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WORLD BREEDING NEWS

for Sport Horses



BN #291

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Stallion profiles

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AGATA GROSICKA «CHRISTOPHER HECTOR | JO DE ROO | SALLY REID | HELEN SHARP | ADRIANA VAN TILBURG
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EDITORIAL

YOUNG STALLION SHOWS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



As we close this issue, the first three stallion shows of the season have just closed their doors: KWPN, took place from February 2-6 in Ermelo, not in Hertogenbosch as usual. While Holsteiner and Selle Français, presented and approved their three-year-old stallions the same weekend (February 20-21), in Elmshorn and Saint-Lô, respectively.

Their common denominator? Organizing the presentations with the professional stallion owners concerned but without spectators. The corollary is an enhanced video presence. Three firsts, and a result that far exceeded expectations, in terms of pure audience, in any case.

According to Charlotte Decker, marketing and communications manager for KWPN, over the five days of Internet video broadcasting, the cumulative audience (ClipMyHorse, KWPN TV, and other channels), reached 106,000 viewers in 55 countries. The programming started with live-streaming of the stallion presentations, to which were added pre-recorded videos and studio interviews with on-site professionals to enrich the experience. "This is a much higher number than we've had attend in previous years, more than double, but difficult to compare in terms of audience and financials. We have not had the 20,000 and more regular visitors who come for the social aspects of the event. But we can consider that the Internet users were just as interested in the proposals of our stallions owners, in much greater numbers, and more widely distributed in the world than we could imagine."

Economically the lines also move. All the parameters change. No more box office and hospitality resources that offset infrastructure costs. At the same time, video production costs are exploding. Dekker continued: "From the start, we made the choice of broadcasting quality. We decided to work with professionals in the sector. Since January 1, 25 people have worked hard on both editorial and technical fronts (cameras, sound, lights, etc), so we have invested heavily in this direction." Conclusion? "The response of the fans, of the breeders, was much more positive than we had imagined. We received hundreds of messages,

calls, testaments of satisfaction. I think we opened a door. This is an experience that will serve us for next year when we hope to be able to rediscover the 'physical' dimension of the event, combined with this new knowledge, and thus be able to further expand our reputation, our audience, and recover part of our investment."

The Holsteiner Verband and Selle Français tell the same story, although neither studbook – which share many similarities in terms of history, structure, and selection – has developed, or had the means to develop, its video programming with the same intensity. In both cases they were satisfied with a livestream offered by ClipMyHorse, and on the presentation days reached 4,000-5,000 viewers.

For Désirée Dann, in charge of communications for the Holsteiner Verband; "This well compensated the audience that we normally welcome into the Holstenhalle of Neumünster, which usually hosts 2,500 fans and breeders. I believe we need to think about a mixed formula for next year." Norbert Boley, the studbook's managing director added; "For one month, the stream from the Fritz-Thiedemann indoor Halle in Elmshorn will be available free of charge to anyone interested in the ClipMyHorse.tv media library [...]." He also complimented the role of such presentations and video coverages by saying, "under such challenging circumstances, we are always happy to advise and support our breeders in their choice of stallions."

Bérengrère Lacroix, director of the Selle Français Studbook, also had complete confidence in the German video operation developed by the Ploenzke-Detering tandem: "What is especially remarkable is the average time spent by our more than 4,000 users on the site, namely 45 minutes. Since they were not able to drive to Saint-Lô, it was obviously the French breeders who followed the event, then the Germans and the Belgians. If we have fulfilled our mission to promote the best young male genetics of the Selle Français, I think we must draw conclusions from this enforced experience to see if there is no better way forward."

Follow the leader: KWPN?

Xavier Libbrecht

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WBFSSH TRIBUNE

WE CANNOT CHANGE THE WIND, BUT WE CAN CHANGE THE RIGGING!



Not even a pandemic can put a stop to horse breeding! And although many stallion selection events have not been held in their usual format, the breeding continues and, fortunately, we

have not lost a generation of stallions to the pandemic. Studbooks have even been able to find corona-responsible alternatives to the traditional stallion grading concepts.

We have to set our sails according to how the wind blows, but we can still move forward – even in headwinds. This season's stallion selections have typically been conducted without an audience, while breeders generally have remained involved via available media. Just as most of us have become accustomed to virtual meetings, we have had to make do with experiencing the stallions via live-streaming. It is, of course, far from being as satisfying as being present in the arena, but it is the best option within the given settings. And one thing is for sure: We will not lose a year's breeding, and the breeders will find their way to new stallions as well.

A challenge for the breeding associations?

Of course, it has been a difficult time for breeding associations. Their finances are closely related to the ability to organize events.

The Covid-19 era has certainly created unprecedented challenges, yet sport horse breeding seems to have survived reasonably well – if not thrived in some areas – and, ironically, the 'sink or swim' scenario demanded new initiatives and a high level of creativity for many stakeholders, which have been successfully met (i.e. online auctions and closed-door shows). Some studbooks have stated that the online auction component will be retained even after they are able to reopen their doors to the public because it has encouraged more 'foreign' interest and buyers.

The individual breeder

It is my impression that the pandemic has not created significant problems for the individual breeder. There is even a certain optimism which has been expressed, for instance, through a small increase in the number of covered mares. Where one would have expected recession and discouragement, there seems to be

optimism because of a good sales market. More and more breeders notice that their foals and horses are being sold quickly, which is a direct result of the decline in production we have experienced since the start of the financial crisis in 2008. Now we are beginning to see a shortage of riding horses on the market.

WBFSSH re-organization

It is important for any organization to stay tuned and up-to-date in order to deal with the current situation. We at the WBFSSH decided it was important to strengthen scientific research



and communications and, accordingly, have modernized and invigorated our organization by creating two new departments of Scientific Research, and of Marketing, Promotion and Communications, as well as enhancing the remit of the Department of Development.

I am delighted about this progressive move, which makes excellent use of the considerable skills and expertise we have available to us on the Board and the Executive Committee. It better supports our vision to stimulate the development of sport-horse breeding worldwide through scientific research as well as to continue supporting international cooperation among our members.

Dedicated support

The foundation of horse breeding and equestrian sports is our shared interest in horses – and that passion is undiminished. At a time when socializing around horses has been impossible, we have become even more aware of its value. We have nursed our horse community separately, but soon - hopefully, this summer - we will be able to meet face to face again. I'm looking forward to it!

Jan Pedersen
President

World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses

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BRIEFS



Zbigniew Dabrowski (Photo: Private collection)

The Polish horse world and equestrian sport in general remembers Mr. Zbigniew Dabrowski (1925 -2021), the longtime Director of Ksiaz Stallion Stud in the south-west part of Poland, a coach and the breeder who largely contributed to the development of breeding and sport in the region and the promotion of a modern type of Silesian sport horse. A graduate of Wroclaw University's Department of Agriculture, Zbigniew Dabrowski devoted his entire professional career to Ksiaz Stallion Stud where he worked for almost five decades from 1955 when he took the position of the Deputy Director, and in 1970 was promoted to the position of Director of the stud until his retirement in 1992. He was responsible not only for organizing many horse auctions and lifting horse breeding in the region to the next level, it was his engagement that succeeded in the Ksiaz Stud hosting international competitions and shows including CDIs and the European Championships for Young Riders. After he retired he was still available to his students and employees as a very committed enabler and remained an inspiration to many. **A.G.**

Rex vd Bisschop top seller at TC Elite Auction 2021: The Polish TC Elite Auction 2021 was organized online by a joint enterprise of Tyszko Sport Horses and Cichon Stallions, with bidding running from February 11-13. Twenty young dressage and showjumping prospects (born in 2017 and 2018), were presented, with the majority from jumping bloodlines of well-known sires such as Aganix du Seigneur, Cornet Obolensky, and Vagabond de la Pomme, as well as young stars Chacoon Blue, Inaico, or Hickstead White. The showjumping collection included two approved stallions: the Trakhener licensed All Night, and BWP (AES licensed) Rex vd Bisschop. Five dressage horses of great quality included the son of sensational Revolution, plus the offspring of other young dressage stars such as Fellini, Franklin, and Secret. It was a nice collection of intensely promoted horses that drew some 150 registered clients from 18 countries. The highest price was reserved for the Belgian-bred Rex vd Bisschop (Di Cantero van ter Hulst Z x Nabab de Reve) owned by Aleksandra Lusina-Golas, recognized for his showjumping talent as well as an extraordinary pedigree. His granddam, Usha van't Roosakke, is one of the best mares in modern showjumping breeding, producing top-class horses that are seen as perfect machines. One of her daughters, Cella (Cento), was herself silver medal winner at the European Championships in Herning in 2013. Rex vd Bisschop sold for €43,500 to a Belgian buyer. **A.G.**



Rex vd Bisschop (Ph: Oliwia Chmielewska)



“The setting could not be more English, to see the sculpture of Valegro in its permanent place in Newent,” posted Carl Hester on Twitter, as he praised the picture of the new sculpture. Adding, “He changed so many of our lives and elevated our sport, so this is a really proud moment for myself, Charlotte [Dujardin], and everyone who has been involved with this very special horse.” The now 19-year-old Valegro (Negro - Maifleur x Gershwin), was bred by J.L. Hanse, and is a double Olympic medal winner from London 2012 when he wowed the home crowd at the Greenwich Park equestrian venue. Newent is a market town in Gloucestershire, on the northern edge of the Forest of Dean and close to Carl Hester's Oaklebrook Mill yard where Charlotte is also still based. **C.v.A.**

Charmaine Bergman – in remembrance: A beacon has gone out far too early and far too quickly. Charmaine Bergman passed away today (February 24) after a relapse of the cancer that had attacked her spine. Always positive, she had led the CWHBA through a difficult recovery at the same time as she herself was recovering from an earlier cancer. Her welcoming attitude and constant dedication to the association, over so many years, was a beacon that drew new people into the fold. She was an avid and charming conversationalist who's knowledge and broad life experience made her comfortable in every setting. Past Chair, Chris Gould remembers; “When Charmaine first accompanied me to the WBFSh General Assembly, I remember worrying that my duties would not allow me enough time to introduce her around. A pointless worry; by the time we left I am sure she knew more people than I did.” This was her absolute strength, she could and would speak with anybody and not just superficially. Her interest in people was genuine. Charmaine's personal connection to the industry was as an accomplished dressage rider, breeder, and stallion owner, and she served in various roles with CWHBA for over 20 years. Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to her husband John, family, and friends. Charmaine will be sorely missed. RIP

Unforgettable: The one-and-only Briar 899 (SWB)

BY HILLEVI BRASCH

PHOTOGRAPHY: TULLSTORP, MARIELLE ANDERSSON GUEYE, PETER LLEWELLYN

The year is 2005... Who can forget when Jan Brink (SWE) and his longtime partner, the beautiful liver chestnut stallion Briar 899 (SWB: Magini 695 (SWB) - Charis (F.2) (SWB) x Krocket 651 x Illum 527 x Gaspari 340) danced their way down the centerline in that 'oh, so picture-perfect powerful passage' to win the prestigious Grosser Preis von Aachen as the first Swedish rider AND Swedish Warmblood horse ever!

Of course, this was not their first Grand Prix win and nor was it their last, but certainly a crowning jewel of a win! It put them at the top in the global dressage rankings for 2005.

The power duo made their mark on the international dressage scene for many years; winning too many Grand Prix' to count and with a partnership that lasted 18 years total! The Brink and Briar saga is a one in a lifetime; together they were unstoppable, a merger of outstanding talent, dedication, perseverance, and true respect.

Starting out

Briar was born in the southern part of Sweden; at Dalhem Farms owned by Hans-Yngve Göransson, where close to 80 horses today, including mares, foals, and youngsters roam the vast fields. His damline (F.2) the so called 'Spinda' family dating back a couple of centuries in Germany, began in Sweden when Spinda was imported in 1927. This family is recognized as one of the most successful mare families in producing top horses, not only in Sweden but also worldwide, and often ranked in the top three in the world. Many horses competing at top international level have descended from this family. For example, in international Grand Prix showjumping: Feliciano (SWB: Irco Marco - Felicia x Utrillo); Corrmint (SWB: Cortez 679 - Col-Rawil 8787 x Utrillo); So What (SWB):

Irco Mena - Drava x Anart); and in international GP dressage: Briar 899 (SWB); Mistral Højris (DWB: Michellino - Virginia x Ibsen); Tellwell (SWB: Tip-Top - Tarantella x Bayard)... to name but a few. Basically every generation in this family has produced world-class horses.

Briar's sire Magini was competing successfully in jumping at the time under Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, while his dam, Charis, was by Krocket, a stallion combining Hanoverian blood with Thoroughbred that brought lightness, quick reactions, soundness, and longevity to the table. Krocket earned a whopping 10/10 in jumping at his stallion approvals, however, did not compete much as his breeding career earned a more coveted spot.

Briar's breeder Hans-Yngve Göransson says: "Briar really sparkled already as a two-year-old. He was a very modern type of horse with a canter that was out of this world, a super trot and a knee action that was not something you saw every day. Jan Brink: "At the time I already had several approved stallions competing such as Chirlon, Martini, Fontana, Sack. We had several up-and-coming stars in the barn. But when Hans-Yngve pulled up with Briar as a three-year-old to see if I wanted to take him on in preparation for the stallion performance test, I quickly realized that this was a horse for me. He was of an extremely modern and noble type, we turned him loose in the arena where all he did was canter. A super canter with a knee action that was totally new for that era, albeit that is how we want all dressage horses moving today. He only gave me four trot steps but that was enough. They were super too."

A spectacular career

Briar was approved for breeding in 1995 as a four-year-old at Flyinge the National Stud, receiving a 10 for type, and scoring eights in trot and canter under a rider, but what was equally as impressive was his jumping ability where he scored 99/99! Swedish superstars in their respective disciplines, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson in jumping and Jan Brink in dressage rode the tests.

Karl Henrik Heimdahl, DVM, and a member of the inspection committee that approved Briar recalls: "He was a



Åke Björnell, Briar, Hans-Yngve Göransson, Jan Brink

beautiful stallion, receiving high marks for his conformation. His movement was quite different from what we had seen up until then with more action in the knees, he really was before his time, a modern stallion in the olden days. His pedigree was somewhat of a solid all-round pedigree which his test also proved.”

Obviously, with such high marks in both dressage and jumping Briar could have gone either way! The path, however, turned out to be dressage; Jan and Briar breezed through the young horse championships over the following years, placing among the top every year. He had already reached Grand Prix level at the age of eight, and as a nine-year-old he was the youngest horse to participate in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. According to Brink: “Everything came so easy for Briar; he is an intelligent animal and learned quickly, paired with obvious talent and rideability. In describing Briar, I would say his energy is super, he is quick on his feet, and has quick reactions, sensitive yet cool, and on top of all that he is a truly kind horse, extremely easy to handle. He never let the hormones get the best of him. He was breeding at the same time as competing all through the years and never had any problems with it. He possessed an uncanny ability to relax wherever he was. A busy showground never bothered him. He would simply lay down and go to sleep in-between classes. In fact, he would sleep so soundly that he snored – loudly! I believe this contributed to his energy level, no one could ever say Briar looked tired, and it enabled him to quickly come back with renewed energy going into the next test.”

◆ **What are your favorite memories with Briar?**

Grand Prix horses typically have their best years right around 12 to 14 years of age. I really enjoyed everything that we did together, but I must say that the victory in Hickstead in 2003 to eventually capture an individual silver medal at the European Championships is probably at the top. Closely followed by the victory in Aachen in 2005, winning the Grosser Preis. We competed at Grand Prix level for 11 years and showed at Aachen for 11 consecutive years. We really

enjoyed our time with Briar over his long career travelling all over the world. Our team consisted of Briar’s breeder Hans-Yngve Göransson, my trainer Kyra Kyrklund whom I have worked with for 22 years, my mentor and supporter Åke Björzell and, last but not least, the invaluable grooms Briar has had over the years. The groom has a huge part in the success and well-being of the horse, and they all contributed to the success we had over the years.

One show that really stood out was the World Cup final in Las Vegas, the venue was the Thomas and Mack Stadium, not really built for this type of competition, however the audience made the show. It was sold out and the crowd went crazy when Briar did his showy extended trot, they started whistling and clapping and, yes, we may have lost a few points here and there, but it was so worth it, Briar loved it and so did I.

Briar – the ‘Professor’

Jan Brink recounts the story of when he was put in his place by Briar, the ‘Professor’ (Kyra Kyrklund’s nickname for Briar): “Briar could be quite explosive; however, I knew that if he got it out of his system in the warm-up he would be totally fine once in the arena. We were competing in Bremen, at the Kampmann Cup, and I really wanted us to give it our best, which led me to ride him differently than what I normally do in a warm-up, however this was a BAD idea. Horses do their best when they know what is coming and this was just way too much of a new warm-up for Briar. Consequently, the test was a disaster. The media had a frenzy about it afterwards and I was open about the fact that Briar had pretty much put me in my place by being so clear that this is NOT the way we do it. I could not help but laugh, just one of many times where his intelligence and integrity really came through”.

Kyra Kyrklund with whom I have trained for 22 years, saw Briar for the first time when he was six years old. After watching him for a few minutes she said: “THIS is an Olympic horse. It is the best one you have ever had.”

BRIAR (1991)	MAGINI SWB (1982)	MARATON SWB (1976)	UTRILLO (HANN/1962)	ERNOE (HANN/1954) ANISETTE (HANN/1953)	ASTFLUG (HANN) - FUGOSA (HANN) ANILIN (HANN) - HAVANNA (HANN)
			FAIRY (SWB/1970)	CARACAS (1959) FAIRITA (1950)	JOVIAL (SWB) - ERNA(SWB) FAIREY XX - RITA (SWB)
		GABINETTE SWB (1976)	GANESCO (SWB/1971)	UNESCO (SWB/1962) GAKENDA IV (SWB/1954)	POMPE (SWB) - KLARINETTE (SWB) SALVATOR (SWB) - GAKENDA III (SWB)
			OBENETTE (SWB/1964)	OBELISK (SWB/1957) GRYNET (SWB)	DORN (SWB) - CONCORDIA (SWB) KOSACK (SWB) - GULLI (SWB)
	CHARIS SWB (1985)	KROCKET SWB (1978)	KALIBER (SWB/1974)	UTRILLO (HANN/1962) CALNALLA II (SWB/1969)	ERNOE (HANN) - ANISETT (HANN) POMPE (SWB) - CENORA (SWB)
			SKYFIRE (SWB/1964)	TODDHURST XX (1954) SPITFIRE (SWB/1945)	MOSSBOROUGH XX - CONEYHURST XX LUCIFER (SWB) - BOJAN (SWB)
		MICKAELA SWB (1977)	ILLUM (HANN/1972)	DER LOWE XX (1944) FEDER (HANN/1941)	WAHNFRIED XX - LEHNSHERRIN XX FARINA (HANN) - JURAMUSE (HANN)
			MEDEA (SWB/1971)	GASPARI (SWB/1949) DORRIT (SWB/1965)	PARAD (TRAK) - RUSSI (SWB) DRABANT (SWB) - DELTA (SWB)



Hans-Yngve Göransson with his wife Katherina

Briar – the Ambassador

With success, of course, comes fame – and as such Briar was a fantastic ambassador for the Swedish Warmblood horse, for Sweden, and together with his partner Jan Brink put their names on the world equestrian map. Jan says (tongue – in cheek): “He has meant everything to me, we were together for 18 years, that is longer than with my wife Catharina who is coming up on 16 years.”

Their victories are endless, the medals are many. The duo won the Swedish Championships in dressage seven years in a row and were victorious in at least 60 Grand Prix and 20 international Grand Prix.

Meritorious credentials

Briar was approved for breeding as a four-year-old, and placed among the top in the SWB Championships for young horses as a five-, six-, and seven-year-old. He went to eight World Cup finals, claimed seven gold medals from the Swedish Championships, and competed in all the World Equestrian Games during his last 10 competition years, two World and European Championships (three bronze and three silver medals), and three Olympic Games. He also participated in the world’s largest outdoor competition, Aachen in Germany 11 years in a row, and won the Grosse Preis in 2005. He has had 16 international wins at Grand Prix level, and was the highest ranked dressage stallion (sport

results) in the world almost continuously for eight years. Together with his rider Jan Brink, they were the most successful international duo historically in Sweden, regardless of discipline. No other horse in Sweden has even come close to these results.

A superlative breeding career

Briar is approved for breeding by SWB, KWPN, Hanoverian, Oldenburg, Denmark, France, and Italy. He was awarded ‘Elite’ status by SWB in 2006, and has 12 approved sons: Berlioz 978 (out of Ide x Asterix), Biggles 1015 (Susanna x Krevad), and Brisbane 1081 (Terra Nova x Amiral) in Sweden; Isos 9067 (Shiva x Shogun), Bella Karoli 9064 (Sedona x Rambo) and Agastrofos 9071 (Hera x Nocturne) in the USA; Bellini K (Gretana x Akzent II), Briar Junior (Oratira x Julio Mariner xx) in Oldenburg; plus Byalee Briar/ex Florentijn (Florine x Bernstein), and DS Burlington Bertie (Delta Donna Cherry x Donnerfalke) in Australia.

He has also produced many diploma mares. The KWPN filly Lafhira (Briar - Faphira x Westpoint) born in 2016, received the highest marks ever awarded in KWPN as a three-year-old. In 2019 Briar was the top producer of Grand Prix horses in KWPN looking at the percentage of registered offspring, with 6.25% competing at Grand Prix level.

In Swedish Warmblood alone Briar has produced 697 offspring, with 50 born in the United States and registered with SWANA. How many offspring worldwide is impossible to know, but it’s probably safe to say close to a thousand. As a producer of Grand Prix horses he was awarded ‘Elite’ status as a breeding stallion in 2006. Christina Olsson of the SWB Inspection Committee says: “Briar produces strong and powerful horses, both physically and mentally. He tends to increase the height in his offspring, and he has a positive index for conformation. His offspring possess good gaits ,especially in trot and canter, and he quite often stamps his offspring with white markings.”

Jan Brink: “Briar has produced many Grand Prix horses worldwide, often sensitive, and somewhat explosive, but talented and with great rideability.”

Hans-Yngve Göransson: “Briar contributes with his rideability, his vitality, longevity, soundness, and his ability to pass these traits on to the next generation. His foals are social and self-assured, they are easy to spot as they are usually the first ones to come up to you to say ‘hello’.”

Successful international offspring

The following is a list of Briar’s successful international offspring, to date:

Dressage: April 4cible (Kristian von Krusenstierna), Baltzar (Elisabeth Hjelm), B Aretos (Lina Andersson), Bellini K (Antonio Diaz Porras), Biggles 1015 (Kristian von Krusenstierna/Lina Dolk), Briars Boy (Monika von Wedemeyer), Briars Junior (Juliane Jerich), Brighton (Maria von Essen), Briman (Emilie Brolin), Brisbane 1081 (Mattias Jansson/Emma Hindle/Katherine Berning), Bryan (Anna



Briar with Jan Brink at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong

Lawson), Bukowski (Anders Dahl/Dong Seon Kim), Carlette (Claudia Witte), Charleston (Kristian von Krusenstierna), Ciwi (Charlotte Esping), Crossy (Marie Munthers), Dorazio (Kira Kanerva), DS Burlington Bertie (Aiyana Levin), Mac Brian Poppelhag (Amy Stovold).

Showjumping: Agamemnon (Alec Lawler), Brunetti (Polina Prigozhina), Swingkid (Hector Ortiz).

Eventing: Black Mamba (Ricarda Berkenheide), Cape Breeze JM (Christian Malmgren), High 5 du Langwater (Constantin van Rijckevorsel), Valcor (Asha Laseroms).

Four-in-hand driving: Candyman (Axel Olin).

S-level dressage: Agastrofos (Kevin Kohmann/Endel Ots), Barland I.M. (Michelle Gibson), Cantar (Helene Wannert), Certainty (Thamar Zweistra) and Corleone (Kerstin Ahlgren).

Vaulting: Chêvere.

Briar today – 30 years and counting

After a partnership of 11 successful Grand Prix years, and 18 years together total, Jan Brink decided it was time to retire Briar in 2009. “I rode him around the farm for about a year, then Hans-Yngve proposed he bring him back to the farm where he was once born. Briar has a great life!

Hans-Yngve: “He has an outdoor stall with plenty of straw

bedding, a big pasture, and the mares and foals parade by him every day. It is his family, and he is the king. He lives like the horse he is, and at 30 years of age is a picture of health.”

Jan Brink also eventually retired from international competition, is the father of two children, and today runs a successful international business, Tullstorp Dressage Stable, together with his wife Catharina, which focuses on the training and sales of international quality horses.

Brink is also the organizer and mentor of a successful youth program as of many years; Plantskolan, focusing on bringing talented youth riders up the levels. Kyra Kyrklund is still very much involved and frequents Sweden working with the Knytkalaset – program focusing on international/national level riders together with Jan Brink. ■



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KWPN invites 44 dressage and 48 showjumping stallions

BY CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, FEI

A KWPN Stallion Show online. No audience members, no discussions, no applause or cheering, no agreements or disagreements.... As KWPN delivered 48 showjumpers and 44 dressage stallions to be invited for the stallion test.

VLD-Stud had no less than a 25% share, with 12 stallions invited for the test, including the very interesting Night Life VDL (Erco van de Roosakker x Arezzo VDL). In dressage, Peter van de Sande was the happy owner of two premium stallions, likewise Ad Valk

The showjumping selection committee consisted of chairman Cor Loeffen, Henk van den Broek, and Arie Hamoen, who replaced Wout-Jan van der Schans due to quarantine restrictions for the latter.

Several sires were represented by their first sons, including the eight-year-old Ibolensky (Cornet Obolensky - Catriona Z x Contender, bred by N. Wouters van den Oudenweijer), who saw two sons directly invited.

Proven progenitors

Several proven progenitors lived up to their reputation: Cornet Obolensky, Diamant de Semilly, Thunder van de Zuuthoeve, and Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, who each saw two of their offspring receive an invitation for the performance test. Meanwhile, Olympic stallion Aparadi (VDL Corland x Kannan, bred F. van de Linden) had three sons invited for the stallion test.

Very impressive in his pedigree with lots of sport in the mare line was Niancard EB (out of Siancara VDL keur prest x Marlon, bred by R. de Vlieger, owned by Gerrit and Leontine ter Harmsel-Zanderink). His dam is also the mother of KWPN-approved Azteca VDL (Indoctro) and international showjumper Dakar VDL (Cardento x Nimmerdor, bred by W. Abbring).

The KWPN-recognized Quabri de l'Isle (Kannan x Socrate de Chivre, bred Etienne Poisson) had two sons invited for the performance test, both bred by Egbert Schep. Nighfire ES (out of Tatjana Bo ster pref prest x Concorde) is a half brother to KWPN-recognized stallion Zerlin (Berlin), showed among other riders by Marlon Zanotelli. The dam is also full sister to Grand Prix Pasca B partnered by showjumper Philippe Putallaz.

Also, Baltic VDL (Quaprice du Bois Margot x Jus de Pomme, bred E. van Ittersum) saw multiple sons advance to the next phase of the stallion test.

Chairman Cor Loeffen explained: "We made our

selection based on conformation, pedigree, and free jumping. As always we kept an eye out for scope, reflexes, and light-footedness in the canter. A genetically interesting stallion we sometimes gave the benefit of the doubt, as we always have the best estimation of the natural abilities during the performance test."

The stallion selection committee was pleased with the way the stallions were prepared and complimented the great team in the cage. "They made it possible for the stallions to present themselves in a calm and horse-friendly manner," Loeffen emphasized.

VDL Stud

So, 12 stallions from VDL received an invitation, three of them becoming premium stallions. Wiebe-Yde van de Lageweg explained their preparations: "It was rather strange this year, however we were so happy the show was able to go ahead. We started to work at home with 28 stallions, went with 21 of them to the first viewing where 18 of them were invited for the second round. When we left home, and from the 17 we presented, 12 were selected. Not bad indeed. I'm especially happy with some new blood like the Erco van 't Roosakker son Night Life. He was one of my favourites."

The three premium stallions from VDL Stud were: Night Life VDL (Erco van't Roosakker x Arezzo VDL) owned and bred by VDL Stud; Nouri W (Cohinoor VDL x Carrera VDL, bred by K.J. van Weperen from Oosterwolde); and Niwyruso H (Baltic VDL - Wyrusa H ster pref prest PROK x Corland, bred by Anne Jan Hazenberg from Opende).

Impressive Belgian influence

Certainly, Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve and additional Belgian influence in appointed stallions was quite impressive. Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve (Narcos II x Laudanum xx, bred by the late René Vets, Lier) saw two interesting sons receiving an invitation. Munro (out of Arkade x Arko III, bred by J. Scatterly from London, owned by Else Brinkman, Jessica Meiring, and Sandra van de Velde) has a very interesting sporting pedigree, including his dam Arkade having jumped 1m45, while his grandmother

Showtime jumped internationally at the highest level at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games with Nick Skelton (GBR).

Sirocco Optimus (Nixon van't Meulenhof - Anita du Park x Quick Star, bred by Optimus Agro, owned by Rinus Blom) has an interesting pedigree, relating, among others, Rosana du Park who jumped internationally with Eric Lamaze (CAN).

Sauvignon di Fer (Jenson van't Meulenhof - Lafite di Fer x Baloubet du Rouet, breeder/owner Stal Mertens) is related on both sides to the well known foundation of Querly Chin. His great-grandmother Narcotique II de Muze jumped with Eric Lamaze at the highest level, and is only one of the numerous Grand Prix horses descending directly from this impressive Belgian line. The stallion himself showed good reflexes and jumped in a functionally correct way, without being spectacular. Isn't this the right attitude we're looking for in top sport?

Recently in the after-selection Saluto van de Molenberg (Di Cantero van ter Hulst Z - Salut d'Amour x Stakkato, breeder/owners Tim Reygaerts and Sofie van Bunder) was added. His dam, Salut d'Amour (bred by Adolf Feldmann) jumped five-star 1m50 herself with Svante Johansson, and is full sister to Hanoverian Grand Prix stallion Saint Amour who competed at the European Championships in Windsor 2008, also under Johansson's saddle.

More Premium stallions

For the first time, stallions with a non-KWPN life number could also be invited to become a premium stallion, and this option was immediately exercised for Saltador ter Putte (For Pleasure x Diamant de Semilly, bred by the De Maertelaere Family, owned Egbert Schep).

The other two who have not yet been mentioned are A La Minute Z (A La Carte NRW - Nuhr ster pref prest x Libero H, bred Jacoba Stud from Wijster and co-owned by Reinie Tewis), and Nirvana V&V (Farfan M - Sascha keur prest x Fuego du Prelet) bred by Herman Voort from Den Ham. Nirvana V&V is a half brother to Jeroen Dubbeldam's world champion SFN Zenith (Rash R - Sascha). Herman Voort explained: "Breeding to me means one third knowledge, one-third guts and feeling, and one-third luck. The luck now for me is that another promising stallion by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve from this mare was just born during one of the selection days. New hope is already born again!"

Dressage quality recognized

The stallion selection committee under chair Bert Rutten, with members Johan Hamminga and Marian Dorresteyn, was very pleased with the number and quality of the

appointed stallions from no fewer than 44 candidates. Bert Rutten summarized by saying; "To test the better horses under saddle gives by far the best information that we prefer. So we were happy with this group of stallions possessing an uphill tendency in their movement while preserving balance, a good walk, and the desired rectangular bodies. Furthermore some unique bloodlines were present as well."

Strong first crop

For Ferrero kicked off strong with his first crop after three of his sons were invited to the performance test. Catalogue number 391, Nirvano (For Ferrero x Charmeur x Vivaldi, bred by G. Strik from Vinkel, owned by Stal Van de Sande and F.P.H. van der Vegt from Hoogeloo) moves with elasticity and doesn't need speed to maintain his balance and self-presence. He is directly related to the international Grand Prix dressage horse Black Panter 2 (Painted Black), showed by Italian Serena Fumagalli Carloni.

Nirvano deserved extra praise through his awarded premium title, and Peter van de Sande said this was the show of his life. He is the owner of For Ferrero (For Romance - Dubai Millenium x Don Crusador, bred by Stal de Biebosschen), the above-mentioned Nirvano, co-owner of his second premium-stallion Next Level (Jarville x Prestige VDL, bred and owned by Willy van der Aa), as well as another appointed stallion Night Sjadov (Guardian S - Gatika elite x Florencio I x Havidoff). Van de Sande remembers: "I first saw For Ferrero when he was seven days old. He and his offspring play a major role in my life as a breeder. My vision to co-own and co-share with some other



Painted Black (Gribaldi) with Anky van Grunsven

breeders makes my breeding. It sure is a pleasure for all, a win-win situation. I'm very happy with the results this year, as it's what keeps us going."

Mentioning Painted Black as the sire of Black Panther 2, this Olympic stallion surpassed For Ferrero with four selected sons, while Ferdinand and Indian Rock both had two stallions advance to the final phase of the performance test.

Just like For Ferrero, Just Wimpfhof also showed his first crop and, impressively, four of his sons were appointed. Nick Wimpfhof (out of Hiana elite IBOP-dres D-OC x Bordeaux, bred by Geesje and Tinus Naber, owned by Joop van Uytert and Stal Brouwer) combines in his convincing pedigree Just Wimpfhoff and Johnny Depp, both stallions competing successfully in the dressage WBCYH. Dam Hiana is a half sister to stallion Johnny Depp. Nick Wimpfhoff certainly looked mature and chic, demonstrating his impressive ability to both lengthen and collect.

Just Wimpfhoff also produced the top seller of the auction with Nicky L (out of Ocky keur pref prest x Ferro, bred Jan Lamers), who sold for €56,000 and will stay in the Netherlands. His dam, Ocky L, produced among others the approved stallion Glock's Gironn (Uphill).

Apart from For Ferrero and Just Wimpfhoff, first crops also came from Jerveaux, Jarville and Jay Destino, all of whom had sons selected. Most impressive was Next Destino (Jay Destino - G-Daula ster x Cadans M, bred by Joop and Renata van Uytert-van Vliet). Just like selected Glock's Toto Jr son Norbert, he originates from the famous Daula mare line.

It's good to now have a son Jay Destino (Danciano - Diarissima OLD x Diamond Hit), bred by Gestüt Lewitz/Paul Schockemöhle, who was sold to Switzerland as a future stallion.

Totilas builds up his line

Geniaal (Vivaldi - Wocky x Biotop x Ferro, bred by Van Traa, owned by Helgstrand Dressage) and Totilas each saw two of their sons advance to the final phase.

Totilas son Nixon (out of Demeter B ster sport x Jazz, bred by Sjef Janssen, co-owned by De Beukenvallei) was selected, and his dam Demeter 2 is a half sister to Grand Prix horse Athene B (Don Schufro), successfully shown by Lotje Schoots (NED). After the selection, Nixon was sold to Joop van Uytert and Blue Hors, Denmark. In fact, Totilas is strongly building up an extra special stallion line as his sons Glock's Toto Jr and Trafalgar also had sons selected.

Very interesting because of his lack of blood from the famous three – Ferro, Jazz and Krack C – is Nikkei Royal (Trafalgar - Royal Chestnut elite PROK x Royal Dance, breeder/owner Therese van Dijk-van der Scheer), a really well-built stallion with self-presence and a lot of elasticity.

Well known mothers

Some mothers of approved sons once again presented impressive sons. Ocky keur pref prest (Ferro) out of of Nicky



The launch of a dynasty: Totilas, ridden by Edward Gal

L (Just Wimpfhoff) has already been mentioned. Additionally, Wicara (pref prok elite x Ferro x Florestan) is the mother of approved stallion Impression (Don Schufro), and now her New Market (Foundation, bred by Matthijs Maat, co-owned by Joop van Uytert) received an invitation for the stallion test.

The dam of Number Two (Just Wimpfhoff, bred by Gerrit van Esterik and Joop van Uytert) is Part Two ster pref prest x Ferro. Part Two is also the dam of the approved Ferdeaux (Bordeaux).

Novando O (out of Briolita O elite IBOP dres pref PROK x Johnson, breeder/owner Peter Oosterbosch) originates from the same mare line which also produced champion stallion Handsome (Tuschinski - Wicky x Farrington).

Premium stallion Next Pitch US (Geniaal - It's A Litchy PROK x Hotline, bred and owned by Unlimited Stables in Lunteren) of course should not be forgotten. The late Litchy (Ferro x Officier elite sport pref prest) is the dam of Painted Black, Genesis, and Zizi Top.

Just like Peter van de Sande, Ad Valk was very happy with his two premium-stallions: Nirvana (Governor - Fanita keur IBOP Dr SportDr x Vivaldi x Havidoff, breeder/owner Ad Valk, co-registered by the Andeweg Family), and Nobel Prins (Indian Rock - Hosanna x Wynton x Wolfgang x Ulft P). This stallion is related to Grand Prix and Olympic dressage horse Parzival, ridden by Adelinde Cornelissen (NED), and impressed by the use of his body and uphill movements.

Now for all stallions, the stallion performance test will start on March 30 for 35 days, and the selection committee is looking forward to the results of this promising and newly chosen group of stallions, boosting quality and interesting bloodlines. ■



**Franke Sloothaak riding Joli Coeur /
aka San Patrignano Joly Coeur**

Sloothaak: “Willingness to perform is most important”

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

One of the greatest riders of the last 40 years is without doubt Franke Sloothaak (63). He rode his last competition in 2017, and should not be considered the best because of his medals tally, but also because of his impeccable style of riding and the ability to ride many different kinds of horses.

Franke Sloothaak was born in Heerenveen in the Netherlands. He started to pick up riding when he was 11, and was already a natural talent by the time he was 15. At that same age he became national champion at 1m30. He had the ‘ideal mentality to be a jumper rider. He is very calm and has an outstanding competition mentality,’ according to his first riding instructor Lammert Brouwer. Sloothaak moved to Germany at the age of 18, and has lived there ever since.

The young teenager that had a dream, certainly made it come true when, in 1984, Franke Sloothaak was a member of the bronze medal-winning team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games riding Farmer. Four years later, in Seoul 1988, he won team gold riding the great Walzerkönig (Watzmann - Ahnenkrone x Absatz, bred by Wilhelm Dammeier). Later, he became individual and team champion at the 1994 World Equestrian Games in The Hague riding the remarkable blue-eyed mare, Weihaiwej (Westminster - Andachtige x Grannus). In 1996 he was again a member of the golden Olympic team in Atlanta riding Joli Coeur/aka San Patrignano Joly Coeur (Major de la Cour - Beauty x Un Bonheur), the same horse he partnered two years later at the World Equestrian Games in Rome to win another team gold, as well as an individual bronze medal.

Franke Sloothaak currently lives in the state of North-Rhine Westphalia, training a few top riders from the younger generation, including Daniel Deusser and Laura Klaphake. In the more than 50 years that he has been riding he has seen the development and evolution in sport horse breeding, so what are his thoughts about the current state of breeding and the history of the last 45 years?

Bloodline knowledge

◆ Are you a breeder yourself?

I used to breed a bit, but no more. I still have a seven-year-old mare, Colline 8, who she is currently in Moscow, by Cap Chap, by Colbert GTI (Balou du Rouet). The mother is by Chambertin x Quito de Baussy. Colline 8 is very nice to ride, very easy and careful, and is being ridden by a friend of mine who is a very good rider. I also have a four-year-old, also out of the Chambertin mare. Together with my wife I have a

Belissimo M x First Gotthard x Kolibri. I used to ride her mother in sport, then I sold her to Greece, but she came back to us through a few detours, and has stayed. My wife wanted to breed a horse for herself, and so far it looks good. I am so much on the road that I don't have the time to do everything properly when I breed a foal.

◆ How much do you look at pedigree info and bloodlines, and how much in breeding is completely subjective?

Horses need to have at first a certain expression. You can tell already a lot by their expression. Sometimes we say they can look a bit more intelligent, some look like they are very awake or just very calm. If you look at the horse you are already being given a lot of information.

Horses nowadays are bred for several generations with a specific purpose in mind, so you can already get information from the bloodlines when you look at a horse's papers. In the past you had, for example, Gotthard, they all had a bit of a problem with the water. The offspring of Paradox I became spookier the older they got. The offspring of Pilot had potential but were difficult, so it was not easy to tap their potential. You also know now that with Baloubet du Rouet there are sometimes problems in their body. Balou du Rouet's damline has blood that tends to be spooky and passes that on. These are only outtakes from a few stallions but from every sire you need to be aware what they bring to the table. From Ramiro you preferred to have the mares and from Almé you preferred to have the stallions.

I am not directly a breeder, but I ride and train the horses, and because of that I work with different horses and through that with many different bloodlines. I like to know the pedigree because it is important information about the horse. Then for the riding and training, it says something about the character and whether I should handle some things in an easier or more difficult way. In the end I prefer a horse that is more intelligent and has a bit blood and wants to work with the rider. For sure this can bring characteristics that have their own problems, such as a horse being too ambitious or too fast.

Then you have to work on getting the horse calm. It is an advantage for me that I have the experience from working all those years with different horses that I kind of know what

to do if I am training rider/horse combinations or the horses themselves. Plus I have to work with the character of both the rider and that of the horse. As a rider you learn from your horse and not from your trainer.

◆ **When did your interest in bloodlines start, and why?**

Already when I was still living in the Netherlands I was riding stallions during the winter season. I rode, for example, Farn, Marco Polo, and Joost. That is how I got acquainted with breeding, and also if you get connected to people like Henk Alves and Harm Brunsting you will learn a lot. These two co-owned the Thoroughbred Erdball xx. They really did their best to get a good Thoroughbred in the Friesland province.

When I was with Alwin Schockemöhle I worked with different bloodlines and during my time at Paul Schockemöhle I got even more interest in bloodlines. I also saw a lot of offspring from, for example, the Thoroughbred Koridon xx at the riding club in our area. Back then, Lammert Brouwer already had a lot of interest in using us him for breeding, and he was my instructor. Actually, the problem now is that it's almost impossible to get a good Thoroughbred, although I do believe that through the years their conformation has become much better.

But we should not stare ourselves blind with conformation, because sometimes I see a horse and I think that is a beautiful horse and it will be easy because that is what the type tells me, and then I get on and think 'this is a very stiff horse and is so motionless.' That's when I start to question myself because what I feel and what I see are two very different things. But if you look at the paper you at least know where it comes from.

The combination of breeding and sport

◆ **At what age do you look more rigorously at a horse's abilities and what determines their ongoing training?**

Well, I don't really look at an age. I can already start quite well with a three-year-old, or even a two-year-old. When does training start? You can already train a foal. For example, take the foal away from the mare and try to put the foal on the trailer. It is a part of gaining trust from the foal, as that's when a horse's education already starts. It is a huge confidence issue for a horse to go in the trailer because a foal or young horse feels very insecure on the loading ramp, so will they use it? That's already the first problem. If you take your time and have carrots or other rewards and take your time, even if it takes longer, afterwards you have won a lot of the time. Then you can educate a three-year-old horse very well in the tack and with long lines. Through working on the long lines you can prepare the horse and already develop his body to make the horse ready for the rider, and when you start to ride you can fine-tune the aids. Most people longe a horse three times and think it's ready to be ridden, and then has to learn everything under the saddle with no preparation to develop the body.

A horse first has to learn to use the hind leg so it can easily carry weight. If you first train a horse in a double longe it will know the aids by voice. This was already the way we worked at Alwin Schockemöhle. The horse first needed to understand what you want from him/her from the ground. We are working on the ground and in the saddle to help the horse in the tasks we are asking. We adjust the feeding and complete management to help the horse. We are the manager of the horse, the horse has to learn to trust us and to go with us.

There is no child who likes going to kindergarten. You cannot tell me that a young horse getting a rider on its back for the first time is liking it. Or a person who is starting jogging will like it at the start. Will they say that the first week was great? I don't think so. These are arguments you can use in a discussion with people who are against our sport. It is normal in life that for some things you have to learn to enjoy it. If you are not good in math you will not like math lessons in school. Or if you understand different languages and you have a good teacher who can explain well, you will eventually like it. You have to explain that this part of life.

◆ **How many horses do you think are 'lost' to the higher levels due to poor training and riding?**

If a horse is good, it will always find its way to the top. You can't stop the horse. The best example is Jappeloup de Luze, who had extreme potential and became Olympic and European Champion [with Frenchman Pierre Durand]. How he jumped under the saddle of Nick Skelton during the World Championship [1986 rotating final] in Aachen was unbelievable. The people who can afford it are buying top horses. So normal riders are suddenly jumping at top level thanks to their horses and money, because without the money they wouldn't be there.

The problem for most jumping riders is that they can't buy their own Grand Prix horses, and if they have a horse it often needs to be sold because the risks are too great. We see this more and more in Europe, but it's been the case for much longer in the USA, that you can only ride when you have money. So it is very difficult to say that horses don't reach top level because of poor training and riding. But a horse that is a real top horse will make it one way or another to the top. Also a top rider, no matter where he or she is, will get to that level.

◆ **How much has riding, good and poor, been driven the breeding process?**

In breeding and with riders we have gained more depth in the horse population. Riding hasn't become better or worse, it's exactly the same. Courses that are built for amateur riders make the distances longer. By maintaining one rhythm you can continue and it always fits. They set the time shorter and make the distances easier, so the riding doesn't improve.

Now, because of better breeding we see more, better quality horses. Chacco-Blue was bred by Paul Schockemöhle on one of his foundation principles. They need to have



Franke Sloothaak riding the blue-eyed mare San Patrignano Weihaiweij

scope and be good to ride, the rest you can achieve mostly through training. The majority of Chacco-Blue offspring want to jump, and will usually do more around a course than they actually can. There are many Chacco-Blues with a lot of scope, but also some with less scope, but they jump because they have a willingness to perform. Chacco-Blue inherited this from Chambertin and from Cambridge, and also Caletto I. This blood always had a good willingness to perform. You might see Chacco-Blue offspring who are not the prettiest horses, but in the past Paul never cared about that.

We also have a need for more Grand Prix horses as there are more riders who are able to ride at 1m60 level. This is why Grand Prix horses are becoming so expensive, because there are so few of them. We have many good riders, but not enough Grand Prix horses, and you also need more than one. Then you come back to the money. People with a lot of money can buy the top horses.

◆ From a breeding perspective, if you could change equestrian sport in terms of the competition demands, what would you do?

I would do it the other way around. I would go to the breeder and tell him or her my wishes. The horse needs to be tall enough, a good size. I would like to have a horse with a good model, and movement should be expansive. The horse should be practical and the horse needs to be very careful, but should not be afraid. I would like to have a horse with a good temperament, with blood, but not crazy. The horse should be aware of what is going on around him, but not be fearful of it. There are so many things that we want as riders, but in the end you cannot breed these characteristics as a goal. I don't think we can breed a horse for all aspects of our sport.

◆ What is the future for breeding?

In my opinion we are going in the right direction. We still have different studbooks and, taking a look at Germany for example, we have Holstein, Oldenburg, Westfalia and Hanover, among others. When we look at the bloodlines we see that we are getting a more European-bred horse. If you look into a Holsteiner pedigree it has many different origins. This is the case with the most studbooks. Everything is

mixed, and because of that you will get improvements in the pedigrees, which is eventually good for breeding and sport. I firmly believe that there will come a time here in Germany when the studbooks need to work more together, because they cannot carry on individually. Some studbooks are getting support from the government, but there will come a time that this will stop. Paul Schockemöhle has his own breeding business, he doesn't need support, but he has more mares than are standing in Holstein.

Paul is from a generation that is about to go extinct, together with Wiepke van de Lageweg, and Joris de Brabander from Belgium, who is a bit younger. They were pioneers in breeding in their own way, special people who had a drive to build something important. We have now the possibility to access stallion semen worldwide. A registration paper is not the most important if you know the pedigree. For geldings a paper isn't important at all, eventually only for mares and stallions. The results of the offspring of stallions or mares makes it important that you know the pedigree. Take for example Cedric, who I had before he went to Laura Kraut, he had no papers. We know that he was by Chambertin and that his mother was by Calido I but for the rest we don't know. We are interested in breeding, but in the end we want to have good results.

The bloodlines can tell you in what direction the breeding will go. For sure there are different people with different priorities. Paul Schockemöhle wants to breed horses with a lot of scope and a good character, which is his breeding foundation. There are a few bloodlines that are not so easy to ride, and the majority of these lines are already known, so if you're truly interested in breeding you must try to investigate these matters.

It is also a question of how a stallion stamps his offspring. You have different directions for stallion stamps. For example, Libero H put his stamp on his offspring with his character, Chacco-Blue also mostly through his character, just like Chambertin. The latter did not always produce good types, but they convince through their willingness to perform and their character. The willingness to perform is the most important.

But there are two things working against each other. Breeders want to breed a really top-performing horses, but 95% of the riders can't handle these horses. Top riders can ride these horses with special bloodlines. What we have improved in breeding are the possibilities of horses to be selected in the jumping or dressage direction, so it's important to have knowledge of these lines.

◆ What do you think about cloning horses?

With cloning you have different possibilities. Take for example Explosion W, he is a gelding who is currently one of the best horses in sport. Or in the past Milton. It would be great if we had a stallion with the bloodlines of Milton. To make a clone of Quidam de Revel might be unnecessary, because he was a stallion himself and he produces many offspring. A gelding is a different story, and you think 'wow',

that is a fantastic horse, like in the past Gem Twist, who has several clones. That would be a reason to make a clone to maintain the genetic material.

◆ How much influence does a rider have in the making of a horse, aside from the genetic ability?

That is a good point. Cloning a horse, for instance, does not mean you can turn back time to give the horse the same experience and education as the original. There are many examples that for horses who were outstanding and won a lot it was because of the influence of the rider. If Deister hadn't ended up with Paul Schockemöhle he would never have become the legendary horse that we know today. With Milton probably the same story, and with Casall also. With breeding you have to know the horses.

Another example is ET with Hugo Simon, who would never have become the star without Hugo. That's where the rider makes the horse. But I also think that a horse like Explosion W wins so many classes because he has a lot of ability and a lot of positive traits. But you will always have the influence of the rider.

Horses are also being judged by different people. Baloubet du Rouet and Corrado I were top sport horses, but didn't have ideal conformation. Should you breed with them? Explosion W also has his own way of jumping, but he wants to get over the fence and he can do it. If you ride young horses they have to be perfect in their manners and learning to be round. But later on, they don't jump like that anymore when you see them at the higher levels of our sport. Yes, Joli Coeur had perfect manners and she jumped with those perfect manners during the world championship and the Olympic Games. There are not many horses that jump in a perfect way at top level.

Sometimes it is nice to look back at videos of horses that have now made it to the top. With some horses you would never expect that they would jump at the highest level like a world championship. For example Libero H, didn't have sufficient scope, but his willingness to perform was enormous, so that's what's most important. That's why he stayed double clear in the Nations' Cup in Aachen and then won the World Cup. You now see that in his offspring, who are sometimes not so easy, but they do have the fighting spirit to do it. That is so important. If you don't want to fight you will get nowhere. Again it is the willingness to perform that counts in every aspect of our sport.

◆ In an interview last year, you were quoted as saying 'Horses are better than us, they are generous teachers...' Could you explain precisely what this means?

As a rider we always make mistakes. If we want to improve something or if we want to change something, we sometimes go down a path and realize we've pushed too far, and want to be fair. This can result in tensions or other problems, it can happen. If you don't do anything then nothing will happen and you will not improve and go forward. But it happens that things don't go as you planned

or expected when trying to progress in training. These are moments when you have to return to the basics as a partnership, and the horse will eventually pick it up very well. The horse will forgive you for making mistakes and will try it again.

Sometimes you see horses that start to refuse fences in jumping, and the reason is that the rider keeps riding the wrong distance. If you put another rider on this horse who rides good distances, you will notice after 10 jumps that the horse's trust returns. This works for dressage and so on as well. In general horses are fast learners, so if you maintain a good education you will see improvement and get good results. But if you keep making mistakes you will only go backwards, then you must improve in order to go forward again.

There are also riders that try or do things that the horse doesn't understand, which will also block you as a rider from moving forward. I think these are the times when it's important to say to a rider, 'okay, please try to communicate so the horse understands you, that he knows what you want.'

The good thing about a horse is that he wants to work together with the rider, but you have to respect the differences. For example Joly Coeur had already jumped at Grand Prix when he was seven. Other horses are not ready for that level until later.

◆ If you agree that your three best career horses were Walzerkönig, Weihaiwej, and Joly Coeur – how did they differ and what did they teach you?

It is a difficult question regarding what these horses have taught me because my development as a rider started long before I rode them, and continued long after. I won my first World Cup with Rex The Robber, who was at that time my top horse. During my first Olympic Games Farmer was my best horse. I believe that it is very important to acknowledge the horses that join you into your journey to the top, or who stay at the top, who accompany you to championships or Olympic Games, as they are all very

different, but they all have one thing in common – they have the willingness to perform.

It is the same with people who can learn everything. If horses are at least given the opportunity, through their scope or character, as well as the necessary qualities, they will help you to reach a lot.

Thomas Frühmann used to say that as a rider you can live with one problem. If a horse doesn't have a good front leg technique, or not such a nice mouth, or is missing the lasting quality, or too hot, or not enough blood... With one of these problems a horse can still make it as a top horse, but the rest has to be really good. So a horse needs to be careful, needs to have quality, the willingness to perform, and scope. Then you can find the balance.

In the end Weihaiwej did not have enough blood, but for the rest she had everything. She was super nice to ride, had good gaits, was a good jumper and was careful. So it was one problem. For sure it was difficult in the beginning, but it improved so much as time passed.

With Joly Coeur it was that he had too much fighting spirit, he always wanted to work. I had to stay calm and make sure he received the time he needed, otherwise he would give too much.

Walzerkönig had problems with music as a young horse, so he had completely different problems. He had the willingness to perform and gave everything he had, but he was a bit too hot and that made me think in the beginning that he wasn't careful enough. But the more time you took with him and the better I controlled his movement – because he had a lot of stride in his canter – the more careful he became.

It doesn't matter if you are a young rider or an older rider you always need the fitting horse in your journey. The management and the supervision of a horse is vitally important. ■



Paul Schockemöhle's secret weapon: Conthargos

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRIVATE COLLECTION

The 17-year-old Conthargos (Converter - Cajandra Z x Carthago, bred by Gestüt Lewitz/Paul Schockemöhle) is this year's shooting star in the WBFSh sire ranking. Making his debut, he immediately enters top 50 in 31st place. From the outset, Paul Schockemöhle and his team always had faith in him. So, what is this stallion's history?

Paul Schockemöhle started the line of Conthargos with the 1963-born foundation mare, Jenny (Ofelus van Mesnil - Raby x bred by breeder: Arthur de Wispelaere). Conthargos has a relative short damline, only six generations having been recorded before you hit 'unknown' ancestry. Then we have Raby (1957) by Podocarpus, French Trotter sire of unknown origins. Raby was not unsuccessful in trotter racing under saddle, being based in Belgium where he raced, and also in France, until the age of 10. At the end of his racing career, he covered a few mares in Belgium.

Breeding is thinking in generations

The stallion Ofelus van Mesnil (Ibrahim - Fine Fleur x Mon Beguin) was the first son of Ibrahim who came to Belgium. He was imported by Hubert van Poucke, whose daughter-in-law Heidi Maes recalls: "My father-in-law indeed imported Ofelus du Mesnil, at the age of two-and-a-half, back then. Ofelus du Mesnil is his official French name, and was also

the first stallion he bought in France. The stallion worked in the field, competed in jumping classes, and went hunting. His specialty was puissance jumping, easily clearing 1m90. Hubert became Belgium's inter-jurisdictional champion with him." (See interview with Dirk van Poucke, starting on page 26.)

Jenny was a light-chestnut mare, almost described as a palomino color. Jozef Bieseman sold her in foal and with a foal at foot to François Mathy Sr., who discovered Jenny because his sister was living in Bieseman's area at that time. In Belgium she produced four offspring, her last three being bred by Bieseman. Paul Schockemöhle then bred three offspring out of her: Sir John 3 (Senatsrat PB) and his full brother Skopy, and Jenny II (Colorado x).

Paul Schockemöhle recalls: "I purchased Jenny from François Mathy Sr. She was never in sport, but she could jump well and was careful. A full sister of this mare had good international placings in jumping with a Belgian rider, so I used Jenny in my breeding program. The stallion Senatsrat stood at a station that had a lot of good jumping stallions during that time – Domspatz, Lavendel, Agram, and so on. I purchased many horses from there, and Jenny was the start of this branch in Germany."

Jenny II's sire, Colorado x, was a very modern tall Anglo Arab stallion. Colorado x comes from a quite good Anglo Arab family for jumping. Adrien Cugnasse, a French expert on Thoroughbred and Anglo Arab lines explains: "If I look at his pedigree than I think about jumping horses and not about racing horses. The period of certain generations in this pedigree is a difficult one and I think it is not fair to judge the stallions for a particular production. In the third generation you find Lotus VIII, who is the damsire of the well-known Anglo Arab, Nithard x. This line also produced the 1m60 jumping horse Cigale du Taillis (Jalisco B - Pizzicati x Galifol, bred by Gerard Louyot), who competed under the saddles of Eugénie Angot and Alexandra Ledermann." Colorado x left France at a young age because his registered offspring in that country were all born elsewhere.

Paul Schockemöhle continued with regard to Colorado x: "I also had Colorado x. He was quite a tall Anglo Arab, who measured 172 cms. He looked very good, and I also purchased him from François Mathy Sr. We only used Colorado x here a



Ofelus van Mesnil (Ibrahim - Fine Fleur x Mon Beguin)

little bit for breeding, then sold him and he ended up jumping under the saddle of Michael Whitaker. I also had a different stallion from this line but with him I did not have so much success. I did at that time a lot of business with François Mathy Sr., and purchased quite a lot French-bred horses. That is how I got Colorado x."

Jenny II produced two 1m40 jumping horses: Cantaloup (Salido Z) and Quenno (Quick Star). Then she was crossed with Sandro, and Schockemöhle once again takes up the story: "I wanted to use a stallion with a lot of scope and Sandro had a lot of scope. Jenny II had an outstanding jumping technique, while Sandro had a very good character, and I also wanted to make the line a bit nobler. Sandro always passed on noble types to his offspring. In Germany he built up two lines: Sandro Boy for jumping and the line of Sandro Hit for dressage, and I purchased both as foals from the auction in Verden.

"Jandra was a good broodmare and I sold her offspring relatively quickly. For Jandra I used Latus I, who was by Landgraf out of Folia by Maximus. She shared the same dam as the famous Capitol I, whom I purchased from Maas Hell as a two-year-old, quite early in the spring, and he was at that time still quite small. But because I have a lot of experience with young horses I had faith that he would continue to grow, and that was the case. He was approved as a two-and-a-half-year-old when he was 166-167 cms. When I purchased him he was only maybe 160 cms. Maas Hell sold him because he thought he was too small, but he had a lot of blood in his type. He was under saddle of Andre Heller who finished third with Latus I at the German young-horse championships for jumping horses. I later leased Latus I to León Melchior where he died of colic.

"The bloodline of Latus I was excellent, which was also the reason why I bought him, even though he might have stayed too small. That can be traced back to the sire of Vase, Ramzes x. Arabian-bred horses were not so tall, but I managed with Latus I to add more blood to the line, so they jumped more carefully and with fighting spirit. Latus I was a great stallion."

Jenny II's daughter Jandra (Sandro) is the dam of Jalanda (Latus I) and she produced the 1m50 jumping horse Balandro (Baloubet du Rouet) under the saddle of Pauline Charreau. She also gave the 1m40 jumping horse Contandro (Continue) who competed under the saddle of Gerardus Krijnen. Jalanda also gave birth to Cajandra Z. According to Paul Schockemöhle: "For Jalanda I used Carthago to get another shot of scope. With Carthago and Latus I the line of Capitol I is twice in this pedigree. I purposely planned this line breeding as it's still far enough away. The foal was very, very good out of this combination."

He continued by saying: "Conthargos is by Converter I, whose mother I found in South Germany. Fontirell (Silvio I) was simply a leisure horse, although her mother's sister jumped very well. I had researched whether there were any mares from this direct line, and found Fontirell to use for breeding. I covered her with Contender and that gave Converter. I crossed Converter I with the outstanding jumping mare Cajandra Z and that foal would become Conthargos. The same cross led to the 1m55 jumping horse Afrika under the

saddle of Anabelle Heffron. Cajandra Z had slightly a long back and Converter I made that a little more compact. From Fontirell's direct line also comes one of Daniel Deusser's his top horses, Calisto Blue (Chacco-Blue).

"Unfortunately Conthargos had an accident when he was two and a half, but we decided we could live with that. Remarkably, at the age of four he still became the Deister Champion – a championship during the Dobrock show especially for young jumping horses. It's named after Deister (perhaps Paul's best-known jumping horse) because he was also born there. Conthargos won that class in a very good way, but was unable to continue his sporting career due to lameness.

"From the time he was a yearling he was different and showed abnormal quality. Typically, I lock myself into Lewitz for two weeks starting the day after Christmas until January 10, other than New Year's Eve. During that time I watch 1,300 horses, seeing all the young horses and giving them notes for all the jumping specifics; scope, use of the back, leg technique, carefulness, type, elasticity, and so on. With this system Conthargos was always outstanding in his notes, so I said he would become a stallion. With the two year olds I decide with every horse which way they will go – for riding or for the stallion approvals, and also do the same with my mares and stallions.

"I used Conthargos quite intensely for my mares even when he couldn't compete anymore because of his injury. The first crops grew up without anyone knowing them, and not many people used him because we didn't show him at presentations and so on. I continued using him, and when his first offspring started to appear at approvals and in competition he was discovered by other breeders. He was then used more and more and his offspring have confirmed his quality. He is now one of the most sought-after stallions in Europe. He makes beautiful long-legged types, tall horses who are wonderful to ride, have a lot of scope, and are careful. They also have a good character. For me Conthargos was a real stroke of luck, and you're not always lucky. Especially owning stallions often brings a lot of bad luck.

"I currently only have one mare left from this damline in my breeding – a three-year-old. Cajandra Z (Carthago) passed away two years ago."

Author's note: I would like to thank the BWP Studbook, Patricia Borgenon on behalf of the sBs Studbook, Erik Dekens for trying to connect the loose ends in Belgium, and Adrien Cugnasse from France. Conthargos has his roots in Belgium, maybe even in France, but there are no records of his missing generations. A shooting star that was bred with an idea for several generations, who suffered bad luck as a youngster and survived in the breeding world thanks to the faith of his breeder and owner, Paul Schockemöhle. Heinz Meyer, who worked at Gestüt Lewitz for 18 years, said that Conthargos had received the highest notes in his whole time working at Lewitz.

To finish with Paul Schockemöhle's own words: "It is only the start that Conthargos is in 31st place in the WBFSH sire ranking. There is plenty more to come!" ■

Hoeve ter Linden: The Van Poucke family legacy

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO

Without Ofelus de Mesnil there was no Conthargos, without Nouvelle-Cerise no Amaretto d'Arco and Forever d'Arco. What do Ofelus and Nouvelle Cerise have in common? They were both bought by the Van Poucke family. Today, Dirk Van Poucke and his wife, Heidi Maes, are the driving force behind 'Hoeve ter Linden'.

The Hoeve ter Linden stud farm is the home port of several stallions, including Forever d'Arco and Richebourg, but also of the homozygous piebald stallion Ceasar ter Linden. According to Dirk Van Poucke, breeding piebald horses originated with a hobby. "I have already seen several home-bred showjumpers perform on television. It is my dream to someday see a self-bred piebald showjumper at work on television."

◆ How did you get into the world of horses?

We were born into it. We are the third 'Van Poucke' generation active at this homestead. My grandfather had several cold-blood stallions. At the time, our farm was a traditional farm, with dairy cows and pigs, among other things, with the focus on the exploitation of bulls and boars. It was my dad (Hubert Van Poucke) who made the switch to riding horses. He was one of the first stallion keepers of BWP. I was told that only six stallion keepers were present at the first BWP stallion keepers meeting. Ofelus du Mesnil (Ibrahim - Fine Fleur x Mon Beguin) was the first stallion my father offered at stud.'

When I took over the farm, it wasn't with the intention

of continuing in the horse business. I did a lot of horse riding, but I had the ambition to enter the vegetables and pigs sector. However, that was not profitable so we decided to start in the world of horses. In retrospect, it was a good decision, because this industry does pay off well.

◆ Which of your father's stallions do you remember the most?

A trio. Ofelus du Mesnil, because he was Ibrahim's first son in Belgium. Without my father realizing it, he had a crack at his stable with Ofelus, who produced the best showjumpers of my father's stallion station. The dam of the great-great-granddam of the progenitor Conthargos is also by Ofelus.

Another stallion that I would like to mention is Childebart (1968/SF Monceaux xx - Symphonie x Rantzau xx), because he has covered a lot and is an ancestor (maternal great-grandfather) of the 2010 Kentucky world champion Vigo d'Arsouilles.

Finally, I would mention Audacieux. Both Childebart and Audacieux were sometimes also used on foreign dams. At a young age I rode a lot with the stallion Imitateur, but he died while covering a dam.

◆ What made Ofelus so unforgettable?

He was blessed with many showjumping qualities and had a lot of character. My father also had a lot of character and so got along well with Ofelus. Many descendants of Ofelus had a lot of temperament. They wanted to work. My father once wanted to prove to the jury members of the BWP stallion expertise that Ofelus also wanted to work in the field. My father reversed a cart into the canal and Ofelus pulled it out, purely on character. But, Ofelus's strong character also cost him his life. After my father bought Childebart as a young stallion, Ofelus could not bear his presence, and within a year suffered heart failure, purely out of jealousy. Ofelus just couldn't stand having a competitor.



Dirk van Poucke with Forever d'Arco

◆ Ofelus was not only a breeding stallion, but also in sports...

My father, who was an amateur rider, won several showjumping classes in which he jumped over a brick wall of 1m90.

The origins of 'Hoeve ter Linden'

Today, Van Poucke runs the 30-hectare enterprise 'Hoeve ter Linden'. Talking about the business activities, Van Poucke said: "We mainly take care of owner horses. We also do horse rearing and, to a limited extent, birth support. In addition, during the spring and summer we run our stallion station. From time to time we also flush embryos. We have a certified insemination centre, which allows us to collect and distribute semen, as well as to flush embryos. For the transfer of embryos, we call on specialized companies, such as Keros. In the past we've bred two to four foals a year, but for the past two years we've had about 10. I also regularly rent out a breeding dam."

◆ Why the name 'Hoeve ter Linden'?

On old maps this farm is known as 'Hoeve ter Linden'. The beam above the fireplace states that the farm dates from 1736. My father used 'd'Huise' as a suffix for his breeding products. I use the name 'ter Linden' as a suffix.' My wife Heidi Maes and I are the driving forces behind 'Hoeve ter Linden'.

◆ As active breeders for around 30 years, what have been your best success stories?

We are the co-breeders of the showjumping cracks Amaretto d'Arco and Forever d'Arco. We also bred three showjumpers at international 1m60 level, namely Vacant ter Linden (Jan Motmans), Whycocona ter Linden (Angelique Horn,) and Full House ter Linden (Grégory Wathélet).

However, the horse I've enjoyed the most is called Sauveur de la Cour. Sauveur was the first descendant of our foundation dam Olympia-Cerise (Avontuur). Sauveur was bred by the De Snerck family. When Sauveur was one year old, I made the proposal to the family to do the rearing. I bought Sauveur for a very small sum, with a guarantee to share any profit above a sales price of €4,000. When Sauveur was six years old, I sold him very expensively. Since then we have been very good friends with the De Snerck family. (Laughing) We are family, so to speak, without being married.

The De Snerck family bought Olympia-Cerise from us, and in 1979 my father bought Nouvelle Cerise (Grand Bonheur - Cerise du Mont x Olifant) as a foal during a conformation competition. Grand Bonheur was by Ibrahim. Later my father bred several descendants out of Nouvelle Cerise. At one point the De Snerck family asked my father if he had a good horse that their children could ride, so he sold them Nouvelle Cerise.



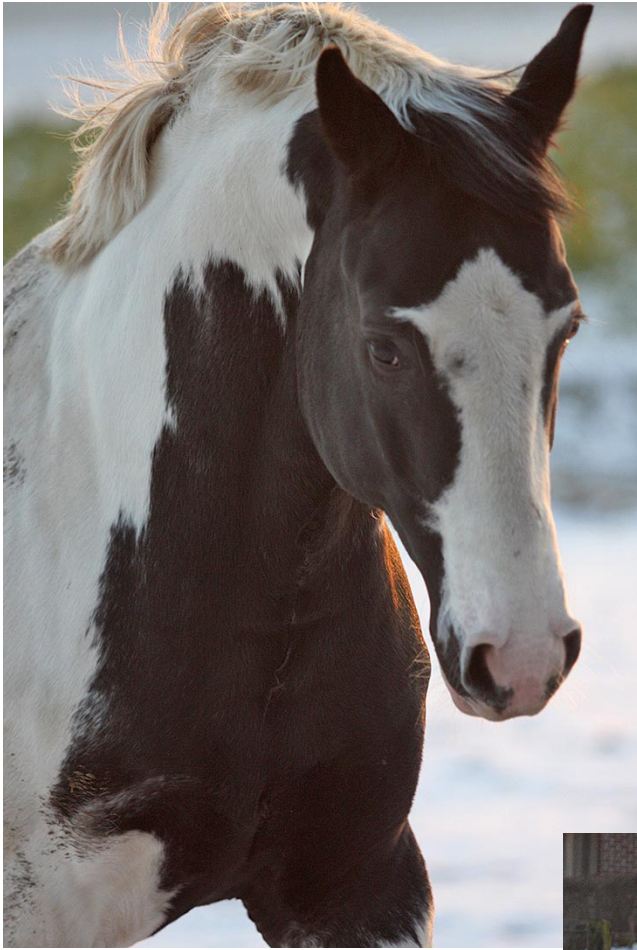
Dirk van Poucke and Richebourg

When we noticed that the offspring we had bred from her were starting to do well in the sport, I asked the De Snerck family if I could hire the dam, and I convinced Mrs. De Snerck to breed with Nouvelle Cerise. Initially she was not receptive, but she finally agreed, and chose Avontuur because of his very beautiful colour. Avontuur was at that time the most expensive stallion at the stallion station 'Hof van het Hellebos'. Olympia-Cerise was born from this combination.

When she was five years old, I rode her, doing the breaking in myself. Within six months she could jump a 1m20 course with great ease. She was a very intelligent dam, and her first offspring was Sauveur de la Cour, who was also very intelligent. The horses from this bloodline are intelligent, cooperative, technically strong, and competitive. They didn't have the greatest scope, so we improved that by using stallions such as Darco.

◆ *Tatouage d'Avontuur, a daughter by Tenor Manciais out of Olympia-Cerise, produced Amaretto d'Arco and Forever d'Arco ter Linden, both sons by Darco...*

Forever d'Arco is an AES elite stallion. He was born at our place and I bought him on the day of his birth. At the



Cesar Ter Linden

time, Darco's stud fee was priceless, but I couldn't buy a Darco foal. However, when I bought Forever d'Arco, I promised Mrs. De Snerck that I would do the rearing, with again the promise to share the profits of a sale. Forever d'Arco was approved as a stallion by the AES, and I intended to present him at the BWP approval. But when he was two-and-a-half years old and I could register him for the approval, his full brother Amaretto d'Arco was entered for the same approval, which is the reason I didn't send him for the BWP stallion expertise.

Forever d'Arco was very good. When it was time to break him in I removed him from the herd, saddled him, and had broken him in in 20 minutes. Then I unsaddled him and rode him bareback around the meadow. (Laughing) It only happened so quickly with the one stallion.

When Forever d'Arco was six years old, the De Snerck family and I each sold 25% to Ludo Philippaerts on condition that he would take care of all further training free for charge. For three years, both I and the De Snerck family sold our remaining 25% of Forever d'Arco to Frans Lens, thanks to Ludo. The fact that Forever d'Arco could return at the age of 16 to spend his old age here says a lot about the collaboration

with the Philippaerts family. I now own him 100%.

Forever d'Arco inherited his sire's scope and eagerness. If one parked a car in front of him, he'd would actually jump over it... His eagerness is that indescribable. In terms of conformation and appearance, he is Darco's lookalike. He gets his golden character from his dam.

I bought half of Amaretto d'Arco, bred by Luc De Snerck, when he was three or four days old. Once again under the same conditions: I do the rearing. When he was two years old, someone called me to say they'd heard I had a Darco offspring for sale. This was absolutely untrue. I called Mrs. De Snerck and suggested a price. She replied that I should charge more than double my price. The interested man came to me to see Amaretto d'Arco, and the sale was completed very quickly.

◆ What are the differences between Amaretto and Forever d'Arco?

Their showjumping technique and golden character are the same. Amaretto participated in World Cup classes in partnership with a young rider. I also saw a World Cup class in which both Amaretto d'Arco and Forever d'Arco took part.

(Under the saddle of Shane Sweetnam, Amaretto d'Arco – one of the first outstanding stallions imported into the United States, building a very successful breeding



program for Spy Coast Farm in Lexington, KY – claimed several victories and honourable places in international five-star classes at 1m60 level. Amaretto passed away in 2016. Forever d'Arco was also very successful in the arena and the level of his full brother, mostly competing in partnership with Nicola Philippaerts.)

◆ Tell us about your passion for breeding piebald horses...

I've always had a soft spot for piebald horses, which is why I also offer some piebald stallions at stud. One of them is called Cesar ter Linden (King - Lianne x Ferro), a

homozygous piebald. At one point I bought a piebald dam without studbook papers and crossed her with an unapproved stallion of mine. A piebald filly was born out of this combination. Not at all interesting commercially one might think. But it turned out not to be the case, so this was when I made the decision to start breeding piebald horses. I knew that homozygous was a certain dominant factor in inheritance, and that this also existed in Quarter Horses among others.

I read an advertisement in *De Paardenkrant* about a homozygous piebald Warmblood stallion that was available in the Netherlands, so I bought semen from this stallion. In sport he was called Tom Tom. Each time we used his semen a piebald foal was born, so we ended up with Ceasar ter Linden via the owner of Tom Tom. He had bought Ceasar as a foal from the breeder. He is a grandson of Purioso, with Olympic Ferro and Samber in the damline. I was lucky enough to be able to purchase Ceasar, who turned into a bulls' eye – not only because of his colour and our hobby, but also because he is popular as a breeding stallion. He covers around 70 dams every year and already has 10 approved sons. He is approved for AES and also the Barok Pinto studbook, from the latter only covering Friesian dams. Ceasar is a very versatile breeder, inheriting little from Purioso, but producing healthy, hard, pleasant, and easy-to-ride horses.

('Hoeve ter Linden' stands several piebald stallions at stud, including: Reddy Wally, a homozygous piebald four-year-old son of Eddy Wally out of Clarise ter Linden (Ceasar ter Linden - Olympia-Cerise x Avontuur), and the five-year-old Daily Magic Z (Dominator 2000 Z - O Lala B x Mister Duc xx.))

◆ Finally, let's talk about Richebourg, bred by Arnold De Brabandere...

That is also a good story. We have known the De Brabandere family for a long time. Richebourg (Bayard d'Elle - Opaline des Pins x Garitchou x) was at stud with Damiaan Vanhollebeke with

whom we also had a good friendship. At one point I asked Arnold's son Peter where Richebourg was at stud, and he told me he was stationed in Germany. I said that if he ever returned to Belgium I would be interested in running him.

One month later Peter called me. I will never forget it, it was April 1, a big day for playing jokes on people. He asked if I was still interested in Richebourg. I answered 'yes'. The day itself on which Richebourg was delivered, when he was 19 years old. This year he turns 27, and is a top stallion, born out of a phenomenal dam. We have a fantastic six-year-old jumping on by Richebourg out of a daughter of Olympia-Cerise, called Rambo ter Linden.

Richebourg is a very good horse, and I can only get him out of the stable with a stallion bridle. He is still very passionate, and when he covers one would think his life depended on it. He is good towards people, but he still has a lot of character. His drive is abnormally high and, despite his advanced age, he still has a lot of energy.'

◆ Your daughter, Axelle Van Poucke, also has a great passion for horses...

She has been working for Luc Tilleman and his father-in-law Louis Lenaerts for three years now. During the second phase of the BWP stallion expertise, she presented three stallions of Luc's, and during the winter months Axelle trains the youngsters. She also plans their free jumping and prepares the young candidate stallions for the stallion expertise, and so on. She's learning a lot from Louis as he's an ideal teacher. During the breeding season she helps with the semen collection of the stallions, dam guidance, etc. Axelle is a hard worker.

End note: During the Spanish tour in Valencia during January/February 2021, Rambo Ter Linden competed in six one-star young-horse classes [CSIYH1*/1m20-1m25], recording two victories, two runners-up placings, one fourth, and one 16th under the saddle of Benny Naessens (BEL). ■





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Two more DWB stallions ready for licensing

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB
PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

Two young stallions were not able to participate in the 35-day test that took place during October and November 2020, and have now completed their additional 35-day test in January-February.

They are So Perfect by Sezuan x Sir Donnerhall I (bred by Frank Nordhausen, Germany) and Sir Floresco by Sir Heinrich x Florencio (bred by Wilms, Germany), both owned by Helgstrand Dressage.

So Perfect was a premium stallion at the Oldenburg licensing in Vechta in November 2019, and as well at the Danish Warmblood licensing in Herning in March 2020.

Sir Floresco was a premium stallion at the Westfalian licensing in Münster in November 2019 and has not yet been presented to the licensing committee in Danish Warmblood.

Sir Floresco achieved a total score of 808.00 points including two nines for canter. A total score of 842.00 was achieved by So Perfect who scored 8.50 no fewer than 10 times. ■



So Perfect presented by Helgstrand stallion station manager, Christian Springborg

French dominance over Hanoverian dressage rankings

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR (TABLES PREPARED BY GEMMA ALEXANDER)

The first thing to be said about this year's Hanoverian dressage stallions' rankings is that, once again, the dominant influence on the modern dressage horse is a stallion from France – you know, the place where they can't breed dressage horses – Furioso II. Furioso II is by the Thoroughbred (Thoroughbred, you know those horses that can't do dressage) stallion, Furioso out of the Selle Français (yes, the ones with no mouth!) mare, Dame de Ranville.

Although there is no doubt that master breeder, Georg Vorwerk imported Furioso II in 1968 with jumping in mind, and Furioso II has been an extraordinarily influential stallion in the world of showjumping, his blood dominates dressage, even today, 53 years after the stallion's death.

Of the 20 top dressage sires in this year's Hanoverian Stallion Book, seven descend from Furioso II, all of them via his grandson, Florestan (Fidelio x Rheingold), with two more sitting in 21st and 22nd – Fürstbischof (Fürst Romancier x Plaisir d'Amour) and Fidertanz (Fidermark x Frühlingstraum II).

It is also noteworthy how consolidated the other lines are on the pedigrees of these stallions. Over and over again, we see the same names, it is a bit like the consolidated bloodlines we have become used to on jumping pedigrees. Gone, gone, gone are the days when the dressage horse was a fluke, the one that was no good over a fence.

Perfect 'F' example

The highest ranked 'F' stallion, Floriscourt in third, is a perfect example of this. Floriscourt's sire, the Florestan son, Florencio (himself a world champion young dressage horse two years running) is out of a Weltmeyer mare. Floriscourt's dam, Arkon is by Donnerhall, but the final mare line is enriched by two of the Thoroughbred stallions that played such a key role in transforming the Oldenberger from coach horse to equestrian athlete, Tin Rod xx and Vollkorn xx.

Fourth ranked Fürstenball is by Fürst Heinrich, a son of Florestan out of a Donnerhall mare. Fürstenball was bred by one of the last of the old-time Oldenburg breeders, Georg Sieverding, who died in 2018. I visited the Sieverding farm and interviewed Georg in 2012 and, to keep the theme running, his mentor was Georg Vorwerk: "Georg Vorwerk was my friend, we travelled a lot together. I spoke with many breeders, but Georg Vorwerk was my main advisor. What was important for him was to see a foal at the age of three days, three weeks, three months. For Georg Vorwerk the correctness of the gaits and the bones was very important. You must have a sound horse with a very good temperament and character. The hind leg was always very important, the engine has to be correct."

Fürst Heinrich was the world young dressage horse champion in 2003 and tragically died two years later, but not before siring some exceptional foals, including Fürstenball, and the eighth-ranked, Fürst Romancier (out of a mare by the Rosenkavalier son, Romancier).

Ranked ninth is one of the up-and-coming stars of German dressage, in the breeding barn AND the competition arena, Foundation (by the Fidermark son, Fidertanz, out of a mare by the De Niro son, De Vito). The powerful bay stallion is showing great promise at Grand Prix level with Matthais Alexander Rath, and is one of the most popular stallions in Germany.

In 11th we find Fürsten-Look, by Fürstenball out of a Londonderry x Weltmeyer mare. In 14th, For Complement (by Fidermark out of a mare by the Calypso II son Complement), and For Romance (Fürst Romancier / Sir Donnerhall) in 17th. That's it, seven out of 20!

'D' for dominance?

But the 'D' line that has dominated for so long has not disappeared. This year's highest ranking of 144 is shared by Don Schufro and Dimaggio. Don Schufro (Donnerhall x Pik Bube I) died in 2020 at the age of 27, after a competition career that culminated in a team bronze and individual 10th in the Freestyle at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, and a breeding career that saw him at the top of the WBFSH rankings year after year. He sired a number of good GP horses and two superstars; the mare Weihegold (Sandro Hit) and the stallion, Diamond Hit (Ramino). Lucky then that it was not revealed that he was a WFFS carrier until 2019 after he had retired from stud...

Dimaggio is out of a mare by World Cup I, and was trained initially by Hans Heinrich Meyer zu Strohen before his owner, Suzanne Davies took over the ride, and won a World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in 2000. The stallion was popular in the UK, but his opportunities increased when he spent the last years of his life at first Gestüt Vorwerk, and later, Stallion Station Böckmann. He died in 2015.

De Niro flew the flag for the D line for many years and

TOP DRESSAGE STALLIONS

FN BREEDING VALUE YOUNG HORSES

1	Don Juan de Hus (KWPN)	165
2	Escolar (Westf)	164
3	Baccardi (Westf)	160
4	Stanford (Rhld)	159
5	Follow Me (Oldbg)	157
5	Morricone I (Oldbg)	157
7	Damon Hill (Westf)	156
8=	Benicio (Hann)	155
8=	Fürstenball (Oldbg)	155
10=	Don Frederic (Hann)	154
10=	Lissaro (Hann)	154

BREEDING VALUE HIGHEST LEVEL ACHIEVED

1	Jazz (KWPN)	233
2	Breitling W (Hann)	203
3	Don Schufro (Oldbg)	201
4	Donnerbube I (Oldbg)	194
5	Painted Black (KWPN)	191
6	Welt Hit I O (Oldbg)	190
7	Welt Hit II (Oldbg)	188
8	Damon Hill (Westf)	186
9	Gribaldi (Trak)	185
10=	Vivaldi (KWPN)	184
10=	Johnson (KWPN)	184

right now the search is on for the new D-line star and perhaps we have found one in Dimaggio Black, who recently topped the Münster stallion sport test with a 9.45-9.5 for walk, 9.0 for trot, 9.5 canter, 9.5 for training, and 9.5 for perspective.

The young stallion was bred at Gestüt Sprehe out of Feela, a mare by Fürst Heinrich, but then the blood travels to Holstein in the form of Varida, a mare by a half-blood stallion, Famos, out of Nerina who is 75% Thoroughbred.

Dimaggio Black also comes from a proven family. Let his rider, the incredibly talented Simone Pearce, explain. "We also have Diamond First who is by Diamond Hit and out of Feela. He is six years old and won his international debut last year and qualified for the World Young Horse Championships. We also have a 10-year-old out of her by Christ, who is now ready for Grand Prix, so I know the family.

"Dimaggio Black has an amazing character, we always say it seems like he has been here before because he takes everything in his stride and learns so so quickly. I have been riding him since he was first broken in, I think I started riding him after he had had about 20 rides. I loved him from the first time I saw him and I'm very happy and proud of how he has developed over the past two years. He has become very popular as a breeding stallion – his first foal was born a couple of days ago – but he remains very focused and fantastic to train and develop in his sports career."

Other representatives of the D line in the top 20 are the fifth-ranked Don Frederic by Don Frederico (another victim of the WFFS hysteria) out of a mare by Wolkentanz – who has competed with very modest success at Small Tour level with the Brazilian, Rudolpho Riskalla. Diamond Hit himself ranks 15th, while the promising younger stallion, Danone I (De Niro x Weltmeyer) ranks 20th.

Although Danone was bred by Dr Bianca Helmicke, he is very much a product of Burchard Wahler's Klosterhof Medingen, the home for so many years of his sire, De Niro, and his rider at national Grand Prix level is Burchard's daughter, Therese. He has a full-brother, Der Designer, competing with moderate success in the small tour with the British rider, Michael Eilberg.

Not only do I look forward every year to the arrival of the Hanoverian Stallion Book, but I also look forward to the

commentary from my friend, Dr Ludwig Christmann, who also edits the book. He looks at both the Hanoverian rankings and the FN values and, quite rightly, draws attention to the role of the 'B' and 'S' lines. Hereafter is his article in full, and my thanks to the Hannoveraner Verband for the translation.

For the big sport

The new breed values are available. Which younger stallions are pushing ahead? Which producers with Grand Prix qualities are available to breeders of Hanoverian and Rhineland horses? This first part is all about dressage.

By Dr Ludwig Christmann

At the end of every year, the results of the breed value estimations become available. The FN breed values cover the breed developments in the disciplines of dressage and jumping. The two breed values 'highest-reached level' and 'young horse classes' are taken into account in the following charts. The breed value called 'young horse classes' includes the results of mare tests, the various types of stallion performance tests, and tests at the base level, in other words dressage and jumping horse classes. The breed value called 'highest-reached level' (HEK) includes the level of difficulty at which a horse competes. A bonus is given for a victory or a placing. The more descendants of a stallion successfully competing at the higher levels, the higher the breed value. This explanation is a bit simplified, since the breed value estimation also takes into consideration information about other descendants and, if possible, also about the conditions.

In dressage, the ultimate breeding goal is producing a Grand Prix horse, in jumping, the highest level has been reached, when the jumps measure 1m60. However. Competitions are not a performance test in the classical sense, in which animals are compared to each other under standardized conditions. Rather, strong environmental influences like training, riders and so forth have a significant impact. Especially at the highest international levels, the limiting factor might not be the horse's talent, but the number of riders, which are competitive at these levels. In spite of this

limitation, the new HEK breed value produces valuable information about the heredity of stallions. Regarding analyzing the breed values, we are especially looking at the younger generation of stallions, and at those stallions, which stood out because they have been producing Grand Prix horses.

Bolero's descendants

The Dutch legendary producer Jazz (breed value BV 233) heads up the list of the top 10 stallions in the HEK breed value estimation. The proven Grand Prix sire Breiting W (bred by Hermann Niehus, Rahden) follows closely with the very good breed value of 203. He represents the highly successful dressage line of Bolero. Here the stallions Benetton Dream and Belissimo M and their sons currently take centre stage.

Benetton Dream (Brentano II x Rotspon, bred by Windeler, Verden-Walle), the national champion of riding horses in 2007 with rider Anna Fiebelkorn, was also victorious at Grand Prix with Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfven and stands at stud at the Swedish breeding farm called Lövsta. His high HEK breed value of 156 proves that he passes his talent on to his offspring. His oldest descendants currently are only 11 years of age, yet nine of them are already successful at the Grand Prix level.

Belfast is one of them. Peter Hermann Rabeler from Winsen bred him out of a dam by Florestan, and he found a new owner at Verden's winter auction in 2014. As a nine-year-old, he already had numerous Grand Prix placings up to the four-star S level.

Bon Coeur out of a dam by Sandro Hit (bred by Birgit Tietjen, Taaken) is one of Benetton Dream's currently registered, hopeful sons. His breed value 'young horse classes' is 153. This black stallion was the vice national champion in 2015 and 2016 with Lena Berwe and Christin Schuette. Last winter, he won his first Prix St Georges in Florida with rider Caroline Darcourt. As a producer, he currently is one of the most important young Hanoverian dressage stallions.

The second, current top producer out of the Bolero-line is Belissimo M (Rhineland) by Beltain x Romadour II (bred by Dieter Niesar, Kranenburg). The most important son of this Hanoverian 'stallion-of-the-year 2019' is Benicio, born 2005 (bred by Wilhelm Stadtlander, Lilienthal). He was the national champion in dressage in 2011 with rider Anna Fiebelkorn, and has victories at Grand Prix level with Jessica Lynn Thomas. With a young horse breed value of 155, he is one of the top 10 highest-valued young producers and has very promising sons like Baron and Bonds.

Don Schufro (BV 201), Donnerbube (BV 194), and Damon Hill (BV 186) are three sons of Donnerhall who are in the top 10 of the HEK breed value estimation. This confirms the continued leading position of this line at Grand Prix level. Without a doubt, De Niro (HEK breed value 162; bred by Brigitte Pahl, Fockbek) is the most important son of Donnerhall. For several years he led the WBFSH world

rankings for dressage horse producers. Which stallion will step into his hoofprints?

His already deceased son Desperados FRH (bred by Herbert Schuett, Hemmoor) comes to mind. He is his most successful descendant in competition. With Kristina Bröring-Sprehe, he was a member of the German team winning gold at European Championships, at World Championships and at the Olympic Games. His HEK breed value of 156 signals that he passes his talent on to his offspring. The statistics reveal that 12 descendants successfully compete at the Grand Prix-level, four of them at the four-star S level.

Destano is one of his approved sons who also has Grand Prix victories with Simone Pearce, and he has been heavily used for breeding.

And then there is Destacado, who became the vice world champion of young dressage horses in 2018 with rider Matthias Alexander Rath. As a just seven-year-old, he has multiple victories at the Prix St Georges-level. Heinrich Giesselmann from Barver bred both stallions, and both found good homes at Gestüt Sprehe and at the Schafhof. Both places will ensure that these stallions will be trained to the highest level.

The breed value for young horse classes of 154 of the stallion Don Frederic by Don Frederico x Wolkentanz (bred by Beate Wedermann, Wangerland) certifies his sons and daughters a great talent for dressage. With this breed value, Don Frederic is also in the top 10 in Germany. The 11-year-old, powerfully moving stallion of the Schafhof is also actively competing. In 2020, Rodolpho Riskalla rode him successfully up to Inter I.

The descendants of the retired approval champion and state stud sire Dancier by De Niro x Lancier (bred by Ekke Thaden, Butjadingen) are also on the right track. An HEK breed value of 147 confirms a positive heredity with respect to a predisposition for upper levels. Fifteen of his descendants have reached Grand Prix level; three of whom compete at the four-star S level. Dark Dancer (bred by ZG Bialek and Wolf, Osterode) is one of them. With rider Elisa Prigge, he is highly successful in Lower Saxony. Fortunately there are numerous descendants of Dancier who pass on his valuable genetics. Don Nobless (bred by G Hey, Geestland) from the Ingo Pape Station is another. He won Grand Prix classes with Susan Pape and has been the most profitable descendent of Dancier.

One of the most popular stallion lines is the line of the Rhineland stallion Florestan, which goes back to Furioso xx. Florencio, a son of Florestan, is the stallion from this line with the highest HEK breed value of 164. Florencio is a Westfalian stallion out of the Hanoverian dam line of Spechtlied. He was the world champion of young dressage horses in 2004 and 2005 with rider Hans Peter Minderhoud. While standing at stud in the Netherlands at the farm of Henk Nijhof, breeders from Germany also used him a lot. A total of 94 of his descendants successfully competed in dressage at the S-level, 19 of them made it to the Grand Prix-level, and five competed at the four-star S level.

The 2009-born Ferdinand BB (bred by Bernhard Sieverding, Twistingring) is one of his greatest Hanoverian

hopefuls. With rider Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, he has already won numerous Grand Prix-classes, and several sons continue passing on Florencio's genetics. Floriscourt, a Grand Prix competitor himself, probably is the most influential.

The Rhineland stallion Fidertanz, by Fidermark (bred by Hermann Schult, Huenxe) greatly influences the Hanoverian breed. Fidertanz stands at stud at Klosterhof Medingen and the Böckmann breeding station. The vice national champion from 2005 was successful up to the highest level in dressage with rider Antonio Teixeira do Vale.

The following are also important sons of Fidertanz who likewise successfully compete up to Grand Prix: Fahrenheit (BV young horses 139; bred by Andrea Heitmann, Dinklage); Foundation (BV young horses 151; Gerd Pigge, Lastrup); and Franziskus (BV young horses 126; Elisabeth Albers, Loeningen). Fidertanz has already produced 26 successful Grand Prix competitors, including seven who compete up to four-star S level. The WBFSH world rankings of dressage producers confirm his importance. He ranks in seventh position and has been in the top 10 for two consecutive years. The above-mentioned Franziskus is his highest ranked competitive descendant placing 38th in the world rankings with rider Ingrid Klimke.

Fürstenball by Fürst Heinrich x Donnerhall from the Schockemöhle station is one of the most popular German dressage sires. He had been the national champion of dressage horses in 2011. Just like his sons Follow Me (BV 157) and Fürsten-Look (BV 153), he is one of the highest valued stallions in the BV young horse classes with 154 points. Even though he holds the highest breed value for type (163) of all current producers, as the Hanoverian breed value estimation shows, his offspring sometimes lack the stability of conformation. The oldest descendants of this sire are now 10 years of age, and 49 of them already compete successfully at the S-level, including five at Grand Prix. It will be interesting to see how his descendants will establish themselves in dressage at the most difficult level in the years to come.

Grand Prix horses by Sandro Hit

Against initial scepticism, another famous stallion from the Schockemöhle station reached the status of being a producer of Grand Prix dressage horses. We are talking about Sandro Hit, the dressage horse national champion and world champion of young dressage horses in 1999. With an HEK breed value of 155, Sandro Hit is clearly rated positively. The numbers, which form the basis of this breed value, are pretty impressive. A total of 1,061 descendants obtained placements in dressage – 204 of them in classes at the S level; 59 have successes in three-star S classes, 22 in four-star S classes, and two in five-star S classes.

Among his successful, rising dressage stars, we often find Donnerhall's genetics on the dam side of the pedigree. This is the case with his most successful descendant who carries the Hanoverian brand. It is Dorothee Schneider's Showtime FRH (life earnings of €230,697), a team Olympic champion in Rio

de Janeiro in 2016. Heinrich Wecke from Stadthagen bred him out of a dam by Rotspion x Donnerhall, which represents very rideable blood. For several years now Sandro Hit has been one of the top three dressage horse producers in the WBFSH world rankings, which also underlines his value as a dressage horse producer.

Several sons of Sandro Hit now have higher HEK breed values than he does. Sir Donnerhall (dam by Donnerhall), the national dressage champion and vice world champion of 2006, was rated highest with a value of 172. He too has successful descendants, a total of 1,067 dressage stars, including 210 with victories and placements at the S level. Fifty-five reached Grand Prix level, 11 are successful at the demanding four-star S level, and one successfully competes at the top international five-star S level.

Stanford is an interesting son of Sir Donnerhall from the Rhineland and out of a dam by Sandro Hit. His breed value young horse classes of 159 is one of the highest rated for a German rising sire. Yet the 2009-born stallion, who was born on the farm of Anton and Uwe Mengelaers in Geilenkirchen, was not used much at all as a breeding stallion. In 2014 and 2015, he placed in the finals at the World Championships for young dressage horses in Verden with Dorothee Schneider. As an eight-year-old he won dressage classes at the S-level with rider Matthias Bouten. His son Sole Mio (bred by ZG Wencek, Sonsbeck) was discovered at Verden's stallion market in 2016, and has since become one of the most successful rising dressage horses in the USA. Sir Donnerhall is listed in 14th place in the WBFSH stallion ranking.

Another son of Sir Donnerhall is listed higher, in ninth position. His name is San Amour. In the HEK breed value estimation, he obtained a very good value of 158. Out of 70 descendants with successes at S level, 28, (which equals 40%), have reached Grand Prix level. That is a fantastic result.

Quarterback prevails

There are a few parallels between Sandro Hit and Quarterback. Both were national champions (Quarterback in 2006 as a three-year-old stallion), both belonged to those dressage horse producers, which were highest in demand in Germany, but both also divided breeders into either great fans or firm rejecters. Just like Sandro Hit, Quarterback in the end prevailed as a performance producer, which his HEK breed value of 155 and fourth place in the WBFSH ranking for dressage horse producers reflect.

Out of 87 descendants with successes at the S level, 19 already reached the Grand Prix-level. His oldest descendants are only 13 years of age, in other words, many are not yet mature enough for Grand Prix classes. Ten-year-old Quantaz out of a dam by Hohenstein, is most successful. Quantaz had the good fortune – but also the talent – to get to Isabell Werth. In 2020, the pair participated in six Grand Prix-classes and won them all.

Quarterback Junior FRH (bred by Gerd Janssen, Neuschoo) is listed in 32nd place in the world ranking for

dressage horses. Nicolas Wagner from Luxembourg very successfully competes this former auction foal from Verden.

Celle's 12-year-old state stud sire Quaterhall, a son of Quaterback (bred by Ulrich Kriebel, Bienenbuettel) has placements at the S three-star level with Wolfhard Witte. His breed values (HEK:137; young horses:129) are very promising.

Lord Loxley, the dressage star from the Rhineland

Lord Loxley by Lord Sinclair x Weltmeyer (bred by Stall Sonnenhof, St Vith, Belgium) is one of the very sought-after and successful dressage producers from the Rhineland. The national dressage champion and vice world championship from 2004 was victorious up to Inter I with rider Jana Freund. Ninety of his 388 descendants with dressage successes – almost one-quarter – have successes up to the S level, and 16 up to Grand Prix, which granted him a high HEK-breed value of 168. With a young horse breed value of 148, his son Lord Carnaby (bred by Peter Schweimanns, Nettetal), the national champion from 2013, is also highly valued. Lord Leatherdale by Lord Loxley (ZG Pleines, Uedem) has established himself as a top producer in the Netherlands.

Two additional names appear in the top 10 of the breed value-estimation, whose lines will most probably gain in importance in the coming years: Escolar by Estobar NRW (Hanoverian stallion line of Adeptus xx) with the second-highest breed value of 164; and Morricone with the breed value of 157. Escolar was the national champion in 2012 and in 2013 with Hermann Burger, and with Hubertus Schmidt he won numerous Grand Prix classes. He passes on to his offspring his powerful moving dynamics, which are very sought after. His sire Estobar NRW also placed at the Grand Prix-level. With an HEK breed value of 153, he also is highly rated.

Morricone represents the line of the Trakehner top producer Millennium, whose importance has drastically increased over the last years. The trademarks of this line are powerfully moving horses with large bodylines often with dark coats. Here too it is to be expected that numerous representatives of this line will mature fulfilling the demands of the higher levels of the sport of dressage.

Two lines are still missing in this analysis: They start with the letters R and W. There are highly assessed representatives of both lines in the breed value estimation HEK. The full-brothers Welt Hit I and Welt Hit II by Weltmeyer represent the W-line. With breed values of 190 and 188, they belong to the top stallions. However, both stallions were born in 1991 and 1992 and currently young, hopeful producers out of this line are rare. A similar fate, the line of Rubinstein experiences. The successful Grand Prix competitors Romanov Blue Hors (HEK breed value 178) by Rohdiamant, and Rubin Cortes (BV 177) by Rubin Royal are currently highly assessed representatives. This line has also lost in importance.

Regarding the dynasty of Weltmeyer, we could expect impulses from Great Britain as Lynne Crowden loved using Weltmeyer genetics at her Woodlander Stud. Her top mare Farouche, the two-time world champion of young dressage

horses, produced the approved Wild Child by Wavavoom x Weltregent. Wild Child sired Wicked Game, who completed an excellent performance test and now is available for breeding in Bavaria.

A few words on the influence of Dutch dressage sires: The legendary Jazz is the frontrunner of the HEK breed value estimation. The stallions Painted Black, his sire Gribaldi, Johnson by Jazz (currently number one in the WBFSH world ranking of the best dressage producers), and Vivaldi by Krack C, a very popular stallion in Germany, are in the top 10 of the highest assessed dressage horse producers with high breed values.

The result of Bordeaux by United, who returned from Schockemöhle's station to the stallion station van Uytert in the Netherlands, is very impressive. His stallion registration was not continued for the year 2020 and, hence, he is not listed in the chart. Bordeaux has been victorious in Grand Prix-classes up to the four-star S level, lately with Isabel Freese. At the age of 14 he already has an HEK breed value of 170: 28 descendants successfully compete in dressage classes at S level, including five at three-star and three at four-star level. On the dam side, his heredity is well secured via the top producers Gribaldi and Donnerhall, but especially via his superior damline, which originated in Westfalia. His fourth dam, Adone, is a full sister to Reiner Klimke's top horse Ahlerich and the dam of the Olympic champion Rembrandt, which Nicole Uphoff-Becker so successfully presented.

Regarding the FN-breed values of Dutch stallions, the following issues call for a more intense analysis:

- Numerous horses who were bred in the Netherlands are recorded in the breed value estimation. It includes horses that remained in Dutch ownership and only came to Germany for competitions. They often competed at the higher levels and, hence, there are no results available from the lower levels.
- There is a discrepancy between the Hanoverian breed values dressage (which is based on evaluations in mares tests and at auction selections) and the sport breed values of the FN. The Hanoverian breed values for top dressage horse-producers are often unusually low. We shall shed light on this issue in a forthcoming issue of *The Hanoverian*.

The Hannoveraner Verband with its mare books from Hannover and the Rhineland will also in the future be considered one of the most important producers of dressage horses of international calibre. The successes in young horse championships are an important basis, which this overview of the current breed value estimation shows. These championships are the first step to an international Grand Prix career for many horses. And, in the end, that is what this is all about: Horses will be made available for top-level competitions. Many stallion managers have realized this and allow their stallions to compete up to the most difficult level. As this overview shows, more and more stallions are available to breeders, which have confirmed their talent for the most difficult dressage exercises under competitive conditions. May these stallions be used!

Once again, 'thank you' to Ludwig Christmann. ■

DRESSAGE STALLIONS – BEST 5%

Name	HANNOVERANER BV MARE PT/AUCTION			HANNOVERANER BV INSPECTION			I	II
	Dressage	Jumping	Security (%)	RH Pts	Limbs	Security (%)		
Dimaggio	144	72	91	97	119	93	145/98	172/94
Don Schufro	144	72	89	96	121	92	148/98	201/95
Floriscourt	142	80	95	132	136	96	141/98	141/94
Fürstenball	142	89	95	163	123	96	155/99	147/96
Don Frederic	141	83	80	129	135	83	154/94	128/80
Benicio	140	92	84	131	153	86	155/95	136/78
Sir Donnerhall I	140	88	97	142	131	97	144/99	172/98
Fürst Romancier	139	84	94	141	110	95	139/99	123/96
Foundation	137	78	85	112	118	89	151/97	137/90
Bon Coeur	134	87	84	114	109	89	153/91	
Fürsten-Look	132	89	79	147	122	85	153/94	
Borsalino	131	88	68	130	145	73	145/85	
Diamond Hit	131	78	95	101	136	95	135/99	170/98
For Compliment	131	90	0.78	101	123	0.79	135/93	149/88
Belissimo M	130	94	97	122	155	96	140/99	146/98
Sandro Hit	130	85	98	132	126	98	128/99	154/99
For Romance I	127	91	8	154	135	87	137/97	121/83
Danone I	125	74	91	104	117	92	134/97	162/93
Fürstbischof	125	91	70	135	112	79	145/82	
Fidertanz	124	85	97	98	115	96	128/99	150/98
Lord Loxley I	124	88	91	115	120	86	145/98	168/96
Millennium	124	88	91	115	120	86	138/98	124/85
Scolari	124	83	95	128	118	95	140/98	140/94
Benetton Dream	123	80	92	111	108	92	132/96	156/91
Gribaldi	123	76	67	122	99	81	132/96	185/94
Livaldon	123	79	89	115	121	89	144/94	
Fürst Belissaro	121	88	85	132	137	87	139/90	
Spörcken	121	84	93	117	92	94	134/96	112/89
Quantensprung	120	85	80	122	125	83	147/91	
San Amour	120	89	94	137	128	95	133/99	158/97
Desperados	119	82	94	128	124	95	129/98	156/95
Zack	119	78	76	132	139	84	134/96	160/88
Quarterback	118	86	94	125	144	95	130/99	155/97
Dante Weltino	117	83	75	115	100	84	137/97	134/85
Don Nobless	114	73	77	126	110	84	142/93	
Ballettmeister	113	97	81	107	106	72	134/84	130/73
Breitling W	113	78	81	79	119	83	140/91	203/88
Rubin-Royal	112	98	95	122	123	95	116/98	153/97
De Niro	110	74	99	102	119	99	122/99	163/99
Escolar	107	94	66	5	89	76	164/96	
Fahrenheit	105	92	74	100	111	79	139/92	127/75
Danciano	104	76	74	101	96	82	144/93	
Estobar NRW	97	98	68	82	89	71	134/93	153/88

Asgard's Ibiza 153/79; Best of Gold 145/81; Burlington 139/80; Damon Jerome 134/74; Decurio 138/93-125/80; DeLorean 148/77; Don Juan de Hus 165/93-155/76; Farrell 141/79; First Ampere 149/78; Florenz 135/8; Follow Me 157/89; For Danciano 149/77; For Romance II 144/77; Fürst Jazz (Inverness P) 136/73; Fürst Wilhelm 136/94-123/79; Goldberg 138/90; Helium 142/80; Ivanhoe 142/75; Morricone I 157/88; Painted Black 139/74-191/72; Rock for Me 41/74; Rock Forever I 151/98-145/96; Sezuan 148/95; St. Schufro 139/73; Stanford 159/80; Top Gear 148/72; Van Vivaldi 147/89; Vitalis 150/97-167/92; Wild Dance 136/84; Zhivago 135/77; Zirkon (Zodiac) 145/82

Column I: BV Young Horses/Security (%)
BV: Breeding Value

Column II: BV Highest Level Achieved/Security (%)
RH: Riding Horse

Booming market: From Brazil to the rest of the world

BY ROBERTA MILANI / ABCCH (TRANSLATED BY BIA NICOTERO)
PHOTOGRAPHY: GTC BRASIL, JC MARKUN, AND ARCHIVES

Over the past 12 months, Brazil and the entire world has been experiencing the unprecedented effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many international, national, and state-level competitions have been cancelled and postponed in an attempt to halt the spread of the new variants that have spread throughout the country in a short period of time.

Once again, it became paramount to seek alternatives to keeping the economic wheel of this industry turning. Indeed, the sport horse market is commercially responsible for around R\$16.15 billion per year.

Gradually, as horseriding clubs reopened their doors, in compliance with public health and safety regulations imposed by local authorities, owners, riders and trainers within equestrian sport were able to resume their daily routines, albeit with restrictions.

Even though there were mass-gathering limitations in place, riding competitions were once again able to take place during the second half of 2020, with the first on-site events. Nevertheless, they had to take place behind closed doors, with no audience members able to attend such tournaments. Online horse auctions gained strength, and the market's appetite for new and powerful horses became indisputable.



Kate de Wind and Sir Leik Joter (Singulord Joter x Acland Joter [Te])



Sir Leik Joter (Singulord Joter x Acland Joter [Te])

Horse Agribusiness Study

The sports horse segment in Brazil is quite diverse and has been evolving steadily with 5.3 million equines, claiming fourth place in the world rankings in terms of herd. This is the 2016 updated conclusion of the 'Horse Agribusiness Study', published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA).

In Brazil, the choice of horses for practicing equestrian sports, especially in terms of jumping horses, is all about the Brasileiro de Hipismo – BH (Brazilian Sport Horse), which started to be bred and formally structured in the 1970s. Since then, it has evolved into a globally recognized entity,

breeding high-performance horses that are present in major competitions including the Olympics, Pan American Games and World Equestrian Games.

Currently, the BH horse, with an estimated breeding herd of around 30,000 animals, is the dominant breed in national competitions and enjoys great prestige in international jumping competitions held in Brazil and abroad.

This was substantiated in the first two months of 2021 by the sale of two BH to foreign buyers. In mid January, the mare Salamandra Baloubina, by Baloubet du Rouet, out of the Chapman Rouge mare, Salamandra Chap Landin, being sold in Wellington, FL. She was bred by the Salamandra Horse Farm, located in the countryside of São Paulo, and had been competing in the United States for exactly one year by Thiago Thavy, a US-based Brazilian show-jumper seeking to earn a place in his national Olympic team. His competition resumé includes competitions in Tryon, New York and Palm Beach.

Soon after, another sale strengthened BH trade at an international level. Really Electra Xangó (Indoctro x Winsor), bred by Xangó Horse Farm, located in Bahia, was sold. The 2012-born mare had been in the US for less than two weeks in order to compete in the 2021 Winter Equestrian Festival with the same rider, and even though she hadn't yet debuted in American competitions, was also sold.

Still in the month of February, we saw the shipping of three BH horses internationally. The nine-year-old Brazilian mare Liantha do Cach (Cardento xCorland), bred by the Cachoeirinha Horse Farm, will participate in the WEF Sport Horse Auction, in Palm Beach, scheduled for March 4. This BH mare successfully performed in all young horse



Best Jordan Do Feroletto (Air Jordan Z x Clinton)

categories in which she participated from the age of four to eight, at both national and state level.

The other two horses were purchased by a young American rider who is now returning to her home country and will take her partners with her: Best Jordan Do Feroletto (Air Jordan Z x Clinton) and Sir Leik Joter (Singulord Joter x Acland Joter [Te]).

The Brazilian Association of BH Breeders (ABCCH) wishes good luck to the new partnerships that will be formed and hopes to find their names among future competitions results as representing the best of Brazilian breeding. ■



Liantha do Cach (Cardento xCorland)



Denis Gouvea riding Liantha do Cach (Cardento xCorland)

Ballypatrick Stables: “Don’t tell a mare, ask a mare”

BY HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON CARMAN, NI RIAN, MHS STUD

It was four years ago when I last headed to Tipperary to interview Olympian Greg Broderick, and I met his sister Cheryl, who manages the breeding programme at Ballypatrick Stables. Cheryl’s passion for breeding was as infectious then as it is now, and her vision for Ballypatrick breeding has gone from strength to strength based on that passion.

Since my last visit, their impressive new barn has gone up and just five minutes down the road Cheryl has a brand new 220-acre farm; specifically, for broodmares, foals, stallions, and young horse production.

Like many other Irish equestrians, the Broderick family originally farmed cattle, but father Austin also had a slight eye for a horse: He had racehorses and also bought a couple of sport horses with international rider Shane Breen. Greg rode at the Dublin Horse Show at the age of 18 riding Ballypatrick Rebel (bloodline not recorded) and won the class, eventually going on to represent Ireland in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games with MHS Going Global ISH (Quidam Junior - Gowran Lady x Cavalier Royale) bred by the late and renowned Ita Brennan.

Alongside representing Ireland in Rio, Greg and ‘Junior’ won numerous competitions including jumping double clear in the 2015 Agha Khan Cup at the Dublin Horse Show, helping Ireland to victory in front of a roaring home crowd, indeed I was one of those roaring! In 2016, MHS Going Global was sold to international rider and shipping heiress Athina Onassis in a multi-million euro deal, and Greg focused on building the facility at home for a while.

Since the outset, the whole family have worked together to build an elite showjumping team, breeding programme,

and stallion roster, and as the broodmare herd settles into their new farm, Cheryl and Greg share a vision of breeding future champions.

When I met Cheryl in 2017, it was the day after a long night with no sleep and the tragic loss of a foal. She told me it was the first foal she had ever lost during foaling, and in the informal setting of the yard lab, it was clear by the tears in her eyes that Cheryl cared about what she does beyond simply the business of it. Four years later, she is based at the new breeding farm which is equipped with a stallion collecting area, lab, stocks, facilities for breeding and producing young horses, plus a large house which will be renovated and will eventually offer seminars, breeding conferences, and open days. The aim is to have facilities to match any in Europe and to improve the Ballypatrick results even further. The new yard has plenty of turn-out for young horses including wood chips and paddocks – Cheryl is a firm believer in getting the young stock out daily for optimum mind and joint health. She foals 50 to 60 foals and buys a number each year to upgrade. There are around 40 broodmares in the herd and six that are working under saddle with Greg and that come in for reproductive work when required.

Some 70% of the breeding at Ballypatrick is done via embryo transfer, and for that purpose Cheryl also keeps around 60 recipient mares at the farm. More often than not, the donor mares are high-performance calibre and live a pampered life, but it can often be seen in studs that recipients don’t receive as much attention. Cheryl, however, has first-hand experience of the difference well-cared-for, well-fed, healthy recipients can have on the success of embryo transfer, and firmly believes that it is key to successful results.

In Ireland, good recipient mares are becoming scarce, and it can always be a risk to bring too many new mares into a herd. At Ballypatrick they are forward-thinking and x-ray all their fillies early on. If the fillies have bad x-rays or lack exceptional talent, no matter how well-bred, at three, they join the recipient herd. These fillies become a more valuable asset to the farm than a horse that isn’t going to vet well or that can’t be sold as a top performer.



Rock n Roll Ter Putte with Manager Ashleigh Skillen at Ballypatrick

The breeding facility has a calm atmosphere, Cheryl has a natural ability to settle mares into a comfortable routine and maintain it, her favourite saying has always been: ‘Don’t tell a mare, ask a mare.’ For all mares, ridden or not, the least disruption as possible leads to better reproductive results. As different mares respond differently to repro procedures, having Cheryl’s instincts and Greg’s feel for a mare under saddle, the pair can closely monitor how a mare has reacted to procedures and can adjust her workload accordingly. It’s not every breeder that has daily access to a rider of Greg’s exceptional ability, and this rider-breeder symbiosis between the siblings allows for unique, informed and considered breeding decisions. It seems like a no brainer – ask the riders about the mares – but I’m not sure how often that really happens. Cheryl is adamant it’s all about feel: An instinctive feel for a mare and the feel the rider has for the horse. Greg often gives Cheryl indications of a mare’s riding characteristics, such as weak canter or if she is better in front, which is knowledge that feeds directly into their stallion choices and makes a lot of sense in the context of long-term improvement.

Cheryl’s drive to breed the best from the best was borne from her love and connection with mares, believing that if a mare is on side, she’ll fight for you. In the early days, she watched her brother buying young horses and producing them and it became clear to them both that it made sense to try and breed themselves.

Cheryl says of her passion: “I love seeing new life, seeing the foals safely on the ground, seeing them growing and going on to have a job. Each season the dream begins again and the hope of what can be. It never stops amazing me, to see the characteristics of the mare unfold in the foal. I see it time and time again with embryos and it’s incredible, all the quirks and characteristics of the biological mother can be seen coming out as it grows and is handled and ridden.”

Cheryl very much considers this unstoppable genetic expression when she pairs an embryo with a surrogate. For the likes of Mrs Quinn ISH (Laughton’s Flight - Kyle Flower x Sky Boy xx) or Ballypatrick Mystique ISH (Heritage Fortunus - Lady Ligustra x Cavalier Royale) who are quirky mares, she is careful to choose recipients who are particularly quiet and straightforward, so as not to intensify the less appealing behavioural characteristics.

A question she often gets asked is whether she sees any traits of the surrogate mares expressed in the foals, but according to Cheryl, she doesn’t. She has observed over the years that because their mares and foals run in herds of 30 or 40, the foals will group together and, more often than not, they simply use their mothers for food, as opposed to guidance, and don’t seem to subscribe to the nature or nurture influence.

At Ballypatrick, when they source a good mare, that mare becomes the focus. For Cheryl, breeding isn’t a fluke, it’s a combination of top families, top crosses, and top care. It’s all well and good choosing a stallion for your mare that is fashionable and produces a mare for sales, but Cheryl’s



Young fillies at Ballypatrick including the three-part sister to McLain Ward’s Sapphire, and a sister to Emerald

focus is on the long road. It is on improving things for the future. Breed for soundness, for quality, for the modern sport – look at the mare objectively, what does she need? What does she lack?

Ballypatrick mares

It is fascinating to study the mares in any breeding programme as they can often be a map of someone’s career in sport or trace a family history in horses, older mares can represent beginnings, while fillies can represent the result of a lifetime of learning. The Ballypatrick herd is a little like this too, there are mares that gave Greg many of his early successes, mares that connect Ballypatrick with friends in the sport, important and historic Irish lines, and contemporary continental superstars – mares that are laying down new paths for the Broderick team ambitions.

Ballypatrick Flight ISH (Laughton’s Flight - Gowran Lady x Cavalier Royale) was National Champion with Greg as a seven-year-old, and is a sister to MHS Going Global – both are out of the incredible Cavalier Royale mare Gowran Lady ISH (By Starlight x Marwood xx) bred by Ita Brennan of Mill House Stud. BP First Editions ISH (Verdi TN), the home-bred daughter of Ballypatrick Flight, certainly carries all the genetic brilliance of her dam and grand-dam and is currently excelling with Alberto Sanchez (MEX) at 1m50.

Gowran Lady’s offspring achievements are breathtaking when you break down the percentage of top-level performers to foals on the ground. She is 68.36% Thoroughbred and comes from an outstanding line of dams who all have produced top performers. Gowran Lady not only produced the Olympic MHS Going Global ISH and Ballypatrick Flight ISH, but also BP Limitless (ISH, 1m60), and Ger O Neil’s incredibly talented 1m50 World Champion six-year-old gelding, High Hopes ISH.

Her direct daughter, Horse Sport Ireland elite mare, BP Mystique, was a bronze medal winner in the 2013 WBCYH in Lanaken. BP Mystique herself was sold to Canada but gave two embryos when she was younger, both by Indoctro. Those

fillies are in the Ballypatrick herd and their offspring are proving to have inherited the same promise as much of their dam line: The first won the three-year-old class in Ennis, and the 2nd is four and jumping very well.

Gowran Lady was dam of MHS Pembroke Lady ISH (Guidam x Cavalier Royale) who is the mother of Olympian Cian O'Connor's new super-talented MHS home-bred Kilkenny ISH (Cardento x Guidam), who as I write has just placed fourth in the Ocala HITS Horse Shows Grand Prix in Florida. She has also produced eventers such as MHS King Joules ISH who placed sixth at Pau, CCI5*.

There is no fluke, these horses are a direct product of a powerful Irish line that goes back to influential Thoroughbreds Marwood xx and Bahrain xx. Gowran Lady was dam of Brooklyn Breeze ISH (Heritage Fortunus) mother of ESI Abercrombie ISH (Toulon) who placed in the 2020 Breeders Classic, and MHS Brown Jack ISH (OBOS Quality) – a seven-year-old eventer competing successfully in the UK. MHS, the home of Gowran Lady is now run by Ita Brennan's three sons and they have four full-sisters and a half-sister by Luidam KWPN to MHS Going Global. Gowran Lady also has a foal due to Cornet Obolensky BWP in 2021.

Vox dei M-G C de Leuze (sBs: For Pleasure [Hann] - Que Guapa de Leuze x Narcos II) is dam of Delight M-G C De Leuze sBs – which Greg rode and is currently ridden successfully at 1m45 by Darragh Kerins. Ballypatrick had taken some embryos from her and one of those was runner up in the Horse Sport Ireland foal championships. Greg and Cheryl thought a lot of the mare and so decided to search for the dam, found her, bought her, and brought her back to join the broodmares. She is now in foal to Rock n Roll Ter Putte and also has an embryo due to Emerald for 2021.

Olivia de Muze BWP (El Torreo de Muze - Hapache de Verby x Lord Z) is from the famous Narcotique de Muze line and has given Greg a great feeling under saddle so far. She bred two foals before beginning her career and Greg and Cheryl think so much of her, they sourced one of her fillies by Untouchable called Ursula Ter Wilgen Z, who is now three. Olivia de Muze is by 1m60 stallion El Torreón de Muze and is looking very special, so she will be jumping with Greg in Spain in March. She has four very exciting embryos due for 2021 by Conthargos, Aganix du Seigneur, and by resident Diamant de Semilly stallion Rock n Roll Ter Putte.

Mrs Quinn ISH (Laughton's Flight - Kyle Flower x Sky Boy xx) is an incredibly important mare at Ballypatrick and is really at the heart of things. She is a favourite of Cheryl's, enough to play a central part at her wedding, where a large photograph of her was made up for guests to sign and which now hangs pride of place. Traditionally bred by John Doyle, the 1m60 Mrs Quinn had immense success on the national Grand Prix circuit and she is sister to 1m60 Shannon Dale. Her first foal, a colt by Plot Blue was born in 2012 and is now competing with much success in the young horse ranks under the name Quinnnton. There is a very gifted seven-year-old, CBS Adrenaline ISH, out of Mrs Quinn, who is riding with Greg, he is by the influential Holsteiner stallion VDL

Cardento. Ethan Ahearne will ride CBS Adrenaline going forward, and to date he is looking very talented and very like his mother in many ways. Mrs Quinn had a foal by Luidam last year which was her last pregnancy, but she was generous and gave three embryos, so there is still plenty to come from this special mare. According to Cheryl, "Mrs Quinn is everything you could ever want in a mare. If she lacks anything in talent she makes up for it in heart."

Olympic rider Kevin Babington has been a long-time friend of the Broderick family and last year the Hanoverian Shorapur (Stakkato Gold - Darina x Drosselkland II), his successful 1m60 international mare, joined the herd for breeding and has a pregnancy from Rock n Roll Ter Putte for 2021. Ballypatrick's 1m50 mare Queen Lux ISH (Lux Z - Gortnageer Star x Chairlift xx) is sister to Kevin's successful Olympic Carling King ISH. Ballypatrick Codex (bloodline not recorded) is dam of home-bred Super Chilled ISH, who won the Cruising six-year-old national championships with Greg and went on to jump 1m60 with Kevin Babington.

There isn't a bad mare in the herd at Ballypatrick and word count won't allow for an in depth look at every one, but there are certainly others to mention, including: Arraghbeg Clover ISH (Captain Clover - Blidworths Lion Queen x Bonnie Prince xx) who is 72% Thoroughbred blood and won gold as a five-year-old at the Lanaken WBCYH with Greg. Diamond Jubilee ISH (Clover Brigade - Irco Rain x Irco Mena) is sister to three 1m60 horses: Mullaghdrin Touch the Stars (Touchdown); Mullaghdrin Gold Rain (Golden Cliff xx); and Touchable (Touchdown).

Rincoola Rua ISH (Diamant de Semilly - Rincoola Abu x Cruising) is a Horse Sport Ireland elite mare who jumped



Ballypatrick KWPN stallion Jorado (Diarado - Oanna x Sandro Song)

successfully at Grand Prix level with Darragh Ryan; MHS Malbec (Plot Blue - French Ballerina x Diamant de Semilly) ISH, is sister to 1m60 MHS Attraction (Numero Uno - French Ballerina x Diamant de Semilly); Cape Royale (Cavalier Royale - Cape May x Diamond Serpent) who is sister to Greg Broderick's international speed horse MHS Automatic ISH (Quidam Junior I); and Mariebel van d'Abdijhoeve BWP (Caspar - Gabi van't Abdijhoeve x Cabrio Z) who is from the family of Hector van d'Abdijhoeve BWP who shot to fame with Bertram Allen.

There are of course a number of intriguing young prospects in the fields and paddocks of Ballypatrick and two in particular seem to be fillies to watch. Rock Star van't Meulenhof BWP (Malito de Reve - Carthina Z x Carthago Z) is one the team are very excited about. She is a sister to the mighty Emerald, and is a very blood filly – a valuable broodmare in her own right – but who is looking to become a real superstar under saddle. She has already produced an impressive Luidam filly, which she had before beginning her sporting career.

Roma van't Merelsnest BWP (Darco - Artemis van't Merelsnest x Voltaire) is another cracking filly. She is four years old and a three-part sister to McLain Ward's outstanding 1m60 Olympic mare, Sapphire. Greg and Cheryl saw her as a foal at auction and really liked her, and she has shown incredible promise so far. To ramp up the anticipation, she also has a Conthargos embryo due this year. Cheryl points out that investing in mares of this calibre from the best families in the world not only satisfies her own breeding passion, but it also makes business sense as embryos can be sold at anytime and can command a corresponding price.

It isn't just the mares who deserve a closer look of course, Ballypatrick is building an impressive roster of stallions too. Jorado KWPN (Diarado - Oanna x Sandro Song) was only three years old when I first met him, but even then he had so much about him, beautiful to the eye (his stable name is Gorgeous George), plenty of presence, and he is as gentle a stallion as you could hope to meet on the ground. He is a stallion that breeders have really got behind in Ireland and he is currently jumping 1m30 with Greg and being campaigned steadily to learn his trade. He is heading off to Spain in March to jump the seven-year-olds.

What is particularly interesting about Jorado as a sire is that his first crop of three-year-olds are not only displaying many of his attributes, such as his great neck and shoulder, but there is also a particularly good step there. Cheryl believes this expressive step is coming from the champion dressage horse Sandros Song. It's an interesting surprise and could indicate the possibility of him fulfilling a duel-sire role for both jumping and eventing. Jorado will be aimed at Lanaken showjumping WBCYH in September.

The BWP Rock n Roll Ter Putte WP (Diamant de Semilly - Ukase Ter Putte x Darco) is a full brother to 1m60 international performer Elvis Ter Putte and half brother to 1m60 EIS Isaura – it is clear when you stand beside Rock n

Roll that he has something very powerful about not only his physicality, but also his mind. He is showing signs of truly exceptional ability under saddle and the feeling at Ballypatrick is that he could go on to become a Cup horse. The aim is to carefully bring him up through the age classes and allow him to gradually fulfil the potential he is displaying to date.

Pembrook Corbetts Lane (Kannan - MHS Pembrook Lady x Guidam) is from the family of MHS Going Global. He is a big chestnut with huge scope and is being carefully looked after and brought on. Kannan offspring tend to need time to mature, and that's exactly what the plan is with him. The team think a lot of this young stallion and see him as a potential sire of great quality.

There is also a six-year-old Cornet Obolensky stallion, Cariati d'Elsendam Z, campaigned by Ethan and Greg who is fully approved by KWPN and is shaping up to be a horse for the big shows. He has thrillingly impressive scope, and is incredibly careful – full of sire potential.

Strong colts coming through are, in particular, Uno van't Veer (Eldorado van de Zeshoek - Pamara de Muze (half sister to Hickstead) x Vigo d'Arsouilles) who was brought to Cheryl and Greg's attention by Chris de Brabander, son of Joris de Brabander of Stal de Muze, (as was the Malito de Reve filly).

According to Cheryl, "The de Brabander family have always given us great advice, and the horses they've recommend have always been lucky for us, we are so fortunate to have their friendship and support." Chris de Brabander also flagged up the impressive mare Honolulu (Lord Z - Elite de la Pomme x Malito de Reve) to them, who was bred at Stal de Muze, and who is from the famous Narcotique de Muze line. This mare has remained with the de Brabanders for now and will be the first ICSI attempt for the Brodericks.

Team Broderick are also looking forward to a brother to Ganesh Hero Z by Chacco Blue out of Hiamant Van't Roosakker by Diamant de Semilly. This young colt is also showing all the signs of being a potential stallion.

There are two prospects out of the incredible 1m60 mare Kismet 50 (Kannan GFE -o Famosa Z x Furioso II) getting heart rates up in Thurles – one is a filly by Emerald. Greg and Cheryl both loved Kismet 50, and when the rare opportunity came up to buy into the bloodline at the Flanders sale, they took it, and were even more pleased with their investment after she arrived – a beautiful, uphill filly with an outstanding canter. Equally as exciting is their foal due in May by For Pleasure out of Kismet, which they bought last year as an embryo.

As horses of all ages enjoy the world-class facilities at Ballypatrick, it's easy to see why Cheryl remains as passionate as ever about her job and the family's joint ambitions. The new farm is set in stunning Tipperary landscape and it has all she and her mares need to successfully bring more champion Irish Sport Horses into the world. The map of her achievements is only half drawn and I for one will enjoy watching the rest of it unfold. ■

Corazon NW wins PZHK stallion performance test

By AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: IZABELA CIEPLA

The Leszno performance stallion test under saddle organized by PZHK, which was initially scheduled for the Fall of 2020, had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions and eventually took place in early February. Altogether, 30 three-and-a-half-year-old stallions who were pre-selected at the regional level participated in the two-day test.

Interestingly the stallions were divided into four groups: Dressage stallions; showjumpers; stallions 'advanced in - eventers; and stallions who had already completed alternative tests. In the final result, 16 stallions were positively evaluated and PZHK licensed.

The clear winner of the dressage stallions and the stallion ranked third for the whole test was the Swedish Warmblood Radius – the son of the sensational Revolution – double dressage world champion (in the five- and six-year-old age-group categories), out of Womathika M (OO Seven). This stallion was bred by Lena Nyström and is owned by the Cichon brothers.

The biggest group of showjumpers included more than a few very good quality young horses, many of whom were

highly evaluated by the judges for their sport potential, and also represented great European bloodlines.

The showjumpers scoring 8.00 and over, were Corazon NW – the overall test winner with an average of 8.40, ahead of the OS runner-up Diakato PS (Diaron [Oldbg] - Stellina [Hann] x Stakkato [Hann]), owned by MM Brothers, with a score of 8.00, as well as the Holsteiner Zoriano K (Zirocco Blue VDL - Vrisette x Colman) on 8.20, another OS C-Quattro PS (Chacoon Blue - Ave Miaria x Quattro B) with 8.10; and Gringo wkp (Landor - Grenlandia x Landos) bred by the Racot Horse Stud, with the score of 8.0- points.

Other licensed stallions were Uniq sp (Castle Rock - Urane x Murano) 7.90; Crazy Star PP sp (Olympic Star - Ceitara x Castillo) 7.90; Casino White SM sp (Hickstead White - Cantinera x Cassini I) 7.80; Sobieski Star sp (Donald Z - Super Surprise x Sanvaro) 7.70; Bueno Chico sp (Bijou BE - Bretania x Seigon) 7.60; Aguero sp (Castle Rock - Araguaja x Domel) 7.60; and the Westfalian Rupaehu Vulkan L (Vulkan L - Ruzzola L x Che Quevara L) 7.50.



Corazon NW (Vingino [KWPN] - Cornelia sp x Eldorado Van de [BWP])

The group of eventers featured two very promising and eventually licensed stallions, both bred by Polish State Studs: Dworek m (Efekt m - Dworzanka m x First des Termes xo), bred by Walewice Horse Stud with the score of 7.60, just behind Helin m (Drop m - Heloiza m x Emetyt m), bred by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud with 7.70.

On the first day the horses were presented under saddle by their own riders or by the riders assigned by their stud farms, while in the second test they were evaluated the test riders – Daria Kobiernik for the dressage and eventing stallions, and Antoni Tomaszewski for showjumpers.

The overall winner, the handsome



Corazon NW with his rider Market Orlos, manager of the Nad Wigrami Horse Stud

grey Corazon NW, was very skillfully presented under saddle by Marek Orlos, the manager of the Nad Wigrami Horse Stud, also responsible for his breeding.

Orlos summarized the results of the Leszno test and also the performance of Corazon NW: "I'm glad that the test turned out so well for us. Corazon NW is the first stallion bred in Nad Wigrami Stud. We wanted to breed a stallion so good that he could compete with other stallions out there. As a rider I value him highly. He has a huge showjumping potential, great movement, and a good head. A very pleasant horse to ride."

His damline is also pretty successful as his dam's sister, Columbia (Ultimo x Coriano Z) won the sport championship seven-year-old category, while another mare, Cordoba (Spartacus x Coriano Z) was Polish showjumping champion for young horses as a seven-year-old in 2019. Corazon's KWPN sire, Vingino, descends from Holstein family 474A which has so far produced 60 approved stallions.

Although national showjumping championships for young horses are not necessarily conclusive, nor do they predict a future sporting career, there are always diverse reasons why one may not achieve its full potential, yet Corazon NW demonstrated all the qualities necessary for a successful future in both sport and breeding. According to Orlos; "He has so far serviced 18 mares, and at the Nad Wigrami Stud we're now expecting six foals by him, four already in March." Corazon NW was approved for one year at the age of two-and-a-half and has now been granted a permanent licence.

Result:

- 1 Corazon NW (Vingino [KWPN] - Cornelia sp x Eldorado Van de [BWP]) bred by Nad Wigrami Horse Stud
- 2 Diakato PS (OS: Diaron - Steilina x Stakkato) bred by Paul Schockemöhle, owned by MM Brothers
- 3 Radius (SWB: Revolution -Womat-hika M x OO Seven), bred by Lena Nyström, owned by MM Brothers ■



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Online KWPN stallion selection a great success

BY CHARLOTTE DEKKER / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIRK CAREMANS, SANDRA KARMAN

In early February, the KWPN Stallion Selection took place; not as usual in Den Bosch, but because of the corona measures it was an online edition for five days, conducted from the KWPN centre in Ermelo. At this special edition of the online KWPN Stallion Selection, the quality of the jumping stallions was very promising.

For the performance test, 48 stallions were invited, who are promising based on exterior, free-jumping, and pedigree. An interesting group of 44 dressage stallions, who excel in light-footedness and scope, were also invited to the performance test. The Gelderlander breeding direction resulted in three stallions that will be tested under saddle. All these stallions form a very varied group, each with potential to contribute to breeding.

The live stream with the viewings of the young stallions was combined with pre-recorded items such as the presentation of last year's approved stallions, various honours for successful breeders, and the announcement of the Horses of the Year 2020. The programme also included several interesting studio interviews. On Saturday, people could enjoy the ability test for jumping and dressage stallions with a competition obligation. Everything took place at the KWPN centre in strict compliance with all corona measures as laid down by the government. Therefore, it was without a public presence, but the stallions' performances could be followed online optimally.

Ralph van Venrooij, Head of Breeding Affairs for the KWPN, looks back: "I have received many positive reactions and it is, of course, great that it could take place despite all the corona measures. We were able to select a number of interesting stallions and inform the breeders through recorded videos and studio interviews. But I certainly missed the personal contact with the members. After all, Den Bosch is the place where people from all over the world come with one common denominator: their love for the KWPN horse."

The road to approval requires enormous determination on the part of all concerned. Of the 10,000 riding horse foals that are born, approximately half are stallions. Just under 10% of these make it to the first round viewing. It is a long road that requires investment in time, training and money. Van Venrooij: "Therefore, my compliments to the breeders and exhibitors who have decided to go down this road. Even

the stallions that are not selected are invaluable to us as all the horses presented provide crucial information for the stud-book, which we can be used to monitor the population and provide KWPN breeders with information to use in their next choice of breeding. This was also the reason why we did everything we could to organise the online stallion selection in the best possible way, because we owe it to our breeders to communicate all available information as well as possible. This online edition provided the breeders with a detailed view of the stallions, an explanation of the live stream and, at the end of the day, feedback from the stallion selection committee: It does not get any more transparent than this. In the past year breeders have not been able to see the stallions in the Pavo Cup, a World Championship for Young Horses or the stallion competitions, so for many people Den Bosch [2020] was the last time they saw them. And that also applies to us regarding inspections and the committees. That is why we organised special film days for this group of stallions.

"I found it very interesting to see the stallions in action again, and it was also nice to see that, despite a lack of competition rhythm, they have all developed in the right way. In the end, the combined efforts of breeders, exhibitors, trainers, and everyone else who contributed to the event resulted in a fantastic stallion selection. That is also the beauty of an association: The cooperation of the various parties with this as a wonderful result. I suspect that, given the developments surrounding the coronavirus, we will all need to persevere for a while yet. But there will come a time when we can exchange thoughts about the horses and breeding together again along the judging ring. Until then, you can enjoy the videos on www.KWPN.tv." ■



The online KWPN Stallion Selection took place at the KWPN centre in strict compliance with all corona measures as laid down by the government



Ralph van Venrooij

A convincing group for the Holsteiner Spring Auction

BY DESIRÉE DAHN / HOLSTEINER VERBAND
PHOTOGRAPHY: JANNE BUGTRUP

At time of print for this issue, it appears that the 35th Holsteiner Spring Auction scheduled for March 27 will be held exclusively online, continuing the format that has worked previously. Once again 23 three-year-olds will be offered, and presented solely in free jumping.

Among them is Cantara E (Gerd Eggers, Stadum), a daughter of Cancara x Caretino and a full sister to the current state champion of the ladies competition at Bad Segeberg. This is Cassandra Orschel's Dacara E, who had been once auctioned via the spring auction at Elmshorn, too.

The three-year olds on offer are by stallions such as Van Gogh, Livello, Del Arko, Balou de Rouet, Colman, and Million Dollar. Among them will be promising sport horses as well as mares who could first produce a foal for their new owners. "I am very satisfied because we can offer a large number of three-year olds as well as some jumping horses ready to compete immediately with our customers," said marketing manager Roland Metz.

The second half of the lot will be horses already under saddle. They are from four to seven years old, trained according to their age, and some of them are already experienced athletes. Promising Holsteiner talents are on offer for the ambitious amateur as well as for international jumping riders. Their pedigrees read like the Who's Who in international jumping. Sires like Diarado, Calido I, Stakkato, Vagabond de la Pomme, Casall, For Pleasure, and Tangelo van de Zuuhtoeve are sending offspring from proven and well-bred mare lines – the most valuable asset of Holsteiner breeding. "We were able to assemble a lot which is truly convincing," concludes a satisfied Roland Metz. "We are grateful to our exhibitors. Without their trust and support we would not be able to work as successfully."

Metz and his team looked at more than 150 horses in



M.D. x Cayado

order to make their selection, taking every possible effort regarding time and distance, and travelled to a lot of breeders in Holstein and all over Germany.

March 27 Auction Timetable

- March 4: Arrival of the auction horses
- March 7: 14:00 Presentation at Elmshorn with ClipMyHorse.TV, followed by test riding
- March 8-25: Training and test riding
- March 25: Arrival of the three-year-old horses
- March 25: 14:00 Training and testing
- March 27: 9:00 Final presentation (followed by the option to test ride until the auction starts)
- March 27: The Auction (Catalogue online as from March 1 – www.holsteiner-verband.de)



Casall x Corrado I



Stakkato x Con Air

The view from afar... A long-distance KWPN perspective

By CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Looking at the results of the KWPN stallion selection from the Covid-safe city of Melbourne, makes me wish that much more that I'd been there. Even though it would have been a pretty strange stallion show without spectators and the usual buzz and excitement, not to mention the chance to meet old friends and find new ones... Fingers crossed for next year!

The licensing was a double triumph for the Dutch breeders, Frank van der Valk and Jaqueline van Anholt. Not only did the stallion they bred, Painted Black, sire four licensed sons but the star of the premium ring, Next Pitch US, is a product of their most famous mare line. Next Pitch is out of It's Litchy out of Litchy, who is the dam of Painted Black.

As usual the story starts with that one special mare, and it is a story that was well told in the KWPN magazine, IDSi-2, by Karin de Haan. Jaqueline and Frank purchased Litchy's dam, Vrona (Officier - Ransi x Kristal), in 1989. "We bought Vrona as a 10-year-old. [...] Jaqueline showed Vrona through Z level (3rd/Med) dressage. She was an exceptionally fun and easy mare. She always got noticed at the shows. [...] Vrona was a long-lined, big mare with lovely presence. What's more, she used her hind legs powerfully," explained Frank van de Valk.

The pair lost the first foal by Zuidhorn, then decided to breed her to Ferro: "At that time, people didn't have much good to say about Ferro. Later, all the bad talk stopped, but he wasn't a very popular breeding stallion at the time. We chose him for his compact conformation. Vrona was long-lined and we wanted a more compact horse. Furthermore, we wanted to ensure we got a horse that used its hind legs well, like Vrona, which is another reason why we chose Ferro."

The result was Litchy: "Our plan was a success. Litchy was more compact than Vrona. Furthermore, she was a really nice filly – very fancy with powerful movement."

The pair decided to breed Litchy as a three-year-old: "Jaqueline actually wanted to start showing Litchy, but the filly was slow to mature mentally, so we decided to first breed her. That gave her another year to mature. We decided to breed her to Gribaldi. It was the first time we chose this stallion. We fell for his beautiful conformation. Like I said, Litchy wasn't very big, so we thought that breeding her to Gribaldi would give us a bigger foal. At the time we chose Gribaldi, he was not yet approved, so we acted a bit prematurely when we decided on him."

A year later, Painted Black was born. "We really liked Painted as a foal. He had plenty of neck, beautiful

conformation, and lots of power and suppleness in his movement. We thought he used his hind legs extremely well. Others were later critical of him, something which we have never understood, though he certainly needed some time to channel his energies in the right direction."

Painted Black was sold as a foal, and like so many stallion stars, failed as a three-year-old at his licensing. AES was more forgiving than the KWPN, so he was approved by them. Painted Black went to Hans Peter Minderhoud, who showed him in stallion classes, where he caught the eye of Anky van Grunsven and Sjef Janssen. They bought him in partnership with Joop van Uyttert and the Kelders family. Anky took him to the World Championships for young dressage horses and came home with a silver medal. She trained him to Grand Prix and he was quickly approved by the KWPN. On numerous occasions Painted Black scored over 75% with Anky before he showed just what a good horse he was, when, with the young rider Morgan Barbançon Mestre in the saddle, he went to the London Olympic Games, and gave her a lovely ride in the Grand Prix.

Now the Grand Prix star is proving himself as a star sire. His four sons approved this year were out of Negro, Contender, Zonik and Uphill mares – so four out of four candidates, a feat no other stallion has achieved at the licensing.

But there's more to the story of Litchy as she is also the dam of It's a Litchy, by Hotline (Hofrat x De Niro). It's a Litchy who is the dam of the star of the premium ring at this year's licensing, Next Pitch US by Genial x Vivaldi (Krack C x Jazz) out of Wocky, who is by Reiner Klimke's Grand Prix star, the Trakehner, Biotop, out of a Ferro mare.

This is also a triumph for the doyen of Dutch dressage stallion keepers, Joop van Uyttert, as not only did he stand Painted Black as his stallion station, but the stud farm was – until recently – home to Next Pitch's sire, Geniaal.

Van Uyttert liked Trakehener blood and it was thanks to his influence that Trakehners probably had more influence on dressage breeding in the Netherlands than in Germany, until the recent upsurge of interest in Millennium and his series of licensing winning sons. But then again, van Uyttert was in large part responsible for Millennium, since he is by



Joop van Uytert alongside his wife, Renate, in the saddle of Just Wimpf

Easy Game, a son of Gribaldi, out of a Trakehner mare, Merle (Ravel x Consul).

The success of the Dutch Warmblood was based on a group of hugely influential stallion keepers, but they were all obsessed with breeding jumpers, that is until van Uytert came on the scene and in a 2012 interview told us: “We started in 1993, and in the first year we bred with our KWPN-licensed Trakehner stallion, Balzflug (Habicht x Insterfeuer). My father-in-law bought him, he covered 200 mares in that first season, and that was our start.”

He wasn't only quick to see opportunities for a specialist dressage sire, he also realised that to really get the mares his stallions had to be out in the competition arena and, again, he chose his riders well: “I had a good contact with Anky van Grunsven and we started with the stallion, Partout (another Trakehner, Arogno x Donauwind), and they were very successful. We bought Gribaldi (yes, another, Kostolany x Ibkus) as a young stallion. That was the first stallion I bought – I was 26 or 27 then – I saw him as a young horse, two-and-a-half, and it was incredible what a horse he was – his movements were good but his type was magnificent. He brought very good breeding to Holland.”

Business was growing... fast

“We started the first year with 200 mares, then we had 400 mares, then 800 to 1,000, then between 1,000 and 1,500. And in the last four or five years we have added a lot of young stallions. We have United, Vivaldi, Sandreo was licensed, Tango was licensed, we have Zhivago, we have Zizi Top, and we have some German stallions.

“For the last two years we have had around 2,000 mares. It's a lot of work, but that is our living, we were the ones who started with dressage. There are a lot of stallion stations in Holland; Nijhof, van der Lageweg, Zangersheide, all jumping. We are just dressage, and we knew Anky very well, and we know Edward Gal, because when he started riding he

started with me.

“We have a lot of our stallions out with riders. Gribaldi was with Edward, United is with Edward, Vivaldi and Tango are with Hans-Peter, [Mindehoud]. In the morning we go to Holstude to collect semen, then the delivery returns with the semen for our place, or to go all over Europe.”

◆ You must be pretty good at predicting the future... When everyone in Holland was breeding jumping horses, you decided to specialise in dressage?

We had a little bit of luck, of course. Anna, my wife, was riding dressage, and we knew Anky well, and dressage has been coming up and up. We have had some very good dressage stallions, Gribaldi, Cocktail, Partout – then we bought foals by those stallions, and one of our best young breeding stallions is United, and United is by Krack C out of a mare by Partout. We have a lot of combinations with that blood.

◆ Interesting that you went to Trakehner stallions because in Germany at the time, many of the breeders had given up on Trakehners, they were pretty, but couldn't do anything...

In the beginning of dressage in Holland, we had the Trakehner, Doruto, and he produced a lot of dressage horses. Gribaldi produces a lot, also Michelangelo. I think the Trakehner did a really good job in Holland. What the Trakehners have is that they are hard horses. Good in their legs. Look at Gribaldi, he was never lame, he was 13 years old the first time he ever saw the vet. Partout was also a hard horse – and that is important.

◆ When you are looking for a young stallion, do you look at the pedigree first or the horse first?

The horse always first. The type must be okay and, for me, the backline must be very good – when that is okay, then you normally have enough power from behind.

◆ Can you tell the minute you see one?

Yeah. You can see a stallion is a stallion. The others, when you go, is he? Maybe? The breeders say the same later.

In the breeding of the 2021 licensing star, Next Pitch US (US stands for the breeding farm Unlimited Stables), we see Biotop, another German Trakehner who was not much used in Germany despite being a Grand Prix star with the late Reiner Klimke. Geniaal is by the current star of the van Uytert stallion band, Vivaldi, out of Wocky, who is by Biotop, bred in Russia, by Blesk out of a Hockey II mare.

But Geniaal has now swapped stables, as immediately after he won the VHO (Light Tour) Trophy at the 2019 Dutch Championships he was sold to Helgstrand Dressage where he will be campaigned by Andreas's son, Alexander.

There is more Trakehner influence in the breeding of



Suzanne Smeeing with her husband Wouter Lodder and their own-bred Gotilas du Feuillard, ridden by Corentin Pottier at the WBCYH Ermelo in 2018 where they finished 12th

Next Pitch US since the sire of It's Litchy is Hotline by the Trakehner, Hofrat out of a De Niro mare. The young stallion was bred at the Dutch stud farm, Unlimited Stables.

The video posted by the KWPN shows just what a great mover Next Pitch US is – great articulation of knees and hocks, moving through his whole body. Soft to the ground, flexible through the body, not the slightest sign of spikey stabbing into the air. It's very similar to the way his sire moves: Geniaal, at the van Uyttert stallion show, demonstrated flowing uphill conformation, balanced and moving under himself, the movement flowing through from carrying his hindquarters. All three gaits show rhythm and balance, and joint flexibility.

Suzanne Smeeing and her husband Wouter Lodder started Unlimited Stables in Lunteren about 15 years ago: "Our ambition/goal is to breed attractive horses, who are healthy, with excellent characters and who can perform at the highest levels of dressage," Suzanne told me.

"To achieve that we are very particular when we select our breeding mares because we only breed four to five foals a year. At this moment we have a elite preferent mare by Contago x Vivaldi in foal to Le Formidable, a ster mare by Florencio x Rubinstein out of the famous Barina dam line, who's in foal to Iron. A young elite mare by Sir Donnerhall x Gribaldi in foal to Asgard's Ibiza and of course the mother of Next Pitch US, It's a Litchy, and she's in foal to Vivino. It's a Litchy is the last offspring of the well known mare Litchy by Ferro, also the mother of Painted Black, Zizi Top, and Go Legend. We bought It's a Litchy at the foal auction Borculo.

"We decided to use Geniaal for It's a Litchy because Wouter really wanted to use a Vivaldi son and I wanted Trakhener blood to connect with the blood of Gribaldi behind Hotline."

More glory for van Uyttert

But there was even more glory for Joop van Uyttert since

another of his stallions, Just Wimphof, equaled Painted Black's tally of four licensed sons. Just Wimphof was born in Belgium but is solidly German bred; by the most successful son of Donnerhall, De Niro, out of Rastede, a mare by the Rubinstein grandson, Riccione, out of Sabriena, a daughter of Sandro Hit, out of a mare by the Calypso II son Classiker, out of Fiela, a daughter of one of the pearls of the Pape family mare lines, Fiesta (Donnerhall x Pik Bube I), the full-sister of Don Schufro.

With a pedigree like that it was no surprise that Just Wimphof, aided by van Uyttert's formidable promotional skills, was the most popular stallion in the Netherlands in 2017, with 234 foals born in 2018, and 15 out of that crop successful in the pre-selection for this year's inspection.

◆ How did you find Just Wimphof?

The breeder bought the mare from a Schockemöhle auction as a two-year-old, and then she went to Belgium – they are Dutch people, but they live in Belgium. As a young mare she went to the mare shows where she got her predicate, was ridden to the Z level, and then they inseminated her with De Niro. Then when they wanted to take the foal to a foal show, they called me and I went with them to the regional show in Brabant, where the foal was the winner. [In case you haven't seen him in action, Joop van Uyttert is the absolute master of showing a horse to its best.] Then the foal went to the final where he was the reserve champion of the KWPN show at Ermelo, by then we were partners in the horse. When he was two he went to the stallion show, was accepted, and did a good performance test.

◆ What was it about Just Wimphof that you liked?

He was a very nice type. Most De Niros are not so beautiful, but when you see the mother, she is a really modern type. He was a good type as a foal, at one year old, two years old, always good conformation. He was really good at the stallion show, he was a premium stallion. When he went to the performance test, he was really well behaved and had a really good walk, trot and canter. He had a very good score at the performance test.

◆ What are the qualities that he gives to his progeny?

He gives a really good connection in the back. We have a lot of mares in Holland by Krack C and Jazz with a really good front leg, but the back could be a bit better, the connection. That's his really great point, and for dressage when they get older, six, seven, eight, nine years, they start with piaffe, passage, and I think that – like De Niro himself – he gives good horses for the big sport, for Prix St Georges and Grand Prix. ■

Holsteiner Verband presents their performance sires

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE
PHOTOGRAPHY: JANNE BUGTRUP

Presentation of the Holsteiner Verband Hengsthaltung GmbH stallions and glamorous performances by the Holstein sires in Elmshorn was quite different this year due to the ongoing restrictions imposed by Covid-19.

Not up close and live in front of thousands of spectators in the Holstenhallen in Neumünster, but broadcast live from Elmshorn. With an adapted concept, in which appearances at the tournament and video sequences of the offspring of the association stallions were shown, the core remained the same: To provide the breeders and friends of the Holsteiner horse with as many impressions as possible in order to make their breeding decisions easier.

"It was a completely new situation for all of us to hold the presentation in this way," said managing director Norbert Boley. Hopefully the spectators and their enthusiasm which we know from Neumünster, will soon be there again."

A total of 27 stallions presented themselves in the Fritz-Thiedemann-Halle: From those who were only licensed in free jumping last year, to the youngsters in the short course, to the tried and tested old stars in hand. The future hopes of 2018, for example Daikon (Dominator Z), Dilaro (Dinken), and the 2020 licensing champion, Vigado (Vigo d'Arsoilles), flew confidently down the free jumping line, while Cahil (Cornet Obolensky), Characterful (Comme il faut), Dubliner (Dinken), and Cardentos (Cardento) playfully overcame all age-appropriate dimensions.

Chincherö (Chopin VA), reserve winner of his licensing in

2019, is being trained by team world champion Janne Friederike Meyer-Zimmermann, while his five-year-old colleague Chezarro (Casall), just a few weeks ago won his sports test in Münster-Handorf and, in Elmshorn, Swedish international showjumper Rolf-Göran Bengtsson sat in his saddle for the first time. He clearly felt very comfortable riding the offspring of his former number one horse, Casall; "An image of his father... with some good fortune," said Tjark Nagel, who had taken over the commentary on the stallions.

Also presented by Rolf-Göran Bengtsson were Catch (Colman) and Zuccero (Zirocco Blue), for whom he has high hopes and would now like to gently introduce them to larger tasks. He will first present Zuccero this coming season at 1m45 level; "He has great ambition, speed and the necessary will. He's getting better and better and I'm looking forward to his future," said Bengtsson.

Kimberly Kühl trains the dressage stallions Fidano (Fidertanz) and Goldball (Goldberg), with the former being ridden to the title of national champion at one of his selected tournament starts. "Both stallions are always fun in their daily work, are always ready to perform, and willing to learn," said Kühl.

The appearances of Casall (Caretino), Clarimo (Clearway), Crunch (Clarimo) and Dinken (Diarado) presented themselves in fresh condition in hand. "I am very satisfied with the stallions and thankful for the support of the riders, some of whom had previously sat in the saddle of "This uncomplicated handling speaks for the careful work that our team does in training the stallions." The broadcast from the Fritz-Thiedemann-Halle will be available for one month free of charge from the ClipMyHorse.tv media library.

The sires from Elmshorn will have their next appearance at the young stallion presentation no later than May 1st. "I hope that the weather and the pandemic situation will allow us to hold this event outside and, above all, with spectators again," said Boley, who concluded by explaining, "And of course we are very happy to advise the breeders in these times when they are considering choosing a stallion."



"I'm looking forward to his future," said Rolf-Göran Bengtsson about Zuccero (Zirocco Blue)

NZ South Island hosts jumping's 'year of the mares'

By SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: PEGASUS COMMUNICATIONS, GOLDENGROVE STUD

The North and South Islands of New Zealand are not a million kilometres apart. However, crossing Cook Strait, the body of water which separates them, does make the journey expensive and time-consuming. So, with most competitions held in the North Island, where the majority of riders are based, few venture south.

For this reason, the National Show Jumping Championships, which are held down south in Christchurch, often fail to attract their fair share of top entries. This year, though, a good number – including a very strong Takapoto team – made the journey, and for the first time since 2016, the Rutherford Cup was contested.

Rutherford Cup

This is the show's top prize, awarded to the winner of the National Premier Championship, a competition that takes place over three days. Victory went to an 'extremely opinionated, but delightful' 11-year-old Australian import, the grey Holsteiner mare Cera Cassina (Cassini II - Caletta x Caletto I), who was bred by Kerri Parker at Cera Performance Horses, and is owned and ridden by Kimberley Bird – who is a South Islander. It's the first national title for both horse and rider. Cera Cassina is from Stamm 7126 and has shown plenty of good form during her career, including wins in a World Cup round and a very competitive Premier League class at Takapoto last season. She also finished third in the prestigious Norwood Gold Cup at HOY 2020 against a top field.

Her German-bred dam, Caletta (Caletto I - Zanda x Calypso II) is from the notable sporting ranks of Stamm 7126, and the immediate family is worthy of attention. Caletta's full sister Clear Round jumped at international levels for Italy; another full sister, Frieda, produced some very good progeny in the Netherlands. These include a Carolus daughter May-Flower (prest pref keur), the dam of 1m60 jumpers Rockella S and Vrieda Imperio Egipcio x Vrieda O (Hold Up Premier). Another of Caletta's sisters, Akita Z, produced Queen Z who jumped in Nations' Cups with Rodrigo Pessoa. Their maternal grandmother, Kerlis, is a half-sister to Ribbecka (Calypso I), the dam of Acord II.

The reserve champion in the Rutherford Cup was another imported 11-year-old mare, Takapoto Alaid de Chez Nous (Organo Sitte - Ondine de Grozieux TF x Biesolo TF), a Selle Français. She was bred in France by Bernard Sainsardos, who competed her in Europe before her sale to Takapoto, one of

New Zealand's leading competition yards. Like Cera Cassina, she has won World Cup (NZL) class. Her breeding is pure French Trotter on the dam's side and a mix of Warmblood (SF - Organo Sitte; BWP - Darco; Hanoverian - Lugano van la Roche and KWPN - Avontuur) through her sire. She is ridden by Samantha McIntosh and missed out on the win by a tiny fraction of a penalty (0.2).

Grand Prix Championship

It was the year of the mares at the championships, with this win going to Waitangi Surf (Cassiano - Whisper x Back Chat xx), a 13-year-old bred by Jos Bayly of Waitangi Sport Horses. Her sire Cassiano (Cassini - Zivia x Calypso II) is an imported licensed Holsteiner from Stamm 6691, bred by Carsten Lauck and owned by Sharleen Workman of Xtreme Sport Horses. The dam, Whisper, is out of an unrecorded mare, but her sire Back Chat xx was a son of the famous Thoroughbred eventing/jumping sire Aberlou xx, and Whisper herself competed as a jumper. Waitangi Surf was the winner of the Norwood Gold Cup at HOY in 2019. She is owned by Kirsty and Paul Croucher, and ridden by Oliver Croucher, who has had a lot of success in young rider classes with her. One of their most impressive YR wins was at Takapoto last season, against top Australian and New Zealand competitors.

Reserve went to another mare, Roxette ECPH (Corofino II - Ngahiwi Hi-Jack x Hold Up Premier VDL), bred by East Coast Performance Horses in the North Island. She has an interesting pedigree which combines super European genes with the talents of the New Zealand Stationbred. Her sire, Corofino II stands at Xtreme Sport Horses with Waitangi Surf's sire, Cassiano – and also sired the winner of the 7YO championship (see below). Her dam, Ngahiwi Hi-Jack (Hold Up Premier VDL – Red Rinse x Nikau) was bred by Bruce Holden at Ngahiwi Station, and was with Xtreme Sport Horses as a broodmare until 2019, when she was sold to ECPH.

Her own dam, Red Rinse, is a full sister to a gelding called Blue Rinse, who jumped in Europe with some high placings at CSI3*, and a CSI2* win at La Coruña – but, who in a really lovely twist of fate, won this championship in 2011! In those days he was owned and ridden by Danielle Maurer, who twice

won the NZ National Young Rider Series (2010 and 2011) with him.

Roxette ECPH herself is a 10-year-old – and in a second twist of fate – is owned and ridden by Kimberley Bird, winner of the Rutherford Cup (above).

Seven-year-old age-group champions

This win went to Takapoto Casanova Xtreme (Corofino II - JK Good Looks x JK Lucas), who was bred by Sharleen Workman at Xtreme Sport Horses and is owned by Takapoto Estate. The Holsteiner gelding was 2020's top six-year-old, and is another great ambassador for his imported German-bred sire, Corofino II (who also sired the second and third placegetters that year). This very successful stallion was bred by Hobe Bernhard and is a full brother to Corofino I. He is from the Holsteiner dam line 318d2.

Casanova Xtreme, a handsome grey, was ridden at the National Championships by Oliver Croucher and has a competition record packed with wins and high placings. His dam-sire, JK Lucas (Lander - Monogem x Monopol), was bred at Holstein Park in Australia and was one of two Holsteiner stallions imported to New Zealand in the 1980s.

A Sport Horse gelding, Eye Catcher NZPH (Kannan - United Blue NZPH x Mr Blue), was runner-up in this seven-year-old age-group championship. He was bred by New Zealand Performance Horses and is owned by Murray Alfeld, whose daughter Rose Alfeld rides him. Eye Catcher finished fourth in last year's six-year-old series, and was the winner of his five-year-old series, as well as the five-year-old championship at the Young Horse Show. He is one of the most consistent young horses on the scene at present.

Third was another by Corofino II: the Sport Horse mare Corrine HSH (Corofino II - Xena NZPH x Cacao Courcelle), bred by Hokonui Sport Horses, owned by Rosedale Farm and Sally Spicer, and ridden by Sally Spicer. This pair won the six-year-old class at the show last year.

Hokonui is a boutique breeding establishment in the deep south of the South Island – but one 10-year-old gelding from the stud has ended up a very long way from his birthplace, competing at CSI2* level in Europe with Finnish rider Matilda Kulkas. His name is Dexter HSH (Douglas VDL - Henrietta x Corlando). Dexter has a young Corofino II half-brother yet to start his career.

Fourth place went to Bellick ST (Euro Sport Centavos - Daddadream x Dream Boy), a Hanoverian gelding bred by Anthony and Michelle Logan, and owned and ridden by Rosa Buist-Brown. Bellick ST's sire and damsire are both imported Hanoverians; Euro Sport Centavos (Escudo) is one of the leading stallions in the country at present, and Dream Boy (Dream of Glory - Erntekrone x Eisenherz II) was an imported Hanoverian from Stamm 1192208, Schridde 718. He left a lot of excellent progeny here.

Renamour APH (Anamour - Red Rum III x Toby), a Holsteiner bred by Atorvia Performance Horses, and owned and ridden by Victoria Brown, was fifth. The unlikely



Rutherford Cup winner Cera Cassina (Cassini II - Caletta x Caletto I) ridden by Kimberley Bird

combination of this gelding's champion sire Anamour and his damsire Toby (an impressive cross-bred heavy hunter type) have combined in a super young horse.

No sixth place was awarded in this class.

North Island visitor claims 6yo title

This year's top six-year-old was another North Island visitor: Double J Hurricane (Euro Sport Heartbreaker - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II), who finished first equal in the ESNZ 2020 five-year-old series. He was bred by Wendy and Robyn Jacobs at Double J Stud and is ridden by Wendy's teenage daughter, Samantha Carrington. The cross of ES Heartbreaker (Heartbreaker x Hamlet x Ramiro Z) and Voltaire II (Furioso x Nimmerdor x Courville xx) certainly augers well for this NZ Sport Horse gelding's future in the jumping rings.

North Island horses also took second and third spots. The runner-up being Benrose Casino ECPH (Cassiano - Ngahiwi Red Rinse x Nikau) who, sharp-eyed readers will notice, is closely related to Roxette ECPH, runner up in the Grand Prix championship (see above). The connection is through Ngahiwi Red Rinse, the granddam of Roxette and the dam of Benrose Casino. And there's more: Casino's sire, Cassiano (Cassini I x Calypso II x Maestose), also sired the 2021 Grand Prix champion, Waitangi Surf. So, this young grey gelding has a lovely pedigree. He was bred by East Coast Performance Horses and is owned and ridden by Sophie Scott.

Third place went to a South Island-bred horse, but one who now lives in the North Island and made the long trip down from Auckland: the big grey NZ Warmblood mare Lassandra GNZ (Lansing - Drossana x Drossan). She was bred by Paul and Pip Ffoulkes at Goldengrove Stud, is owned by Anna Stokes and Simone Kann, and ridden by the latter.

Lassandra's pedigree is another interesting one. Her dam, Drossana GNZ (Drossan - Dimona x Dramaturg) was a Westfalian imported from Germany. "She was an amazing mare. We lost her at the end of winter," says Pip Ffoulkes. "She had three foals for us: Lassandra, Leroy, and Queen Bee." Leroy GNZ/ex Leroy Brown (Lasino) was sold by Goldengrove

to the USA; Queen Bee GNZ (Lordano), is in Canada with Katie Laurie; leaving only Lassandra to represent Drossana in New Zealand. The Ffoulkes rate her highly; in fact, says Pip Ffoulkes, “We LOVE her.”

Fourth went to Footloose NZPH (Quintus - Victorious NZPH x Calvaro Z), bred by New Zealand Performance Horses, and owned and ridden by Rose Alfeld.

Vulcan GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Lara x Lansing), who won last year's five-year-old title, was fifth for owner/rider Katie Meredith after two uncharacteristic rails; and sixth place went to one more by Cassiano: Glenbrooke Rosarno (Cassiano - Glenbrooke Forever Roses x Littorio), bred by the Meehan and Davie families, owned by Trace Whittaker and ridden by Steffi Whittaker. The dam, Glenbrooke Forever Roses, was herself a successful jumper, and has had several good offspring.

Another leader from Goldengrove

The leader of this group was another from Goldengrove – and it's the second year running that the stud has bred the five-year-old national champion. Last year, as mentioned above, it was Vulcan GNZ, with Quantico GNZ (Quantum - Florence May x Grosvenor xx) in second place. This year it was the gorgeous Lord Axel GNZ (Lordano - Angeline GNZ x Corlando), who achieved the only double-clear in the competition. The bay gelding is owned by Leah Causer and ridden by her daughter Mackenzie Causer, who also trains him. Shortly after this competition, the pair had another five-year-old series win – which they shared with the runner-up in this championship, Pure Cascade.

Pure Cascade (Cassiano - Langtry x Lansing) is an impressive and powerful-looking mare bred by Laura McGregor at Pure Equestrian in Auckland. She is ridden by her owner, Amy McMullan of Timaru, and has mainly



Lord Axel – 5yo champion – with rider Mackenzie Causer and breeder Paul Ffoulkes of Goldengrove Stud

Holsteiner blood. Her sire Cassiano also sired the Rutherford Cup winner Cera Cassina, and Benrose Casino, who finished second in the six-year-old championship. Her dam, Langtry (Lansing - Gloss x Polaris), was bred by Melda Gibson; she, too, had wins as a five-year-old. Langtry's sire, the magnificent German-bred Lansing (Landgraf -Monoline x Roman), produced a good number of champion approved sons, 'state premium' mares and 'premium foals' in Europe. He is also the dam-sire of last year's five-year-old champion, Vulcan GNZ and the sire of Lassandra GNZ, who finished third in the six-year-old championship (see above).

Lansing (who was also known as Exception) was from Stamm 8777, and bred by Walter Frers. His siblings include Cantus and Calvin Z. He stood at Paul Ffoulkes' Goldengrove Stud from 2003 until his death in 2015. Among his top New Zealand progeny are the stallion Casebrooke Lomond, now based in Canada with Katie Laurie, and Kiwi Lansing, a super little gelding bred by Graeme Hart at Fernhill Stud. With his owner/rider Larina Dolman, Kiwi Lansing won the fiercely competitive Pro Am Rider of the Year title at HOY2020, as well as the ESNZ National Pro-Amateur Series.

Goldengrove Stud has certainly done a great deal to improve the quality of sport horse breeding in this country, and it was another of its progeny who took third place in the championship: the mare Sinaloa GNZ (Cartell GNZ - Safron GNZ x Littorio). She, too, is a strong, eye-catching bay Holsteiner, owned by Deidre Hertzell and ridden by Nicholas Grant. Her sire, Cartell GNZ (Casall - Yetar Springs Jayne x Jadalco) is a fabulously handsome young stallion; it's going to be very interesting to keep tabs on his offspring as they grow up. He is also the sire of year's five-year-old winner, Vulcan GNZ.

Fourth went to a Warmblood gelding by the Team Nijhof stallion Spartacus (Stakkato x Grannus), MF Lexicon (Spartacus TN - MF Lily x JK Lucas), bred, owned, and ridden by Cherie Cournane. His damsire, the Australian-bred Holsteiner JK Lucas, is also the damsire of the seven-year-old winner, Takapoto Casanova Xtreme.

Awatuna Rocketman (Awatuna Aslan x Awatuna Lady Katherine x Lordano), a sport horse gelding bred by Penny Jones at Awatuna Horses on the West Coast of the South Island, was fifth. He is ridden by Todd Magner.

Another by Corofino II finished sixth: the Warmblood gelding Celebration ECPH (Corofino II - Crystal x Salu-tation), bred by East Coast Performance Horses, and owned and ridden by Rose Alfeld. This youngster has a super grandsire: the Oldenburg dressage stallion Salutation (Sandro Hit - Fienna x Welt Hit II), who was imported from Germany but who died a premature death from colic in 2010.

So, once again, it's a list of champions where the names of the imported German Holsteiner stallions Corofino II and Cassiano are most in evidence. Both have now retired from stud duties at Xtreme Sport Horses, but have left a huge crop of wonderful progeny. ■

CWHBA expanding auction sales to meet new market

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA
PHOTOGRAPHY: AMANDA UBELL

The impact of the pandemic on the horse industry has been varied, to say the least. Restricting movement in a country as large as Canada has driven people more and more to the virtual experience, and this is never more true than with the horse market.

Last October the CWHBA organized its first online auction, after over 25 years of live, onsite events. It was a great success. So much so that the hosting Alberta chapter is expanding its offering to launch the CWHBA Spring Classic Sale, April 23-26. The format will remain the same, with consistently high-quality videos and detailed information about each horse, but the selection will focus more on horses going under saddle and will expand to include mature trained horses. Consignors may nominate horses in three categories: prospects (in the three- to six-year-old age group), performance horses (age five to 12, with a show record) and school masters (age eight to 15, with a show record and ready to learn on).

This online sale will be building on the legacy of the past 25 years of the Fall Classic Breeders' Sale, that has established a reputation for quality horses and good value. Many of these Canadian-bred horses have gone on to successful show careers, but more importantly have provided owners with years of satisfaction and enjoyment.

Take 2017 sales horse MJ Samba (Whirlwind x Fantast), for example. Purchased by Courtney Benton from MJ Farms as a three-year-old, MJ Samba was ranked top Young Event Prospect in 2018 and 2019, never finishing lower than third. Courtney comments "Samba is so amazing, I have nothing but good things to say about this horse ..."

In 2015, Kueber Farms consigned Riot KF (Rubinus x Lazio), purchased by Cathy Chalak. Later sold to Stephanie Lofgren, the pair won the three- to four-year-old conformation class at Rocky Mountain Show Jumping in August of 2017, and the three-year-old division at Royal West in October that same year.

Then there is Wantu (Welser x Bajazzo), bred by Touchstone Farm, purchased at the 2013 sale, and developed by Klondike Victory Farm, who quickly moved up to 1m45 FEI classes and is now a top level mount for a junior rider at 1m40.

Of course, Travolta, 2003 Sale Grad (Ferro x Landwind II) cannot be overlooked. Bred by John and Jacqueline van den Bosch, Travolta, under the talented dressage rider, Joni Peters was short listed by Dressage Canada and climbed the FEI ranks for several years. In Joni's words "... that special horse who opened up the world to me...".

The horse market is in a strong recovery, in spite of the travel restrictions and reduced show opportunities. Horseback riding has been a relatively safe activity during the lock-down periods, and it seems that the pandemic has coincided with the bottoming out of the horse supply.

After 10 years of decline in breeding numbers, registrations are now trending upwards. Therefore, with the increased interest and confidence in online sales, this seems the ideal time to respond to new marketing opportunities. Through this sale Canadian breeders and trainers can adapt to the new market realities. It is a market that rewards consistent quality and integrity based on confidence from past performance.

You can contact the sale at admin@cwauktion.ca. ■



Wantu (Welser x Bajazzo), bred by Touchstone Farm, ridden by Jackson Graves

Latvian Warmblood: Horses for everyone

BY ELENA ZOBOVA

PHOTOGRAPHY: ELENA ZOBOVA, PETER LLEWELLYN

“Our association is not just an organisation that registers horses, it is also a very successful group of breeders, united in one studbook,” says the LWA general director Aija Luse. “We allow a lot of diverse bloodlines to reach our goal in breeding. That is to produce horses for everybody who likes to ride – from 10-year-old children to top riders.”

Although the Latvian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association (LWA) was only founded in 2004, the studbook itself has a century-long history. The horse has always been a reliable friend and companion for Latvians – both farmers and soldiers – ever since the first people settled on the current territory of Latvia. Local horses, which have possibly descended from the current Tarpans, are considered to be the direct ancestors of the horses bred in Latvia.

One-hundred years of breeding

The first two state-owned horse breeding farms were established in Latvia between 1921 and 1925, and became the cradle of the Latvian horse. Initially these breeding farms used the best mares that were owned by the state and the military units, a few riding type mares of unknown origins, and the pure-bred, steady-tempered Oldenburg mares that were imported from Groningen and Old-Oldenburg. Later the foundation stallions and mares came from Mecklenburg, Hanover and Holstein, with some influx of Thoroughbred, Trakehner and Arabian blood – the recipe for which strongly

resembles the making of the modern KWPN breed.

The first breeding horses were registered in 1921, while the breed itself was approved in 1937 under the name of Latvian Warmblood. Nowadays it has two types – the original heavy Warmblood horse, similar to Schweres Warmblut in Germany, and the Warmblood sport horse. Remarkably, these two types are not completely separate.

Although at the present time the Latvian Warmblood studbook is ‘open’, it is still based on the original Latvian horse breed. Many Latvian sport horses trace back to the original type, which gives more endurance, steadiness, and kind temperament – the qualities that are considered as being the most significant in the modern sport horse breeding.

Since 2008 the Latvian Warmblood Association has been a full member of WBFSH, registering approximately 350 foals each year in the Latvian Warmblood studbook.

‘Dark horses’ Rusty 047 and Vento

A totally harmonious picture of horse and rider dancing as one. The magnificent liver-chestnut gelding once again excelled in his flying changes and impeccable pirouettes. Elegance, energy, and power, radiating from his body. “I actually planned to retire from competition riding, but when I bought him I knew this was the horse who could carry me to the top. I only ride shows because I have such a great horse in Rusty 047,” said Ulla Salzgeber about her champion of the time. Only a few people knew that Rusty 047 – a ‘dark horse’ of unknown origins – was none other than Latvian-bred Rotors (Rebuss - Akra x Aktsent) born in 1988 at Burtnieki stud farm. Rotors’ pedigree is a superb mix of different bloodlines, with Thoroughbred, Russian Trakehner, Hanoverian, Latvian, and Oldenburg.

Ulla Salzgeber and Rusty 047 were one of Germany’s most successful international Grand Prix combinations, winning many team and individual medals. Their Carmina Burana freestyle never changed, and the inspiring music became synonymous with this Latvian Warmblood with his signature pirouettes and, to date, still the best one-tempi changes ever.

Similarly, Germany’s Helena Weinberg has been very successful in showjumping arenas riding Kasting Horses Vento.



Apriori (Akords - Poga x Pilots xx) under the saddle of Andrey

Referred in the documents as 'some kind of Russian horse' for a long time, this bay gelding was finally identified as the Latvian-bred Vejsh, born in 1992 at Agrofirma Tervete, by Vanduss out of Erfa (Elever). As a young horse he was ridden by the Latvian rider Girts Bricis.

Dressage success

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the winner of the central European League in dressage, Russian Elena Sidneva has been a strong presence on the international dressage scene. Sidneva's mount, Artax Condor, the Latvian-bred Vivat, was born in 1992 at Zilupe stud farm, by Vdumchivij out of Veldre (Vagner). A well-muscled, sturdily built gelding who excelled in consistency, had gorgeous flying changes and pirouettes, always moving rhythmically around the ring.

At the 2002 World Cup Finals in 's-Hertogenbosch two home-bred horses competed for the first time in Latvia's history, which saw Rusty 047 and Ulla Salzgeber win the title, while Artax Condor and Elena Sidneva placed 11th.

One more Latvian Warmblood horse also helped his rider to achieve great results in competitions – the bay gelding Marakov/ex Remarks, born in 2000 at Turiba stud farm (at the present time known as 3 Vitolu Stalli), by Rufs out of Mazepa (Mitjulands). "Every success has been a team effort with this horse," says British dressage team member Michael Eilberg. "We have had Marakov right from a baby, so everybody has contributed. To perform with him is such a pleasure, it makes everything worthwhile."

Showjumping qualities

For a long time now one of the leading Latvian Warmblood horses in showjumping has been KS Coradina (2007: Corlensky G - Cairasine x Cardento) bred by the Zviedru Birzes Zirgi stud farm. This grey mare took part in the 2015 World Cup Finals in Las Vegas under the saddle of Andis Varna, flying the Latvian flag, and then in the 2017 European Championships in Gothenburg with Maria Madenova from Russia. At the present time KS Coradina is jumping 1m60 courses rather successfully with Canadian rider Susan Horn. The maternal sister of KS Coradina, the grey KS Molly Malone (2015: Cornet Obolensky) is just starting to show her talents in showjumping under the saddle of Krista Kliemete from Latvia.

Nowadays, the best Latvian Warmblood showjumping horse in the WBFSH ranking list is the bay gelding Linkolns (2007: Louis J - Konga x Calando IV), bred at Agrofirma Tervete. Recently performing in Salzburg Linkolns, his Lithuanian rider and owner Andrius Petrovas won the Silver Tour Final 1m40 class out of 117 horses in the main field, and against 20 horses in the jump-off.

The second horse taken into account for the ranking is the bay stallion Apriori (2010: Akords - Poga x Pilots xx) – the paternal grandson of the legendary stallion Aromats. Apriori's rider, Andrey Lysenko from Russia, has one more Latvian Warmblood under saddle – the bay gelding Allegro (2010:



Latvian Warmblood Rusty 047/ex Rotors (Rebuss - Akra x Aktsent) in the capable hands of Ulla Salzgeber (GER)

Aromats - Gabija x Gvidons). His full sister Alibi, born in 2005, was jumping 1m60 courses under Dainis Ozols, who also used to ride her maternal grand sire, the Latvian Warmblood Gvidons (1996: Guido - Vidumka x Valerik) bred at Agrofirma Tervete. Gvidons developed and demonstrated his talent at the Latvian National Championship in a rapid and extremely positive way by winning the title. His jumping manners, eagerness, and power have accumulated an impressive series of placings in Grand Prix classes, such as Warsaw, Tallinn, Moscow, and Cherniachovsk. In 2007 Gvidons and Dainis Ozols participated in the European Championships in Mannheim.

The leading stud farm

At the present time there are several horse stud farms in Latvia, all of which are breeding more than 50 horses apiece. The biggest is Burtnieki stud farm with more than 150 horses. It is the oldest stud farm still working in Latvia, established in 1941. Burtnieki stud farm was state owned until 1990 when it became the family enterprise of stud farm director Janis Jurašs Senior. Nowadays its owned and run by his son Janis Jurašs and Janis's wife Iona. The broodmare band is mostly based on the traditional mare lines of the original stud farm, which have been able to produce good sport horses for more than 50 years. Burtnieki stud farm is not only the most successful in terms of producing sport horses, it has a museum and a library with the widest range of books about horse breeding in the Baltic countries.

Another significant stud farm in Latvia is Agrofirma Tervete. It has been one of the most competitive breeders of Latvian sport horses for several decades, taking a more modern path than Burtnieki by importing both mares and stallions from Germany and the Netherlands as well as using artificial insemination. After the change of ownership this stud farm experienced some problems, but is now regaining it's

path back to top.

At the present time there are only two major breeding events in Latvia: the 'Autumn Pearl' (Rudens Perle) for three- and four-year-old sport horses, and the 'National Treasure' (Nacionalais dargums) for the heavier type of Warmblood horses – mares, stallions, three- and four-year-olds. Last year there were really good horses representing good bloodlines at the Autumn Pearl.

In the mares group the best were the three-year-old Alba (Aromats - Alsa x Akts) and the four-year-old Albervilla (Aromats - Flinta x Fans), both bred at Burtnieki stud farm. Among the three-year-old stallions, the highest marks were achieved by the bay Checkers (Chelder - Katalonija x Kvartet), bred by Inese Reine, while the best four-year-old stallion was Artoss (Acordplus - Labella x Legato), bred by Hans Herbst. Artoss clearly displayed good reflexes, sharpness, and power over the fences – qualities he has inherited from his sire. "I like very much working with the horses, going to horse shows, and seeing the young Aromats with the talents of their sire," says Janis Jurašs. "That gives us the feeling that we are on the right track with Burtnieki stud farm."

The influence of Aromats

"Now we are talking about international sport and breeding," says Aija Luse. "And that's just a part of what the Latvian studbook is trying to produce. We don't divide breeding into different directions for different sports, but the sport decides in what direction we should breed. We try to get the best of every studbook, and have a wide variety of approved stallions – Holsteiner, Hanoverian, KWPN, Oldenburg as well as many that are home-bred."

At the present time the most prominent breeding stallion in Latvia is undoubtedly the Holsteiner-bred Aromats, born in 1999 by Acorado I out of Ginie I (Capitol I). Aromats offspring are well-known for their nice character, their endurance, their all-round ability, and their willingness to work for their rider.

Aromats was found in Germany by the late Janis Jurašs Senior as an injured young horse and, therefore never competed himself. Purchased as a sire for showjumping

prospects, Aromats was crossed with Burtnieki mares. Later, he turned out to be a fantastic dressage producer with many horses competing at GP level. Aromats has only ever been in natural covering and has sired more than 230 foals, from which only around 100 horses are yet old enough (born before 2013) to compete internationally, so his volume of descendants performing in sport is really quite remarkable.

His list of dressage offspring should start with Anilin, born in 2004, out of Vaga (Volts), who competed with three different riders and rose to a creditable 283rd place in the 2012 WBFSH ranking; Asteriks, born in 2005 out of Akcize (Absolvents), who competed under the saddle of the Russian number one rider Inessa Poturaeva; Avans, 2005, out of Gagra (Gudvils), brought many victories to the young Russian rider Olga Ivanova; Aramis, 2006, out of Sniedze (Sapnis) with Anna Ivanova; Arums, 2009, out of Ausekle (Amulets) with Russian rider Stanislav Cherednichenko; and finally the beautiful gelding Arlekino, 2006, out of Glukoza (Gudvils) under the saddle of Belarussian Hanna Karasiova who, by the way, is preparing another Aromats son for Grand Prix, Avokado, 2012 out of Flinta (Fans).

In the 2020 WBFSH dressage studbook ranking list, Latvian Warmblood placed 17th, thanks mainly to two of the above-mentioned Aromats sons: Avans (77th) and Arums (393rd). The other two horses contributing to Latvian Warmblood's dressage ranking are Zodiak (108th) born in 2008, by Zidane Velvet (a son of Concorde) out of Askona (Arulis), ridden by Hanna Karasiova; and Kivi (490th) born in 2002, by Calano II out of Vanda (Vintas), ridden by the Latvian rider Tereze Rozenberga.

Aromats outside Latvia

Aromats has also gained popularity in the other Baltic countries, with his offspring topping the WBFSH jumping ranking list for the Estonian Sport Horse and Lithuanian Riding Horse. The best Aromats showjumper bred in Estonia, is QH Alfons Santo Antonio/ex Alfons RA (2007: out of Fiorella x False Pass) bred by Rebala Stables Ltd, and successfully competing with Rein Pill under the Estonian flag until he was sold to Brazilian international Yuri Mansur.

The only representative in the ranking for the Lithuanian Horse Breeders Association is Artas (2005: Aromats - Fiba x Fakelas) bred by Darius Cepele. In 2019 Artas and his rider Kullo Kender qualified and participated in the World Cup Finals in Gothenburg.

While some other studbooks seem to focus on trying to create a certain type of horse, the surprising thing about Latvian Warmblood is that though they have clear goals, they are maintaining a very open view. They allow 'foreign' blood, which is perhaps the reason that Latvian breeding has produced several good sires, and not only limited to one discipline.

Hopefully Latvian Warmblood horses will continue to figure prominently both in showjumping and dressage in the future as they have done for many years. ■



Linkohs (Louis J - Konga x Calando IV) with Andrius Petrovas

The 'Land of the Horse': High-achieving Irish Sport Horses

BY NADIA REA / HSI

PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURENCE DUNNE/JUMPINACTION, NADIA REA

Ireland is known internationally as the 'Land of the horse', and we are all aware of the unprecedented record of Irish Sport Horses being ranked first for 22 out of 25 years in the WBFSH world eventing rankings, but records we've set in showjumping at the WBCYH in Lanaken in recent years have left other nations admiring the young horse production classes available in Ireland.

Castlefield Vegas, the 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by Cassino (SWWB) out of Clarke's Quiet Optimistic (ISH) by Lux Z (HANN) bred by John Clarke, was owned by Martin Egan and Ger O'Neill until January 2021. Castlefield Vegas was first ridden by Ger O'Neill who celebrated numerous wins such as the CSI3* Nations' Cup in Drammen in 2019, and CSI3* Nations' Cup win in Denmark. The combination were also league winners of the seven-year-old ISH SJ Series, and the highest placed seven-year-old in the RDS international class in 2017. In 2018 Jason Foley won gold in the Longines FEI European Youth Championships in Fontainebleau, France. The winning combination were crowned European Under 18 (Junior) Show Jumping

Champions while also taking team bronze at the same event. In 2020 Jason repeated the success of Ger being a member of the winning Nations' Cup team in CSI3* Drammen.

Martin Egan said; "I bought Vegas as a three-year-old in Goresbridge. I really like a Lux dam line and I thought Vegas looked promising. I broke him as a four-year-old, and we took our time producing him to allow him to develop. We started competing him in a few training shows as a five- and six-year-old, and took it to the next level in 2017 when we began to jump in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series. We were delighted when he won the league that year and then progressed to being the highest placed seven-year-old in the RDS. When you have a horse competing in these classes

successfully it shows that the horse has real potential and a positive future in the sport. The ISH classes instil confidence in both horse and rider and prepare them for the bigger competitive classes ahead. The ISH studbook series really brought him up to speed to compete in the RDS international class that year. I am extremely grateful to this horse, he introduced me firstly to the best competitions in Ireland and then the biggest shows abroad. He has been my horse of a lifetime. Both Ger O'Neill and Jason Foley have been excellent partners with this horse and given that Bertram [Allen] and Vegas won their first few competitions in Wellington, I have no doubt they will have every success together in the future."

Ger O'Neill explained; "All our Irish Sport Horses in Castlefield Stables are produced slowly through the Studbook Series. The venues offered are the best in the country with the best course builders. These competitions allow every opportunity for young horses to be educated in the best available arenas. We have had many horses go through the ISH SJ Series over the years and we are delighted to have had such success at both national and international levels with Castlefield Vegas, Columbcille Gypsy, and Killossery Kaiden, to mention a few. I believe that these classes build a



l-r: Ger O'Neill (owner) Castlefield Vegas (ISH) ridden by Jason Foley pictured with Keith Manning and Martin Egan (owner)



BBS McGregor (ISH) ridden by Jack Ryan presented with rug and rosette by Alison Corbally, Director of Breeding and Programmes for Horse Sport Ireland

McGregor had an infection that was treated, but when he continued to disimprove it needed further investigation. After being x-rayed it showed that a tooth had formed in the roof of his mouth and caused an infection, and it required an urgent operation to remove. Following this BBS McGregor became known as 'Lucky'. He remained a stallion until he was four to allow him to recover from his operation and gain strength. We now have a five-year-old gelding by him that was bred by my brother Seamus Drea, and hope that DHS Lucky Junior (ISH) will follow in his footsteps.

"My son Jack produced Lucky through the Irish Sport Horse Showjumping Series. We were so impressed with how he continued to progress and develop through the Series. He won at many of the legs

great foundation for our horses and give them the confidence and ability to progress to international competitions. As riders we are grateful that the breeding department of Horse Sport Ireland continuously seek our feedback and implement the useful suggestions we make to further develop these classes over the years, while always being mindful of appropriate young horse production. We will continue to produce our horses through these classes for years to come."

Jason Foley concluded by saying; "I have been blessed to compete on Castlefield horses through the Studbook Series and the RDS qualifiers, which in turn secured my place on the five-year-old WBCYH team in Lanaken in 2019 where I won a gold medal riding Rockwell RC. Without these classes our horses would not be sufficiently educated for big days like the finals in Lanaken. We would not even be in the running for these placings.

"Castlefield Vegas was the horse who started off my winning streak, he was produced through these classes and he is still going strong now in the hands of Bertram Allen. I am confident he will continue to win as I know he had the best starting point with these Irish classes. I am extremely grateful to both Martin Egan and Ger O'Neill for the opportunities afforded to me and for the great achievements I have had with Castlefield Vegas."

BBS McGregor (ISH) is a 2012 gelding by Cardento (HOLST) out of Random Chance (ISH) by Mark Twain (TB) bred and owned by Marguerite Ryan ridden by Jack Ryan. Marguerite Ryan. Marguerite competed on his dam, Random Chance (ISH) up to 1m30 level. When the mare retired, they decided to put her in foal to Cardento (Holst).

Marguerite explained; "As a three-year-old BBS

and was league winner in the five-year-old and the seven-year-old leagues, and was placed second overall as a six-year-old. They qualified for the RDS age classes for five-, six-, and seven-year-olds. In 2019 They came third in the seven-/eight-yearold RDS international class. They also won the breeders classic championship that year. The ISH SJ Series educated both Jack and Lucky to compete and be successful at the level they are competing at today."

Jack Ryan stated; "BBS McGregor is definitely a special horse for me. It adds an extra sense of achievement to compete at high levels of competition on a horse we bred ourselves and that I have produced the whole way through. The ISH Studbook Series is a great competition to begin any horse's production as it gives them the opportunity to compete over well-designed courses in the best facilities in Ireland. The courses are always fair and up to the standard that professional riders need to be jumping their young horses. I am currently based with Shane Breen and we are getting placed in the bigger international classes in Dubai. Days like these happen thanks to the excellent young horse production classes organised by Horse Sport Irelands breeding and production team in Ireland."

HHS Javas Gucci, HHS Fortune, HHS Calais and HHS Burnchurch

We all know of the successes of Hughes Horse Stud and Mikey Pender over the past five years since Mikey joined the HHS team. What's important to note is that all of these Irish Sport Horses were produced and have competed through the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series over the years, and some are now on the long list for selection to compete in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games this summer.

Marion Hughes reflects; “We love to produce our horses through the Studbook Series every year. It is a great opportunity for our young stock to avail themselves of two days jumping in the main arenas in Ireland’s best shows. The education these classes offer young horses is invaluable. One of the highlights of our year is Lanaken. I feel that these classes sufficiently prepare our horses for a few days jumping in a row. It gives them experience at traveling, being stabled in different places, and longer show stays, while also getting to jump courses designed by Ireland’s top course builders such as Tom Holden, Alan Wade, and John Doyle to name a few. We have had great success with our string of horses, and we were delighted to learn that they are on the long list for Olympic selection. I know it would be a dream come true for Mikey, while also a huge achievement for me as a breeder, owner and rider.”

HHS Fortune (ISH) is a 2011 mare by Catoki (Holst) out of HHS Daisy (ISH) by Ard Vdl Douglas (KWPN) bred and owned by Marion Hughes. Mikey Pender has celebrated more success recently when he won the 1m40 class in Vilamoura while riding HHS Fortune (ISH). Mikey has celebrated numerous wins with this mare from 1m35 to 1m45 level classes in Abu Dhabi, Vilamoura, and Oliva.

HHS Javas Gucci (ISH) is a 2012 gelding by Luidam (KWPN) out of Javas Honey (ISH) by Cruising (ISH) bred by Judy Murphy owned by Michael Pender and Bravo Hughes Ltd. Mikey Pender has ridden Javas Gucci to numerous placings at international shows. In January 2021 the combination was second in the 1m45 Grand Prix in Vilamoura, having won the same class one year earlier. They finished fourth overall in 2019 in the RDS international seven/eight-year-old competition.

HHS Calais (ISH) is a 2011 gelding by Cavalier Royale (Holst) out of MHS OBOS Cruise (ISH) by OBOS Quality (Holst) and bred by Ita Brennan, Co. Kilkenny and owned by Bravo Hughes LTD. Mikey has recently had very impressive results on board HHS Calais. In February they came second in the 1m50 three-star Grand Prix in Vilamoura and then claimed first place in the 1m45 three-star Grand Prix also in Vilamoura

HHS Burnchurch (ISH) is a 11-year-old gelding by Heritage Fortunus (Hann) out of China Cavalier (ISH) by Cavalier Royale (Holst) bred by Marion Hughes and owned by Bravo Hughes LTD. Mikey and Burnchurch have recently enjoyed third place finishes in 1m50 and 1m45 three-star Grand Prix classes in both Vilamoura and Vejer de la Fontera.

When asked about the success of all of these Irish Sport Horses Mikey said; “I am blessed to have such good horses to ride in Hughes Horse Stud. Marion likes the horses to progress at a slow pace to allow them to develop correctly. We are very fortunate in Ireland that we have such a good working relationship with HSI and the breeding department in particular. We as riders, breeders and owners give our feedback at the end of each year and this allows the league to progress and develop while always having the horses’ best production methods to the fore. Having the Irish Sport Horse Studbook classes operating over two days is the best possible education for our horses and gives them every opportunity to learn from one day to the next.

“Ireland is streets ahead of our European counterparts with our young horse classes. Every year in Lanaken the winners are asked what makes our young horses so competitive and capable in these classes and every year we talk about the success of the ISH Studbook Series and the RDS qualifiers. This year I have my first crop of home-bred horses from Madges Lane Stables. I am excited to produce these horses through the ISH Studbook Series and hopefully have as much success with them as I have been having with the HHS horses.” ■



MHS Cardenta (ISH) pictured in Lanaken WBCYH with Mikey Pender

German domination of New Zealand Premier League

By SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2021 North Island Championships were held in Hawera, with Mount Taranaki – New Zealand's mirror image of Japan's Fujiyama – as a superb backdrop. They took place the week after the NZ National Championships, so the horses competing were a different bunch altogether, and included most of the current top names.

Two imported German horses, both ridden by their 18-year-old owner, Annabel Francis, took first and second places in the show's big class, dominating the New Zealand Premier League. The winner, La Quinara (Ludger G - Queenie x Quality), is a ZfdP mare who has really come into her own this season, with two wins in the World Cup series. She looks like a big threat to next month's Olympic Cup field at HOY.

La Quinara was bred by Ute and Friederich Goslar in Husum. Her mother, Queenie (Quality - Two Faces x Longford), is an Oldenburg (OS) with Quidam de Revel on the sire's side, Landor S on the dam's, and Ladykiller xx on both.

At the time of writing, La Quinara held second place in the ESNZ Premier League rankings, just a few points behind the horse who finished second at the North Island Championships: her stablemate and World Cup NZ League winner Carado GHP (Caretino - Only You V x Corrado I). This gelding is a 14-year-old Holsteiner from Stamm730B, bred by Bernd Fritsch in Wyk auf Foehr.

Annabel Francis imported him from Australia, where he had competed to the top levels with Olivia Hamood, who brought him out from Europe in 2010.

Carado GHP has been with Francis since the end of 2018, and has had a steady stream of success. It's pretty hard to say which of these two horses of hers will eventually come out on top: both are simply outstanding.

And... to reinforce German domination of this class, another import finished third. This was LT Holst Bernadette (Askari - Tamara XVI Bezirksprämie x Casall Ask), bred by Reimer Detlef Hennings of Bendorf. She is from Stamm 4815, and was imported to New Zealand by Ewen Mackintosh of LT Holsteiners. She is now a 12-year-old, and is owned and ridden by Robert Steele. LT Holst Bernadette was second in the ESNZ Leading Mare rankings for 2020, behind LT Holst Andrea (Casall - Palaune x Lavaletto), imported from Germany at the same time as Bernadette by Ewen Mackintosh.

Seven-year-old win for NZSH mare

This championship title went to Chic Xtreme (Corofino II - All Gems xx x Grosvenor xx), a Sport Horse mare bred

by Sharleen Workman at Xtreme Sport Horses, owned by Debbie Francis, and ridden by the super-successful young Annabel Francis. The win was the third this season for Chic Xtreme, and she is now in fourth spot on the series leaderboard. Her damsire, Grosvenor xx (Sir Tristram xx x Hermes xx), was not only a champion racehorse but also outstanding at stud. He was NZ Racing's broodmare sire of the year in 2000; some of these mares have since produced excellent Sport Horses to Warmblood stallions, and his blood is prized in eventing pedigrees.

William Fox-Pitt's Parklane Hawk, a five-star eventer, was the winner of the 2012 Lexington three-day event in Kentucky, and Burghley in 2011 – this horse also had the blood of Brilliant Invader xx. A full Thoroughbred by Grosvenor, Stardom xx (dam unknown) was sold to Australian rider Billy Raymont and competed up to 1m60.

The reserve North Island champion was a Holsteiner mare, Onessa MVNZ (Escudo - Contessa LVP x Contender), bred by Mount View Sport Horses and owned and ridden by Rachel Malcolm. Her imported dam, Contessa LVP (Contender - Kiola x Carthago), bred by Martje Clausen at LVP Stables in Belgium, is from Holst Stamm 1298 – and just to go back a little further, Kiola's dam, the staatsprämie mare Maiblume, is out of Viola, who was the dam of Lord (Ladykiller xx).

Third place went to the very good and well-named Eye Catcher NZPH (Kannan - United Blue NZPH x Mr Blue) who is currently at the top of the ESNZ seven-year-old rankings. This NZ Sport Horse gelding was bred by New Zealand Performance Horses and is ridden by his owner, Rose Alfeld. He has been consistently successful, winning his five-year-old series and finishing fourth in his six-year-old series last season. He also won the South Island seven-year-old championship in December.

His sire and damsire need little introduction; his dam, United Blue NZPH, is out of an imported SF mare called Mariette (Quat'Sous - Harmonie Pierville x Papillon Rouge). She is a half-sister of the jumping stallion Qaid Louvriere – who is by Eye Catcher's damsire, Mr Blue!

Fleur DeLacour (Corofino II - Jazz x LioCaylon), who is second in the ESNZ seven-year-old rankings, was fourth at the

championships for her owner/rider, Samantha Whale: she was bred by Butch Thomas and is a terrific performer, with wins and high placings all through her age groups. Unfortunately, her dam's dam is unrecorded, but her damsire, LioCaylon (LioStro x Calypso II x Sacramento Song xx) is from Stamm 741, bred in Germany by Hans-Joachim Gerken, and owned by Wild Turkey Farm in the USA. He's another with Ladykiller xx in his blood, and is the sire of the NZ mare Delphi, who finished sixth at the World Cup Final at Leipzig in 2011.

Fifth went to a very well-connected Holsteiner gelding, Global PH Carentinjo (Carinjo HDC - St.Pr.St. Costa 50 x Caretino), owned and bred by Jenny McIntyre of Global Performance Horses. McIntyre has an astute knowledge of international bloodlines and was the importer of the wonderful stallion Corofino II. Global PH Carentinjo is ridden by Logan Massie; his imported staatsprämie dam, Costa 50 (Caretino - Silvana, Staatsprämie x Silvano) is from Stamm 741. She was bred by Ralf Luetje of Haseldorf and is also known as Zita 5. Costa/Zita jumped successfully to 1m45 in Europe before coming across the world, and has a 2015 Contendro daughter for Global Performance Horses, Global PH Corletto; one to watch out for.

Sixth place in this very competitive class went to Haupouri Evandro NZPH (Quool du Bois Margot - Vogue Blue NZPH x Mr Blue), a Sport Horse gelding bred by New Zealand Performance Horses and Warwick Hansen – and another with Mr Blue as a damsire. He was the winner of the seven-year-old title at the Young Horse Show in Hastings and has not had as many outings as most of his contemporaries, as he has only been with his young owner/rider Bailey Marshall for a matter of months. Evandro has a full brother, Dolce NZPH, who has had good Junior Rider wins and placings, and a five-year-old half-sister, Fashion NZPH (Orlando), who is just beginning her career.

Second title for Bannockburn ECPH

Quite fittingly, this six-year-old title went to the winner of last year's North Island five-year-old championship: Bannockburn ECPH (Cassiano - Ngahiwi Emilionaire x Emilion VDL). The gelding was bred by East Coash Performance Horses, and is owned by his rider Jeremy Whale. His dam is a New Zealand Stationbred, who is held in high regard by Jenny and Nicki Booth of East Coast Performance Horses. She was bred by Bruce Holden at Ngahiwi Station, and was the six-year-old title-winner at Horse of the Year in 2012. Unfortunately, injury forced retirement for this mare the following season. She has a super colt by Cohinoor VDL (Cornet Obolensky x Stakkato x Contender) at foot at present. Bannockburn ECPH now holds second place in the ESNZ six-year-old rankings, which are led by the horse who finished second in this championship: Double J Hurricane (Euro Sport – Heartbreaker - Double J Breeze x Voltaire II).

This Warmblood gelding was bred by his owners, Wendy and Robyn Jacobs of Double J Stud, and is ridden by



Bannockburn ECPH (Cassiano - Ngahiwi Emilionaire x Emilion VDL), owned by his rider Jeremy Whale – 6yo winner

Samantha Carrington. His sire, the BWP Euro Sport Heartbreaker (Heartbreaker - Nufrieda x Hamlet), was bred by Jean Custers of Bree and imported from Europe by Euro Sport Horses. He is an approved Hanoverian, and is from mareline 77. ES Heartbreaker, who now stands in Australia, has a stallion full brother in Europe, Daimont C. Double J Hurricane has a talented half-sister, Double J Breeze On, by Euro Sport Centavos.

Third place went to a 17.3hh (180.5 cms) grey NZSH gelding, Blueprint (Zirocco Blue VDL - Midnight Shadow x Midnight Hour), bred by Mark and Jacqui Muller, owned by Ellie Myers, and ridden by Kirk Myers, who says, "He's very easy to ride, and quite athletic for how big he is. There is a lot of scope there; he is very careful." The pair had an impressive win in another large five-year-old class recently. Blueprint has a full brother of the same age, Blueray, also bred by Mark and Jacqui Muller and owned by Kirk Myers and Jacqui Muller. Their dam, Midnight Shadow, was bred by Adrienne Fabish and was a good young-rider mare for Ellie Myers. "She was out of a grey crossbred mare called Caro and by Midnight Hour – who was half Clydesdale, half Stationbred," says Fabish. "From memory, Caro jumped to around 1m40 before she came to us as a broodmare." Midnight Hour also competed as a jumper and had a number of wins at Open level, ridden by Robert Steele.

Cassio Xtreme (Cassiano - Corodette Xtreme x Corofino II), a Sport Horse gelding bred by Sharleen Workman at Xtreme Horses, was fourth – another good youngster with the blood of Workman's two wonderful imported stallions. "He has a very powerful and scopey jump, and massive



La Quinara (Ludger G - Queenie x Quality) and Annabel Francis

movement on the flat,” reports Workman. Cassio Xtreme is ridden by Jaime Campbell, and was the winner of the five-year-old championship at Takapoto last season.

A Holsteiner mare with a really super (but confusing!) sporting pedigree was fifth: the lovely Kasalla (Kannan - St.Pr.St. Casallita x Casall), bred by Karen Burnett, owned by CBD Investments, and ridden by Briar Burnett-Grant. She has had four wins to date, and seems set for a big future. Her dam, Casallita, has competed here with several wins and high placings; she was bred in Germany by Günther Luth and originally called Bia. Her own dam, the staatsprämie Vanessa XVIII (Contender x Calvin x Land) is also known as Capricciosa and Vanessa 239, and jumped at Grand Prix level. The family comes from Stamm 18A1 (Ahne 1134).

Another beautiful Holsteiner mare with Casall blood – a daughter of current NZ Horse of the Year – finished sixth. She is LT Holst Freda (Colman - LT Holst Andrea x Casall). Freda has a full sister from the same embryo flush: LT Holst Francis.

New MH star Giulia tops the 5YOs

The very exciting young Hanoverian mare, Giulia MH (Graf Top - Ma Mojo Pedale xx x Grosvenor xx) was victorious in the five-year-old class – her fifth age-group win this season. She leads the ESNZ five-year-old series by 10 points, and looks likely to remain in that position.

Giulia MH was bred by Judith Matthews at Matthews Hanoverians and is following in the footsteps of another super mare, Grafitti MH, who is also by Graf Top. Like Grafitti, she is owned by Angela Miller and ridden by Melody Matheson. Her Thoroughbred dam was bred by the late Don Gordon in Hawke’s Bay and has had several foals for Matthews, including Copyright MH, a 2018 son by Cornet Obolensky who has been sold, and a 2017 full sister to Giulia, Grenadine MH who has been retained by the stud.

SP Victor (Oaks Volta - Phoenix NZPH x Fetiche du Pas) was reserve champion. This Warmblood gelding was bred in Australia by Sue and Chris Smith of Sanskrit Park, and is owned and ridden by Jono Smith. His dam is a New Zealand-bred Selle Français, and his sire, Oaks Volta (Vivant van de Heffinck - Altes van Beekveld x Darco) is an Australian

Warmblood with wonderful bloodlines. His famous sire Vivant (Fuego du Prelet - Scalini van de Heffinck x Landino) won the Australian World Cup League in 2010, and jumped successfully in Europe. Oaks Volta’s dam, Altes van Beekveld (Darco - Raltes x Voltaire), was bred in Belgium by Rik Spaas. Both Vivant and Altes have the blood of Jalisco B and Almé.

Third place went to gelding Double J Graduate (Double J Repicharge - Sara Jane x Chico D’Oro), bred by Wendy and Robyn Jacobs of Double J Stud, owned by Lara Baker, and ridden by Ike Baker. JJ Graduate is also third on the current ESNZ five-year-old rankings. His sire, Double J Repicharge (Voltaire II - Replica x Oregon) is the resident stallion at Double J and has many good progeny. Repicharge’s dam Replica, jumped at World Cup level in New Zealand.

Classify Xtreme (Cassiano - Miss Defy xx x Grosvenor xx) a New Zealand Sport Horse gelding bred by Xtreme Sport Horses and owned by Sharleen Workman, was fourth. He is ridden by Jaime Campbell. Note that his damsire, Grosvenor xx, was also the damsire of Giulia MH, who won this class, and of the seven-year-old North Island champion, Chic Xtreme. Grosvenor himself was by the super-sire Sir Tristram xx, and was a champion in every way.

Fifth went to Kiwi Embrace (Kiwi Bonus - Kiwi Smooch x Kiwi Emillion) another NZSH gelding. He was bred by Graeme Hart at Fernhill Stud, and is owned and ridden by Louise Bowie. His sire, Kiwi Bonus (Centrico - Kiwi Maze x Corlando) has been gelded and is doing well in competitions, with a fifth place in his first Grand Prix recently.

In sixth place – and generating an unintentional pun – was Six Sixty SP (Cassiano - SoFee x Power Fee). This Warmblood gelding is another with an interesting pedigree. He was bred by Vicki Prendergast and is from her excellent broodmare SoFee, the dam of Selena C who is Prendergast’s star Grand Prix competition mare. Six Sixty is owned by Leanne West and ridden by Sarah West. He’s already had four wins, and is now eighth on the ESNZ rankings.

Once again, Sharleen Workman’s Xtreme Sport Horses sires, Cassiano and Corofino II, were foremost among the pedigrees at these champs: Corofino II with the seven-year-old winner Chic Xtreme and fourth-placed seven-year-old Fleur DeLacour; Cassiano with the six-year-old champion Bannockburn ECPH, plus the highly placed Cassio Xtreme in the same age group – whose damsire is Corofino II – Classify Xtreme, and Six Sixty SP, both five year olds.

Another sire whose name, somewhat unexpectedly, featured prominently, was the champion racehorse, Grosvenor xx. The mighty Casall was the damsire of three horses: LT Holst Bernadette, Kasalla, and LT Holst Freda. Plus, there was a good amount of German (Holsteiner, Hanoverian, ZfdP) and Belgian blood among the competitors, as well as Selle Français, particularly from the NZPH horses. And, of course, no jumping show here would seem quite right without at least some NZ Stationbred blood – which the five-year-old champion has running through his veins, as does the third-placed horse in that class, the huge grey Blueprint. ■

Qui Vive des Songes Z arrives to stand at stud in Ireland

BY HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRIVATE COLLECTION

Belmont House Stud recently welcomed the handsome 1m60 stallion Qui Vive Des Songes Z (Quaprice du Bois Margot - Larnaque x Lagos) from the USA, to his new home in County Offaly. Belmont House Stud is run by Andrea Etter, who has managed her highly successful breeding programme and stud in Ireland for almost 30 years.

Belmont House Stud offers an impressive roster of stallions, including Stockholm van't Roosakker (Stakkato - Quasibelle du Seigneur - Rubens du Ri d'Asse), home-bred Celtic Hero B Z (Calikot Hero - Cricket Z x Caretano Z) and Ganesh Hero Z (Gemini CL xx (Gem Twist xx) - Hiamant van't Roosakker - Diamant de Semilly).

Qui Vive Des Songes Z travelled well and is happily settled alongside his new yard mates. Neighbouring him for the 2021 season will be home-bred rising star Mr Quincy B (Aganix du Seigneur - Lucy in the Sky B x O-Piloth) who is showing outstanding jumping ability just like his full-brother, Mr Lincoln B, recently sold to Zangersheide and ridden by Christian Ahlmann (GER). Another barnmate is the exciting young stallion prospect, Mr Connery B (Ganesh Hero Z - Lovestory B x O-Piloth), and the top-level performer and sire of 1m60 progeny, Stetter (Manhattan - Nicole x Goodtimes). As well as international superstar Livello (Limbus - Zocka x Ahorn Z) 1m60 performer, fourth in the FEI European Championships with Cameron Hanley (IRL) and successful sire of 1m60 jumpers and approved stallions.

The 15-year-old Qui Vive des Songes Z, is by successful Quidam de Revel son, Quaprice du Bois Margot (Quidam de Revel - Wella I x Lord) who is ranked ninth in the WBSFH world sire rankings. Quaprice du Bois Margot jumped 1m60 with Julian Epailard (FRA) and Patrice Delaveau (FRA) and has numerous offspring jumping at the same level, including Baltic VDL (out of Nellandra - Jus de Pomme), VDL Groep Quatro (Fine Kiss - Caletto I), Sangria du Coty (Daikiri des Frets - Miguel du Manoir) and Vivaldi du Theil (Romane du Theil - For Pleasure).

Qui Vive Des Songes Z, is a striking bay out of dam Larnaque. Larnaque was by the incredible Ladykiller xx son, Lagos, and is out of Parmona x Landmeister. Larnaque was bred by Ernst Kuhlmann and performed successfully at Junior level in Switzerland. This motherline also produced approved stallions Lavall I and Laval II both by legendary sire Landgraf I. In a rather poetic serendipitous twist, it was actually Andrea's father, internationally renowned horse dealer Gerhard Etter, who originally sold Larnaque to the Panetti family, who subsequently bred Qui Vive des Songes Z from her.

Talking about the new sire, Andrea Etter says; "I think Qui Vive has a lot of attributes to suit Irish mares. He has a fantastic canter, a lot of power and scope, he is very careful, and has a natural willingness to perform."

Heather Caristo-Williams (USA) rode Qui Vive des Songes Z or 'Chewy' as he is known, since he was seven years old and developed an incredibly strong bond with him. Together they achieved numerous placings including first place in the 2017 CSIO4* at Langley, BC, in Canada, and third at the 2017 World Cup Qualifier \$500,000 WEF Palm Beach Masters.

Heather describes him as having outstanding attributes, "I've never ridden any other horse with his quality. The height of the fences were never an issue, he had all the scope. He has natural ability and is the most fun horse I've ever ridden – it was such an honour to ride him. He is very careful and brave, with such a massive willingness to perform. He loved the shows – that was his time to shine, I just had to grab the mane and hold on."

Qui Vive de Songes Z will be available as chilled semen for the 2021 season. ■



Qui Vive des Songes Z arriving safely in Ireland

IMPORTANT DATES 2021

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

■ IMPORTANT DATES 2020

■ WORLD RANKING LISTS

WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF EVENTING HORSES

1	Don Quidam (2008/KWPN/g Quidam x Amethyst) 105EI33 J.M. Schurink (NED)	172
2	Herby (2012/KWPN/g VDL Zirocco Blue x Olympic Ferro) 106LI67 W.H. van Hoof (NED)	142
3	FRH Butts Avedon (2003/Hann/g Heraldik xx x Kronenkränich xx) GER45658 Friedrich Butt (GER)	134
4	Garrison (2009/ISH/g Heraldik xx x Kronenkränich) 104TB94 Patrick J. Kearns (IRL)	131
5	Chipmunk FRH/ex fischerChipmunk (2008/Hann/g Contendro I x Heraldik xx) 104LS84 ZG Meyer-Kulenkampff (GER)	129
6	Imperial Sky (2006/ISH/g Puissance x Horos) 103SD39 Carolyn Lanigan O'Keefe (IRL)	128
7	Triton Fontaine (2007/SF/g Gentleman IV x Nightko) 104LX44 S. Pelissier-Coutureau (FRA)	127
8	Tzinga d'Auzay (2007/SF/m Nouma d'Auzay x Masquerader) 104CS60 Gimenez & Monteil (FRA)	124
9	Birmane (2011/SF/m Vargas de Ste Hermelle x Diamant de Semilly) 105RP50 SCEA De Beliard (FRA)	122
10	Z/ex Albano Z (2008/Z/g Asca x Babouche ch Gehucht Z) 104FF03 M.C.M. van Bezouw	116

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION FOR SPORT HORSES

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WWW.WBFSH.ORG



WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF DRESSAGE HORSES

Year-end 30/09/2020 (including validated FEI results from 01/10/2019 to 30/09/2020)

Rank	Name/YOB/Studbook/Gender/Sire/Damsire/Points/FEI ID/Breeder	
1	Weihgold (2005/Oldbg/m Blue Hors Don Schufro x Sandro Hit) 102ZI90 Inge Bastian (GER)	2,753
2	Dalera (2007/Trak/m Easy Game x Handryk) 105AH62 Silke Fass (GER)	2,604
3	Emilio (2006/Westf/g Ehrenpreis x Cacir AA) 103UX58 Heinrich & Wilhelm Strunk (GER)	2,602
4	Damsey (2002/Hann/st Dressage Royal x Ritual) GER45558 Hengsthaltung Kothe (GER)	2,454
5	Zaire-E (2004/KWPN/m Son de Niro x Jazz) 102VM17 Empelaer Stoeterij (NED)	2,421
6	Daily Mirror (2004/Westf/g Damon Hill x Florestan I) 105LM91 Dieter Kellermann (GER)	2,403
7	Desperado (2008/KWPN/st Vivaldi x Havidoff) 104BD64 Andeweg Family (NED)	2,299
8	Sammy Davis Jr. (2006/DWP/g San Remo x Wenckstern) 105KW44 Hans and Heidi Volkert (GER)	2,284
9	Suppenkasper (2008/KWPN/g Spielberg x Ips Krack C) 105DN05 F. van de Poel (NED)	2,239
10	Duke of Britain (2007/Hann/g Dimaggio x Rubinstein) 103LO51 Sarah & Tony Pidgley (GBR)	2,234

WBFSH WORLD RANKING LIST – BREEDERS OF JUMPING HORSES

1	Denver (2008/KWPN/g Albführen's Memphis x Chico's Boy) 104VB85 M.G. & A.A. Woertman (NED)	1,155
2	Bushi (2006/KWPN/g Contendro II x Nairobi) 103RX17 Gebr. Van der Steen (NED)	1,108
3	Chalou (2009/OS/st Chacco-Blue x Baloubet du Rouet) 104MK27 Gestüt Lewitz (GER)	1,060
4	King of Diamonds (2010/BWP/st Prince vd Wolfsakker x Rubioso N) 105VO28 Eline Tack (BEL)	1,050
5	Rouge de Revel (2005/SF/st Ultimo van ter Moude x Quouglof Rouge) 103CE16 Pottier/Glaser (FRA)	1,015
6	Elektric Blue P (2011/DWP/g Elderado vd Zeshoek x For Pleasure) 105BQ61 Gbr. Phitzmann (GER)	995
7	Baloussino/ex Baloussini NL (2009/DSP/st Baloussini x Ramos Z) 103UA84 Peter Scilard (GER)	980
8	Evita Sg Z (2009/Z/m Verdi TN x Codexco) 104XA49 Unknown	870
9	Volage du Val Henry (2009/SF/m Quidam de Revel x Cassini I) 104QB81 Mme Helene Amar (SUI)	853
10	Akuna Mattata (2008/AHHA/m Quinar x Landwind II) 105MJ37 Carol Rosenstein (USA)	830

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

2021

MARCH

1 Online (GER)

Holsteiner Spring Auction

Tel: +49 (0)4121 4979-0

<https://www.holsteiner.auction/home>

1-15 Online (NED)

Broodmare and Foal Auction: Bidding opens February 12

Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555

info@kwpn.nl

www.kwpn.org

5-7 Gesves (GER)

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

www.sbsnet.be

11-13 Azelhof-Liege (BEL)

BWP Stallion Selection – Phase 3

(Current Covid-19 regulations at the time will apply)

www.bwp.be

11-14 's-Hertogenbosch (NED)

The Dutch Masters – Indoor Brabant

Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555

info@kwpn.nl

www.kwpn.org

29 Online (GER)

Westfalian Youngster Auction

Tel: +49 (0)251 328090

info@westfalenpferde.de

www.westfalenpferde.de

APRIL

9/10 Vechta (GER)

94th Oldenburg Spring Elite Auction with 10th Saddle Licensing

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

10 Münster-Handorf (GER)

Westfalian Stallion Gala

Tel: +49 (0)251 328090

info@westfalenpferde.de

www.westfalenpferde.de

11 Münster-Handorf (GER)

Westfalian Spring Elite Auction

Tel: +49 (0)251 328090

info@westfalenpferde.de

www.westfalenpferde.de

16/17 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com

22 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com

MAY

1 Online (GER)

Oldenburger Elite Foal Auction

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

6 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com

20 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com

JUNE

12 Vechta (GER)

5th Oldenburger Special Edition Auction

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

17 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Foal Auction – subject to valid Covid-19 regulations at the time.

Alternatively, online

www.hannoveraner.com

JULY

17 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com

23-August 8 Tokyo (JPN)

Olympic Games – postponed from 2020

31 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburger 20th Elite Foal Auction

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

AUGUST

1 Vechta (GER)

29th Vechta Foal Market

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

25-29 Verden (GER)

World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Dressage

Tel: +49 (0) 42 31/67 32 10

turnier@verden-turnier.de

www.verden-turnier.de

SEPTEMBER

4 Online (GER)

Oldenburger Elite Foal Auction

Tel: +49 (0)441 93550

info@oldenburger-pferde.com

www.oldenburger-pferde.com

9 Verden (GER)

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

www.hannoveraner.com