

JANUARY 2021

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WORLD BREEDING NEWS

for Sport Horses



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BN #289

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Stallion profiles

Bloodline analysis



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CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: GEMMA ALEXANDER | MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG | AGATA GROSICKA | CHRISTOPHER HECTOR | JO DE ROO | SALLY REID | HELEN SHARP | ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

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EDITORIAL

ABOUT 'WEATHER' AND 'CLIMATE'!



This Covid-19 pandemic has certainly tested our neurons. This can be seen in the interview (page 20) with Andries Van Daalen, chairman of the KWPN – studbook leader in 2020 of the WBFSH, rankings. Palliative solutions can be found, new developmental avenues envis-

aged. But, is passion, courage, ambition, and optimism not in the DNA of horse breeders? Can everything ever return to normal and go on as before? Please read the long tribune column written by Edward Kendall (page 7), a WBFSH Executive Member of the Department of Internal Cooperation, and his proposal in this first issue of 2021 of *World Breeding News*.

The answers to the brutal questions this devil virus demands are delicate and complex to formulate, as soon as one ceases to be interested in the daily weather and wondering about climate change! But now there's no escape. We are facing the wall. The creativity that breeders and their studbooks are demonstrating, especially by developing digital solutions, may be enough in the short term – but what about longer-term strategies?

Is the 'new norm' enough, especially when the 'product' we're discussing is a living being? Or do we wait for the additional effect he generates? Passion? A human relationship? Can we ignore that the horse has contributed to the development of civilization, that he is a cultural contributor, in spite of himself? A real vector of values and education? Are these not, again, the main arguments for his existence in the 21st century?

For some decades we have considered horses as accessories or partners in the practice of equestrian sport. Equestrianism is still the only Olympic sport practiced with an animal, so perhaps this singularity has so far brought him luck. Are we satisfied with everything this entails, too?

The 'weather' for 30 years has been mild and favourable to the development of equestrian sport and, therefore, also to breeding, so why do we seek to wash it whiter than white? For sport means performance and, in our case, selection of the species: Discipline-specific

aptitude through the right physical size, strength, suppleness, gait, character, mind, longevity, etc. Since sport is developing without questioning 'legitimacy' (exploitation of a 'living' being), why would any breeder responding to demand ask himself stupid questions? Through his choices, the policies of studbook selection have created 'standards' and sculpted genetics in order to support the performance of the athlete: the rider.

Equestrian sports offer the same schematics as motorsports (cars, motorcycles, boats, etc.). But a horse is not a bike, so it's no longer a question of the 'weather' but the 'climate' and the society of horsemen and women.

The horse means time. Time is money. Does the so-called 'modern' man not have less time? The horse means care. Does the so-called 'modern' man lack time for his own children or his elderly parents? The horse means nature. Yet 'modern' man is responsible for ongoing pollution. The horse means space. The 'modern' man is constantly seeking more land to satisfy more developments. The horse is sedentary. Is not the so-called 'modern' man constantly travelling? The horse is a 'living' partner. Is not the so-called 'modern' man living more in a virtual world? The horse is naturally inclined. Is not the so-called 'modern' man becoming more marketing and business addicted? And so on... A pessimistic assessment? Yes and no!

What appears to be so many weaknesses, hand-caps, are perhaps the best arguments, the necessary antidotes to what threatens us. But for this it's necessary for sport and its authorities (the FEI) – on which the breeders (the WBFSH) depend, while producing horses appropriate for competition – to ask themselves the right questions.

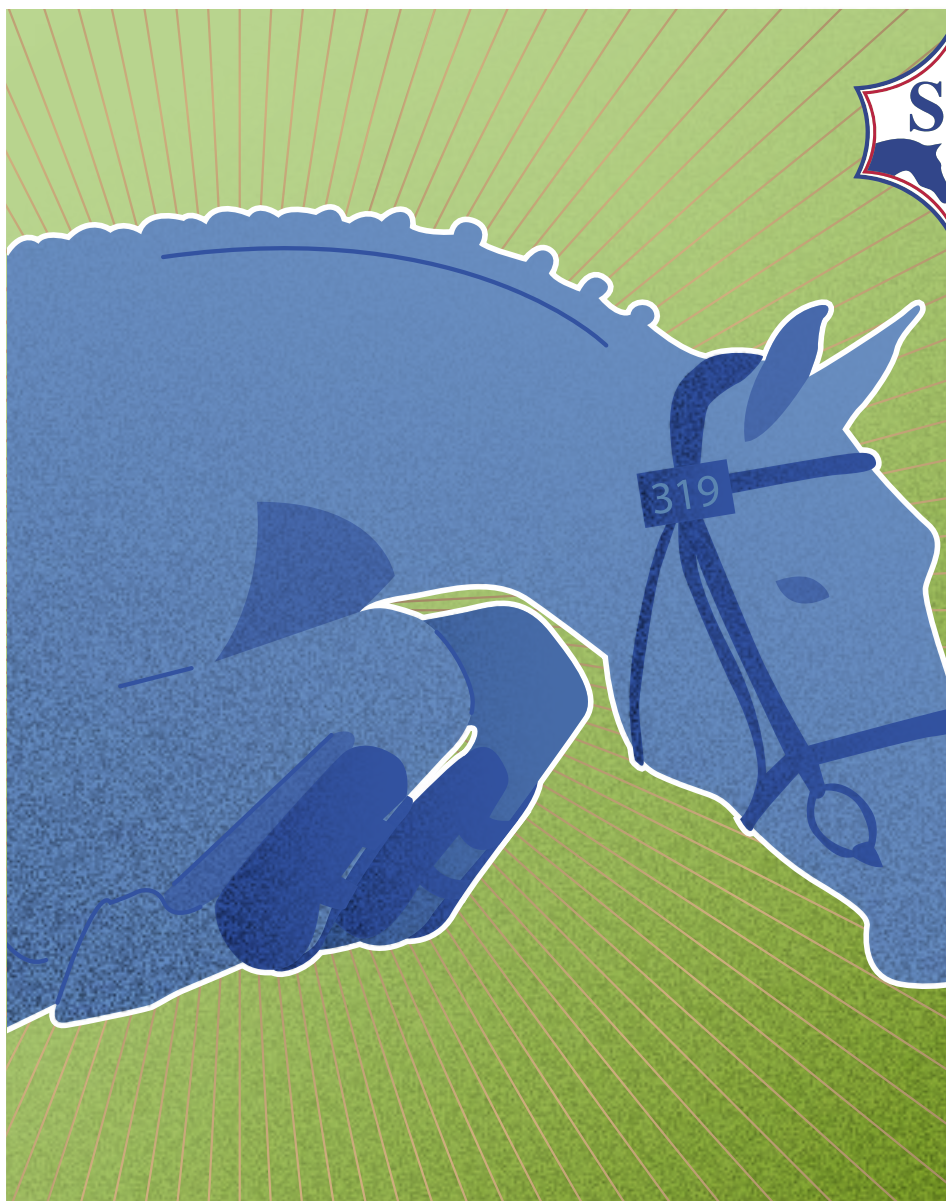
Both entities must strive to fight courageously against 'climate change', and be genuinely steeped in their demands that sport must be reformed, taking into account its singular assets. Everyone must communicate intelligently, widely, massively. It is the future of the horse and, not long after that, of mankind.

On behalf of the editorial staff of *World Breeding News*, I wish you best possible New Year.

Xavier Libbrecht

The Selle Français Stud-Book organizes
19TH FEBRUARY 2021

Stallion Show



Saint-Lô

THE STALLION CHAMPIONSHIP & MASTER



WBF SH TRIBUNE

BENIGN NEGLECT!



Benign neglect: 'An attitude or policy of ignoring an often delicate or undesirable situation that one is held to be responsible for dealing with.' (Merriam-Webster dictionary)

If you spend long enough in a vocation the rest of the world seems to pivot around your personal village. News, politics, and finance are filtered through the lens of our preoccupations to the point where we wonder why others seem so insensitive. This situation might be classified as an acute infection of the horse industry. The day-to-day work is massive, but the reality is we are a very small part of agriculture and an even smaller part of the sporting industry as a whole. So, they aren't insensitive, they are unaware.

When regulations are contemplated for transport, health, fair play, and so on, horses and horse sport are well down the priority list, if they make it at all. In fact, the impact of health or transport regulations on the horse industry is often completely incidental. Only after the regulations are drafted and available is the horse industry consulted... if then.

Are we partly to blame for this situation? Does our vocational lens limit our peripheral vision so that we do not notice impending change until the eleventh hour? In other words, are we so focused on the weather that we don't notice the climate where we live?

The climate for the horse industry has certainly changed. Thirty years ago we noted the large shift from full-time to part-time participation. This was accompanied by a demographic shift and refocusing on competition rather than broad-spectrum participation. I suppose one might more accurately describe it as a lesser reduction in competition and a major reduction in everything else. It would be nice to know if this trend has plateaued, but we don't collect that type of comprehensive data.

These changes, over more than a generation have brought us to the point where horses are largely absent from social consciousness. When

publicly recognized, horses are seen as a Gucci bag, pretty, expensive and not very functional. As an industry we have failed to carry the public along as we evolved horses from a common work animal to an uncommon recreational animal.

On further thought, I should have said this is where we were 10 years ago. Today's public is likely to be somewhat less indulgent. Hyped up by a strident media they are likely to view horses as an unwelcome competitor for increasingly scarce resources. Considering the general lack of knowledge regarding farm animals they may group horses with the demonized cattle who belch methane without regard to its atmospheric impact.

As 'outré' as this may sound, there is good evidence to suggest that these are real concerns. Recently, Mme Julien from Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation (IFCE) outlined her organization's proposal to deal with some of the challenges facing the horse industry. The title is revealing: 'Roles and assets of horses in a sustainable rural development'. It suggests that there



is a tectonic change that will re-identify how we see and what we do with horses. It also places importance on sustainable rural development, meaning horses must now earn their keep as they did before by supporting rural (but probably non-agrarian) lifestyle. I don't think this is inconsistent with current dogma, we have long seen horses as positioned in the urban - rural transition zone. But here we will begin to see a specific role for them in sustainability.

IFCE provided the context for their proposal focused on the European horse industry (I paraphrase): 'the covid-19 pandemic (and by inference other short-term crises); low visibility of horses in legislation; societal and environmental expectations; and green assets.' It is very clear from the presentation that our colleagues in France are aware of the new demands being placed, or soon will be placed on our industry. Although it was a relatively short presentation, the call to action might be a first outline for an industry wide response to our current challenges. Their proposal calls for action on: structural changes, professional best practices, public opinion, data collection and advocacy. ([Link to the full presentation, pdf format, on the WBN website.](#))

By all reports, the hospitality and retail sectors have been hammered by the lockdowns and

by a tentative public. What is the fallout for breeders from the pandemic? We have anecdotal evidence that stallion owners may have realized more coverings as idle sport mares were recruited to the breeding pen. If this proves to be true it may have a knock-on effect in a couple of years when all these foals come to market. Will prices respond to increased supply, who can tell!

Of course improved market size might be one way to absorb extra production. This is going to be tricky when events are few and have to compete with Netflix for viewers. Growth in the short term may rely more on the recreational rider or companion animal markets. This may not be ideal from a value-adding point of view, but it may have some long term benefits.

Production is one thing, sales are another. Pandemic or no pandemic, breeders have horses to move and the outlets are now largely online. We hear uplifting stories of businesses pivoting in the face of adversity. I don't know if this is the case for breeders. Having to prepare more extensive videos might have been helpful, as the price realized may not be as dependent on immediate performance/appearance. On the other hand, unless the breeder has a videographer within the bubble, the presentation may suffer from amateur techni-

See page 76

The image shows the cover of a report. At the top left is the logo of the French Republic, with the text 'RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE' and 'Liberté Égalité Fraternité' below it. To the right is the logo for IFCE (Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation), featuring the letters 'ifce' in a stylized font, a red circle with a white 'H', and a silhouette of a horse and rider. Below these logos is the text 'institut français du cheval et de l'équitation'. The main title of the report is 'PROJECT OF EUROPEAN THEMATIC NETWORK' in large, bold, black capital letters. Below the title is the subtitle '“ROLES AND ASSETS OF HORSES IN A SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT”' in smaller, grey capital letters. At the bottom left, there is a small number '2021160000' and at the bottom right, the number '1'.

BRIEFS



In 2021, the Selle Français Stud-book wishes to offer stallion owners the opportunity of greater visibility for their sires through a special event created for the occasion: the days of Selle Français Stallions, February 19-20. Given the ongoing health crisis, and in view of the information currently available to the organizing committee, it has been decided to abandon the Saint-Lô performance stallion fair in 2021. In fact, the uncertainty concerning the organization of events do not allow professionals to continue showing in the traditional February format with public in attendance (stands, presentations, grand parade, etc.). Selle Français will, however, maintain and expand the three-year-old stallion championship which joined the show in 2020. It will also be live-streamed over the two days, allowing stallion owners, breeders and riders to discuss and build upon the future of equestrian sport. Overall, the show will include several highlights, including: the three-year-old SF stallion championship; the conclusion of the 'H' generation classic cycle that took place this past fall; the Masters' for four-, five-, and six-year-old SF stallions; a 1m30-1m35 class reserved for seven- and eight-year-old stallions, as well as a 1m40-1m45 class for performance stallions aged nine and over. These latter two newly introduced classes are reserved for approved Selle Français stallions and those in the process of being licensed.

The last online auction 2020 of the 'Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Pferdezuchtverbände' was also the first of the DSP (Deutsche Sportpferde) that combined sport horses and young stallions. The highest bid went to Fabulous Boy (Frasino - Darling x Johnson) bred by Anton Herre, a three-year-old dressage stallion who changed hands to a buyer from Baden-Württemberg for €52,500 (US\$63,545). The second highest price was paid for Geldermann (Grand Galaxy Win T - Dolcetta x Ducello), bred by Gabriele Matthes. The five-year-old gelding has already had dressage success and sold for €47,500 (US\$ 57,493) to the United States. The average sales price for the the sport horses was €26,644 (US\$ 32,249). Meanwhile, the price highlight of the 12 young stallions was a son of the vice world champion Secret (Sezuan - Seline x St. Moritz) at €59,967. Skyfall (Secret - Sweet Love x Laurentino), bred by Von Ekkehard and Maria Hellstern sold for €50,500 (US\$ 61,124) to a buyer from the Ukraine. The young stallions, born in 2018, fetched an average price of €16,954 (US\$ 20,510). **S.G.**

It was with deep regret and sadness that we learned of the death of Luiz Rocco – technical director of the Brazilian Sport Horse studbook (BH/ABCCH). One of the great supporters of Brazilian and international equestrianism, he acted as an Olympic chief steward, international judge, and former general secretary and technical director of the Brazilian Equestrian Confederation. Luiz Rocco was also a regular participant at the most important national and international competitions, always attentive to the regulations and well-being of the horses. Above all, he was a passionate horseman and supporter of equestrian sport at the highest level. At the Brazilian BH Festival a few weeks ago, in a very simple tribute, some classes were named after him – something that undoubtedly caused him to smile from where he is now. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Rocco's family and friends for their irreparable loss, and with sincere thanks for his great service to Brazilian and international equestrianism. He was always a friend and supporter of World Breeding News and will be sadly missed. RIP



Totilas, the black dressage stallion who became the biggest sensation in global equestrian sport has passed away at the age of 20. Bred by Jan Schuil and Anna Vissa, a severe colic attack has ended the life of one of the most beautiful, memorable, celebrated, expensive, and probably also the most discussed dressage horse in the world. Totilas had a short career as a young horse, but attracted great attention under the saddle of Edward Gal. After amazing the world in 2009 at the European championships in Windsor, Edward Gal rode Totilas to triple gold at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY. At the same time, his owners, Kees and Tosca Visser agreed the sale of Totilas to Paul Schockemöhle for an amount that was never confirmed, but exceeded €10 million – the highest amount ever paid for a dressage horse. A new rider was quickly found for Totilas when Schockemöhle sold the sporting rights to Ann Kathrinn Linsenhoff, stepmother of Matthias Rath. The best season they shared was their first, in 2011, when they represented Germany at the European championships in Rotterdam. However, no Olympic glory followed for the pair in London 2012 as injuries were sustained that kept the pair out of competition. In 2015 luck appeared to be on their side once again, when the partnership competed in the German team at the Europeans in Aachen. However, Totilas was taken out of competition after the first Grand Prix test, and Germany finished with team bronze, beaten by a golden Dutch team that included Edward Gal. Being out of competition happened to be for the rest of his life. Our Dutch correspondent, Claartje van An del will profile the competition and breeding career of Totilas in the January issue of World Breeding News.

Correction: An article in our November issue regarding the WBFSh rankings stated that 2020 was the first time that KWPN had achieved a clean sweep of all three Olympic disciplines, which was incorrect. The studbook also finished at the top of the showjumping, dressage and eventing rankings in 2018.

Diamant de Semilly: A legacy, 30 years in the making

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY HARAS DE SEMILLY

Diamant de Semilly has had the odds against him since day one, but has literally overcome every obstacle in his life. Every day that is added to his life is a gift for the people around him. This year, the 'chef de race' is turning 30! Maybe he could be considered the French Carthago (Capitol I - Perra x Calando I), because his genetics have now, quite literally, migrated to every studbook.

The only difference is that Carthago moved countries, from Germany to Belgium. Diamant de Semilly has spent his life in Normandy. First at Haras de Semilly (with Richard and Anne-Sophie Levallois) and later during his sporting career and retirement at Haras de Beaufour (Eric Levallois). What makes Diamant de Semilly so special?

A rough start

All breeders know that breeding horses is actually not for the fainthearted. Every birth of a healthy foal is a gift, and that the mare also stays sound is not always the case. Diamant de Semilly was already a special foal from the moment his father, Le Tot de Semilly, was chosen for his mother Venise des Cresles. Richard Levallois recalls: "My father discovered Le Tot. He was also the one who chose the mother of Diamant to cross with this stallion, and history was rewritten, Diamant was made for us! In life, there is not always much time to take a breath,

but one day you look back and become aware of so many things. For our part, we owe so much to Germain [Levallois]..."

As a matter of fact, Jules Mesnildrey, who bred Le Tot de Semilly, retained coverings for life to Le Tot de Semilly but was unable to use him because his broodmares came from the same maternal bloodline, so he asked Germain Levallois, in whom had confidence, to find him a good filly. This was Venise des Cresles (Elf III). She gave birth to the small Diamant de Semilly in

1991. Eric Levallois remembers: "Every extraordinary horse comes with a special story. Diamant's dam died an hour after he was born. The breeder wanted to put the foal down and called my father with the difficult message to 'either come and pick up the foal or he'll die', because he wasn't prepared to raise the foal with the bottle. So next thing, my father went to pick up Diamant and he did put in the time needed. So yes, if my father hadn't adopted Diamant we would never have known him."

Richard Levallois recalls: "With Louis, an employee of the stud at the time, we reared him with another foal in the same situation. They both grew up in freedom in the courtyard, coming to take their bottles through the window of the stud farm. With hindsight, it would have been better to find him an adoptive mother, which is preferable for a foal's temperament, but as things were, he allowed us to save him."

At the age of three, the exceptional qualities of Diamant appeared one amazing day as he was jumping his first rails in preparation for the stallion approvals. Richard and Germain noticed an ease that they had never previously seen in any other horse. The director of the National Stud at Saint-Lô noticed the stallion and wanted to buy him, but the administration refused on the pretext that Diamant was 'non standard'... in size! At the time, it was a relief to Richard and his father, who believed in their protégé and entrusted him to Eric for his sporting career.

The special bond between horse and rider

Not only is Diamant de Semilly a very special stallion, Eric Levallois is a special person, and together they have shared a partnership for 27 years; a unique symbiosis that has generated a great deal of respect for each other.

Diamant de Semilly is an incredibly strong-willed stallion and, at least in the years that I have known them, they have been a remarkable duo. Eric Levallois recalls: "He was a normal-sized foal, and after he joined the other foals in the field I didn't see him again until he was three [in 1994]. I was very busy riding at that time, but I remember seeing him as a three-year-old and thinking he was a tall horse. A nice horse, but he definitely knew what he wanted. He was



Diamant de Semilly in the hands of Eric Levallois

physically strong, and when I bought my farm, Haras de Beaufour in 1994, Diamant arrived in my stables, and we have been together ever since. I go to see him every evening around 9:00 p.m. to feed him, and I'm sure when he is no longer around the place will be very empty for me.

"I started to ride him as a three-and-a-half-year-old. I remember that the first time I jumped him he gave me an incredible feeling. He just knew everything. I could do the same line in five, six, or seven strides. I could always do what I wanted the first time. After that I never jumped him at home as a three- or four-year-old – only at the shows. As a five-year-old, the same. We only started to jump him at home at the age of six. He gives everything you ask and already knew the flying change. He has always been very intelligent so I never thought there would be any purpose in jumping him at home. For my own pleasure? He would spend all week in the paddock, and the day before a show I rode him a little. This was how I worked with him as a young horse – I only ever did this with Diamant.

"At seven when he really started to work he already knew everything, his balance was fantastic, his mouth, the canter. He was a little difficult to handle, but when he was at work he was amazing, so much power. When he was eight I started to jump him in the big classes. It was so easy for him. I already had a fantastic feeling with his sire, Le Tot de Semilly, but with Diamant the feeling was even more special. He was always so smooth, like you're on a flying carpet, and so light in canter for a tall horse. He is a dream.

"Diamant de Semilly started his breeding career when he was five years old, because otherwise he would have been too strong. I prefer to take my time and to teach the horses good discipline and good dressage. We lost five breeding years with him, but I'm still happy we did it like we did with Diamant.

"For a rider it is an easy sport to ride a horse with this potential and quality that simply carries you over the jump because it was so easy and natural for him. You only ever have one horse like this in your life. There is no chance to find another, and I was lucky to ride him and that he is owned by my family.

"He is not a normal horse, not in the box, not in the warm up, people want to see him and he has become a famous stallion. I have people coming to my stable who want to see the legend. I think breeders still use him because they know he will give a jumping horse and he will pass on his quality."

My question about the most beautiful moments of their 27-year partnership might have been a little unfair, but Eric gave an unexpected answer: "I had a fantastic feeling about the Nations' Cup in Aachen and Rome. It was so special to enter those arenas, and I have no problem with the different fences. Everything wasn't easy but also not difficult. Diamant is just an incredible horse and he continues every day to be an incredible horse. He is still playing with new grooms. They cannot catch him in the paddock or in the box. I say wait 15 minutes and try again. He is like an old person with character. For me he is no animal, he has something more."

Diamant de Semilly's sporting career

His intelligently managed career took off in 1999 with victory in the championship Criterium of France, then came back-to-back successes and titles. Diamant would provide intense emotions for the Levallois family. "Throughout his life Diamant gave us cold sweats and intense joy. He has never done anything by half measure.... When he arrived at the World Championships in Jerez (2002), he had a sickness and was more than evil. Twenty-four hours before the start of the Games, he still had a 40°C fever and it was, at the time, the coach Jean-Maurice Bonneau who believed in him and his recovery capabilities."

What followed is like a fairy story: second in the speed round, faultless in the second round of the Nations' Cup as a member of the sacred French team comprising four Selle Français stallions that won the world championship title, forever marking the collective memory and triggering tears of happiness for Germain: "A proud father of his son, a proud breeder of his horse, and a proud owner for France. It was beautiful... unforgettable," Richard Levallois recalls

DIAMANT DE SEMILLY (1991)	LE TÔT DE SEMILLY SF (1977)	GRAND VENEUR SF (1972)	AMOUR DU BOIS SF (1966)	QUIRINAL SF (1960) MARGARETTE LA SF (1956)	KULTIMATE SF - KIETJE SF HERQUEMOULIN SF - AMOUREUSE SF
			TANAGRA G SF (1963)	Le MIOCHE xx (1951) HARPETTE DE LA BUTTE (1951)	Le MOUTARD xx - MONTANA II xx JUS DE POMME SF - URSULINE SF
		VENUE DU TÔT SF (1965)	JURISTE SF (1953)	ULTIMATE xx (1941) ETEUSE SF (1948)	UMIDWAR xx - No Go xx RELLEVILLE SF - QUETEUSE SF
			RELIQUE SF (1961)	LAURIER THYM SF (1955) HISTOIRE SF (1951)	ULTIMATE xx - GAZELLE SF ULSTER SF - RILLETTE SF
	VENISE DES CRESLES SF (1987)	ELF III SF (1970)	IBRAHIM SF (1952)	THE LAST ORANGE SF (1941) VAILLANTE SF (1943)	ORANGE PEEL xx - VELLEDA SF PORTE BONHEUR SF - QUERQUEVILLE
			OSYRIS SF (1958)	ULTIMATE xx (1941) VICTOIRE SF (1943)	UMIDWAR xx - No Go xx MISTI SF - REINETTE SF
		MISS DES CRESLES SF (1978)	AMARPOUR xx (1966)	TANTIEME xx (1947) INDEPENDENCIA xx (1957)	DEUX POUR CENT xx - TERKA xx NEARCO xx - ROWENA xx
			URLURETTE SF (1964)	FULMINANT SF (1949) OUTREE SF (1958)	NAVARIN AA - VEDETTE SF EMBARGO SF - BERCEUSE SF



Diamant de Semilly competing in Aachen under the saddle of Eric Levallois (FRA)

with emotion.

Thanks to his 13 faultless performances over 14 rounds in Nations' Cups during the course of 2002, and crowned as champion of France and team champion of the world, Diamant de Semilly became a very sought-after stallion. Breeders from all around the world started to notice Diamant. One of them, Bert van den Branden from is one of them, he recalls: "I had to cover [his own-bred] Carthina (Carthago -Tanagra 'S' van het Darohof x Lys de Darmen) and that same day I saw Diamant de Semilly jumping in Aachen, and my choice was made. Diamant has a lot of mentality and scope, we also see this with a lot of his offspring. For sure it is great to be the breeder of these special horses. I always believed in this line and with these horses it was confirmed." Carthina became the mother of Diamanthina van't Ruytershof in 2003, who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Constant van Paesschen. Bert van de Branden used Diamant again for Carthina and this foal, who would become Emerald van't Ruytershof/aka Emerald, who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Harrie Smolders and is a BWP Ambassador.

Diamant career as a sire

Diamant's fertility has been outstanding, although he only has 3,947 offspring in France. Today he's retired from breeding, but his frozen semen is still working well, looking at the numbers: 102 foals born in 2020, and 173 in 2019.

In the first sire ranking published on the WBFSH website in 2008, Diamant ranked 26th, then 24th one year later. This was also the year that a Belgian breeder, Tony Foriers, chose Diamant de Semilly for his Holsteiner mare and Dominator 2000 Z (Diamant de Semilly - Cephale 2000 x Cassini I, Stamm 3317), was born. Foriers recalls: "I chose Diamant for Cephale 2000, because I was looking for a

proven stallion that jumped at a high level in sport, and he was also a popular stallion. For this reason I'd used Quidam de Revel before him, and I still use this way of breeding. I want to breed top sport horses using commercially interesting stallions so I can, now and then, sell a foal or young horse for a good price. During that period I saw a lot of good offspring by Diamant de Semilly in sport. Cephale 2000 is a typical Holsteiner mare with a lot of blood, and I believe that's why she's a perfect combination for the French blood of Diamant de Semilly. It's proven through Dominator 2000 Z every day. I also have his full sister, Diva 2000 Z, in my stable and she is an absolute promise for the future."

In 2012 Diamant de Semilly entered the top 10 of the WBFSH sire ranking, in ninth place. This was also the year that his grandson, the Holsteiner bred Dinken

(Diarado -Inken I x Cassini I, Stamm 2294, bred by Theo Molenaers), became a premium stallion at the Holsteiner stallion approvals. In 2013 moved up to fifth place, and third in 2014. Diamant offspring who supported his position are, for example, the SF bred Quickly de Kreisker (out of Briseis d'Helby x Laudanum xx, bred by Guillaume Ansquer), and Utamaro d'Ecaussines (out of Arizona van Arenberg x Quidam de Revel, bred by Ecuries d'Ecaussinnes).

In 2015 and 2016, when Quickly de Kreisker partnered with Abdelkebir Ouaddar to become the FEI's best horse/roder combination, Diamant arrived as the number one WBFSH sire. A position he retained in 2017 and 2018, before dropping to second place in 2018. But his influence as a sire is unmistakable.

Taking a look at December 2020, when Diamant again proved his power, his eight-year-old BWP-bred son Mumbai van de Moerhoeve (out of Ischgl de Muze x Nabab de Reve, bred by De Moerhoeve BVBA), under the saddle of Christian Kukuk, won the World Cup in Riyadh (1m45-1m60). In seventh place was the SF-bred mare Asathir/ex Tecla d'Auge (out of Obsession d'Auge x Papillon Rouge, bred by SA Cria Caballo) under the saddle of Philipp Weishaupt, eighth place place went to Vannan (out of Quana One de l'Eaugrenee x Kannan, bred by Jan Tops Horse Trading BV), and finishing 12th was Volver de la Vigne (out of Nympe de la Vallee x Cumano, bred by Lucien Villotte). So four Diamant de Semilly offspring were highly placed.

A milestone year for Diamant as a sire: 2007

Looking back at 2007, we can say that this was a very interesting year for Diamant de Semilly offspring, kicking off with the BWP stallion approvals when three of his sons were approved: Emerald van't Ruytershof, Elvis ter Putte (out of Ukase ter Putte x Darco, bred by Georges de Maertelaere),

and Extra van Essene (out of Sari van Essene x Gotthardsen, bred by Carlos de Cock). These three stallions also went on to jump at 1m60 level.

For 20 years Boudewijn Schepers has been a member of the BWP stallion committee, so how does he see Diamant de Semilly's influence in Belgium? "For BWP we have approved about 20 of his sons, with Emerald and Elvis ter Putte being the most important sons coming from BWP damlines. They are also the most well known. But other sons have also made it up to 1m50-1m60, such as Can Remember (out of Remember Me x Cash, bred by N. de Bruijn), and Ut Majeur de Brecey (out of Jessy Landaise x Quouglof Rouge, bred by Jean Muris).

"We started early with using Diamant de Semilly in BWP breeding. The first BWP registered Diamant de Semilly offspring was born in 2000: Eurocommerce Toulouse (out of Oda x Lord Z) who jumped at 1m55. The first real foal crops were in 2003 and 2004, which gave us Elvis ter Putte and Emerald. It is actually unbelievable what Diamant de Semilly has produced in general regarding sport horses as he really passed on his traits in the BWP breeding. I think you can use Diamant de Semilly in a very versatile way with many different bred mares.

"He is also starting to play an important role as a damsire. Diamanthina van't Ruytershof was good in sport and is now making a name as broodmare. Irenice Horta (Vigo d'Arsoilles - Erenice Horta x Diamant de Semilly, bred by Wim van Rossem) was one of the best horses of the World Equestrian Games in Tryon 2018. Diamant's semen was always very good, with mares in foal with only one straw, so he was very fertile and that was a great advantage.

"Another really good son of Diamant de Semilly was Extra van Essene, although he was castrated at quite a young age because he wasn't so easy. But he jumped at 1m60 with Marlon Módolo Zanotelli, and was already a very good horse during the free jumping at the BWP approvals.

"Diamant son Elvis ter Putte also worked very well in BWP breeding, giving us Manchester van 't Paradijs (out of Cartagena Indias Ecaussinnes x Kashmir van Schuttershof, bred by Johan Rooms-Vandenbranden). I was always a fan of Diamant de Semilly blood, and in BWP we always advocated for French blood as we had a lot of success with Grand Veneur – such as Major de la Cour and Sheyenne de Baugy in their time. Through Le Tot de Semilly, Diamant goes back to Grand Veneur, and sometimes we've even had a discussion about not approving too many offspring from Diamant, but from quality you can never have enough."

From BWP breeding also comes the Pacino/ex Eldiam de Reve (Diamant de Semilly - Dira Courcelle x Muguet du Manoir, bred by Haras des Reves), who was born in the same year as BWP star Emerald van't Ruytershof. Pacino was on his way to becoming a start in Ireland: in the six-year-old final of the WBCYH in Lanaken, double clear in the Nations' Cups of Hickstead and Dublin at the age of eight. He was crowned as Horse of the Year in Ireland in 2012, and in 2013 had to be euthanised at the tender age of nine.

Diamant's German era

According to German FN information, Diamant de Semilly was approved by the Holsteiner Verband in 2003. In 2005 he had a foal crop that would mean so much for the Holsteiner breed, when a beautiful black colt was born. He would turn the 2007 Holsteiner approvals upside down. His name is Diarado.

Klaus Kristensen Thingholm explains: "I wanted to find a good broodmare and a horse for sport. By that time I had already been talking with Hobe Bernard for several years about buying a filly from one of his bloodlines. Then he called me during a summer and told me he had two foals for sale, both were by Corrado I – a stallion I really liked. One was a full sister to Corofino I and II, while the other was from a relatively unknown part of the bloodline. I purchased the unknown part as my feeling was that this was the right one. This full sister to the Corofinos looked totally like her brothers, although Roxette I was a totally different horse; she was noble, light moving, and not at all to a certain extent the old-fashioned Holsteiner model.

"It was a real experience when I presented Roxette I as a three-year-old for the mare approvals, because everyone liked her. She was noble and elegant, dark, looked more like a Trakehner than a Holsteiner, she had long legs and no body at the time. We had to find a stallion for her and I had a friend with whom I'd been discussing Holsteiner bloodlines. Eventually we discussed the new Zuchtversuch/breeding request in Holstein, about introducing new bloodlines from outside. My friend suggested I should look at French bloodlines and I found Diamant de Semilly. Roxette I was not a typical Holsteiner with a lot of blood and Diamant de Semilly was big but not very beautiful. We thought it might fit because then we had a combination of pure performance blood and the noble mare. I also think she needed a kind of power so I saw Diamant de Semilly as the perfect match for her.

"Eventually I used Diamant a couple of times because they were not coming close to Diarado at all, so it's very



Diamant de Semilly

important to have a noble mare. You can't use mares that produce big-framed horses. Diamant de Semilly produced horses that are easy to ride. I knew quite well the offspring of Quidam de Revel and they were difficult to ride, but with Diamant be brought back the rideability. He is very consistent in passing the ability to jump to his next generation. All of my own-bred Diamant de Semilly offspring have been easy to ride."

Diarado was and still is a true sensation. He became the champion stallion of the Holsteiner stallion approvals and was purchased for the Holsteiner Verband by the syndicate comprising Joop van Uytert, Paul Schockemöhle and Norbert Boley. Dr. Thomas Nissen, recently retired from the Verband, talked about Diarado and Diamant de Semilly: "The breeding development from Diamant de Semilly to his son Diarado is a great success for Holsteiner breeding. That's always distinguished the Holsteiner breed, that it is able to produce sires, which is also a characteristic of French breeding, like for example with Le Tot de Semilly and his son Diamant de Semilly. We are really pleased that it worked with Diarado who comes from an old, proven motherline. This line also worked very well with stallions like Cor de la Bryère and his son Corrado I and grandson Contender (through Calypso II), who are in the motherline of Diarado. With Diamant de Semilly this line was able to produce a stallion like Diarado.

"With Diarado, Holsteiner breeding created a stallion who is not only important for our own breeding, but also a milestone for European breeding as he's being used by almost every studbook in Europe. In the past he would have been an exclusive stallion for the Holsteiner breed, that is nowadays almost not possible anymore. It would have been great to have him exclusively in Holstein so that the jumping breeding world had to come to Holstein to purchase sons of Diarado, and all Holsteiner breeders could have profited from that. I find it, however, an outstanding success.

"I met Diamant de Semilly when we drove to Normandy, to visit the Levallois family, first at Richard's farm, then the sport stable of his brother, Eric, who was a very successful international rider with Diamant de Semilly. This was how we became aware of Diamant, and to see these such special stallions is always a huge honour. To see their amazing personality, and this was how it also was with Diamant de Semilly. Yes, he is big and also heavy. It was for us to consider if he could really achieve something in Holstein with his type, and the breeders in Holstein had to learn in how to use him. We have tried to influence the breeders to use modern, blood-

typed mares, and I believe that after Diarado was approved the breeders start to use Diamant de Semilly in a different way. Today we have many good offspring by Diamant de Semilly. Also during the most recent approvals in October was a very elegant son who was approved.

"Diamant de Semilly is very special to me because he's accompanied me through more than half my time with the Verband, so I could follow his development in Holsteiner breeding step by step. We can say that Diamant de Semilly is the third French stallion who has been able to build a stallion line in Holstein after Cor de la Bryère and Quidam de Revel. I have to add that Cor de la Bryère managed to do something that was really extraordinary. Quidam de Revel didn't have the same success as Cor de la Bryère, but he still plays an active role in Holstein and in Europe. I think that Diamant de Semilly might follow the path of Cor de la Bryère. He proved through Diarado that he makes sires, and worldwide he has produced many top stallions and mares. He has his own stallion line in Holstein through Diarado – Dinken. Also Dinken has several approved sons, such as



Team World Champions – WEG 2002, Jerez de la Frontera

Dubliner and Dilaro.”

One of Diarado’s co-buyers was Paul Schockemöhle, who has always had a brilliant eye for horses. What does Diarado mean to him? “Diarado was already an excellent horse during his approvals. This was shown by his type and as a jumping horse. He proved afterwards that he was very good to ride, and he also passes that on to his offspring. His first foal crops are doing a good job in sport. He is now also in the top 10 of the WBFSH sire ranking. For us Diarado is special because of his rideability, type, and scope. He is a real enrichment for the German breeding.

“I was at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera where Diamant de Semilly won gold with the French time. I’d already known him for a long time before WEG. He is a long-legged stallion with a lot of scope and has relatively good rideability, especially for a French horse. That he had very good management is absolutely without doubt. That made him popular as a stallion outside France, and he’s really made a difference in Germany. His offspring can all jump, they all have a good character, and they are good to ride. He passed that on to Diarado, I would say in a more beautiful form. I also have by Diarado a son, Diaron, who won the Bundeschampionat as a five- and six-year-old, and who is also an outstanding sire. I believe that Diamant de Semilly has built his stallion line in Germany.”

Why do you think he works so well with Capitol I blood?
“Capitol I is a sire that has also put his mark on German breeding, through many of his sons like Carthago, Cento and so on. He produced many top horses. I believe that he made the horses overall a bit more careful, like Diamant de Semilly, and for that reason I believe it is a good match.”

Dutch riders talk about Diamant de Semilly

The favourite stallion of Johan Heins is and will forever be Almé, as he rode him and has followed him ever since. He has seen a great many jumping horses throughout his life, so here is what he says about Diamant de Semilly: “He was a fantastic sport horse and to my opinion he is one of the better sires for jumping breeding. He produced horses with a lot of scope and a good jumping technique. We had offspring from both Le Tot de Semilly and Diamant de Semilly. Diarado is certainly one of the better sons of Diamant de Semilly. Also Emerald van’t Ruytershof and Don VHP have performed very well in sport with Harrie Smolders, who is an amazing rider.”

No argument that Smolders is a brilliant rider, but it takes two to jump the breathtaking classes we are seeing nowadays. Together with Emerald van’t Ruytershof and Don VHP he’s a regular member of the Dutch team and says: “Diamant de Semilly sired my two best horses, and maybe I’ve had his two best offspring. I don’t know if I can have an objective opinion regarding Diamant de Semilly as I’ve had these two amazing sons by him. It’s remarkable that he’s spent his whole life with the Levallois family, and overcoming

so many obstacles in both his sporting and breeding career. I think this says something amazing about his character. This is how people handle defeats, and this horse has shown that he is stronger than his defeats. He is a fighter and this is what you also see with his offspring, they don’t give up but just keep going, which is why you see so many at the top level.

“For sure it’s good that you test a young stallion with all kinds of things, but eventually the horses that jump at the highest level have proven they can also handle defeat. They compensate with their character and they want to do better, and this is what Diamant de Semilly is passing on. Otherwise he wouldn’t have so many international horses as offspring.

“I can see also the strong character of Diamant de Semilly in Don VHP and Emerald, they are the boss in the stable. Also if we have new staff or a stranger comes in they will test them immediately. They smell and sniff one time, and know exactly what they have. With Don VHP I have a nice anecdote: We had a new person in the stable, but already a man with quite some experience with horses and who was a bit older. I asked him if he could remove Don VHP’s bandages. He came back after 15 minutes and said ‘I think Don VHP want to keep his bandages on.’ This was again something typical for Don VHP. I have heard several times the story about Diamant de Semilly’s character and Don VHP is exactly the same.”

A personal anecdote from this article’s writer

Four years ago I met Margit Otto Crepin during the Holsteiner stallion approvals, thanks to Denis and Sylvie Brohier. She asked me to meet her and her horses at the Holsteiner Verband, where she was based. When I arrived she was a riding a beautiful stallion, his name was Balou, officially Balthazar de Fougard. In the intervening years that I have known her she’s said several times that Balou was the most intelligent horse that she rode in her life. She loved him dearly.

It was also the time that I went to Saint Lo, called Margit and gave my phone to Eric Levallois so they could talk about Balou’s sire, Diamant de Semilly. Eric was confused and asked if she was going to ride dressage with him. ‘No, no, he will become a jumper.’

Later Margit confessed that it was the first time she’d talked with Eric, but she’d also collected magazine articles about Diamant de Semilly. I miss her dearly as she passed away early in 2020. But hopefully I will never forget the look in her eyes when she was talking about her Balou. ■



Ranking the rankings, and what common sense rejects

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/LUKASZ KOWALSKI, FEI/RICHARD JULLIART

It's like the search for the Holy Grail, the quest for a perfect, scientifically based method of evaluating stallions, but every attempt seems to throw up results that common sense rejects. In the 30 years I've spent looking closely at Warmblood breeding, more and more, I come to the opinion, that success is about equal parts the shrewd eye of the master breeder, and sheer blind luck, and that the really shrewd eyes focus not on the stallion but the mare...

However, one online website has brought some new and innovative ways of analysing breeding to the table and most recently have unveiled two ground-breaking rankings. They set out to rank the world's most successful breeders, looking at both the number of progeny to compete internationally and the prizemoney won by them.

I guess it is not surprising that the breeder with the most representatives by a long long margin is Paul Schockemöhle. Oh yeah, do I hear you say, he breeds a thousand foals every year, of course he will have the most. But long-time stable rider, Alois Pollman-Schweckhorst, told me it was not just weight of numbers. "He has around 1,000 mares but he knows every broodmare by name. If you say one name of a mare, he says, 'yes, the grandmother of this mare, I bought from Hartwig Steenken, or Alwin Schockemöhle in 1970.... She is related to this horse and this horse'. That is knowledge

that no one else has, and then it comes, maybe by intuition. He has the best experience, and the best success."

In the period examined – 365 days (from 2019 to 2020), Schockemöhle's Gestüt Lewitz produced a staggering 911 competitors, with the next most successful, the Belgian studfarm Stal den Bisshop, producing 78, and the third, the French stud, SCEA Riverland, 73.

I think sometimes people get too hung up on which ranking is the 'real' one, when in truth they are just different ways of looking, different lenses, drawing our attention to a new horse, a new breeder, like SCEA Riverland.

Elevage de Riverland

As usual, behind every good horse there's a great story, and so it is with Elevage de Riverland. The stud was established in 1996 by Mickaël Varliaud when he was just 17 years old. Mickaël's father, who owned a food company, liked to encourage his son, so he bought him the farm, but it was up to the youngster to do the rest, starting from scratch, transforming it into a stud, step by step, largely by himself. As a young professional rider, Mickaël did not have the money to buy ready-made horses, so he started to breed his own.

As a child he had ridden ponies on his uncle's farm and as he grew up started a couple of horses each year on the national young horse circuit before he arrived at Riverland – eponymously named for the little rivers that criss-cross the farm. It is in the rich animal breeding area of Charente Limousine (to the northeast of Bordeaux), and is home to cattle, sheep, and, of course, horses.

Currently Riverland produces between 60 and 80 foals per year. Right from the start Mickaël focused only on top motherlines, preferably mares with a lot of blood, and each year only the best were selected and kept.

One of the mare lines is that of Quidam de Revel, with the stud having his half sister Tosca de Revel (Kissovo x Dirka) and full sister, Razzia de Revel (Jalisco B - Dirka x Nankin). Tosca produced Jalis de Riverland (Bleu Blanc Rouge) who jumped 1m60 with Roger-Yves Bost. Mickaël



Balou du Reventon (Cornet Obolensky) and Darragh Kenny (IRL)

then bought Jalis's full sister, Isis Rouge, who is the dam of Presence de Riverland (Kannan) who is jumping 1m35 at the age of seven, and Hold Up Riverland (L'Arc de Triomphe), second in the French three-year old-championship and now sold to Germany.

Quidam's full-sister, Razzia, has produced Stella de Riverland (Cornet Obolensky) a 1m60 competitor with Juliette Faligot and second in the CSI4* at St Lo, as well as the full-brother, Quatro de Riverland, a stallion at Riverland. Razzia is also the dam of Missrazzia de Kerser (Chapman Rouge) who is the mother of Delvis de Riverland (Elvis ter Putte) who placed in the four-, five-, and six-year-old French finals, and is now competing in seven-year-old classes with Timothée Ancaume.

Riverland also has four mares that descend from the granddam of international star Itot du Chateau; Javotte D, by the Ibrahim son, Cor de Chasse out of an Anglo Arab mare by Rantzau xx. That mare line has produced HH Bresil de Riverland, 1m50 with Quentin Judge, and Bentley de Riverland/aka Oak Grove's Laith (London) who jumps 1m55 with Abdel Said.

There is also the mare line of the highly successful Fragrance du Chalus (Jalisco B x Fury de la Cense), a line that produced Dorado de Riverland (Untouchable M x Argentinus), winner of the French five-year-old championship, seventh in the six-year-old, and third in the seven-year-old age-group finals.

Other lines represented at Riverland include those of Nidor Platiere (1979/SF: Gentleman Platiere), Narcos II (1979/SF: Fairplay), Kinette de Launay (1976: Quastor/SF), Almé (1966/SF: Ibrahim), Dollar dela Pierre/aka Tlaloc La Silla (1991/SF: Quidam de Revel), Orient Express (2002/SF: Quick Star), Urleven Pironniere (1986/SF: Hurlevent), Mozart des Hayettes (1996/sBs: Papillon Rouge (SF)), Apache d'Adriers (1988/SF: Double Espoir), L'Arc de Triomphe (1999/Oldbg: Landor S), and Taloubet Z (2000/KWPN: Galoubet A (SF)).

I asked Mickaël Varliaud who had been the most important stallions in his breeding program?

"In the past we have used the successful stallions Papillon Rouge, Diamant de Sémilly, Dollar du Murier, Quick Star and Quidam de Revel. Now we really like the eight-year-old, Candy de Nantuel (Luidam x Diamant De Sémilly) who seems to be a very promising stallion for the future. We are also really impressed with the skills transmitted by HH Bresil de Riverland (Canturano I x Quidam de Revel), the foals are very exciting. We also have the full brother of Arqana's mother as a stallion, Quatro de Riverland (Diamant de Sémilly x Jalisco B). We are very happy with his offspring, they are all very good jumpers. And we use also Mylord Carthago (Carthago x Jalisco B) because he is very successful as a stallion.

Which horse has been your most successful jumper in the last year?

"This year for sure, Arqana de Riverland (Cornet Obolensky x Diamant de Sémilly) has been the most successful one, but Dorado de Riverland also had an incredible season. Ryanair de Riverland (Quick Star x Papillon Rouge) and Teck de Riverland (Quick Star x Cincaba Rouge) are also in very good shape, and we have many young horses of five, six, seven and eight years old who are really talented and coming to the best level."

What are the most important things to keep in mind to breed successful jumpers?

"Good selection of the broodmares to start, trying to do the best cross, well fed, good grass and good management of the fields and the cultures, and after we need to find the right way for each horse."

Western Europe still dominates the top breeders rankings, with 29 of the 30 from six different European nations. The remarkable success in recent years of Belgian breeding is underlined, with 12 of the 30 from that tiny country. Jumping breeding has a long history in France, and that country supplies eight of the top 30, followed by four from Germany, three from The Netherlands, two British and one Mexican.

The 'alternative' ranking then refined its analysis, looking at the average winnings per horse. Once again, Paul Schockemöhle heads the ranking with a total winnings €3,277,562. The PS contingent was led by the Cornet Obolensky son Balou du Reventon, who won €341,822 during the 365-day period with his Irish rider, Darragh Kenny.

Again, it is worth noting that while Balou du Reventon is by the Belgian-bred Cornet Obolensky, by Heartbreaker – a typically Dutch mix of Holsteiner, Selle Français and Thoroughbred, with just a touch of the native Gelderlander – on the bottom line Balou du Reventon is out of a mare who combines several of the foundation stallions of the Schockemöhle family's breeding program. Georgia is by the Contender son, Continue (out of a mare by the half blood stallion, Tin Rocco), one of the Schockemöhle stalwarts, out of a damline that goes back to another influential Schockemöhle sire, Gepar by Gotthard.

The secret of Paul Schockemöhle's success

Looking at the figures from these rankings, it's pretty amazing that your studfarm produced almost 1,000 international jumpers over the past 12 months, compared to the next highest total that was less than 100 – what is the secret?

"Okay there are two reasons. First of all I have more mares than the others, so I produce more horses. But I have also selected my mares very carefully over more than 30 years. All the matches of which mare goes to which stallion I do myself. I know every stallion. I use not only my own



Jade vd Bisschop (Ogano Sitte x Grammus) with Pieter Devos (BEL)

stallions, but I use a lot of others from around the world, wherever I see a good stallion, I try to get semen from him.

“Fifty percent of my foals are born by embryo transfer, that means the best mares get more foals and the mares that I judge to be not so good I use as recipients. It is through that whole program that I think I am more successful than the others.”

Looking at your top horse over the last 12 months, Balou du Reventon – okay, he is by Cornet Obolensky, but when I look at the mare line, I see stallions that have been foundation sires in your program going back 30 years. How important are those sires from early times in breeding today's modern Warmblood?

“It is totally important that you have good mare lines, mares that have jumped themselves. Not only that, I use also young mares, look at them free jumping, and then early in their career I use embryo transfer. But in general, all the good horses, in the end, come out of the same lines. Of the foals I have, 90% are out of mares whose lines I've had for 20 years. You have to have the lines, but you also have to test them, jump them. We ride a lot of horses, and the good mares get three, four, five foals a year.”

Is that the art of a good breeder, to know what the mare has, and what she needs from the stallion to complement her qualities? That knowing the mare is more important than knowing the stallion...

“I think both is important, but without knowing the dam you have very little chance. I do all the matches myself, I know the mares, the jumping, the temperament, the soundness, then I look for stallions that will match and improve, because there are no perfect horses in the world. Know the stallions very well, but also know the mares very well. For the past five years I've had more success with my own stallions because I know them very well and how they are made. But still the thing is, every good horse has to be made, if they are very talented and they come to a bad rider, then it won't work. As better the horse is, the better the rider should be.”

Stal den Bisschop

The Belgian operation Stal den Bisschop took second place with their products winning €1,412,694 this past year, ahead of Dutch breeder, G.W.Klerk with a total of €1,029,482. At this point the ranking draws attention to the fact that the Schockemöhle representatives only averaged €3,597, while the Bisschop horses averaged €18,112. This opens a can of statistical worms....

Okay, the Bisschop average looks brilliant against the Schockemöhle average until you realise that it is largely thanks to the €1,131,581 won by Jasmien vd Bisschop (Larino x Chin Chin) that their average is so high. If we take out the highest earner for both studfarms, then the picture is rather different. The Schockemöhle average without

Balou du Reventon is not much changed – €3226 – but the Bisschop average without Jasmien plummets around €14,000 to €3,650. The Dutch breeder G.W. Klerk's result is also almost entirely due to one horse, Christian K (Nameless R) who contributed €1,029,057 of Klerk's €1,029,482 total.

In the early days, the WBFSH world sire rankings were weighted very heavily to horses that produced one superstar champion, so we had a series of one-horse wonders topping the charts, particularly the dressage rankings, so we should be careful of 'averages' that are heavily influenced by one brilliant individual – which is not to deny that Jasmien vd Bisschop is a very, very fine competitor indeed...

Jasmien, who has been a superstar for Daniel Deusser, is by Grand Prix jumping stallion Larino, who combines most of the names that have made Dutch breeding so successful. He is by the Voltaire son, Concorde, and Concorde is out of a mare by one of the early Trakehners to come to Holland, Marco Polo. Larino is out of Erina by the Ramiro son, Armstrong, out of a German mare who combines the influential Hanoverian, Sender, with the Anglo Arab, Ramzes, and the Selle Français stallion that contributed so much to Dutch breeding, Le Mexico.

Jasmien's dam is BWP-branded but her blood is straight from Holstein, by Chin Chin (Constant x Farnese) out of a Goodwill (Landgraf x Moltke) mare.

Jasmien is the product of one of Belgium's most successful studs, Bisschop, the passionate project of Ines and Tom Decraene. The stud breeds around 50 foals from 25 donor mares a year, using embryo transfers so that the mares are able to continue with their own careers in sport. The mares are bred as two year olds and go under saddle when they are three.

The horse that put Bisschop on the map was Dulf van den Bisschop (Heartbreaker x Libero H) – a champion at the BWP-stallion approval as a three-year-old. Then came a

string of top liners: Harley vd Bisschop (Dulf van den Bisschop x Coronado) with Nicola Phillipaerts and now with Ireland's Bertram Allen; Ida vd Bisschop (Kashmir van Schuttershof x Papillion Rouge), a 1m60 competitor with the Swedish rider Irma Karlson; Foica vd Bisschop (Vigo d'Arsouilles x Lys de Darmen) with the Swiss rider Jane Richard Philips; Jasmien vd Bisschop (Larino x Chin Chin) with Daniel Deusser; and Jade vd Bisschop (Ogano Sitte x Grannus) with Pieter Devos. It really is a most impressive list.

I asked Tom how he became involved:

"The passion for horse breeding had already started in my youth. We owned a few mares. My parents were dairy farmers who also attached great importance to the genetics of their cows. I think that's what gave me a passion for breeding and genetics. In 1999, when I was 25 years old, we bought our farm in Melle. This was a dairy farm that we also expanded further in combination with horse breeding. In 2007 our horse breeding had grown to such an extent that we then decided to stop the dairy sector completely and only continue with horse breeding. That was our greatest passion, by the way.

"We have always strived to breed a modern sport horse. We did not stick to certain lines or stallions, but we always tried to combine the best everywhere.

"We have always used proven sires in our breeding as well as good young stallions, provided they come genetically from an interesting family. We also attach great importance to the mentality of the horses. Intelligent, willing horses are very important in modern sport. In recent years we have always had our own stallion at our stud farm. We then give them the opportunity to prove themselves in breeding. Currently this is Comme d'Api vd Hacienda (Cumano x Darco), a stallion who himself competed 1m60 with Daniel Deusser. His offspring is doing very well. The most famous is Scott Brash's Hello Mr President."

And the current star, Jasmien?

"Jasmien vd Bisschop was Elchinni vd Flandria's first foal. We bought Elchinni (Chin Chin x Goodwill) when she was four years old. She was injured and would never be able to compete in jumping, but was a very beautiful mare with a lot of blood. Jasmien was sold when she was one-year-old. As a young horse she was ridden by an amateur, but then she showed all her exceptional qualities. Afterwards we only got colts from Elchinni. We therefore have nothing left from this line in our breeding. Two years ago STX stables bought the mare Elchinni from us."

As you can see, these new rankings have refocused our attention on two relatively new studs, and reminded us, if we needed reminding, what a force in the shaping of the modern jumping horse Paul Schockemöhle has been... ■



Jasmien vd Bisschop (Larino x Chin Chin) with Daniel Deusser (GER)

KWPN chairman Andries van Daalen looks back on 2020!

BY CHARLOTTE DEKKER / KWPN
PHOTOGRAPHY: JACOB MELISSEN

“Covid-19 demands creative solutions,” as 2020 goes into the books as an eventful year thanks to the coronavirus pandemic. It affects our daily lives: at work, economically, privately, in services, sport – which encompasses breeding and competitions.

It was necessary to confront the necessary regulations from the government in which the KWPN was forced to cancel many events in the first place. The management and board deliberated on how to responsibly deal with the situation, and KWPN chairman Andries van Daalen said: “Of course, we fully support all these guidelines to slow down the spread of the virus, which resulted in the cancellation of various activities. Behind the scenes, we entered into consultations with the government, and a lot of time and energy was spent on developing protocols as a sector for, in the first place, [micro]chipping foals and organizing studbook inspections. When more was made possible because of a relaxation, we kept in close contact with the government, and everything that could be organized was done according to very strict guidelines and protocols.”

However, many events were cancelled or took place without an audience. “I, and I suspect many with me, have missed contact with our members and other horse enthusiasts. Because, what could be better than exchanging ideas with like-minded people about breeding, the sport, and everything around our beloved KWPN horse. But the reality made clear, that it just wasn't possible this year.”



Andries Van Daalen

Creative solutions

At the same time, a situation like this year forces people to be creative and look for other solutions. Van Daalen said; “For us, this meant more investment in online services. The KWPN championships could not take place, but we broadcast the studbook inspections and the national championship for three-year-old mares via Livesteam. We have also posted many vlogs online, in which breeders, stallion owners, trainers, veterinarians, KWPN officials, and employees showed us ‘the KWPN in corona time’. This was appreciated by the viewers, especially, at a time when there was simply nothing else to do.”

Recently, the first round of viewing of the jumping, dressage, and Gelder stallions was completed at the KWPN Center. Only handlers and supervisors were admitted, and owners could only attend the performance of their own stallion. “But everything was easy to follow via the Livestream on KWPN.tv, our website, and via ClipMyHorse. As a result, 12,000 unique visitors from around 35 countries watched the stallions' performances in the first two days – a number we would never have physically achieved in Ermelo. By this option, the KWPN horse gained even more fame worldwide. I got a lot of positive reactions from the Livestream. Because, for example, the viewing on hard ground, where the stallions are judged for correctness in movement, was easier to follow via the Livestream than ever before. To facilitate trade, the Livestream paid extra attention to the stallions for sale. “The international reach was of course very important and, overall, we can conclude it has turned out to be a successful initiative.”

Financial impact

There is no doubt that the world is in a crisis, so what impact does Covid-19 have on the KWPN's financial balance sheet? Van Daalen explained; “Earlier this year we focused on cost control, but positive noises were soon heard from the field: more mares seem to be covered and the number of foal registrations is higher compared to last year. The number of stallions offered for the first round of viewing compared to last year was almost the same. We have invested more in

online reporting through Livestreams, but had fewer costs in terms of events: These were either canceled or organized on a much smaller scale. Luckily, from a financial point of view, we are closing 2020 on a positive note.”

But looking to 2021, how does Van Daalen see the influence of Covid-19? “A major adjustment that we had to make concerns the KWPN Stallion Show: the largest stallion inspection of Warmblood horses in the world, which normally takes place in the Brabanthallen in 's-Hertogenbosch. Normally, four days of celebration with approximately 25,000 visitors from dozens of countries... it was clear at an early stage that this wouldn't be the case for 2021. We have adjusted the normal ambiance of the stallion shows, and although we do not have the high costs of the location, we miss the proceeds from the public. We are now organizing the KWPN stallion inspection in Ermelo, which specifically means costs and no income. In other words, a financial negative result.”

Five days of viewing pleasure

But anyone who thinks that KWPN enthusiasts should miss the stallion selection is wrong, the KWPN is going to launch a professional online stallion inspection. “From February 2-6, the stallion selection will take place at our beautiful National Equestrian Center in Ermelo, with an adapted program to reduce the flow of necessary people present – the handlers and guides of the horses. Without VIPs, without the press, and without a physical audience in the stands, but with the best that our breeding has produced in recent years. The viewer at home is our primary target audience; offering them five days of viewing pleasure because the Livestream of the stallion selection is alternated with pre-recorded images of older stallions and with numerous interesting interviews from the specially equipped TV studio on site. A professional program, which will be easy to follow for interested foreign parties through subtitles and English explanations. Of course, we will follow all government measures very strictly, and most likely the finals of the stallion competitions cannot take place, so there is also no VHO Trophy. But within what is possible, we still offer the best stallions on an international stage, including the online auction, the KWPN Select Sale.”

Appreciating our best efforts

The necessary decision by not allowing an audience for, for example, the stallion selection, brought disappointing reactions but also evidence of appreciation. “Of course it is a pity if your breeding product is performing in the first viewing, and as a breeder you cannot attend. But in the interest of public health, and of our members and the association as a whole, we had no other choice. Luckily, we have also received a lot of support, from various sides. Including our loyal sponsors and Official Partners: none have withdrawn, even though 2020 was also a tough year for

them. Something I admire and for which we will do everything we can to give them a return in terms of as much exposure as possible through the online channels. Such loyal partners are of great value to a studbook.”

The effects of the pandemic are expected to extend beyond 2021. “Covid-19 will continue to exist. Luckily, we will be able to vaccinate soon, but it probably will not be the last time we will have to deal with such a global impact. It is difficult to predict what the future will look like, but I am convinced that the online world will become more and more important. For several years we were the first in the Netherlands to go online with the foal auctions, this year many followed our example. It is also great to see that the auction turned into a positive result; the majority of foals, embryos, and broodmares auctioned were sold, often abroad.”

Deal with horse welfare consciously and properly

Looking back at 2020, it was certainly not all doom and gloom. Beautiful mares were honoured, complete stallions could be approved and the KWPN was at the top of the WBFSH studbook rankings. “A fantastic performance by our breeders, with many horses in the top five. We are very happy with this, it is a competition between almost 100 studbooks and then you are genuinely proud if you are the number one in dressage, jumping, and eventing. It says something about the quality of our breeders and it indicates that our breeding policy is paying off. Sport is our breeding goal, and that is reflected in our organization, communication, and objectives. For example, our stallion inspection committee has two international showjumping riders, who know from practice what kind of horses the sport requires, how the sport develops, etc. I think it is also an absolute plus that we have been collecting a lot of information over the years, which we then make available to our breeders. We keep insisting that seeing a horse jump over an obstacle once, or a 30-second video of a dressage stallion on the internet, does not provide enough information on which to base a choice of stallion. We provide information about the inheritance of, among other things, exterior, health, and sports aptitude, and we want to invest in expanding this even further. We offer all this as accessibly as possible, so our breeders can take advantage of it. We are currently developing an online tool to advise breeders in their stallion choice, of course also based on data. Becoming the best studbook is not the hardest part: the challenge is to maintain the lead.”

Van Daalen concludes “What I think is very important is attention to horse welfare: of course, in the interests of the horse, which is our loyal partner in sport and breeding and to which we ultimately owe everything. We owe it to them to take optimal care of them. But also in the interests of the entire horse sector: We are under a magnifying glass, and each of us has the responsibility to deal with this consciously and properly.” ■

Marion Hughes: Long lines run deep; Part 1 – The beginning

BY HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOGRAPHY: HUGHES HORSE STUD, PETER LLEWELLYN, AND BREEN EQUESTRIAN

As I sit in the warm kitchen at Hughes Horse Stud in Kilkenny, Marion's daughters are flying out the door in a giggling whirlwind, off to do some Christmas shopping. When I tell them that I'm writing their mum's life story, Marion quietly laughs, "Sometimes I'm not sure if they're even aware I used to ride..."

Marion Hughes' DNA runs through the very heart of Irish breeding, and it is impossible to extract her lineage, both horse and human, from Irish showjumping. Marion is an Olympian, a producer of top-level horses, a champion trainer, and a successful breeder; she is also the mother of three talented daughters, Molly (18), who has competed at junior international level for Portugal, Marta (14), and Maltide (10). Hughes is married to Portuguese international rider and coach Miguel Bravo. Together, they have trained and mentored one of the most promising riders in the sport, the youngest ever Hickstead Derby winner Mikey Pender.

The Hughes family is synonymous with breeding and producing exceptional horses. At one time, Marion's great-aunt Mary Hughes was awarded 'leading breeder' in Europe with only two mares. Mary's original Kells line began with an athletic Irish Draught mare with a particularly impressive step, and from there she bred some incredible sport horses from this lineage. An eye for a quality animal runs through the Hughes' blood, just as these early horses' blood runs right through so many of today's modern Irish Sport Horses.

Marion's deep connection to the Irish Sport Horse is shared with her late father, Seamus Hughes, who (at the time controversially) brought the now legendary Selle Francais and Holstein cross stallion Cavalier Royale (Cor de la Bryere x Liguster) to Ireland in 1989, changing the face of Irish Sport Horse breeding forever. Amongst his great legacy, 51.76% Thoroughbred blood Cavalier Royale was sire of no fewer than four 2008 Olympic performers. The Irish Horse Board (IHB) refused to give him fully approved status at the time, classifying him as 'supplementary sire'. However, breeders trusted the Hughes family and didn't need the IHB sanction, so used him abundantly on their mares. The legacy of Seamus Hughes's brave decision is on-going and can still be seen in the pedigree of many top-performing horses.

Marion Hughes continues the legacy of her aunt, Ita Brennan, the renowned breeder of Olympic horse MHS Going Global (O Quidam Junior II x Cavalier Royale) amongst many other top performers. The extended Hughes family are truly unrivalled in terms of breeding and have bred World Champion, Olympic, Grand Prix, and Nations'

Cup horses. Marion herself initially produced many of these top horses, including 38-times winner of international classes, Royal Charmer (Cavalier Royale x Diamonds Are Trumps) bred by Marion's brother Thomas Hughes and ridden by Markus Fuchs, and also Jessica Kurten's Olympic mount, Diamond Exchange (Diamond Serpent x Artic Que) bred by Mary Hughes. Marion also produced Olympic horse, Special Envoy (Kings of Diamonds x Highland Flight), again bred by Mary Hughes, who was initially ridden by Nelson and then by Rodrigo Pessoa. Marion's cousins Andrew and Niall Hughes run the renowned Ennisnag Stud; her nephews carry the genetic propensity for success with Seamie Hughes Kennedy (son of her sister Clare), winning gold at the showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in 2019, and champion national hunt jockey David Mullins (son of her sister Helen), winning the world-famous Randox Aintree Grand National at only 19 years-old.

◆ In the 1930s your grandfather Thomas Hughes bred 'black horses' for the military, and he had a sharp eye for a good mare. A little later he began to cross draught mares with Thoroughbreds very early on; how did he go about making the stock selections?

At the time in Ireland, we were lucky because we had incredible Thoroughbred stallions such as Highland Flight (Elopement xx x Pactolus xx) and Water Serpent (Shining Tor xx x Unknown) and all those good Thoroughbred stallions in our area. My grandfather started buying some nice mares – I remember one story of a man whose horses were the best to trot in Kilkenny back in the forties. This man could pass everybody on the way into town because, even though they were Irish Draught types, his horses were excellent movers, and they were uniquely athletic. My Grandfather bought these mares and crossed them with Thoroughbred stallions, getting the jumpers from those more athletic mares.

◆ Your father, Seamus, was somewhat of a revolutionary in terms of sport horse breeding in Ireland, famously introducing one of the first continental bred stallions into the country, the legendary Cavalier Royale. But his brother, vet John Hughes was trailblazing too, wasn't he?

My Dad had four brothers and a sister, two of them qualified vets, one, John Hughes, went to Kentucky to work with Thoroughbreds and became obsessed with breeding. He actually avoided going to World War II because he was doing such important research on deceased foals that his employers didn't want to let him go! His hands were amazing; he palpated mares before there were scanners: He worked with his hands to see when a mare was in season; he could tell if a mare's follicles were soft, if she was ready to go, or a bit sore. He's a genius, really, he is. He brought the first scanners back from America to Ireland. On his return to Ireland in the fifties, he went to work for Captain Tim Rogers at Airlie Stud in Kildare, which was largely a Thoroughbred stallion farm. He had his own lab set up – a bit like Coolmore is now; he worked there for 20 years. After Captain Rogers died, John ended up working in half-breds; maybe the Thoroughbred thing collapsed a little bit at that stage.

◆ 'Blood' is a term used every day in the modern breeding industry, and it can seem to have a heady mix of meanings depending on who you're talking to. A certain quality of tissue, a particular mind, a forward position of Thoroughbred blood in the pedigree. For me, the term 'blood' means the Thoroughbred gene is clearly expressed in the horse's physicality. The horse expresses 'blood' in its athletic ability – it expresses fast reflexes, inherent toughness, heart, and stamina. In terms of the Thoroughbred blood at the bottom of most pedigrees in the Irish Sport Horse, where in your opinion did that actually come from?

That's the thing that sometimes annoys me – all those good Thoroughbred stallions; they weren't bred in Ireland; they were English Thoroughbreds. But nobody ever says, 'Oh, we had English Thoroughbreds!'. In terms of the supposed 'threat of the continental stallion', we didn't lose our identity at all because we used an English Thoroughbred way before that. I don't think we should ever worry about losing our identity; we have to keep going with the times with what people want, that's the most important thing.

◆ In your early horses, the Thoroughbred was a huge part of that – the Thoroughbred stallions were brought into Ireland for a specific purpose weren't they? Just as your father brought in Cavalier Royale to add something lacking?

They were brought in because they needed to: We needed to improve. I remember speaking to the owner of King of Diamonds (Errigal X True Boy) and him telling me that the men that brought those Thoroughbred stallions back to Ireland – Imperious xx (Le Cordonnier X Ennis), Bahrain xx (Tulyar x Precipitation), Nordlys xx (Nasrullah x Mieuxce) – they went over to England to find stallions specifically to produce showjumpers. They probably didn't have much of a budget you know. They obviously were smart men. I remember Imperious well, he was a little ball of a horse, and he looked like a muscle. You know, he was just athletic and popped. You could see the electricity, and all of his horses were electric.



Special Envoy in the hands of Rodrigo Peasoa (BRA)

They had that 'zap,' and they could move so quickly.

These men went to England looking for sound horses. Nowadays, maybe, many of the Thoroughbreds used for half-breds are the broken-down ones; you know what I mean? And that's not what you want. I don't really know enough about it, but the few Thoroughbreds I used in the early days, were low to the ground, blood in their body, but not a nice front. I tried up until about 10 years ago to use them; I had a few mares clinging on by Clover Hill, but were too plain and needed a cross of blood. So I tried a few sires that were around but they just weren't quite good enough for modern sport. Of course, that whole cross can work fantastically – I'm really happy to have that cross in the mare, at the bottom of the pedigree. The biggest thing I work from, from that cross, is the heart of the horse. You'd have a certain family line that would give you everything, more careful in the ring, careful over a fence. That's something that cross can give that you can't deny.

◆ And in terms of that traditional cross and its 'heart,' how does that manifest within the modern Irish Sports Horse today?

Heart can make all the difference in a special horse. Loads of horses in the world jump 1m60 fences. Loads! In Europe, any three-year-old can jump a 1m50 fence. They're bred to jump. But it's the horse with that heart and a brain that wants to help you. That's the horse you're looking for; it's the horse that can carry my daughters, and they're scarce because there's a lot of horses with loads of ability, but do they want to do it?

◆ Your father was an incredible horseman in his own right and had a fantastic eye for a horse, but it was his friendship with Swiss dealer Max Hauri that helped shape your future, and in many ways, the future of the Irish Sport Horse wasn't it?

Max was a huge influence on my father and our whole history. He would have bought 120 half-bred or three-quarter bred horses in Ireland per year, and my father was his agent. Every horse we produced here in the seventies, eighties and nineties we sold to Switzerland. He bought 120 horses a year for 40 years, without one x-ray. If Max bought a horse, he vetted

it himself. He had a stethoscope, and he flexed all the horses, went through everything bit by bit, and if he was happy with the horse, he paid for it. And he was accurate: every so often, a horse would have a problem, maybe once every two years out of 200 horses he'd have one problem. If a horse had an x-ray issue or something, we'd take the horse back and give him another horse. We were all in it together; it wasn't like we were trying to rip him off.

I think it's one of the difficulties at the moment if you breed horses and get them to three- or four years old. On x-ray, they have a little chip that doesn't make much difference; when it goes to the States or wherever, vets are nervous about giving a person a guarantee, so they're looking to fail rather than pass the horse. As buyers, I think we all want to know exactly what we have, but there's a balance with what you can live with. That's probably one of the hardest things about breeding, I think, for me as a breeder and a producer; if you have a really nice horse that has bad x-rays, and he's three, do you just blow him out? Or do you say, 'OK, I feel that it's sound, I'll keep going with it – it will always do for my daughters to ride.' And you know what, any one of those that I've done that with has been 100% and never had a problem.

At the end of the day, there's plenty of times I could have sold Flo Jo (Clover Hill x King of Diamonds) when she was coming up, but when you start, you have to keep a few horses and take the risk that you can have the fun in competition. A horse is basically negative equity because it just costs you money; you have to put shoes on him every month and feed him and travel him worldwide. And the prize money at the end of the day is a pittance, unless you can get into the top 30 and win ranking classes. And if you win one ranking class at every show, it sounds like a good result. You're thinking you're making money, but you're not; you're just barely covering costs. I suppose that's the whole idea; you're working for the future to maybe produce a top one eventually.

◆ In terms of the horses your father sold to Max Hauri, what was your method of producing those horses?

We'd have bred half of them and bought half. We'd usually have 15 three-year-olds, and we had to have all the horses jumping over a tyre barrel as a three-year-old by November 1. Max would then come over, and he'd buy about seven of them. We'd keep the other seven and produce them further. Max would go for more event types; he'd always have one or two outstanding ones, and then a few nice dealing horses.

In Switzerland, people loved their horses, and they were happy to buy a young horse and produce them for a year. And they loved Irish horses because they had good brains; they found that they felt safer on an Irish horse. And that cross of the King of Diamonds mare with a Thoroughbred worked well, usually gave them a good brain. So, at 12, I broke three-year-olds and produced them; I did everything with my father; he was a great judge of a horse. When my father went to buy a horse, I went with him. And when we sold the horses to Max, I went with him. Max was a stickler for movement, and he liked a nice straight horse, a good

mover, and good power behind; he'd ride them, he'd assess them. I spent a lot of those years just absorbing their knowledge.

Some horses were sold to Switzerland that I would have ridden as a three-year-old who may have ended up jumping a Grand Prix as an eight-year-old, and that gives you a belief in yourself, knowing that horse was a good horse. It gave me good self-confidence in my own judgement, and also to learn from mistakes. When you buy a horse, there's always a gamble in it somewhere; a horse can go a bit wrong. Soundness is a big issue, soundness is fundamental, so start with a sound horse if you're planning long-term.

◆ Do you think horses are less sound now? There are current arguments that line-breeding or restricted gene pools may be affecting soundness in sports horses?

I think the horses have got more athletic, and they've actually got more sound, in a way. If I look back on it, the horses from 30 years ago wouldn't be athletic enough and careful enough for today's sport. Fences have become so tactical. Before, you had big long gaps between the fences, so the horses didn't have to have such a good canter, they could pull and push in-between the fences, and they could still jump them. Now, unless you're in a very good rhythm, and you can stay in that rhythm, you're in trouble. If you jump a Grand Prix course today, you'll have a set pattern of strides. The times allowed are so tight that if you're not able to take out a stride here or there, it's impossible. The horses have to be super sound because they do turn-backs, 360-degree turn-backs! And if you have a horse that's a bit sore, he won't be able to do that turn-back, he'll lose his power. So, I actually think the horses are sounder, but we demand a lot more of them, and they have to jump more.

◆ The sport itself has progressed, and so inevitably, we see that the Irish Sport Horse horse had to change to suit a developing market, what are some of those changes?

People got better at riding – amateurs originally just wanted to jump 1m20, 1m30 – now the amateurs want to jump 1m40, 1m50. So, they need genuine 1m50 horses. It takes a lot of work to produce a horse up to that level. In our own way in



Z7 Flo Jo clone – ridden by David Simpson (IRL)

Ireland, we're used to selling our young horses; not that many produce horses and wait. We're a very small country if you compare it to Germany, France, the number of horses they can produce, the amount of land they have. Even England is a huge country compared to Ireland. It's all about the production, and knowing what the end market want, and you always have to try to strive to be better. Standards are always rising.

◆ You finished your career in ponies in 1984 by winning Irish team gold with your seven-year-old Thoroughbred pony Bright Ruby. How did your path to success start with horses?

When I was 17, I rode Special Envoy (King of Diamonds x Highland Flight), we had him at home, and he was a fantastic horse. However, I didn't have the knowledge or expertise at that time to bring him to the next level. My Dad bought him as a three-year-old from his aunt Mary Hughes of Kilmanahan; she bred him. She bred Special Envoy, Vivaldi (Water Serpent x Unknown xx), and also Diamond Exchange (Diamond Serpent x Artic Que)."

We sold Special Envoy to Max Hauri. His sister, Heidi Robbiani, had won bronze at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games with a horse called Jessica V (Candelabra xx x Unknown) that my father had bought with Max at Dublin Horse Show. She then bought Special Envoy from Max as a six-year-old, and produced it, but wasn't so much into sport after she had won an Olympic medal, so she gave Special Envoy to Nelson Pessoa (she owned Vivaldi as well and had given him to Nelson, who had won multiple Hamburg Derbys on him). Special Envoy was an amazing horse for him and they won many classes together before he gave him to his son, Rodrigo. That partnership went on to achieve incredible things, including second place in the 1991 FEI World Cup Final, ninth at the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games, fourth for team Brazil, and eighth individually at the 1994 World Equestrian Games. I was lucky, as a young rider to train with the Pessos for two months, and I brought three horses with me, including my future champion horse Flo Jo who was six at the time.

◆ Flo Jo was twice winner of the Queens Cup and winner of the Tripoli Grand Prix, among many other accolades, and your story with her is a particularly inspiring one. She was far from an obvious horse to make it to the heights she did. Can you describe your journey with her?

I bred Flo Jo (Cloverhill x King of Diamonds) myself. As a three-year-old, she was only 15.3, with turned-in feet, a scatty little mare, and we didn't think anything of her. She was all over the place to lunge over a fence – she didn't know what she was doing. We broke her and sat on her, but she was head in the air, and we didn't value her very much so didn't think even Max would buy her. So, we sold her and another horse for €1,500. She failed the vet for Goresbridge as they said she was a shiverer, so we got her back. She actually only left our house for a week. Once she came back, she was ridden over a few fences, she was a green three-year-old at the time, and she probably clonked out a few poles. Suddenly, she got smart and

started to focus on the fence and not above the fence.

My sister Clare rode her at the Dublin Horse Show as a five-year-old, and she was clear, clear, clear! Clare loved her, but she had to go off to college, so I took Flo Jo – Clare went mad! When I brought her to Pessoa's as a six-year-old with a couple of others, I only had my uncle's old saddle. In those days, nobody bought tack as they thought it was a waste, and when I think back, it's so embarrassing. I arrived in Pessoa's and came out with my big saddle. He felt so sorry for me, so gave me one of his.

We rode on the flat for eight weeks over poles and poles and poles, and we did about six hours of dressage every day. Just flat work – not dressage, but flatwork. It was the best thing that I ever did as it gave me the foundation of my whole career. I would have ridden from feel all my life, not so much in the jumping part, but in the basics of getting a horse to ride. Knowing what you're doing, at least if you have the basics, you can go back to the basics when something falls apart. That was great for me too, but we had lots of horses at home and nobody else to ride them, so I had to come back.

I started to produce the horses, and got a bit more experience between 20 and 25 years old, by which time I had horses up to national Grand Prix level for the first time, and then I started on the national circuit."

◆ You never managed to have a foal from Flo Jo although she was cloned in 2013 and 2014 by Sheikha Maitha Al Maktoum. The six-year-old clone Z7 Flo Jo is currently ridden at Im30 by David Simpson in the UAE. Also in testament to the outstanding genetics, her half-sister went on to breed a real superstar in Echo Beach (Clover Echo x Cavalier Royale) didn't she?

Flo Jo jumped a lot; she was still winning classes when she was 16. At 17, we tried to put her in foal, but didn't manage it. It broke our hearts. I even sent her to Shockemohle, and at the time he tried to help us and do embryo transfer, but sadly we never got anything from her. We had her sisters though – my Dad had given a half-sister as a wedding present to my sister. The mare's name was Gifted (Cavalier Royale x King of Diamonds) and she turned out to be the mother of Cian O' Connor's Grand Prix mare, Echo Beach. She took Cian to the Lummen Nations' Cup in 2007 and World Cup Qualifier in 2009. I'd bought Echo Beach from my sister as a three-year-old, and then I had my daughter Molly when the mare was six. I had ridden her in Dublin, and Cian O'Connor saw her, and he loved her. He begged to buy her, but I didn't want to sell her. It was never the plan to sell her, but I had just had my baby, and I was a bit in-between. What should I do? So I sold her, and I suppose she made Cian's career really. She was a brilliant mare, a lucky mare. Successful Grand Prix performer and sire Beach Ball (OBOS Quality x Clover Echo) was out of Echo Beach. All those successful Beach Ball genes are all coming back to Flo Jo. I see that as Flo Jo's way back in some ways, so she's not really gone. My sister also has two daughters from Gifted in her breeding programme, so we still have that line going.

◆ In 1994 you went to your first Nations Cup show in Lucerne as the fifth rider with Flo Jo and another mare?

I went with another mare called Happy Lady by King of Diamonds out of a Thoroughbred mare. We got her back cheap from Sweden where she was just being used as a speed mare. She won the first speed class in Lucerne, so my Mum and Dad came over to watch us, and they had dinner that evening with Max Hauri. The Irish team was the next day (I wasn't on the team), but I had Flo Jo there to do the Grand Prix. However, that evening in Lucerne, my Dad dropped dead of a heart attack. That was very hard at the time.

I came home and regrouped, but I kept going. I'd bought one horse with Max that he thought was a bit difficult, so we bought it 50-50, and he was called Carnival Bouncer, by King of Diamonds out of a Thoroughbred mare. In his pedigree, he's actually down as being by Carnival Night, but I was always told he was King of Diamonds. He was a bit stupid in his brain, but super technique with his legs. A bit spooky and a bit difficult. He was a super horse for me, came second in the World Cup in Millstreet, and because of that, I was given a place on the Irish team to jump in Brussels. The World Cup shows at the time were a big deal. So, because I got some points, they let me go to the next one, and eventually, I got a private invitation to Geneva Horse Show, which was huge. I drove myself down to Geneva, and I remember I stayed with Philippe Le Jeune on the way down, and he gave me a hand with the horses. I was seventh in the World Cup in Geneva, Flo Jo won two classes, and I was also awarded as the leading lady rider. It was amazing, the biggest [indoor] show globally, and I had a great show.

Afterward, I was thinking, 'this is easy', but I went back to Geneva and, oh my God, Geneva is not easy! Everything was fitting into place, the horse was in good form, Flo Jo was such a good winner. The sport was different before because if you went well you got invited to another show, and that's the way my career progressed. You couldn't just go to shows if you didn't have some results behind you. I built it up from the start, I'd say as a young person, when my concentration was on winning at Dublin Horse Show, the young horse classes and stuff like that – we had no chance to buy an experienced horse, we didn't even consider buying an old horse, I just built what I had. So, Flo Jo and Carnival Bouncer were the two that we kept.

◆ You met your future husband, Portuguese international showjumper Miguel Bravo at the European Championships in Switzerland in 1996, and you ended up swapping horses with him?

Miguel had two older horses, so I took his older ones to campaign – I was more competitive than he was!"

◆ Those older horses, would they be the first continental-bred horses that you'd really ridden? As a rider, did you find much of a difference?

That I would have jumped, yes. And, not really. No, they're just useful horses, Heritage Poker (unrecorded) was a good



Marion Hughes and her daughters: [l-r] Marta, Molly, Matilda [centre front]

horse, but he would have known all the tricks in the trade, bless him, but I think if you get the horse on side for you, he tries a bit for you, and you can get a fair bit out of them. The other horse was French-bred, Vaor d'Isigny (Orgueil du Donjon x Fairplay III), a bit of a trotter, he had a terrible canter. But super careful, and I won three classes with him. That was Miguel's father's horse, and he had bought it for Miguel to ride. When he was sold, Miguel wanted to buy another older horse, and I was keen that we'd buy a good investment, rather than just buying an older horse.

We ended up buying Heritage Fortunus (Foxhunter x Metellus), bred by Hans Ulrich Zischke. Miguel rode him at the European Championships in Mannheim as a nine-year-old. Miguel was on the Portuguese team at the time, so they got to do many nice shows, and the horse was produced nicely. We decided that I'd take over the horse and I'd try to aim for the Olympics. It worked out really well; the horse went well for me, he was super careful, and we had an excellent connection. We did the whole winter tour, all the World Cup shows, and I got on all the Nations' Cup teams with him. People think they need loads of horses, but if you have one superstar horse, it can take you a long way.

◆ Breeding that superstar horse is a task, though, isn't it? Part plan, part luck? It's big business too, and there seems to often be a difference between breeding commercially and breeding to improve things. Obviously, these two are not mutually exclusive. Some commercially successful breeders also improve the breed: I sense an atmosphere of unease amongst some breeders however, that with the acceleration of ICSI and what could be seen as the over-use of certain damlines or stallions, that the 'business' of breeding may leave the grassroots breeders or indeed 'the wild-card' behind. What is the current landscape of sport horse breeding and where does Ireland currently sit within that in your opinion?

I met a lady last year in Wellington who wanted a horse to jump 1m10, but it had to be beautiful, and it had to be easy, and she wanted it to look super elegant when she came into the

ring so that everybody was going to stop and look at her, and she didn't mind spending \$200,000 on it. But it had to tick all those boxes. I said, 'okay, well I have a lovely Irish horse here now, he'll win all those 1m10s for you. He just hovers around over the floor, but you can buy it for \$50,000.' She didn't want it! She'd prefer to spend \$200,000 and get exactly what she wants.

In Holland for the last 30 years, they have built up a relationship with America, and they have bred the horses that the American market wants. So the American hunter horses all come from Holland because they breed exactly what they want. It's very specific. It's amazing what the Dutch have really, they analyse everything, and everything is done for a reason. They don't just breed like blah, blah, blah, like we do at times in Ireland. We're hobby breeders – 90% of Ireland are hobby breeders. We do it because of our passion and because we always used to breed a horse etc. In Europe, they don't really have the natural land to do that, plus it's so much more expensive. So they've created the auctions, they've created the shows. If you are based in Belgium, you could go to a five-star show every two weeks.

I'd say six days a week; there's either an auction, a viewing of two-year-old stallions, there's always something on. It's a huge industry in Europe. So because of this huge industry, there's a bigger market, and you stay much more alert to what's popular, what's making money, and then you get more interested in doing the right thing.

The only problem I can see with ICSI is that perhaps it's going to end up that only the really wealthy people and the people who have owned 1m60 mares will breed with the best horses. It's hard for the normal breeder to compete against that. ICSI I'm unsure of at the moment, although embryo transfer for me is not a problem. If you have an embryo, it has every chance to be a good horse – it doesn't matter about the recipient's influence. It's all about the genetics, really, but the ICSI embryo's genetics, because the sperm is a bit weaker, it could be different.

I still have enough of the genetics going back for a line, but now it's in the grand-parents' generation. It's there, but you need a good stallion, and you need everything else to fall into place as well to connect it all.

◆ You obviously think those older traditional Irish lines can still be positive within pedigrees, ideally crossed out with modern, athletic, continental horses, but what is it in particular these horses have brought to the Irish Sport Horse?

Well, when we used Cavalier Royale, we already had mares a bit similar to Flo Jo. Good, brainy, careful Irish mares with a super technique in front. Now most European horses are a bit open in front but have a much better back end. When I broke all of those horses at the start of my career, I knew the horses inside out. An Irish horse couldn't do a flying change, and it wasn't, 'Ah, because we're uneducated, we couldn't teach it.' It wasn't that. They simply had no elevation in their canter. So when I came to break the Cavaliers, I'd be riding them, and they'd do a flying change without even asking, but it took me

two years to train a King of Diamonds horse to do a flying change. Physically, the continental bred horses can just do it; they have that extra gene in them. They have elevation in their canter to swap over their lead in the midst of the elevation. I remember trying to teach Special Envoy to do a flying change, and he got so worried about it. He didn't have that elevation, which made him stressed, and I think that probably came from the Thoroughbred a bit. The Irish breeds are inclined to run on the ground; they don't go high in the canter.

The amateurs of today wouldn't want that flat canter anymore. They want a high canter; they want to ride down and close the distance, go a short four, or open up the distance and go on a long four. That's why the sport has evolved. We can't go back to what we had before. It's gone. That elevated canter was definitely the reason why we got Cavalier Royale. He had a good brain, and he really was a foundation stallion. Max said to my father, 'You know, you need to get a bit more blood to go forward in Ireland. You need to get something into Ireland that helps the breed.'

◆ Modern demands on our horses have increased, as have the demands on our riders. Do you think contemporary sport needs to be changed in any way?

Years ago, Irish horses would do the Dublin Horse Show and do maybe two or three big trips a year, but they weren't consistently on the road. Today for the ranking points, if you don't get into the top 30, you can't go to the big shows. It's a vicious cycle, so you have to stay on the road. I think you should only be able to do 40 shows – you can do 52 shows if you want, but you should have to decide which 10 months you want to do, and then you scratch two months to rest you and rest the horse. It's unfair to riders if they have a family and children. Originally they didn't even give maternity leave for anybody that had a child; it was never even thought of. If you miss shows or get sick, your points drop; it's unfair – you should be able to freeze your points, if necessary. I think 40 weeks would be nearly perfect for most riders, and it would open up the shows to let more riders compete. It would give riders a better lifestyle so they could be home for a little bit with their families, and it would take the relentless pressure of our horses too. ■

Part 2 of Helen Sharp's interview with Marion Hughes will appear in our February 2021 issue.



Marion with husband Miguel Bravo

Influential sires present during Zangersheide expertise

BY JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY STUDFARM ZANGERSHEIDE

Like so many other events, Zangersheide's autumn stallion expertise took place without an audience due to the coronavirus restrictions. The decision was, therefore, taken to move the event from hometown Lanaken to the Equestrian Center de Peelbergen in the Netherlands, where a total of 16 stallions were approved.

When we analyse the sire lines of the approved stallions, the French progenitors Diamant de Semilly and Quidam de Revel stand out, followed by Corrado I (Holsteiner) and Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve (BWP).

From Diamant de Semilly, number two in the most recent WBFSH sire ranking, two direct sons were accepted for breeding, namely Rising Star (bred by Mario De Backer out of Calvanula Z, a daughter of Calvados Z) and Rien A Declarer MxL, bred by Pieter Merckx and Maria Linander. Regarding the latter's dam, La Dolce Vita MxL, Pieter Merckx said: "Before she competed briefly in France, up to 1m20 level, she produced three descendants, before she was injured in sport. When she recovered we had her covered again. In 2015, she became the dam of Pompeii MxL (Cornet Obolensky/ex Windows van het Costersveld) and in 2016 produced Quelle Diamant MxL, a full sister to Rien A Declarer MxL. Quelle Diamant gave birth to a foal by Tobago Z this year and is again in foal to Tobago Z. La Dolce Vita also produced a colt by Tobago Z this year, christened Troublemaker MxL. Next year we are expecting a foal from Old Chap Tame out of La Dolce Vita.

"She is a beautiful dam who inherited the sharpness of her sire, Bamako de Muze. La Dolce Vita's dam, Galina van de Zeshoek, had no sporting career. Galina's dam,

Douwinaourai, is a half-sister to Bijou Orai who, in turn, is the dam of Eldorado van de Zeshoek. We consciously chose not to start Galina in sport because we feared that she would one day be sold. In retrospect, we should perhaps have brought her out in the sport. Ninja MxL, a seven-year-old daughter by I'm Special de Muze out of Galina, participated at the final in Falsterbo and is ready to perform at 1m30 level. We still have several young descendants from Galina of which we expect a few nice things for the future."

Galina has already issued her business card in breeding several times. Via La Dolce Vita is the granddam of the newly approved Rien A Declarer MxL and via Mylona van de Zeshoek (Vigo d'Arsouilles) she is the granddam of approved stallion Romeo van de Zeshoek (Eldorado van de Zeshoek).

La Dolce Vita MxL belongs to the BWP dam line 59, a performance line of showjumping cracks such as Valdorai, Bijou Orai and Eldorado van de Zeshoek. Merckx continued by saying, "It is a pity that we didn't let Galina and her half-sister Jakarta van de Zeshoek (Numero Uno) start in showjumping competitions because we are now missing a generation. The next generation will arrive, but that will take a while. This year we had a son by Emerald van't Ruytershof out of Jakarta, called Energy MxL Z, who was sold during the BWFA auction. Jakarta's descendants are usually very sharp and sensitive, while the offspring of her half-sister Galina are calmer, have more inner blood and are a bit easier to handle." Rien A Declarer MxL was also sold at auction as a foal at the Veulenvelling Midden-Nederland sale."

Explaining the MxL suffix, Merckx said: "My family name is Merckx, that of my wife is Linander." And he is no stranger to breeding as his father, Paul, bred the famous progenitor Eldorado van de Zeshoek, number 17 in the world ranking for the best suppliers of international showjumpers. "My wife is a veterinary surgeon and following her studies we left for France. Most of our horses are staying with us." Merckx divides his time between working as a professional accountant and his horses. "The number of foals that we



breed every year is increasing. In the past we yearly bred two or three foals, nowadays seven. The colts are usually sold, the fillies are kept. We have been breeding for seven or eight years. At the time, I rode the dams we breed with. Once I stopped riding, we started using the dams in our studfarm.' Pieter has already achieved several successes: 'This year Rien A Declarer MxL was approved as a stallion in Zangersheide, last year it was Qing Qong MxL, a son by Matisse de Mariposa out of a daughter by Amke-S. He was also approved by Zangersheide.'

Diamant did not only exert his influence through two newly approved sons. Via three sons (namely Diarado, Dominator 2000 Z, and Emerald van 't Ruytershof) he became the grandfather of three stallions accepted for breeding. We are talking about Dior (Diarado - Alesia x Con Air 7, bred by Henk Jan Noordhof), Emidor Z (Emerald van 't Ruytershof - Cacilla Z x Cooper van de Heffinck, breeder: Frank Elias) and Da Vinci van de Begijnakker Z (Dominator 2000 Z).

Da Vinci van de Begijnakker Z was bred by the 47-year-old Bart Keisse, who talked about the stallion's dam, Hymne vd Begijnakker: "She is by Helios de la Cour II out of Voyelle van de Begijnakker (Palestro vd Begijnakker). Hymne didn't perform in sports because during that period I had few breeding dams. Hymne is a half-sister to Challenge vd Begijnakker who has very well at international five-star level, and approved international sport stallion Certain vd Begijnakker (Cardento), as well as Kannan descendants Monet and Noyelle vd Begijnakker. I consciously chose to use Hymne directly as a breeding dam. On the other hand, her half-sister, Noyelle van de Begijnakker, has competed in sport. In partnership with Andres Vereecke, Noyelle participated in last year's final of the Belgian championship in Gesves and the final of the six-year-old world championship in Lanaken. This year, she was not able to jump much due to the corona crisis, but during the competitions in which she started, she showed many qualities for the future."

As a granddaughter of Papillon Rouge, Keisse explained: "At the time, I appealed to use the French stallion Helios de la Cour II because I am a fan of the blood of Papillon Rouge. In combination with our approved stallion Keops vd Begijnakker (Indoctro) I bred Olaf vd Begijnakker in 2014 out of Hymne. Before he was sold, Olaf won the classic cycle for five-year-old showjumpers. Hymne is now in foal to Diarado. Da Vinci vd Begijnakker showed his qualities during the last stallion expertise. His approval was even more special because he was subsequently purchased by Studfarm Zangersheide, a reference that everyone would like to include in their list."

What makes your dam line so strong? "In our breeding



Approved stallion Nanton (Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve x Chacco-Blue), bred by I. de Crom

we have already made all kinds of combinations. If we go back to the foundation dam Lolita du Calvados (BWP dam line 9), we are already at the sixth generation. We note that every generation has produced approved stallions and international showjumpers. We see the long-term added value in both breeding and sport. We breed on a small scale, a maximum of two to four foals per year. For example, in 2019, Olaf won the cycle and Noyelle was a finalist in Gesves and Lanaken, this year we have an approved stallion. Every year something happens that we can be proud of, which is ultimately one of our goals."

Bart Keisse bred his first foal in 2002, and the start could not have been better: "That was Challenge vd Begijnakker. In my list of best successes as a breeder, Challenge is of course at the very top. He is an unforgettable 'once-in-a-lifetime story'. He was born here, has jumped many of the most important showjumping competitions (for instance in Calgary, the Goteborg World Cup final, the Herning European championship, plus the Aachen and Rome Nations' Cups) where I mostly live as a breeder/owner. Nowadays, Challenge is enjoying his retirement with us, although sometimes my kids ride him. I have also bred several approved stallions, such as Keops, Certain and Da Vinci vd Begijnakker."

Finally, Bart Keisse had words of thanks and praise for his father, Antoine: "He started the breeding activities at the time. Today he still has an important share in breeding 'van de Begijnakker'. He is 74 years old, but still active at our studfarm on a daily basis. He too can enjoy it. It's nice that he remains closely involved."

Following in Diamant's footsteps

We just talked about the influential Diamant de Semilly who saw four sons inscribed for the Z autumn stallion

expertise, however, just as many descended from Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve and Aganix du Seigneur. Finally, two sons of Tangelo were approved: Nanton (bred by I. De Crom out of a daughter by Chacco-Blue) and Mangaloni MB, bred by Maarten Brands and Mieke van den Broek. Brands said: "I am originally a dairy farmer. I have always had a great passion for breeding cows and horses. My father always bred with one or two dams. From the time when I rode ponies I was also interested in showjumping. My father passed away at a young age so I was 19 when I took over his company. I initially bred with a dam that I shared with someone. My girlfriend bought the dam Sylvia, a full sister to Loro Piana Havinia, and there came a point when we merged our interests. Our company is called Highfield Genetics, so from a profitable hobby we have gradually started a new branch, along with the dairy cows, for the breeding of horses.

"We breed 15 to 20 foals a year, making use of seven dam lines. The three-year-old Baloubet du Rouet daughter Maykel Vinia MB is one of my greatest breeding successes as she has approached our breeding goal the best: Blood horses that are athletic and careful, with scope and charisma. This year, she received no less than 90 points for her showjumping qualities during the studbook expertise in Bears. This dam, owned by the van de Lageweg family, also achieved the highest daily score at the time.

"Mangaloni's dam, Paccalonie K, jumped at 1m40 level under the saddle of Albert Zoer and one day was sold to Guerdat from Switzerland. She produced for instance Emymolga VDH, who participated in the small final at Zangersheide as a five-year-old and later performed at 1m50 level in the United States. At the end of 2015, we bought Paccalonie, partly because of the quality in the dam line. We are already finding very good showjumpers in the third and fourth generation. It is a line with a lot of blood, even though they may be old-fashioned sires. They always have the will to work and are eager to jump. The fact that Paccalonie herself jumped at 1m40 level certainly played a role in the

purchase. At that time, it was already a decent level in the Netherlands. She is a dam with length and size, a modern type at the time."

By the end of the stallion expertise, Aganix du Seigneur had one new approved son, called Alano de Landry Z. Alano's breeder, Lander Verwaest said: "Alano is son of Aganix out of Clair de La Lune Z. Clair was 18 years when I bought her in the Netherlands. Before that age she had jumped at national 1m35 level. Two of her descendants performed at international level. After her purchase I tried for two years to get her pregnant, and finally succeeded with semen of Aganix. Out of this cross Alano de Landry was born, but we were no longer able to breed foals from Clair de La Lune. We are preparing her now to use the ICSI technique during the spring of 2021 in collaboration with the veterinary clinic in Utrecht. Of course, we hope to still be able to breed some good offspring from her."

Verwaest had his reasons for buying the then 18-year-old Claire de La Lune: "Because she is a direct daughter of Carthago. I love Carthago blood. I always say 'the more Carthago blood in the pedigree, the better'. In Clair's pedigree we have Carthago and then successively Jasper and Le Mexico, very solid Dutch blood."

Why are you crazy about Carthago blood? "I got my love for this stallion partly from my parents. My father is also crazy about Carthago. If you analyze the results of international showjumping competitions, you see that Carthago mainly manifests himself as the dam's sire of showjumping cracks. I think that we can label Carthago as one of the best Holsteiner stallions there has ever been. He himself jumped at the highest level and today he puts his stamp on both breeding and sports. We have used some more daughters of Carthago in our studfarm. My father bred for instance Amadeo van't Vossenhof, a son of Asca Z out of the Carthago daughter Bessemeind's Caloma II. Both Caloma and Clair de La Lune are horses with strong legs and had a strong will to jump over the fences."

Verwaest explained why did you choose Aganix du Seigneur to combine with Clair de La Lune: "Aganix produces rideable, easy and very commercial horses. At the time, he himself jumped in partnership with [Jos] Lansink with a lot of technique and scope. He is also very well bred. Aganix is a large-framed stallion who could add some mass. Since Alano's birthday, I have not regretted my choice for a minute. Three years ago, it was not my plan to inscribe Alano as a foal to participate at the Z-festival. My father convinced me to participate. Alano finished second in his series and was subsequently sold at a great price



during the Zangersheide Quality Auction. He already had nice markings then. He's his sire's lookalike. If we look at his conformation, markings, color, one might think he is clone of his sire."

Sire lines of approved stallions

In the sire lines of the approved stallions, we twice meet the Holstein progenitor Corrado I, via Comme Promis Z and Cavani van Heiste Z. Comme Promis's sire, Comme Il Faut, is a great grandson of Corrado I, whereas Cavani's sire, Corico Z, is a grandson of Corrado I. Cavani van Heiste Z was bred by Patrick Gillis, who said; "I have bred pure-bred rabbits for 30 years with the aim of winning prizes at shows. I have been Belgian and European champion. Of course, I have also bred quite a lot of foals, 120 to be precise."

Gillis is well-known as the breeder of a series of successful showjumpers, including Koss van het Heiste who performs at 1m60 level, in partnership with Conor Swail (IRL).

According to Gillis; "Cavani's granddam, Pandora van't Molenhof (Latano), jumped at 1m50 level, under the saddle of Lieven Devos. He confirmed this to me. They finished, for instance, second in Verona, Italy. Afterwards, she jumped at 1m40 to 1m45 level, in partnership with Stephanie Debonnet. Unfortunately, we cannot find these results on the internet. I would be very grateful to anyone who can give me that. At the time, Berlin was the big star among the sports stallions. Pandora's owner loved Berlin and crossed Pandora with this stallion three times, resulting in Pandora (2005), who died early, Iadora van Heiste (2008) and Kandora (2010). Kandora was sold to the owner of company Meubelen Crack. I had to pay a lot of money to buy Iadora, and had bought the foal before it was born. Luc Heye is listed as the breeder and he allowed me to add the suffix 'van Heiste' to the name of the foal. I knew Iadora belonged to a very good line and was determined to buy her, especially with a view to a later career in sport. Philippe Caus then rode several horses for me, and Pandora's last son, Pandora Boy, became five-year-old Belgian champion in 2018. Jeunesse van't Molenhof, a half-sister to Pandora, produced Duke of Carneval who performed at 1m60 level. The products belonging to this line can usually also move very well.

"Iadora was very chic as a foal, and I only used her as a breeding dam. I still own her first descendant, Cavaline van Heiste Z. In partnership with Cedric Vanleerberghe, Cavaline participated this year in the five-year-old classic cycle, and in 2016 I bred an Iadora daughter by Mr Cielo, named Quel Choix van Heiste. During that period Bjorn Vandenbossche jumped brilliant with Kandora, becoming finalists in the seven-year-old category in Lanaken. Kandora was subsequently sold by the owner of Meubelen Crack to Lansink and Ashford Farm. Ultimately, Kandora came into the hands of Claire Beecroft (GBR), who is performing with her at 1m40 to 1m45 level.



"Luc Van Puymbroeck was interested in the offspring of this dam line. At the time, he distributed Berlin's semen and knew the horses of Pandora's family. He allowed me to sell Cavani van Heiste as a foal during his auction in Opglabbeek. I had set a sales price of €8,000, and during the auction bids went up to €7,000, so I raised my hand, offering €8,000, so remained as his owner (laughing), against my wife's wishes. Normally we don't keep colts but, in hindsight, it was a good thing for Gillis that Cavani wasn't sold at that time because he presented Cavani at the stallion expertise and returned home with an approved stallion! Meanwhile, Cavani has been sold to Krismar Stables, and her dam is in foal to Candy du Nantuel."

Why did you cross Iadora with Corico Z at the time? "In terms of look, Corico is a stallion, with a beautiful neck. Secondly, he is a son of one of the best breeding dams of Zangersheide, Cocaine Z. Cocaine has already produced many good showjumpers and three approved stallions. I am always looking for affordable, young, promising stallions, which are preferably available through fresh semen. In partnership with Angélique Rûsen, Corico is now performing at 1m50 level."

Finally, we should mention that Quidam de Revel was also noteworthy on the sire's side. The jury approved one son of Quasimodo Z (called Quality Express Z) and one grandson of Quasimodo Z (called McGee, by Zento). Quasimodo Z is by Quidam de Revel.

We saw even more Quidam blood through his grandson Vigo d'Arsouilles, who is himself the grandfather of the approved Neon-Up (by Jamboree TN), and the great grandfather of Johnny Dep NN Z (by Jensen van't Meulenhof). The approved Querido (by Quibery) also carries Quidam de Revel's blood via his sire line. Quidam can also be found in the dam line of the approved Gregory-Lou Z, a son of George Z out of Kardina van't Merelst. ■

<https://events.zangersheide.com/userfiles/file/kalender/gekeurde-hengsten-peelbergen-november-2020.pdf>

Twelve 'foreigners' infiltrate the German FN rankings

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

GRAPHICS: GEMMA ALEXANDER

Reading the German FN rankings, you have to remind yourself that, yes, these are the GERMAN not the WBFSh rankings, since of the top 20 jumping sires, 12 are foreigners. Dial the clock back a decade and look at the 2009 FN rankings, and yes, the Belgian-bred (but he did his licensing in Westfalia) Cornet Obolensky (Clinton x Heartbreaker) is in second place with a value of 165.

Third comes the Dutch-bred, Now or Never M (164) – but he is by the Hanoverian, Voltaire, who was shunned in his home country and shunted off to the Netherlands. Now or Never M is out of a mare by one of the greats of Dutch breeding, Nimmerdor – solidly Holstein on his top line, Dutch on the mare line.

That's it, two out of 20. For the record, and because it is worth looking back to see how accurate a predictor the German numbers have been, here's the top 20, largely dominated by the following (plus the aforementioned imports):

- Stakkato (Spartan x Pygmalion) in pride of place with a jumping breeding value of 171
- Stakkato Gold (Stakkato x Werther), 164
- Satisfaction (Stakkato x Calypso II) 159
- Contendro I (Contender x Reichsgraf) 158
- Stolzenberg (Stakkato x Sandro) 158
- Cardento (Capitol x Lord) 157
- Clinton I (Carolus x Calypso II) 156
- Dutch-based solidly Holstein bred Indoctro (Capitol x Caletto II) 154
- Albano (Acord x Landadel) 153
- Lissabon (Lordanos out of a Dutch mare by Sion) 152
- Chambertin (Cambridge x Cor de la Bryère) 151
- Perpignon (Pilot x Watzmann) 150
- Askari (Acord II x Lavall I) 150
- Calido (Cantus x Coriander) 150
- Cordalmé (Cor de la Bryère x Almé: for all the strenuous resistance to French blood, it slipped into Germany thanks to Almé's time at Zangersheide, largely through his son, Ahorn Z, the sire of Acord - and of course, the Holsteiners loved their French import, Cor de la Bryère so much that 'Corde' was sort of an honorary German) 150
- Escudo I (Espri x Arkansas) 150
- Monte Bellini (Montender x Ramiro) 149.

It is a very different picture on the 2020 values. Let's look at the new value *Zuchtwert Höchste erreichte Klasse*, or highest level in competition, where the horses are evaluated on the basis of a points table with points awarded according to which performance level in competition their progeny have reached.

There is the German stallion, Cumano (Cassini I x Landgraf) in the top spot with a value of 202, but the next five places are filled by foreigners: Kashmir van het Schuttershof (Nabab de Rêve x Tenor Manciais) 182; Baloubet du Rouet (Galoubet A – the shibboleth is broken, TROTTER blood on Galoubet's dam side x Starter) 180; then the Dutch star, Heartbreaker (Nimmerdor x Silvano), 177; Cornet Obolensky has dropped to equal fifth on 175 with Quasimodo Z (Quidam de Revel x Carthago).

Seventh, Chacco-Blue (Chambertin x Contender), 174 followed by two foreigners, Diamant de Sémilly (Le Tot de Sémilly x Elf III) 173, and Ogano Sitte (Darco x Avonteur) 170. Tenth for Calvaro (Caletto I x Capitol), 167; Caspar/aka Berlin (Cassini I x Caretino) 167.

Then come a couple of French gentlemen, Jalisco B (Almé x Furioso xx) tied with his son, Dollar du Murier (out of a Uriel mare) on 167; the Belgian, Toulon (Heartbreaker x Jokinal de Bornival), 165; one of the French greats, Le Tot de Sémilly (Grand Veneur x Juriste) also 165; a couple of Germans, the Westfalian, Cornado (Cornet Obolensky x Acobat I) 165; Chacomo (Chacco-Blue x Cento) 165; the Dane, Lando (Lancier x Raimondo) 164; Carthago (Capitol x Calando I) 163; and we round out our top 20 with that hero of Belgian breeding, Darco (Lugano van la Roche x Codex), a nice amalgam of Hanoverian, Holsteiner and Gelderlander, proving that border hopping is nothing new...

I asked my friend, and Hanoverian breeding expert, Ludwig Christman what was happening, why were foreigners dominating the FN ranking: "About the high percentage of foreign stallions in the FN-rankings: The breeding value 'highest level achieved' is quite new and you cannot compare it with the rankings in 2009. However, we have to analyse the contribution of foreign stallions in this evaluation system. At the moment it includes also imported horses and even horses from other countries, who just competed in Germany. The possible effect could be that just the top horses of some stallions are counted, but not the more normal ones, which every stallion also produces. But this is just a hypothesis, which should be checked."

It was something of a tragedy for jumping breeding that

Cumano was almost infertile for much of his career – his early crops were reasonable – but towards the end of his life it required the magic of ICSI to produce a foal. Cumano died in September 2018.

Cumano was bred in Germany by the late Willy Luhrs, who was crowned Holsteiner Breeder of the Year in 2006, but his first crops were born in Belgium before he spent one sensational year in France in 2000 when he was seven years old, and this was perhaps the most productive season of any stallion, anywhere, any time, in the world! He produced 61 foals that year out of fairly 'normal' mares, 11 of whom gained jumping indices of 150 or more, SIX of whom have won CSI classes.

Here is a breakdown of the horses that contributed to Cumano's FN breeding value (many thanks to Dr Teresa Dohms-Warnecke, the deputy director breeding at the Germany FN for patiently putting up with my endless requests).

- 1999: Coquet vd Potaarde Z (Feinschnitt van de Richter) 1m60
- 2000: Ameryllis (Darco) 1m60; Apache vd Dverse Hagen (Sioux de Baugy) 1m30
- 2001: Noblesse des Te (Irak E) 1m60; Nasa (Prince d'Elle) 1m60; Rahmannshof's Cumana/aka Nature Menardiere – damsire, I Love You) 1m60; Newton du Haut Bois (Quat'sous) 1m60; Nouvelle de Sis (Mazarin V) 1m50; Naiade d'Auvers (Grand Veneur) 1m60
- 2002: Carucha van de Drie Eiken, BWP (out of a mare by the Ibrahim son, Hibrahim von Pferdheim); Chill Pepper van de Helle (Sheyenne de Baugy) 1m60
- 2003: Wesselina (Mytens xx) KWPN 1m60; Comme d'Api vd

- Hacienda (Darco) 1m60; Cumano B (Darco) 1m45
- 2005: Romantik des Aulnes (Plein d'Espoir IV) 1m45
- 2008: Cumano Boy Z (Ramiro), Cumthago C (La Zarras) 1m45
- 2010 Atomic Z (Chin Chin) 1m60

In Germany Cumano produced four jumpers that contributed to his breeding value:

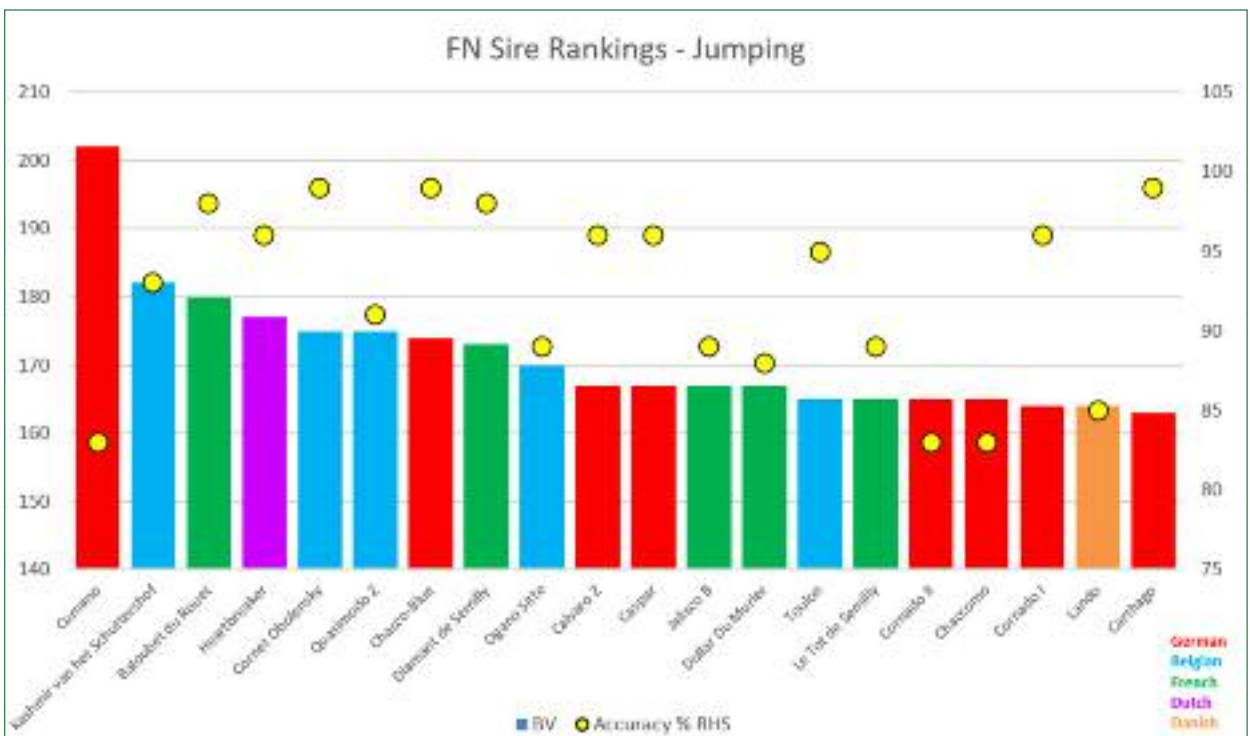
- 1999: Cumano's Son (Carthago) 1m40
- 2008: Great White (Julio Mariner xx) 1m60; Chardonnay (For Pleasure) 1m60; Champ's Son (Linaro) 1m45

We can only speculate how great Cumano's influence would have been had he been able to produce more foals... but it also raises the question of how useful the FN highest level ranking is to the German breeder who is looking for an indication of how well a particular stallion will cross over his German mare. As we can see the vast majority of horses that contributed to Cumano's ranking were out of non-German mares.

Dressage sires

Number one on the FN scale that measures 'highest level in competition', is the Dutch stallion Jazz (Cocktail x Ulster) way out in front with 233 points, but it might be noted that while Jazz served full books year after year, the horse in second, Breiting W (Bismark x Maat I) only covered a handful of mares, since he was far from fashionable and lacked the super elegant modern look – he just happened to produce one Grand Prix horse after another.

It is interesting to note that while the jumping standings show a majority of 'foreign' stallions in the top 20, only six of



the dressage top 20 were foreign born – and they are all from Holland. Aside from Jazz, we have: Johnson (Jazz x Flemmingh) 10th; Vivaldi (Krack C x Jazz) 11th; Krack C (Flemmingh x Beaujolais) 12th; and Ferro (Ulft x Farn) 16th. But there are two more Dutch stallions knocking on the door: Bordeaux (United x Gribaldi) 21st, and in 22nd, Boston (Jazz x Flemmingh).

One of the problems with these sorts of rankings is that it takes so long to 'make' a Grand Prix competitor, so by the time a stallion starts to become famous, he is often no longer with us. Thus the top three – Jazz, Breitling W and Don Schufro (Donnerhall x Pik Bube I) have all left us, as have the Welt Hit brothers, I (6th) and II (7th Weltmeyer x Hill Hawk II), Gribaldi (Kostolany x Ibikus), Donnerhall (Donnerwetter x Markus, 15th) and Ferro.

Once again there is the issue of what this ranking tells the German breeder. Ludwig Christmann is not entirely convinced: "Jazz was not used a lot by Hanoverian or Rhineland breeders. I only found one Hanoverian by Jazz, who was successful on S-level. When you look at his progeny in the FEI rankings then you only find Dutch horses. So you should ask Dutch people or successful trainers. The talent of the Jazz progeny for Grand Prix, however, is obvious, but what about temperament, rideability, walk?"

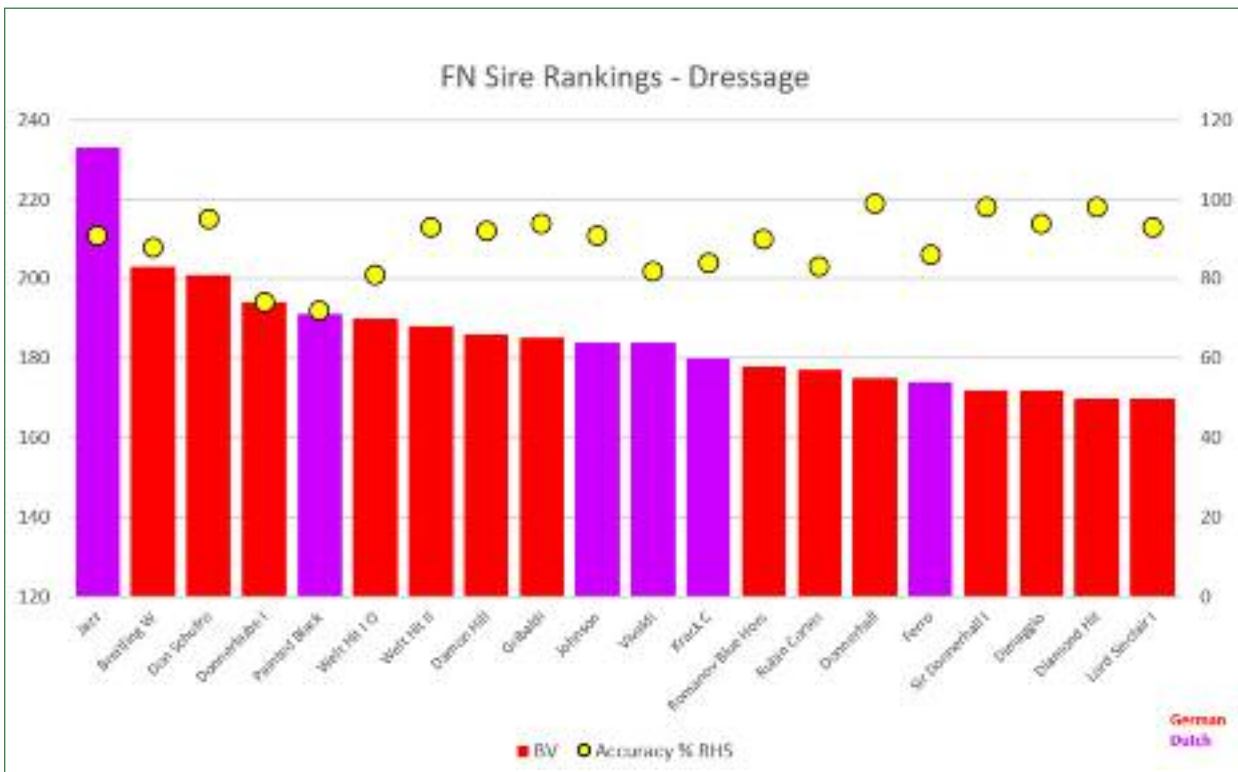
We can see quite clearly when we look at the horses that have earned Jazz his standing as number one that they are almost entirely Dutch bred – just one points scorer from Germany, Active Private Dancer, and one from Denmark, Jose Kilen. The rest are all from the Netherlands: Vancouver K, Don Olymbrio, Parzival, Orion, Potifar, Piaffe, Robin Hood, Tango,

Toots, Umbro, Unlimited, Johnson, Wynton, and Bonzanjo.

When we look at the FN values 'tourneement' this includes all performances at horse shows since 1995, including results at advanced level, the picture is similar. Here the Dutch stallions once again are top of the pops: Vivaldi with a breeding value of 170 and a reliability assessment of 79%, in front of Jazz on 168 but with the higher reliability of 91%. Then comes: Damon Hill – 166 (91), Breitling W – 165 (87), Vitalis – 165 (90), Don Schufro – 162 (94), Fürstenball – 161 (95), Bordeaux – 158 (87), Krack C – 152 (84), Painted Black - 151 (71), Dimaggio – 151 (93), Don Juan de Hus – 151 (71), equal 10th with Rock Forever I – 151 (95).

But if it is a young horse star you are looking for, then the late Don Juan de Hus (Jazz x Krack C) might be your choice, assuming there is any semen left. Born in 2008, Don Juan de Hus was shown for the Haras de Hus in France, by Jessica Michel-Bouton and starred in young horse classes, scoring 10.00 six times in his first show as a five year old. Jessica trained the horse to FEI level but hoof problems prevented him being competed and he died in 2017 – the year his son, Don Martillo (Beneton Dream) won the five-year-old championship at the dressage WBCYH. The following year another son, d'Avie (Londonderry) took out the six-year-old championship. Don Juan heads the young horse rankings with a value of 165 (93).

Others in the top ten are: Damon Hill – 156 (97); Fürstenball – 155 (99); Rock Forever I – 151 (98), Foundation – 151 (97); Vivaldi – 150 (95); Vitalis – 150 (97); Don Schufro – 148 (98); Krack C – 146 (90) equal 10th with Quasar de Charry – 146 (92). ■



Around Canada's provinces: It's winter in Quebec

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA
PHOTOGRAPHY: ARYANE TANGUAY

The final region in our profile of Canadian breeding areas is the French speaking province of Quebec. Famous for its maple syrup, Quebec Winter Carnival, a hockey team (the Montreal Canadiens) and an ode to winter in the North; Quebec is also an active equestrian region.

Hosting the Montreal 1976 Olympic Games left a legacy of equestrian facilities. The Olympic showjumping silver medal, won by native Quebecer Michel Vaillancourt on home ground, boosted interest in the sport that spurred a burgeoning breeding community.

Quebec's history and commerce have been dominated by the large Saint Lawrence River, which gave early access to explorers by ship and which continues to drive ocean commerce in Quebec City and Montreal. Naturally the agricultural areas spread out from the river so that horse breeding is primarily found in the areas around and between these two cities. Quebec is three times the size of France but, of course, the population is mainly in the centre area as well, 50% around Montreal. In fact 95% of the province consists of an ancient rocky formation called the Canadian Shield, so the areas suitable for agriculture and horse rearing are limited to the south-central region.

Nevertheless horses and horse sports are a valued part of the Quebec culture. Today Quebec breeders account for approximately 20% of the Canadian Warmblood horses registered annually and have the third largest membership. Early Warmblood imports included Hanoverian and Selle Francais stallions, later expanding to Danish and Selle



Luxembourgeois bloodlines. The Selle Francais influence is still strong with Baloubet du Rouet offspring having significant success in stallion performance tests.

When it comes to jumping, Quebec is particularly well stocked with talented sires carrying some of the best bloodlines in the world. Stallions such as Canadian bred VDL Windsor H (Indoctro x Ahorn) and Cri de Coeur (Coeur de Lion x Numero Uno) are demonstrative of the quality and depth of the Canadian breeding population. At the same time, many Quebec breeders are taking advantage of imported frozen semen to continue upgrading their breeding programs.

Like other provinces in this vast country, geographical distances are a significant challenge for breeders getting horses to competitions and sales venues, or simply making their horses accessible to the market. However there is growing recognition that Warmblood horses have adapted and thrived in the Canadian natural environment of open spaces and excellent forages. Canadian breeders are meeting the challenge, through access to international genetics, modern breeding practices and proper nutrition Warmblood horses in Canada, while fewer in numbers, are a match for any in the world. ■



Wintertime for mares and foals in Quebec

Presenting a very good AA vintage in Pompadour

BY PASCALE CAILLOUET (TRANSLATED BY JONATHAN LANDI) / ANAA
PHOTOGRAPHY: LOVA VETTESE/MOUV'MEDIA

During the JIAA Pompadour (the International Anglo-Arabian Day), the breed showcased events with the Anglo-Arabian Festival. A total of 84 horses were on display and, contrary to the pessimistic forecasts earlier in the year, the 2020 birth rate remains on an upward curve. In fact, 2020 could be best described as a very good vintage.

In addition to the presence of faithful subscribers such as the Élevage Domerguie, Miranda de Toulouse-Lautrec, Virginie Chaperot-Regazzacci, Jean Louis Aussure (Élevage des Loges), the Élevage d'Elpegère, and the Haras de Champeix, and many others; one also mustn't forget the constant presence of the big guns of the AA breeding world such as M. Challier (Haras d'Ivraie). The latter's draft consisted of two two-year-olds and as many foals; the presence of Mme Dutrait (Élevage de Buissey) didn't go unnoticed, and some of the familiar names of the AA riding division such as Pierre de Bastard, Manu Charmes, and Claude Joigneau were also in attendance. The latter also presented the foal of Monsieur Moutet who was crowned champion in its class.

Thanks to the drive of Virginie Chaperot and the generosity of the event organisers there was abundance of gifts on offer. In fact, Chaperot and her diligent support team ensured that each participant was rewarded individually with a quaint offering in this department.

In line with past trends, purchases were made in the all categories, and pure breed aficionados were able to view some very choice lots, and especially in Sections I and II.

It also hasn't gone unnoticed that, for some years now, breeders have been making the effort to seek and tap into very established and pure AA bloodlines, and these



*Hippie de Brenne (Fusain du Defey x Cardero [Holst])
Selected for eventing 'Les espoirs du complets' by France Complet*

interesting breeding patterns are beginning to bear fruit.

The ANAA (Association Nationale Anglo-Arabe) is out to attract more purebred younger stock, but it's above all seeking to target the two-/three-year-old colts and fillies' divisions so as to ensure a greater presence of these age groups in the various finals.

So well done to all the various champions! Consequently, all that remains to be done is to grace the competitive arena, and to climb the steps of sporting podium!

M&A Endurance – a major novelty factor

The ANAA has initiated the Modèle & Allures (physical build and gait) Endurance category following the decision by ACA (Association Nationale Française du Cheval Arabe pur-sang et demi-sang/the French national association for pure- and part-bred Arabian horses) in 2019 to restrict their endurance classes (foals/two-year-olds/three-year-olds) to purebred Arabians.

Anglo-Arabian horses are fully entitled to compete in the endurance sector: Cashel Pontadour (29.7%), an eight-year-old AA mare born at the establishment of Francois Maillot, underscored this following a fine display in the 120-kilometre endurance event in the summer; and Asmine des Pacouli (75%), the recent French champion, is another case in point.

Four three-year-olds and two foals were presented.



*Hope and Roses Mel (Persicko [Arab] x Khandjer Joli AA)
1st – 3yo AA endurance male*



Koupacoeur (Ivain x Kim du Maury)
1st AA Foal male – Section 1 & 2:

Admittedly that's not a lot, but it constitutes a good start, nonetheless, and the ANAA intends to continue down this pathway, and is banking that these steps will encourage more breeders of endurance types to participate in the 2021 event.

Our congratulations go to the Élevage Haut Pyrénéen academy of Jessica Pacholder after the victory of Hope and Roses Mel – a son of the renowned Arabian sire Persicko and the 'Anglo' racing mare Rose du Sud, herself a daughter of Khanjer Joli.

In the foals' section, Mme Piat's (Allie region) Kel'Dame de Fleurie, a daughter of the Arabian sire El Hadj d'Alauze and Colchique de Fleuriel (Rock'N Roll Animal), a clever blend of endurance and sporting qualities, emerged triumphant.

Organisation: Areas for improvement

In spite of the controversy related to how certain horses were presented, and notably the magnificent male foal Koupacoeur, the champion in the section 1 and 2 (male) categories, whose dam was found to be very lame (common abscess) on arrival – coupled to some harsh scores being awarded at what is a national championship – the organisation was good. No-one is perfect, and ANAA will continue to implement any improvements needed when it comes to staging such events.

The results

Some very fine two/three-year-old types were on view. Hautbois d'Olympe (34.86%) the champion three-year-old (Section 2), and the 2019 runner-up in the two-year-old division, was given the seal of approval as a stallion prospect. He's a splendid son of the Swedish AA sire Business (Stubin AA) and Rhapsodie d'Olympe (Fusain du Defey x Jalienny), bred by Pierre de la Serve, and a graduate of the Haras d'Olympe (Gers region).

The magnificent Elfe de Pompadour topped the pile in Section 3. This son of Upsilon and Encore une Médaille (Veloce de Favi), bears the clear stamp of the IFCE (Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation) and comes from a

remarkable female line. It's shame that he was an absentee in the seal of approval formalities...

In Classes 1 and 2 for fillies, Hantix won the section by default, as she was the only participant in this grade due to the unfortunate elimination of a rival owing to lameness. This daughter of Quantix (out of Odalix x Ithurriel), bred and owned by Philippe Paladi Noel (Creuse region), loses no kudos as a result, as the jury had, in any case, awarded her a good mark.

The Pompadour broodmare band was again in the spotlight thanks to the victory in Section 3 of the fillies' division of Isadora Pompadour: daughter of SF Jarnac (Ryon d'Anzex AA) and the mare Idyle du Thil (Osier du Maury). This attractive chestnut wowed the jury on account of her physique and her way of moving.

The two-year-old generation of purebreds also did well as the quality on offer was superior to Section 3. Ivresse du Vialard, owned by local breeder Dr.Vet. Domecq Cazaux, won this division thanks to her magnificent build. She's a daughter of Cestuy La de l'Esques and Juste Bien (Iago C).

In Section 3, the renowned breeding academy Elevage d'Oc headed the list thanks to It's d'Oc (Canturo [Holst] - Osière d'Oc x Osier du Maury). The maternal line is laden with success as denoted by the presence of some famous names such as: Feeling d'Oc, Reine des Neiges, Pyromane de Brioux, and Telstar de Bordenave. She was bred by Bernard Chevalier from Bellac.

In the two-year-old males' division (Sections 1 and 2), one can only deplore the lack of contenders, but Ionysos du Lys, bred and owned by Thierry Ripoché, proved his quality on the three judging fronts. This victory confirmed his 2018 win in the foal championship. A son of Don Giovanni de Béarn and Parodie Kalone (L'Escarfast), he boasted one of the best pedigrees in the competition, as he hails from the maternal line of Jasionne (the source of Fusain du Defey, Osier du Maury, Quercus du Maury, and, more recently, Prestige Kalone, Sirocco du Gers, Cadet de Beliard, and other performers).

Indigo de la Parra was another to follow up after his win in the 2018 foals championship. Owned by the man who brought



Hautbois d'Olympe (Business x Fusain du Defey)



***Koko Chanel Bay (Fandsy x Quack)
1st AA female foal – Section 1 & 2***

him into the world, Dominique Crozes, from the Lot region, he's a son of the much sought after Holsteiner Canturo, out of Alizee de Tayac (Gral des Vernières).

Breeders out in force

The breeders were out in force for the foals' championship with close to 40 candidates on display.

In the fillies' purebred category Koko Chanel Bay, by virtue of her stunning good looks, was a big hit with the judges. She's a daughter of Fandsy, a very interesting stallion, although there is (alas) little demand for his services, and the mare Belle de Cœur Bay (Quack). She was bred by Isabelle Bay (Indre region).

In the fillies' (Section 3) band, the excellent Kahina Djurdjura, a daughter of Tinka's Gay, the resident stallion of the Baume family, and Elinor de Petra (Jalienny), owned by Jacques Voche (Vendée region), occupied the highest place on the podium. The female line of the pedigree resonates in the AA world, as it underscores the success of the du Maury and the de Here (Aurore du Maury, Desiree de Here, Laurier de Here...) lines, and one also comes across the likes of Kafka Brunemont, Quinquet d'Ivraie and so forth...



Kahina Djurdjura (Tinka's Gay x Jalienny), 1st AA female foal

In the purebred

males' sector, Koupacoeur M, a son of Ivain (Deux de Coeur) and Carla de Favi (Kim du Maury) lost nothing by comparison to other cross breeds. Born at the studfarm of Stéphanie Moutet Fortis in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, he comes from a magnificent maternal line which has produced, amongst others, a certain Dileme de Cephe.

Miranda de Toulouse Lautrec again sealed first place on the podium thanks to the superb Komment Donc in Section 3 of the male foals' division. She chose to blend the bloodlines of her mare Queen Size (King Size) with that of Upsilon on this occasion. This was a very fitting reward for a lady, who has been passionate about AA horses for decades.

Regarding the seal of approval process, five of the eight three-year-olds achieved their intended target as future stallion prospects. However, the ANAA, keen to maintain a healthy stallion stock, will only confirm this upon receipt of a negative PSSM test (Polysaccharide storage myopathy) from the owners of the horses concerned. So genetics will be the arbiter in determining the outcome of this process. Consequently, Hautbois d'Olympe (Business ex Fusain du Defey), Hector du Terroir (Quercus du Maury ex Cassini I Holst), Hunckydory Camphoux (Contendro Holst ex Veganum), Happy Gay (Tinka's Gay ex Silvio Old), and Hearton de Cahuzac (Sandjak Nedjma ex Clinton Holst), have all been accorded provisional status in this regard.

Health crisis causes absence of some big names

The various events were available to all and sundry as they were broadcast live on the Société Hippique Française (SHF) channel. Indeed, ANAA, mindful of the Covid-19 protocols, had anticipated this situation by underwriting the broadcasting costs of SHF in this regard. Furthermore, ANAA also ensured that the JIAA event was live to air so as to reach the widest possible target audience of those passionate about the breed.

Our friends on the other side of the Alps, Andy Gygax and Raffaele Cherchi, themselves judges and breeders, and pillars of the breed at international level, were unable to honour us with their presence due to the health restrictions, and were sorely missed. We would have liked to engage with Raffaele Cherchi concerning his recently published book (in Italian) dedicated to the Anglo-Arabian horse. *L'Anglo-Arabo* (published by Carlo Delfino) is a very comprehensive work, that describes the evolution of this breed and its success, firstly at European level and then worldwide over two centuries.

This Anglo-Arab Festival was a very convivial occasion. As breeders, riders and owners were able to exchange ideas and meet up for a dinner, against the almost obligatory musical backdrop provided by a fanfare orchestra, on Saturday evening. The ambiance was invariably pleasant – reflecting the spontaneous, straightforward and sincere nature of the AA milieu – and so much so that one could almost have forgotten the current health crisis...

The end of an era: Farewell to Dr. Thomas Nissen

BY CAROLIN TASSIUS-DIEDERICH / HOLSTEINER VERBAND
PHOTOGRAPHY: HOLSTEINER VERBAND

At the end of the year 2020, Dr. Thomas Nissen will retire after 32 years as the breeding manager of the Holsteiner horse and the Verband's director. At Neumünster he had a ceremonial farewell during the 50th Holsteiner licensing and elite auction.

Dr. Thomas Nissen grew up on a farm in Schleswig-Holstein. After leaving school he started an apprenticeship in agriculture before studying agricultural science at the Christian Albrecht University at Kiel. In 1986, he did his doctorate on 'mare performance testing and fertility of the Holsteiner horse' with Prof. Dr. Ernst Kalm at the Institute for Animal Breeding and Husbandry. For the next two years he worked at the Ministry of Agriculture in Kiel. In 1988, following his final university examination, he became the breeding manager of the Holsteiner Verband, taking over from Gerhard Gramann.

Dr. Nissen had been always a promoter of the targeted use of outside stallions, especially English Thoroughbreds and French sires which had great influence on refining and modernization in the Holsteiner horse. He played a large part in reforming the process of selecting stallions. The change of authority at the licensing from the state to the Verband and several structural modifications of the procedure at stallion performance tests were part of his work. Thomas Nissen set new standards in the breeding business by newly establishing the Verband's licensing commission, developing new ways for the system of mare registration and introducing the mare performance test.

A sought-after advisor

For 13 years he had been a vice president of the WBFSH, so president Jan Pedersen travelled from northern Denmark to make Dr. Nissen an honorary member of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses for his special merits. At the German National Federation (FN) he is always a sought-after advisor regarding current topics and developments. He played a large part in discussions about various statutory modifications within the Verband, and new implementations in stallion performance tests. Dr. Klaus Miesner, managing director of the FN's breeding department, came from Warendorf for Dr. Nissen's farewell and awarded a gold medal named after Gustav Rau. "Over the years your quiet farsightedness and loyalty have made you a shining example among professional breeding managers," said Dr. Miesner in his speech.

Apart from his work as a breeding manager and director of the Holsteiner Verband, Dr. Nissen takes part in various scientific research projects. Since 1983, he has taught students at the University of Kiel and supervises master degrees and doctorates.

Due to the coronavirus only a few friends and colleagues could take part in the emotional farewell ceremony moderated by Harm Sievers. The speakers had a lot of praise and gave sincere thanks for Dr. Nissen. No speech was given without mentioning such terms as professional skills, vision, loyalty, dependability, kindness, and humanity. And, obviously, horses had to be part of the ceremony as well. The breeding heroes Cascadello I, Calido I and Casall entered the arena, representing the countless Holsteiners who had accompanied the outgoing breeding manager during his career.

Until the end of the year Dr. Thomas Nissen will be breeding manager and the Verband's director and he will continue to follow the Holsteiner horse thereafter. He had already signaled his willingness to continue as an advisor for the Verband. But he also wants more time for his family and hobbies, like vintage cars and swimming. ■



WBFSH president Jan Pedersen travelled to present honorary membership of the Foundation to Dr. Thomas Nissen

Walter Van Bunder: “Chiquita’s quality is her hardiness”

BY JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO AND PETER LLEWELLYN

According to Walter Van Bunder – the breeder of Sapphire and Glasgow van’t Merelsnest, one of the strongest qualities of the performance line of Chiquita is its hardiness. Life hasn’t always been plain sailing for Studfarm van’t Merelsnest, founded by Walter and Gerda Van Bunder-Stoop.

This couple has certainly experienced highlights and achieved international fame thanks to a series of own-bred international showjumpers, with two-time Olympic gold team medalist Sapphire/ex Safari van’t Merelsnest) and the internationally successful Grand Prix stallion VDL Glasgow van’t Merelsnest being the two most famous names. In 2017, Glasgow contributed to a team gold medal at the Nations’ Cup final in Barcelona. Sadly, tragedy struck that same year when Walter and Gerda’s son Björn died in a traffic accident at the age of 32. His car was stationary in a traffic jam when it was struck by a truck!

Björn was a talented rider, breeder, trader, and journalist. Walter explained: “The plan was that Björn would take over our studfarm. That was our dream. The circle was complete. A tragic accident suddenly changed the chronology of life. It got complicated for us. Nowadays I am living from day to day. I try to think little about it and try to move forward. In principle, all the mares at our studfarm should be given opportunities, but I am reducing the activities a bit.” Gerda continued by saying: “The death of our son broke us physically and mentally, and we’re still trying to get back on track. Björn liked to live at our current location and, at the time, found an infrastructure for selling

via the internet, so it’s a great pity that he can no longer experience this.”

Fortunately, there is also a ray of hope: “We are grateful to our daughter Sofie and son-in-law Tim because they are a great support to us. They provide ongoing professional training for the young horses, so the future is assured,” Walter said.

Studfarm van’t Merelsnest is now operating on a smaller scale and, if all goes well, 10 foals will be born in 2021. Walter is also training six three-year-old own-bred horses who go back to his foundation dam, Chiquita (BWP line 17). One of the strongest points of this performance line, according to Walter, is its hardiness: “I haven’t had any horses that went lame due to heavy work. The horses that belong to this line are also, generally speaking, very healthy and stress resistant. A lot of scope and blood are also typical characteristics of this family.”

◆ What is your definition of ‘blood’?

There’s a big difference between blood and temperament. Heartbreaker, for instance, is a temperamental horse with sufficient blood. To my mind, a blood horse is a horse that has a lot of stamina. With Chiquita, for example, I could canter uninterrupted five kilometers. Today in the international showjumping world we need horses with a lot of blood. They must have enough blood to perform over several days at a high level, and especially during the final day of the tournament. Showjumpers with too little blood can’t realise this.”

Walter entered the horse world through his parents: “My father was a small-scale farmer. He had some horses that were used on the farm. At the age of eight I was allowed to ride a draft horse of my father, which of course was not so normal. At one point the local fishmonger who owned some ponies said ‘I have a pony for you to ride’. So, I rode the pony. To ride a draft horse, I had to rely on help, but I didn’t need any help to ride a pony. I sometimes walked four kilometers with this pony and then jumped with



Family photo: [l-r] Gerda Stoop and Walter Van Bunder, daughter Sofie, with her children, son Björn and his wife Joline Meulewaeter – taken just two weeks before Björn was tragically killed in a car accident

him. He had a height at the withers of only 1m10, but performed at 1m20 level.”

Walter's first riding horse, a great-granddam of Toulon

Walter Van Bunder's interest in horse breeding and sport grew: “When I was sixteen years old, I chose the stallions for my father's broodmares. He was also passionate about horses and bred two or three foals every year. His grandfather was a stallion keeper. I also started trading horses, something which I did until I was around 29 years old. At the age of 19 I also owned my first riding horse, named Loteusi. This daughter of the Thoroughbred Uppercut is the great-granddam of Toulon. She was not too big, but very lithe. She was very supple, with good showjumping manners. I trained her dam and jumped with her at the highest regional level, 1m20. Once I even jumped faultlessly over a brick wall of 1m89. I also used Loteusi as a broodmare.” Out of Loteusi, Walter bred three descendants, including Hayland-L (Lurano), the granddam of Toulon (Heartbreaker - Nikita x Jokinal de Bornival), number three in the most recent WBFSH sire ranking.

But breeding and riding horses remained a hobby: “At that time, people could not earn a living by keeping and breeding horses. I was 18 years old when I started working as a plumber. During the summer I rode my horses in the morning at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., depending on the sunrise, before starting my professional job. I didn't have a car at the time. With the saddle on my bike, I rode around two kilometres to my pasture where my horses and some obstacles were located. I made the obstacles myself, with the help of a few posts and nails on which I could lay poles. I did everything myself: riding horses, cleaning out stables, and so on.”

Chiquita, a very chic dam with a pleasant character, had several Thoroughbreds in her pedigree that were valuable for the breeding of showjumpers, and Walter was convinced that the better performance lines could produce the better horses. He, therefore, started looking intensively for a good broodmare. “The dam had to have enough blood. That was one of the requirements. The technique and use of the back were also important to me.”

It is 1984: “During my search I came across the dam Chiquita, bred by Sigrid Morschel. She was eight years old. I bought her from Leo Van den Brande in Duffel. At that time Chiquita was in foal to Hedjaz, so I visited Leo to see her. He let her jump in a paddock about 15 metres long. She jumped perfectly and met my requirements. I bought her on condition that she was x-rayed and that the results of that examination were good. That was a problem, not only because demanding x-rays was highly unusual, but also because veterinary surgeons did not drive around to customers at that time. Afterwards, the x-rays turned out to be okay. There were many rumours about Chiquita. Cheaters claimed, among other things, that she was no good.

Nonsense! I've never had such a good one. The pleasant character is even one of the qualities that typifies this performance line.

“Before I bought her I completely checked out Chiquita's pedigree, in which I saw several Thoroughbreds that were valuable for the breeding of showjumpers. Her sire, the Thoroughbred Cardinal, brings together Thoroughbreds who have performed well, such as Nearco, Hyperion and Prince Rose. Chiquita was a very chic, long-lined dam, with a height at the withers of approximately 167cms.”

The foal that was born in 1985 from the crossing of Hedjaz and Chiquita was called Idjaz-C. To Walter's delight it was a filly. “Many people were interested in buying Idjaz, but I did not sell her. Two years after her birth, she injured herself in the meadow.” Gerda picked up the story: “The wound was only one centimetre wide but, unfortunately, very deep. Idjaz was in foal to Lys de Darmen at the time.” Continuing, Walter said; “The dam had a fever of more than 40 degrees. We had her taken care of for a month at the veterinary clinic of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, at that time located in Ghent. At one point she was allowed to return to our studfarm. The fever was gone and the wound seemed to have healed. Three days after her return, we had to transport her to the clinic again because she had a high fever, even higher than the first time. Although the wound ultimately healed, a sport career was out of the question.” Idjaz-C was subsequently used for breeding and died when she was 18 years old.

Besides Idjaz-C, Walter also mentions Quinten van't Merelsnest as one of Chiquita's most significant descendants. “This son of Darco was the first stallion we presented for approval, and we had prepared him ourselves. He was in perfect condition and Michel Spaas bought him on condition that he was approved. On the same day, around 2:00 a.m., Guido Bruyninx called us to ask if Quinten was for sale. He was looking for a horse for John Whitaker and I had to decide immediately. I said that I had given my word to Spaas under the condition that he was approved. Guido kept insisting, but I kept my promise, and after his performance tests under saddle, Quinten was approved by the BWP. Spaas had just sold another Darco son, Nonstop. At one point Nonstop returned to Spaas, which resulted in this stallion keeper having two Darco sons. Spaas then sold Quinten.” It's acknowledged that in sport Quinten did not benefit from the opportunities he deserved.

The branch of Relindi van't Merelsnest

According to Walter, there are two side branches of the Chiquita tribe. One is formed by Idjaz-C (Hedjaz - Chiquita x Cardinal xx), the other by Relindi van't Merelsnest (Darco - Chiquita x Cardinal xx). “We once sold a great-grandson of Relindi to Paul Schockemöhle, named Obelix van't Merelsnest. He is by Kannan out of a Mr. Blue x Lord Z dam. He won the gold medal at the Deister Championate in 2020



Sapphire/ex Safari van't Merelsnest under the saddle of McLain Ward (USA) at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong

as a six-year-old. Relindi's full sister, Walentina van't Merelsnest, is the dam of several international performers (such as Bolero III and La Luna de Mauretus), and is the granddam of BWP approved stallion Eyeball vd Moervelde Z."

Sounding ambitious, Walter said; "I want to further expand the Relindi branch. By the way, a Diamant de Semilly son has been selected to participate at the next phase of the 2021 KWPN stallion expertise, called Salvino van't Merelsnest. His dam, Naila van't Merelsnest, is by Kannan out of Jugendnix (Mr Blue - Graciana van't Merelsnest x Lord Z). Naila is a full sister to the Obelix we just talked about."

How tragic can life sometimes be? "Jugendnix was ridden in classes for young horses by our son Björn. Just before Björn's death in 2017, we had sold this dam and she was being ridden by Fien de Bleser. In August 2020, Fien died in a glider crash."

The Idjaz-C branch

The dam who helped put the Chiquita performance line on the map of international showjumping is Idjaz-C. She was born in 1985 and passed away in 2004. In total she has 16 descendants. "Idjaz-C was in foal to Lys de Darmen when she was wounded. Despite her injury, she still gave birth to a healthy foal called Livius van't Merelsnest. Livius was a small foal, just 90 centimetres, so he could walk under his dam's belly. Ultimately, Livius grew into a horse of 176 centimetres at the withers. One year later Idjaz-C gave birth to Maureen van't Merelsnest. At that time our daughter Sofie was participating with Maureen in competitions for students. Maureen was in abnormally high demand. Sofie made the switch with Maureen from the ponies to horses. Maureen did

everything for Sofie and has never refused for an obstacle." Later, Maureen performed at international junior level with Sofie Van Bunder, while "Nearco van't Merelsnest, Idjaz-C's third descendant and a full brother to Livius and Maureen, has competed in the United States."

Walter relied on Lys de Darmen for the first five descendants of Idjaz-C, before using Darco which resulted in the birth of Qarco van't Merelsnest in 1993. "He was chic and had incredible scope. At the time, he was presented as a young stallion at the Zangersheide expertise but wasn't accepted. Afterwards, Qarco began his sporting career and eventually participated in the Olympic trials in the United States with Robin Sweely, with whom he collected numerous top 10 places in Grand Prix and World Cup classes."

Sapphire: Chiquita's most glorious product

Sapphire/ex Safari van't Merelsnest (1995), is undoubtedly the most glorious horse from the Chiquita performance line. Walter recalls: "After five males in a row from Idjaz-C, I was very pleased that I finally had a filly again, so I gave her the name Safari van't Merelsnest. As a foal, Safari was big. Two years later we once let her free jump and when showed a lot of technique but had to get a bit stronger. That strength finally came when she was around seven years old. Safari was well-behaved and very pleasant to deal with, and when she was five our daughter, Sofie, competed with her for the first time. After that, Kurt De Clercq took over the reins, taking part in showjumping classes for six-year-old horses, and Safari was in great demand. One year later, Kurt competed in classic cycle classes for seven year olds and, during the heat in Aalter, she jumped into the spotlight once again, and was sold to the United States via François Mathy and Luc Ringoot.

"When the plane carrying Safari landed in the United States, McLain Ward was waiting for her, took her home and immediately rode her. She was initially sold as a trade horse, but after his ride McLain said 'this horse is not for sale'."

The rest is history! McLain Ward and Safari (under her sporting name, Sapphire) caused a furore in the international showjumping world, becoming successful at the highest level, including two Olympic team gold medals in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, World Cup victories in Bridgehampton, Wellington and Washington, and so on. She was only nine years old when she travelled to her first Olympiad in Athens. Walter said; "My wife and I attended the Athens Olympic Games, which was a fantastic experience. I've already thought about it a lot. Safari was not

stressed. She was well cared for and managed. She was always given two stables at the competition.” Two clones of Sapphire/Safari have since been born, called Kidjaz BC, and her full sister Kara BC.

I asked Walter what Safari means for breeding? “She only produced two descendants for our studfarm, namely Withney and Akropolis van’t Merelsnest, respectively by Ahorn Z and Voltaire. Withney was Safari’s lookalike. I very much regret one thing – I had no intention of using Ahorn Z. I transported Safari to Joris De Brabander to have her inseminated with the plan of using Nabab de Rêve. I saw a certain stallion at Joris’s stud station and asked him who it was. ‘That’s Ahorn Z’, he replied. The stallion appealed to me and I thought that through Ahorn Z I could anchor Olympic blood, but actually I would have done better with my original thought as Withney’s half-brother, Akropolis, was approved as a stallion.

“I expect a lot from the young approved sons of Safari, such as Petrossian BC (For Pleasure), Olympic Jac BC (Baloubet du Rouet), Omano BC (Cumano) and New York BC (Presley Boy). New York, for example, is a very good horse. I really like to see him jumping. Omano will need a little more time. I have already seen very beautiful foals by Omano. Everything depends on how a stallion breeds. When Omano breeds in the direction of Chiquita, very beautiful offspring will be born. I also believe very strongly in Petrossian.” (The suffix BC stands for Blue Chip, owned by Tom Grossman.)



Björn Van Bunder riding Naila van 't Merelsnest (Kannan - Jugendnixe van't Merelsnest x Mr. Blue)

Wendelina van't Merelsnest makes her name

Another Idjaz-C daughter who means a lot to international sport and breeding is Wendelina van't Merelsnest. Walter talks about this full sister to Safari: “She was born on our studfarm and will die here too. She was born in 1999 and I have a personal bond with this dam. I'll do anything for her. She has bred very well in combination with Nabab de Rêve. After she gave birth to two foals of her own, we started to use embryo transplantation.” Wendelina now has around 30 offspring. “Wendelina has performed very well in sport. Under the saddle of Marc Van Dijck, she finished 14th at the Belgian championship for seniors in 2009. Our son Björn as well as Yves Vanderhasselt achieved great results at 1m50 level with Wendelina. We withdrew her from the sport in 2014. It is unbelievable how famous Wendelina is. She is known all over the world.”

Walter now owns nine direct daughters from Wendelina: “The eldest is Haditha-W, a daughter by Argentinus who is a super breeder. Her grandson Gregory-Lou Z (George Z) was approved in 2020 during the Zangersheide stallion expertise. Odelina, a daughter of Kannan out of Haditha-W, competes in partnership with Dirk Demeersman. Her full sister, Narjis, performs in the United Arab Emirates. Tanitha van't Merelsnest, another full sister to Odelina, was sold to the sport stable of Manuel Gonzalez Dufrane who, by the way, is successful at international 1m50 level with Martialis van't Merelsnest (Nabab de Rêve - Galanthis-W van't Merelsnest x Lord Z). Galanthis-W's dam is Wendelina.

Talytha-W van't Merelsnest, a daughter of VDL Zirocco Blue out of Haditha-W, was sold to the United States through the Prinsjesdag auction in 2019.

“Wendelina's best descendant to date is VDL Glasgow van't Merelsnest, although it's a pity that the Olympic Games could not take place in 2020 because he might have been able to participate. He jumps excellently and also breeds very well.” Jur Vrieling and Glasgow have already competed beautifully in international showjumping classes, including victories in the Rome and Helsinki Grand Prix, the Helsinki World Cup, the Cannes GCL heat and, last but not least, the 2017 Nations' Cup final in Barcelona.

There is still one sister (owned by Sofie Van Bunder) and a few Glasgow brothers in international showjumping: such as Koblenz-W van't Merelsnest (Taizo Sugitani and Alexander Liebe), Karaat van't Merelsnest (Steve Lefevre), and Morton van't Merelsnest (Richard Vogel).

With the final words going to Walter, he talked about the qualities Wendelina passes to her offspring: “Good movements, good forward jumping, because horses shouldn't only be able to jump high, but also be able to bridge the width of today's obstacles.” ■

Selle Français: Successful 10-day stallion testing

BY ANNE ROBERT / ANSF
PHOTOGRAPHY: LES GARENNES

After 10 days of preparation and testing with our expert's watchful advice (Serge Cornut, Francis Mas and Manuel Godin), the stallions that have been approved following the 2020 Selle Français stallion 10-day testing have been announced.

The best stallion is Happy Day d'Iscla (Toulon [BWP] - Signora x Kannan). This son of Toulon distinguished himself during last February's championship by finishing in fourth place and, therefore, securing his place for the stallion testing. Certainly, he confirmed his very good performances over the recent 10 days. His qualities and the very nice maternal bloodline (rated 10 out of 10 with the strain of his granddam, Sophie du Château) of this smart bay horse have already been appreciated by the breeders as they have presented him with 100 mares over the course of the year.

Important labels

In total, 55 males were presented during the 2020 10-day stallion testing, representing the best of their 'H' generation out of almost 400 males seen between autumn 2019 and autumn 2020. Twenty-two subsequently graduated with the 'very promising' label, as well as 13 being awarded as 'hopefuls'.

The 'very promising' label means that the overall average, including all the tests combined, exceeds 16 out of 20 (an accumulation of all the ratings from the qualifiers or the championship, plus the different testing evaluations: Testing experts, Selle Français judges, international expert riders).



Runner-up: Helios d'Helby (Cornet Obolensky/ex Windows vh Costersveld - Messaline du Ry x Carthago)

Among this group we can name seven males (in addition to Happy Day), who qualified for the 10-day testing during last February's championship:

- Hollister du Plantey (Dominator 2000 Z [Z] - Soriana de Bray x Gio Granno [Oldbg]), bred by EARL Domaine du Plantey
- Halessio du Linon (Carrera VDL [KWPN] - Falicore [KWPN] x Casall [Holst]) – a great grandson of the legendary Selle Français sire Baloubet du Rouet – bred by Virginie Blanquin
- Horacio du Gué (Sam du Chalois - Coriana du Gué x Cardero/ex Champs Elysees [Holst]), bred by SCEA Du Gué
- Honduras La Silla/ex Honduras d'Aubigny (Mylord Carthago x Concordia La Silla [Holst] x Corrado [Holst]), bred by Pierre Valette
- Herisson'Quill (Contendro [Holst] - Vodka'Quill [SF] x L'Arc de Triomphe [Oldbg]), bred by Jean-Christophe Lecorneur
- Hot Savoie (Candy de Nantuel x Rafale Savoie x C-Indoctro II [Holst]), bred by Maurice Moine
- Haschich d'Albain (Canabis d'Albain - Virgule des Prés x Quartz du Chanu), bred by Alexis Bouillot

It is interesting to note that three of the 'very



Winner: Happy Day d'Iscla (Toulon [BWP] - Signora x Kannan)



Third place: Halisco d'Asschaut (Vivo Cece - What a Pleasure Polderran [BWP] x For Pleasure [Hamm])

promising' males are part of the first generations of Candy de Nantuel, flagship stallion of the young SF genetics. It is also noteworthy that Diamant de Semilly is present in the pedigrees as we can find him in the paternal or maternal origins of four of these very promising young stallions.

As usual, the showjumping test unfolded with the participation of international expert riders*. This additional evaluation brings a sporting point of view in terms of their breeding potential as reproducers, but also and primarily as future sport horses. The jumping format evolved for this year with the introduction of a three-jump line across the diagonal with the horses approaching in trot. This format

highlighted the potential of these horses in terms of serenity.

This 2020 edition unfolded in the best possible way, with an excellent team from the international grooms' course at IFCE in the stables, allowing the testing riders to focus on the presentations. The team of test riders included: Thomas Carlile, Nicolas Delmotte, Olivier Guillon, Penelope Leprevost, and Nicolas Touzait, among others.

We thank all the stakeholders of the event that was able to go ahead despite the health restrictions, and announce the first presentation of the new stallions' generation during the Masters' classes on February 19, 2021 at Les Journées des Étalons SF in Saint-Lô. ■



Allure, elegance and quality highlighted at 15th BH Festival

BY ROBERTA MILANI (TRANSLATED BY BIA NICOTERO) / ABCCH-BH

In the midst of a pandemic that has haunted Brazil and the world since March, the Brazilian Association of Equestrian Breeders had the tough mission to host the 15th National BH Horse Festival in compliance with all the regulations imposed by the Ministry of Health to prevent and avoid the spread of coronavirus. As a result of a great deal of planning and commitment, the success of the event was determined.

The traditional Brazilian event that celebrates Brazilian breeders was held at the Clube Hípico de Santo Amaro, thus ending the triennial of the president of the ABCCH (National BH Horse Breeders Association) Mr. Luiz Flores.

In addition to showjumping competitions for young horses, from four to eight years of age, the best placed horses and riders qualified for the Future BH Horse competition where BH horses from all states are able to compete for the title of the year. The Gold Cup and the Classic Riding championships, 1m35 and 1m45 events, bring together the best Brazilian Horses that jump in high performance events in Brazil.

One of the highlights of this 15th National BH Horse Festival was the Classic Championship, with obstacles at 1m45, known as the Sharapova Império Egípcio Competition.

A total of 40 combinations, comprising horses that were bred in Brazil and with a genealogical registration issued by the ABCCH, entered the sand course of the arena. Nonetheless, the evening was bound to be special for a certain BH mare who would say farewell to competitions, one of the best BH horses as of today. The mare who gave her name to this class was none other than the star Sharapova MCJ Império Egípcio, bred by Haras Marcio Jorge and owned by Daniel Morelli.

In fact, there was no space for any other horses out of the 16 that returned for the final round. As the final combination on the course, the 'star', together with her rider, Raphael Machado Leite, secured a win as Sharapova Império Egípcio (Baloubet du Rouet x Welton Ambassador), jumped clear in a time of 34.34 seconds. Challenger Jmen II (Calisco Jmen x Potencial), with Karina Harbich Johannpeter in the saddle, guaranteed second place, also with a faultless performance, stopping the clock at 35.53 seconds. Third place went to Ludam do Liberte (Quidam de Revel x Corrado I) ridden by Rafael Ribeiro.

It was, in fact, a very successful weekend for Raphael Machado Leite, after victory in the Classic Championship, he landed on top of the podium once again to close the 15th National BH Horse Festival, this time riding Billie-Jean Egyptian Empire (Dollar Du Murier x Calvaro Z). This pair advanced to the jump-off with six other combinations,



Sharapova MCJ Império Egípcio ridden by Raphael Machado Leite

jumping a course designed by Gabriel Malfatti and becoming the champions with a faultless 38.16 seconds.

The runner-up was Salamandra New Wonderful (New Quidam x Landritter) with João Victor Kaiser Lopes, also clear in a time of 39.91 seconds, while Crystal Santa Dalila (Cardento x Indoctro), also jumped faultlessly with Flavia Helena Junqueira Lopes, in 41.77 seconds to claim the third spot on the podium.

During the exhibition (the approvals for foals and stallions), ABCCH celebrated the success of the quality of the products exhibited by several Brazilian breeders. In fact, the stallion approval saw a record enrolment, with 29 horses approved: two for their aptitude in dressage and 27 for showjumping.

This Festival saw various judges for the exhibition, jumping, stallion approval and mares' competition (on the triangle): Edgard Foroni, Marcelo Blessmann, and Neimar Roncati. The stallion approval and free jumping competition for mares included: Edgard Foroni, Marcelo Blessmann, and Victor Chiari, while the judges for the dressage approval were Petra Garbade and Neymar Roncati.

The points accumulated during the exhibition went towards the ranking for the best breeder and exhibitor, and there were also awards during the national exhibition of foals (from first to third place), the competition mares, the grand champion of the stallion approval, as well as the grand



Roi Class Etoulon SM (Etoulon VDL x Corland)



Austerity Jmen (Acorado x Canavaro Jmen)

champion, definitive and temporary, which included both paternal and maternal progeny.

In showjumping aptitude, 22 breeders and 27 exhibitors participated and Haras Agromen won with 28 points, ahead of Jmen Agrícola S/A, with 26 points. In dressage aptitude with just two breeders, the title was won by Haras do Drosa and Roberto Ferreira Pedrosa with 10 points.

In 2020, the stallion approval for a ridden showjumper title went to Celtic Boy Jmen (Mylord Carthago x Canavaro Jmen), with a score of 8.32, who won permanent approval certification.

In dressage aptitude with 8.17 points, Drosa Bordhot (Bordeaux x Diego) received permanent approval, bred by Haras do Drosa, owned by Roberto Ferreira Pedrosa.

Fourteen horses were presented for evaluation by the judges at the stallion approval in free jumping, where three received their permanent approval certificate: Austerity Jmen (Acorado x Canavaro Jmen), with 8.26 points; HSF Hector, (Kannan x Cor de la Bryère) with 8.03 points; and Roi Class Etoulon SM (Etoulon VDL x Corland), with 8.0 points.

Eleven mares competed in the National Festival in the competition mares category. Of these, four of them received the permanent approval certificate: Arya Stark TPR (Elvis Ter Putte x Prince van de Wolfsakker), with 8.04 points; Call Me For (Contender I x Diamant de Semilly), with 8.03 points; JCR Indy (Indoctro x Landritter), with 8.00 points; and Blue Bell ZA (Baltic VDL x Quintender), also with a score of 8.00 points. ■



HSF Hector, (Kannan x Cor de la Bryère)



Arya Stark TPR (Elvis Ter Putte x Prince van de Wolfsakker)



Drosa Bordhot (Bordeaux x Diego)



Call Me For (Contender I x Diamant de Semilly)

Polish stallions' 100-day test internationally recognized

BY JAROSLAW LEWANDOWSKI / PZHK
PHOTOGRAPHY: KATARZYNA WISZOWATY

In November 2020 a trial took place concluding the 100-days under-the-saddle performance test of 17 stallions from Poland and Germany at the Łąck stallion Depot in Poland, where the system of gaining and awarding licences is very flexible.

Alongside the said 100-day stationary test, riding stallions can qualify for breeding basing on sport achievements, results in the young horse championships, and two-day field performance test. Every owner chooses the selection path for his/her stallion, taking into consideration the intended direction of his career, degree of advancement in development and training, as well as the potential and cost of available training facilities.

The 100-day test recorded in studbook breeding programmes for riding horses bred within the Polish Horse Breeders Association (PZHK) is the only form of stationary training existing in Europe that has such a time span and includes also an element of cross-country work. This is the

reason that it's a particularly interesting alternative, first of all for breeders oriented towards three-day-event horses. Presently, in the programmes of other European breeding associations, a path directed towards the selection of young eventing stallions is difficult to find.

Hence the considerable interest demonstrated by Trakehner horse breeders (Trakehner Blancor, Grenoble, Sturmpfeil, as well as Dacerus and Liard, with Trakehner pedigrees recorded in the Wielkopolska studbook maintained by PZHK), for whom, breeding of horses for the discipline of eventing is the main direction next to specializing in horses for dressage. The Trakehner Association took a high eighth place in the WBFHS ranking for this discipline, with Trakehner Grafenstolz (Polarion - Gipsy Lady x Camelot) leading the list of best sires.

In the evaluation trial upon completion of the 100-day training the basis for calculating the final scores is made by the following elements: free jumping, jumping under saddle, work under the saddle in walk, trot and canter/cross country jumping (committee and head of the training centre), as well as rideability and aptitude for the discipline (by the jumping rider and the dressage rider).

All the above scores are taken into consideration in calculating the overall result. The dressage score is based on: work under the saddle in walk, trot, and canter and evaluation by the dressage test rider; while the jumping score is calculated from: free jumping, jumping under saddle, work under saddle in canter, and evaluation by the jumping test rider.

It is worth taking this opportunity to emphasize the importance of the possibility to observe horses during work in the field, also in the context of their dressage and jumping potential. This offers the committee an additional chance for possible correction of gaits and the jumping-under-the saddle evaluation.

As experience has shown the indoor arena often limits horses' ability to demonstrate their



Hickstead Junior OS (Hickstead White x Chico's Boy)

qualities in full. When working outdoors they tend to be more expressive, moving and jumping more freely.

Additionally, the head trainer evaluates suitability for training, temperament, and character. However, these scores have only supplementary character and they do not constitute the basis for the final results calculation.

During the 100-day test the horses were prepared for the final trial by the head trainer, Krzysztof Kierzek, a rider who has competed in all three Olympic disciplines. He won medals in the national young horse championships in jumping and eventing on horses that he had trained himself. He has a trainer's license and an FEI course designer certificate. Kierzak has worked in a number of breeding centres. He was a member of a specialist team at Stanisław Szurik's Stud at the time when the stallion Nevados S, world young horse champion and team European champion (Gregory Wathelet, BEL) was bred there.

During the two-day trial stallions were evaluated by the commission chaired by Bogdan Kuczejda, an experienced sportsman, trainer, judge, breeder, and multi-year member of the board of the Polish Horse Breeders Association (PZH) and the Polish Equestrian Federation (PZJ). Other members of the commission were: Marlena Gruca, a rider



*For My Pleasures/ex For Passion GPH WM AES
(For Pleasure - Vigo d'Arsoilles)*

who has competed at GP level, and an FEI3* dressage trainer and judge; and Łukasz Joczyk, a still active competitor, many-time medalist of the Polish young horse jumping championships, as well as a European championship and World Cup participant. The test riders were sister and brother: Teresa Tomaszewska, a GP level rider and dressage trainer, and Antoni Tomaszewski with similar achievements in jumping.

The winner in the general classification (8.2) and, unexpectedly, in the dressage classification (8.3) was the



Stallions performance test - final ranking

Place and date: **Łąck 4-5.11.2020**

Rank	Horse	Year of birth	Head Trainer's evaluation			Commission's evaluation						Test riders' evaluation						Final result		
			Suitability for training	Temperament	Character	Free jumping	Jumping under the saddle	Work at a walk	Working in a trot	Work at a canter	cross-country/galop	Dressage			Jumping			Total	Dressage	Jumping
												Suitability	Rideability	Average	Suitability	Rideability	Average			
1	Hickstead Junior old. (OS) (Hickstead White old. (OS) - Cantumia hol./Chico's Boy hol.)	2016	8.5	8.0	6.5	8.6	8.1	7.4	8.3	8.4	8.6	9.5	8.5	9.0	6.5	7.0	6.8	8.2	8.3	8.0
2	Diamond Pearl old. (Diamond Hit old. - Chanel old./Fürst Romancier old.)	2016	9.0	7.5	8.5	6.8	7.5	7.8	7.9	8.1	7.8	9.0	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.9	8.2	7.7
3	Biancor trk. (Adorator trk. - Blanchette trk./Suchard trk.)	2017	8.5	6.5	8.5	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.8	8.4	7.5	8.5	8.0	7.5	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8
4	Dacerus PZH (wkp/trk. origin) (Eloquent trk. - Datura wkp/trk. origin/Life and Liberty xx)	2017	8.5	8.0	8.0	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.0	7.9	8.0	9.0	8.5	6.5	8.5	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.7
5	Quickstep DSP (Quiz old. - Holle DSP/Colestus westf.)	2017	8.0	7.0	7.5	7.5	8.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.0	7.8	8.0	8.5	8.3	7.7	7.6	7.8
6	For My Pleasure (ex For Passion GPH WM) AES (For Pleasure han. - Hinosa C KWPN/Vigo D'Arsoilles BWP)	2016	8.5	8.0	9.0	8.9	8.3	7.8	6.8	7.9	7.9	5.0	6.0	5.5	9.0	7.5	8.3	7.7	7.0	8.4
7	Don Plaisir westf. (Don Nobless han. - Finesse han./Fürst Heinrich westf.)	2017	9.0	8.0	7.5	7.6	7.1	8.3	7.4	8.3	6.9	8.0	7.5	7.8	6.5	7.5	7.0	7.6	8.0	7.5
8	Action Blue old. (Action Blue old. - Credina OS/Balou du Rouet old.)	2016	8.0	7.0	8.0	8.9	8.0	7.5	6.6	7.4	7.8	6.0	6.5	6.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.6	7.0	8.2
9	Fabion Blue Hors han. (Fareil han. - Feine Dame han./Fidertanz rhein.)	2017	8.5	8.5	8.5	6.5	6.8	8.5	8.1	7.6	7.1	7.5	8.0	7.8	7.0	7.5	7.3	7.5	8.0	7.1
10	Grenoble trk. (Marseille trk. - Graffiti trk./Brioni trk.)	2017	7.5	8.5	8.5	7.8	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.5	6.5	7.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	7.8	7.4	7.2	7.5
11	Stumpfehl trk. (Under Fire trk. - Sexytoo trk./Sixtus trk.)	2017	8.5	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.4	7.1	6.8	7.5	7.3	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.3	7.2	7.4
12	Diamant de Plaisir II han. (Diamant De Semilly sf - Lady Pleasure old./For Pleasure han.)	2017	8.0	7.0	8.0	8.1	8.4	7.0	6.4	7.6	7.8	6.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.8	7.3	6.9	7.7
13	Qatar Odeveid BWP (Kannan KWPN - Finesse Odeveid BWP/Lord Z hol.)	2016	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.8	7.3	7.5	6.5	7.1	6.9	5.5	6.5	6.0	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.2	6.8	7.7
14	Liard PZH (wkp/trk. origin) (Eloquent trk. - Li wkp/Hamlet Go trk.)	2017	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.8	5.5	6.0	5.8	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.2	7.0	7.3
15	Spartacus T ex Everest DSP (Skyflight hol. - Camelle old./Castellini hol.)	2016	7.5	8.5	9.0	6.9	6.8	7.9	6.4	7.1	7.8	5.5	7.0	6.3	7.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0
16	Beau Noir (ex Black Berry W) mekl. (Bemay rhein. - Charlotte old./Salut Le Bon old.)	2016	8.0	8.0	7.0	6.1	6.0	7.0	7.5	7.8	7.3	7.0	8.0	7.5	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.9	7.5	6.6
17	Legion AA PZH (m (AA)) (Juniperus m - Lerka m/Arcus xx)	2017	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.8	6.8	7.4	7.0	7.0	7.1	5.5	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.8	6.9	6.7
AVERAGE			8.12	7.59	7.82	7.55	7.44	7.54	7.24	7.63	7.60	6.85	7.47	7.18	7.32	7.50	7.44	7.46	7.42	7.54
STANDARD DEVIATION			0.60	0.64	0.85	0.80	0.64	0.43	0.59	0.43	0.49	1.32	0.94	1.10	0.98	0.85	0.81	0.38	0.51	0.49



The Irish Sport Horse Studbook would like to thank all customers for their support during 2020. A tremendous effort was put in from owners, breeders and riders who have supported the Irish Sport Horse during last year. We would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.



Ballypatrick Flamenco (ISH) & Kevin Gallagher (IRL) - winner of the Valencia CSI2* Grand Prix & the HSI Premier Series Grand Prix Final 2020
2010 Gelding - Je T'aime Flamenco (BWP) x Cruising (ISH)(TH)
Breeder: Noel Cawley, Co. Kildare



Cooley Rosalent (ISH) & Oliver Townsend (GBR) - 6-year-old runner-up and highest placed Irish Sport Horse at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horses
2014 Mare - Valent (KWPN) x Roselier (TB)(FR)
Breeder: J.W. Rosbotham, Co. Armagh



2018 jumping winner of the DSP stallion approval in Neustadt-Dosse, Hickstead Junior OS (Hickstead White x Chico's Boy). The very beautiful medium-caliber stallion was very much appreciated by the dressage test rider, Teresa Tomaszewska, who assessed his suitability for the discipline at 9.5, and his rideability at 8.5.

Hickstead Junior is owned by the Sprehe Stallion Station and was entered for the performance test by his lessee, the Saxon Moritzburg Stallion Stud.

In the jumping horses' classification, For My Pleasures/ex For Passion GPH WM AES (For Pleasure x Vigo d'Arsoilles) was awarded the highest score (8.4). He was the winner at the final of the free jumping championship in Saasveld (Denmark) at the age of three. The jumping talents of this stallion, currently owned by the Gerd Sosath Station, was highly assessed by both the commission (free jumping 8.9, jumping under saddle 8.3), and the test rider (8.3, including 9.0 for suitability for the discipline)

In dressage Diamond Pearl, as well as the very versatile Blancor and Dacerus also impressed during the test. Diamond Pearl OLD (Diamond Hit x Fürst Romancier) is a very noble, beautiful horse of a modern dressage type. The committee was impressed with his very good movement in all three gaits. He was also highly rated by test riders, both in dressage (8.8) and – surprisingly, given his dressage pedigree – in jumping (8.5).

Equally high scores for all the evaluated features and, above all, confidence in jumping and an efficient gallop



Dacerus PZHK (wlkp) (Eloquent x Life and Liberty xx)

presented during the cross-country presentation, provided the grounds to believe that the stallions Blancor TRK (Adorator x Suchard) and Dacerus PZHK (wlkp) (Eloquent x Life and Liberty xx) can become high class eventing horses in the future.

In addition to horses of Polish breeding and ownership, stallions belonging to renowned companies and organizations operating in the field of sport horse breeding in Germany: the Trakehner Association, the Moritzburg Stallion Stud, the Sosath Stallion Station, the Sprehe Stallion Station, were trained in Łack. Among them were recognised sons of the world's best sires: Diamant de Semilly, Kannan, For Pleasure, and Diamond Hit. This should come as no surprise – after all, stallions and mares of foreign breeding and foreign ownership have many-a-time participated in the field and stationary performance trials organised by PZHK.

It is also worth adding that the results of this test, approved in breeding programs by the Polish Ministry of Agriculture, are internationally recognised. The interest in horse training in Poland in successive years confirms the high quality of the Polish Training Centre curriculum, the qualifications of its head trainer, the staff, the evaluation commission, the training facilities, the horse nutrition and care system and, of course, the organizational and financial conditions. ■



Diamond Pearl OLD (Diamond Hit x Fürst Romancier)

Performance pedigrees shine at HSI 2020 foal championship

BY ANTONETTE DORAN / HSI

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURENCE DUNNE/JUMPINACTION.NET

Horse Sport Ireland recently held five qualifiers in the HSI Foal Championship 2020, which offered an overall prize fund of almost €25,000. These regional qualifiers had separate categories and sections for horses and ponies, as well as for potential showjumping foals and potential eventing foals.

The aim was to identify, evaluate and reward breeders who have bred a foal that has the potential to be competitive at the highest level in showjumping or eventing.

The qualifiers were held in September and four foals from each regional qualifier advanced to the final; the best showjumping type and the best eventing type in each category (horse and pony). HSI were pleased to include a prize at each of the qualifiers for the best traditionally bred (TIH) foal in the horse sections. In this year's final, €10,000 was awarded across the categories.

This year the competitions were judged by Janet Murray, Lindsay Graham, and Comdt Gerry Flynn. Following the competition Graham said; "This is a great and well organised initiative by Horse Sport Ireland's breeding department. It offers opportunities to breeders to show their foal on a platform for sales, and



PJ Hegarty's filly Fenyas Allure (Ramiro B (BWP) out of Feny By Good Thyne (TB), winner of the HSI Eventing Foal 2020 title



Dr Noel Cawley with the winning Horse Sport Ireland Show Jumping Foal 2020, Tangerado, a colt by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve (BWP) out of Cruise Leaf (ISH) by Cruising (ISH)

provides experience to the foal before entering a sale or indeed an arena.

"Excellent prize money was offered for competing in these foal championships, which is a huge incentive for breeders to continue in the right direction. I was particularly impressed by the emphasis that was put into performance pedigree lines. I think it bodes well for the future of Irish Sport Horse breeding. I would like to congratulate Alison Corbally and her breeding team for all the work that goes into organising and running a successful championship such as this."

Comdt. Gerry Flynn added; "Without a doubt the quality of foal and pedigree is improving year after year in Ireland. All mares, foals and handlers were exceptionally well turned out and the foals were well handled. The pedigree bonus points played a major role in our scores and

I think this encourages breeders to make informed decisions when choosing the correct sire for their mare. We are definitely progressing in the right direction with our performance pedigrees in Ireland and I feel we are on par with our European counterparts.

“Breeders are much more aware of the value in breeding from both performance mares and stallions. Well done to the breeding staff at Horse Sport Ireland for organising this championship, I am sure it was much appreciated by all breeders given the battle everyone in the industry has suffered due to the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020.”

Results by category

Winning Show Jumping Foal 2020

Tangerado – colt by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve (BWP) out of Cruise Leaf (ISH) by Cruising (ISH), bred and owned by Dr Noel Cawley

Winning Eventing Foal 2020

Fenyas Allure – filly by Ramiro B (BWP) out of Fenyas (ISH) by Good Thyme (TB), bred and owned by PJ Hegarty

Winning Showjumping Pony 2020

Carnakilly Monarch – colt by Carnakilly Mac Guire (CP) out of Carnakilly Coral (CP) by Dexter Leam Pondi (CP), bred and owned by Jackie Hockley

Winning Eventing Pony 2020

Avalon Ferrero – colt by Womanizer out of Curly Whirly by Inverin Rocky, bred and owned by Michelle Gilligan

Traditional Irish Horse 2020

Kestrels Classic Clover – filly by Rising Sun (ISH) out of Diamond Cloverfield (ISH) by Captain Clover (ISH), bred and owned by Rebecca Dunlea

Following the result Dr. Noel Cawley said; “I am delighted to win the showjumping section of the HSI foal championship, the second time I’ve won this section. This dam is Cruise Leaf, who has also bred horses who have competed up to 1m60 level– such as Cruise on Clover, Golden Exchange, Hybernia – and hopefully Dowth Hall will progress to that level in the Army Equitation School. Cruise Leaf herself

has bred Glimmering who won the Irish Sport Horse Studbook series as a seven-year-old, and Ballypatrick Flamenco who won the Grand Prix in Valencia a few weeks ago. I am hoping that this colt foal will follow in their footsteps.

“The foal championship is an excellent incentive for Irish Sport Horse breeders throughout Ireland, as the introduction of pedigree bonus points in these classes promotes successful performance bloodlines while also encouraging the breeder to make informed decisions during breeding seasons.”

PJ Hegarty said; “We are very grateful to HSI for giving us the opportunity to compete this year in the foal championship. We were thrilled to win the eventing foal section with Fenyas Allure, out of our 24-year-old mare Fenyas. She was an ICSI foal born in mid July. This filly is a half sister to Fenyas Elegance, so she has big foot steps to follow. We are very happy with this foal’s strength, step, and conformation and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for her.”

Alison Corbally, director of Breeding and Programmes with Horse Sport Ireland said; “After such a challenging year for all, I am delighted that the HSI Foal Championship received such positive support from the breeders. It’s wonderful to see the progression of our mare herd in Ireland with some of the best performance pedigrees being used with top performance stallions to strengthen our sport horse breeds. This year’s breeding initiatives were altered considerably to enable them to continue within the government guidelines and restrictions, and were primarily targeted at offering additional breeder support in a particularly difficult year. The Foal Championship offered breeders a substantial prize fund, an opportunity to show their foal in a Covid-19 safe environment, while also gaining experience in an arena. I would like to thank breeders and producers for their continued support, and I look forward to following the success of these foals in their future competition careers.” ■



Subcarpathia Top Horses: A welcome Polish evaluation

BY AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: KATARZYNA WISZOWATY

Although many major breeding and sporting events in Europe have been cancelled due to the pandemic, a few local breeding events were able to take place, complying to strict safety restrictions, ahead of the second wave of Covid-19: no public, just horses and their breeders.

One such event was Subcarpathia Top Horses, organized in south-eastern corner of Poland, outside the city of Rzeszow, at the base of the Carpathia Mountains in early December 2020. The breeding selection of two- and three-year-old dressage and showjumping prospects from different studbooks which were evaluated by the international judging commission including Andrzej Matlawski – an acclaimed Polish inspector with 40 years of experience as the Director of Gniezno Stallion Stud, Peter Strijbosch representing KWPN, and Louis de Cleene from Zangersheide. The judges awarded one overall score for every presented horse, with the following list of those who scored 8.0 or more:

Three-year-old showjumpers:

- Dominanta Z (mare: Dominator 2000 Z - Letty x Laith) – bred by Marek Duzkiewicz, 8.5
- Sequin Z (stallion: Sir Obolensky Z - Cimba x Castillo) – bred by Iwona Kruszynska, 8.45
- Manhattan Hippika OS (stallion: My Lord - Omaha Lane x Baloubet de Rouet) – bred by Zbigniew Kostrzewski, 8.4
- Kelior PZHK (stallion Hippika Koh - Kleo x Louis) – bred by Rafał Jonata, 8.2
- Demokrata Hippika Z (stallion: Dominator 2000 Z - Carnute Girl x Carnute) – bred by Zbigniew Kostrzewski, 8.1
- Calanda PZHK (mare: Bankiet - Casandra x Lasko) – bred by Barbara Prusiewicz, 8.0

Two-year-old showjumpers

- Cantini PP PZHK (stallion: Caressini - Celtara x Castillo) – bred by Barbara Prusiewicz, 8.8
- V-Querida of Vigo Z (mare: Vigo Heywood - Quitara x Quidam de Revel) – bred by Iwona Kruszynska, 8.3
- Colette PZHK (mare: Colestus - Coloris M x Nimmerdor I) – bred by Łukasz Wylga, 8.2
- Can't Stop Z (mare: Comilfo Plus Z - Kascada x Mywill) – bred by Iwona Kruszynska, 8.0

In this category there were also representatives of indigenous Polish Anglo-Arab damlines bred by Janow Podlaski Stud, who scored quite highly compared to the offspring of world-famous stallions:

- Elios AA PZHK (mare: Chestnut Park All That Jazz xx - Elinda x Dounba xx) bred by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud, 7.4
- Agias AA PZHK (stallion: Emark - Agrykola x Dywisior xx) – bred by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud, 7.3

Dressage prospects:

- Miracle ASD KWPN (mare: Dark Pleasure - Fraulein x Ufo) – bred by Ad Schellens and Barbara Lipiejko, 8.5
- Frederic PZHK (stallion: Franklin - Just for Me x Ampere) – bred by Sylwia Sypien, 8.3
- Sirius Westf. (gelding: Sir Heinrich - Pr.St. Verb x Sandro Hit) – bred by Reinhard Jaite and Natalia Fac, 7.9

Ula Pekaniec from Pekaniec Sport Horses who co-organized and hosted the event, shared the concept of the Show and the outcome of its first edition. “The idea of organizing Subcarpathia Top Horses came to me spontaneously, yet having already known how our industry functioned and bearing in mind the concept of such event for some time I guess we just waited for the right moment. Then the moment came with the engagement of Lesna Wola Horse Stud which took all the responsibility to hold such event and, in the end, turned out to be a great co-organiser.

“In fact there are two reasons why we organized Subcarpathia. First was the response to the need for creating a mutual platform which would connect breeders and riders who in Poland function independently. Riders tend to look for their horses abroad not being aware of the potential available right here. The fluent cooperation between breeders and riders can contribute to creating strong equestrian sport. As we could see at Subcarpathia Top Horses, our breeders are able



Cantini PP and Łukasz Wylga

to deliver a good sport horse prospect at this stage of breeding and the riders can benefit by getting a better chance of buying a healthy horse from a well-known breeder. Plus, having the evaluation done by such a professional commission minimalizes the risk of buying a horse that won't be successful in sport. That's what so far we have really missed in Poland. Reliable evaluation of sport potential of the horses. Horse judging on the ground often didn't work with regard to a horse's usefulness, which resulted in sport and breeding moving in two different directions. We wanted to assure riders that the right horse evaluation is a guarantee of their future sporting potential, and that they can trust our professional judging commission. And for the breeders themselves, such event is an opportunity to promote their horses, to see other stallions, and to learn for the future.

"Another reason why we organized the event is the current structure of Polish breeding. Nowadays there are mostly private breeders who own a few mares and register their foals in foreign studbooks which offer them attractive and convenient conditions. It's reflected in the low percentage of PZHK horses among all the entries. When I say 'Polish breeding', I mean all the horses bred in Poland by Poles, regardless of birth studbook registration: It's important that they are Polish because they represent our capital and our breeding concepts. Such dismembering of breeding makes it hardly possible to organize comparative reviews or breeding shows on a larger scale within one studbook due to insufficient subsidies. Breeders are left to their own devices. Subcarpathia was created to unify and let breeders compare each other's horses, moving forward following the most modern European bloodlines no matter what studbook the horses are registered with.

"To meet our expectations we invited independent and well-respected judging commission members. They took a very objective approach which could be seen for example in the higher notes received by Polish Anglo-Arabs compared to the horses with foreign (and often more attractive in terms of their bloodlines) passports. And the horse who received the highest score of 8.8 points was the PZHK Polish half-bred stallion Cantini PP.

"In order to make the participation as easy as possible our only restriction was the age category. We were very positively surprised by the engagement of foreign studbooks who found favour with this method. The foreign inspectors were also positively surprised by the quality of horses. Out of 50 presented they would [theoretically] choose five to take to their stables. Usually they have to see four times as many horses in Poland to find the desired five."

And why Subcarpathia? "Our region may be often marginalized, yet one cannot ignore its strategic location on the crossroads connecting south-eastern European countries, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, with the highway leading from Germany to Ukraine. It's also a point of interest for our eastern and southern neighbours. That's why next summer we're planning 'Subcarpathia Foals' followed by the second edition of 'Subcarpathia Top Horses'.



*Sequin Z (stallion: Sir Obolensky Z - Cimba x Castillo)
bred by Iwona Kruszyńska*

Commentary from the foreign judges

Louis de Cleene from Zangersheide: "I am absolutely positive about the event and honestly surprised with the quality of horses I've seen today. We can see the influence from Belgium, Holland, and Germany, and which breeding stallions and damlines are being used. It's a positive vibe here in Poland with people interested to see, to learn, and to understand how they can do better with young horses and in result lift breeding and sport in Poland to a higher level. We at Zangersheide are very happy to be a part of this and are open to helping Polish breeders move to the next level of breeding.

"Now the times have changed and so has breeding. We went from bigger horses to horses that still need to have a good body but are more advanced in blood because they also have to be quick and careful. Using good material, good stallions and good mares in Belgium and in Poland, we can bring better horses that suit the sport as it is today. Breeders can also learn a lot from such shows by looking at other horses and comparing.

"Due to Covid-19 our business has switched to online as there are no physical auctions and competitions which was reflected in the breeding trends – we all know about embryo transfer and ICSI which is happening a lot. It's a positive evolution and I think that by combining the best DNA of the best stallions and the best mares in science we can get the best horse. Anyway for sure we have to use the best damlines because that's where the good horses come from."

Peter Strijbosch from KWPN: "It's the first time I've judged horses in Poland. It was a very good organization and horses were presented in a good way, showing what we can change to improve breeding. In Holland we've changed a lot in breeding over last 20 years going to specialization. And that's what we've seen today – the dressage and the showjumping horses. It's also the best way to look at different types of horses." ■

NZ national young dressage horse championships

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: LIBBY LAW

New Zealand's major dressage competition was postponed for several months last year, from its usual March date until late November. This was due, of course, to the Covid-19 lockdown, and the rescheduled competition coincided with the deadline of December's Breeding News.

Therefore, it was only possible to provide the results and brief coverage last month, including the late news that Ythe superb New Zealand Warmblood, Windermere J'Obei W (Johnson - Miss Pompeii xx x Pompeii Court xx) is the 2020 National Grand Prix Champion and winner of the Burkner Medal. Now for more background.

Windermere J'Obei W, 'Joey', was bred by David Woolley – remember that name – and Rania Todd, is owned by the Parkes family of Windermere Equestrian, and ridden by Melissa Galloway (née Parkes). He was the 2019 Level 8 champion, and won the 2020 Dressage Horse of the Year (CDI3*) title at the age of nine, receiving top marks from every judge in every one of his tests. He also won the Zone 8 2018 FEI World Dressage Challenge and has had excellent CDI4* results in Australia. His winning performances have played a large part in propelling Team Nijhof's Johnson to the top of the WBFSh dressage sire rankings.

At the 2020 Nationals, Windermere J'Obei W again won all three of his tests and is beginning to look invincible here, despite some strong opposition. This year's HOY, which is scheduled for mid-March, will be a very interesting and much-anticipated competition.

Reserve National Champion was the dependably good Ruakura Satori MH (De Niro - Grand Gift x Genius) a 17-year-old Hanoverian gelding bred by Judith Matthews at Matthews Hanoverians, owned by Rosemary Carter, and ridden by Bill Millar. Incidentally, this result – 2020 National and Reserve GP champions – is identical to the 2020 GP Dressage Horse of the Year. Ruakura Satori MH was second in the GP Special, third in the Freestyle, and fourth in the Grand Prix.

Another NZWB bred by David Woolley and Rania Todd, sired by Johnson, and out of a Thoroughbred mare finished second in the Grand Prix: Windermere Johanson (Johnson - Miss Phillips xx x Kilimanjaro (GB) xx) – a gelding who is now 12 years old. Like Windermere J'Obei W, he is owned by Windermere Equestrian and ridden by Melissa Galloway.

Second in the Freestyle were the enormously

popular Olympians, Vom Feinsten (Fiedermark - Wellcome x Weltmeyer) and his owner/rider Julie Brougham, who is fighting cancer and had just begun a course of chemotherapy. In fact, she was in hospital the day before the competition. These two won the national title in 2018 and finished just half a point behind Bill Millar and Ruakura Satori MH this year. 'Steiny' is a 17-year-old Rheinland gelding (like Satori MH), and bred in Germany by Rudi Henn.

Winners with a W

Windermere J'Obei W and Windermere Johanson were not the only stars with a W or DW after their name at this year's nationals, and not the only point-scorers for Team Nijhof's Johnson. The very exciting 10-year-old NZ Warmblood, Jax Johnson (Johnson - A La Mode x Anamour), was the Level 8 champion, winning all three of his tests too. Although he doesn't have the DW or W suffix, this gelding was bred by David Woolley (in partnership with Rania Todd). He is owned and ridden by Gaylene Lennard,



Young dressage horse champions [l-r] 6yo Furst Rock DW ridden by Vanessa Way, 5yo Dance Hit SW and rider Susan Tomlin, and the 4yo Feuer Tanz with Rochelle Speirs

and was last season's Level 5 national champion, as well as Level 5 Horse of the Year. Like Windermere J'Obei W, he has won an FEI World Challenge class: in his case, Senior I.

The other championship winner for David Woolley was the tall, beautifully proportioned, and equally beautifully bred Hanoverian gelding Fürst Rock DW (Fürst Romancier - Rock Chiq DW x Royston Rockstar). With his owner/rider Vanessa Way, he won the six-year-old championship on a huge score (89.40%), almost 15% ahead of the second-placed horse. His sire, Fürst Romancier (Fürst Heinrich - Ronja x Romancier), is from the Oldenburg Edoste line, and has a breeding index of 160 points. Fürst Rock DW's dam-sire, Royston Rockstar (Real Diamond - Florida x Florestan), an imported Westfalian who was sold to Australia, carries the blood of Rohdiamant, Rubinstein, and Weltmeyer. It all becomes a little confusing (like many a good pedigree...), but Florestan appears in Fürst Rock's sire-line as well: he is the sire of Fürst Romancier's sire, Fürst Heinrich. Well, as they say, blood will out!

With his marks nearing 90%, Fürst Rock DW was the highest-scoring young dressage horse in the three age-group championships at the 2020 nationals (reported in the last issue), winning the Glenvar Trophy for David Woolley as a result. "Rock is the first one of a new generation of my horses about to come out, and I'm very excited about the next few years," says Woolley. "But, while I'm confident that these next horses will continue to do well, I'm also conscious that the success I had at the nationals is a very rare thing. As such, it's important to acknowledge and celebrate it – as we all know what a roller coaster ride horses can be."

Fürst Rock's dam, Rockchiq DW, is a Rheinlander, with a Hanoverian-approved Thoroughbred dam, Miss Phillips – who is no longer breeding, but is also the dam of the Grand Prix gelding, Windermere Johanson.

Runner-up to Fürst Rock in the championship was the lovely grey Lusitano mare, Jamaica Cruziera do Sol (Ali Baba x Huilco), bred, ridden and owned by Jody Hartstone. She is a delight to watch in action.

Medium Tour – Trotter Trophy

As mentioned above, the Medium Tour (FEI Intermediate) champion was the 10-year-old NZWB Jax Johnson (Johnson - A La Mode x Anamour), who was bred by David Woolley and Rania Todd, and is owned and ridden by Gaylene Lennard. He has only recently moved up to this level, with three wins from his three starts, and really is an impressive horse. His dam, A La Mode (Anamour x Distelfink) (sometimes written as Ala Mode) is a third-generation NZ Hanoverian with very strong dressage lines on both sides of her pedigree. A full sister of Jax Johnson's, Jovana DW, born in February 2020, was sold in utero to Gaylene Lennard – an indication of how highly the very experienced horsewoman rates her gelding. A La Mode is now in foal to Grand Galaxy Win, and, says Woolley, "This will be the only foal by him in New Zealand – so, I'm

excited." Meanwhile, a Hanoverian half-sister of Jax Johnson's, Qurious DW (Quattro B) has recently given birth to a simply gorgeous filly by Fidertanz – early photos and video footage on Facebook suggest that this baby is going to be very special. She has no name as yet, but is one to keep on the radar.

The debonair chestnut, Don Vito MH (Don Frederico - Adelheid x Anamour), was reserve Medium champion. This NZ Hanoverian gelding was bred by Judith Matthews. He is just eight, was the winner of 2020's Advanced HOY, and is showing super Grand Prix potential. He is owned by Wendi and John Williamson and ridden by Wendi Williamson.

Small Tour – Surrey Trophy

The winner of this championship was Timbermill Prequel (Prestige VDL - Crystal x Dream Boy). He is a Hanoverian gelding bred by Kerry Sanders of Timbermill Sporthorses, and owned and ridden by Vanessa Way, who has helped this super young horse overcome quite a bit of baby nervousness and become a calm, willing partner. Timbermill Prequel also won the 2020 seven-year-old title at HOY; he is now eight – the official NZ horse birthday being August 1.

Reserve champion and winner of the freestyle was the very expressive Felix Westfalia FE (Franziskus - Laetitia x Laurentianer), another eight-year-old gelding. He is an imported Westfalian bred in Germany by Winifried Albers of Neuenkirchen and is owned and ridden by Kallista Field. His dam is a Staatsprämie Westfalian from Holsteiner Stamm 162, and Felix has a lovely young half-sister, Scarlett O'Hara (Scuderia), who is just beginning her dressage career in Europe.

Both Timbermill Prequel and Felix Westfalia are brimming with promise and are exciting prospects for the higher levels.

Preliminary – Aztec Trophy

On the subject of 'promise', the Preliminary Open title was won by a quite phenomenal four-year-old NZWB gelding, Feuer Tanz (HP Fresco - Astek Gymkala x Gymnastik Star. Feuer Tanz was bred by Gillian Booth of Kerikeri in Northland, is ridden by Rochelle Speirs, and owned by Linda Budden and Julie Brougham. He was, of course, also the winner of the National four-year-old championship. His dam, Astek Gymkala (Gymnastik Star - Kinnordy Wulle Bulle x Winterkoenig) was bred by Sue Fowler at Astek Stud; her dam was bred in Australia by Kinnordy Stud.

Feuer Tanz's sire, the Oldenburg HP Fresco (Fackeltanz OLD - Holstein Park Liebeleil x Lander), who has Hanoverian F-line blood, was bred in Australia by Holstein Park and imported to New Zealand by Holly Leach. He was the 2018 NZ National six-year-old champion and champion young horse, as well as reserve Level 5 Horse of the Year. He also won the seven-year-old championship at the Sydney, Australia, CDI in 2019. According to Leach, the young Feuer

Tanz strongly resembles this gorgeous nine-year-old stallion. And, by the way, Florestan pops up on Fresco's sire line (he is Fackeltanz's sire's sire).

Reserve Preliminary Champion was Riverrock Nigella (Negro - Sienna Hit FE x Salutation), a five-year-old mare bred by Riverrock Farm, and jointly owned by Jane Geor and her rider, Sophie de Clifford.

Novice – Killala Trophy

There's a nice little twist to the pedigrees of the champion and reserve champion in this division: The champion was sired by the reserve champion's sire! A fabulous five-year-old Hanoverian gelding, Dance Hit SW (Danciano - Rosari Sable Hit x Sandro Hit), was the outright winner. He was bred by Sheena and Dermot Ross at Sterling Warmbloods, is owned by Susan Tomlin and Andrea Raves, and ridden by Susan Tomlin. As reported last month, he was also the winner of the five-year-old championship on a score of 85.2.

The reserve ribbon went to Ducati MH (Dancier - Antega MH x Anamour). Yes, Dancier is, of course, the sire of Danciano. Ducati's dam Antega MH is out of the super dressage mare, Gabana, a Hanoverian-bred, and competed to Olympic level by Louisa Hill. An eight-year-old half-brother of Ducati's, Santana MH (Santini) was the Elementary champion at HOY2020. He is owned and ridden by Cindy Wiffin.

Elementary –Tuna Lodge Trophy

Just A Spark RE (GT Jake - Queen Bee RE x Quattro B), a six-year-old NZWB bred by Tracy Smith of Royston Equine and owned and ridden by Penny Castle, was this division's champion. The handsome chestnut gelding has had a lot of high scores in his competition career to date. His Australian Warmblood sire, GT Jake (Jazz x Aachen), is owned by Royston Equine, and is the first Jazz son to stand in this country. He was bred by Goron Toron Stud in Queensland.

Reserve was Delta Duet (Delta Let's Dance, out of unknown dam), an 11-year-old Holsteiner gelding bred by Andrew Care at Delta Holsteiners, owned by Nicholas Stackpole, and ridden by Angela Lloyd. Delta Let's Dance (HP Landstreicher - Reflection x Rodin) was also bred by Andrew Care, but has been gelded.

Medium – Doornbos Trophy

Another Australian-bred stallion was the sire of this year's Medium champion, Mistadobalina (Donnerubin - Tama Park Chantico x Donnerwind IV). This eight-year-old gelding is owned by his breeder, Geraldine Kawabe, and ridden by her daughter, Otilie Upshall. Donnerubin (Donautraum x De Niro x Rubinstein) has three-star rating with the NZWA, and carries a double cross of Donnerhall's blood. Mistadobalina has a 2020 full sister, Miss Demeanour;

their dam, Tama Park Chantico, is a Holsteiner, also bred by Geraldine Kawabe.

Reserve Medium Champion was River Jim (Riverside - Glencoe Dam Aafinity x Aachimedes) a nine-year-old Australian Warmblood gelding bred by Jill Wilcock, and owned and ridden by Vaughn Cooper. Some super Australian breeding in the Medium and Elementary divisions.

Advanced Medium – Kentucky Trophy

Another with the blood of Dancier, the beautiful black mare Fanfare MH (Fürstenball - Danzare MH x Dancier), took this title. She was bred by Matthews Hanoverians, is owned by Judith Matthews, and ridden by Casey Burton. Her wonderful Prämienhengst Elite Hauptprämie Oldenburg sire has quite a few progeny in New Zealand now and, in fact, one of them was the Advanced winner (see below). Another was the Best Foal and Best Dressage Foal of the 2019 Hanoverian Tour, Stoneylea Farm's outstanding filly Furstin Fantasie (Fürstenball x Lauries Crusador xx).

Fanfare MH is just seven years old, and has Elite status in the NZ Hanoverian Studbook. She was the winner of the Elementary championship at the nationals in 2019. Two foals were born to her by embryo transfer that year: One a colt by Swarovski, named Suede MH, and one – now especially precious after the awful news of her sire's death – a filly by Totilas, Trinity MH. This little girl is jet black like her parents, and has been retained by the stud.

Reserve Advanced Medium champion was another Australian-bred (they're popping up all over these results): Foxleigh Mr Darcy (Bellario - Elovera Fruition x BWS Figaro). This 10-year-old Australian Warmblood gelding was bred by Gabrielle Adam, is owned by Margs Carline, and ridden by Haydee Wells-Parmenter.

Advanced – Hobson Trophy

As mentioned above, it was a Fürstenball Hanoverian mare who won the Advanced title too – what wasn't mentioned is the fact that she's another imported from Australia. She is Redwood Fürst Affair (Fürstenball - Redwood London Affair x Londonderry), bred by Nathan and Kirsty Phillips at Redwood Stud in Queensland. This lovely eight-year-old is owned by Anita Beere and ridden by 19-year-old Morgan Beere, who also broke her in, describing her as the easiest horse she's ever ridden. The pair won the North Island 21-years-and-under championship in 2016, collecting the four-year-old title at the same show.

The reserve Advanced champ was an eight-year-old NZ Warmblood gelding, Lord Alexis (Lingh II - Luxurious x Littorio), ridden and owned by Penny Castle. His breeder is unrecorded. His dam, Luxurious (Littorio - Limelight x JK Lucas) is owned by Wendi Williamson, who had dressage wins and placings with her. ■

DWB stallion licensing moved to Vilhelmsborg

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

In recent years, between 60,000 and 70,000 spectators from many part of the world have descended on Herning to attend the Danish Warmblood stallion licensing, which has developed into a truly international show.

This year, however, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the ban on gatherings, Danish Warmblood has been compelled to cancel the huge international event in Herning.

Instead, the Danish Warmblood stallion licensing will be held at the national equestrian centre Vilhelmsborg, which is also the headquarters of Danish Warmblood. The licensing will take place at the beginning of March 2021, and will be held over two weeks. It's planned that the entire event, will be live-streamed.

Under normal circumstances the event is huge, and therefore, the cancellation has a major financial impact on Danish Warmblodd. President Jan Pedersen and director Casper Cassoe both look forward to hopefully being able to welcome everyone back in Herning at the stallion licensing in 2022.

Further information will follow as it becomes available on the Danish Warmblood website: www.varmblod.dk ■



In 2021, the Jyske Bank Boxen in Herning will not provide the framework for the Danish Warmblood's stallion licensing

Young horse show presents 25 years of jumping talent

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Good things really are made to last! Celebrating its 25th anniversary along with that of World Breeding News is New Zealand's National Young Horse Show – an event that (like BN) has gone from strength to strength over the past two and a half decades. It is now the most important date on the NZ competition calendar for breeders and owners of jumpers aged between four and eight, and attracts entries from all over the country: 510 this year.

That number may sound insignificant to international readers, but here, down under, where everything concerned with horse breeding is on a much smaller scale, it's a lot. In fact, it's a record!

The show's most successful stallion this year was the imported (but no longer serving) Holsteiner, Cassiano (Cassini I - Zivia x Calypso II) bred by Carsten Lauck in Germany. He belongs to Sharlene Workman of Xtreme Sport Horses and has sired many winners here and in Europe, as well as Staatsprämie and Bezirksprämie mares. The beautiful grey's NZ progeny excel across the disciplines, but are particularly noted for their jumping ability. Cassiano was also the leading sire of HOY placegetters last year.

Another stallion whose name appears several times among the winners' pedigrees is Casall – and twice as the sire of a sire: the young Goldengrove-bred stallions Cartell GNZ and Capitano GNZ.

Showcasing Xtreme talent in 4yo age group

This group had almost twice the usual number of entries



Giulia MH, 5yo champion, with show founder Graeme Hart owner, Angela Miller and rider Melody Matheson

as well as a new format: instead of the usual three days of jumping, two rounds were jumped over two days. The first, second and third placegetters were sired by stallions from Xtreme Sport Horses: Numero Uno Xtreme and Cassiano. Another of the stud's stallions, Corofino II, was the damsire of the second placegetter – and one of the youngsters who came fourth-equal was also by Cassiano. This class really showcased some Xtreme talent.

The win went to Sentosa (Numero Uno Xtreme - Gucci Girl xx x Corrupt xx), a Thoroughbred-Warmblood cross, bred, owned, and ridden by young Laura Knight – who adores him. The gelding's sire, Numero Uno Xtreme (Numero Uno x Cassini II x Polarschnee) is a New Zealand Warmblood, whose own damsire, Cassini II, is a younger full brother of Cassini I – the sire of Cassiano.

Second place went to Calico Xtreme (Cassiano - Chilli Xtreme x Corofino II) a gelding owned and bred by Sharlene Workman at Xtreme Sport Horses, and ridden by Jaime Campbell. This handsome grey, who combines the talents of the stud's two super imported stallions, also won the four-year-old style prize.

Corvette ECPH (Cassiano - Isabella SL x Genius), a Warmblood mare bred by East Coast Performance Horses, owned by Massie Stables, and ridden by Alexa Dodson, was third. Her dam, Isabella SL, is a New Zealand Warmblood bred by Fred Cornege at Seattle Lodge.

Six horses tied for fourth place, starting (in alphabetical order) with Central City (Central Park xx - Best Bet x Black Nib) an NZ Sport Horse gelding, bred, owned, and ridden by Caroline Coop. His dam, Best Bet, is a Clydesdale cross-bred by Bruce Holden at Ngahiwi Station. She had quite a number of lower-level jumping wins and placings.

Next on the fourth-equal list is Classified II (Cachassini II - Jeezemay x Willie John), a Sport Horse mare bred by V Miller and C. Miller-Brown, and owned and ridden by Hannah Bogle. Her sire, Cachassini II is a German-bred Holsteiner from Stamm. 4245; a full brother to Cachassini (Cachas - Varese x Cor de la Bryère). He is the sire of Vicki Wilson's young stallion, Captivate VWNZ, who was the champion stallion of the 2020 NZWA licensing. Classified II's

damsire, Willie John, was an Irish Hunter by Laughton's Legend (RID).

The next two are both NZ Sport Horse geldings: Double J Idol (Euro Sport Centavos - Annie x Voltaire II), bred and owned by Robyn Jacobs, and ridden by Samantha Carrington; and Hunter NZPH (Non Plus Ultra II - Bordeaux NZPH x Calvaro II) bred and owned by New Zealand Performance Horses, and ridden by Harvey Nelson.

Also sharing fourth is the Thoroughbred gelding, Pure Perfection xx (Electric Zone xx - Summer Classic xx x Classic Fame xx) bred by Mr and Mrs G M Hewson, owned by Joanne Walker-Nathan, and ridden by Laura McGregor. A Sport Horse mare, Takapoto Mango Lassi (Cassiano - Zoe CSNZ x Cervelt) bred and owned by Takapoto Estate, and ridden by Aline Tirant; and a New Zealand Stationbred gelding, Weiti Quince (Smokey - Ngahiwi French Lace x Corland VDL), bred by Weiti Station, and owned and ridden by Claudia Odin, round off the last of the fourth-placegetters. Weiti Quince's dam, French Lace, is a beautiful bay roan – the stud's most admired broodmare. She is also the dam of its stallion, Ngahiwi Kingswood (Ngahiwi Blue Indoctro). And, as you can see, her sire is a very illustrious fellow. Weiti Quince's own sire, on the other hand, is a Clydesdale-cross pony. This unlikely mix has produced a good youngster with a nice jumping style.

Dual-disciplines for Matthews Hanoverians

Matthews Hanoverians is a stud strongly associated with dressage, but produces excellent jumpers too, including the current World Cup NZ League competitor Graffiti MH, who is by Graf Top. Now, following in her footsteps and sharing her Graf Top blood is young Giulia MH (Graf Top - Ma Mojo Pedale xx x Grosvenor xx), bred by Judith Matthews, owned by Angela Miller, and ridden by Graffiti's rider, Melody Matheson. Giulia MH has a 2017 full-sister, Grenadine MH, and a 2018 half-brother by Cornet Obolensky, Copyright MH. She and her siblings will be well worth keeping an eye on.

Second place went to another mare – and another by Cassiano, the NZWB Takapoto China (Cassiano - Lanice van de Heffinck x Plot Blue), ridden by Oliver Croucher. She was the reserve champion mare of last year's NZWA classification tour and is owned by her breeders, Takapoto Estate. Her dam, Lanice, is a 10-year-old imported BWP bred by Van de Heffinck BVBA in Belgium, and has also had good competition results.

Another NZ Warmblood from Takapoto, the gelding Takapoto DC (Cartell GNZ - Claire x Chasseur I), owned by the stud and ridden by Oliver Croucher, was third. This horse won a four-year-old style class last year and has an embryo twin sister, Takapoto Cartier, who is also doing well. Their sire, Cartell GNZ (Casall x Jadalco x Corrado) is a super-looking young stallion bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud. His progeny are just starting to make an impact: a very lightly competed six-year-old gelding son,

Vulcan GNZ, shared fourth place in last year's five-year-old ESNZ series.

Six horses also finished fourth-equal in this class – again, listed in alphabetical order, and the first three are mares: Angelina ECPH (Corofino II - Angelica Pickles x Voltaire II) is a Warmblood who shares the same sire and damsire as the brilliant World Cup jumper, Windermere Cappuccino. She was bred and is owned by Jenny Booth of East Coast Performance Horses, and ridden by Nicki Booth. Awaroa Ginger Kiss (Silverstone VDL - Mistyor x Apsley Trade Secret), is a Warmblood-cross, bred and owned by Margaret van Rooyen, and ridden by Anneke van Rooyen. This mare's damsire, Apsley Trade Secret is an English riding pony.

The third mare is Off the Cuff (Colombia xx - Cufflink x LioCaylon), a half-sister of the Grand Prix gelding Popeye who is now competing in Europe. She was bred and is owned by Sonya and Tayla Mason, and ridden by Sophie Scott.

Next among is Redcliffs Guns & Roses (Capitano GNZ - April Rain x sire unrecorded), bred, owned, and ridden by Kate Hewlett of Redcliffs Equestrian in Northland. Capitano GNZ (Casall - Henkel's Countess x Calato) is a Holsteiner with wonderful bloodlines, bred by Paul Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud and owned by Redcliffs Equestrian. His dam, Henkel's Countess, also known as Countess, is from Stamm 173.

She's Special (I'm Special de Muze - Elottie x Canturano I), a Warmblood mare whose breeder is unrecorded, was another of the fourth-placegetters. Her dam, Elottie (Canturano I - Sjarlottie x Voltaire) is an imported KWPN mare owned by Samantha van Lierde. She's Special has some superb jumping blood, including that of Emerald, Quidam de Revel, and Chin Chin through her sire. She is owned by Candace Bagnall and ridden by Daniel Blundell.

Last but certainly not least of the fourth-equals is another by Cassiano, the grey gelding Six Sixty SP (Cassiano - SoFee x Powerfee) who has some super family connections. He was bred by Vicki Prendergast and is a half-brother of Prendergast's Selena C. This mare excelled in her age-group series and is now jumping successfully at the higher levels. SoFee is also the dam of Sangster (Corland VDL), sire of some very good horses for Prendergast, including the Holsteiner gelding Souther Field, who finished third in last year's six-year-old ESNZ series, and Marius, who was sixth in this year's six-year-old championship (see below). Sangster has been gelded and sold to Team Smith in Australia. Six Sixty SP is owned by Leanne West and ridden by Sarah West.

The five-year-old style prize was won by the stallion Double J Typhoon (Euro Sport Centavos - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II), who is owned by Wendy Jacobs of Double J Stud, and ridden by her daughter, Kimberley Carrington.

More Xtreme rewards from six year olds

The six-year-old champion is Corocat Xtreme (Corofino II - Cats Whiskers x Distelfink), a mare bred and owned by Sharlene Workman at Xtreme Sport Horses, and ridden by

Jaime Campbell. Her dam, Cats Whiskers, is a Thoroughbred-Hanoverian cross, bred by C. Williams; she had jumping wins at 1m35, as well as eventing successes, and her own dam, Propaganda (Dusky Hunter xx), was also a good jumper.

Another youngster from the same stud, the NZSH gelding Caspian Xtreme (Cassiano - Waltzingtanz x Wolkentanz II) was second, also ridden by Jaime Campbell. His dam is a New Zealand Hanoverian with the blood of Weltmeyer from her sire, out of an Anamour mare.

Third place went to LT Holst Zalato Blue (Zirocco Blue - LT Holst Carla x Calato), bred by LT Holsteiners, owned by Harry Feast, and ridden by Sophia Blackburn. Zalato Blue's dam, LT Holst Carla (Calato - Daconda x Calgary) was imported from Europe by LT Holsteiners, and competed only lightly before her breeding career. She is from Holsteiner Stamm 741. Carla's full brother, the gelding Chicco 327, is competing up to 1m50 in Europe. Her sire, Calato, is also the sire's sire of the fourth-equal five-year-old, Redcliffs Guns & Roses.

Another from LT Holsteiners, LT Holst Freda (Colman - LT Holst Andrea x Casall), bred by Ewen Mackintosh at LT Holsteiners, was fourth for owner Julie Davey. Her imported dam, LT Holst Andrea (Casall - Palaune x Lavaletto) was bred in Germany by Hans-Joachim Gerken. Andrea is from Stamm 2067 – and was New Zealand's 2020 Horse of the Year.

Fifth place went to Double J Hurricane (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II), a Warmblood gelding bred by Wendy and Robyn Jacobs of Double J Stud, and ridden by Samantha Carrington. Euro Sport Heartbreaker (Heartbreaker - Nufrieda x Hamlet), a BWP and Hanoverian licensed stallion was bred by Jean Custers and imported from Europe as a three-year-old. He is also the sire of Heartline, who finished equal second in the seven-year-old championship (see below). Now aged 16, ES Heartbreaker was sold to Australia a few years ago.

Marius (Sangster - Bridget Bardot x Ramazotti) bred by Geordie Bull and Jo Bell, and ridden by Geordie Bull, was sixth. This Warmblood gelding's dam is out of a Kingsway Diamond (RID) mare, and had a number of wins as a six-year-old. Note that he is by Vicki Prendergast's Sangster, a half-brother of Six Sixty SP who was fourth-equal in the five-year-old championship.

The style prize for six-year-olds went to the beautiful grey Holsteiner mare LT Holst Helen (Casall - Charmante Bezirksprämie x Cassini I), bred by Hanno Köhncke in Badendorf and owned by Ewen Mackintosh and Brooke Edgcombe, who rides her. She is from Stamm 4539 and has a 2016 full sister in Europe, Idylle FZ, who is showing great promise, with four-year-old wins and placings.

Hauptouri Evandro NZPH wins 7yo title

Hauptouri Evandro NZPH (Quool du Bois Margot - Vogue Blue NZPH x Mr Blue), a handsome, lightly-

competed grey Sport Horse gelding bred by New Zealand Performance Horses, was the winner of this division against some very strong opposition. Evandro is owned by his young rider Bailey Marshall, who has had him for just a few months. He was suggested as a suitable match for her by Warwick Hansen (formerly with NZPH) of Hauptouri Sport Horses, and was an instant hit. His dam is a beautiful mare with several good progeny, including Dolce NZPH, who is a full brother of Evandro's and is now eight. At the time of writing, Hauptouri Evandro NZPH had had just two starts in the ESNZ seven-year-old series, but is now sitting 12th in the rankings.

Three horses shared second place in the championship: the NZ Warmblood mare Fleur DeLacour (Corofino II - Jazz x LioCaylon) bred by Butch Thomas, and owned and ridden by Sam Whale; the Holsteiner mare Onessa MVNZ (Escudo I - Contessa x Contender) bred by Mount View Sport Horses, and owned and ridden by Rachel Malcolm; and Heartline (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Calusa x Euro Sport Centavos), a Warmblood gelding bred by Daniel and Chrissy Webb, owned by Amosa and Janet Tolo, and ridden by Heloise Tolo. This horse also won the seven-year-old style prize.

Fleur DeLacour is currently second on the ESNZ seven-year-old series leaderboard, Heartline is fourth and Onessa MVNZ, with only two starts, is just behind Evandro in 13th.

Shared prizes seemed to be the order of the day, as a trio of super young horses finished on identical scores in fifth place. Two are mares (one by Cassiano), and the other is a gelding. They are Takapoto Casanova Xtreme (Corofino II - JK Good Looks x JK Lucas), a Holsteiner gelding bred by Xtreme Sport Horses, owned by Takapoto Equestrian, and ridden by Oliver Croucher; Octavia MVNZ (Cassiano - Charming Princess x Cordeur), a Warmblood mare bred by Mount View Sport Horses, owned by Lisa Blackburn and Alex Matheson, and ridden by Sophia Blackburn; and Chic Xtreme (Corofino II - All Gems x Grosvenor xx) an NZSH mare bred by Xtreme Sport Horses, owned by Debbie Francis, and ridden by Charlotte Francis.

A labour of love...

Throughout its quarter century of life, the National Young Horse Show has been run entirely by volunteers, some



Sentosa, 4yo winner with breeder/owner rider Laura Knight

of whom have been there since the start. These dedicated people have included breeders, owners, and top (even Olympic) riders. They spend an extraordinary amount of time each year in its planning, preparation, and staging. And it really is a labour of love: only one little group of outside workers receives pay: the 'pickers-up' of fallen jump poles in the ring.

The show has been built on strong foundations by Fernhill Stud's Graeme Hart (who is still the mainstay of its existence) primarily to give four-year-olds an opportunity to compete against one another, rather than against more mature horses. "It's not a big ask to get them going at four," he says. "They've got to start somewhere and it sets them up for their careers - though some people still do look down on it."

The first show was held in Taupo in the central North Island, where it remained for many years until a move to Dannevirke in Hawke's Bay and then, eight years ago, to its current home at the Hastings Showgrounds, also in Hawke's Bay.

Around 15 four-year-olds competed for the inaugural title in Taupo, which was eventually won by a Thoroughbred. In the early years of the show, most of the entrants were Thoroughbreds, says Graeme Hart, but these are now greatly outnumbered by purpose-bred youngsters. "The genetics from Europe are unbelievable and keep on improving. It's the mares that are important, though."

Some five years after the first show, Hart visited the French young-horse championships in Fontainebleau with David Kirk and Warwick Hansen of New Zealand Performance Horses; Hart and Hansen (now with Haupouri) travelled on from there to the Zangersheide WBCYH in Lanaken to see how the European shows were run.

The New Zealand show differs from its European counterparts in that it is a regular jumping competition over two days for four-year-olds, and three days for the other age-groups, with a separate style prize awarded in each group. "The rules of showjumping are pretty good, and fair to the horses," says Hart.

NZYHS alumni

Numerous age-group champions from the event have gone on to make their mark, and some have really excelled. These include the wonderful mare Delphi (LioCaylon - Flower Power x Brilliant Invader xx). She was the champion seven-year-old in 2009 and finished sixth in the World Cup Final in Leipzig two years later. My Gollywog (Kiwi Ironclad - Standardbred mare) was the 2002 seven-year-old champion, and 2013's NZ Horse of the Year for his owner/breeder/rider, Maurice Beatson - he was sired by one of Graeme Hart's Fernhill stallions (see below). The NZWB Popeye (Cardento - Cufflink x LioCaylon), who is now jumping successfully in Europe, was the 2016 seven-year-old champion for Tom Tarver. He was bred by Kim and Greg

Best. Fittingly, Popeye's dam, Cufflink, was the champion six-year-old in 2008 - and is the dam of Off the Cuff (Colombia xx), who finished fourth-equal in this year's five-year-old championship. The Holsteiner stallion Casebrooke Lomond (Lansing - Lara I x Calido I), now based in Canada and performing very impressively, was the four-year-old winner in 2013, and five-year-old winner in 2014. He was bred by Bert Elstob.

Fernhill Kiwis

Graeme Hart's Fernhill Stud, whose horses carry the 'Kiwi' prefix, has also produced its share of champions. His personal favourite is Kiwi Iron Mark (Kiwi Ironclad xx - Kiwi Marcash x Kiwi Cash) - who (ironically, and excuse the pun!) was a 'disaster' at his four-year-old show and was swapped by his original owner for a Corlando mare. He was beautifully reeducated in the hands of the late Melanie Purcell, and ridden after her death by Katie Laurie for Purcell's mother, June Berrington. Kiwi Iron Mark and Laurie won the NZ World Cup League in 2015 and the Grand Prix of Las Vegas in the same year. Now aged 16, the chestnut gelding is back in New Zealand, and competing at more gentle levels with Berrington. His sire, Kiwi Cash (Gruenhorn du Trichon), won his own four-year-old championship in 1999 and was New Zealand's six-year-old Horse of the Year in 2001. There have been many, many other Fernhill-bred champs over the years, including Kiwi Ludo (Kiwi Dance - Kiwi Jewel x Kiwi Gold), who won the 2016 CSI2* Grand Prix in Millstreet, Ireland with Conor McMahon.

"I would not have been able to do what I have without the help of my son, Ashley," says Hart. "He has worked hard for us at the shows, and has won eight national titles for us over the years." ■



*Haupouri Evandro NZPH
7yo champion ridden by Bailey Marshall*

AUCTIONS 2020: The apple doesn't fall far from the tree!

BY AURÉLIE COVINI

This year will definitely be remembered as the year of sales 2.0 when, due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, the number of online sales skyrocketed. And while the world economy may have trembled in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, the sport horse market avoided last year's crisis, as more than 3,190 horses were sold in public auctions in under four months, generating a turnover close to €70 million, once again consecrating confirmed damlines and stallions.

There has been incredible sales consistency with certain stallions and damlines; Cornet Obolensky and his son Comme il Faut, Chacco-Blue and his son Chaccoon Blue, Diamant de Semilly and his son Emerald have seen success that has not faded over the years. In fact, Cornet Obolensky is so successful that a sale was almost entirely dedicated to his offspring on November 9, organized by the Westfalian studbook, where some 25 products were offered.

Public auctions are clearly not the place for all types of breeding, with the business side seeing the dog biting its own tail at one point. However, buyers are reassured by investing in trendy lines and stallions, with auction organizers prioritizing to suit buyers' desires, which leaves little room for genetic innovation for breeders who want to sell at auction. And where nature would naturally limit access to these genetics by the availability of semen or a limited number of gestations, science has come along to upset this law of nature, thanks to traditional embryo transfer. And also now due to ICSI, which has made it possible to see a quantity of Chacco-Blue foals born from their ashes, which would not have been possible without the advent of these modern reproductive techniques.

There is no doubt that today more than ever a portion of 2.0 breeders are informed speculators who know how to count. How else to explain the record sale of Gatoucha van't Roosaker in December during the unique auction of Stud Hero. This granddaughter of Usha reached the record sum for a broodmare of €570,000, a price built by the many embryos she was able to produce and which were themselves sold for record prices. We have to wonder whether it is now the embryo that determines the price for the mare rather than the other way around?

And yet, what could be more uncertain than an embryo? How will this foal be born, will he live up to his genetics? It's mathematically unknown how many cracks will appear even with excellent strains and, in all probability, are increased with genetic mixing.

If Covid-19 influenced the physical organization of the 41st PSI sale pre Christmas, a first since its existence, it did not damage the morale of the buyers, neither for this sale, nor for trade in general during 2020, which has been

exceptional. And while the PSI sale did not report its full results, it once again generated its share of 'top prices' with the record sale of Calourina (London) a daughter of double Olympic silver medallist in London 2012, who sold for €1.6 million.

In dressage, the best price of the year was €800,000 paid during the sale of Westfalian studbook stallions. The champion of korung, the black Fair Game x Destano x Harvard, bred by Konrad Mensch and owned by Joachim Scherer, was bought by Helgstrand Dressage during a hybrid auction called 'Onlive auction'. A new concept created during this coronavirus year when travel was seriously restricted due to the pandemic, even though the majority of colts were sold to people bidding on site rather than via auction websites. "A stallion as perfect as this one could hardly wish for," said Westfalian's interim breeding director Thomas Münch. The reserve champion of this korung, a black stallion out of Diamond Deluxe x Lissaro van de Helle, bred and owned by Wilhelm Rüscher-Konermann, was also bought by Helgstrand Dressage for €600,000.

When high prices become a heritable trait

Other huge prices also came during the PSI auction: Diaton (Di Maggio x Benetto Dream) sold for €700,000, and was certainly on the wish list of many dressage connoisseurs. The pedigree of this son of Dimaggio is completed on the maternal side by the Trakehner stallion Hohenstein. In the end, clients of David Wilson (Californian Grand Prix trainer) made the winning bid. Hof Kasselmann rider and Olympic squad member Frederic Wandres will continue to prepare Diaton for international sport.

An athletic grey stallion, Kannatol (Kannan x Stakkatol) sold for €615,00 by PSI, and it almost seems that big selling prices are becoming an inheritable trait: Kannatol (a stallion from Paul Schockemöhle's catalogue) is out of the dam Stalognia, who fetched the top price of €1.7 million at the 2015 PSI auction, and is now competing successfully with Colombian Olympic showjumper René Lopez.

Similarly, Kanatol's granddam, Chalanda (Chacco-Blue x Baloubet du Rouet), was fifth in the seven-year-old

JUMPING STALLIONS RANKED ACCORDING TO TOTAL SALES

Name	Total Sales	Volume	Average
Cornet Obolensky	2,664,990	104	25,625
London	2,276,500	11	206,955
Chacco-Blue	1,867,500	76	24,572
Emerald	1,361,210	54	25,208
Diamant de Semilly	1,218,400	33	36,921
Comme il faut <small>[KWPN]</small>	1,040,500	47	22,138
Kannan	1,004,110	23	43,657
Vivant	845,000	13	65,000
Casalco	831,180	13	63,937
Casall	761,200	36	21,144
Chacoon Blue	755,150	20	37,758
Heartbreaker	583,500	22	26,523
Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve	565,500	38	14,882
Diarado	522,000	20	26,100
Dominator Z	489,500	21	23,310
For Pleasure	470,000	18	26,111
Eldorado vd Zeshoek	424,750	35	12,136
Canturo	424,500	7	60,643
Tobago Z	424,000	20	21,200
Conthargos	413,250	25	16,530
Arezzo VDL	374,300	15	24,953
Grandorado TN	362,950	39	9,306
Mylord Carthago	359,660	17	21,156
Balou du Rouet	345,750	16	21,609
Untouchable	340,000	22	15,455
Baloubet du Rouet	333,000	14	23,786
Denzel v't Meulenhof	332,500	2	166,250
Cornet du Lys	330,500	12	27,542
Diatendro	320,000	2	160,000
Contendro I	315,380	20	15,769
Veyron	295,000	2	147,500

DRESSAGE STALLIONS RANKED ACCORDING TO TOTAL SALES

Name	Total Sales	Volume	Average
Grey Flanell	992,000	4	248,000
Secret	899,500	15	59,967
Benicio	873,750	16	54,609
Zoom	819,750	19	43,145
Fair Game	804,000	2	402,000
Dimaggio	744,500	2	372,250
Quantensprung	634,250	16	39,641
Diamond Deluxe	607,000	2	303,500
Sezuan	596,000	3	198,667
Borsalino	551,000	10	55,100
Danone I	548,500	7	78,357
Davino VOD	525,000	2	262,500
Bon Coeur	515,000	8	64,375
For Romance I	498,500	23	21,674
Asgard's Ibiza	492,000	7	70,286
Blue Hors Farrell	480,700	5	96,140
Vivaldi	410,250	9	45,583
Vitalis	405,110	21	19,291
For Dance	401,500	5	80,300
Sir Heinrich	387,750	13	75,900
Bordeaux	343,000	6	57,167
Millennium	314,500	10	31,450
Blue Hors	288,500	5	57,700
St. Schufro			
Füstenball	285,000	12	23,750
Franklin	264,920	12	22,077

world championship for young horses in Lanaken, and sold for €780,000 in 2012. of the 7-year-old world championships in Lanaken, and was sold for € 780,000 in 2012. At the last bid, Chalanda was auctioned for €615,000!

For foals and embryos, the top price of €105,000 went to a dressage foal: Pascoe (Le Formidable x Wynton) bred by Nathalie Smeets. Auctioned at the beginning of September during the Borculo sale, Pascoe has had incredible success on social media and was bought by Dutch stallion owner Eric Koele, or Turfhorst stud, and two co-owners.

For showjumping foals, the fashionable maternal origins are the popular recipe, and we find in the best prices several descendants or embryos of Diamanthina van't Ruytershof (full sister of the stallion Emerald), Panama du Seigneur, and always offspring from the damline of Usha van't

Roosakker. whose commercial argument continues to fuel the commercial dimension.

Auction business for the number of horses sold continues to increase. In public sales from which we were able to compile the results, more than 6,300 have been sold during this year, against 5,145 in 2019.

But with the number of horses sold the number of disappoinments also increases. For example, a Russian buyer with empty pockets bought six Westfalians during their elite auction in October – horses for which no payment was received, so the studbook decided to return them to the block during a 'second chance' auction in November!

While the Covid crisis has had no impact on the market in 2020, it remains to be seen whether in the coming months the downturn in the economy will also be felt in horse sales.

Sales from August 23 to December 23, 2020. A total of 3,192 horses sold – 976 dressage, 2,216 showjumpers. ■

FOALS AND EMBRYOS SOLD FOR €48,000 AND ABOVE (1,815 TOTAL SALES FROM AUGUST 23 TO DECEMBER 23, 2020)

Name (YOB/Studbook/gender/sire/dam/damsire)	Orientation	Price	Auction/Sale event
Pascoe (2020/KWPN/m Le Formidable - Edalien x Wynton)	Dressage	105,000	Borculo
Utrella vd Helle (2020/BWP/f Echo van't Spieveld - Diamanthina van't Ruytershof x Diamant De Semilly)	Jumping	94,000	Fences 1
Chacana Hero Z (2020/Z/f Chacco-Blue - Panama du Seigneur x Darco)	Jumping	80,000	Z Foals
Georgina Pommex Z (2020/Z/f George Z - Fragile van't Paradijs x Indoctro)	Jumping	71,000	Stephex
Embryo (2021: Chacco-Blue - Erenice Horta x Diamant de Semilly)	Jumping	71,000	Stephex
Con Amore JT Z (2020/Z/m Chacco-Blue - Happy Days Z x Heartbreaker)	Jumping	70,000	Z Foals
Dreambay (2020/Hann/m Damaschino I - Famosica x Fidertanz)	Dressage	70,000	Klosterhof Medingen
Chelsea DV Z (2020/Z/f Chacco-Blue - Lanzarote DV x Emerald)	Jumping	68,000	Z Foals
Kassama Hero Z (2020/Z/f Kassander van't Roosakker - Panama du Seigneur x Darco)	Jumping	65,000	Stud Hero
Thor Z (2020/Z/m Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve - Venus x Nabab de Reve)	Jumping	64,000	Z Foals
Embryo 2021-25613667 (2021: Chacfly PS - Diamanthina van't Ruytershof x Diamant de Semilly)	Jumping	61,000	Fences Online
Complete Sweet (2020/Westf/m Cornet Obolensky - London Night x Lasino)	Jumping	60,000	DSP Future
Come On de Regor Z (2020/Z/m Cumano - Centa de Muze x Cento)	Jumping	60,000	Z Foals
Benanda VDL Z (2020/Z/f Bacardi VDL - Banda de Hus x Argentinus)	Jumping	56,000	Trigon
Element O Z (2020/Z/m Emerald - Rosana du Park x Kannan GFE)	Jumping	56,000	Z Foals
Gorklintgards Blackberry (2020/DWB/f Franklin - Gorklintgards Blueberry)	Dressage	56,000	Nordic International
Capriola van't Roosakker Z (2020/Z/f Comme il faut [KWPN] x Cassandra van't Roosakker x Echo Van Spieveld)	Jumping	55,000	Stud Hero
Cash du Forezan Z (2020/Z/m Casall - Queen Girl Kervec x Diamant de Semilly)	Jumping	54,000	Z Foals
Gammelengards Galiano (2020/DWB/m Grand Galaxy Win - Heiline's Emmelie x Blue Hors Don Romantic)	Dressage	54,000	Nordic International
High Level di Villagana Z (2020/Z/m Heartbreaker - Hiamant van't Roosakker x Diamant De Semilly)	Jumping	54,000	Horseman Elite
Dream Of Heart (2020/Hann/m Damsey FRH - Queen of Hearts 4 x Quaterback)	Dressage	51,000	Hanoverian 137 th
Paisible (2020/KWPN/m Kjento - H.Novorette x Krack C)	Dressage	51,000	Borculo
Amaretto Ice R Z (2020/Z/m Artos Z - Cold As Ice Z x Carthago)	Jumping	50,000	Z Foals
Hightech Pommex Z (2020/Z/f Heartbreaker - Elchinni vd Flandria x Chin Chin)	Jumping	50,000	Stephex
Jaspar (2020/DWB/m Janeiro Platinum - Vicanta x Dancier)	Dressage	50,000	Nordic International
Tandoori Pommex Z (2020/Z/m Tobago Z - Evita vh Zoggehof x Golden Hawk)	Jumping	48,000	Stephex
Embryo 2021-22978358 (2021: Cumano - Valentina van't Heike x Nabab De Reve)	Jumping	48,000	Horse Sales Finale

m = male / f = female

Events in chronological order

August 27	Borculo Elite Foals Auction (NED)
September 5	Nordic International Sales (DEN)
September 7	Stephex Foal Auction (BEL)
September 9	DSP Future Champion Foals Auction (GER)
September 9	Trigon Foals Auction – September Group 1 (NED)
September 18/19	Zangersheide Foals Quality Auction (BEL)
September 26	Horseman Elite Auction The Special (NED)
September 26	Klosterhof Medingen Hybrid auction (GER)
October 10	Hannoverian 137th Elite Auction (GER)
October 10	Horse Sales Finale Edition (NED)
November 2/3	Fences Online Mares and Embryos Auction (FRA)
December 23	Stud Hero Total & Unique Auction (BEL)

HORSES SOLD FOR MORE €175,000 AND MORE (TOTAL OF 1,377 HORSES SOLD)

Name (YOB/Studbook/gender/sire/dam/damsire)	Orientation	Price	Auction/Sale event
Calourina PS (2014/OS/m London - Sarina x Baloubet du Rouet)	Jumping	1,600,000	PSI Auktion
F (2018/Oldbg/st Fair Game - Rock Z x Destano)	Dressage	800,000	Westfalen Online
Diaton (2016/Hann/st Dimaggio - Blind Date Bailoda x Benetton Dream FRH)	Dressage	700,000	PSI Auktion
Kannatol (2013/OS/st Kannan - Stalognia x Stakkatol)	Jumping	615,000	PSI Auktion
D (2018/Westf/st Diamond Deluxe - Lissara x Lissaro van de Helle)	Dressage	600,000	Westfalen Online
Gatoucha van't Roosakker (2006/BWP/m Diamant de Semilly - Atoucha van't Roosakker x Darco)	Jumpine	570,000	Stud Hero
Jovanni B (2014/KWPN/g Davino VOD - Todusja x Gribaldi)	Dressage	500,000	PSI Auktion
Gremlin 41 (2015/Oldbg/g Grey Flanell - Daytona x Donnerschwee)	Dressage	500,000	PSI Auktion
S (2018/Hann/st Sezuan - Sun Pearl SN x Sir Donnerhall I)	Dressage	490,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Great Story (2016/Oldbg/m Grey Flanell - Daytona x Donnerschwee)	Dressage	450,000	PSI Auktion
B (2018/Hann/st Benicio - Susi Sorglos x Scuderia)	Dressage	380,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Ze Carioca (2011/SCSL/st Canturo - Pandora-EGP x Kannan)	Jumping	350,000	Pessoa Auction
Jikke-Cara (2018/KWPN/m Denzel v't Meulenhof - Vera Cara x Casco)	Jumping	325,000	The Youngsters
B (2018/Hann/st Bon Coeur - Fenja x Fürst Nymphenburg I)	Dressage	320,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Donnybrook (2016/Hann/g Danone I - Holli Sun x Hohenstein)	Dressage	310,000	Medingen
Rheinglanz (2018/Trak/st Helium - Rheinilde x Couracius)	Dressage	305,000	Trakehner Stallion
Nice van't Zorgvliet (2013/BWP/m Emerald - Valina x Heartbreaker)	Jumping	300,000	The Auction
Boots For Walking (2016/Oldbg/g Borsalino - Quiddje x Quattro B)	Dressage	285,000	Medingen
Vito-Blue PS (2015/OS/g Vivant - Dolcetta x Chacco-Blue)	Jumping	285,000	PS Flyinge
F (2018/Oldbg/st For Dance - Gwendolina x Blue Hors Zack)	Dressage	281,000	Oldenburg Stallion
Conterno Blue PS (2014/OS/g Veyron - Chacoola x Chacco-Blue)	Jumping	255,000	PS Flyinge
F (2018/Westf/st Blue Hors Farrell - La Castania x Lord Loxley I)	Dressage	250,000	Westfalen Online
C (2018/OS/st Cornet Obolensky - Bella Donna x Baldini II)	Jumping	250,000	Westfalen Online
El London King (2014/OS/st London - Pandora-EGP x Kannan)	Jumping	250,000	Pessoa Auction
D (2018/Westf/st Don Allegro - Belinda x Belissimo M)	Dressage	226,000	Westfalen Online
Z (2018/Hann/st Zoom - Wariandra x Waterford)	Dressage	220,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Nanou (2018/KWPN/st Arezzo VDL - Alrike x Cantos)	Jumping	210,000	Westfalen Online
Casalltola PS (2015/OS/m Casalco - Stakkacette x Stakkatol)	Jumping	210,000	PS Flyinge
Z (2018/Hann/st Zoom - Flora x Fürst Romancier)	Dressage	210,000	Westfalen Online
St Felice (2017/Hann/m Blue Hors St. Schufro - Felicity S x Fürstenball)	Dressage	205,000	Hanoverian 137 th
Daily's Beauty PS (2015/OS/m Diatendo - Belgian Bessy x Baloubet du Rouet)	Jumping	205,000	PS Flyinge
Catou PS (2015/OS/m Casalco - Toulianne x Toulon)	Jumping	190,000	PS Flyinge
Sylvester Stallone (2018/Hann/st Secret - Schiila B x Stedinger)	Dressage	190,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Be My Lady (2017/Westf/m Bonds - Espania x Ehrenpreis NRW)	Dressage	182,000	Westfalian 60 th
Santa Clara (2012/Hann/m Spoercken - Havanna x Blue Hors Hotline)	Dressage	182,000	Medingen
D (2018/Hann/st D'Avie - Destina x Desperados FRH)	Dressage	180,000	Hanoverian Stallion
Funrise (2016/Hann/g Flanell - Fuerstin Louise von Velen x Bretton Woods)	Dressage	180,000	Medingen
V (2018/Oldbg/st Vivaldi - Synphonie D x De Niro)	Dressage	180,000	Oldenburg Stallion
Eireann LVS Z (2014/Z/m Emerald - Beyonce RK x Clinton)	Jumping	175,000	Winter Auction

September 15	Pessoa Auction (BEL)
September 26	Klosterhof Medingen Hybrid Auction (GER)
October 4	Westfalen 60th Elite Auction (Ger)
October 10	Hanoverian 137th Elite Auction (GER)
October 17	Trakehner Stallion Market Auction (GER)
October 22-24	Hanoverian Stallion Auction (GER)
November 10	The Youngsters Horse Auction (NED)
November 14	PS Flyinge Open Sales (SWE)
November 22	Oldenburg Stallion Auction (GER)
November 23	Westfalen Onlive Stallion Auction (GER)
December 12	The Winter Auction Collection Online (BEL)
December 19	PSI Auktion XLI, Ankum (GER)
December 23	Stud Hero Total & Unique Auction (BEL)

Feeding management of the broodmare: Part 3

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

When it comes to feeding horses, it's important to provide them with a balanced diet. This is particularly so when considering broodmares, who are expected to grow a healthy foal inside them for 11 months and produce enough milk for that foal for at least six months. Furthermore, many mares are expected to raise healthy foals for consecutive years.

Because nutrition influences each stage of the broodmare's production cycle, nutritional management may, in many ways, determine the success of the breeding program and will also ensure the long-term health of your mare and foals.

For any horse, providing nutrition is a balancing act and this starts with understanding your horse's nutritional needs. In our previous edition (Part 2) we provided scientific guidelines on the nutritional requirements of your broodmares during the different stages as well as of the young growing horse. It was emphasised that you need to ensure that broodmares obtain adequate nutrients such as energy, protein, lysine, calcium and phosphorus. The trace minerals, iodine, copper, zinc and manganese, are also important for the pregnant and lactating mare, as are the vitamins A, D and E. The next step is to match this by offering your mares and growing horse's sufficient quantity and quality of feed stuffs.

The importance of feeding roughage

Horses are hindgut-fermenting herbivores that are adapted to eating a plant-based diet high in fiber. Naturally, the horse grazes, from a seasonally varying menu, for 12-18 hours out of every 24, depending on the type of grazing available. Although horses are considered as primarily grazers, depending on the seasonal feed availability and selection, horses can also be categorised as mixed feeders browsing various herbaceous, woody and water plant even eating fruits and flowers. It is therefore important to realise that the behavioural patterns associated with our domestic horses are built upon the behaviours provided by millions of years in the wild and many cannot simply be whipped out by selective breeding and our husbandry practices. The herbivorous nature of the horses was determined early on and refined the system physically and behaviourally towards its diet. Thus, all horses need to get sufficient amounts of forage/roughage, preferably ad libitum, and benefit from eating 12-18 hours a day!

Note that the term forage and roughage are used interchangeably by nutritionists. Forage and herbage are

defined as plant materials available for consumption by an animal. Roughage refers to a feedstuff with a higher fiber content forages.

Quality forages/roughage should be the basis of feeding programs for all horses. Fresh (i.e. pasture and some browse) and conserved forages (e.g. good meadow hay and lucerne) can cover the nutrient requirements of most horses including broodmares, during the first eight months of pregnancy. Minimal supplementary feed is often required, as long as good quality lucerne or meadow hay is fed during times of reduced pasture availability or when quality is poor. From 9 months of pregnancy and during lactation, mares will need to be supplemented with concentrates and ration balancers to provide a surplus of nutrients, minerals and vitamins. This may also be required when horses are performing/sporting or when the quality/quantity of forages are low.

To meet the nutritional requirements quality forages should be offered at a level of 2.0-2.5% of the horse's body weight in total feed. The minimum roughage requirement for horses is 1.5% of the horse's bodyweight to ensure good digestive function and avoid behavioural and digestive problems. This means that a 500-kg horse must receive between 10-12.5 kg of quality forages per day (on a dry matter basis) to cover its nutritional needs. The minimum requirement is 7.5 kg of forages (dry matter) per day. The dry matter basis is important as it related to the volume of fibrous material minus the excess water content. For example, hay is 80-90% dry matter whereas grass is approx. 20% dry matter. This means horses need to graze a larger volume of fresh grass to get 10 kg per day in dry matter!

Because forages should comprise the majority of the horses' diet it is important to have a closer look at the nutrient profile of forages as this determines how much additional macro and micro-nutrients you may have to add!

Pasture analysis and management

Ideally, we want to offer all horses access to pasture as this aligns with the behavioural and nutritional needs of horses. The British Horse Society recommends a ratio of one horse per 0.4-0.6 hectares (1-1.5 acres per horse). However, there



***Super fiber feedstuffs:
Copra meal, soybean hull pellets and
crushed sunflower seed hulls***

may be many reasons why pasture access all year round is not an option – either you don't have the space or you are dealing with climatic/seasonal conditions that limits this. It can also be that your horses are good doers and too much grass can cause metabolic related issues.

But for those that can benefit from pasture grazing, all year or parts of the year, it may be very beneficial to get an indication of the nutritional values of your pastures. Though, there is a bit of ambiguity about conducting pasture analysis on horse properties. Pasture analysis can be helpful for horse owners, but it may depend largely on the operation you run, classes of horses you manage and your own objectives. The nutrient content in grass plants vary greatly from place to place on the property and at different times of the year. Other factors that can affect the nutrient content are species of grass/legume, soil quality, rainfall, temperature and grazing pressure. Therefore, whenever we take pasture samples for analysis it only provides us with a momentarily depiction of what the quality was at the time the sample of taken, under those conditions.

Nevertheless, horse facilities and breeding studs could build a database of pasture quality from year to year and for different paddocks as a reference. It may help you with your feed formulation and you can use the analysis when you want to review your soil improvement and biodiversity strategies over time. But it remains tricky to really provide an estimation of what horses may obtain from your pasture grasses as intake per day varies and horses will select a range of plants (not exclusively grasses). Every day they will mix and match different species according their nutritional status at that time (if forage availability is adequate).

Pasture analysis can serve as a guide and together with

monitoring your horses' body condition you will get an idea how well your horses' pasture intake matches the nutritional needs of your horses. By adopting proper rotational management moving horses to fresh paddocks, you ensure that you have enough pasture availability for your horses and allow the recently grazed pastures to recover. If your horse's body condition score is too high, on a scale of 1 to 9, consider reducing pasture access by managing horses in sacrifice/ dry lots with lower quality forages. If you find the score is too low, add some calories to your horse's diet by supplementing while on pasture. And if he's just right, well-done—you're on the right track! Another more extreme way to gauge how well your horses are doing on your pasture would be to take blood samples of your horses, this may specifically be useful to check if they have any deficiencies or underlying issues.

Conserved forages

While estimating pasture intake and nutritional levels are difficult, this becomes a bit more manageable with conserved forages. This is because of the conserved process and our ability to control how much we feed! Conserved forages (e.g. grass, legume or cereal hay/chaff), can comprise a large part of

the diet of horses; therefore, it is important to review the feed quality. When you buy commercial concentrate feeds you will always find a nutrient analysis table printed on the bag. In contrast, limited nutrient analysis tables are supplied when you buy your grass hay, Lucerne hay or even chaffs from the produce store or directly from farmers. However, with the increased interest in low non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) forages for horses we currently observe a trend that forage companies/ suppliers are advertising and providing feed analysis of the forages they sell. But no matter if you are dealing with metabolically challenged horses, breeding horses, growing horses or performing horses, conserved forage quality analysis is essential if you want to develop an efficient feeding program to reduce costs and/or prevent metabolic disorders.

Quality versus quantity

One of the first questions we must ask is: 'What defines the quality of conserved forages?' Characteristics such as nutrient profile, digestibility, leaf-to-stem ratio, smell and appearance, cleanliness (free of toxic weeds, dirt, and trash), and natural colour determine the condition of the roughage. When we talk about the quality of roughage, we refer primarily to its nutritional value (energy, protein, soluble sugar) and digestibility. Nutritive value and digestibility are affected by



maturity and harvest time. When forages are cut at a mature growing stage, the roughage is very 'stemmy', which makes it less digestible and nutritious due to the higher levels of less-digestible crude fiber and lignin. Higher quality roughage is finely stemmed, soft, and leafy, and is more readily digestible. Interestingly, high-nutrient-quality roughage can be as unfavourable as poor-nutrient-quality roughage – depending on which nutrient requirement perspective you take. For our working, breeding, and growing horses, we tend to provide high-quality forages to meet their elevated nutrient requirements. But for horses that are not working, are easy keepers, are obese, or are sensitive to developing laminitis, we might select poorer-quality forages.

If we consider the evolution of the horse, we find that horses have developed a feeding strategy whereby they consume large quantities of poor-quality forages (low energy and high fiber). So, from an evolutionary point of view, poor quality forages that provide lower energy, some protein, and high fiber (structural carbohydrates) are not a bad choice. However, studies report that high amounts of poor-quality roughage like straw, can increase the chances of impaction colic in horses. This is likely to be associated with feeding mismanagement rather than the nutrient quality of the roughage itself.

As soon as our horses are working, breeding, and growing, the quality of their roughage needs to improve to meet their daily nutritional needs. High-quality roughages tend to have a higher energy and protein content compared

to lower-quality roughages. Depending on the type of high-quality roughage, they also can contain higher levels of vitamins and minerals. There are few factors that affect the nutritional value, including the type of forage and conserving process.

Production processes

Hay and chaff: Producing hay is dependent on weather conditions, because hay is cut and left in the field to dry out in the sun. The temperature, wind speed, and sunshine level determine the speed of the drying process. Hay must be turned regularly – at least once a day – to make sure that it dries evenly, otherwise parts of the hay remain wet. Hay with too high a moisture content, and which is baled, can start to ferment in the centre of the bale. This produces heat and causes damage from bacterial breakdown and moulds. These bacteria and fungi can produce mycotoxins that are harmful for horses.

Chaff is finely chopped cereal or legume hay; most common chaffs are wheaten, oaten, and lucerne chaffs. Most of the chaffs are added to the concentrate/grain ration to increase fiber intake and chewing behaviour in horses. Chaffs can be dried under controlled conditions (part of their processing) before being bagged.

Haylage and silage: Haylage is made from the same pasture grasses or legumes as hay, but instead of being allowed to dry out completely, it is baled when the moisture content is

TABLE 1

**AVERAGE NUTRIENT CONTENT OF SOME VARIETIES OF ROUGHAGES AND FEED PRODUCTS (DRY MATTER BASIS).
Values obtained from Nutrient Requirements of Horses (NRC) 2007 and Pollitt, C. & Watts, K. 2010.**

Type	DE (MJ/kg)	Crude Protein (%)	Non-structural carbohydrates (NSC) (%)	Ca (%)	P (%)
Meadow hay	9.1	13.3	8-18	0.7	0.3
Millet hay	7.0	9.0	6-13	0.2	-
Rhodes hay	8.0	9.5	8-18	0.3	0.2
Lucerne hay/chaff					
Pre-bloom	10.8	20.8	8-14	1.5	0.3
Lucerne hay/chaff					
Early-bloom	10.2	20.5	8-14	1.4	0.3
Lucerne hay/chaff					
Mid-bloom	9.3	17.8	8-14	1.2	0.25
Oaten chaff	9.0	9.1	15-29	0.4	0.25
Wheaten chaff	8.9	9.5	10-24	0.3	0.2
Soya bean hulls	9.0	13.9	2-9	0.6	0.2
Rice bran	13.5	15	15-34	0.05	1.0
Copra meal	14.5	20	6-15	0.2	0.6



Meadow hay

still relatively high (about 45-50%). It is wrapped in multiple layers of plastic to exclude all air from the bale and to allow a mild fermentation process using fungi and acid-producing bacteria. This way you maintain a higher level of protein and digestibility compared to fully drying out. For example grass hay is about 10-13% crude protein and grass haylage is about 20% crude protein on a dry matter basis. The bales are preserved for one week or more before they can be safely fed to horses. It is sometimes wrongly assumed that haylage is high in sugar, which is in fact not true. Due to the fermentation process during the making of haylage is actually lower in sugar than hay, and certainly lower than grass.

Silage is when the hay undergoes a more complete fermentation process. Silage can be made from a variety of crops, such as corn, oats, and pasture grasses. The moisture content of silage varies from 60-80%. Silage is primarily fed to dairy and other cattle. Silage has an acidic smell, and horses tend to readily consume it. For horses, silage must have a green to yellowish colour and a pleasant acidic smell; very dark green or brown silage that is too dry or too wet is not suitable for horses. Silage must not be fed in large amounts to horses because it can cause digestive disturbance.

Because of their higher moisture content, both haylage and silage can be good feed products for horses that are sensitive to dust in hay. Studies have shown that they can reduce respiratory allergies in those horses.

Hay cubes: Hay cubes are made by compressing hay into small square blocks or pellets (4-5 square centimetres). Most hay cubes are made from lucerne or meadow hay. Cubes can be used effectively when certain classes of horses need supplemented feed or when conditions are less than ideal for feeding grain mixes. It has been reported that horses may choke on the cubes; therefore, it is important to dampen the cubes prior to feeding if your horse tends to eat quickly.

Varieties of roughage

You can choose from many varieties of roughage. Local availability influences the popularity of a particular variety of hay in any geographical area.

Grass hays: Grass hays are a mixture of grasses that vary in their nutritive value and palatability, depending on the grass varieties (tropical vs temperate), growing site, and stage of maturity at harvest time. Grass hays generally have a lower energy, protein, and higher fiber content than good-quality legumes. Top-quality grass hays can contain as much as 15% protein, whereas average hay has a protein content closer to 8% or less. Some examples of grass hays and small-grain hays for horses are cereal hay/chaff (oaten, wheaten, millet), meadow hay, clover hay, timothy hay, ryegrass hay, tall fescue hay, Rhodes hay, and others. It is important to

check the suitability of grass varieties for horses as some plants may have compounds that reduce mineral uptake or may cause other health issues.

When selecting a hay variety, you should review the nutritive value either by analysing your hay or examine references (see example Table 1). In particular, analyse the non-structural carbohydrate (NSC) content (fructan, starch) of hays to determine if they are suitable for horses with a metabolic disorder such as Cushing's disease, insulin resistance, obesity, or laminitis.

Legume roughage: Legume roughage includes lucerne and clover. Lucerne hay/chaff is most used in horse feeding. The nutrient quality of lucerne hay depends on its maturity at harvest. (See Table 1) The highest quality lucerne comes from the cut plant before it becomes overly mature. Lucerne hay products generally cost more than grass hays per kilogram of dry matter, but per kilogram, crude protein basis, lucerne may actually be cheaper than grass hays.

Horse owners like to feed lucerne to horses because they usually eat it readily and it can supplement poor pastures. All horses, but particularly working, growing, breeding – and even older horses – can benefit from the high nutrient content. In practice, the majority of nutritional diet analyses show that horses are overfed protein and/or energy, which is mostly due to their consumption of large amounts of high-quality roughage. Therefore, we suggest that you assess the nutritional needs of your particular horse. A combination of grass hays and lucerne hay is a good management practice for most studs and horse facilities.

Other types of roughage

Other types of roughage can be straw, hulls, browse, or other fiber foods. These are not used as a full replacement of traditional roughages, but as a supplement to the diet to

increase fiber intake. In drought season, grass and lucerne hays can become more expensive or even unavailable. Some of these products can be added to the diet to provide enough fiber.

Oat and wheat straws are low in palatability and feeding value for horses. Ponies have been shown to maintain body weight when more than 50% of their diet comprises straw; however, we recommend no more than 10% of the diet as straw, because it can reduce energy content and digestibility.

The most common hulls and seed coats used are oats, rice, sunflower seeds, and soy beans. These are low in energy and high in fiber. You can add them to the concentrate/grain mix to replace cereal chaff. Hulls and seed coats can be dusty – so dampen the products prior to feeding.

Other fiber sources that you can feed to horses include copra meal, rice bran, and beet pulp. These products are mixed into the feed ration of your horse and should not be fed by themselves to replace roughage. Check the nutrient profile of these products before using, because they vary in energy, protein, fat, and NSC levels.

Choosing your roughages and evaluating feed quality

There are many options to choose from as highlighted above. The type of roughage most suitable for your broodmares and young growing horses depend on your horse's nutritional requirements, the availability of roughage products in your area, and the nutritive value of roughage. Evaluating your horse's diet and analysing your hay/roughage will help you to feed your animals more efficiently.

As mentioned earlier, it is more common practice to analyse hay (and concentrate feed stuffs) because it doesn't fluctuate as much as fresh pasture and you often buy or harvest a large batch that you can feed over many months. Analytical testing can be used to predict how well a particular feed will meet the needs of the animal. In addition, because

you can control how much you offer, you can do a reasonable accurate calculation how much you need to feed to meet the nutritional requirements of your horses. So let's have look at the main components that you need to consider when trying to balance the diets of horses.

For optimum productivity irrespective of animal status, the following properties of the feed are important:

- Dry matter intake
- Crude protein content
- Carbohydrate composition
- Digestibility
- Energy yield from the digested feed
- Mineral and trace element content
- Vitamin content

Dry matter

This is the residual dry weight of pasture or forage after the removal of moisture, which is usually expressed as percentage (%) of the fresh weight.

The dry matter intake of a horse, depends on many variables including live weight, workload, breeding status, stage of lactation, environmental conditions, feeding history, body condition and the quality of the feed. The Nutrient Requirements of Horses (NRC, 2007) recommends an intake of 2% of the body weight in dry matter daily for horses at maintenance and light work, 2.25% for moderate exercise and 2.5% for (very) heavy exercise, growing, breeding and lactating horses.

Crude protein

The protein content of the pasture or forage is directly related to the Nitrogen content which varies with growing conditions, plant species, and maturity of the plant. The crude protein (CP) content will decrease with increasing plant maturity. CP requirements are dependent on the body weight and class of horse being fed. For example, a 500 kg horse at maintenance with an average temperament requires about 630 grams CP per day and a lactating mare of the same weight in the second month of lactation requires more than 2 x the amount of maintenance – 1,530 grams CP per day.

Plant carbohydrates

Plant carbohydrates may be conveniently classified as structural (or cell wall) carbohydrates and non-structural (or cell contents) carbohydrates.

The key non-structural carbohydrates (NSC) in forages are the soluble sugars such as sucrose, glucose, fructose, and starch. Plant soluble sugars fluctuate diurnally as a result of photosynthetic activity with highest levels generally found in the early to mid-afternoon period – typical levels for temperate grasses can range from 5-15 %.



Oaten chaff



The structural carbohydrates are dominated by cellulose and the hemicelluloses and these polymers form the basis of fiber in all plant tissue. Levels of structural carbohydrates increase with increasing plant maturity with a corresponding decrease in plant digestibility. Particular cellulose may become lignified to varying degrees. Lignin is not depicted on the figure, as it's not a carbohydrate, but a generic term applied to a group of compounds derived from the phenylpropanoid pathway. Lignin can become intimately associated with cell wall carbohydrates, which reduces the nutritive value of the forage.

Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF) and Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) provide empirical estimates of the less digestible structural carbohydrates in forages. ADF consists mainly of cellulose and lignin with small amounts of nitrogen and minerals. The NDF fraction includes the hemicelluloses in addition to the ADF component of plant tissue. Very high fiber levels slow the rate of digestion and limit dry matter intake, but a certain amount of fiber is required to stimulate hindgut fermentation.

Digestibility

Feed digestibility is simply defined as the proportion of forage dry matter able to be digested by the animal. It is largely influenced by the maturity of the plant species and declines as the plant matures because of increasing levels of the structural carbohydrates. Within pastures, the species type also influences digestibility. For example, Lucerne retain a higher leaf:stem ratio with increasing maturity compared with bunch grasses and so maintain a higher digestibility relative to grasses.

Digestibility is measured in two quite distinct procedures:

- in vivo digestibility – determined directly by animal feeding trials by way of a mass balance from what is consumed, what is digested, and what is excreted.
- in vitro digestibility – determined by wet chemistry using

caecal fluid or purified cellulase enzymes.

In vivo digestibility provides the most meaningful estimate of animal performance, but nowadays, the cost of setting up animal trials for measuring in vivo digestibility, or for providing caecal fluid is prohibitive. Thus, most laboratories measure in vitro digestibility by incubating samples with enzyme preparations and use these data to predict in vivo digestibility.

Digestible energy

The apparent digestible energy (DE) content of forages is calculated by subtracting the gross energy in faeces from the gross energy (intake energy) consumed by an animal. The term

apparent is used because some of the materials excreted in the faeces do not originate from the feed but from cells in the gastrointestinal tract and digestive secretions. There are two factors that impact the DE in feeds, which are the gross energy content of the feed and the digestibility of the energy-containing components. As highlighted in the previous paragraph the most accurate way to estimate DE is by feeding trials. But the numbers of equine studies that have done this are limited compared to studies with other species such as livestock. The DE value of feeds varies among species and so there are NRC (2007) equations available for estimating DE content in horse feeds from the chemical composition of the feeds. There are different formulas for dry forages, roughage, pasture and range plants and energy feeds and protein supplements. However, these equations have limitations and cannot accurately predict the DE value of some feeds.

Minerals and trace-minerals

While minerals only constitute a minor part of the equine diet by weight, minerals play a critical role in the health of horses. Minerals are involved in a number of functions in the body, including formation of structural components, enzymatic co-factors, acid-base balance and energy transfer. Macro-minerals are the minerals that are required in larger amounts. These include Calcium (Ca), Phosphorus (P), Magnesium (Mg), Potassium (K), Sodium (Na), Chloride (Cl) and Sulphur (S). Trace-minerals or micro-minerals are required in smaller amounts than the macro-minerals but they are as essential as the big ones. The group includes Copper (Cu), Cobalt (Co), Zinc (Zn), Manganese (Mn), Selenium (Se), Iodine (I) and Iron (Fe). The most common minerals analysed in forages are Ca, P, Mg, K, Na, Fe, Zn, Cu, and Mn.

Horses are herbivores and obtain most their minerals from plants. Plants get their minerals from soil and fungi association. Fungi play a very important role in transporting

minerals and energy through the soil, storage of minerals and energy in living cells and transferring minerals to plants. The plant can only be fed when the soil biology and quality is healthy. The plant will take up the inorganic minerals and convert it in the cells to organic forms that sustain the life of the plant and all the organisms that consume the plant. When a mineral is nutritionally organic, it means that it is chelated or bound to an organic compound such as proteins, poly-saccharides, amino or organic acids. Horses ingest most of the minerals in these organic forms.

The mineral requirements of horses depends on the body weight and animal status. For example a 500 kg horses at maintenance requires daily 20 g of Ca, 14 g of P and 100 mg of Cu, whereas a lactating mare of the same weight requires 59 g of Ca, 38 g of P and 125 mg of Cu per day.

Vitamins

Vitamins are classified as either water-soluble (B and C) or fat soluble (A, D, E and K) organic compounds that can be naturally found in small amounts in plant and animal-derived foodstuffs. Organisms require small amounts of vitamins for proper function of the body and any deficiency can lead to metabolic and physical disorders. In an optimal environment horses can obtain most of their vitamins from fresh grass and other plants and in the case of vitamin K and B complex vitamins, additional amounts can be supplied by microbial synthesis in the intestine tract. But when horses are stabled, have limited access to pasture or are kept on poor quality pastures they generally need some extra vitamins (and minerals). The requirements can also increase when horses are breeding, pregnant, lactating, growing, ageing, exercising or in poor health. When vitamins cannot be synthesized by the body or they cannot be made in adequate

amounts, they need to be supplied by the diet and/or supplementary sources.

In general vitamins are expensive to analyse in forages/feeds, therefore they are not standard in the forage test package. However, on request you could analyse for A, D and E.

Summary

Optimum feeding is a balance between amount (quantity) of available feed and the quality of that feed. Analysing forages is indispensable if you want to increase feed efficiency, reduce supplementary feeds/additives and feed costs and prevent metabolic disorders. You can do a google search to find local agricultural or environmental labs in your area/state or country. It is even possible to send samples to other countries. This is because some international labs have massive references that allow them to do fast and efficient analyses keeping costs down on a per sample basis. Each lab will offer its own analysis packages, but many are not specifically focussed on nutritional components for horses. This may be another reason why you have to send samples further away.

Alternatively, you can obtain average values from references (try to use local or our own country forage values) or feed labels if you buy commercial feed stuffs.

Based on the nutritional requirements of your horse and its current body condition score you have to weigh up the feed options. Managing and rearing horses all year round on pasture with limited supplementation is ideal, but this may not always be possible due to limited pasture availability, climatic/seasonal factors or your broodmares are overweight or have a metabolic issue such as

Hay – large spin bales and smaller square bales

laminitis. In these cases, you may have to keep horses for parts of the day/year in stables or dry lots/ sacrifice areas and offer additional forages. If the requirements are elevated such as during the last trimester of pregnancy, lactating and growing it is recommended to supplement with concentrates to meet protein, energy, mineral and vitamin requirements.

The total feed (in dry matter) that you need to offer to your horse daily is between 2.0-2.5% of body weight. The level will depend on the status of your horse i.e. growing, breeding or exercising. Always offer at minimum 1.5% of the body weight in roughages to maintain proper gut function. Based



on the status and nutritional requirements select those roughages that are most suitable. For example, for mares in last stage of pregnancy it is not recommended to feed too much bulk because of the limited gut space. Therefore, a roughage that has a high CP, and energy level is recommended such as a legume-based hay or haylage. This type is also good option for other classes with elevated needs such as lactating mares and growing horses. On the other hand, if horses are good doers or have metabolic problems such as laminitis, you have to avoid rich roughages and find types that have the bulk but not the calories (and too much protein). This is much harder to find, because lots of hay is produced from high production pastures that have plant species with good nutritional profiles. Great for fattening livestock, not so good for metabolically challenged horse! If you are managing metabolic horses, its crucial to analyse hay and/or select types/plant species that are known to have lower profile. This may be different from country to country. For example, in Australia native pasture species are typically lower in NSC and are often sought after. You can also apply additional strategies that can assist with reducing the sugar content in hay, such as soaking or steaming hay. Sourcing other low NSC fibre sources such as beet pulp, and soybean hulls that have more constant nutritional profile can also be useful.

By taking your horses' nutritional needs and the nutritional profile of your feed stuffs in consideration, you are able to balance your horse's diet. How well you do this, is reflected in the body condition and overall appearance/performance of your horse. If your horse's body condition score is too high (above 7.5), on a scale of 1 to 9, consider reducing pasture access or feed intake by managing horses in sacrifice/ dry lots with lower quality forages. If you find the score is too low (below 4.5), add some calories to your horse's diet by supplementing. And if he's just right, well-done – you got the balance right! For those horses with metabolic condition, it is highly recommended to

consult with your veterinarian to keep track on the health status of your horse as managing the diet will require more effort and may need medical intervention in serve cases.

The take home message is that roughage is the most important dietary ingredient that can be fed to horses. The rest of the ration should be built around this. If you have to supplement, check the feed labels of your commercial feeds and supplements, as they must be supplied with analytical composition which allows you to estimate how much extra you should feed to meet the requirements.

If you are not sure about this process and if questions arise, always consult an equine nutritionist or veterinarian for help in balancing your horse's diet.

Further reading:

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cal skills. Again, time will tell if this format will supersede the more traditional, but more costly 'live' auction site. Time will also tell if the online experience stimulates or diminishes sale volume and returns.

On the negative side of the ledger is the impact that 'virtual' auctions may have on the traditional venues themselves as these facilities may host shows as well as auctions. If the auction income was important for viability, then when the season eventually opens there may be no show to attend. There are multiple factors at play. Even if the vaccines are as effective as claimed, the public may be leery of large gatherings for some time to come. This will certainly curtail the ability to host events where the 'gate' is a significant component of the revenue. Larger venues may have to contemplate moving to more heavily sponsored events such as pharmaceutical trade shows. This means few outlets for breeders to train and display their horses. We are in uncharted territory so, who knows!

If we can judge from history, no doubt it will be the smaller, more marginal venues that will feel the first pinch. but, it is these locations that tend to support breeders in the immediate neighbourhood. It's really hard to guess what might happen if many of they disappear.

Again on the recreational front, the pandemic almost certainly had a major impact on equestrian-themed tourism. This may be a relatively small outlet for Warmblood breeders, but it is another supporter for local infrastructure. Also, it is one that may be attractive for recovery support. Tourism dollars have a good multiplying effect in local economies, so governments are keen to keep them up and running. Some breeders may be able to combine their operations with tourism and thus tap into both tourism and agricultural support programs when necessary.

As for sectoral support for recovery, these programs are generally tied to the perceived importance to local or regional economy. Since we have learned that there is scant knowledge of the horse industry, it is most likely that support will fall from related programs rather than through direct assistance.

To a certain extent these are housekeeping problems. Production industries are cyclical and we might consider that we will experience a somewhat larger amplitude swing, but that the industry will once again right itself and 'return to normal'.

But will it be a 'new' normal? Well, the general public does not make much of a distinction between horses and cows. So when they read in

the Guardian newspaper that: 'Animal agriculture is choking the Earth, and the longer we turn a blind eye, the more we limit our ability to nourish ourselves, protect waterways and habitats, and pursue other uses of our precious natural resources. Raising livestock for meat, eggs and milk generates 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the second highest source of emissions and

greater than all transportation combined. It also uses about 70% of agricultural land, and is one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution.' (James Cameron and Suzy Amis Cameron, 2017.12.04).

Now, whether this is factual or not doesn't really matter, what does matter is that horses will be lumped into this. And, as far as I am aware the horse industry is not challenging these assertions. Here in Canada we have the beef and dairy farmers telling us on a daily basis how important their sectors are for the economy of this country. Fast-food chains are advertising sustainable meat products, perhaps they are even buying carbon credits, I don't know. But what is clear is that these sectors feel threatened... and they are major food producers. The horse industry is not! Where are the voices speaking up for the strong cultural ben-



efit associated with horses? Where are the voices describing the management efforts to optimize value from each and every horse? Where are the voices lauding the multi-use, multi-year returns that horses provide, young and old? Mme Julien talked about new societal expectations, about a shift in how horses are recognized and, most importantly, about the need to communicate directly with the public.

I think this last point cannot be overemphasized. We have done ourselves no good whatsoever in failing to act on the early signs of unease in the public eye. It isn't just Europe and parts of Asia where society is asking these questions, it certainly includes the Americas and Australasia.

There is no question that horses produce carbon dioxide and methane. We need to get ahead of this and see what can be done to mitigate production and/or develop off-setting capture protocols. Horses have an advantage in that there is an offsetting entertainment benefit. Is sport enough? Should we place additional emphasis on recreation and companionship?

There is no question that horses consume crops and occupy hectares that might otherwise be cropland (those folks have their own worries!). Are the economic arguments and the marginalized land arguments enough? There is more than a fair chance that breeders are going to be among the first tranche to have to answer those questions. They are on the land, they are managing a mare herd that seems to do nothing but eat. They may be pressed to reduce their footprint, reduce the number of breeding animals, perhaps even change their breeding goals. That latter factor may happen anyway, since the cost of success is unreasonably high, and, if ever the world returns to an inflationary cycle, it may be unsustainable.

I have written before about the by-product of breeding by numbers. These horses are discounted, often below production cost, and must be sold into the companion or recreational markets. As pure speculation, it might be these animals that provide a workable solution. Affordable, well-tempered companion horses might help increase awareness of horses in a very positive

way.

So, if we consider the impact of the pandemic, changing public opinion on animal husbandry, environmental demands, it seems as if the horse industry (and animal agriculture in general) may face significant headwinds. These are large-effect challenges, and can't be tackled by breeders or even by most studbooks. So this is a clear breach into which the large international organizations must step. In fact as individuals we should be demanding that the WBFSH, the FEI and others step up with countermeasures.

In their proposal, the IFCE has included steps that they feel must be taken. These include research and communication around sustainable and balanced land use, communications on best practices, education and broad collaboration, identifying and communicating the green assets of horses, strengthening the economy, and emphasizing the social and cultural benefit of the horse industry.

Now, IFCE is an important and innovative organization that brought us, among other things, the UELN. But, where are the international organizations in this effort? Most particularly, where is the WBFSH strategy to chart a course through these shoals? Let's challenge our organization to join this initiative and, perhaps gather together with other European organizations to educate the public and demonstrate the sustainable value of horses in society.

Edward Kendall
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Department of Internal Cooperation

(This commentary is intended to provoke discussion on elements of the sport horse breeding industry. It does not endorse a product, nor reflect a position of World Breeding News or the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses.)

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 21-24 FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horses in Le Lion d'Angers, France

■ IMPORTANT DATES 2020

- VERDEN WILL HOST THE 2021
WBCYH IN DRESSAGE

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VERDEN WILL HOST THE 2021 WBCYH IN DRESSAGE

The dressage World Breeding Championships for Young Horses, held in a collaboration between the FEI and WBFSH, should have been held in the German town of Verden this year, before returning to Ermelo in the Netherlands for a three-year period. It has now been decided that the 2021 championship will be held in Verden

Following the final cancellation of the FEI/WBFSH World Championships for young dressage horses, all parties involved have agreed to move next year's championship to Verden, Germany, which this year had to see the championship canceled due to Covid-19.

The original plan was for a three-year agreement with Ermelo in the Netherlands, where the championships were to be held during the period 2021-2023, but it has now been moved to 2022-2024, so Verden will host the championships in 2021. Verden has held world championships for young horses for many years, only interrupted by a few years in the Dutch city of Arnhem.

From 2016, Ermelo was to hold the championships for a three-year period until 2018, which has been extended by one year with the championship in 2019.



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

JANUARY

11-13 Azelhof-Liege (BEL)

BWP Stallion Selection – Phase 2
(Closed to members of the public under Covid-19 regulations)
www.bwp.be

13 Online (BEL)

BWP Top Stallion Auction
<https://www.bwp.auction/en>

12-23 Verden-Online (GER)

Hanoverian auction of 37 dressage horses and 23 showjumpers. Test riding by appointment only.
<https://verden-auktion-online.com/en>

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

MARCH

1 Online (GER)

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

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.bwp.be

11-14 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

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

APRIL

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

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

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

AUGUST

25-29 Verden (GER)

World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Dressage

SEPTEMBER

9 Verden (GER)

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

15-19 Lanaken (BEL)

World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Showjumping

16 Verden (GER)

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

OCTOBER

21-24 Le Lion d'Angers (FRA)

36th Mondial du Lion – eventing
World Breeding Championships for Young Horses
Tel: +33 (0)6 02 57 63 51
contact@mondialdulion.com
www.mondialdulion.com