few small mares, super jumpers, but I was struggling because if you're only 15.3 (159 cms), it's tough to ever see them in top sport. So I covered them all with bigger horses, and it worked out well actually. It gave me back tall and scopey.

◆ When it comes to Irish breeding versus some of the vast breeding outfits in Germany, Belgium, Holland and France, is it numbers equals results do you think? Or can the one-mare-breeder still have a chance to breed a top horse?

I have a lot of people in America that are looking for horses that are super genuine to jump 1m20 forever, and that's something we can produce well here. So it's not that people are producing bad horses in Ireland. If you have your nice mare and you love her, and you cover her with a good stallion, and you try to keep your costs down a bit, if you produce a nice horse and it does its job, well that's good too. Those horses are needed in the world! Trying to produce a superstar is really difficult because they can be big spooky horses that nobody can ride. If they're not good enough, you're really caught between two situations – not talented enough for a professional, and not easy enough for an amateur.

As a breeder, you're always looking to get that balance. Which stallion can give you the best balance? Many people say 'Oh I'm going to cull these mares,' but you know even the experts make mistakes! Tom Brennan had the mother of Cian O'Connor's Kilkenny, but he sold her. He sold her because maybe at the time he didn't think much of her foal compared to another mare's. Do you know what I mean? It's not an exact science.



*Michael Pender in the saddle of HHS Fortune*

◆ It's like you say, the stars have to align. All the different elements, including luck. HHS Geneva was a special horse for you. She is the dam of your stallion HHS Cornet – you bred her yourself out of Clover Z, a Clover Hill mare – how did you come by Clover Z?

Double O Seven was a beautiful, young, four-year-old-horse who we swapped for HHS BR Charleton's mother, Kilkenny Diamond by King of Diamonds. We ended up producing him, and I won the Boomerang [an Irish showjumping class named after Eddie Macken's legendary Boomerang] with him as a five-year-old, before he was sold to Switzerland and went on to perform with Philippe Lejeune – he was a successful 1m60 horse, he won a lot of good classes. So, on the strength of him being such a good horse, I searched out and found his sister Clover Z (Clover Hill x King of Diamonds) in Cork as a two-year-old, and I bought her. She was a big, long, leggy horse, but she wasn't as pretty as he was; she had a bit more of the Clover Hill head, she was Clover Hill out of a King of Diamonds that was out of a Thoroughbred mare. Clover Z and Double O Seven's dam, Craven A, had jumped at Grand Prix level herself in Ireland, and so we produced Clover Z on, and Miguel rode her a lot. She jumped up to 1m50 but had a silly accident in a lorry and ended her career.

We bred from her, and she was the mother of HHS Geneva. When she was a five-year-old, the vets locally were too busy to do embryo transfer so I said, 'Oh I'll just put my best mares to the best horses I can, it'll cut down on expenses.' So I put her in foal to Cornet Obolensky. The following year I put her back in the sport, and then at seven, she won the Boomerang in Millstreet with Mikey Pender. Mikey loves a mare, and I suppose it gave him a lot of confidence. They went to Lanaken and represented Ireland, and she looked like she had all the potential in the world for the future. She was a huge jumper and definitely a horse that could jump in Hickstead – brave, good brain and honest. I

was unlucky to lose her, but it looks like her son is showing plenty of potential. He is giving the good stamp, and he's giving all bays and browns, or greys, and good elevation in the trot. He's had a good chance now, so we'll see when his offspring are three-year-olds if they have what it takes... It's out of our control, you know? It's nice, it's interesting, and the breeders have got behind him, so that's good.

People talk about advertising, but it's funny, you don't need to advertise if you have something good. It's the same as if you jump a good horse at a show. You think nobody's watching and all of a sudden you have people calling you. So you can advertise as much as you want, or you can try to sell something, but if it sells itself it's the best, and breeders really look at the foals on the ground and how they sell as well. They must sell well.



*HHS Burnchurch ridden by Michael 'Mikey' Pender (IRL)*

◆ What unfolds as I talk to you and look at your horses, is that you have had a lot of longevity with your horses. That has to say a lot about not just your riding, but the management and the care of them?

I think I was so used to producing horses, to keeping them sound, and keeping everything right, that I didn't get carried away, I never looked for ranking points. Of course, I was looking to pay my way, but ranking points wasn't my goal.

◆ So you weren't hammering them?

My goal was to build up to get on a team to do the Aga Khan may be, to do whatever championship I could. That was my goal. It wasn't to be number one in the world. That was never my aim because I knew at that time, you're never going to be number one, and live in Ireland, you had to do what Jessica Kürten did for that – move to Europe. Jessica chose that line. She wanted to be number one. She went to shows 52 weeks a year. She didn't miss a weekend for 10 years, 20 years maybe. But it was very important for me to keep going with this farm, my father's farm, and my family. I wanted to keep all that going. It wasn't easy when I was competing a lot, to keep all the breeding going alongside everything else.

◆ You have a number of family-related broodmares in your programme including HHS Molly, the full sister to HHS Geneva, and HHS Williamstown Lady by Heritage Fortunus out of a Cavalier Royale mare. You also have a number of thrilling sport horses that we haven't yet mentioned, including HHS Fast Forward by Fortunus out of a Cavalier Royale mare, Java's Gucci (Luidam x Cruising bred by Judy Murphy) and MHS Cardenta (Cardento x Diamond Serpent bred by Olive Clarke). One little mare however, seems to bring more than good genetics to the HHS team – 1m60 mare HHS Fortune (Catoki x Douglas) seems to raise a smile when you talk about her. What is it about her that you like so much?

Fortune is a small mare, but she's fantastic. She's a great winner, and I could have sold her last year, but when you're a

rider you need a winner on the lorry. After all, it's great to go to a show and win a class, because if you're suddenly on a podium it empowers you. It puts you into the frame of mind that you're a winner. I always find if you go to a show and you're on a roll, you stay in a very positive frame of mind and you're looking to go clear and go in the jump-off and win the jump-off. Sometimes you need a few horses to give you that confidence. To give you that winning feeling. That's why I haven't sold that little mare because every time she goes to a show, she wins. But when I think about a mare like that I'm thinking about Mikey and his confidence. Mikey is already a confident rider but she's a winner and a lot of fun and to be honest, I like the sport. I'm in it for sport more than money. It has to pay its way, but it's great to be competitive too, and enjoy the wins. You can easily lose what it's all about. Showjumping is about sport, and we get too tied up because we have to sell horses to keep it all going. At the end of the day, you need a horse that's fast and clever. I know riders who have made 1.7 million riding a horse and that was 15 years ago! I've never made anything close to that riding a horse. But I'd much prefer to win 1.7 million riding a horse than to sell it for 1.7 million.

◆ It's obvious you still have a love of the sport and a fire in your belly for it. Going forward, there is a clear ambition to see Mikey Pender, who you have trained and supported, ride and win at the next Olympics on a horse you have bred. Is that something that excites you?

It'd be incredible. Winning the bronze medal was life-changing for Cian O'Connor. Even for Nick Skelton and Peter Charles who had done so much in their careers and had won so much, that Olympic medal in London was a turning point for their careers and themselves personally too – it was a huge achievement. In their 50s, to turn around and win when everything was against them, that's the great thing about showjumping – Mikey is 21, he's got 30 years left in the sport, what other sport would you get that? ■

# KWPN Horses of the Year: Glamourdale and Dana Blue

BY CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/DIGISHOTS

*For the first time in KWPN history two horses have been selected for the prestigious title KWPN Horse of the Year, a dressage champion and a showjumping title-winner. So, it's time to celebrate the newly chosen winners Glamourdale and Dana Blue.*

Incredible career highlights have already brought a lot of crowns for the 10-year-old stallion Glamourdale (Lord Leatherdale - Thuja stb pref x Negro), bred by Joop Rodenburg from Ouderkerk aan den IJssel, owned by Gert Jan van Olst. As a three year old he started by winning the stallion selection show, which marked only the start of his lofty career. Four year later, at the age of seven, this black pearl won the dressage WBCYH under the saddle of Briton, Charlotte Fry.

Gertjan van Olst is a very proud owner who was delighted with the volume of KWPN fans who voted for Glamourdale. "As a foal of 10 days his qualities struck me. And now there is no day he doesn't meet expectations. It's incredible and amazing. Charlotte Fry and Glamourdale have already made their promising debut in Grand Prix. Although we are constantly having to postpone and change our plans due to Covid-19, our goal is to start at the Olympic Games. We are very happy with his qualities and this recognition."

## *Sweeping victory for Dana Blue*

Bred by Jan Bocken from Weert, Dana Blue (Mr. Blue - Tulana prest x Hemmingway) received by far the most votes

in the showjumping direction. Which wasn't a great surprise as recently she and her rider, Maikel van der Vleuten, scored a well-deserved victory in a 1m45 class at Sentower Park in Belgium.

The success of this grey mare Dana Blue is the result of a fruitful collaboration between her breeders, the Bocken family, and showjumping specialists Eric and Maikel van der Vleuten. "We co-own the mare," farrier Paul Bocken explains. "My wife Jenny jumped her successfully as a five-year-old in several shows. Then, when she became pregnant, we went to the Van der Vleuten family as we knew Maikel was successfully showing some Mr. Blue daughters; Parmala Douche and Sapphire. As her farrier, I recognized the special attitude of Sapphire. She is just like Dana Blue, in that she needs some special handling. However, Maikel was so enthusiastic when he tried her and so a new partnership was born. It was the beginning of their new career together."

Last year, among other placings, Maikel van der Vleuten and Dana Blue won the CSI4\* Saint Tropez Grand Prix twice in successive weeks, having just won the CSI5\*-GCT Valkenswaard 1m60 Grand Prix, the CSIO5\* Geesteren 1m60 Grand Prix, the CSI5\*W Oslo 1m50-1m60 class, and the 1m55 CSI5\* at Indoor Brabant 1.55m.

The pair was also in the Dutch team at the Rotterdam European Championship: "Our expectations have been outclassed, by far," said Paul Bocken. Adding: "Maikel is a super rider and you don't need to teach the Van der Vleuten stable how to manage a good horse. Maikel believed in her from the start and explained that she just needed time to grow slowly into the work. How right he was!

"For us Dana Blue is our 'horse of a lifetime'. Now our breeding dream has come true with the title KWPN Horse of the Year as well. We are so happy."

Since 2019 Stal Van der Vleuten has also shared co-ownership of Dana Blue with their sponsor Marta Ortega. ■



*Dana Blue in the capable hands of Maikel Van der Vleuten (NED)*

# A new team kicks off the new year at the Holsteiner Verband

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE (TRANSLATION)  
PHOTOGRAPHY: HOLSTEINER VERBAND/JANNE BUGTRUP

*At the turn of the year Stephan Haarhoff (27) and Roland Metz (48) took up their new duties as breeding managers and managing directors of the Association of Breeders of Holstein Horses. In this interview, the two of them talk about their plans and visions of how the future of the Holstein horse can be shaped.*

◆ Mr. Metz, you have been working for the Holsteiner Verband for almost two years. Now you are taking on even more responsibility – does this mean that you see the prospects for your future career in Holstein?

In retrospect, the first two years were very eventful and eventful times in which we achieved a lot – not least with the help of strong support from our breeders. In addition, my family and I have settled in very well in Schleswig-Holstein. A restful yard near Elmshorn has become our new home, where my wife and daughter also feel comfortable. In addition to my work at the Holsteiner Verband and the warm welcome from its breeders, it was also my private circumstances that made me take on more professional responsibility.

◆ Since January 1, 2021, in addition to managing the Holsteiner Verband Vermarktungs und Auktions GmbH, you have been managing director of the general association. Where do you see the focus of your daily work in the future?

RM: I see a very important task in keeping the Holsteiner Verband competitive in the future. The market for the German breeding associations is getting more and more difficult, but with the studbook 'Holstein Global' the first step in the right direction has already been taken. Living this openness and promoting it is important in order to secure the market share for Holstein horses in the future. In addition, we will make sure that the service to our members is upheld. The separation between breeding management and general management gives the managing director even



*l-r: Stephan Haarhoff and Roland Metz will work closely together as breeding managers and managing directors of the Association of Breeders of the Holstein Horse*

more capacity to take care of profitability, without losing sight of the close and friendly exchange with the breeding manager. I am thinking, for example, of optimizing events, generating advertising income, and strengthening the association system in Elmshorn as the home port of Holstein horse breeders.

◆ In the past few years the Holsteiner Verband has opened up in various directions, including service for breeders and digitization. Do you already have plans as to whether and how these areas can be expanded further in the future?

RM: As already mentioned at the beginning, I see one of the most important tasks as strengthening and further expanding the market share of Holstein horses. An important tool is digitization, which has made it possible, for example, to register foals and mares online for several years. In addition, it was decided at the last assembly of delegates to reduce the admission fee from €300 to €100. We have thus set a sign of attractiveness in comparison with other breeding associations. As far as further digitization is concerned, the corona pandemic last year forced us to take a few new paths, which, in retrospect, fortunately have proven their worth. I am thinking of the experiences in the area of online and hybrid auctions, which we will certainly use in the future in the breeding area. In summary, we would like – and here I speak for Stephan Haarhoff and myself together – to make the Holsteiner Verband modern and successful for the future.

◆ Mr. Haarhoff, at the beginning of the year you succeeded Dr. Thomas Nissen and started as breeding manager of the Holsteiner Verband. What made you decide to apply for this post?

SH: Already in my childhood I was infected with the horse virus from my family, and it was clear to me early on that I wanted to turn my passion into a job. For this reason, I designed my training in this direction at an early stage. In addition to studying agriculture, I have completed numerous internships in breeding associations, previous training courses and, ultimately, the two-year training course as a junior manager in the field of breeding. When the position of breeding manager at the Holsteiner Verband was advertised, it was immediately clear to me that I wanted to apply.

◆ You have been working for the Holsteiner Verband for almost a year and a half, first as a junior manager and then as an assistant to the breeding manager. What are your impressions so far?

SH: My time at the Holsteiner Verband has passed incredibly quickly. In the one and a half years I was warmly welcomed and have already met numerous passionate horse people. The association's activities are characterized by many traditional processes. These traditions need to be preserved on the one hand and, on the other hand, adapted to today's requirements and modernize accordingly.

◆ The Holsteiner Verband has continuously opened its breeding program in recent years. The Holstein Global Studbook has created numerous new opportunities in this regard. What is your assessment of this new development?

SH: I think it's a step in the right direction. Today's breeders want the freedom to make breeding decisions and use the stallions that inspire and convince them. In addition, the past has shown that the targeted use of foreign blood can certainly lead to the desired breeding progress.

◆ You are significantly involved in the current modernization of the star model for Holstein broodmares. For what reason was the system revised and what innovations can breeders prepare for?

SH: Our breeders are primarily oriented towards (top-level) sport, so we will also give sporting successes greater weight in the star model. The upcoming changes affect the mares' own performance as well as that of their offspring. I am curious to see the effect of the revision and which mares will receive the most stars.

◆ The revised model is, therefore, much more oriented towards sporting success. Is FEI results data also considered?

SH: Yes, that was also considered. To further increase the informative value of the star model, it is imperative to include international sports data. The sport has changed a lot in recent years, becoming even more international, and series such as the Global Champions Tour have now established themselves. In addition, many Holstein horses have been sold abroad and have achieved remarkable sporting successes there. From 2021 onwards, the FEI data will be included in the model and the data flow will increase significantly.

◆ The post of breeding director is a very responsible and important task. How do you look forward to your new role?

SH: With great anticipation, but also with the necessary respect for the successes of my predecessor, Dr. Thomas Nissen, as I approach the new task. I am also looking forward to numerous constructive discussions with the breeders. The new crop of foals will be born in the coming weeks and months, and I am very curious to see how, in particular, the young stallions who were used for breeding for the first time, are passed on and whether the breeding decisions of the breeders meet expectations. ■



# The difference a decade makes in breeding at Puhinui

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: JANE THOMPSON AND PEGASUS COMMUNICATIONS

*The Puhinui International Three-Day Event was once a stronghold of New Zealand Thoroughbred talent, but recently – in the last decade at least – pedigrees of winners and placegetters have become a lot more varied.*

Looking back at the past decade, although top honours in the major (four-star) class have been won for the past three years by Thoroughbreds, a New Zealand Sport Horse gelding (with a lot of Selle Français blood), was the winner in 2017: Tresca NZPH (Fuego du Prelet x Barbarian). A New Zealand Warmblood mare, Star Nouveau (Goldstar KWPN x Fiesta Star xx) won in 2015 and 2016; and Balmoral Sensation (Senator VDL - Aberzanne x Aberlou xx), a New Zealand Warmblood gelding, was 2014's winner. Henton Executive (Escudo I - Delphi x Distelfink), a Hanoverian, won in 2013; a Kaimanawa-TB cross, Pioneer Makokomiko, in 2012, and another Hanoverian, Henton Attorney General (Anamour - Delphi x Distelfink), in 2010.

Henton Lodge has not only bred two winners in the past decade, but both are from the same dam. Delphi was bred by Bernie Maubach, and has had three other full siblings to Henton Attorney General. These are promising nine-year-old eventer Henton Ambassador, the dressage horse Henton Armani, and a six-year-old mare, Henton Abstract Art. The stud has retained ownership of this lovely youngster, who is just setting out on her eventing career.

Two of these Puhinui winners, Henton Attorney General and Balmoral Sensation have gone on to prove their worth internationally. Balmoral Sensation won the Adelaide International 3DE in 2017, finished fifth at Badminton in 2016, and was the highest-placed New Zealand horse at the Rio Olympics (sixth). He has the blood of Corland, Cor de la Bryère, Voltaire, Nimmerdor and Furioso II through his wonderful sire, Senator VDL, and is now on the Tokyo squad.

Henton Attorney General won Boekelo in the Netherlands in 2013; he also won at Blair Castle and was second at Houghton Hall in England. His sire, the Hanoverian Anamour (Aalborg - Lucille x Lombard) is a stallion whose contribution to breeding here, particularly for dressage, cannot be exaggerated. You will

see his name several times in the pedigrees of the 2020 placegetters mentioned below. He was bred at Zuchthof Bosch in Germany, and was from Stamm 1189109, Schridde 439. He stood at Bilbar Lodge in New Zealand and the year he died was ranked 31<sup>st</sup> on the WBFSh top-100 stallion list.

Now for latest batch of Puhinui winners and placegetters.

## *Thoroughbreds on top in four-star*

The CCI4\*-L was won by Artist xx (Guillotine xx - Maxamore xx x Volksraad), who was bred by Windsor Park Stud. He is owned by Monica Oakley and Mary Petersen, and ridden by Oakley herself. This lovely gelding won the three-star at Puhinui last season, and was second in the HOY 3\*.

Last year's winner, Aces High xx (Another Warrior xx - My Fairytale xx x King Ivor xx) finished second. He is ridden by Clarke Johnstone who co-owns him with his parents, Rob and Jean Johnstone.

The next three place-getters were all NZ Sport Horses.



*Henton First Lady (For Edition - Henton Ambience x Anamour) ridden by Bundy Philpott*



Waitangi Pinterest (Cassiano - Amberlou x Aberlou xx), a mare bred by Jos Bayly of Waitangi Sport Horses in Northland, finished third. This 12-year-old has the same damsire as Balmoral Sensation: the wonderful Aberlou xx, who is always a bonus in an eventing pedigree. Waitangi Pinterest is owned by the Crowe family, ridden by Madison Crowe, and was the winner of the CCI4\*-S at Taupo in November 2020.

Fourth at Puhinui was the Sport Horse gelding Tresca NZPH (Fuego du Prelet - Paradise NZPH x Barbarian), who won the CCI4\* at HOY in 2020. He is a 14-year-old bred by New Zealand Performance Horses, and owned and ridden by Bundy Philpott. He has very strong jumping bloodlines, although more angled towards coloured poles than cross-country obstacles.

Trudeau (Magistad - Clarity x Valiant), another Sport Horse gelding, owned and bred by Winky Foley and ridden by Matthew Grayling was fifth. He has Galoubet A blood through his dam, Clarity. His sire, Magistad, has Arabian, Thoroughbred, and A-line Hanoverian (Allermund) bloodlines. Trudeau was the winner of the CCI3\*-S plus at Taupo in October 2020 and fourth in the 4\*-S at the same venue later that month. He is 14 years old.

Sixth went to another Thoroughbred, the 12-year-old gelding Belmont Holy Smoke xx (Faltaat - Flaming Star xx x Dehere xx) in his first outing at this level. Two months earlier, this horse won the CCI3\*-S at the North Island Championships. He was bred by Grangewilliam Stud and is owned by his rider Abigail Long and Clive Long.

### *YH and 3\* honours to Henton Hanoverians*

Although they've done well in all disciplines, Henton Lodge Hanoverians are bred first and foremost to event, and the gorgeous nine-year-old mare Henton First Lady (For Edition - Henton Ambience x Anamour) is a great example of just how well the stud's programme has succeeded. She had a super win in the big three-star class at Puhinui, ridden by Bundy Philpott, and looks right on course for the higher levels.

The aptly named Henton First Lady is owned by Henton Hanoverians and Christen Lane. This was her first win at three-star; she was third in the CCI3\*-S at Taupo last October, and third in the two-star at Puhinui in 2019. She was also third in the CCI3\*-S at Taupo last October. Keep an eye out for her younger half-sister, Henton Cartier (Contendro I) who is showing lots of promise. And, by the way, another Henton mare finished third in this class, taking the Young Horse title too (see below).



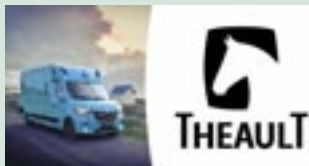
*Ingenious (Grafenstolz T - Te Peka Glayva x Genius), ridden by NZ international eventer Clarke Johnstone*

Second place went to an imported Irish Sport Horse, Cruising Guy (Loughehoe Guy xx Approved ISH - Thornfield Gwynne x Cruising) bred by Clement Stapleton in Ireland. This 13-year-old gelding also competed in Canada at three-star level with Shawn Ferguson and has the blood of the super ISH stallion Cruising. He is owned by Abigail and Clive Long, and ridden Abigail Long.

Clive and Abigail Long also own the horse who finished third, the Hanoverian mare Henton Audacious (Anamour - Distancia x Distelfink). This eight-year-old also won the Young Horse title, which was run in conjunction with the three-star class. She is ridden by Abigail Long, and was the winner of last year's CCI2\*-L Puhinui Young Horse competition. She has the same outstanding sire as Henton Attorney General, and her dam, Distancia, is also the dam of Balmoral Henton (Contendro), a horse who was sold to Australia.

Anamour sired the fourth-placed horse in this class too: SD Amourosi (Anamour - JK Symphony x JK Sacramento), an 11-year-old Warmblood gelding bred by Vicki Fursdon and Sharney Downs, and owned and ridden by Rebecca Smithey. SD Amourosi's Holsteiner dam, JK Symphony, was out of a mare called Montag (Mt Everest) bred by JK Holsteiners. She had a couple of novice dressage wins and some good placings. The damsire, JK Sacramento (Siegfried - BP Juliet x Romedio), also known as BP Sacramento, stood here in the 1980s; he was bred in Australia, and left some nice progeny, particularly broodmares. One of these, JK Showgun, is the dam of Fernhill Stud's mare Kiwi Showtime (Corofino II), who won the six-year-old National Young Horse Showjumping Championship in 2016.

The only Thoroughbred in the top six took fifth place; a 14-year-old gelding, Rockin It xx (Traditionally xx - Tilga xx



x Honour Grades xx) bred by D and I Mackay. He is and ridden by Abbey Thompson.

Sixth went to the experienced 16-year-old Dutch Warmblood-Thoroughbred cross gelding, Ricker Ridge Pico Boo (Pico Bello - Pegs xx x Spectacular Love), who was bred by Judy Dwyer, and is owned and ridden by Greer Caddigan. This horse had two-star wins with Samantha Lissington earlier in his career.

### *NZ Young Event Horse: Hanoverian domination*

This exciting class is sponsored by Groupe France Elevage and Equibreed, and was won by an equally exciting young gelding, Ingenious (Grafenstolz T - Te Peka Glayva x Genius). The solidly built, tall four-year-old Hanoverian, bred and owned by Janene Maxwell and Jean Johnstone, is in the skillful hands of Olympian Clarke Johnstone, and really couldn't be much better placed for an eventing career. Nor could he have a much better sire: Grafenstolz (Polarion x Camelot x Arogno) took the 2004 Bundeschampionate eventing (CCE) title as a six-year-old, and won the eventing WBCYH in Le Lion d'Angers that same year ridden by Michael Jung. He was the Trakehner stallion of the year and the best eventing sire in France in 2017, and was recognized as one of the world's top eventing sires in 2017.

Ingenious has a Hanoverian Studbook half-sister, Peregrine (Perigreux), and a half-brother, Interpol (Colombia xx).

Runner-up and best Thoroughbred in this class was the six-year-old Cheval de Fond xx (Nom du Jeu xx - Miss Andrea xx x Kings Chapel xx), a gelding bred by L.I. Redshaw and owned by his rider Kelsey Leahy. He has had a couple of wins and a number of good placings at CCN105 level.

Third went to another Thoroughbred, DSE Mannering xx (Sufficient xx - Birthday Hill xx x Align xx) bred by Highview International,

and owned and ridden by Donna Edwards-Smith.

In fourth place was the best mare and second-best four-year-old, the lovely CML Quinn (Astek Quatermaster - Delaney x Pico Bello) bred by Michelle Bradley of Whakatane. Her dam, Delaney, is out of a part-Irish mare by Waingata, a son of the eventing supersire Aberlou xx (damsire of Waitangi Pinterest). Astek Quatermaster (Quaterback - Fleur di Mimosa x Flemmingh) was bred by Astek Stud and was the champion stallion of the 2016 NZ Warmblood classification tour with Gerd Küst.

The other two top-six placegetters are also Hanoverian mares: fifth place went to TR Willow (Worldly - Emiral x Flying Amiral), a six-year-old bred by Kate Vercoe. This mare is owned and ridden by Ashra McAvinue; her dam Emiral is a Swedish Warmblood mare (SWB-5) imported by the McKays, and is also the dam of the four-star eventer Rubinstar HH (Royal Diamond), who was fifth in the four-star at Puhinui in 2019.

In sixth was Sweet Couture (Viscount - Tandarra Sweet As xx x Drums of Time xx) bred, owned, and ridden by Christen Lane. It's interesting to note that this mare was a premium foal and reserve best jumping-bred foal of the 2015 Hanoverian inspection tour with Dr Hartmut Wilking. Her dam, Tandarra Sweet As, was a three-star eventer at the former FEI levels – in fact, she won both Richfields and Puhinui with Lane in 2011, when three-star was the highest level in this country. Drums of Time xx sired a number of eventers.

Holsteiners do seem to have the edge in New Zealand showjumping pedigrees at present, but it looks as though Hanoverians are the up-and-coming force in eventing! And although the sires of this year's top placegetters are diverse, the Hanoverian Anamour's name appears more often than any other. ■

# KWPN Select Sale: Click, see, and buy!

BY JUDITH MERTENS / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: LEANJO DE KOSTER/DIGISHOTS

*The KWPN Select Sale, the crème de la crème of the KWPN auctions, has an online edition this year for the very first time in history. Online auctions are still on the rise and the KWPN has shown in the past year that it knows how to efficiently handle this.*

Once again KWPN Select Sale has managed to put together a top quality collection of jumping- and dressage stallions.

With sales percentages of 85%, the 20<sup>th</sup> KWPN Select Sale was a great success last year. The online auctions of the KWPN are barely inferior in terms of sales percentages to 80%. The selection committee of the KSS enthusiastically and proudly presents the auction collection consisting of twelve dressage- and fifteen jumping stallions.

## More willingness to auction

The KSS selection committee consists of Nico Witte, Jan Greve, Egbert Schep and Wim Versteeg. Nico Witte is very enthusiastic about the collection that has been formed: "The four of us looked at all the horses during the first round viewing, and from there we made the best possible selection. The entire COVID-19 situation actually had no influence on the selection procedure. We have noticed that the willingness to auction online has become much greater. Online auctioning has really taken off in the past year which has resulted in more, better horses being offered for the KWPN Select Sale."

## Global stage

The fact that owners are more inclined to offer stallions for the KWPN Select Sale is not surprising, according to Nico Witte. "At the moment there are simply fewer buyers coming at your stable to buy horses. Foreign customer are not able to travel to Holland to see horses at the stable in real life due to the COVID-19 situation. That is one of the reasons why the participants of the stallion show would like to offer their stallions to the KWPN Select Sale and make use of the worldwide platform this auction enjoys. The quality of the collection is certainly not inferior to other years."

## Some successes

Every year the KWPN Select Sale proves to produce both good sport horses and breeding stallions. The auction topper of 2020, My Toto VDT (Glock's Toto Jr.), was sold to Andreas Helgstrand last year for €175,000. This black stallion has now been approved for the Danish Warmblood Studbook. Mister Maserati (Glock's Toto Jr.) is also an approved stallion. During the KWPN performance test, this stallion scored no less than 85.5 points!

Former KSS horse and KWPN-approved stallion Sir Sinclair made a name for himself again last year by being recognized as dressage stallion of the year in the USA for the sixth time in a row. Sir Sinclair was sold to America at the KWPN Select Sale for €360,000. Since then he has become a popular sire and produced many appealing and successful offspring.

## Online with live presentation

The auction will be split into two sections, as in previous years. The jumping stallions will be auctioned on Wednesday, February 3, while dressage stallions will be on the block on Friday, February 5. The stallions in the collection not only impress themselves, but their pedigrees are also very promising and imbued with sport. Both sires' and dams' performance genes make this collection interesting.

A big difference compared to other years is that the KWPN Select Sale will take place online, but with a live presentation. You can therefore see exactly which stallion is in the arena and what you can bid on via the livestream. Auctioneer Frederik de Backer will sell the stallions online. This way you still get the feeling of a real auction, with the convenience of online bidding.

Check out the collection at [online.kwpm.nl](https://online.kwpm.nl) and register to be able to place a bid!



Top: *Un Heros d'Urano*  
Gouden Bit Z  
Right: *Notalis*



# Gabriel Khoury takes over as new president of ABCCH

BY ROBERTA MILANI / ABCCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANNA PAULA CARVALHO, EMERSON EMERIM

*ABCCH (Associação Brasileira de Criadores do Cavalo de Hipismo/Brazilian Association of Sport Horse Breeders) will be under new administration for the 2021-2024 period, after Gabriel Khoury was elected president.*

In November 2020, the Brazilian Association went through an election process to define its new managers. The 'BH Strong-Breed' slate received more than 100 votes and is now in charge of the Association for the next quadrennial period, counting on Gabriel Khoury as its executive president.

Forty-three-year-old Khoury has a degree in Business Management and has been in charge of the Federação Paulista de Hipismo – the equestrian federation representing São Paulo state, which is the largest in the country – for the past four years. During this period he introduced innovative achievements on the Federation's behalf, such as hosting a three-week state championship 'Paulistão' for all age-group competition categories.

In his candidate proposal, Khoury suggested new initiatives as well as updates to ongoing projects, focusing on the three pillars of promotion that

support the Brazilian Sport Horse (BH) breed, as well as professional and sports management.

Among the national and international goals planned for the Association, one highlight is Khoury's long-term, audacious objective of globalizing the Brazilian Sport Horse and opening new markets such as the USA, Mexico, and Latin America in general.

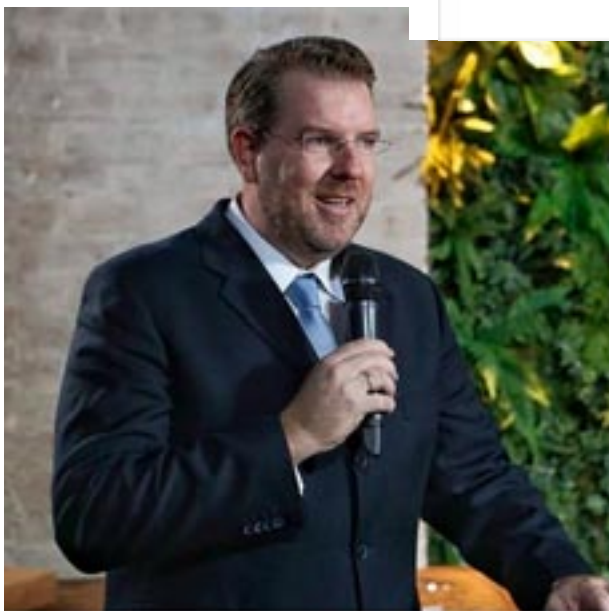
In the short term, the new president has clear intentions to introduce modern tools to qualify and simplify customer service to the association's members. In terms of technology, the challenge is to make the Association's website and systems more modern and easy to access, and also to create its own App.

Khoury has already started to hear suggestions from ABCCH members, gathering matters relevant to the Association's 'Field Day', whose primary objective is to promote breeders' meetings to foster integration among associates. These

encounters are expected to serve as an exchange of knowledge and experiences, as well as to promote unity among associates for a stronger BH breed. "They are also an opportunity to foment business," Khoury added.

The new board of directors will be announced shortly, but the president has already made clear his intentions to collaborate with partners from State Federations and from the Brazilian Showjumping Horse Confederation. "I usually work in teams and will name the 2021-2024 directors in the next few days, with the challenge to put the planned projects into practice. Primarily, I'll maintain the Association's current format and focus on enhancing the partnerships with State Federations and with the national Confederation so that tournaments exclusively for young horses will come to life."

A South American Young Horse Championship (four-to-eight-year-olds), together with a National Confederation, is also part of the plans. "The fact that the BH horse market is hot comes as a positive surprise for us considering the current economic scenario the country has been facing,



*New ABCCH president, Gabriel Khoury*



*Carlota Jmen (Calisco Jmen x (Ra) Camerun Jmen) ridden by Artemus de Almeida*

We're optimistic and I hope to contribute even more," Khoury explained.

The current president has himself been a competitive rider in two disciplines: eventing and showjumping. Then, 10 years ago, he began to raise horses in the countryside of São Paulo. Meanwhile, in his team he has owned nationally and internationally acclaimed BH horses, such as Sharapova MCJ (Baloubet du Rouet x Welton Ambassador), Salamanda

Baloubest (Baloubet du Rouet x Silvestre), and also Carlota Jmen (Calisco Jmen x (Ra) Camerun Jmen), who is still in his stables and ridden by Artemus de Almeida – a finalist at the showjumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken.

In conclusion, Khoury said, "A strong breed is made up of breeders' unity, ideas, friends, and lots of dedication." ■



*Salamanda Baloubest (Baloubet du Rouet x Silvestre)*



# BWP stallion approval: 46 of the 113 candidates selected

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: SPORTFOT AND PETER LLEWELLYN

*BWP kicked off the stallion approval season in Belgium in mid-January. During the second phase, in which only stallions born in 2018 could participate, the jury selected 46 of the 113 candidate stallions to progress to the final phase in March.*

Almé is most strongly represented in the sire lines, followed by Diamant de Semilly (five), Cambridge (five), Darco (four), Stakkato (four) and Clinton (four). Young stallions such as Nixon van 't Meulenhof (2013) and Matisse de Mariposa (2012) both have two selected sons, while Ermitage Kalone (2014) has three. Hunters' Scendro (2007), Ducati van Schuttershof (2009) and Bamako de Muze (2001) are all represented by two sons.

## *The influence of Almé*

In total, 10 stallions carry the performance blood of the French progenitor Almé, with the offspring of Ducati van Schuttershof being very impressive. Of his three presented sons, two have progressed to the third phase. Ducati is by Kashmir van Schuttershof, and it's also important to mention that his dam, Narcotique Schuttershof, is a daughter of Qerly Chin, a dam that was outstanding at five-star level and has a significant share in the well-known BWP performance line 34.

Ducati has already competed Grand Prix in partnership with Gilles Thomas. One of the two selected Ducati sons is called STB Silvio van de Koekelberg, born out of Jardenti van de Koekelberg (Cardento - Fleuri van de Koekelberg x Winningmood VD Arenberg) and bred by Guy Ganseman.

Guy Ganseman breeds on a small scale, meaning just one or two foals each year. Silvio's dam, Jardenti van de Koekelberg, is by Cardento out of the international showjumper Fleuri van de Koekelberg. According to Ganseman, "There were several well-known riders who wanted to compete with Fleuri, but that was not affordable.

"I then sold her to the Vermeir family, the owners of STB Horses' They moved her to Dirk Demeersman who jumped very well with Fleuri from the start, for instance during the world championship for seven-year-olds in Zangersheide. Under Dirk's saddle Fleuri has performed at international five-star level. Dirk stopped riding her when he was appointed as coach of the Belgian showjumping team. Afterwards, Steven Vermeir wrote the sequel to Fleuri's sports career.

"But the story starts with Quelle Veine-CR, a Clinton x Heartbreaker dam. I bought her when she was three years

old. At one point, I sold her to Dirk de Vidts, the founder of studfarm Fernantes. Quelle Veine was a good showjumper. Not a simple one, but she has nevertheless jumped at international level. She made my breeding great as I loved Clinton.

"I went to the studfarm 'van de Heffinck' because, at the time, stallion keeper Hubert Hamerlinck had several stallions, including Winningmood. I had seen this stallion jump in the cycle as a youngster which wasn't surprising. When Ludo Philippaerts started riding Winningmood, the story changed. The stallion has been underestimated and was mainly used in sports.

"I used Winningmood with Quelle Veine, which resulted in the birth of Fleuri van de Koekelberg. I then combined Fleuri with Cardento and Jardenti was born. As a foal, Jardenti was injured, so having a sport career at a high level was impossible."

Jardenti was subsequently used exclusively as a broodmare. "She not only produced Silvio, but also Nikita van de Koekelberg. Last year, Steven Vermeir and Nikita achieved great results in competitions for seven-year-olds. Nikita has a lot of showjumping qualities, and the Vermeir family has already bought several foals and horses from me, including Silvio when he was a foal. Jardenti's descendants are generally good and willing to work."

Ganseman explains why he chose Ducati as a partner for Jardenti in 2017: "Actually it was because of Kashmir, Ducati's sire. I was using Kashmir at the time on dams with Neroli blood, which he managed to improve. At one point, I went to the stallion keeper Willy Van Impe to tell him that I wanted to use Kashmir again, but the stud fee was €4,000 with a pregnant dam guarantee. That was a lot of money and the reason why I used Ducati instead of his sire. Ducati's offspring is uniform, producing athletic, beautiful horses.

Two Ducati sons have also been selected for the upcoming KWPN stallion approval. However, he does not yet have a large offspring. Under the saddle of Gilles Thomas, Ducati is doing well in the sport. He has already performed at four- and five-star level."

## *Promising Ermitage Kalone*

Cambridge has been represented five times in the sire lines of the selected stallions, and his grandson, Ermitage Kalone, especially produced his business card during the second phase when four sons were presented. No fewer than three of them were selected to the next phase, including Sunday JM, bred by Joris Van Dijk. "It was his first crop in which he had only about 30 descendants. The fact that five of them were inscribed for the approval is a positive fact. One of the five was absent, namely Stelvio vd Zilverenhoek, as this stallion was sold abroad via the ET Auction ahead of the BWP approval. The general impression is that Ermitage Kalone's descendants are beautiful horses with a modern conformation and a lot of blood."

Sunday JM's dam is Unschuld, whom Van Dijk explained is a Holsteiner dam: "She also produced Cashpaid, a sport and breeding stallion recently sold to the United States. The dam line is not that big and special. Unschuld has already produced two showjumpers that perform at 1m60 level, namely Cashpaid and Cordial, as well as a dam that jumps at 1m30 level. I bought Cashpaid as a foal in 2011 in Holstein and sold him when he was one-and-a-half years old. When he performed in sports as a five-year-old, there was a lot of interest in him.

"I went to Holstein during that period and was able to buy Unschuld who was in foal to Cantesini, a son of Cascadello I. The foal that was born from this crossing is Chance J&F Champblanc Z. When Chance was four months old, I sold him to France. The following year, I bred Sunday JM." He recalls with some regret; "After the birth of Sunday, I sold Unschuld to Haras Des Rosiers, where Cashpaid also had a stable."



*Diamant de Semilly*

Ermitage Kalone has become very popular: "He is loved by the breeders. The foals from his first crop were eye-catching at championships," and according to Joris de Brabander, other factors play a role: "Via his dam line, he carries Anglo-Arab blood. We have owned some stallions with Anglo-Arab blood and, in my opinion, such horses are easier in character and handling than horses with a Thoroughbred in the second or third generation.

"If I am not mistaken, the Anglo-Arab blood is also the basis of the famous dam lines 'de Chalusse' and 'du Chateau'. Ermitage is the first descendant of Bellaventure Kalone. His granddam, Blague du Maury, performed in the finals of Fontainebleau up the age of six and is the dam of Vertige Kalone who jumps top at 1m45 level, as well as of the Anglo-Arabian Prestige Kalone who performs at 1m60 level. Stallions such as Fusain du Defey, Laurier de Here, Quercus du Maury and Kim du Maury also belong to this Anglo-Arab dam line."

## *Five Diamant de Semilly descendants*

We find the progenitor Diamant de Semilly five times in the sire lines of the selected stallions. Two grandsons via Matisse de Mariposa (Diamant de Semilly - Inabelle de Mariposa x Stakkato) were presented, and both received an invitation to the third phase, namely: Sancerre di Fer (bred by the Mertens Stables) and Stan van d'Abdijhoeve.

Hugo Boelens, the breeder of Stan van d'Abdijhoeve, explained: "I was 16 years old when I bred my first foal. That was 40 years ago. Dax van d'Abdijhoeve is one of my best breeding successes. Pieter Devos and Dax won the world championship for seven-year-old showjumpers in Lanaken. That was special. The approval of Jos van d'Abdijhoeve as a stallion was also a great moment." Last year, four foals were born at Boelens's studfarm, this year three are expected.

Boelens bred Stan out of Pusha van d'Abdijhoeve: "At a young age, she won several free-jumping competitions, including in Aalter and Hulsterlo. Krismar Stables has now bought a half share, so she will now perform in competitions for young horses. She has a lot of technique and scope, but is not the easiest to ride."

Pusha van d'Abdijhoeve is by Jos van d'Abdijhoeve out of Jana van d'Abdijhoeve. Boelens continued by saying, "I sold Jana to Ive Tonet when she was six years old. Ive in turn sold her to Stephex. Jana jumped internationally at 1m40 to 1m45 level partnered with several Stephex riders, including them Petronella Andersson and Emilie Conter." For several years now Jana has been ridden by Lexi Ray. "I sold Faith, Jana's

dam, to Australia when she was six years old. Out of her, I bred four descendants: Lies, Kaviaar, Jana, and Ima van d'Abdijhoeve. Ima performed at 1m50 level. I sold Lies as a foal to Hubert Hamerlinck." Lies produced the approved stallion Piper van de Heffinck.

### *Artist van den Driehoek Z – an expensive sale*

Four selected stallions go back via their sire line to BWP ambassador Darco, namely Artist van den Driehoek Z, the two Bamako de Muze sons Summer Ter Leydonck (bred by Stijn Stevens and Stable Ter Leydonck), and Bluff Ter Doorn Z (bred by Brits' Stables), as well as Socrates van den Bosdam (Eras Ste Hermelle), bred by Freddy De Vos.

Focusing on Artist van den Driehoek (Aganix du Seigneur), he was bred by Toon Raeymaekers and Jules Geuens – two breeders who have been working together for 15 years. Artist's dam, Gracile (Quasimodo vd Molendreef), about whom Raeymaekers said: "We had sold a horse to Stephan Conter and were looking for another horse. During our search we found Gracile. She was four-and-a-half years old when we bought her. We started slowly and competed with her in rural tournaments. During her first eight classes she was always clear. She was also faultless at the national LRV tournament. One year later, she performed in the LRV Light class again and achieved a classification in a national indoor tournament. When Gracile was six years old, I regularly won VOR showjumping competitions with her. She also finished fifth in the national SBB championship and in Gesves we managed to qualify for the final of the six-year-olds.

"In 2018, Gracile and I competed in some heats of the cycle for seven-year-old showjumpers, and after the heat in Azelhof we sold her to Ludo Philippaerts. During the same year, Stijn Timmerman participated with Gracile at the final of the Belgian championship for seven-year-olds. Gracile was active before this in Knokke under the saddle of Thibault Philippaerts and after the BC under the saddle of Olivier Philippaerts in the WC for seven-year-olds in Lanaken. In 2019, Gracile competed in partnership with the

Brazilian rider Cassio Rivetti. Gracile is beautiful horse, always jumping with good manners. Not spectacular, but always good. We have just delivered Artist to his new owner, Axel Verlooy."

Co-breeder Jules Geuens explained: "In September last year, Artist joined our stables. We have carefully built up the route to the stallion approval. We trained weekly with Peter Goossens, while I did his conditioning work. Preparing and presenting a stallion for an approval is rather different from training a horse. We asked Peter for advice from the beginning as for us it was the very first time that we presented a stallion at an approval. I had never even attended a BWP stallion approval before as I train a few horses myself, plus my daily work."

Artist van den Driehoek Z is not only selected to participate in the third phase of the stallion approval, but was also one of the auction lots at the BWP Top Stallion Auction. He was, in fact, the most expensive stallion sold, at €150,000 to Axel Verlooy.

Geuens said: "That was a special experience. Before the start of the auction, I had in mind that Artist could be sold at €100,000 euros or more. Axel Verlooy bought Artist and he and his wife are very happy with him. He is now in the ideal place as Euro Horse, Verlooy's stable, is one of the best sports stables and stallion stations."



*Sultan de Muze's dam, Vigo's Flip de Muze Z, is by Vigo d'Arsoilles out of Butterfly Flip. Ridden by Sweden's Malin Baryard-Johnsson, Butterfly Flip won team silver at 2002 WEG in Jerez de la Frontera (ESP). Seen here competing in the Spruce Meadows Masters', Calgary*



## Hunters' Scendro and Vigo d'Arsouilles

We identified the performance blood of Stakkato four times in the sire lines of selected stallions, including Sparkling JW-van de Moerhoeve (by By Cera d'Ick), Stanny HR (Stakkato), and the half-brothers Sambucci and Sultan de Muze, both sons of Hunters' Scendro. Both of the latter stallions were bred by Joris de Brabander and strikingly, they both have Vigo d'Arsouilles daughters as their dams.

We asked Joris de Brabander what the descendants of Hunters' Scendro inherit? "He passes on light-footedness, caution, and class. I bought him at the time because I thought he could match very well with Nabab de Rêve and Vigo d'Arsouilles as they need the qualities mentioned. As it's turned out."

Sambucci de Muze was born out of Malissa de Muze: "She participated in international showjumping classes for young horses and is at the Stephex Stables being ridden by Lorenzo de Luca. Malissa is a horse for the future." Malissa is the result of crossing Vigo d'Arsouilles with Cordula de Laubry. "Cordula was occupying first place in the Hippomundo ranking of the best dams in the world, but I heard during the stallion approval that she is now in second place. She has produced 13 horses that jumped at minimum 1m45 level." Sambucci de Muze is co-owned by VDL Stud.

Sultan de Muze's dam, Vigo's Flip de Muze Z, is by Vigo d'Arsouilles out of Butterfly Flip. "Vigo's Flip is a dam that I still have myself," Joris De Brabander said. Under the saddle of Christophe De Brabander, Vigo's Flip de Muze participated at CSI-I\* showjumping classes in 2018 as a six-year-old. In 2019 and 2020 she participated in two and three-star eventing competitions.

"Sultan de Muze belongs also via his dam line to a performance family. His granddam is Butterfly Flip. De Brabander shared his extensive knowledge: "In 2003, she [Butterfly Flip] was the best showjumper in the world. She participated at two Olympiads and four World Cup finals. She was also part of the Swedish team that won silver at the World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera [2002]."

### *Suives Moi STB, second highest price*

The Olympic stallion Clinton can also be found several times in the sire lines of selected stallions. This is the case with Spotify KMS (bred by the Krismar Stables), Storm's Twinkeling (Cornet Obolensky/ex Windows van het Costersveld), bred by Studfarm Twinkeling, Surprice van Koekshof (Jaak Evens bred this full brother of the previously approved Ne-President van Koekshof), and Suives Moi STB.

Suives Moi STB carries Clinton blood through his sire, the Westfalian Comme il faut. He was bred by Sophie de Roeck and descends from BWP dam line 80. De Roeck said: "Suives Moi's dam, Massima van't Spievelde, is by Inshallah de Muze out of Tequila van Spievelde. At the time we leased Tequila from André Vercauteren and crossed her with Inshallah. Out of this combination Massima was born. At the

age of three, Massima was injured, which meant that a sport career was impossible."

Tequila certainly produced her business card in sports and breeding as she is the dam of several international showjumping cracks, such as Echo van't Spievelde (Heartbreaker), Casper van Spievelde (Mr Blue), Gentile van Spievelde (a full brother to Echo), Amber van't Spievelde (Nabab de Rêve), and Izeaux van Spievelde (Deauville de la Vie). Tequila has also produced two approved stallions, namely Echo van't Spievelde and Robijn van d'Abelendreef.

De Roeck uses Massima exclusively as a broodmare: "Her oldest offspring, Queen Star STB (E Star), is owned by Van de Poel. Vicky Van de Poel is happy with Queen Star because she is very competitive." Massima's second descendant is Rokechobee STB, a daughter of Gino H who sold during the most recent ET Auction for €20,000 to Canada. Massima's third descendant is Suives Moi STB. She also produced Toevallig van STB (a son of By Cera d'Ick) and Perfect Edition van STB Z, a daughter by Parfait van het Schaeck.

Suives Moi STB was sold during the BWP Top Stallion Auction, after which De Roeck exclaimed: "We already received offers before the start of the auction, but I did not accept them. I play fair. He was the second most expensive stallion, sold at €37,000. If it had been a live auction with public in attendance, the sale price would probably have been higher. The stallion was bought by Westbury Stables," founded and owned by Harold Megahey, from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

De Roeck concludes: "My 23-year-old son, Dries De Bock, will ride Suives Moi STB during the third phase. By the way, together with myself, Dries presented the stallion. It is the first time that he presented a stallion, without the help of a stallion keeper, so it's a real feather in his cap."

With regard to specific dam lines, several stallions belong to a strong BWP performance family. BWP dam line 13 was represented three times (one stallion selected); BWP dam line 22 twice, with both stallions selected for the third phase; BWP dam line 34 seven times (two stallions); dam line 80, also twice, with one stallion selected. Only dam line 90 failed to receive an invitation to participate in the third phase for any of its three stallions.

The BWP born and registered dressage stallions Sunnyboy van de Kempenhoeve (Don Deluxe - Prettywoman vd Kempenhoeve x Quarterback, bred by De Kempenhoeve) and Sandor Hit van't Steenputtenhof (Special Agent Amour - Livante van't Steenputtenhof x Sir Donovan, bred by Geert and Marleen Van de Zande-Moeyersons) added their names to the list of stallions selected for the third phase. They will be joined by Nordes Begijnhoeve (Ferdeaux/ex For You Two - Fetiny x Tango, bred by Studfarm De Begijnhoeve), Negotiator (Hometown - Toscana x Krack C, bred by Burgers), and Nashville vd Nethe (Secret - Kamara HS x Polarion, bred by De Nethe).

The third phase, which takes place from March 11-13, alongside the selected stallions, older stallions may participate. ■

# CWHBA Stallion Service Auction breaks the monotony!

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: KIM GOUDRY AND AMANDA UBELL

*Late winter in Canada and everyone is ready for a change; something to break the monotony of winter. This was never more noticeable than this year during the pandemic. The annual Stallion Service Auction (SSA) is one way that Canadian breeders combine the fun and excitement of an auction with some astute buying for the up-coming breeding season.*

As usual the 2021 Canadian Warmblood SSA which runs February 21 to 27, features many of the best and most popular stallions. A unique feature of the SSA is the foal futurity whereby offspring of nominated stallions compete for significant prize money the following year.

Last year several stallions created excitement as the bidding heated up towards the close: including the 2019 high seller Jethro Tull (I'm Special de Muze x Voltaire), Kumano (Kannan x Landjunge), and Rock My Soul (Rock Forever x Furst Heinrich) to name a few. In the end, however, the Canadian-bred Hickstead son topped the sale.

Gallup WF (Hickstead x Ramiro's Son) bred by Bruce

and Sharon Telford, owned by the Gallup Syndicate, and managed by Carousel Ridge Ltd., is the center-piece of a successful 20-year breeding and show program run by Shauna Cook and her mother Sheilagh Kelly.

Under Shauna's capable stewardship Gallup WF has proved himself an excellent athlete, achieving his sport approval in 2019 – the same year he made his Spruce Meadows debut. Although he was champion stallion at the CWHBA licensing in 2013, Sheilagh and Shauna set high standards for performance and only launched his breeding career in 2018. His first CWHBA foals were registered in 2019.



The banner features a dark red background. On the left is a green circular logo with a stylized white horse head. In the center, the text 'CWB Stallion Service Auction' is written in a large, bold, gold serif font, with 'February 21 - 27, 2021' below it in a smaller gold font. On the right is a white square QR code. At the bottom, there are four images of horses: a dark brown horse on the far left, a brown horse with a white blaze and a decorative collar, a brown horse with a rider in a dark jacket and helmet, and a white horse on the far right.

Offering an amazing selection of CWHBA Approved and Licensied Stallions  
50% of Chapter SSA profits goes to Chapters Foal Futurity  
[www.CanadianWarmblood.com/StallionServiceAuction.php](http://www.CanadianWarmblood.com/StallionServiceAuction.php)



*Gallup WF and Shauna Cook*

Although 2020 was a different competition year, Gallup placed first in three out of four Grand Prix classes at Rocky Mountain Show Jumping in September, and at Thunderbird was second at 1m45 by only two-tenths of a second, giving him his first FEI ranking points. Shauna is clearly excited about him. "He has proved he is in the game with the big boys," adding "... a bit sensitive at the start, like his father, but he is really coming into his own." There is no wonder why Gallup is becoming popular with Canadian breeders, Hickstead made history for Canada with his individual Olympic gold medal (Beijing 2008 in Hong

Kong) and now his Canadian-bred son is demonstrating his own merit.

This is not the only stallion developed by Carousel Ridge. Bling (Bratt Z x Matterhorn) bred at home, topped the CWHBA stallion performance test in 2009 and although now gelded, has a son competing successfully at 1m40 with a junior rider.

Combining breeding with showing at a high level is challenging, nevertheless Carousel Ridge is showing us how it can be done. Utilizing frozen semen, Gallup is able to maintain a busy show schedule while making the genetics of his legendary father available to Canadian breeders. ■



*Gallup WF (Hickstead x Ramiro's Son) under the saddle of Shauna Cook, alongside Tamie Phillips of Tamie Phillips Equestrian – sponsors of the class – and her mother Merle Gardner*



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



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# German-bred Holsteiner wins NZ World Cup series

By SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Weather and the withdrawal of the hot favourite definitely influenced the outcome of this year's NZ FEI World Cup final at Woodhill Sands, although the win itself was an exciting one, as the victor in the both the series final and the series itself was the smallest horse in the field!*

The super-powered 15.2hh (157 cms) gelding Carado GHP (Caretino - Only You V x Corrado I) is owned and ridden by the youngest (and quite probably tiniest) rider in the class, 18-year-old Annabel Francis, in her first World Cup season.

Carado GHP is a 14-year-old German Holsteiner from Stamm730B, bred by Bernd Fritsch in Wyk-auf-Foehr. His bloodlines are all about performance, with Cor de la Bryère and Caletto II on both sides of his pedigree, plus a double cross of Capitol I on his dam's side. He has two half-brothers by Claudio: Clovis van de Helle who competed up to 1m40 for Juan Pablo Betancourt of Colombia, and Grand Slam who was also with Betancourt but is now competing up to four-star level for Mexican Frederico Fernandez.

Carado – a very well-travelled boy – arrived in the Southern Hemisphere in 2010, having been imported to Australia from the Czech Republic by Olivia Hamood; he was an unbroken three-year-old colt at the time but has since been gelded. Hamood broke him in and produced him on her own.

She took him back to the Northern Hemisphere in 2012-13 as a five-year-old, when she was invited to spend a year training with Ludo Philippaerts in Belgium. “He went to a handful of shows over there and then I brought him home again,” Hamood says.

Back on Australian soil, the gelding went from strength to strength. Among his many notable results are the 2016 Australian Championship Grand Prix, and two prestigious Boneo Park Cups (2016 and 2018).

Carado was sold to Annabel Francis at the end of 2018, and two months after his arrival in New Zealand won the Gold Tour Final at Takapoto Estate against a top field. According to Hamood, “I miss him so much, but it's so exciting to see him doing so well. He was the cheekiest young horse ever.” The cheekiness continues, reports Annabel Francis, who says: “I love his character! He adores a crowd and likes to know everyone is watching him.”

Whether Francis and Carado GHP will travel to Goteborg for the World Cup final is far from certain – as are the travel plans of most people at present. “I'll wait and see how it pans out,” she says. Meanwhile, the pair are ranking high in the ESNZ Premier League (GP) series.

## *Weather, and hot favourite withdrawal*

But, back to the New Zealand final, the weather and the favourite's withdrawal. Windermere Cappuccino (Corofino II - Vespa x Voltaire II), winner of the previous two series and leader in the pre-final rankings by 10 points, did not compete: a precautionary decision by his disappointed rider Tegan Fitzsimon after a jumping incident the previous week. The 10-year-old gelding has been a star since his young-horse series (all of which he won). He is currently leading the ESNZ Premier League series by more than 20 points, and missed out on the World Cup 2021 series win by just four points, finishing in second place.

And the weather? Random gusts of wind not only delayed the competition's start and disrupted everyone's warm-up, but also brought one horse's round to a midway halt when jumps blew over. Mostly, though, it was just a plain old westerly, and after every possible item had been firmly anchored, things proceeded normally.

Runner-up in the final was Graffiti MH (Graf Top - Elodie x Earl), who finished third overall in the series. This wonderful mare was bred by Matthews Hanoverians, is owned by Angela Miller, and ridden by Melody Matheson. She is from Stamm 1191112, Schridde 331. Her dam, another very special mare, died in January (more about her in the footnote below). Graffiti herself is currently fifth in the ESNZ Premier League rankings and has had nothing but top-10 results all season.

Third place, and fifth in the series, went to 2018's NZ Horse of the Year, Veroana (Indoctro VDL - Strawberry x Roman Off) with his owner/rider Briar Burnett-Grant. This consistently good and very fast horse was bred by Linda Taylor. His dam, who is a New Zealand Stationbred, competed with US rider Butch Thomas under the name Bella Rona.

Fourth was Annabel Francis's second ride, the super bay ZfdP mare La Quinara (Ludger G - Queenie x Quality), who was imported from Germany. This mare actually outperformed Carado during the World Cup series, winning two legs, but was not Francis' nominated horse. She is second in the ESNZ Premier League at present, behind Windermere Cappuccino and a whisker in front of her stablemate Carado GHP. La Quinara was bred by Friedrich



*Carado GHP (Caretino - Only You V x Corrado I), under the saddle of 18-year-old Annabel Francis, in her first World Cup season.*

and Ute Goslar in Husum, and jumped to 1m40 in Germany with Michael Heckmann. She is one to keep close tabs on.

The ESNZ's top jumping stallion of 2020, Bravado Ego Z (Balougran Z - Cressida Ego Z x Cathargo Z), was fifth. The 12-year-old Zangersheide was bred at Ego Summersea in Australia by Dr. Linda Mayer and has an outstanding performance pedigree. He was imported to New Zealand by Jasmine Sketchley of Felixstowe Lodge and is now owned and ridden by Logan Massie of Massie Stables.

The former one-star eventer, Henton Faberge (For Edition - Galatoire x Genius), who was by far the most impressive horse in round one of the two-round final, finished sixth. She is a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare, bred and owned by Henton Lodge, and ridden by Emelia Forsyth. The lovely chestnut may be in her mid-teens, but seems to get younger with every outing!

One other horse in the field deserves special mention: the French-bred Selle Français mare Alaid de Chez Nous (Organo Sitte - Ondine de Grozieux x Biesolo), whose opening round was brought to a standstill by the wind. This is such a shame, as she looked terrific over the first few fences. She is owned by Takapoto Estate and ridden by Samantha McIntosh, who elected to retire her after a long wait in the ring and a subsequent rail.

Alaid de Chez Nous is officially 11 in New Zealand, but is really still 10 in Northern Hemisphere terms. She was bred by Bernard Sainsardos in France, and has a younger full sister, Ella de Chez Nous (2014), and a stallion half-brother, Un de Chez Nous by Kannan (2008), both competing in Europe.

From her eight starts in New Zealand, Alaid has had five wins, one of them in a World Cup class. Her dam is a French Trotter – and Alaid herself can certainly put on a spectacular trotting display, as she demonstrated when her Woodhill round came to its premature end. She is an exciting addition to New Zealand's show jumping and breeding.

## *Death of top broodmare*

Plenty has been said about Matthews Hanoverian jumping star, Graffiti MH, but not so much has been written about her dam, Elodie (Earl - Witsun x Weltmeyer), who died giving birth in January.

The big, black Hanoverian mare was born in 2005, bred in New Zealand by Joanne McNicoll. She had two foals for Matthews Hanoverians: Graffiti MH (2010: Graf Top), and Ballerina MH (2011: Bonifatius). Incidentally, Ballerina is the dam of Fendi MH (Fürstenball), a premium-awarded foal in the 2018 inspections under Volker Ehlers.

At Belle Vue Lodge Sport Horses in the South Island, Elodie had a striking black and white son, Saltaire Sorcerer BV (Sorcery) in 2014. This registered NZWB stallion now stands at Saltaire Sport Horses, and has young progeny of his own.

Elodie's final move was to Angie and Andrew Mason at Amberley House, North Canterbury, where she established herself as a member of the family and became truly treasured. Her Amberley Lodge son, Grand Canyon AH, was a premium foal in the 2018 Hanoverian inspections under Volker Ehlers; there is also a younger colt by the stud's resident stallion Lion King, Lion Tamer AH.

Elodie was from Stamm 1191112, Schridde 331 and has an interesting mare line. Her own dam, Witsun (Weltmeyer - Golfspiel Staatsprämie x Golfstrom I), was imported from England by Joanne McNicoll, and was a full sister to the Grand Prix dressage stallion Longdean Westminster. A German-born 1993 half-brother of Elodie's, Donnersohn (Donnerhall - Witsun x Weltmeyer) is a Hanoverian stallion (now retired) who stood at Morgan Equine in the UK.

Witsun competed to Prix St. Georges level here, winning the Open Medium title at Horse of the Year, then retired to become an outstanding broodmare for Joanne McNicoll. Her first three foals were by Anamour: Alla Donner (1999), and the embryo twins Anja and Ave Maria, who were born in 2000. Anja recorded the highest classification mark when being presented to Dr Jochen Wilkens for inspection for entry into the NZ Hanoverian Studbook of her year, and Ave Maria the second highest.

Another well-bred daughter, Capriana (Contucci), was sold initially to John and Angela Smith at Stoneylea Farm where they bred the very athletic Stoneylea Farrah (Furst Nymphenburg) and then to Matthews Hanoverians. She has had several foals there by De Niro, Finnigan, Fürstenball and Sir Donnerhall. All but one of these are currently out in the dressage arena.

Elodie is a great loss to NZ breeding, but a personal loss to the Masons of Amberley House. "Breeding from horses like Elodie was such an honour, and we feel exceptionally lucky to have had her as part of our family. She was full of love, incredibly feisty and such a superstar mother," says Angie Mason. "We have two of her progeny and have huge hopes for them." ■

# DWB lines up 62 stallion prospects from pre-selection

By THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide ban on public gatherings, Danish Warmblood has been compelled to change the format of the stallion pre-selections – which took place behind closed doors – prior to their annual stallion licensing*

Under normal circumstances the pre-selections take place in December at two main locations, Vallensbæk on Seeland and Vilhelmsborg in Jutland, but this year they were held in January, in 37 different locations in order to comply with government ban on gatherings limited to a maximum of five people.

Naturally, it was a huge challenge but the pre-selections were, nonetheless, successfully and safely conducted, with a total of five colts bred for jumping, and 37 bred for dressage selected for the stallion licensing. Out of the total number of 62 selected stallion prospects, no fewer than 15 were purchased at Danish Warmblood foal auctions; 13 at the DWB Elite Foal Auction, one at the DWB Foal Auction North, and one at the DWB Foal Auction South – the latter two being regional sales. Among them is the dressage colt foal champion of 2018, Diaz Skovvang, by D'Avie.

What is particularly remarkable about this collection of stallion prospects is their mothers. Many of them are out of a dam that has already produced one or more licensed stallions or top sport horses, or is a top sport mare herself. The most successful international jumping mare in Denmark, Dublé (Diamant de Semilly x Equest Carnute) has a son by Zinedine selected for the licensing. While the two most successful DWB mares in international Grand Prix dressage, Heiline's Dancier (Fürstenball x De Niro) and Fiontini (Fassbinder x Romanov), each have a younger half-brother selected for the licensing.

Cornet Obolensky has three sons forward for the licensing and stands out as the most represented sire in the collection of jumping stallions. Among the dressage stallions Franklin is the most notable sire with six sons. Revolution has five, while Secret has three sons selected for the licensing.

Having hosted no fewer than 41 Danish Warmblood stallion licensings in Herning, the studbook has been forced to change location due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ban on gatherings. Therefore, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Danish Warmblood stallion licensing is scheduled to take place at the national equestrian centre Vilhelmsborg which is also the headquarters for Danish Warmblood. The licensing will take place at the same time in March but will be spread over more days.

The final stallion collection will comprise 62 pre-selected individuals, including the many young stallions that have already been approved for breeding in foreign studbooks and have now entered the Danish Warmblood Stallion Licensing 2021. ■



*Danish Warmblood pre-selections for the stallion licensing took place at no fewer than 37 different locations in order to meet the current ban on public gatherings, with a grand total of 62 colts selected for the licensing*

# Guidelines for exporting and importing horses post Brexit

BY CELIA CLARKE (CHAIR, 826 EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION)

*The last few months have been a very worrying period for many in our industry – as it has especially for the UK – with a unique combination of the end of the Brexit transition period, as well as the spread of Covid-19 creating problems, both practical and regulatory.*

These problems were exacerbated by the very late agreement between the UK and the EU regarding the final Withdrawal Treaty framework and for those planning to export horses and ponies (even if only briefly rather than as a permanent re-location for whatever reason). This has added urgency to a major and vital review of current procedures. Now, for anyone planning send equines to the EU, there are regulations about which you should be aware. Always...

- Check the latest DEFRA guidelines on exporting and importing equines as these often change at very short notice. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-special-rules>. This guidance contains vital up-to-date links for current EU border control posts for equines (BCPs), which are the only places in which horses and ponies exported from the UK to the EU can enter the EU.

- Try to use an internationally experienced, equine-specialist horse transporter to move horses and ponies unless you are experienced in doing this yourself and are sure that you have fulfilled all the requirements specified in the DEFRA guidance above and have all the necessary paperwork in place, plus COVID-19 compliant drivers, grooms etc.

- Rules for exporting an equine to Northern Ireland are complex and similar to those for exporting an animal to the EU rather than moving it internally within the UK.

You also need to be aware that:

- the Tripartite Agreement between the UK, France and Ireland is no longer functioning.

- extra veterinary inspections, documentation, etc., have prompted Eurotunnel, ferries – and almost certainly airlines – to increase transportation fees by as much as £400 per horse per crossing in comparison to pre-Brexit rates.

- the EU has laid down different rules of entry for: 1) equines with passports issued by UK-based DEFRA approved studbook PIOs (and those based in EU countries); a list of the UK studbooks approved by the EU can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-special-rules#UK-studbook>; 2) Equines with passports issued by a DEFRA-approved ID-only PIO.

- there may well be a tariff imposed on geldings (ca £40), but fee collection is unclear, and whether it will apply to horses and ponies being sent to the EU for short periods for competition and/or training, or those being permanently exported.

Finally, and most importantly, because of the complexity of these rules and the possible delays at BCPs, for welfare reasons

it would be best if you could delay your departure for as long as possible, and until after mid-February if at all feasible.

As far as importing a horse or pony from the EU is concerned, the rules are basically unchanged from when the UK was an EU member state and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-or-move-horses-and-ponies> bearing in mind that from July it will be necessary for the horse or pony to enter the UK via an official UK BCP, the locations of which are still to be finalised.

If you are planning to export breeding products such as semen (most likely frozen rather than chilled from now on due the potential issues with document checking, etc), oocytes, zygotes or frozen embryos, or to send hair or DNA samples (all classified as 'animal products' in the relevant regulations) then you need to be aware that not only will you need to obtain the necessary zootechnical documentation for these items, but you will probably need to apply for a TRACES number as well. Also, unless the 'products' have been generated by an animal with a passport from a studbook PIO in the country that is listed in <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-or-move-horses-and-ponies> or is an approved breeding animal with a passport from an approved studbook based within an EU member state) then under the EU Zootechnics regulations it will be impossible to export them into the EU. This also applies to hair, skin and DNA samples being exported to Weatherbys Scientific in Ireland for parentage testing, which is the route many studbooks are now taking following the sad demise of the Animal Health Trust. However, Weatherbys UK should be able to help you with any problems that arise during this procedure.

All these rules and web links might seem rather confusing at first but at least they have now been clarified and hopefully will be running well by the time this issue of The British Breeder is published. As such, it is really essential to be thankful for the many hours that DEFRA (in particular its Equine ID and Movement and Farm Animal Genetic Resources departments) devoted to international discussions pre-Transition, and for the valuable support it received from the British Horse Council on a national and Cabinet level and the 826 Equine Studbooks Association on a studbook and industry level. Without these organisations working closely together what still seems to be very complex – but at least negotiable – set of regulations would have been an impossible barrier to any form of equine-based trade with the EU post-Transition. ■

# Vivald'Ick to stand his first season at stud in Ireland

BY DR. HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

*When a highly respected equine reproduction vet collaborates with an equally respected sports horse breeder to bring a stallion to Ireland, people take note. Amid the many impressive lots at the recent Stud Hero Total and Unique Auction, offered by Luc Henry, was the handsome twelve-year-old bay stallion Vivald'Ick (Vivaldi du Seigneur x Rubens du Ri d'Asse).*

Vivald'Ick is Selle Français, AES and Zangersheide approved and not only brings with him the exceptional bloodline of Ta Belle van Sombeke (Chin Chin x Goliath Z) but through his sire, Vivaldi du Seigneur, carries a pedigree uniting the best blood of French, Holsteiner, and Dutch breeding. Dr John Haughey MRCVS of Carrickview Stud and Alan Robertson of Robertson Equine won the auction with a surprisingly modest bid of €29,000 placed at the last minute.

That last-minute bidding wasn't necessarily auctioning tactics, however, but more because the decision to buy was a late one, as John explains: "It was never really my intention to get into the stallion business, but like everything else, when an opportunity presents itself - anything is possible.

The Hero auction was well documented, as is Luc Henry's breeding programme, so, like other breeders, I looked carefully through each lot. In all honesty, Vivald'Ick didn't jump out at me at first as a stallion, he wasn't really what I was looking for in terms of an investment, but as the auction progressed, I began to research him and his dam line. I often speak to Alan [Robertson] about horses of interest, and we bounce ideas off one another. When I asked him his thoughts on Vivald'Ick, he agreed the line was strong, and the horse himself had decent performance."

Vivald'Ick is an interesting and valuable proposal for

Irish breeders. He was bred and born at Haras d'Ick in France, bought by De Hus Stud (who still stand his sire Vivaldi du Seigneur), and was subsequently purchased by Luc Henry. Vivald'Ick competed at Grand Prix level before an unfortunate injury halted his career prematurely.

Vivald'Ick's outstanding granddam Ta Belle van Sombeke jumped 1m60 with Jos Lansink, and her exceptional progeny continue to stamp her legacy across the sport. Her offspring includes double Olympic medallist Glock's London/ex Carambar de Muze, and four 1m50-plus performers; Golden Hawk/ex Figo de Muze (Vigo D'Arsoville), Wabelle de Muze (Nabab de Reve), Dabelle (Nabab de Reve), and Taran de la Pomme (Tolano van't Riethof).

Luc Henry was first introduced to the stunning grey athletic mare Ta Belle van Sombeke by Joris de Brabander in the winter of 1998. Joris offered him the opportunity to a breeding with the choice of one of his two best mares: Ta Belle or Narcotique de Muze, of which he chose the latter. From that partnership with Joris de Brabander and the Narcotique dam line, Luc Henry was the first breeder in the world to breed and have approved two stallions born in the same year and from the same mare; Querlybet Hero and Quel Hero de Muze. However, Ta Belle's jumping ability had

<b>VIVALD'ICK (2009)</b>	<b>VIVALDI DU SEIGNEUR</b> sBs (2005)	<b>CHELLANO Z</b> HOLST (1995)	<b>CONTENDER</b> (HOLST/1984)	CALYPSO II (HOLST/1974) GOFINE (HOLST/1970)	COR DE LA BRYÈRE - TABELLE RAMIRO Z - CITA
		<b>PANAMA DU SEIGNEUR</b> sBs (1999)	<b>FAYENCE</b> (HOLST/1991)	COR DE LA BRYÈRE (SF/1968) SOLEIL (HOLST/1980)	<b>RANTZAU XX - QUENOTTE</b> CAPITOL I - KEURETTE
			<b>DARCO</b> (BWP/1980)	LUGANO VAN LA ROCHE (HANN/1963) OCOUCHA (BWP/1968)	LUGANO I - ADLERFLUT CODEX - LATOUCHA
		<b>QUASIBELLE DU SEIGNEUR</b> sBs (2000)	<b>RUBENS DU RI D'ASSE</b> BWP (1994)	<b>MIC MAC DIEU DEMON</b> (sBs/1996)	HEARTBREAKER (KWPN/1989) JOLIE (BWP/1986)
	<b>ARGENTINUS</b> (HANN/1980)			ARGENTAN I (HANN/1967) DORLE (HANN/1965)	ABSATZ - WORMS DUDEN II - WINTERROSE
	<b>TA BELLE VAN SOMBEKE</b> BWP (1996)		<b>KRISTALYS DU RI D'ASSE</b> (BWP/1987)	LYS DE DARMEN (SF/1977) EUZE DE LAUZELLE (BWP/1981)	<b>ET HOP X - DARMEN</b> GOLDFISCH DE LAUZELLE - ROMINA
			<b>CHIN CHIN</b> (HOLST/1978)	CONSTANT (HOLST/1972) LARESE (HOLST/1974)	COR DE LA BRYÈRE - ELLA FARNESE - CESTA
	<b>LA BELLE VAN SOMBEKE</b> (BWP/1988)	GOLIATH Z (RHEIN/1975) VERINA (BWP/1975)	GRAF GOTTHARD Z - HEUREKA Z WIDUKIND DU LAUZELLE - PATRISE		



always impressed him, and when the opportunity arose, he partnered with breeder Marc Kluskens founder of the revered Roosakker Stud, to purchase her.

Quasibelle du Seigneur (Rubens du Ri d'Asse) went on to produce an incredible four approved stallions. Herbel Hero Z made the top price of €76,000, and a Casall pregnancy made €70,000 at the 2017 Z auction. She has also produced the 1m60 performer Oak Grove's Heartfelt/ex Verybelle du Seigneur (Heartbreaker), who herself produced the 1m50 Oak Grove's Americana/ex Anabelle Hero Z (Aganix du Seigneur) alongside six offspring already jumping at 1m45 and over.

Alan Robertson has owned and stood stallions in Ireland for several years, including the KWPN, ISH, and SF approved Burggraaf, son, Mermus R, who has produced many Nations' Cup performers and also the impressive dual-purpose KWPN and ISH approved stallion Tolan R. It was Vivald'Ick's strong dam line in particular which was the enticing factor for him: "For me, excellent breeding stallions come from excellent dam lines, and Vivald'Ick comes from one of the best performing dam lines available in the world today. He's modern with a lot of blood, but you can also see the means he has in terms of scope and power. It's hard to find a stallion that has the blood coupled with that power.

"Luc [Henry] has mentioned that Vivald'Ick looks and breeds a lot like Corrado. He has a lot of canter, great balance, adds size and scope. He has bred a small number of mares via frozen semen to date, and all seem to be of a type, so he looks to be stamping. John and I both felt he would be a great addition to Irish breeding. Not often do you have the chance to acquire such a stallion, and so we grabbed the opportunity with both hands."

Alongside the positive physical attributes and powerful lineage, Robertson has a personal connection to the stallion by way of his time working in France and with the distaff side of Vivald'Ick's pedigree: "Pierre Jerry had Gemme Dampierre whom I looked after in France. She was really at the foundation of this line, an amazing mare in the sport and was from a mare that Pierre rode to top-level also. I foaled and subsequently bought a colt out of Gemme Dampierre by Drakkar des Hutins, and he went on to be successful at 1m60, who was known as Navy Blue Tarry."

Gemme Dampierre was a direct daughter of Jalisco B.



*Vivald'Ick's maternal granddam Ta Belle van Sombeke, jumped 1m60 with Jos Lansink seen here jumping with Megan Johnstone Lamaze (USA)*

Her dam Equina van Sombeke (Pik Bauer x Widukind de Lauzelle) is a half-sister to La Belle van Sombeke (Goliath Z x Widukind De Lauzelle) Vivald'Ick's great granddam.

Dr John Haughey MRCVS also highly values the powerful performance dam line and notes: "Whilst I agree the true test of a stallion is his progeny, I believe that with the strong heritability of performance which is prevalent in this dam line, he could really establish himself as a sire of the future.

"I'm excited and also thrilled to have Alan on board as a seasoned stallion owner so he can keep me right! I like Vivald'Ick's type – a big horse with a big canter. I think this will suit our Irish mares. Partnering with a successful stud farm such as Drumhowan also gives me added confidence that his relocation to Ireland will be positive. I think he ticks a lot of boxes, and I am excited to see what the future holds."

This year will be Vivald'Ick's first season at stud, having only been available as frozen semen privately until this point, with only five offspring to date, including one in Ireland, Mr Jackson B; a handsome gelding bred by Andrea Etter of Belmont House Stud out of her Heartbreaker mare Buenos Aires.

Vivald'Ick will be available to Irish breeders as fresh or frozen semen and frozen to breeders outside Ireland. ■

# Feeding management: Part 4 – Healthy choices for pasture

BY DR. MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG, B.APPSC. (HONS), MSc, PhD (EQUINE NUTRITION)  
PHOTOGRAPHY: MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG AND TELLISA KEARTON

*We all recognise that pasture is the best environment for horses. The opportunity to graze for extended periods has two very important benefits for the horse. First, forage (or fiber of some type) is a basic necessity for normal functioning of the digestive system, and a well-managed pasture will be an economical source of high-quality feed which means you spend less money on roughages.*

Well-managed pasture can meet most of your horse's nutritional needs including brood and lactating mares, growing foals, and sport horses, with minimal supplementation requirements. Second, pasture is a great place for horses to exercise, and this exercise also can be important in maintaining healthy digestive function.

While pasture is a good source of nutrients, pasture can also be the cause of many headaches for horse owners. It can be a heaven for parasite issues if it is not managed properly and/or when over-worming practices are adopted (resistance issues). During pasture growth periods, horses may become more prone to colic episodes. In addition, during the growing period pastures can accumulate higher quantities of non-structural carbohydrates (NSC) which may put horses at risk of becoming overweight or developing laminitis. NSCs typically include starch, simple sugars, and the rapidly fermentable carbohydrates such as fructans. Metabolic issues especially occur if horses are additionally fed cereal-based concentrates. Pastures may also contain plants that accumulate higher amounts of specific secondary compounds or fungi, that can lead to toxicity issues if ingested in large or smaller quantities depending on the toxin.

Today, most horses have access to some kind of pasture with a variety of plants typically consisting of grasses, legumes, and/or herbaceous plants (often weeds). However, because of limited turnout due to demanding work schedules, lack of space, and the focus on cereal-based concentrates as a major source of nutrition for horses, the importance of pasture is often overlooked. Routinely pasture is used as a turn-out area and is often not properly managed with the intention of utilising it as a part of your horse's nutritional program. In addition, horse owners may also experience various land problems including erosion (no grass cover), compaction, water-logging, and weeds which may affect the useability of these areas/pastures for horses. Often this is also influenced by climatic conditions and extreme weather events.

If you have pasture, even on the smallest of acreage, you and your horse can benefit from it. Therefore, in this fourth

and final part of the series we focus on some tips as to how to get the most out of your pasture, keeping them healthy, and what additional strategies you can adopt if you cannot keep horses on pasture year-round.

## *Getting to know your pasture plants*

To best manage horses on pastoral systems it's important to get to know the plants your horses may consume. There are of course thousands of grass, legume, and herbaceous species out there, so it would be impossible to provide you with a complete list that provides all the ins and outs of all the plant species in your pasture. This is also very specific to the country and climate in which you live, so in this article we will mainly focus on grasses and legumes and discuss the broad differences between them and what common species we may encounter in temperate and (sub) tropical environments around the world.

## *Grasses*

The grass family, known scientifically as the *poaceae* or *gramineae* (both names are correct), is one of the four largest families of flowering plants, with approximately 600 to 700 genera and 10,000 species. The grasses are included with lilies, orchids, pineapples, and palms in the group known as the monocotyledons, which includes all flowering plants with a single-seed leaf. Grasslands are estimated to compose 20% of the vegetation cover of the earth and span various habitats including wetlands, forests, and tundra.

Grasses can be large, like bamboo or corn, or small like annual bluegrass. Grass plants develop fruit called grain which feed much of the world and yet have green leaves and stems not digestible for humans that are the main food source for grazing animals. There are many species of grasses that are specifically used or can be found in pastures for horses, depending on your geographical location some may be native others may have been introduced (see Table 1).

**TABLE 1**  
**LIST OF COMMON GRASS SPECIES IN HORSE PASTURES AND TOLERANCE TO SITE CONDITIONS**  
**Tolerance to Site Conditions: 1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good 4=Excellent**

Species	Type	Soil acidity	Poor Drainage	Drought	Grazing
Perennial Ryegrass ( <i>Lolium perenne</i> )	C3 grass	3	4	2	4
Annual Ryegrass or Wimmera Ryegrass ( <i>Lolium rigidum</i> )	C3 grass	3	2	3	
Cocksfoot, Orchard grass ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> )	C3 grass	2	2	2	2
Tall fescue ( <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> )	C3 grass	3	3	3	4
Phalaris ( <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> )	C3 grass	2	2	2	2
Yorkshire Fog ( <i>Holcus lanatus</i> )	C3 grass	3	2	2	
Timothy grass ( <i>Phleum pratense</i> )	C3 grass	2	2	2	2
Kentucky bluegrass ( <i>Poa pratensis</i> L)	C3 grass	2	1	4	
Common oats ( <i>Avena sativa</i> )	C3 grass	2	2	2	3
Paspalum/Dallis grass ( <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> )	C4 grass	2	4	3	3
Rhodes grass ( <i>Chloris gayana</i> )	C4 grass	3	2	3	
Creeping blue grass ( <i>Bothriochloa insculpta</i> )	C4 grass	2	2	3	3
Digit grass ( <i>Digitaria eriantha</i> )	C4 grass	4	3	4	3
Kikuyu ( <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> )	C4 grass	4	3	4	4
Panic grasses ( <i>Panicum maximum</i> )	C4 grass	3	2	3	4
Bahia grass ( <i>Paspalum notatum</i> )	C4 grass	4	3	4	4
Bermuda grass ( <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> )	C4 grass	4	1	4	4
Lucerne ( <i>Medicago sativa</i> )	C3 legume	1	1	4	1
White clover ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> L).	C3 legume	2	3	2	4

## Legumes

Flowering plants are divided into monocots (or monocotyledons) and dicots (or dicotyledons). This is based on the morphological differences in the leaves, stems, flowers and fruits of monocots and dicots. As mentioned above grasses are monocots whereas legumes are dicots. Dicots have a double seed leaf. Another fundamental feature of legumes is their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen via symbiosis with root modulating bacteria.

Considering the feeding of horses, the most widely used legumes are lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) and white clover (*Trifolium repens* L). At similar stage of maturity, legumes tend to be higher in protein, energy and calcium than grasses, which makes them interesting for use in pastures, accompanying grasses, and for hay making. The leaves of legumes have also greater digestibility throughout their growth. This is because the leaves of legumes have less structural function than in grasses. Legumes, specifically



*Cocksfoot grass (Dactylis glomerata)*

lucerne have been shown to have a greater buffer capacity due to the higher calcium and crude protein levels, lowering intestinal pH and reducing the risk of gastric ulcers in horses. However, because lucerne is higher in nutritive value such as protein, horses may receive an excess. Idem, clover can be a good forage as part of mixture in pasture or hay due to its nutritional profile. However, clover is high in non-structural carbohydrates (NSC) during the flush period and an excess intake of this legume may put some horses at risk of developing metabolic disorders such as excessive weight gain and laminitis.

### *The climatic factor: C3 (temperate), C4 (tropical)*

Grasses and legumes can be broadly classified as either C3 or C4 plants – but, what does that mean? These terms simply refer to the different pathways that plants use to capture carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process used by plants, algae, and certain bacteria to harness energy from sunlight and turn it into chemical energy (like carbohydrates). The terms are derived from the number of carbon atoms in the first product of photosynthesis (C4 = 4 carbon compound, C3 = 3 carbon compound).

As horse owners what's relevant is that C3 and C4 grasses/legumes have different growth requirements and thrive in different climate conditions.

- C3 plants are adapted to cool season (temperate) areas. They are more efficient under cool, moist conditions and at lower light intensities. They grow actively in winter.
- On the other hand, C4 plants are adapted to warm or hot

(tropical) conditions under moist or dry environments. They grow dormant or grow slowly in winter.

C4 (tropical) plants have some important advantages over C3 plants in hot, dry conditions. They are more water and nitrogen efficient but require more energy (light) as there is an additional step in the photosynthetic pathway.

The C4 plants only need to keep their stomata (pores in the leaves) open for short periods, so they lose much less water (transpiration) for the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> fixed by photosynthesis. This is a significant advantage under hot, high light intensity and moisture-limiting conditions.

To get a general idea where temperate and tropical grasses/legumes can grow it is always useful to identify which climate zone you are located in (you can do a Google search on climate zones for your country). This classification takes into account rainfall, temperature, season, and the effects on plant growth. Broadly speaking, the farther away you are from the equator the cooler it is and, therefore, temperate species will be dominant. The closer you are to the equator the warmer it is and, therefore, (sub)tropical species are more predominant. In the transition areas between the two zones, you find that both species can grow and there may even be local differences caused by microclimates which means that although you may be in a temperate area, you may still be able to successfully grow tropical grasses and vice versa.

The presence of both C3 and C4 species can be desirable in a pasture as they can occupy different niches (e.g. C3 species are often more abundant in the shade of trees and on southerly aspects, while C4 species often dominate full-sun conditions and northerly aspects) and thereby provide greater ground cover across a range of conditions. It is not uncommon to find both C3 and C4 species in one paddock, and this has advantages in providing a broader spread of production throughout the year for both grazing and native animals.

### *Metabolism and sugar accumulation in grasses*

There is an increasing interest amongst horse owners to understand the dynamics of sugar accumulation in pastures as this may put some horses at risk of weight gain and other metabolic issues. Both the C3 and C4 grass types have internal structures to support the different types of carbohydrate metabolism. C4 (tropical) grasses form starch and C3 (temperate) grasses generally form fructan as their storage carbohydrate, although there are some C3 grasses that evolved to store starch instead of fructan (some examples are Australian native grasses).

Both C3 and C4 grasses can accumulate significant amounts of starch, simple sugars, and/or rapidly fermentable carbohydrates such as fructans (collectively NSC) during active growth periods, which can put some horses at risk of weight gain and/or developing laminitis. However, between C3 and C4 species there is a difference in how much they tend to accumulate in optimal growth

conditions. C3 grasses growing in cooler weather in general accumulate more sugars because they respire less compared to tropical species. However, it should be noted that typically, 'improved species/naturalised' C3 and C4 species selected for livestock grazing are known to accumulate higher levels of storage carbohydrates. They are adapted to quickly respond to animal grazing with increased vigour and being able to quickly recover from herbivore attacks. In comparison, native grasses or less-improved species are typically lower in NSC and makes them more suitable for horse pastures. The downside is that due to this exact quality, they are more sensitive to overgrazing, so they require more careful management. Unless you manage high production animals year-round, such as broodmares and growing horses, many horse owners would benefit from pasture species with 'lower nutritional profiles' and especially the amount of storage carbohydrate development. There a few strategies you can adopt to manage this issue, which will be discussed later on.

### *Soil health*

Before we can be more selective about which plant species we would like sow, grow, and manage in our horse pastures, we need to take a closer look at all the ecosystem processes that creates the right niche and supports these preferred pasture plants. The rule is blue (water), before green (plants), before black (soil). The water element is a very important ingredient for growing plants. But without soil – pasture plants won't survive either. Soil is important because it stores nutrients and serves as a medium for growth. It is an anchor for roots and also holds water needed by plants for moisture. Soil contains the air, water, and food that provides a suitable place for plants to grow. But lets not forget our living soil organisms – they also play an important role in providing nutrients and water to our plants!

When practising pasture management, it is not the vegetation that is replenished but the soil. The best means to achieve this is to replicate naturally occurring nutrient cycles: We need to feed the soil through a process of breaking down organic matter with soil microorganisms, bacteria, and fungi. In a natural system, many species of plants and animals play a role in these processes. However, on farming land, it is the manager's responsibility to oversee the animals and return waste (via compost or mulch) to the soil and plants.

It is therefore important to have a closer look at your soils and check its health. Soil testing or analysis is a valuable tool for your farm as it determines the current condition of your soils and the inputs that are potentially required to improve soil health and fertility. Soil fertility is determined by the soil's chemical, physical, and biological properties. Properties such as soil

texture, colour, and structure are visible to the eye as well as to some extent larger soil workers such as worms and beetles. However, you can't see the chemical composition of soil. Therefore, it needs to be measured. That is why soil sampling is essential. Soil tests are used to determine the soil's nutrient content, organic carbon content, pH level, and even microbiology. With this information you can define the exact type and quantity of fertiliser or soil conditioner is needed to be applied to improve your soil. This is important because fertile soils are necessary to grow healthy pastures.

Soil testing is also important to check that pastures are not over-fertilised. Many nutrients tend to be over-applied resulting in imbalances in the soil and harmful effects on the environment. For example, an excess of nitrogen can cause leaching and groundwater contamination or contamination of waterways from run-off. In addition, over-fertilising can cause problems with excessive growth of high-producing pastures species, which are not always favourable when managing horses with maintenance requirements or that are good doers. Over-fertilised pastures have also been linked to an increase in plant and fungi toxins, which can cause health problems in horses.

Grab a spade and get started with taking some samples from your paddocks. By visual inspection and applying some simple DIY test such as the squeeze test, compaction test, percolation test, pH, and worm test you can get an indication about your soil's health. However, if you want a more comprehensive analysis of your soils, you will have to send your samples to a certified soil lab. Search the Internet for soil services in your region or state, although many offer national services. They will provide information about the collection of soil samples and sending it into their lab for analysis. Based on the package chosen, they will return a report that will alert you to any nutrient deficiencies in your soil. Often the labs also provide additional consulting services and advise steps to correct the issues observed. Alternatively, you can also work with an agronomist or soil



*Two of the author's horses, Bernie and Blitz, at pasture*

scientist that do all the work for you and produce a recommendation report. However, you often find they are not specialised in equine establishments and take a general livestock soil/pasture improvement approach. This may be very helpful if you need to increase nutrient values, but not so much for horses that need to be managed on more average to lower nutrient pastures. So keep this in mind and discuss this with your expert.

### *Soil management*

So now that you've done a soil inspection and/or testing, what is the next step. Often severe soil and pasture problems can be identified by the naked eye without the need for testing. For example, compaction, water-logging, erosion/bare soils, or large amounts of weeds are common problems in horse pastures. The soil test serves as a reference and is to mainly pick up on those severe imbalances and problems that need to be addressed to support more favourable pasture species for horses. Note that soil test results may vary from place to place in the same paddock and between seasons (sampled at the same point). For example, if you find that your soil in one paddock has a pH of below 6, it means it's acidic, which will limit grass growth and often favour weed species. This will have to be corrected if you want to grow grass and legume species that have an optimum pH of closer to 7. By keeping in mind your targeted/more preferred grass/legume species for your horse pastures, you will need to go through your soil test and correct imbalances to create a more viable ground for successful establishment of your preferred species.



*Paspalum/Dallis grass (Paspalum dilatatum)*

### *To raise soil pH*

For all acid soils, the pH can be raised by the combined use of organic matter and the addition of calcium ions in the form of dolomite or lime.

Agricultural lime (calcium carbonate) is finely ground limestone (chalk). Mined limestone, i.e. not chemically treated, is a safe choice to raise pH in pastures and garden beds. Although it takes several weeks to have an effect, it is longer acting than other sources of lime, and can be watered in around plants. It takes less lime to raise the pH of sandy soils than it does to change clay soils. A basic recommendation is to apply at regular rates of 1 tonne/ha until top and subsoils have reached the required levels. Approximately 1 tonne/ha of agriculture lime increases pH in 10cm depth of soil by around 0.7 units in sandy loam, 0.4 units in loam, and 0.2 units in clay. To avoid an excess amount of calcium in soil, apply rates based on outcomes of your soil tests (consult with soil scientist or pasture consultant), and test soil a few months later.

Dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate) is limestone with a higher proportion of magnesium than agricultural lime, and is applied in the same way. It is a good way to raise soil pH on sandy soils with fairly low organic matter content because both calcium and magnesium leach easily from these soils. In soils with high magnesium content, agricultural lime is the preferred way to raise soil pH.

Gypsum, known as calcium sulfate, can be used to amend soil acidity and is also useful for lightening the structure of heavy clays.

### *To lower soil pH*

Adding organic matter such as compost, green manures, and animal manures, without including lime or dolomite, can be enough to adjust the pH of slightly alkaline soils because organic matter produces hydrogen ions as it decomposes.

Manure from cows, horses and sheep that have grazed on herbicide-free pasture can be used more liberally on alkaline soils. It has been calculated that 2–3 kilos of manure per square meter of pasture will reduce soil pH from 8.0 to 7.0. Manures release hydrogen ions as they break down, replacing calcium ions on the charged sites.

Elemental sulphur, sometimes sold as flowers of sulphur, can assist organic matter in reducing soil pH in more alkaline soils. However, it reacts slowly and may take several months as soil bacteria convert the sulfur to sulfuric acid. It often requires multiple applications to see results and is best applied in warmer months when soil activity is greatest. The soil texture or percent sand, silt, or clay determines how much sulfur is needed to lower the pH. Elemental sulphur is available from produce stores/agriculture wholesalers. The application rate will largely depend on the soil type, alkalinity, and to what pH you want to bring it down to. The application rate per acre could be over 100 kg. Test soil after

two to three month, to see if further applications are necessary.

Acidic fertiliser (eco or organic) can assist when alkaline topsoil contains some organic matter and herbicide-free manures are not available. The concentrate is very acidic and diluting it in water should modify the acidity, somewhat. It can be watered into the soil or used as a foliar feed for plants in alkaline soils.

### *Nutrient levels*

For plants to be healthy, they need a steady supply of nutrients from the soil. Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S), calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg), are required in relatively large quantities (macronutrients). Others are required in small quantities (micronutrients or trace elements), eg. copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and manganese (Mn). A shortage or absence of any one of these essential nutrients can severely hinder plant growth. Too many nutrients can be as bad as too few.

Soil tests results can be viewed in three categories:

- (1) low or yes, a fertiliser addition will likely increase growth and productivity;
- (2) high or no, a fertiliser addition will not likely increase growth or yield; and
- (3) intermediate or maybe, a fertiliser addition may increase growth or productivity.

This categorisation is based on the sufficiency/optimal level range and is often displayed per soil types or can be presented in a bar figure for selected soil type or crop/pasture types. Categorisation of soil test results into 'yes (low)', 'no (high)', and 'maybe (medium)' assists understanding the limits and benefits of using soil test results for making nutrient and soil management recommendations.

So what can you do to improve your nutrient levels? When you soil tests results show low nutrient levels it will be beneficial to apply a fertiliser to your soil/pasture as this will support greater plant vigour and increase biomass for your horses to graze, or for hay harvesting. There is a variety of fertilisers, soil conditioners, and bio-stimulants to choose from.

A fertiliser, soil conditioner, or biostimulant is any material added to the soil or applied to a plant to improve the supply of nutrients and promote plant growth. This definition includes both inorganic and organic fertilisers and soil conditioners, such as lime and gypsum, which may promote plant growth by increasing the availability of nutrients that are already in the soil or by changing the soil's physical structure. Soil conditioners are materials that make the soil more suitable for the growth of plants (including increasing microbiology activity). Most organic amendments function as a fertiliser and soil conditioner.

### *Inorganic fertilisers*

- Sometimes called commercial or artificial fertilisers –



*Top soil organic matter*

mostly contain chemicals with the essential plant nutrients in available forms, the production of which involves some industrial process. Examples include urea, superphosphate and muriate of potash. These do not have an ability to condition the soil

### *Organic fertilisers*

- Often referred to as natural fertilisers, natural soil conditioners, biostimulants, or recycled organics
- Are made up of organic material containing carbon from animal and plant products. These materials are usually generated from livestock operations and municipal authorities
- Examples include blood and bone, biochar, seaweed liquid, biosolids, compost, livestock/horse manure, dairy factory effluent, and fishmeal products.

### *Using organic fertilisers and soil conditioners*

There is growing landholder interest in using alternative nutrient sources such as natural or organic fertilisers and soil conditioners instead of traditional manufactured fertiliser to improve productivity and soil 'health'. Organic fertilisers provide nutrients to promote plant growth (fertiliser), whilst also improving the physical and biological composition of the soil (conditions the soil). Inorganic fertilisers generally do not have the ability to condition the soil. Nutrients in organic fertilisers are available more slowly, over a longer period, than those in most manufactured fertilisers. This may be a disadvantage when plants have an immediate need for nutrients, but it can be an advantage under high leaching conditions, in that nutrient loss from the soil is reduced.



*Healthy soil*

The benefits of improved soil health using these natural alternative sources are widely accepted. However, there are numerous questions around whether the products being sold to improve soil health actually change soil biological activity and ultimately are cost-effective in maintaining or increasing production. It is therefore important that you check your suppliers, ask about the typical analysis/composition and what results they have generated with other landholders.

### *Organic wastes (composted manures and recycled organics)*

Uncomposted animal manures have a higher proportion of immediately available nutrients such as nitrogen (as ammonium), phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients than composted materials. Consequently, the plant production benefits of compost may not be as apparent until several years after application, but can significantly help with increasing organic matter in the short term.

Composting is the biological decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms under controlled, aerobic conditions to a relatively stable humus-like material called compost. Composting can happen in many different ways using a variety of materials, methods, equipment, and scales of operation. For agricultural operations the common materials or feedstocks that are composted are livestock manures and bedding and various residual plant materials (straw, garden clippings, on-farm processing wastes, etc). Compost is a valuable source of organic matter for soils and contains nutrients that are slowly available for plant growth.

Like every production process, the quality of your compost largely depends on the quality of the organic materials that you start with. If it is done properly, the high temperatures of the composting process can sterilise weed seeds and pathogens that may be present in the raw organic

materials. On-farm based composting can be done relatively cheaply if the right equipment is available or you can design passive composting systems that require minimal human input.

### *Other land issues and how to fix them*

Horses compact ground, and they especially love to do so in the corners of paddocks. But when soils are compacted by hooved animals, rainwater is unable to infiltrate the ground to the compaction layer and grass roots cannot open up the soil. This leads to the next symptoms; can't get grass to grow, weeds, erosion, and water-logging... In addition, when soils are severely compacted it will significantly reduce oxygen availability (anaerobic) and most of your soil organisms such as dung beetles, worms and beneficial bacteria and fungi will disappear. This can lead to the growth of bad (anaerobic) bacteria, which can be harmful to you and your horses. Therefore, the number one problem you need to work on is typically compaction and the rest will follow (with a bit of help).

### *De-compaction*

Extremely compacted grounds are impossible to de-compact naturally unless we use weeds to do the hard work for us. Yes you read that well, 'the problem is also the solution'! In a way, if you let nature do its thing you find that these species would invade this niche and 'repair' the land by naturally de-compacting it. By succession and decay of the plant and roots, you find that this opens up the spaces in the soil, allowing oxygen and water back into the deeper layers. They add biomass and build soil, which becomes a new fertile niche for other species such as your grasses that thrive in richer soil conditions. So how can you help nature and de-compact your soils?

Building soil by encouraging the breakdown of organic material, including weeds high in accumulated minerals, is a natural means of restoring horse pasture health. Weeds with deep, thick tap-roots can only grow in hard, compacted soils, and we can use these to fast-track our pasture management and build soil.

If paddocks are slashed before the weeds seed, the weeds die. The roots in the ground also die and break down, allowing air and moisture to penetrate deeply and adding organic matter high in minerals to the soil. This process can be repeated several times. Many weeds adapt themselves to growing in poor soil and accumulate the very minerals that the soil is lacking. Therefore, it is important to instigate a system using weeds. Once the soil biology and minerals are restored, weeds are 'out-competed' by grasses, because the weeds cannot grow in nutrient-dense soil.

A fast way to de-compact and regenerate horse pastures and paddocks is by using mechanical techniques such as an 'aerator'. These machines will either remove plugs of soil



from the ground or will puncture the ground and give the topsoil room to decompress, allowing water and oxygen back into the soil layer. You can buy/rent these for tractors or ATV and quad bikes.

For severely compacted soils and a more advanced approach to 'aeration' you can consider deep-ripping techniques using a ripping plow. Examples are Yeomans Keyline Plow or a Wallace Plow. These machines deep-rip (not cultivate) the pasture with a chisel plough shank that slices, lifts the soil, and closes after the pass of the plod. For example, the Yeomans Keyline Plow utilises a special deep-ripping technique to infiltrate water into the soil efficiently and hold it on the land as long as possible. It's almost as though the ground is able to take a deep breath, allowing moisture and oxygen in.

### *Mulching and fertiliser*

We've already mentioned the slashing of weeds, which creates mulch, builds soil, and adds minerals. Mulching (of weeds and old grass) will also help with covering bare soil and retaining moisture (reducing evaporation). Using mulch can be particularly beneficial for your bare/compacted patches in the pasture. You can use old hay and/or straw as mulch and add compost or manure to restore these areas in your pasture. This works well for smaller compacted areas, such as corners and boundary tracks, but can also be done for larger areas of pastures, around water points or on slopes. Add a thin layer of mulch first, which is your carbon part, followed by a thin layer of compost or manure (fertiliser), and then top it with another layer of hay/straw. It's important that you wet it down, which is needed for the decay process and will also avoid that the top layer is blown away with the wind (clearly try to avoid extreme windy days to do this job). You may have to repeat the watering for a couple of days till it's set in (and depending on rain). You can even add some pasture/legume seeds to speed up the growth and restoration. The best time for recovery is during the growing seasons. But even in winter your bare soils will benefit from this mulching process as you avoid further erosion and build organic matter before Spring starts.

### *Pasture and horse management*

To aid soil and pasture development and recovery it is important that you remove horses from the paddock or fence the area off that you're working on. Once the soil/pasture has been restored and you have enough pasture availability for grazing you can return horses.

To further reduce soil/land problems on your property it's essential that you review your property design, paddock subdivisions, and rotational grazing planning. This also will help with reducing overgrazing and compaction. Understandably, we will never fully avoid compaction along boundaries, water and feeding points, but by timely grazing and moving

animals frequently this compaction is less severe and can be easily restored using mulching techniques or just recovery time if you have healthy soils to start with.

Another solution is to use track and sacrifice/central point systems that can take some of the regular congregating of animals. As the word is suggesting, this is an area that you sacrifice for pasture/plant growth and clearly allow compaction. Typically these systems are used to provide a central space for water, feeding or to move horses off pasture for plant recovery or reducing pasture intake. This especially beneficial for horses that are good doers to prevent excessive weight gain or those that are prone to developing laminitis.

The design of your sacrifice/central points will largely depend on the number of horses, space available, and budget. While you allow compaction to happen in these areas it is important that you pay close attention to the drainage and footing of these areas so you avoid mud build-up which can be very dangerous for you and your horses. You will need to look at the shape of the land and review if you need to level and prepare this area in such a way that it allows water to slowly be drained without causing quick run-off (and erosion). The sacrifice area will need to be fenced off and requires a border around the footing to avoid run-off. You can even build a (rock) rain garden that can take some of the extra run off water (similar to a mini swale).

There are many types of materials that can be used as footing and your choice will largely depend on your preferences, availability, and budget. River sand, pea rock gravel, and wood chips are regularly used for their comfort and/or price and can be applied to different areas. You can even decide to use ground stabilising products such as plastic pavers with a cell-like structure (honeycomb or diamond). Typically sand or pea rock can be used to fill the grid spaces and this will allow water to pass through, without making it into a muddy area. This system can be very useful for high-impact areas such as gateways, tracks, and water points. However, it still needs to be managed and manure should be taken away regularly to avoid build up that can turn into a slurry.



*Hillside horse pasture in Australia*

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# Stallion presentation

## on February 20th, 2021

Implementation: pro-bit.de; Photos: Janne Bugtrup



On **February 20th, at 2.00 p.m.**, the presentation of the stallions stood by the Holsteiner Verband stallion keeping GmbH will be live streamed to the breeders from the Elmshorn Fritz-Thiedemann indoor arena via Clipmyhorse.TV. As usual, the young stallions will demonstrate their talent free jumping prior to the four-year-old and older stallions performing a course. Tjark Nagel will present the online event at Elmshorn and give you an insight view on the Holsteiner Verband breeding stallions with his expert commentary. Tune in and get an overview of the stallions currently stood by the Holsteiner Verband stallion keeping GmbH.



**Vigado**

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## Summary

Having pasture is a valuable source for you and your horses. While initially managing land and pasture issues is often difficult and frustrating, if it is done with the right approach, it will work for you and your horses will benefit from it. The hardest part of teaching people about working with natural systems and improving pasture health is that it's not something you can buy off the shelf from the local rural supplier, spread it or spray it, and water it in. Soil health will be achieved when we restore the natural balance that allows the interaction of the soil food web.

Natural systems must be a way of thinking, it's the only science recognised by nature. All we have to do is study it and support its natural patterns with the many tools and practices that are available to us such as proper grazing management (rotational systems), de-compacting pastures using deep ripping equipment, handling manure as a valuable nutrient source, composting, and mulching. All of these techniques will enhance one or more of the fundamental ecosystem processes (water, nutrients, living organisms and dynamics, energy flow) and ultimately will lead to better pastures for your horses.

The soil sustains most living organisms, being the ultimate source of their mineral nutrients. Soil management is an integral part of land management and may focus on differences in soil types and soil characteristics to define specific interventions that are aimed to enhance the soil quality for your pastures. For example, many horse properties are established on overgrazed farmland that exposes subsoil. Many horse owners are not aware that this is not the correct soil layer that we need to work with to build pastures. We need to build a healthy top layer (topsoil) before we can sustain healthy plants. Specific soil management practices are needed to protect and conserve our soil resources, as well as build more soil.

Soils are neither 'good' nor 'bad' because the distinction is often based on their intended use. However, many soils have characteristics that make specific management interventions desirable to avoid problems for grazing purposes. Good management of soils assures that mineral elements do not become deficient or toxic to plants, and that appropriate mineral elements enter the food chain (soil – food – web).

It is important to acknowledge that each farm will have its own soil profile and soil/pasture problems that may require a different solution due to limitations such as climate and geography. The strategies that we may adopt will also largely depend on the available time we have to develop our soils/pastures or available budget for soil improvement. So keep learning about soil and where possible consult with soil scientists and pasture consultants who can help you in the right direction for your property.

The most important take-home message when it comes to pasture and soil development is that we should prioritise repairing soils' healthy food web. When practicing pasture

management, it's not the plants that are replenished but the soil, through the process of breaking down organic matter with the help of soil microorganisms. It is our great duty to shepherd the basic building blocks of soil, bacteria and fungi, so that the higher predators (nematodes, microarthropods, and earthworms) can take part in this soil-food-web connection. These beneficial interactions produce plant available nutrients, which create conditions for optimal photosynthesis to occur.

When the food web is strong, the plants are strong, which helps with pest and disease resistance, and with richer soils and diversity of plants we can outcompete weeds. When we eliminate the need for pesticides because we have used diversity we improve the hydrological cycle and bio-diversity flourishes above and below the soil surface. As the plants build in complexity and diversity, they become carbon cyclers through root exudates, and they deliver carbohydrates to the root zones that microorganisms use and exchange for nutrients that the plants requires (symbiosis relationship). The growth and decay process is a continual flux of energy mixing the energies of the sun's light and heat with the earth's minerals and nutrients and the force that connects them: water. Water feeds and loosens the paths of soil microorganisms and is perspired out plants to help bring more rain. It's stored extensively in the soil, in the plants, and is all around us in varying states of composition. There is no separation between soil/water/vegetation!

However, it is not to say that we cannot help nature along the way and correct and speed-up fundamental ecosystem processes so we can benefit quicker from richer soils and greater pasture diversity and cover. Using tools and ingredients (including those imported onto the farm) to facilitate this are all part of the overall management plan and go hand in hand with your horse management to maintain pasture availability and avoiding overgrazing. DIY soil tests, including observational analysis, as well as soil lab testing play an important role in monitoring the progression of your soil development and pasture management and allows you to adjust your inputs or management practices. ■

## About the author

*Dr Mariette van den Berg has a passion for equine nutrition and equine permaculture. Founder of MB Equine Services, Mariette offers specialised consulting services in integrated equine nutrition, horse property design and pasture management. An accomplished researcher, Mariette completed her Bachelor Applied Animal Science in the Netherlands before continuing her postgraduate studies in New Zealand and Australia, most recently completing her PhD in equine nutrition and foraging behaviour.*

*[www.mbequineservice.com](http://www.mbequineservice.com) and [www.equinepermaculture.com](http://www.equinepermaculture.com)*

## IMPORTANT DATES 2021

August 25-29	FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses in Verden, Germany
September 15-19	FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Show Jumping Horses in Lanaken, Belgium
October 10-13	WBFSH General Assembly and Seminars, Dresden, Germany
October 21-24	FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France

## WBFSH ANNOUNCE RE-ORGANISATION TO STRENGTHEN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

The WBFSH has modernised and strengthened its organisation by creating two new departments:

- the Department of Scientific Research, and
- the Marketing, Promotion and Communications Department,

as well enhancing the remit of the Department of Development.

According to WBFSH President, Jan Pedersen: "I am delighted about this progressive move, which makes excellent use of the considerable skills and expertise we have available to us, and which supports our vision to stimulate the development of sport-horse breeding world-wide through scientific research and to support international cooperation among our members."

### New Department of Science and Research

The new Department of Science and Research will be headed up by Karina Christiansen who has already been playing a central role in the WBFSH's world leading research initiatives, such as CIGA, the WBFSH Standing Committee for Collaborative Implementation of Genomic Applications in Sport Horse Breeding which was formed in 2017 and has since become a hub for the exchange of information and development in scientific research for studbooks and scientists from across the world.

Executive Committee Member Karina Christiansen says: "We continue to see enormous progression in scientific research, which is revolutionising sport horse breeding, with the potential to enhance performance, welfare, longevity and equine health. I am excited about this opportunity to strengthen our knowledge exchange among studbook members and the scientific community."

### New Department of Marketing, Promotion and Communications

The Department for Marketing, Promotion and Communications represents a new move for the organisation, as it will be run in cooperation between the AES, represented by the newly elected Board Member Dr Eva-Maria Broomer, and the KWPN, represented by the new Executive Committee Member Ralph van Venrooij.

## ■ IMPORTANT DATES 2020

## ■ VERDEN WILL HOST THE 2021 WBCYH IN DRESSAGE

## 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



Vice-President Dr Eva-Maria Broomer says: “These are exciting times for all of us, as we are working together for a bright future for all our members and breeders across the world. I look forward to working with Ralph whose experience will prove invaluable. Our first project will be a brand-new website to support our communications and promote the important work of the WBFSH and all its member studbooks across the world. Our partner in website development is the Equine Register, a UK based company with an exceptional international track record of providing digital solutions and lifetime traceability systems for governments and industry.”

## Enhanced Department of Development

The Department of Development under the new management of Executive Committee Member Edward Kendall from the CWHBA receives a broadened remit to support all studbooks and members in carrying out initiatives to aid industry development and provide member services.

Vice-President Chris Gould says: “This reorganisation better reflects the long-term strategic plan of the WBFSH and in particular will allow Edward and me to continue to foster new cooperative initiatives amongst and on behalf of our members, while broadening the scope to support the interests and development of sport horse breeding in general. Our aims are to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration, to develop our services to our members, and to strengthen the position of breeding in the equine industry.” and collaboration, to develop our services to our members, and to strengthen the position of breeding within the equine industry.”

**The Department of Finance** will continue to be run by the BWP under Executive Committee Member Rudi Eerdeken and Vice-President Stephan Kelchtermans, and the Department of External Cooperation will remain under the leadership of Executive Committee Member Klaus Miesner from the German FN and Vice-President Norbert Camp from the Trakehner Verband.

**The Department for Breeding** remains under the experienced management of the Selle Français and the IFCE with Vice President Paul Hubert and Executive Committee Member Bérengère Lacroix.

The coordination of all departments and WBFSH activities remains the responsibility of General Manager Nadine Brandtner.

For further information, contact the WBFSH press office: Thomas Bach Jensen at [news@wbfsb.org](mailto:news@wbfsb.org)

[Click here for departmental summary](#)



*WBFSH President Jan Pedersen alongside WBFSH Patron, HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark*

ALTHOUGH WE ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN AN UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021, THE SCHEDULE/TIMING MAY CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SO PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK INFORMATION WITH THE STUDBOOK OR ORGANIZERS CONCERNED

## 2021

### FEBRUARY

#### 2-6 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Stallion Show and KWPN Select Sale (KSS)  
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555  
info@kwpn.nl  
www.kwpn.org

#### 19 Saint-Lô (FRA)

Selle Français stallion championship and Masters'  
Tel: +33 (0)8 99 23 23 18  
info@sellefrancais.fr  
www.sellefrancais.fr

#### 20 Online (GER)

Holsteiner presentation of Verband Stallions for 2021 breeding season  
Tel: +49 (0)4121 92414  
hengststall@holsteiner-verband.de  
www.holsteiner-verband.de

#### 22 Online (GER)

Westfalian Youngster Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)251 328090  
info@westfalenpferde.de  
www.westfalenpferde.de

### MARCH

#### 1 Online (GER)

Holsteiner Spring Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4121 4979-0  
https://www.holsteiner.auction/home

#### 1-15 Online (NED)

Broodmare and Foal Auction: Bidding opens February 12  
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555  
info@kwpn.nl  
www.kwpn.org

#### 5-7 Gesves (GER)

The sBs International Show and stallion selections. (Current Covid-19 regulations at the time will apply)  
www.sbsnet.be

#### 11-13 Azelhof-Liege (BEL)

BWP Stallion Selection – Phase 3  
(Current Covid-19 regulations at the time will apply)  
www.bwpn.be

#### 11-14 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

The Dutch Masters – Indoor Brabant  
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555  
info@kwpn.nl  
www.kwpn.org

#### 29 Online (GER)

Westfalian Youngster Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)251 328090  
info@westfalenpferde.de  
www.westfalenpferde.de

### APRIL

#### 9/10 Vechta (GER)

94<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Spring Elite Auction with 10<sup>th</sup> Saddle Licensing  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

#### 10 Münster-Handorf (GER)

Westfalian Stallion Gala  
Tel: +49 (0)251 328090  
info@westfalenpferde.de  
www.westfalenpferde.de

#### 11 Münster-Handorf (GER)

Westfalian Spring Elite Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)251 328090  
info@westfalenpferde.de  
www.westfalenpferde.de

#### 16/17 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horse Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

#### 22 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

### MAY

#### 1 Online (GER)

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

#### 6 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

#### 20 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

### JUNE

#### 12 Vechta (GER)

5<sup>th</sup> Oldenburger Special Edition Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

#### 17 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

### JULY

#### 17 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horse Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time. Alternatively, online  
www.hannoveraner.com

#### 23-August 8 Tokyo (JPN)

Olympic Games – postponed from 2020

#### 31 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburger 20<sup>th</sup> Elite Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.com  
www.oldenburger-pferde.com