

JULY 2021

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for Sport Horses



BVN #295

BREEDER INTERVIEWS

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CORRESPONDENTS IN THIS ISSUE: CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL | MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG | AGATA GROSICKA
KIM LUNDIN | SALLY REID | ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

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WORLD BREEDING NEWS
Timeo hominem unius libri
for Sport Horses

WWW.BREEDINGNEWS.COM

PUBLISHER

Breeding International Ltd.

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Launched as *Breeding News for Sport Horses* in January 1977, **WORLD BREEDING NEWS** is published every month by Breeding International Ltd., and is available exclusively online. From January 1, 2019, the publication's official title was changed to **WORLD BREEDING NEWS FOR SPORT HORSES** to reflect the new partnership between the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses and Breeding News.

Twelve issues each year are uploaded to our website before the last day of every month.

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BREEDING NEWS FOR SPORT HORSES publishes the **BN WORLDWIDE SPORT HORSE STALLION DIRECTORY**: A digital version with a stallion database is uploaded onto the BN website in March every year.

EDITORIAL

GÉNIE IS BORN (FICTION – CHAPTER 1)



I love horses. I am a nice amateur rider who dreamed of buying the best sport horse in the world. From reading specialized magazines, browsing the Internet, spending hours on Facebook and Instagram, receiving brochures and advertising from the world's best stallions owners, I knew exactly what I wanted: sex, size, color, and especially pedigree. It went without saying: The son of a fashionable super stallion (one of the top five in its discipline) and a mother who has proven herself in sports.

In short, an extraordinary pedigree (I won't say which one in order to avoid jealousy, and especially because all knowledgeable people like me – having done a lot of research, taken advice from those who are more or less inspired or even financially concerned by my project – are looking for the same rare bird!). Finally, I had to make a choice from 1,000 embryos that went on the market this year alone.

But, me, I'm lucky. Yes, really! It all started six months ago when I won a nice lottery package. So all I had to do was study the catalogs from dozens of online auctions in spring 2021 and wait for the chosen embryo to appear, before registering my interest and bidding.

At first we were around a dozen potential buyers for this blessed embryo. At €100,000, excluding VAT and selling costs, I was finally the sole owner of the much sought-after pearl. I told you I'm lucky. As a result, one year later I welcomed a colt from a strong mother. I forgot to tell you that I had opted for a transplanted embryo: Less risky than a frozen embryo, namely nearly 70% loss in the latter case, against 30% with the 'sexed' option (which is now possible), which works almost always, but is obviously more expensive.

Thus, I didn't hesitate to insure my embryo with a sector professional: Quite expensive (+10%) from the first 45 days of transplantation to a live foal at the age of three months, then 3% of the insured value.

And so, bingo! A gestation period brings forth a male. Okay, I wanted a bay and got a chestnut, but there was no legal recourse against that, so, I decided not to make a big deal out of it.

Thereafter, I wanted to do everything right, so put

the dream mare and foal with the breeder of the foal's biological mother. The embryo was frozen in an ultra-specialized Belgian insemination center, where the mother of my foal was 'parked' year-round and was experiencing her fourth embryo transfer that same season. I will refer to that point later. Indeed, having learned that my product's mother was going to have two more full brothers of the same generation upset me. After all, value comes from rarity! Plus, the insemination center which supplied the surrogates had insufficient land to raise the foals it produced, so it worked with subcontractors. A complete list, with precise pricing of services (different depending on the country) was available to 'clients'.

The root mare was born in France from a good old 'agricultural' breeder from Normandy, where my genius (yes, now called Génie) spent his first three years in ideal conditions – also known as the good old days! Grass almost year-round: (only stabled at night for four (out of 12) winter months, and when necessary in bad weather or in case of illness. A system that allows individual monitoring of the foal and the dam, including frequent handling and the launch of education which will later facilitate backing and training. Two good years before more serious work starts. What could I complain about? Because, at that age, other foals are already no longer in the race: Congenital malformation, late development, bad legs, calf-kneed, narrow base and hock conformation have already interrupted the dream. Not counting accidents resulting from a mother's kick, another foal, a fracture from a bad fall on wet grass after a furious gallop, a stupid fence injury, etc.... Out of 100 investors, (can I say 'players', like me), how many emerge from this first period unscathed, with their hopes and investment intact? I would say 80%.

Yeah, frankly I'm lucky. To my initial investment I added maintenance of my foal at an extremely reasonable rate – €10 per day plus ancillary costs (vet, carer, etc...), plus annual insurance premiums. In short, on the cusp of his three-year genius year, it only cost me a small bill of €20,000. A straw! Because we have the future ahead of us, as you will see in the next episode of this column. To be continued!

Xavier Libbrecht

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STALLIONS



BLUE HORS ST. SCHUFRO
*11. St. Moritz Jr. – Don Schufro

“
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BLUE HORS DON SCHUFRO
*93. Donnerhall - Pik Bube I

BLUE HORS MONTE CARLO
*17. Dream Boy – United

BLUE HORS SANTIANO
*17. Sezuan - Romanov

BLUE HORS ZACKORADO
*16. Blue Hors Zack - Florencio I



BLUE HORS FARRELL
*11. Fürstenball - Dacaprio

BLUE HORS ZACKEREY
*14. Blue Hors Zack – Sandro Hit

BLUE HORS KINGSTON
*15. Glock's Toto Jr. – Turbo Magic

BLUE HORS VALENZO
*17. Blue Hors Veneziano - Dimaggio

BLUE HORS VICONTE
*17. Vivaldi - Sandro Hit

BLUE HORS FORTRON
*17. For Romance II – Desperados

BLUE HORS SPECTRUM
*18. Sezuan - Sandro Hit

BLUE HORS ZACK
*04. Rousseau - Jazz

WBF SH TRIBUNE

SPECIALIST BREEDER OR ALL-ROUNDER?



In Hanover, sport horse breeding was once an integral part of agriculture. Depending on the inclination of the farm manager, horse breeding was more or less important for the farm as a whole. What

these horse breeders had in common was a basic stock of breeding knowledge and a more or less pronounced economic orientation. In the vast majority of cases they were breeders in the 'xth' generation, where 'x' was almost always greater than 1. The horses accompanied them throughout their lives. So a large part of the breeders had a communal basis. Of course, they differed in terms of passion, competence and success. But the demands these breeders made on a horse breeding association were basically similar.

And today? Today, the breeders are much more heterogeneous. Their origins are more complex. Their breeding orientation is more diverse. Thus, the demands they place on a horse breeding association are more diverse.

They still exist, the breeders from agriculture. In many cases, they have specialised in horses – in breeding, but also in providing services. These breeders work highly professionally today. They build networks independent of associations. They focus their personal breeding aims economically, predominantly on performance horses. In addition, there are breeders who dedicate their entire breeding efforts to the performance horse with high capital expenditure. They are not necessarily subject to economic constraints. These breeders also work very professionally and collect information from

everywhere to improve their breeding. As a result, they are also mostly well networked internationally.

On the other hand, there are a large number of breeders who define their personal breeding aim differently. They breed with few mares, do not always put sales in the foreground and perhaps focus more on the amateur suitability of their horses. This can also be economically successful. However, these breeders have a different demand on a horse breeding association. They need different information, a different service.

In many cases, what today's breeders have in common is that horse breeding is often 'just' a stage in their lives. They start out in horse breeding with different prerequisites and have less attachment to associations. A higher fluctuation among members is a logical consequence.

What does this mean for the structures in horse breeding? Do I specialise as an association just like the breeders? Do I focus my breeding programme exclusively on breeding performance horses, maybe even limited to one discipline? Or do I put other attributes in the foreground with the goal of a versatile riding horse? Or do I succeed in giving all 'breeder types' a home under one roof by positioning myself broadly and adjusting to the different demands?

The question 'specialist or all-rounder' does not only arise for our breeding goals, but also for the work of the associations. So for breeders as well as for associations there will continue to be different ways to successfully work.

Ulrich Hahne
Breeding Manager
Hannoveraner Verband e.V.



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BRIEFS

Top price for Vom anderen Stern: On the evening of June 17, during the Hanoverian Online Foal Auction, 30 foals changed owners for an average price of €8,125. The top price was paid for the Viva Gold x Fidertanz son, Vom anderen Stern, who was knocked down for €20,500. This highly promising youngster was bred and exhibited by Kai Baumgartner, Wulkau, and was purchased by a new Hannoveraner Verband customer from Lower Saxony. Charity Odessa (Chacfly PS x Cascadello, bred and exhibited by Ludwig Decker Jnr., Bierbergen) comes from the very best dam line of Klaseta. The name says it all as this ancestor of Odessa's is the dam who stamped Grannus. For the price of €11,000 the bay filly will enrich a breeding farm in the Braunschweig area. Altogether, seven foals achieved a price of €10,000 and more, and the sales quota was identical to that of the four previous auctions. A total of 18 auction foals were bought by bidders from Germany, four will move to a new stable in Poland, three will start their journey to Spain, two to the Ukraine, and one foal apiece will make their new homes in Sweden, Great Britain, and Hungary. The last date of the Verden Foal Spring is June 28 to July 1. The Verden team is already looking forward to the first public presentation at the Verden Auction for foals and broodmares on August 6, followed by an online auction on August 7/8 only, of course, if Covid regulations allow. Further information: www.hannoveraner.com (See this issue's cover photo of Vom anderen Stern)



l-r: Detlef Schwolow, Carsten Grill, Wolfgang Jung

Carsten Grill is the new president of the largest breeders' association in Germany. The change of management is complete: after 24 years as 1st Chairman of the Working Group of the South German Horse Breeding Associations (AGS), Karl-Heinz Bange (73) from Marienborn has given up his honorary position to Carsten Grill (46). The eight member associations unanimously voted to elect the AG Stallion Owner of German Sport Horses, the passionate horse breeder, tax consultant and auditor from Eislingen as the new chairman. Carsten Grill, who breeds both German sport horses and riding ponies, represents a generation change in the AGS and will lead it into the future. At his side is the second chairman of the President of the Brandenburg-Anhalt Horse Breeding Association, Wolfgang Jung (68) from Groß Behnitz. Matthias Tanz from Dittersdorf had held this post for the past four years. Detlef Schwolow (68) from Dallgow was

also unanimously elected for a further four-year term of office as chairman of Department II, which looks after the riding ponies, small horses, and special breeds. During the two-day AGS meeting on May 26/27 in Dinkelsbühl, Bavaria, numerous resolutions were passed in order to continue to benefit the department of the German Sport Horse DSP and the small horse department in the areas of licensing, breeding premiums, and the cooperation in the AGS association's moving the breeder forward. For the elections of the German Equestrian Association in Fulda at the beginning of July, Carsten Grill and Antje Römer-Stauber, AGP's second chairwoman, will be available for posts. Karl-Heinz Bange said goodbye to the general meeting with an emotional speech and a review of his 24 years of voluntary work, which has occupied a third of his life to date. Farewell thanks and an appreciation of his commitment to the AGS will hopefully take place in front of a large audience at the DSP elite foal auction on July 25, 2021 at Hofgut Kranichstein in Darmstadt.

Totilas in bronze awarded to KWPN: International artist and self-taught sculptor Brigitte Boss (53) recently surprised KWPN with a sculpture of Totilas in bronze. Totilas (Gribaldi x Glendale, bred by Jan and Anna Schuil), a horse who became a living legend generation emotion in millions and was well-known outside the world of horse lovers. According to Boss, after the sculpture was revealed; "I decided to create the sculpture of Totilas at the moment I realised how many fans I would favour by doing this. I felt hesitation at first to mix my creativity with the memory of the famous Totilas. However after talking to Nicole Werner who recounted her memory of the bright looks in audience members' eyes are each test, I decided to let my hands do the work, as this was exactly the same emotional feeling as watching Totilas." She continued by saying, "For me, the horse is an ultimate mover, rarely static when free. His sheer body language and strength continues to fascinate me," Boss explained. The work of Brigitte Boss can be characterized by the irregular surface in which Brigitte's movements of her hand are clearly visible. The play of light ensures the highest expression and endearment. Now the physical pose of Totilas, ears, eyes, and expression really tell his specific story. KWPN director Andries van Daalen expressed grateful thanks and pride on behalf of KWPN to be able to keep the memory of Totilas alive for all visitors in Ermelo.



Photo by Anniek de Wit



Beezie Madden calmly guides Judgement down the Derby Bank at Spruce Meadows

Judgement ISF: A special bond with Beezie Madden

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

There was a special bond between Beezie Madden and Judgement ISF – who passed away very recently at the age of 30. Ironically, Judgement's profile had been scheduled ahead of his death, as one of a series of articles about stallions born in 1991, making the story even more meaningful.

Thirty years of history from his date of birth, through training and education, successfully competing and, finally, his career as a stallion. But what do we know about his bloodlines?

Judgement's damline

Judgement's mother Faletta is by Akteur (Amor - Jonkvrouw x Sinaeda) and was bred in the Netherlands by G. Kuipers. Akteur came from the second breeding year of the Holsteiner-bred stallion Amor, and was approved by NWP. In 1973 he was purchased by Alwin Schockemöhle and competed in showjumping under the saddles of luminaries such as Hans Horn and Gerd Wiltfang, to name just two. His performance record includes Grand Prix classes in Aachen, Hamburg, Wiesbaden, and den Bosch. He also sired Tepic La Silla (out of Zarena x Irak) who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Rolf-Göran Bengtsson.

Iron Spring Farm purchased Faletta from the Netherlands as a two-year-old. Meghan deGaray, breeding manager at Iron Spring Farm, recalls: "Her breeder was G. Kuipers of Enter, NL. They had several Lucky Boy mares, including Aletta, the mother of Faletta ster preferent. Belinda Wertman of INSPPO found her for us. She also found our stallions Winston, Roemer, Preferent, Sebastiaan and Consul. Faletta had really classic bloodlines – Lucky Boy, Preferent, and Amor preferent, so we thought she would be a good cross with our stallions. She received her ster predicate here in the USA as a three-year-old and went on to earn her preferent predicate. Judgement was her first foal and we thought he was a really special horse, so we bred her back to Consul.

Mary Alice Malone, the breeder of Consul, adds: "He (Consul) was a very loving, sweet stallion. He was good with the kids and the other animals – even the cats loved to come up to him and touch noses. Faletta and Consul both had strong personalities, but Consul was more workmanlike than Faletta. His body type also seemed to compliment her in both movement and proportions.

Faletta, Star, Preferent had five offspring by Consul:

- Judgement ISF: 1991/KWPN – Crown approved stallion
- Karnival: 1992/gelding – lower level dressage horse

- Masquerade: 1994/ster gelding – jumper competed by an adult amateur up to the 1m45 level
- Nova: 1995/keur prestatie mare – #1 IBOP, KWPN-NA Top Ten and a very successful broodmare who has produced many top eventing horses and hunters
- Pandora: 1997/mare – produced three lower-level dressage horses by Contango, Preferent, and two jumpers by Quality Time and Kannan.

"I still remember Judgement ISF as a foal. He was big and handsome and quite strong. He showed his jumping talent at an early age. We had a once-in-a-lifetime journey with him."

Judgement ISF made an impression starting at an early age. As a yearling, Gert van der Veen, the former director of the KWPN, declared Judgement ISF a true stallion prospect during the KWPN keuring. Judgement ISF also went on to win the four-year-old stallion class at Dressage at Devon in 1995.

Faletta's breeder, G. Kuipers, passed away about 10 years ago and had no relatives to continue with this bloodline. The breeder of Judgement's grandmother, Aletta, is Piet Bregman. In 1985 Aletta (Lucky Boy xx - Rianne x Lucas) finished second as a three-year-old during the national mare championships of the KWPN. Before that she was already champion of the Overijssel district, and at the age of six she was crowned as the best 'keur' mare of the Netherlands.

Her full brother, Vitalist, was approved for KWPN during his stallion performance test. Piet Bregman recalls: "At the time we had Aletta we were living in the Achterhoek (a region of the Netherlands) and we had quite a bit contact with Borghuis. He bred Rianne (Lucas - Mirjam x Le Faquin xx) whom we purchased as a three- or four-year-old. Her first foal was by Lucky Boy xx because I was very fond of this stallion. He was also KWPN approved during his stallion performance test.

"Rianne's fourth foal was Aletta, and her only daughter. This was at the same time as the uproar occurred around Lucky Boy xx with Borghuis, and this influenced my breeding in a negative way. The fact that Vitalist wasn't approved had to do with this, and he was later sold to the USA.

"We sold Aletta as a two-year-old to G. Kuipers from



the motherline, and with the stallion I also look at the motherline.”

The line continues to a Gelderse motherline with the mare Hemma (Apollo), bred by W.A. Klein Gunnewiek. She was crossed with the Belgian Thoroughbred Le Faquin xx (Aldis Lamp xx - La Fagne xx x Beusart xx) resulting in the mare, Mirjam. The stallions Lucky Boy xx, Lucas, and Le Faquin stood at Stud Borghuis. Unfortunately the stallion owner at that time, Hennie Borghuis, now has alzheimers, so doesn't remember hismares, but his son, Rob, Borghuis tried to provide some information: “This was a good line that produced good horses. The line is still in our area and with the Steghuis family. He was breeding with the full sister of Mirjam, Natasja (Le Faquin xx). From this branch comes Varo M (Pierrot - Odile x Weinfürst, bred by E. Meyer), who jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Abdulrahman Bader Alrajhi. From the branch of Natasja also comes the 1m50 jumping horse Zilton (Cilton - Sylke x Epilot), a horse that I bred myself who is competing under the saddle of Melanie Buchner. Lucas was a tall, chestnut stallion with a good character, although he could have a bit more blood. Le Faquin xx was a Thoroughbred with a very good character, he did have fire but in a good way. I also think he was a very good Thoroughbred for that time.”

If we look at the motherline of Luidam (Guidam), who also jumped at 1m60, we also find the combination of Akteur / Lucky Boy xx / Le Faquin xx.

Judgment ISF and Beezie during the North American Tournament at Spruce Meadows

Enter, and he had all the success with her. Aletta was from the first moment on a fantastic, beautiful mare with outstanding movement, whereas Rianne had a bit less blood in her type. They come from a very good Gelderse motherline and, in combination with Le Faquin xx and Lucas, that produced Rianne. The Le Faquin xx mare, Mirjam, was also a very good mare, and the combination between Lucky Boy xx, Lucas, Le Faquin xx resulted in Aletta's good points. This was exactly the time that horses were changing into a modern sport horse. It were almost all F1 mares, and if you went for a second time, through Lucas, for a Thoroughbred then you would bring the modern riding-horse type. Faletta's breeder did exactly what was necessary for Aletta.

“Akteur gave so much power (literally and figuratively) and also a lot of health, and that was exactly the combination that was needed. In the USA they crossed Faletta with Consul and this resulted in Judgement. He is the fifth generation of very interesting breeding, from turning the Gelderse line into a modern sporting line, starting with the mare Mirjam (Le Faquin xx). For me it was always interesting to look at

Judgement's sporting career

From the moment he was born, throughout his incredible international showjumping career with American legends Michael Matz and Beezie Madden in the irons, as a breeding stallion producing Grand Prix winners, and as a retired celebrity, Judgement ISF was special. Last week, just three weeks shy of his 30th birthday, Judgement ISF was laid to rest at his birthplace at Iron Spring Farm in Pennsylvania. Judgement's extraordinary life is one for the record books. He represented team USA in two FEI World Cup Finals, the World Equestrian Games, and 10 Nations' Cups. He was the only North American-bred horse to win the \$1,000,000 CN International Grand Prix at the Spruce Meadows Masters in its 44-year history. He also claimed 25 additional international victories at the biggest venues around the world.

“Judgement ISF was an exceptional horse,” said his breeder and owner, Mary Alice Malone. “He gave us so many thrilling moments. Witnessing the magical connection between him and Beezie was the gift of a lifetime.”

But his jumping abilities began to really shine when he was started under saddle by Melvin Dutton. “When I saw him

jumping in preparation for a keuring, I knew he had more talent than any horse I had ever seen,” Malone recalled. After the keuring, Judgement ISF went to Michael Matz for further training.

Matz, a World Cup Final winner, team gold World Champion, and Olympic team silver medalist, brought Judgement ISF along slowly and thoughtfully. The program worked. In 1995, Judgement ISF won the IJF East Coast Finals. Judgement ISF continued up through the levels with Matz and won the \$60,000 American Gold Cup in 1999. Shortly after the 2000 Olympic trials, Matz turned his focus to training racehorses and a new legendary partnership was born when Beezie Madden got Judgement under her saddle at the age of nine.

Beezie Madden and Judgement ISF picked up where Matz left off and were soon on a hot streak that lasted more than nine years. The pair competed at the highest level of sport in 12 countries. Together they represented team USA in two FEI World Cup Finals, the World Equestrian Games (2002 Jerez de la Frontera, Spain) and 10 Nations’ Cups. Judgement ISF led the victory lap at the world’s best shows: \$60,000 Budweiser Grand Prix of Penn National, \$100,000 Cosequin US Open Jumper Championship, \$150,000 CSI3* Grand Prix of Charlotte, CSIO La Baule, CSIO St. Gallen, The Irish Field Six Bar at CSIO Dublin, the \$175,000 Nexen Cup – twice – the \$1,000,000 CN International... and many more.

“He loved to go to horse shows,” said Meghan deGaray, breeding manager at Iron Spring Farm and one of Judgement’s biggest fans. “He was amazing to watch in the ring. He had so much power and presence.” Another hallmark of Judgement’s career was his versatility. He won some of the world’s biggest derbies, speed, six-bar and Grand Prix classes. His last victory came in 2009 at the \$65,000

Im50 Esso Challenge at Spruce Meadows. The venue was his favorite and he was named National Champion there on four occasions.

Judgement ISF’s career as a stallion

Judgement ISF retired sound at the age of 18 after 10 years in the Grand Prix ring, and as a sire he produced many notable horses. His son Counselor/ex Artesian was bred in the USA and eventually sold to Europe. Counselor made 204 FEI starts, with 84 of those starts coming at three-star level and above, with wins and top placings throughout. Judgement’s daughter Worlds Judgement was another international showjumper, representing Canada at numerous Nations’ Cups, with top placings at prestigious shows like Spruce Meadows.

Numerous other sons and daughters successfully competed in the Grand Prix division, as well as in amateur and junior jumper divisions. Daughter Wednesday Mornin was a two-time USEF Amateur Jumper Horse of the Year. Ghiradelli, Judge Not, Better Judgement, and Judgement Call are all successful Grand Prix jumpers.

Judgement ISF is also the sire of top hunters, dressage, and eventing horses. Zurich is a winning Intermediate I dressage horse who made his Grand Prix debut in 2020.

Judgement, by Beezie Madden

“He changed our lives. I will always be thankful for Mary Alice Malone giving me the opportunity with him at such an early point in my career. He made us better horsemen and there was no better feeling than heading in the ring at Spruce Meadows with him. He rose to the occasion every time,” Beezie is quoted as saying on the Beezie Madde/John Madden Sales Inc. Facebook page.

Judgement’s retirement

Mary Alice Malone gives us an insight about how Judgement spend the last 10 years of his life, and also about what made him so special: “He enjoyed the last 10 years being a horse. He ate grass, was groomed, bred mares, and ate a lot of carrots. In general, he mellowed out in the last two years. It took him some time to really enjoy his retirement. For turnout, he preferred to be out when the other stallions were inside. He seemed to like being out alone so he could be king. Judgement always wanted to be the king. His powerful jumping talent was evident very early. One time when he was still young, he was being schooled over a cross rail in the ring. He hopped over it, proceeded across the ring and jumped right out! From that moment, I knew he was extra special!” ■



Beezie and Judgement – members of the US team during the BMO Nations Cup at Spruce Meadows, Calgary

KFPS: “Our dream is to have a Friesian at the Olympics”

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOS: KARIN SEVINK, REMCO VEURINK, STACY LYNNE, DIGISHOTS

The Friesian is considered black gold ‘swarte goud’, and have gained enormous worldwide popularity over the past 30 years. From Australia and China to the USA, Friesians can be found everywhere, from their origins in Friesland, a province in the north of the Netherlands.

Of course, showjumping breeders will already know the area as being the birthplace of Wiepke van de Lageweg and where his VDL studfarm is located. However, when I drive through Belgium, Germany, or France researching articles about showjumping bloodlines I always feel a piece of home when I see Friesian horses as I too was born in Friesland.

WBFSH membership

As *World Breeding News* focuses on the Olympic disciplines, and sport horses bred by member studbooks of the WBFSH, this profile has been facilitated by the Federation’s recognition of Friesian horses at their last General Assembly. The following quote can be found on the WBFSH website in the published minutes from the GA 2020: “This studbook has applied for membership in the past. In recent years the studbook has demonstrated a steady increase in horses competing at international level dressage. It is a closed studbook with a breeding goal that reflects a strong, fundamental emphasis on sport aptitude. The KNHS (Dutch Equestrian Federation) is confident that the KFPS will contribute positively towards the WBFSH goals. The studbook has 13,000 members, 15,000 registered brood mares and currently has 130 active, approved stallions. In the last five years the studbook has registered an average of 3,500 foals per year. For horses to be registered the studbook requires a covering certificate and a veterinary-authorised birth certificate. Horses are microchipped and given a UELN (Unique Equine Life Number). Selection procedures for stallions and mares are carried out. Genetic evaluation is part of their breeding improvement plan. The WBFSH board agreed with the recommendation of the department of development that the KFPS meet the criteria for full WBFSH membership. This is due for ratification of the members at the GA 2021.”

Eveline van Kooten, board secretary of KFPS, recalls the process: “In 2007 we made our first request to join the WBFSH and were turned down in November [of that same year] 2007 because the Friesian was not a riding horse according to the WBFSH. We sent a new request having outlined our new breeding goal, and that we were specifically working towards breeding a sport horse. This was

turned down without giving a reason. In 2016 we made a third request, also turned down, because there were insufficient Friesians in the international dressage sport. In May 2020 we sent our fourth request, which was accepted.”

History of the Friesian horse

The Friesian horse is the only breed native to the Netherlands, where it has been known since as far back as the 13th century. As early as 1625, Friesian horses were being imported into what later would become the USA.

By the middle or the end of the 18th century crossbreeding of horses became fashionable. When the studbook was opened, on May 1, 1879, (the first one in the Netherlands), opinions differed as to whether only horses of the Friesian race should be registered, or crossbreds as well. The problem was solved by opening two registration books: Book A for Friesian horses, and Book B for crossbreds. What is very interesting to mention is that mareline numbers were started at the same moment as the studbook itself. It shows a total of 254 marelines, some of which are no longer breeding. Currently there are 179 active marelines.

From 1884 until 1896 the studbook was also open for registering horses from the adjacent provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. For this reason the name ‘Friesian horse’ was temporarily changed into ‘Inland horse’. By 1896, however, Friesian horses had nearly disappeared in those provinces: In Groningen altogether, in Drenthe a few years later. The fashion of crossing grew to such an extent that the decision was taken in 1907 to close the separate books A and B and to henceforth register all the horses in one book.

This historic trend is also the reason why now and then Friesians are being born with white markings or even white socks, because some lines became more ‘diluted’ through crossbreeding. The Friesian horse should be completely black.

This crossing phase could have marked the end of the Friesian horse. However, in 1913 a tiny group of true lovers of the Friesian horse started the society ‘The Friesian Horse’ (‘Het Friesche Paard’). This society worked in close cooperation with the studbook and succeeded in maintaining and improving the Friesian horse. In 1914 the studbook decided, at the request of the society, to launch two



Four-time national KFPS studbook stallion Ulke 338, led by two-year-old Douwina Wester. Bred by Obe Mous, Ulke passed away in 2020

registration books: Book A for Friesian horses and Book B for 'Upland horses' ('Bovenlandse paarden'). The studbook decided in that same year to ban crossbreeding.

In 1939 when the number of Friesian horses had increased considerably, their own board was created within the studbook. Finally, in 1943, the breeders of non-Friesian horses left the studbook and, since then, the Royal Society of the Friesian Horse Studbook (the 'Royal' designation was added in 1954) has only registered purebred Friesian horses. Her Majesty Queen Juliana honored the studbook by becoming its patron in 1949.

With the studbook's help, Friesian horses were imported into Western Germany in 1957 by Baron Clemens von Nagel – a name that is well-known for showjumping and dressage breeding. Gabriele Pochhammer worked for him at that time, from 1968 until his death in 1977, and recalls; "Yes, he was very fond of the Friesian horse. We used them for the carriage, for example when people got married, and for hunting. Most of the time we had two to four Friesians who stood with farmers in our area. The farmers used them for [agricultural] work and they came to us when we needed them. As far as I remember we never used them for breeding. When Clemens Freiherr von Nagel passed away his brother kept the Friesians for a few years."

Midway through the last century the Friesian horse was used mainly as a harness horse in the agricultural environment. Before that they were used as elegant carriage horses and trotters.

Marijke Akkerman, KFPS manager for public relations and communications, explains: "Already 100 years ago Friesian horses were quite modern for their time, with longer legs. If you see photos from that period you would see that they would fit in the current breeding. Afterwards the Friesian was needed for agricultural purposes and the type changed." They had to go through several changes of type

without the help of other breeds like the Arabian or the Thoroughbred. We know that mechanization pushed many breeds into hazardous situations with regard to extinction. The Holsteiner horse, for example. The farmers who wanted to keep their horses had to make alternative breeding choices for their mares, and the new purpose became sport.

"In 1970 the studbook counted a mere 645 members, 1,000 registered horses, and barely 400 mares being put in foal. These days Friesians are again much used, but now for the purposes of recreation, breeding, and sports, and often for some combination of these objectives. The Friesian is often seen in the dressage ring and in driving sports, and each year around 5,000 mares are covered by just under 100 stallions.

"The breeding goal for the Friesian horse is 'a functionally and harmoniously built working horse with the Friesian breed characteristics, that is healthy and vital and has the potential to perform in sport'."

KFPS Studbook

The Friesian horse traces back to four foundation sire lines: Age 168; Ritske 202 P; Jarich 226; and Mark 232 P. The latter two stallions sharing the same sire, Tetman, and with Mark currently having the biggest share of stallions from his bloodline.

In the past 150 years there has been great fluctuations in the number of Friesians, and its closed studbook status has caused a high percentage of inbreeding, increasing the chance of impaired health and reduced fertility. Moreover, there is an increased risk of hereditary defects. Two of the most common defects within the studbook are dwarfism and hydrocephaly, for which the KFPS established an extensive testing program that was launched in 2014.

According to Marijke Akkerman: "We are very strict with testing for genetic disorders. When a mare is untested and the owner wants to use a specific carrier, the owner will receive a message to have the mare tested first. All the mares who become 'ster' must be tested. Also, mares that are being used for breeding and birth their first foal must be tested. It is important to know who is the carrier and who is not, so when a breeder is making a match he will get a warning when both horses are carriers so this can be avoided. We are also now looking into developing new tests for disorders like oesophageal paralysis, aortic rupture, sweet itch, and some eye problems. As yet, no tests are available for these disorders.

"Our breeding population started to really increase in the 1980s. Breeders covered almost everything that was black and we had years with almost 8,000 coverings. The popularity of the Friesian started to spread world-wide and we now have around 25 affiliates abroad that are directly connected to the KFPS, which registers every Friesian that is bred worldwide. Our database connects the global population and inbreeding has decreased over the years. Stallions that have a low kinship are getting more possibilities to be approved."

FRIESIAN HORSES LOCATED ALL OVER THE WORLD



In order to curb any increase in inbreeding, the advice is to make more use of low-kinship stallions for pairings in order to maintain a healthy population of stallions available to breeders. Hence the reason why there is a stud limitation of 180 stud services for young stallions.

Marijke Akkerman continues with regard to breeding values: “We work very closely with breeding values and have worked with the linear profiling system since 1994. This allows us to create breeding values from the data, which increases our reliability.”

In 2019, KFPS was also the first studbook in the world to publish a breeding value for character, which is one of the unique selling points of Friesian horses. However, this isn’t so easy to quantify in terms of a breeding value as there are

many circumstances to be taken into account.

The modern Friesian horse is multi-talented and at home in many disciplines of the equestrian sport. Dressage is undoubtedly the sport most commonly practiced with Friesian horses, and the competition stallion Anders 451 (Adel 357) had led the way in their promotion as a dressage horse. He was, in fact, the first Friesian to take part in a major championship, making his debut in the Caen 2014 World Equestrian Games together with his South African rider Chère Burger.

Marijke Akkerman continues: “There were already Friesians competing at Grand Prix level dressage, but Anders 451 was the first to compete at a World Championship. Now-a-days we are seeing a growing number of Friesians competing



at Grand Pix level dressage. In the beginning we published every Grand Prix Friesian in our magazine 'Phryso', but now it is becoming quite normal. The breeders started to produce a more modern Friesian that became more suitable as a dressage horse. There were also good riders who wanted to ride Friesian horses; for example Tineke Bartels used to ride a Friesian stallion, Reyert 337. The market needs more dressage horses, and Friesian horses are popular with amateur riders. So the development continues to move upwards. If you look at the dressage championships in Friesland you will see a lot of Friesian horses. This is the foundation for those riders who eventually take horses to the top." Eveline van Kooten, KFPS board secretary, concludes; "It works two ways. Breeders are breeding what the market wants."

It is also important to understand that there is only one Friesian horse, rather than a harness or dressage type: Marijke Akkerman says; "If you go to Sybren Minkema, he shows his horses in the honorary show-driving class and then they turn around and can be shows at almost Grand Prix level dressage. It is a very versatile horse and depends on what an enthusiast wants.

"The studbook stimulates projects that have to do with dressage sport, such as Pavo Fryso Bokaal (for four, five, and six year olds); Mei Grand Prix Nei Grand Prix (to prepare Friesian horses over the course of three years for the highest level with no age requirements); the Friesian Talent Cup (exclusively for three year olds); the Silver Whip; and the Alrako KFPS Championship. So we are really trying to get more Friesians into dressage sport. Currently we

are in the selection process for the dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Verden. We started with six in the first round, and we have three in the second round. One of these horses is the breeding stallion Wibout 511 (Thorben 466 - Estelle van de Strubbenhof x Doeke 287).

KFPS also has a stallion performance test and several aptitude tests for the mares. Akkerman and van Kooten explain; "The stallion performance test is 70 days and is divided into two parts. Stallions start under saddle and when they pass the ridden test they continue to the driving part. They are graded for dressage, in harness, and for driving. We also have the ABFP (Aptitude and Utility Test for Friesian Horses), which can be compared with the EPTM test of the KWPN.

"For those stallions who have competed at a high level we have a shorter stallion performance test when they are judged on conformation as well as stable behaviour. The first stallion performance test for Friesians was hosted together with KWPN. Stallions numbering around 100 came together from all studbooks. That was some 30 years ago, and for the past 20 years stallions have had to come here for their stallions performance test. However, in the United States, for example, they have their own breeding program so no longer need to come to us for performance testing and approval as we have judged there.

Currently, there are 1,406 members in the USA, Germany follows with 1,070, and Belgium with 232 members. We also have a stallion who is approved in Australia, who covered here for two years, but is now returning to Australia. There is even a breeding program for Friesians in Iran, as well as Hawaii and Saudi Arabia. In Russia there are riders competing with Friesians at international level. Of our 13,000 members around half are based abroad, and it's the export of Friesians that have made the Friesian horse as it connects people. In the beginning some breeders took Friesians with them abroad for the love of their roots, but it has grown from there.

"The Covid pandemic has also created advantages as we showed our events online which enabled us to connect with our breeders all around the world. They can now see all our horses and have a better idea about what's going on. All the information can be found on our website and during live streaming there is are explanations in both Dutch and English.

"For breeding Friesians we also use embryo transfer, as well as ICSI on a small scale. This is possible because the development of the follicle works differently to a Warmblood mare. A Friesian has a bigger follicle."

Eveline van Kooten and Marijke Akkerman both agree on the qualities of the Friesian horse: "The breeding characteristics, how they look (their manes and feathers), their character are unique, and no matter where you are you in the world you will always recognize a Friesian horse. In general the Friesian has a very good character which makes it suitable for a wide range of riders – from amateurs to professionals. It is our dream to have a Friesian-bred horse participate at an Olympic Games, which would mean a great deal for us. Also now being acknowledged by the WBFHS is bringing us kind of closer to our dream."

Visser family breeding

The Visser family from Birdaard in the Netherlands has been breeding Friesians for almost 30 years, since the time they were becoming more popular for dressage. Ironically, they saved their first Friesian from a butcher – a foal with a deformed nose. Johannes, as he was named, also became the subject of a study for the university veterinary faculty in Utrecht, when a human medical surgeon also became involved to help improve Johannes's quality of life. As the subject of an academic study, the Visser family were only



Tjalbert 460 (Beart 411 - Grevinne fan Lutke Peinjum x Ulke 338), bred by breeder: F. and J. Bloemhof

required to contribute half the costs.

Rixt S (Bonne 341 - Wietsche x Oepke 266) is ster and preferent awarded, and was the first broodmare with whom the Visser family started breeding. It is a real family matter as both Roel and Yvonne Visser are involved together with their son Sale and daughter-in-law Hilda. Sale and Hilda are educating their own-bred horses up to advanced dressage level before being sold at the age of six or seven. Sale Visser explains: "We still own Rixt S. She is 24 now and is enjoying her retirement. My parents purchased her as a yearling. She was the first Friesian with good papers and became ster as a four-year-old. Her sire, Bonne 341, was a stallion who wasn't used much, but is a full brother to Teunis 332 P (Gerlof 294 - Gertruda x Lammert 260), who was used a lot. Bonne wasn't so fertile, so he was breeding for three years in the Netherlands before being sold to the USA.

"Rixt S comes from the same damline as Tsjerk 328 (Feitse 293 P - Wijkje x Nanne 197). The third and fourth dam, Jelkje and Wijkje, were showing in harness with Franke Schuurmans and were very good horses. What I find very important is that we breed an all-round horse. Our Friesians should be capable as either dressage or harness horses. I know that people have different opinions about that, but I strive to breed a horse that's as all-round as possible, and then educate them myself. I don't want to focus on one thing and also find it unfair that the Friesian was seen as a horse that could only be in harness. Rixt S became preferent on the basis of her first four offspring. This is the advantage of not selling the horses we breed too early. We train them ourselves and we present them also at the mare approvals and stallion approvals. We have marelincs with offspring that need more time and we take that time. My wife is very good in starting the horses under saddle and I continue the training."

In 2015 only 10 mares became prestatie including the mare Tjijkje (Anton 343 - Rinny x Djurre 284) – one of the

foundation mares of the Visser family. Four of the mares that the family are breeding with today trace back to this mare. Visser is breeding with are tracing back to this mare. Sale Visser continued: "When my father purchased Rixt S as a yearling he also purchased a filly. This was Tjijpkje, and the majority of our horses can be traced back to this mare. We had to put her down a year and a half ago, but she was a really good broodmare. We still have one of her daughter, Marrit fan Hickaerd (Ulke 338). This line has produced only good horses for us, but they are late ripening. For example, we have trained horses for the approvals but they were not ready so we skipped a year to give them more time. Mozart fan Hickaerd (Dries 421) is a son of Marrit van Hickaerd who was very special to me. I rode him in the production 'De Stormruiter' (The Storm Rider), and Hilda rode his mother in this same production. It was a theatrical event with 117 Friesian horses that performed 20 times in one week. It was sold-out, with 5,000 visitors attending each performance (more than 100,000 people).

Mozart fan Hickaerd was placed in advanced dressage and in advanced driving, and we now have his half brother, Dante fan Hickaerd (Reinder 452) and Dante's full sister, Anne-Marrit fan Hickaerd. They look both also very promising."

Breeding and sport is a real passion for the Visser family who have, until now, bred a total of 55 Friesian foals.



Matthys 504 (Norbert 444 - Wylster H x Beart 411) last year's KFPS champion of young stallions and overall

Friesians in the USA

Earlier in this profile I wrote that the USA has the most Friesians outside the Netherlands, and one key player is Iron Spring Farm, which also has strong connections to the Warmblood world, so I spoke to their breeding manager, Meghan deGaray.

◆ I would like your opinion of Friesians as an American breeder, and the developments in breeding Friesians over the last 25 years?

It's been exciting to see the development of the breed at the top levels of dressage. Last year, the WBFSH added the KFPS studbook to its membership, which really demonstrates the growth of the Friesian breed as highly successful dressage horses. It's also very exciting that three Friesians have qualified for the final selection for the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Verden, Germany this year. In the USA, breeders continue to develop and breed Friesians. They appeal to the amateur market, which is very important here. Breeders here continue to bring in high-quality stallions and mares to improve the breed and to broaden the gene pool, which is important for the long-term survival of the breed.

◆ What bloodlines have stood out for producing a dressage horse?

We have been very happy with the way our stallions (past and present) have been for siring dressage horses. Here are a few examples:

- Willow ISF, Sport (Erik 351, Sport x Anton 343, Sport, Preferent) winning Grand Prix
- Windhorse Ysis (Winand 405 x Heinse 354, Sport/Preferent) winning Intermediate I
- Zafira MWF (Meinse 439 x Wander 352) winning 2nd level, GAIG/USDF Regional Champion
- Valentino JRB (Heinse 354, Sport, Preferent x Wicher 334) showing Intermediate I
- Albert ISF, Star (Ulbert 390, Sport x Heinse 354, Sport/Preferent) showing Prix St. Georges
- Beerend W (Goffert 369, Sport x Wicher 334) 7th place North American Young Riders Championships, 2020, also winning Prix St. Georges
- Bernard P (Goffert 369, Sport x Djurre 284) winning Prix St. Georges
- Thiadrik fan Matthys' Meadows (Goffert 369, Sport x Jurjen 303) winning Prix St. Georges
- Xenophon SMF (Goffert 369, Sport x Teunis 332) winning Grand Prix
- Titus (Teade 392, Sport x Thomas 327) showing Prix St.



Lisanne Veenje riding 5yo Crystal Jede – in the race for a ticket to the WBCYH 2021 in Verden

Georges

- Lucas (Teade 392, Sport x Fetse 349) showing 4th Level

Now we see a lot of promise in the offspring of Tjalbert 460. They are very rideable and love the dressage work. Our stallion Teade 392, Sport is an older Friesian (born in 1998) with offspring that have the temperament for dressage and really good canters. The canter was an area of development in the breed that is now well established and is one of the reasons why Friesians are becoming reliable FEI competitors. Adel 357 was the sire of our Grand Prix stallion Hedser 465, Sport, as well as several other Grand Prix horses.

◆ Has the direction of breeding a dressage horse changed from breeding a Friesian for driving?

Friesians are naturally built uphill, which is a great advantage in dressage. Also the modern dressage Friesian has a better hind-leg angle for dressage that also improves the canter.

◆ How do you see the global market for the Friesian as a dressage horse?

The Friesian market seems strong. Friesians are very family friendly horses as well as top sport horses. As a result, they appeal to men, women, and children. They are beautiful and have good character, which is nice to have in the barn.

Keep an eye on BN for further Friesian articles as BN embraces a new member studbook of the WBFSH and looks forward to following the breed's competition development in dressage. Next month part two is going to feature the Friesian's ascendance in high-level sport. ■

Conor Sheridan: A horse is a map of many peoples' work

BY DR. HELEN SHARP PHD

PHOTOS: CONOR SHERIDAN PRIVATE COLLECTION

Conor Sheridan, Irish breeder at Brosna View Stables (BVS), and founder of The Irish Horse Breeders Group, talks about family loyalty, and the power of a breeders' democracy. He's also an essential voice amongst all the breeding noise here in Ireland.

Many equestrians I interview have a passion for breeding, which is usually the given that keeps people on their feet during the long winter months. With Conor Sheridan there is an added factor that struck a chord with me: The ultimate respect for the broodmares and their associated family history first and foremost. Conor's refreshing outlook on breeding also emphasises the inherent value of the mare, not dictated by commerciality but by her history within his own family and the communities these horses have served for generations. The horse, as with the human, remains an earthly constant, but contexts change. In Conor's case, the horse-human trajectory of grandfather-father-son, has been plough-hunt-showjump. Conor recognises generations of quality horses that have come before, the lines of which have been gifted down to him. A horse is the map of many people's work, and Conor readily acknowledges that and sees his job as fine-tuning those lines towards the modern sport: "I inherited mares – my father was a huntsman, field master, and whipper-in, and when you are doing those things you need something underneath you! Those were good horses."

The Brosna View Stables breeding programme is currently made up of seven broodmares. Conor has been involved in breeding since he was 16 years old, his interest having been ignited while watching the 2003 Agha Khan Cup at The Dublin Horse Show, and by one statement in particular. After the victorious French showjumping team lifted the trophy, commentator John Hall remarked at just how incredible it was that three of the French team horses were French-bred stallions. This got young Conor wondering why the Irish team couldn't have all Irish bred horses on their team? And in his way, that is what Conor set out to do.

In 2004 at 17 years old, Conor put his first mare in foal; however, eight years later, in 2012, he fell off a young

horse whilst out hunting and broke his back. In the same year, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Where does a man go from there?

Conor admits to being an angry man before the cruelty of 2012, always working, chasing a green jacket, always lamenting that he never got his chance. But after breaking his back and hearing the cancer diagnosis, his entire outlook changed. Somewhat surprisingly, he admits he wouldn't change it for the world. He has learned to be content with a horse that is achieving its potential at any level as long as it is happy and healthy: "My accident and cancer diagnosis highlighted the frailty of life and taught me not to sweat the small stuff." It also taught him that not every horse is meant for 1m60, and that's okay, too. "We play God," Conor exclaims, "so we have the responsibility that goes with that. We bring these horses into the world, and they have to be happy, whether achieving a Nations Cup win or as a young rider's first good horse. A horse's success should be measured within the context of its own particular life."



BVS foundation mare Eskerhills Lexis (Puissance x Furisto), the original 'Captain of the ship' at BVS stables



Conor Sheridan with Eskerhills Oracle – marking his ‘return to horses’ following his cancer diagnosis and broken back

A change of direction, and a return

After a concerted effort to move away from horses and study business in 2014, Conor, like many others, was soon drawn back to them, but this time with a fresh outlook on both the animals and the industry. Conor bought Eskerhills Oracle (Orestus x Puissance) out of Eskerhills Lexis (Puissance x Furisto) as a youngster. It was this rather aptly named mare that played a unique role in enticing him back to a future in horses when he had all but given up: “I’ll never forget it. I was out in the field, and Oracle came over to me, and that was it; I was back in. She was out of Eskerhills Lexis by Puissance, who was the best horse I ever sat on. Eskerhills Lexis was the original ‘Captain of the Ship’ at BVS, and she has been missed every day since her death in 2015.”

Lexis was so good that before the Horse Sport Ireland database removed owner names due to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), Conor discovered she had a full-sister with Richie Fitzgerald of Bonmahon Horses – this was Miss Avaleen. Conor contacted Richie and said, “I have the horsebox and am coming to buy her.”

Conor is much less interested in going out and buying horses with a ton of black type (pedigree papers). He finds his contentment walking down the field and seeing the continuation and refinement of lines rich in family heritage. BVS Quelle Une Surprise (OBOS Quality - Esker Melody x Musical Pursuit) is in foal to the mighty Livello for 2022 and was initially sourced from a neighbour: Oliver Moore had the mareline for years. Conor’s grandfather bought horses from him and worked the land with them; his father hunted them. The family have worked this line for decades: “The black type might not necessarily be the strongest, but there is a years-long connection that I value, and I know the mares

that have come before them. I am lucky that the foundation horses I have inherited are such a great bunch of mares. Genuinely I’d put them beside anyone’s and be proud of them. It’s been 17 years of quietly working away to get to where we are. I’m really excited about the future and seeing the young horses compete. The dream is to have an Olympic horse or a WEG horse, or an Aga Khan horse. Still, there’s so much more to it than just that metric, and if that’s the only bar for success to be measured, then we’re setting ourselves up for a fall.”

Change of outlook

Since his change of outlook, Conor gets as much pleasure from watching any of his horses find a happy, healthy, successful life, including those at the amateur level. BVS Golden Melody (Golden Lariat x Esker Melody) is a fine example of this. She is a riding-club horse in England and is a much-loved horse excelling at her level and offering her owner many firsts.

All of his foundation mare, BVS Quelle Une Surprise’s family genetics are still found at BVS, through her daughters, BVS Lancette and BVS Babylon, and granddaughter BVS Numenor. It is this decades-long connection from which Conor is most proud to be breeding, and he was significantly influenced by a man called Harold McGahern, with whom he used to hunt. Conor also produced horses for him, and received sound advice from Harold in return: “First and foremost, every decision I make along the way has to pass the ‘Harold McGahern test’. Are the pedigrees of the foals I’m bringing into this world ones that I’d like to have in my stable when they’re older, and I have to ride them myself? It’s no good just looking at sales results or stallion rankings to make a breeding decision. They’re a useful tool. They’re not the be-all and end-all. It has to be a decision that gives a positive gut feeling. There has to be that element of ‘je ne sais quois’ about it all.”

The all-important BVS mares

The mares at BVS have been, and remain, treasured. Conor finds tremendous contentment amongst them. Sisters Miss Avaleen (Puissance x Furisto) and Eskerhills Lexis (Puissance x Furisto) were both foundation mares. “Eskerhills Lexis had her jumping career cut short due to an injury sustained while travelling home from a horse show. Despite this, she still earned 130 showjumping points and is rated a two-star Select Class broodmare with Horse Sport Ireland. She regularly won and placed in 1m10 and 1m20 classes throughout the country and had only just begun



BVS Babylon – daughter of foundation mare BVS Quelle Une Surprise

much of the history of being diagnosed with cancer. When she was four years old, Conor didn't click with her, and thought at 15.2hh (157cms) she was a bit small, so sold her on after his diagnosis. She ended up jumping a junior Nations Cup in Sentower Park as an eight-year-old with Chris Connell. BVS Wishing Well is a granddaughter of Pinicale. Conor swapped her dam, Starlet Vision, for a hunter with the woman from whom he bought Pinicale. Starlet Vision herself was a half-sister to BVS Echo Island and BVS Lancerella. Wishing Well has bred three foals: a Radolin, a Valent, and a Touchdown, and will be covered with Tyson for 2022. According to Conor: "If she keeps producing the quality she's been producing so far:

she could be threatening Quelle Une Surprise for the role of 'The Good Mare'."

Vickie Anderson will be producing a lot of the BVS young horses, and Conor explains his ambitions: "Vickie's not only my best friend, she's also the hardest worker I know. Suppose I can breed horses to help her get onto a Nations Cup team or jump that clear round in the Hickstead Derby or the La Baule Derby or the Dinard or Hamburg Derbies. In that case, I'll be a happy man. Derby classes and Nations Cups are far and away my favourite competitions. To breed

competing regularly at 1m30 levels, including a win prior to her accident. She produced three foals in her short time as a broodmare, including a colt by multiple Nations Cup winning stallion Pacino in 2012, a 2013 filly by the Olympic competitor VDL Orestes, and a 2014 filly by the prolific sire of international Grand Prix and Nations Cup winning horses Lancelot."

Miss Avaleen and Eskerhills Lexis were full sisters to Dromgurryh Blue, who finished 11th at Burghley Horse Trials in 2016 with Oliver Townsend. Miss Avaleen sadly passed away, giving birth to BVS Rising Tide (Ringfort Cruise), who is now under the saddle of McKenzie Healy. BVS Arkenstone (Ars Vivendi x Miss Avaleen) has already bred a two-year-old VDL Orestus and scanned in foal to Udancer Hero for 2022. BVS Fairway is a traditionally bred sport horse by Portlaoise First Touch x Flemensfirth who is in foal to Lough Fadda Rudi to breed a quality sports pony. This is a Thoroughbred damline from a mare that Conor's sister bred.

BVS Lancerealla (Lord Lancer x Pinnacle) is a half-sister to BVS Echo Island and dam of a particularly impressive 2021 Malito de Reve filly. She is in foal to Another Pleasure for 2022.



BVS Lancerealla (Lord Lancer x Pinnacle), in foal to Another Pleasure for 2022, is a half-sister to BVS Echo Island and dam of a particularly impressive 2021 Malito de Reve filly

BVS Lancette by Castleforbes Lord Lancer is out of foundation line BVS Quelle Une Surprise. She had a filly by Numero Cruise this year, securing the line for the future.

BVS Echo Island (Clover Echo x Pinicale) is a mare to whom he attributes



BVS Wishing Well (Well Chosen - Classic Vision), a granddaughter of Pinicale

and own a horse that could hold its own at that level, that's the dream. There's been a lot of breeding and producing quietly for me for a few years now to get the broodmare herd here. I absolutely couldn't be more content with the mares I have now."

The Irish Breeders Group

Conor's dedication is not just to his horses but also to Irish breeders across the board. In 2011 he set up the Irish Horse Breeders Group, which has been hugely successful and now has over 14,000 members. The group is a grassroots movement to support and celebrate Irish breeding and breeders of Irish horses for showjumping, eventing, and dressage. Conor runs the group as a positive space for discussion to aim for quality content and provide a good resource for breeders at all stages of their career. It is no easy feat to maintain an online forum. Still, Conor has just the right welcoming and playful personality that both provokes discussion without conflict and keeps the group as a welcoming place for anyone of any experience to feel they can join, ask questions, and offer opinions. There's always space for a good old argument too, but always without too much aggression.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Irish Breeders Group, Conor has set up a fundraiser, partly inspired by the group's tendency to air grievances about the industry through the platform. As a true believer in democracy, Conor invited all of the group members to submit suggestions for a fundraising initiative, collated the suggestions, and then put it back to the

breeders to vote on which initiative would be put in place. Votes were counted, and support was awarded to three-day eventing, showjumping, and dressage. The breeders donate money for breeder prizes within each discipline, including breeder prizes for Best Overall Horse, Best Traditionally Bred Horse, Leading Mare, etc. Fundraising for the initiative is through the Irish Horse Breeders Facebook page and closes on August 30, 2021. The beauty of the fundraiser is that it puts all of the breeders on a level playing field. The prizes are based on what an individual horse achieves, so it is inconsequential whether the breeder has one mare or 40 mares, it allows grassroots breeders a shot against the bigger commercial breeders.

In keeping with Conor's natural generosity of spirit and democratic approach, everyone is equal in terms of this prize fund. Conor is particularly grateful to Ivor and Olive Broderick of Kylemore Stud, who kicked off the donations with a generous €1,000 donation, and many have since followed suit. The goal is to raise €20,000 to divide between nine prizes; if the fund raises more than that, then Conor will once again put it to the breeders as to how they would like to see the money spent. With had the foresight to be genuinely proactive for all breeders in Ireland, Conor explains eloquently; "Everyone looks for someone else to do something about the industry issues. I just thought, why don't we put our shoulders to the wheel and do something ourselves. This is our industry, after all." ■



BVS Lancette (Castleforbes Lord Lancer - BVS Quelle Une Surprise)



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Selle Français to strengthen championship sales initiative

BY YEELLEN RAVIER / SF

In 2020, the SF studbook launched its first auctions to help breeders in selling their young horses. After encouraging feedback from all parties, these sales highlights, organized during the foals' and females' championships, promising eventing horses, showjumping young horse championships, as well as two- and three-year-old male championships will be back.

This year Selle Français will be supported by Equinia for the management of commercial interests, following their 2020 initiative to set up auctions organized concurrently with various national championships. The goal was to support breeders in terms of the commercial aspects of their profession. "This support was initiated by the studbook in 2020, and enabled a number of breeders to sell their products last year," explained Bérengère Lacroix, director of the association since 2018. "The service was very well received by the sellers, so the Selle Français Stud-Book has chosen to go forward and strengthen this approach in 2021."

Like last year, the highlights of Selle Français auctions will be held during the Normandie Horse Show in Saint-Lô (early August for foals), in Fontainebleau during 'La Semaine de l'élevage' (at the end of August for two- and three-year-old females), at Le Mondial du Lion d'Angers on the occasion of Eventing Promising Horses (mid-October), then at Longines Equita Lyon (end of October), for showjumping conscripts. Finally, the last meeting will be held at Saint-Lô mid December, during the two- and three-year-old stallion championships.

Continuing, Bérengère Lacroix said, "This new date will be more conducive to selling the two and three-year-old males, some of whom will be newly approved. At this time the stallion owners will finalize their catalogs for the following season, and breeders with a stallion or future stallion will be able to offer it for sale which will rely on the expertise of the championship or the 10-day-testing." And each sale will be tailored to the situation: Some will be held physically and live, while others will only take place online. "If this is relevant and the schedule allows, we will organize physical auctions during the events. But each typology of sale will be adapted to the specific conditions of the championships."

Supporting breeders

According to Lacroix; "Our wish, in relation to what we were able to do in 2020, is to try to support breeders even further upstream in the promotion of their horses by offering this service, creating real marketing support from the stages of regional qualifications." This will notably require support in the development of horses with a work-focus on the aspects of visual communication, such as videos and photos. "Today it is essential to have beautiful, attractive images. The pedigree is

no longer offers sufficient criterion to sell a horse. However, our goal is not to standardize the horses and put them all in the same mold. It's necessary to preserve the specificity of each horse while assisting and supporting breeders in developing the tools that enable them to best showcase their horses. Individual support with reliable and fair commercial expertise should be as simple as possible and presented in advantageous conditions for breeders, otherwise, we don't have the will to select the horses. All the horses qualified and entered into a championship can be registered for sale. The selection will be made through regional judges' expertise, focusing on zootechnical criteria and the skills required by the Stud-Book. If a horse is present at the final, it is that he earned his place thanks to his qualities."

Open internationally

"Selle Français won't only promote horses nationally, but also internationally. Thanks to our presence in Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) and Lanaken, we will be able to promote this action," said Lacroix. "For both buyers and for sellers we will extend the promotion of products to be presented for sale." And to broaden their perspective, Selle Français will entrust the commercial part of this initiative to Equinia, a newcomer to the market that can count on a large network developed in several dozen countries.

Overall, the Selle Français team will retain control over most aspects. "The agency and the Stud-Book are working side by side, and the project has a marketing commission within the Selle Français Stud-Book which works year-round. There is real internal work, so not everything is delegated to the agency. We maintain control over guidance, strategy, and the way in which our sales run," emphasizes Lacroix.

Finally, in addition to supporting and rewarding the work of the breeders, Selle Français auctions will offer solid references to investors. "We guarantee seriousness in the selection process, carried out through our circuits and based on Stud-Book criteria. The best horses participating in the finals must qualify at regional qualifiers throughout France. There is a real guarantee of quality and expertise covering the subjects presented at our auctions. Our ambition is that these auctions become obvious in order to acquire excellence," Lacroix concluded. ■

Evi Bengtsson creates a breeding dynasty with Ulika

By KIM LUNDIN

PHOTOGRAPHY: KIM LUNDIN

For more than 10 years, Evi Bengtsson competed with her mare, Kuschel's Ulika, and resisted many bids from people wanting to buy the horse. It was a fortuitous decision as this was the competition mare with whom she founded a breeding business based on embryo transfer.

On their Stall Basten farm outside Itzehoe, northwest of Hamburg, Rolf-Göran and Evi, have created their equestrian lifestyle, and Stall Bengtsson has been the well-known base for their competition activities for a few years now.

Very soon the business will become just as well known for performance breeding using meritorious mares with their own successful sports careers. Evi Bengtsson rides and still competes at a certain level, but stopped internationally almost two years ago when she broke her foot. Instead, she has allowed her successful mare, Kuschel's Ulika (Colman - Milka I x Contender) and her full sister Kuschel's Elika, to form the backbone of what has become a real breeding foundation in recent years. "With each year we have made a few more foals, it happens easily when you use embryo transfer, and it can happen that you collect more than one fertilized egg from a flush so you want to use both," Evi Bengtsson explains.

The breeding business

Evi's first breeding was Lord Pico born in 2010 from her competition mare Witte Zora. "It was more product that came from the heart rather than from a serious investment strategy,"

she remembers, and continued by saying, "With the foals from Kuschel's Ulika and her family, it is quite a different venture and forward planning.

"My competition horse Ulika has a heart like a lion, so sensitive and soft at the same time, she is more a family member than just a horse. Her breeder Peter Kröger gave me Ulika's reins since she was four years old. Fortunately, for me she was not selected for the Holsteiner Association's auction as a young horse, so I could send flowers to them every day as a thank you for that."

Over the years, as the relationship with breeder Peter Kröger developed, Evi Bengtsson was able to take over Ulika herself, and later also her full sister Elika, who is now competing with Evi's husband, Swedish international showjumper Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, in parallel with her broodmare role. According to Evi, "Peter Kröger accompanied me and Ulika to the Bundeschampionate and many other competitions, and we had a good relationship."

Ulika's mother Milka I (Contender x Caletto II) from Holsteiner stamm 6786, produced at least 10 foals, all full siblings. Among them are three approved stallions, Culture I and II, and LB Culture III who is jumping with Christina Liebherr. A further five offspring, including Ulika and Elika,

compete internationally at a high level. Ulika's entire family tree is performance-oriented, something that is very important to Evi Bengtsson. "I thank my lucky star that I never accepted any of the offers that came for her during her competition years. I could have used the money to build up the farm here, but now I hope to earn from her offspring."

A dual-purpose farm

Stall Basten houses both sport and breeding activities, with competition stables, good training opportunities, as well as the breeding and youngsters.



Evi Bengtsson with Elika and Ulika



Evi with Olympika (Chacfly - Kuschel's Ulika) and Ophinka (Cassilano JMEN - Inuka HR)

Around the farm is pastureland and loose-range stalls for the young horses, with outdoor stalls that can accommodate two or more depending on age. The Bengtsson couple have also invested in more land in order to have the young horses and mares outdoors. "Since we need to have both the recipient mares and the competition mares somewhat in sync with each other, we keep the recipient mares well in reach of the yard for part of the time. A veterinary clinic with a capacity for ET is less than 10 kilometres away. This means a short journey for competition mares to be inseminated and then flushed and for implantation in the recipient mares. "I have rented recipient mares but also have some of my own, it costs to lease them for 18 months. At the same time I must feed and keep my own recipient mares year-round even when they are not in foal. Both cases have advantages and disadvantages," Evi explains. "The short travel time to the station is one of the reasons why it has worked so well with ET, despite the mares being in competition all the time, although Ulika is now retired."

Competition works well

Before Evi Bengtsson tried to do ET with her own competition horse, whom she knew inside and out, she admits to being sceptical of the arrangement; "I was a little afraid of how her mentality and body would change and, of course, the first year it did not work at all. I tried to give her a soft transition, interrupted the competition season, let her take a break and be on grass, but it did not work at all. The second year I did the opposite, competed, and only went back and forth to the clinic, and the familiar competition routine made her relax and everything worked like clockwork with both competing and ET trials," Evi remembers.

"We repeated the process with both F. Campaya and

Elika and it worked just as well for them. My theory is that you should not change too much in the routine of an experienced competition horse, the embryo transfer procedure works better with normalcy," she said, adding; "Competition horses are used to you devoting a lot of time to them, suddenly they must be put somewhere else at a semen station, and they don't like it. Many people also emphasized how important it is to consider the temperament of the recipient mares, and perhaps it is. I can at least recognize the original characteristics of the foal family in all the foals born to recipient mares. They are lovely, with strong will and integrity, you must become friends with them then they are eternally loyal, sensitive, and not too needy, sensible through and through," Evi concluded.

Choosing the sires

Among this year's foals, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson's competition stallion Cassilano JMEN (Calisco JMEN - Olinda JMEN x Oramé) has sired a few, as well as Chacfly PS. Evi states; "I'm a big fan of Chacfly PS (Chacco-Blue - Shentara x Sir Shutterfly), maybe because the first foal we got from him, Chacpayo, was so fantastic. I always thought I would ride that horse myself. I know the weaknesses and strengths of my



Rolf Goran Bengtsson alongside Kraft's Komrada with her 2021 foal Orelie (Chacfly)

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mares, so with a little luck I can get the best from both the mare and the stallion. I am surprised at how light the first foals from Cassilano are in the type because he himself is a little heavier. I chose Cassilano because he has the capacity for the highest classes, is sensitive, and has long legs, and I don't want lazy horses," Evi explains. "Ulrika herself could look a bit slow, but she was very powerful and forward going, but it must not take over. I had a test jump with Cassilano and he gives exactly the feeling I am looking for; he explodes under you with power. Both Ulrika and Elika, even Inuka, often give double ovulation, they are very fertile, and last year we got such rounds from all three so, therefore, there were many foals this year.

The young horse herd

In the young horse herd, F.Campaya and Elika's first foals are now three years old, since then it has only grown. F.Campaya's first foal by Chacfly, named Chacpayo, was sold to the Holsteiner Association and she is now expecting another foal by Chacfly PS. Campaya, the grey mare, is one of two that carry their foals themselves as her competition career was cut short due to an injury. The other mare is the young Casall daughter Krafft's Konrada who this year had a filly by Chacfly PS. And, last year, Evi took a foal from the mare Infinity, born in 2016, back into sport to record results herself. The resulting foal was a colt called Zapzarap (Zuccero).

Difficulties in selling young horses

It might have been easy to imagine that with a jumping hero like Rolf-Göran in the business, young horse sales would pick up speed. Nope, rather the opposite at first. Evi Bengtsson was questioned whether the horses were not good enough for her husband, or why she wanted to sell them. The answer is very simple. "There is a limit to how many very young horses Rolf-Göran can develop, and I have high costs and have to find a way to finance them, so I need to sell. Of course, I want to keep a few but I made the choice to keep Ulrika and now I breed to sell a selection," she explains. This year they expect nine foals in total, if all goes well. Evi monitors the mares with a so-called intelligent foal camera and with pH-testing from the milk. "Fingers crossed, so far it has worked very well. We cannot do more than that, and we can only have so many in certain years, but not every year."

Planned pregnancies this year

Evi is already in the process of covering her mares to be able to flush out embryos. Inuka has already produced an embryo with Vingino, while Ulrika has been inseminated with Diarado, so Evi hopes that these attempts will go smoothly. "It's always easiest when the same veterinarian works with both the competition horse and the recipient mare. We work a lot with both mares being clean, taking several samples before the start, which I think is important for how well it goes." Later this year, Evi plans to use the stallion Dourkhan Hero Z (Sea Coast Don't

Touch Tiji Hero - Zinka de Kalvarie Z x Zandor Z), a paternal grandson of Diamant de Semilly, as a new sire for the year, explaining; "I want to create a different type of horse and don't want to repeat the same combination too many times."

Evi Bengtsson has also chosen not to let Ulrika carry her own foals as the mare never had a foal when she was young. The risk with an older maiden mare feels too high versus the possibilities of producing more foals from Ulrika with embryo transfer. "It is simply a better opportunity for me to maximize my possibilities to get more foals from Ulrika," she states. "With Elika, we chose to let her prove herself in sport," even though she has so many successful full siblings. "Her maternal line is like a superpower, and even though I am a beginner as a breeder, I feel that anyone can succeed with such a strong line at the bottom," Evi concludes with conviction. ■

STALL BENGTSSON, EVI AND ROLF-GÖRAN

Mares and foals (born or expected in 2021)

Kuschel's Ulrika (2004/Holst: Colman – Contender) Holstein stamm 6786 – Bundeschampionate finalist as a 5yo and 6yo, UVM as a 7yo, placed 9th in German Championships for Ladies in 2015, competing CSI-5* GP level

Foals 2021:

- Olrika, filly by Zinedine (ET foal)
- Olanka, filly by Chacfly PS (ET foal)
- Olympika, filly by Chacfly PS (ET foal)

Kuschel's Elika (2012/Holst: Full sister to Ulrika – competing in 1m30-1m40 classes]

Foals 2021:

- Expected, foal by Cassilano JMEN (ET foal)
- Expected, foal by Cassilano JMEN (ET foal)

Inuka (Daughter to Elika – 2016/Holst: Adagio de Talma x Colman) Holstein stamm 6786

Foals 2021:

- Ophinka, filly by Cassilano JMEN (ET foal)
- Cinuko, colt by Cassilano JMEN (ET foal)

Krafft's Konrada (2017/Holst: Casall x Cristo)

Foal 2021:

- Orelie, filly by Chacfly PS

F.Campaya (2010/KWPN Classe VDL x Quinar) Holstein stamm 6786. Expecting foals by Chacfly Ps

OTHER MARES

Enja 21 (2012/Holst: Casall x Corrado I)

Infinity (2016/Holst: Cash and Carry x Contendro I)

Top-10 WBFSH sire ranking is KWPN recognized

BY JENNEKE SMIT

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIRK CAREMANS

The KWPN Studbook currently holds first place in the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) Studbook Ranking for dressage, jumping and eventing. A unique achievement that is a result of the work of all the Dutch warmblood breeders who are breeding with great passion and a critical eye.

As KWPN is an open studbook, breeders are encouraged to use the best genetic material. For example by automatically granting KWPN recognized status to the top-10 stallions of the WBFSH Sire Ranking so their offspring can be directly registered in the foal book.

Since the beginning of 2018, KWPN has automatically recognized stallions that hold a position in the top 10 of this WBFSH Sire Ranking as they have clearly distinguished themselves in breeding. In the March issue of KWPN Magazine, the highest-ranked jumping stallions in the most up-to-date WBFSH Sire Ranking have already been extensively highlighted.

Natural predisposition

The majority of the best-producing stallions performed at the highest level themselves. In fact, the entire top nine proved at a young age that they possess a lot of talent, and all of them have jumped at 1m60 level. It is no coincidence, therefore, that they have developed into top progenitors. Stallions can only inherit their natural talent, and it turns out this can be estimated very well at a young age. This was recently shown, for example, in the five-star Grand Prix of The Dutch Masters, where the KWPN-approved stallions Grand Slam VDL and Grandorado TN deposited their business cards. Both ten-year-old stallions were approved with the KWPN at a young age with high marks.

The natural talent of a horse, in combination with the right management, attitude, and the necessary luck regarding the absence of serious injuries, can ensure that a horse can perform at the intended level. That's the simple result of the 'phenotype formula'; meaning that a horse's performance is determined by its genotype, so everything that he carries genetically or 'what nature gave him', and the environmental influences, such as how it is fed and cared for, which rider he ends up with, and how well he is managed from a sporting point of view. In breeding it is only about the genotype: the natural predisposition.

Newcomer Diarado

A stallion that has stood out from an early age and is now proving to be a top sire, for example, is newcomer Diarado (Diamant de Semilly), who was part of the WBFSH top 10 for the first time in 2020. This 16-year-old sire is the only stallion born after 2000 at the top of this classification. Diarado was honored as champion at the Holstein stallion selection as a three-year-old. Not only in freedom, but also under saddle, Diarado was convincing. He subsequently developed into the



Hans Peter Minderhoud (NED) riding Johnson

stallion with the highest points in the 'Hengstleistungsprüfung' (stallion performance test) and then performed strongly in the young horse competitions, such as the Bundeschampionat where he won bronze. Diarado received a lot of interest from breeders from the very beginning, and later classified under Jonas Vervoort in sport at international 1m45/1m50 level. What is also very special about Diarado is that he is not only listed in the top 10 among the jumping stallions, but also among the progenitors for eventing. In 2020, Diarado advanced from sixth to second in the WBFSH Sire Ranking for eventing.

In the dressage direction, it's also mainly the stallions who proved themselves in sport elevate themselves into the top 10 of the WBFSH Sire Ranking.

The KWPN approved stallion Johnson has now knocked his sire Jazz off the top position; both stallions having performed at the highest level. With Hans Peter Minderhoud, Johnson took part in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the Aachen European Championships, and the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Caen. Jazz, now placed second, left no doubt about his dressage talent as a young horse. Later, he shone in the big sport under Tineke Bartels, including participating in the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera.

Sandro Hit, who placed third in 2020, was proclaimed World Champion as a six-year-old and then, like his two predecessors Johnson and Jazz, has fully proven himself as a Grand Prix sire. Other top 10 stallions, such as two-time World Champion Florencio (fifth), the the successful Vivaldi (sixth), plus Grand Prix stallions Fidertanz (seventh), Blue Hors Don Schufro (eighth) and De Niro (10th) also distinguished themselves from an early age and, subsequently, performed at a higher level. A string of successful offspring ensured that they are now part of this top 10.

The following stallions are KWPN recognized based on their top 10- classification with the WBFSH Sire Ranking:

Dressage stallions

- Don Frederico (Donnerhall)
- Florestan I (Fidelio)
- Rubin Royal (Rohdiamant)
- Sandro Hit (Sandro Song)
- Sir Donnerhall (Sandro Hit)



Chacco-Blue, bred by K-H Koepf, ridden by Andreas Kreuzer (GER)

- Stedinger (Sandro Hit)
- Diamond Hit (Don Schufro)
- Dimaggio (Don Primero)
- Fidertanz (Fidermark)
- Quarterback (Quarterman)
- San Amour (Sandro Hit).

Jumping stallions

- Balou du Rouet (Baloubet du Rouet)
- Baloubet du Rouet (Galoubet A)
- Casall (Caretino)
- Chacco-Blue (Chambertin)
- Diamant de Semilly (Le Tôt de Semilly)
- For Pleasure (Furioso II)
- Kashmir van Schuttershof (Nabab de Rêve)
- Toulon (Heartbreaker)
- Mylord Carthago (Carthago)
- Diarado (Diamant de Semilly)

Different registries

To make further progress, breeders can also combine stallions from foreign registries with their KWPN mares, or breed KWPN foals with mares that are registered with foreign KWPN-recognized studbooks. Since the extension of

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KWPN
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the registration schedule, an initiative from the Breeding Council that was introduced in 2018, more is possible for horses with foreign-registered parents. Horses can be registered with the KWPN in the foal book, studbook (only for horses from three years old), register A, or register B. Due to this expansion, more than 12,000 horses are included in the foal book, which would otherwise be registered in Register A. You can participate in all KWPN events with a foal book, studbook or Register A horse now, such as talent tests, young horse competitions and inspections. Register B horses cannot participate in inspections, but they can participate in young horse competitions, such as the Blom Cup and Pavo Cup. Previously, Register A mares had to meet additional requirements to be included in the studbook and to obtain a possible predicate. Now this is only necessary to convert the ster predicate into the keur or elite predicate. To acquire the Keur predicate, a Register A-mare must, in addition to the requirements for talent (through the IBOP, EPTM, or by their sport results), also meet the additional health requirements.

However, these additional requirements lapse if the sire is approved by a recognized studbook and meets certain conditions, such as a sport classification at a certain level and health requirements. This ensures that offspring of quite some 'foreign' stallions can still be included directly in the foal book.

Exemptions

Stallions whose offspring are directly included in the foal book because they have met the additional conditions, are, for example, the dressage stallions Chinook (Vivaldi), Sorento (Sandro Hit), Belissimo M (Beltain), Samba Hit II (Sandro Hit), Delatio (De Niro), Nintendo (Negro), and Just Royal Dancer (Jazz).

Regarding the jumping stallions, these are well-known names such as Douglas (Darco), Epleaser van 't Heike

(For Pleasure), Glasgow van 't Merelsnest (Nabab de Rêve), I'm Special de Muze (Emerald van 't Ruytershof), Twister de la Pomme (Darco), Tyson (Numero Uno) and Cassini Gold (Cassini I). This means that these stallions are on the same level as KWPN-approved and -recognized stallions, although much more information is available to breeders about KWPN-approved stallions. Performance reports, dam reports, descendant reports and breeding values contain a lot of valuable information that the breeders can take into consideration when making their breeding decisions. The complete list of stallions that meet the conditions is published on the KWPN website.

Sports results are pre-eminent

The KWPN is a performance-oriented studbook and therefore the focus will always lie with sport. This resulted, among other things, in these expanded KWPN regulations, with more KWPN recognitions for stallions and broader registration options. This also ensures that mares can easily be included in the studbook in various ways and qualify for a predicate. In addition to the traditional studbook inspections, one can also opt for the home inspections, where mares with the sport predicate can immediately be awarded a ster predicate. Or it is also possible to be granted direct studbook admission after participating in talent tests and young horse competitions. Four- and five-year-old mares that participate in, for example, the Blom Cup, Stal Hendrix, or GMB competition can also obtain a ster predicate directly based on a conformation assessment and performance during the competition. This makes it possible to assess the intended use even closer and makes it as accessible as possible to have ridden horses included in the studbook and granted a predicate. ■



The end of a legend: World Cup winner Simon (22) RIP

BY SANDRA KARMAN / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI

Beezie and John Madden announced last week that KWPN ambassador Simon (Mr. Blue - Naline x Polydox) has passed away at the age of 22. Simon enjoyed a hugely successful showjumping career, first establishing his world-class talent with Jeroen Dubbeldam, and later with Beezie Madden.

Simon (Mr.Blue - Naline ster prestatie D-OC x Polydox), Sbred by M.J. Vermeulen from Altforst, has grown into a top class jumper. Eric van Grunsven discovered him at the age of four and had him trained by his former stable rider Martijn Verpoort. They took all their time with Simon and the duo was cleared the 1.45m classes of Jardy, Zuidlaren and Wiener Neustadt.

Jeroen Dubbeldam and Simon

The Van Grunsven brothers then had the top talent trained and shown by Jeroen Dubbeldam at the end of the year, when he was nine. With Jeroen, he was given every opportunity to develop further as an international show jumper, which turned out very well. At the beginning of 2009 they made their debut at the international competition in Zwolle, where they immediately jumped clear. In February, Simon jumped his first 1m50 course in Neumünster – again clear. In March, in his Grand Prix debut, Simon jumped magnificently and placed second in a strong field in Den Bosch. This was the start of a striking career as in May they won the Eindhoven GP.

In 2010, they booked a double clear in Calgary's delicate Nations' Cup, a feat only matched by Olympic champion

Hickstead. In addition, they also won the prestigious CN International GP at the same venue. The pair also won the Verona World Cup Qualifier later that year.

Top performances

An absolutely top year was 2011, including third in the Leipzig World Cup Final, and sixth in the European Championships in Madrid – which also secured Olympic qualification when the Dutch team finished fourth in the EC Nations Cup. As a three-time member of the team in 2011 – including winning in Aachen and Rome – Simon and Dubbeldam completed the Orange quartet that also finished fourth in Rotterdam. GP placings came in Rome (3rd) and Rotterdam (2nd), and the WC Qualifier in Den Bosch where they ranked second.

Striking transfer

Dubbeldam and Simon's reputation and world-class results as one of the world's best-performing combinations naturally attracted huge interest. And, after months of speculation, the news came out in November 2011: It would be irresponsible to keep Simon any longer for Dutch sport, although the duo was destined for great Olympic opportunities. At the time of his sale, a few weeks before the Olympic deadline, Simon was ranked as the world's best showjumper by the WBFSH and, through the intervention of Johan Heins, the Mr. Blue son dropped into the hands of Abigail Wexner, long-time sponsor of American Beezie Madden. After a conservative start, they were able to string together later successes, with victories in the Surpass Grand Prix in Wellington, the CSI3* Grand Prix in Hagyard (1m60) and a prestigious win in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Spruce Meadows, in Calgary. Their greatest success, however, was winning the World Cup Final in Gothenburg in 2013. One year later, they finished seventh in the Lyon World Cup Final, and claimed fourth place in 2015. Simon became a fixture on the US team and enjoyed his well-deserved retirement in 2017. ■



Beezie Madden riding Simon to World Cup victory

Walking in another breeder's shoes: BH 2022 tour initiative

BY ROBERTA MILANI (TRANSLATED BY CAROLINE PADILLA) / ABCCH
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY ABCCH

The Brazilian Association of Showjumping Horse Breeders will be launching a tour initiative and exchange program in 2022. According to previous participants, an exchange trip is a very positive and beneficial experience which not only combines leisure and professional work but also, more importantly, helps engage horse breeders.

With that in mind, the Brazilian Association of Show-Jump Horse Breeders (ABCCH), together with Belgium breeders, has designed the 1st BH Breeders' Tour to Belgium.

The main objective of the program is to provide BH breeders with an opportunity to live the Belgian breeding experience for 10 days. During this time, they will be able to analyze and understand its processes compared to their own national breeding program,

taking into consideration the endeavors in which it has succeeded and those in which it may have failed.

According to ABCCH President Gabriel Khoury, "This will be a great opportunity to interact with the Belgian breeders who are widely recognized for their production of showjumping horses worldwide."

The tour will include visits to studfarms such as Zangersheide, based in Lanaken; Tom de Craene's Stal den Bisschop, Melle; the Terryn Family's Quality Stud, Middelkerke-Slijpe;

the Overis Studfarm of Gerald Lenaerts in Peer; and Stal De Muze in Sint-Niklaas, the home of Joris de Brabander.

ABCCH will be in charge of the logistics involving the visits and the trip, which will take place in April 2022 with a limited number of eight participants.

Khoury continued to explain; "Exchange programs have the potential to transform realities, providing great changes to our understanding and composition as horse breeders, whose complexities are increased day-by-day. Therefore, to all who long to get to know new cultures and share experiences in this enchanting horse environment, my advice is that you be willing to interact and learn in detail all that is to be shared. The main objective is to increasingly foment the enhancement of the national breeding in Brazil."

So as to encourage breeders to participate in the Brazilian Show-Jump Horse Exhibition, which will take place in November 2021 at Clube Hípico de Santo Amaro, in São Paulo, vacancies to join the exchange program will preferably be given to those who attend the Festival, according to regulations. ■



Gabriel Khoury



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Smitten jury rewards Johnny Cash with benchmark wins

BY KFPS

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHANNA FABER

Dana van Lierop made a successful dressage debut during the CDI4 in Hungary the third week in June riding the Friesian stallion Johnny Cash (Tsjalle 454 x Tjimme 275) – studbook name Jelger fan it Hiem. The pair triumphed gloriously in both the Prix St Georges and the Inter I freestyle to music, with splendid percentages – 71.177% and 75.045%, respectively.*

According to Dana van Lierop partnering Johnny Cash for the first time in international competition, “I knew he was good, but that he would do so well was a surprise.”

First international appearance

Dana had travelled with 13 horses for her five-day stay at this FEI event in Pilişjászfalu, in the Budapest region of Hungary. For Johnny Cash it was his first experience abroad at a multi-day competition. “For us, the main thing was whether his appearance would go down well with the jury,” she explained. Thankfully, despite being only 26 years of age, she is in the top rank of Dutch dressage riders and has a lot of international experience herself. “Some jury members are definitely still prejudiced when it comes to Friesian horses, but they all loved Johnny. Many jury members even looked me up after the competition to tell me how much they had enjoyed it, they were so smitten with him. He has a modern type, presented a very fine and friendly picture in the test and was keen to work. Johnny gives himself to the full 100%, quite amazing,” Dana stated, explaining that she “could ride Johnny nicely over his back and in a fine long frame. His canter in particular is very impressive, he has great cadence in trot and good length of stride in walk. Actually, he is capable of scoring eights for all elements and he still has so much more potential.”

Special character

Dana van Lierop rides Johnny Cash for his owner Ted Kop Jansen. “The first time I rode him was three-and-a-half years ago when I visited Ted. I then told him there would always be a box available for him in my yard.” When his regular rider Amber den Heyer (who rode Johnny Cash to the European Champion title ‘ZZ Heavy’ – had to stop due to hip problems, the Friesian stallion went to Dana’s yard. “He

chooses his own people, if he doesn’t like you he’ll turn away from you,” is how she describes him. “He is a horse with a very special character. He either likes you or he doesn’t, and when he likes you he will give you all he has.”

Time in the field

At the 2021 stallion inspection 2021 Dana and Johnny made a very fine appearance in the Tsjalle 454 demonstration group. “At that time I had only had him under saddle for six weeks,” says Dana, who sees still more potential in the 10-year-old stallion. “He has the talent for the higher work,” and she hopes to be able to start him in the Dutch Championships this year. “And hopefully at the European Championships too.” But she’s also aware that horses like this are much in demand and with Ted Kop Jansen everything is for sale. “We’ll see. After the trip to Hungary he’ll first get a week off. Out and about in the field, he has definitely deserved that.” ■



Dana van Lierop riding Johnny Cash

NZWA classifications: Big win for small studfarm

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY NZWA

The New Zealand Warmblood Association's foal inspections were a 'virtual' affair this year, with assessor Matthias Werner working long hours in Germany to choose his champions and award classifications from a large number of video entries. In a country where imported semen is often used for sport horse breeding, it's gratifying to report that the top three foals – two colts and a filly – were sired by their breeders' own NZ-bred stallions.

All the breeders were provided with a sample video, and followed it closely. Matthias Werner, who has been to New Zealand several times as an assessor, was very happy with the results and appreciated the amount of work that went into making the videos.

Werner judges on the same scale he uses in Europe, and to award an 8.0 is really something special. He says it is certainly harder to judge by video than by being there in person. "If you can see the foal in front of you, you can judge the size and whole frame more easily. Going down on to your knees to do the videoing of the conformation might be better, as standing up you get a different point of view of the foals, and most of the time they look smaller than they are." Werner used a background object, such as a fence, the mare or a human to get a better feeling for the height and growth of the foal.

When asked to compare the quality of the foals with those he'd seen in the flesh in previous years, he said; "The quality of the horses was not the problem; the time the videos were done was more of an issue. Most were bum-high

in their growth at the time they were videoed, so they were in a place where it is harder for them to show more lift and more freedom of the shoulder to see the full potential of the movement. Also, if they are really bum-high it's difficult to give a good conformation mark for their topline too."

However, he was "absolutely impressed and amazed by how everyone mastered their videos. There were some really outstanding videos and some 'regular' ones." For Werner it was a smaller tour, but still a good tour.

Top foal – Rangatira Fucero

The top foal, Rangatira Fucero (Timbermill Fifth Avenue - Rangatira Lady Poppy x Lucero Omega) comes from Rangatira Stud, which is operated by just two people, Sarah Sutherland and Dougal Watt (see separate story). Fucero was sired by the couple's own NZ-bred stallion and was also Top Colt and Top Eventing Foal, which tallies nicely with the stud's aim of producing eventers. His damsire Lucero Omega (Landioso - Stellar Miss Universe x Sacramento) was also bred in New Zealand, which gives young Fucero a nice depth of NZ genes. He scored 77.5 for conformation, and a terrific 83.5 for movement: a total of 80.5 for an Excellence Award.

It's worth noting that the stud bred last year's reserve champion jumping-bred foal, Rangatira Furore, who is also by Timbermill Fifth Avenue, but out of an Anamour mare, Kiteroa Gwynnavere – the grandmother of Rangatira Fucero. He scored a terrific 82.0 and also an Excellence award.

Timbermill Fifth Avenue (Fürst Nymphenburg - Devon x Dynamit), is also the product of a small – in fact, even smaller – breeding programme. He is a nine-year-old NZ Hanoverian, bred by Kerry Sanders, whose experience spans three decades, but who only ever has a few mares at a time and breeds "just a couple of foals a season." Among them have been 2005 Dressage Horse of the Year Kilimanjaro (Mt Everest - Tropical Air xx x Norfolk Air xx), and the fantastic eight-year-old Timbermill Prequel (Prestige VDL - Crystal x Dream Boy) who is owned and ridden by Vanessa Way. This horse has already achieved high dressage marks and really seems set for stardom. He is out of an extremely rare dominant- white Hanoverian,



Rangatira Fucero (Timbermill Fifth Avenue - Rangatira Lady Poppy x Lucero Omega)



Waltzmeister WSH (Westerly Inc - Danzar WSH x Dancier)

Crystal (Dream Boy - Danielle x Dynamit), who was bred by Diane Wallace in the South Island, from her own dressage mare bred by Judith Matthews. Timbermill Prequel is definitely not white, but Sanders said that Crystal has given birth to a white filly who is now a yearling.

Timbermill Fifth Avenue has fabulous dressage and jumping blood from his Prämienhengst sire, Furst Nymphenburg (Florencio x De Niro x Argentinus). His dam, the Hanoverian mare Devon, produced a number of dressage champions and has been described by Robin Potter of the NZ Hanoverian Society as “one of those rare horses that just kept on producing good horses.” Fifth Avenue’s damsire, the German import Dynamit (Dynamo x Eiger II x Dominikaner III) was the foundation stallion at Bernie Maubach’s Vollrath Stud. He was voted the Horse & Pony Sport Horse Super-Sire in 1997 and 1998.

Reserve Top Foal

Another super chestnut colt, sired by another New Zealand-bred stallion, finished as Reserve Top Foal and Top Dressage-bred Foal. He is Waltzmeister WSH (Westerly Inc - Danzar WSH x Dancier), bred by Paul and Gloriann Mullen of Wembleybrook Sport Horses in the South Island; the Mullens also bred last year’s reserve champion, Traummacher WHS (Traumprinz GF - Precious WSH x Prestige VDL).

Waltzmeister’s dam, Danzar WSH, was purchased by the



Southern Star Spirit (Rosari Fabio – Rosari Glory Girl x Gymnastic Star)

stud to add to their carefully chosen broodmare band. She is by the Prämienhengst Hanoverian Dancier out of an imported Verbandsprämie Holsteiner, Aloha/Ragtime (Aljano - Macarena x Contender), who is from Stamm 6582.

The sire of Waltzmeister, Westerly Inc (Worldly - Emiral x Flyinge Amiral), is a young stallion (2015) bred in New Zealand by Kay Vercoe, and has some interesting bloodlines. His own sire, Worldly, is a magnificent Hanoverian son of Weltmeyer, imported to New Zealand by Renai Hart of River Park Farm. His dam, Emiral, is a Swedish Warmblood whose other offspring include four-star eventing gelding Rubinstar HH and his full sister, Roma, who in turn is the dam of Chequefly et Audax (Chacfly) a Premium filly in the 2019 Hanoverian classification tour.

Young Waltzmeister WSH, with his blend of Hanoverian, Holsteiner and Swedish Warmblood, scored 78.0 for conformation and 81.5 for movement.

Leading filly

The lovely Southern Star Spirit (Rosari Fabio - Rosari Glory Girl x Gymnastic Star) won this coveted award. She is another baby whose breeders own the sire, and another from a still-young stud: Nanette and Ulrich Doering’s Southern Star Sport Horses in the Waikato. She provides yet more evidence of the super youngsters the Doerings are producing: their colt, Southern Star Seraphim, was last year’s overall champion NZWA foal with a dazzling score of 83.75, and their filly, Southern Star Beauty – a full sister to Southern Star Spirit – almost matched him with a score of 83 and was Reserve Champion Registered NZ Warmblood (against all ages) at HOY soon afterwards.

Southern Star Spirit was the first of the Doerings’ 2020/21 season foals to arrive. “A stunning filly with so much personality and SPIRIT from the moment she was born! Like mother, like daughter!” Nannette Doering commented at the time.

“Rosari Fabio is proving his consistency in throwing a modern, leggy type. Spirit has her sire’s loveable nature and is a feminine filly with an elastic, ground-covering gait. We are very grateful to Matthias Werner and the team that made virtual assessments possible this year.”

Both Rosari Fabio and S.S. Spirit’s dam Rosari Glory Girl (Gymnastik Star – Papanui Just A Dream x Master 850 SWB), were bred by Fiona McCrostie. Note that young SS Spirit is another with Swedish Warmblood in her veins.

Top jumping-bred

This year’s winner in the jumping category, Up N Go RF (Up To You GFE - Ellen NZPH x Untouchable M), has some powerful Selle Français blood. He is a bay colt, bred by Georgia Sheard, who founded and operates Rose Flats Equestrian in Kaukapakapa near Auckland. She specialises in breeding and producing Warmblood showjumpers, currently aiming for between two and five foals a year from her small band of mares.

“When we purchased Ellen NZPH, she was already in foal to the GFE stallion Up To You – a combination that New Zealand Performance Horses and Haupouri had both previously used,” Sheard says. “After leaving us patiently waiting until she was a month past her ‘due’ date, she delivered a gorgeous foal – a leggy colt who combines both looks and movement. We were beyond stoked [delighted]: he is a super package that we will be excited to see develop over the coming years.”

Reserve Jumping-bred was PL Peter Parker (Classico TN - Lirio x Euro Sport Centavos). His pedigree features Cornet Obolensky on the sire’s side, and Escudo I on the dam’s – a pretty magical jumping mix. He was bred by PL Performance Horses in Oamaru, another stud where youngsters have large paddocks in which to roam and develop muscle. It is owned and operated by veterinarian Hayley Shaw, and its aim is to breed for blood, temperament, rideability, and conformation, with just a few foals born each year.

Top Eventing-bred

This title went to Rangatira Fucero (see Top Foal above), while Reserve Eventing-Bred was awarded to a beautiful dark bay filly, Fendi Couture EPH (GT Jake - Éclair Chocolat xx x My Halo xx) – the first home-bred foal ever for South Island rider Brodie Roberts. “Fendi was bred for eventing; we chose GT Jake because even though he is mainly a dressage-focused stallion, he is throwing some really nice eventers. So, with the combination of him and a Thoroughbred dam, we have the ideal mix: the Warmblood movement and the stamina of the Thoroughbred. Her easy-going, mature nature has made the ‘breeding game’ super-simple for us so far, and we’re looking forward to welcoming her full sibling to the world come spring. We plan to keep Fendi and take her up the eventing grades.”

Fendi’s sire, GT Jake (Jazz - Darci Argene x Aachen) stood for three seasons at GT Sport Horses in Australia before being imported to New Zealand by Royston Equine. Although he might be seen as primarily a dressage stallion, his progeny include the mare Ricker Ridge Ricochet, who won the National Young Horse Eventing Championship in 2019 with Samantha Lissington. She is now in the UK and had a win at Bicton in April.

Top Dressage-bred

This award went to Waltzmeister WSH (see Reserve Top Foal above).

Reserve Dressage-Bred was a handsome black colt, Glamourvale (Glamourdale - Winona x Whisper), bred by Jody Hartstone and owned by Emma Dickons. His 81.5 for conformation and 76.5 for movement earned him a Merit award.

Glamourvale’s sire, Glamourdale, was the champion of 2014’s KWPN keuring, and won the FEI WBFSH World



Timbermill Fifth Avenue being exercised at Rangatira Stud by Taryn Kyd

Breeding Championship for Young Horses in 2018. Both he and young Glamourvale unquestionably live up to the ‘glamour’ part of their names.

Glamourvale’s dam, Winona, is by Hartstone’s imported Grand Prix dressage stallion Whisper x Welstar 38 (Weltmeyer x Feiner Stern x Pik Bube II), Stamm 4190001, Schridde 608. This outstanding Hanoverian was bred by Heinrich Niewoehner, and stood at Mayfield Farm in Australia before coming here. He won 11 of his 12 starts in New Zealand; tragically, injury ended his life in 2011.

Glamourvale has some magnificent dressage blood in his veins, and is a very exciting prospect for his young owner.

Another Glamourdale Merit:

It’s well worth mentioning that Glamourdale was represented by just two foals in the inspections, and the second of these, RM Goosebump (Glamourdale - MacArthur Santa Ana x San Rubin II) won a Merit award with a score of 79.0. This colt was bred by Debbie and Peter Barke of Rainbow Mountain in Auckland, and received high marks for movement. His dam, MacArthur Santa Ana, was bred in Australia by Paula McRae at MacArthur Warmblood Stud. The mare has produced two Excellences and two Merits from six foals for the Barkses and has recently been sold.

Stud in the Spotlight: Rangatira

Rangatira Stud was founded by Sarah Sutherland and Dougal Watt, in a magnificent setting on the South Head Peninsula north-west of Auckland. It covers many hectares of flat and hilly land, giving mares and foals a life as close to nature as possible. Rangatira progeny – all sired by the couple’s own stallion – include 2021’s top foal Rangatira Fucero (see above), 2020’s Reserve Champion Jumping-Bred Foal, Rangatira Furore (Timbermill Fifth Avenue - Kiteroa Gwynnavere x Anamour), plus Rangatira Furst Azure

(Timbermill Fifth Avenue - Kiteroa Belle x Haajiisan xx) who scored a mark of 80.0 and an Excellence award in 2020. Rangatira Fucero's full sister, Rangatira Futopia, was awarded merit with a score of 79.25 – just a fraction short of excellence, in the 2020 tour. Sarah Sutherland answers questions on her stud and its horses below:

◆ Can you give us a brief introduction to your stud, and tell us when it was founded?

My partner Dougal Watt and I bought our farm 17 years ago after coming back from working in Europe. However, Rangatira Stud was really only started five years ago when we began breeding performance horses here. We're a boutique stud, working with New Zealand dam jumping bloodlines going back to Brilliant Invader, Aberlou, Loewenherz, and Internet, combined with our sire Timbermill Fifth Avenue: bloodlines that are 50:50 dressage/jumping. Most of our youngstock are genetically three-quarters jumping bloodlines with one-quarter German dressage bloodlines. We're currently only producing a few foals per year, and they are raised as close to nature as possible, roaming in herds over hundreds of acres of varied terrain.

◆ How many people work at Rangatira?

Dougal and I are the only ones working here at the moment and we partner with riders to produce the young horses we breed. At present we are breeding fewer foals as we concentrate on producing the youngstock.

◆ What is your main breeding aim?

The main aim is to breed performance horses able to get to the Olympics, and our secondary aim is to make sure that we breed good horses that are special to the owners that buy them. We have only been operating for a few years as a stud and we aim to get better each year.

The New Zealand Warmblood Association (NZWA) has been a huge help – especially the foal inspections with independent German Warmblood assessors. Their advice is invaluable. We don't have large foal auctions here in New Zealand, so having an independent assessment is an excellent way to see how your breeding programme is progressing within a national and international context. Jody Hartstone, in particular, is very professional and helpful as a key member of the NZWA and helps organize these annual events. Special thanks to her and Matthias Werner for making this

year's tour happen. We really appreciate the huge efforts to keep the Warmblood banner going through all the challenges of Covid and worldwide lockdowns!

We've also had a lot of help from Sheena Ross when we entered some of our youngstock in the Equitana Performance Horse Auction, which was one of the first of its kind in New Zealand and is becoming more popular here.

◆ Is this your first NZWA foal award?

Last year our foal Rangatira Furore was the Reserve Champion Jumping Foal at the NZWB foal tour. We don't produce many foals so we were really thrilled when we won the champion foal this time with Rangatira Fucero. It was challenging this year, as it was a virtual tour via video. There is a lot of competition in New Zealand for the foal tours, so it's very encouraging that we are on the right track and are improving our foals each year.

◆ Is the stud your full-time job?

No, it's part-time at present, but we hope, all going well, to develop the business into something much bigger. New Zealand is quite a small market for sport horses, but in spite of this, it has had a lot of success in breeding and producing them, sometimes with some unusual matchings that created some extraordinary horses, like Charisma and Ready Teddy.

◆ What do you think sets Rangatira Fucero apart?

Fucero is carrying a really interesting mix of bloodlines and moves beautifully. He is very bold but in a laid-back way, and very sensible with it, and has the right 'brain' for competition. He is also special to us, because his dam was the first foal we foaled here – we bought her own dam in-foal from Omega Stud (NZ) in 2015. We raise our horses naturally on over 100 hectares of very hilly terrain, and Rangatira Fucero is



Fendi Couture and first-time breeder Brodie Roberts



Glamourvale (Glamourdale - Winona x Whisper), Reserve Dressage-bred foal – bred by Jody Hartstone and owned by Emma Dickons

the first to truly embody our natural methods. We hope this will give him a competitive advantage and ‘toughness’ going forward. I am interested in the Brösarp project in Sweden and believe the future in sport horse breeding may be looking at multiple factors, in conjunction with bloodlines, such as how horses are best raised to make them better athletes in the future. Technology like Hoofstep and other methods may become more important as buyers want to identify these factors.

◆ Are you going to keep Rangatira Fucero and what do you hope his future will be?

Yes, at this stage we plan to keep him until he is at least six years old and develop him carefully as an eventing or showjumping horse.

◆ Did you buy Timbermill Fifth Avenue with the intention of using him as your foundation stallion?

We bought him as a prospect for my partner Dougal to ride, but Dougal had a riding accident before Timbermill Fifth Avenue was started, so did not end up riding him. Because of his unique bloodlines and our interest in breeding, we started breeding him to a small band of mares while Dougal was recuperating.

He was two years old when we bought him from Timbermill Stud in Auckland. We were attracted to his unique breeding, his extraordinary movement, excellent bone, and calm but confident personality. He was sired by Fürst Nymphenburg, reserve champion at the 2007 Hanoverian stallion licensing, and is out of a Hanoverian broodmare called Devon (Dynamit - Paratata xx x Aureate II xx). She was a super-mare – a super-producer of really talented horses. Her half brother, GV Braveheart, achieved an individual seventh place

in eventing at the 1998 World Equestrian Games in Rome. [GV Braveheart (Distelfink) was bred by Bernie Maubach at Vollrath, sold to Australia and ridden by Olivia Bunn.]

◆ Has Timbermill Fifth Avenue competed himself?

He has only been used as a breeding stallion so far, as we didn’t have a rider, and we are concentrating on his progeny in competition instead. His first foals are only four years old – they were born in 2016 – and are just coming out in competition.

He has had only 20 foals altogether, because he is not available to outside mares yet, until we see how his progeny do in competition. Two of them have been started as four-year-olds and at least one of them will do the five-year-old showjumping season in NZ – we expect her to be at CCN1* or possibly even CCN2* eventing at the age of six. We also sold a three-year-old who is competing in the showing scene and has picked up reserve champion youngstock in most shows

he has attended. Because of our interest in how the youngstock are reared, we are keeping most of them so they can continue to be raised on the farm until they are started under saddle.

◆ Have you used any other stallion with your mares?

Not yet, but we are looking at Contenda this year. Our broodmares are descended from Brilliant Invader, Aberlou, Tira Mink [sire of Sir Mark Todd’s Charisma], and Loewenherz bloodlines. We also now have broodmares who have been raised in this natural way, sired by our stallion, and the foundation broodmares which we will be looking for stallions for.

◆ Future plans?

We would eventually like to partner with international studs. Maybe some overseas breeders or riders might want to partner with us and send embryos or semen to our broodmares to be raised in New Zealand to increase their ability to market their own breeding stallions and foals in Australasia and Asia. It’s easy to export horses from New Zealand as we are free of most equine diseases, plus it’s an ideal place to raise foals with our temperate climate and open spaces. It is particularly good for eventing horses.

With climate change, Covid, economic, and technical changes, horse breeding may increasingly need to adapt and have contingency plans. It could be that instead of moving competition horses around the world, studs start to keep their horses in different hemispheres and compete them locally under their banner, or sponsor local syndicates like a sports team. Everything is on the Internet now, so competition and sponsorship can be completely international. ■

CWHBA reaches 10,000 registrations milestone

BY CHRIS GOULD

PHOTOGRAPHY: PRIVATE COLLECTION AND PETER LLEWELLYN

The Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association recently celebrated its 10,000th horse registered, and lucky breeders Heather and Marshall, of Ingersoll, ON, will receive a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion. It's a great way to start off their breeding careers, since this was their first foal.

Heather first became involved with the CWHBA as a young breeder, and travelled to England in 2015 as a member of the Canadian Young Breeders team competing at Hartpury College, site of the WBFSH International Young Breeders Championships. She continued her involvement as a junior judge and became Ontario Chapter vice president in 2019.

Heather took what she learned in the young breeder program and applied it to her breeding choice, selecting a stallion that complemented her mare's strengths and weaknesses. Canadian bred Beau Balou (Bon Balou x Calypso de Moyon) was chosen for his size and compact body type as well as his athleticism. The mare Olive II, a chestnut tobiano former show hunter, and now Marshall's pleasure horse, has a fabulous disposition, but had a longer frame and needed more height. The resulting filly, born May 19, 2020, Beaux Art ON-[CAN]10000-20 G is an eye-catcher who was sold shortly after weaning.

Time will tell if her selection works out, but Heather is passionate about the value of inspections and the move to linear profiling as important aids to new breeders. She sees the Stallion Service Auction as a great way to expose our high quality stallions, although she was not a successful bidder in 2021.

The new owner of Beaux Art, Jeff Franklin of London, ON, is also a first time buyer. His young daughter Addyson, 12, a keen horse enthusiast motivated her dad to consider buying a horse for her to ride, but Jeff decided he wanted a family



Buenos Aires at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, ridden by Sandra Donnelly (CAN)

project that he and his daughter could participate in and learn from together. Coming from a dairy farm background he knows the value of genetics, so when Heather introduced him to the young filly, he researched the sire line extensively and was impressed both with the strong performance pedigree and the temperament of the bloodline. Jeff and his daughter Addyson are now looking forward to working with Beaux Art through all the stages of her development.

It seems fitting that a new breeder and new owner should mark the beginning of the next 10,000 Canadian Warmbloods. Looking back to registration number one, Argex (Arkansas - Olds Lady Reward) registered August 5, 1993, bred by long time Alberta breeder Roy Gunderson, it's rewarding to consider all the pleasure and success Canadian Warmbloods have brought to Canadian riders. From the Olympics and World Championships to local shows, Canadian breeders have applied international standards of excellence to their breeding programs with outstanding success. Horses like Buenos Aires (Beijing 2008 Olympic Games three-day event); Pikardi (Lexington 2010 World Equestrian Games dressage); Future Shock (Spruce Meadows International Grand Prix); Belmont (Global Champions Tour)... and many more who have showcased the Canadian breeding program at international level. ■



Beaux Art with her 2020 filly foal (subsequently sold)

Great DWB results in stallion licensings and mare approvals

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB
PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

At a regional show, two two-year-old fillies, who were originally purchased at the 2019 Elite Foal Auction, made their owners very happy and proud as these gorgeous girls were selected for the national final their gender and age group at the DWB Elite Show at Vilhelmsborg the first weekend of September.

Egegårdens Miss Daisy DWB, by Blue Hors Zackerey x Blue Hors Farrell was purchased at the 2019 Elite Foal Auction by Blue Hors and later became champion filly at the regional show. At the same show Zenith Eg DWB by Blue Hors Farrell x Blue Hors Zack was also selected to compete for the national title at Vilhelmsborg. She was purchased by Asbjørn Lauritzen at the 2019 Elite Foal Auction.

Along with the finals for the best foals, two-year-old fillies and saddle-graded mares, the Danish Warmblood Elite Show – scheduled to take place September 4/5 – also features the well-known Elite Foal Auction along with a national dressage and jumping show with classes up to the highest level, a young horse championship qualifier in dressage and jumping, as well as the selection finale for the team that will represent Danish Warmblood at the 2021 World Breeding Championships for Young Horses at Zangersheide, Lanaken.

Important DWB dates

- Saturday, September 4: DWB Elite Foal Auction at Vilhelmsborg
- Saturday, September 4: DWB Elite Show with foal finals at Vilhelmsborg

- Sunday, September 5: DWB Elite Show with mare finals at Vilhelmsborg
- Saturday, September 11: DWB South Regional Foal Auction
- Saturday, September 18: DWB North Regional Foal Auction



Proud breeder Bjarne Petersen looks on as Egegårdens Miss Daisy DWB is awarded by Blue Hors stud manager Martin Klavsén, and handler Michael Ilsoe



Egegårdens Miss Daisy DWB, one of the most sought-after fillies at the 2019 Elite Foal Auction. This year she is a regional champion for 2yo fillies and selected for the DWB Elite Show



Also selected for the Elite Show is Zenith Eg DWB presented by her owner Asbjørn Lauritzen and joined by breeder Jaan Bonde

Polish AA championships: Reviving a breed

BY AGATA GROSICKA

PHOTOGRAPHY: OLIWIA CHMIELEWSKA

Mid June 2021, the Bialka Horse Stud hosted the 14th edition of the Polish National Youth Championships for Polish Anglo-Arabians (also known as Malopolski-bred horses). A total of 70 young breed representatives fought for the championship honours in their respective age-group categories, as well as for the Best In Show title.

The judges – Joanna Szulowska, Tadeusz Gloskowski, and Andrzej Kosior – evaluated all 70 horses born between 2018 and 2020. The assessment on the flat included conformation (head, neck, barrel, legs), with gaits being judged afterwards, plus free jumping in the case of two- and three-year-olds. The awarded horses were as follows:

Champion of Younger Stallions

- Akwen AA (D agas - Ashanti x Huzar) bred by Aleksander Loj and owned by Janusz Loj

1st Vice Champion of Younger Stallions

- Karamba AA (Nathan de La Tour - Karioka x Efekt) bred and owned by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud

2nd Vice Champion of Younger Stallions

- Tehari AA (Fodel - Temis/Grey), bred and owned by Diana Zuber

4th Place

- Emmanuel AA (Laurier de Here - Emblema x Chestnut Park All That Jazz) bred and owned by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud

Champion of Younger Mares

- Astryda AA (Emark - Asteria x Efekt) bred and owned by Janow Podlaski Horse Stud

1st Vice Champion of Younger Mares

- Artemida (El Ejido - Arka x Euftrat) bred and owned by Mariusz Kijek

2nd Vice Champion of Younger Mares

- Maciejka (El Ejido - Malinka x Tabex) bred by Mariusz Kijek and owned by Robert Kaczmar

4th Place

- Belinda AA (Efekt - Berra x Divisor xx) bred by Marek Kolcon and owned by Anna Fornek

5th Place

- Baretta AA (Elaborat - Bahia x Frazes), bred and owned by Bialka Horse Stud

Best in Show

- Akwen AA (D agas - Ashanti x Huzar) bred by Aleksander Loj and owned by Janusz Loj

Undoubtedly Janow Podlaski Stud can claim it was their show as their horses won the biggest number of awards.

That's how their results were explained by Agnieszka Kolek-Kowieska, who not only presented the horses but also on daily basis works in Janow Podlaski Stud where she trains horses under saddle and prepares them for championships: "Emmanuel AA – a stallion bred in our stud – became the champion of yearling colts and scored a very high note. To be true, we put our bets on the other yearling – Karamba AA and I still think he's the better of the two. Yesterday he got rather too emotional and did not show his potential to the fullest extent, including his great walk. He was tense and thus earned a lower score. The surface worked in favor of Emmanuel and slowed him down a bit so he could present his gaits in a better way. Both colts are very interesting and next year we're planning to take part in the stallion licensing qualifications.

"Both yearlings are by French stallions – Emmanuel AA is by Laurier de Here and Karamba AA by Nathan de La Tour. Karamba AA is out of dam Karioka (Karoca x Divisor xx - Efekt) – the champion of Poland and Best in Show herself. The dam of Emmanuel AA – Emblema (Emina x Divisor xx x All that Jazz) won the title of vice champion of Poland at the age of two. Both mares were shown and judged here in Bialka which proves that Bialka Championships can help both breeders and riders by giving them the first overview of the quality of a horse we have. This is so thanks to the fact that the formula of the championships has changed in recent years. Horses are now not only assessed on the ground but also their gaits are assessed (in case of yearlings), plus gaits as well as free jumping in case of two- and three-year-old horses. That helps to initially evaluate their quality. My personal wish would be to have them all later tested in sport but that's not always the case.

"The Janow Podlaski mares which scored well in Bialka Championships later turned into great broodmares."

◆ Why do you now use French stallions in breeding of Polish Anglo-Arabs?

It's actually nothing new. They were already used by the former director of the stud, Mr. Marek Trela. In my opinion we need fresh blood to breed Polish Anglo-Arab horses in



Emmanuel AA with Agnieszka Kolek-Kowieska

order to improve the characteristics and performance of the breed. Currently the number of good quality and sport-tested Polish Anglo-Arab stallions is pretty limited. Thus we search for something new from abroad. French stallions that have been used in the Janow Podlaski Stud are well tested. They themselves, their sires, and their offspring are sport horses. Of course our actions are limited to the size of our herd. We have 30 broodmares and only some of them have foaled by French stallions. Five foals have already been born, all of them are in great shape, handsome sport horses with a good canter.

◆ **What is still to be improved in these horses?**

When I think of an Anglo-Arab horse from Janow Podlaski I see a noble and handsome horse, advanced in blood and of dry tissue which makes him healthy and enduring. The majority of our horses are also good movers. What they lack in my opinion is the strength in jumping and a strong, well-angled back. That's really crucial both in showjumping and dressage where a horse needs good self-carriage, especially in high-class competitions.

Thus fresh and foreign blood is very desirable. Sometimes it is worth taking a risk as it was in case of the stallion Chestnut Park All that Jazz xxoo who was first used by Mr. Marek Trela. The risk paid off. The stallion made a great contribution to the Janow Podlaski herd. He left four approved sons: Emark AA out of Emeraldal x Divisor xx; Tanges AA out of Tamaria x Decoration xo; Edam AA out of Emina x Divisor xx; and Elios AA out of Elinda x Doumba xx, as well as very good broodmares, including the already mentioned Emblema, the dam of Emmanuel AA. I do hope that French stallions will also contribute to the herd by giving their

offspring strength, rideability, a power to jump, and willingness to cooperate, as All that Jazz did.

World breeding is clearly divided into showjumping and dressage bloodlines, while Polish Anglo-Arab breed is not that specific. Many of the horses advanced in blood have become good eventers, and I hope they will continue that way, but more are now being seen also in dressage arenas.

Polish Anglo-Arabs are intelligent, smart, and sometimes hot, so a rider has to be patient and observant. There is no shortcut, but once we find a right direction it will lead us straight to success, also in sport.

Now Emark AA is clearing the way in dressage, getting good scores in small tour. He is a very handsome stallion, a

real eye-catcher. A dignified and athletic mover. He also has a great character, a willingness to work and act, letting me ride him to this level. He's only nine years old and ready to get into really good shape. He's the evidence that Polish Anglo-Arab horses can become successful in all kinds of sport.

We brought five horses to the Bialka Championships: Emanuel AA, Karamba AA and Priscilla AA are by French stallions, while two mares – Taxa AA and Astryda AA – are by Emark. Astryda AA won the championship title for younger mares, while Karamba AA won the title of first vice champion of younger stallions. We hope that their careers have just started and are looking forward to the future.

Association President Tomasz Nowak

Tomasz Nowak, president of the Association of the Breeders of Polish Anglo-Arab Horses, summarized the championships and talked about the current trends in the breeding of Polish Anglo-Arabs.



Emark AA ridden by Agnieszka Kolek-Kowieska



Akwen AA presented by Aleksander Loj

◆ Which stallions are now popular? Which ones do you use?

I mostly use stallions already tested in sport. I don't limit myself only to local, but reach out to foreign stallions such as Mighty Magic, or French Anglo-Arabs like Nathan de La Tour and Fusain du Defey. Their offspring have performed well in free jumping and are now tested under saddle. We have to focus on breeding horses that can be used in sport. The breeders should pay more attention to how the horses are assessed here – both in free jumping and in gaits.

I brought two young horses – a mare, and a stallion by Mighty Magic – a Holsteiner who can be registered in the Polish AA Stud Book. He is by Mytens out of dam by Heraldik xx. Mighty Magic became the eventing vice world champion in the six- and seven-year-old category with Andreas Dibowski. Now he's a Grand Prix dressage horse in Germany, which proves that a good horse can be used not only in one discipline.

I have a feeling that we generally don't breed eventing horses. They just happen to become good eventers if they jump well, have good gaits, are brave, and healthy. Polish



Astryda AA (Emark - Asteria x Efekt)

Anglo-Arabs are still more affordable to riders than foreign-bred horses, which is good. They can be tested in sport and then, if successful, used in breeding. I try to change the stallions I use and search for new ones around the world. I also encourage our breeders to go for Thoroughbred horses, those from olden times whose semen is available through many foreign studs. A modern Thoroughbred horse is faster, short-distanced, and not ideal for breeding half-bred horses. Breeding is a longtime adventure, everything takes time.

◆ What's your opinion on Bialka Championships?

It is a great breeding event and an opportunity to meet other breeders and spend some time with those we see only once a year. The scores suggest the quality of a horse. And that helps the breeders to draw the right conclusions.

Bialka's Jaroslaw Skrzypek

Jaroslaw Skrzypek from the Bialka Horse Stud – which hosted the event – also presented their offspring and was very satisfied with this year's results and the breed's future prospect.

◆ How would you evaluate this edition of the Bialka Championships?

Let's start with numbers: 75 entries, 70 horses coming to Bialka. Compared to previous editions the result is splendid. The level of the show was also very satisfactory – a great presentation from both State Studs – Janow Podlaski and Bialka. Private breeders are certainly keeping pace.

My favourite horses were our mares Jurta AA (Szkra - Jutlandia x Huzar) and Baretta AA (Elaborat - Bahia x Frazes). Generally we observe more and more modern-type Polish Anglo-Arabs, and more who are later competing in dressage arenas. When it comes to Bialka Stud, we now are focusing on eventing horses. We base our revitalization of breeding on three mares we bought from Walewice Stud three years ago and two mares from Janow Podlaski Stud we bought two years ago. Their offspring – Jurta and Baretta – have been presented here and achieved great results. Our recent purchase is a four-year-old stallion Dworek, also bought from Walewice Stud, and we're planning to test him in sport and promote him outside.

Bialka Stud is the location of the Association of the Breeders of Polish Anglo-Arab Horses, and our goal is to show the beauty and quality of our horses and promote them through sport. Both our Bialka horses and horses bred by associated breeders. ■

Leaderboard heats up in Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series

BY GILLIAN BOND AND LISA KEANE / HSI
PHOTOGRAPHY: LAURENCE DUNNE

The Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series has been the key to the development and preparation of young horses in Ireland for the last 17 years. The series, which takes place over four months in eight different locations throughout the country, not only allows Ireland's top riders to compete their young horses at the highest level in the best venues, but also promotes sustainable young-horse production.

Hence, it is no surprise that the success of horses produced through the Studbook Series is reflected in the results obtained by Irish horses and riders at the showjumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken, Belgium. In 2019, Irish horses and riders claimed four of the nine medals on offer at the championships, and with the level of talent displayed in the 2021 Studbook series, there is much hope that history will be repeated and even surpassed this year.

At the halfway stage of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series, the competition is really beginning to heat up, with only a few points separating the five-, six- and seven-year-old leaders from the rest of the field. While everything is still to play for, Irish Sport Horse studbook representatives caught up with the league leaders to chat to them about their horses, breeding decisions and the Studbook Series.

Five-year-old class

Leading the five-year-old field by one point is She's Got It (ISH), a 2016 mare by Luidam (KWPN) out of Luxs

Curious (ISH) by Lux Z (Hann). Bred by Brian Murphy, owned by Penny Murphy and ridden by Stephen Murphy, the breeding and production of She's Got It truly is a family affair, making her success in the Studbook Series even more special for all involved.

When speaking with Penny and Brian Murphy about the breeding and production of She's Got It, they said "We chose Luidam as a stallion because we always liked the way he jumped, and from the studbook classes it was clear that his offspring were also very successful. As amateur breeders it was important to us that we bred an animal that was easy to work with and had a nice temperament, so Luidam seemed to be the perfect fit for our mare. In terms of future breeding, we also have a four-year-old mare who is a full sister to She's Got It, so further down the line we plan to retain at least one of the two mares for breeding. In terms of production, the studbook series is a fantastic way to produce young horses and it is also fun for Stephen. They get great experience jumping in the main rings and it really helps them to develop. It is also very beneficial for us as breeders and owners, as we can see how our horse's performance compared to those horses within the same age group, which in turn helps us to make future breeding and production decisions."

When asked about the future plans for She's Got It, the Murphy's replied, "Of course all eyes are on Lanaken going forward, but what's most important to us as a family is that we produce her in the best way possible."

Leaderboard – 5yo

She's Got It / Stephen Murphy	27
Monbeg Rising / Tomas Doyle	26
Monbeg Ruby / Tomas Doyle	25
Clonterm Obolensky / Oliver Glancy	23
Pablo C / Sophie Richards	21
Kylemore-Lady / Linda Moloney	20
Captain Candy Man / Olivia Burns	19
Cullintra Tactical Move / John Bannon	18
Luv U Forever / Eoghan Murphy	16



Horse Sport Irelands Nadia Rea presenting Ethan Ahearne with The ISH rug and rosette following his win on Lissadell (ISH) in Mullingar International Show

Kilnmac Maud / Robyn Moran	16
SBH Captain Jack / Barry Griffin	15
ABC Saving Grace / Catherine Thornton	14
You Two Touchdown / Francis Derwin Jnr.	14
Liscarro Sinatra / Francis Derwin	14
HHS Tokyo / Michael Pender	13

Six-year-old class

In the six-year-old division Robyn Moran with Fortside Trend (ISH) and Ethen Ahearne with Lissadell (ISH) share the lead with 21 points having both returned very consistent performances.

Fortside Trend, a gelding by Future Trend (Oldbg) out of Lisa (Westf) by Landino (Holst), was bred by Brian Moran of Askeaton, Co. Limerick and is a half-brother to Alberta Mist (ISH). Brian has used the stallion Future Trend, who stands in Kieran Kennedy's Coolballyshan Stud in Adare, Co Limerick, since the beginning of his breeding career. When speaking about Future Trend Brian noted that "he has produced a fabulous horse in Fortside Trend, along with another full sister to Fortside Trend, the five-year-old Fortside Sparkle (ISH). Fortside Trend has a great attitude, a great mind, loves his job ,and is very careful". Brian went on to explain, "I retained Fortside Trend as he was not overly big as a three-year-old. My daughter Robyn also loved him, so I wanted to give her the chance to produce him through the ISH Studbook Series. Their main aim now is to qualify or be selected for their first Lanaken in the autumn." Brian continued by saying, "The ISH studbook Series is great for horses that have ability and potential, and acts as a marketplace for people who are looking to buy and sell showjumpers." Robyn, who is a regular competitor in the Studbook Series also added that "the ISH Studbook Series courses are fair, the tracks are built with diverse fences, and they are held in the best venues in Ireland. This allows young

horses to gain great experience when competing in the Studbook Series classes which is essential for successful production."

Lissadell (ISH), also in joint-first place in the six-year-old class, is a mare by Plot Blue (KWPN) out of Winter Cruise (ISH) by Cruising (ISH). Bred by Lisa Cawley and owned by Noel Cawley, this horse placed second in the HSI loose jumping competition at Warrington Equestrian Centre as a four-year-old. Starting under saddle as a five-year-old, Lissadell has since developed through the studbook series and went on to place fourth in the five-year-old series last year. She then progressed to winning the five-year old Cavan Crystal Hotel Classic Final at the end of 2020 and, more recently, won the six-year-old RDS qualifier which took place at the Meadows earlier this month. Lissadell is also the half-sister to Go Lightly (ISH), the winner of the five-year-old RDS qualifier in the Meadows on the same day.

Lissadell's owner Noel Cawley explained that, "We liked Plot Blue as his progeny are very careful, and as he needs a blood mare, we knew Winter Cruise would suit. My aim is to sell the geldings and retain the mares for competition and future breeding, thus Winter Cruise is currently in foal to MyLord Carthago (SF) for 2022." Noel went on to speak about Lissadell, "she is very careful, has a good technique, and is very quick across the ground. We plan to jump her in the ISH Studbook Series at Balmoral to prepare her for competition at the RDS in August. I've always believed in the ISH studbook series, as it ensures that young horses grow and develop in the ring, without being put under too much pressure."

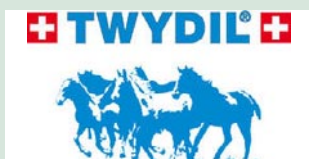
When speaking with Ethen Ahearne about Lissadell he said, "Lissadell makes my life very easy as she is a real trier and is very competitive against the clock. The ISH Studbook Series is a great developmental series for preparing young horses for the main ring, and for competition on the world stage in the highest ranked competitions."

Leaderboard 6yo

Fortside Trend / Robyn Moran	21
Lissadell / Ethen Ahearne	21
Tricolor MB / Julieanne Gaffney	19
Tranquility Bay / Joanne Blair	18
Roanwood My Hometown / Ciaran Ward	17
Crossroads Quality Chip / Harriet Pele	17
CBI Karhari / Shane Goggins	17
Boleybawn First Lady / Michelle Kenny	16
Heritage MBF / Jason Higgins	16
Cillbhrid Hank / Linda Moloney	16
AVM Bellissima / Michelle Kenny	14
DHF Alliance / Capt. Charlene Kehoe	14
Seaview Demonstration / Alan O'Regan	14
MHS Style / Jack Brennan	14
HHS Good Times / Michael Pender	13



Horse Sport Irelands Director of Breeding and Programmes Alison Corbally presents prize to 7yo Series leader Vincent Byrne /HW True Blue (ISH) after their victory at Cavan Equestrian



Seven-year-old class

In pole position in the seven-year-old class is HW True Blue (ISH), a 2014 gelding by Plot Blue (KWPN) out of Warrenstown Lass (ISH) by Warrenstown You 2 (ISH). Bred and owned by Hilda Wall and ridden by Vincent Byrne, HW True Blue holds a three-point lead in the series.

Speaking with Hilda about HW True Blue, she said, “As a novice breeder, HW True Blue is the first horse that I’ve bred and produced alongside Elizabeth Wall. His dam, Warrenstown Lass was a successful showjumper herself, competing in both the five- and six-year-old classes at the Royal Dublin Horse Show with Tholm Keane. I bought her as an eight-year-old to compete in the amateur showjumping classes myself, but following a serious accident I was no longer able to compete, so Elizabeth and I decided to breed from her instead. We chose the stallion Plot Blue as he was one of the leading stallions available at the time and we felt that he would really compliment Warrenstown Lass (ISH). The success of HW True Blue to date would suggest that this was the right choice.”

When discussing HW True Blue’s performance, Hilda noted that, “he has always performed well in the young horse classes, qualifying for the Royal Dublin Horse Show as a five-year-old with Maria Vozone, and now as a seven-year-old with top Kilkenny based rider Vincent Byrne. He has also been consistently performing in the seven-year-old class of the Studbook Series with Vincent, which is reflected in his leaderboard position. Together with Vincent’s expertise, much of HW True Blues success can be attributed to Eamon Sheehan Jnr, who has been a constant source of good advice and encouragement for myself and Elizabeth.”

When speaking with Vincent Byrne about HW True Blue and their success

in the studbook series he said, “I have had HW True Blue since February, and the aim was to have him ready to successfully compete in the Studbook Series. He has stepped up to the seven-year-old class well and has been consistently performing, and the classes are teaching him to be more competitive in the ring which is imperative for a young horse. I have no doubt that he will continue to progress over the rest of the series, and if he maintains his current form, Lanaken is certainly in our sights.”

Leaderboard 7yo

HW True Blue / Vincent Byrne	21
Florida Springs / Francis Derwin Jnr	18
Lisboy Louie / Niamh McEvoy	16
CBI Victory / Susan Fitzpatrick	14
Creevyquinn Pearl / Jason Higgins	12
GCS Athena / Michael Pender	10
Courtwood Tinky / Darragh Ryan	10
Corraghoe Steel / Diarmuid Ryan	8
ESI Jet Set / Oisín Aylward	8
BP Winston / Ethen Ahearne	8
Tullabeg Jackson / Kenneth Graham	6
BP St. Patrick / Ethen Ahearne	6
Cruising With Alice / Tony O’Donohue	6
Emerald Mystique / Ethen Ahearne	6
Derrycush / Capt. Charlene Kehoe	5

The next leg of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series takes place in Balmoral on July 10/11, where we look forward to welcoming some action-packed and competitive showjumping.■



Shes Got It (ISH) and Stephen Murphy competing in Mullingar International ISH SJ Series

Hof Waterkant and Springflut Festival host auctions

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: JANNE BUGTRUP

With auctions being scheduled one after another, two newly set up marketing platforms have been created on the Holsteiner Verband schedule during the first two weeks in July: Hof Waterkant – Saturday, July 3; and the Springflut Festival – Saturday, July 10.

The first foal auction will take place during the CSI3* at Hof Waterkant, the home of Janne Friederike Meyer-Zimmermann and Christoph Zimmermann in Pinneberg.

Hof Waterkant

According to Roland Metz, executive director of the Holsteiner Verband; “The lot comprises foals by international top sires and from proven sport performance dam lines, complemented by some foals by up-and-coming and young stallions.” Needless to say, the collection does not come without first season offspring by Janne’s promising young talent Chinchero (Chopin VA x Clarimo). From Chacco-Blue (Chambertin x Contender), Tangelo van de Zuuhothoeve (Narcos II x Laudanum xx), Diamant de Semilly

(Le Tot de Semilly x Elf III) to Chilli Willi (Casall x Lord) and Don VHP (Diamant de Semilly x Voltaire), all the top level performers are in on it. The collection will go on the block on Saturday, July 3 in a hybrid auction format comprising 12 foals.

Another highlight on the North German horse show calendar is scheduled only one week later in Hörup near the Danish border, with the Johannsen family hosting the second Springflut Festival, from July 7-11, at their facility.

Springflut Festival

The schedule includes no fewer than seven jumping classes through advanced level, the Grand Prix at four-star S level, plus the foal championship of the Schleswig-Flensburg

breeding district, and an auction called ‘Holsteiner Verband meets Holsteiner Highlight Sales’, which “definitely brings benefits in terms of variety to our event schedule,” says Stephan Johannsen, the man in charge of the event. Ten foals and four riding horses – four- and five-year-olds – selected by Roland Metz in cooperation with the organizing team, will be auctioned in a hybrid sale on the evening of Saturday, July 10. “I’m thrilled to take part in the Springflut Festival. Providing the best possible support to horse shows in Schleswig-Holstein is a matter close to my heart,” says Roland Metz. The lots are by privately owned as well as Verband stallions. Like for example the new Holsteiner state champion Crack (Cornet Obolensky x Candillo), represented by two offspring, two foals and one riding horse by Clarimo, and established names including Varihoka du Temple (Luigi d’Amaury x Kannan GFE), Colman (Carthago x Lord), Casall (Caretino x Lavall I), and I’m Special de Muze (Emerald van’t Ruytershof x Nabab de Reve). ■



Blue Wave (Baloucan) will be #4 at the Hof Waterkant sale

Good kick-off at season's first DWB foal auction

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

Danish Warmblood's first foal auction of this year was held at Blue Hors when 17 quality foals went under the hammer. No few than 16 foals changed ownership for an average price of €15,000 with the price-highlight heading for a future in Germany.

With 94% of foals sold during this Danish Warmblood hybrid auction – combining online bidders and those present in the arena – half were purchased by Danish buyers, while the other half sold abroad to buyers from Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the USA.

The auction's price-highlight was the super, well-moving filly Livia (Vitalis x Fürst Romancier x Blue Hors Zack), bred by successful breeders Lena and Ulrik Kristensen. She entered the ring with an online bid of €8,500 and left with the knockdown price of €30,500 going to the Germany. "I must say that I am more than happy with the sale," breeder Ulrik Kristensen said.

The colt foal to achieve the highest bid was Ribjergs Special Select (Secret x Chopin Dane x Attention,) bred by Anette R. Pedersen and Claus Nielsen. He was sold for €25,000 to Anne Lyngbye and Per Skjærbæk, who also purchased the filly Abkærs Vitalina. Among the clients were both first-time buyers and several return buyers, such as Kristin G. Andresen who secured two foals for Norway.

The auction committee were more than happy with the result and were particularly happy to have sold so many of the breeders' foals.

According to Louise Ringsbo from the auction committee: "It has been great to be able to present some of the breeders' best foals again and we could not have wished for better facilities than here at Blue Hors. Our hybrid set-up enables us to reach new clients abroad, and it has been a great pleasure to see so many super foals change hands." ■



Auctioneer Casper Cassøe sold 16 out of the 17 foals that went under the hammer

Top to bottom: (1) Danish buyers in the arena purchased half of the foals, while the other half sold to online bidders from abroad (2) The colt Ribjergs Special Select sold for €25,000 to Denmark (3) Filly Livia became the auction's price highlight and sold to Germany

Three new Hanoverian eventing champions crowned

By JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNOVERANER VERBAND ARCHIVE/LAFRENTZ

The Hanoverian Eventing Horse Championships celebrated their premiere in Mechterzen with a lavish celebration which saw Clou win the four-year-old class, Dia Divina K take home the five-year-old title, while Peppermint Patty took the championship crown for six-year-olds.

The four-year-olds competed in a suitability test for riding horses, including a cross-country phase. With a score of 8.70, the Chico's Boy x Ransom O'War xx son Clou (bred by Ina von Estorff, Rosche) lived up to his name by becoming the first Hanoverian champion with rider Maria Wahler in great style.

He was followed by two horses from the same breeders – Spitzlei and Hohls of Wriedel. Bobby Balou (Balou Peggio [Balou du Rouet] x Sunlight xx) was runner-up with Friederike Stock, while third place went to Dia Carlotta SH, a Diacontinus daughter out of the Is Orlow xx mare, Oh Ivy, ridden by one of the breeders, Dr. Stefanie Spitzlei herself.

The 2016 vintage competed in a two-star, A-class cross-country test, which was also a qualifier for the Bundeschampionat in Warendorf. Dia Divina K (Diacontinus x Ryon D'Azex AA), bred by Dr. Susanna Kleindienst, from Vienna, Austria, completed the demanding course with a 'very good' (9.00) mark, to become the five-year-old Hanoverian champion. She was ridden by Nadine Marzahl, who took part in the Bundeschampionat with Dia Divina K's full brother, Cloud K, three years ago.

Second place went to the Stakkato x Quidam de Revel son Sir Gustav, bred by Nicole Nehm, Bergen, presented by Hannah Weinkopf. While Best Liqueur (Best of Gold x Likoto xx), bred by Marion Gräbener and Dorothea Feld, finished third.

The six-year-olds, who competed in the L-class cross-country test, were reunited with many of last year's Bundeschampionat finalists. First and foremost was Peppermint Patty (Perigueux x Contendro), bred by Diedrich Meyer, Köhlen. Ridden by Stephan Dubsky, he was one of the last participants to roll through the field to win the Hanoverian championship from behind with a score of 8.70.

Vice Champion was the Schwarzgold x Scolari daughter Schwarzrotgold SB (bred by Sabine Byl, Weener), masterfully presented by the breeder's daughter Wiebke Jaspers.

Queridoo (Quantensprung x De Niro), from breeder Sven Kahrens, Langwedel, successfully completed the podium with Kim Heitmann in her saddle. ■



Hanoverian 6yo eventing champion: Peppermint Patty with Stephan Dubsky (here at the 2020 Bundeschampionat)

Major contribution to statistics from online and hybrid sales

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

In the first half of this year data has been collated from 68 publicized auctions, featuring just over 1,500 horses who have changed hands for a total of just over €34 million! In other words, close to an average price of €23,000. To date, the difference in price for fashionably bred embryo's/foals or for broodmares has been anomalous.

For example, during the latest Elite Equestrian auction a frozen embryo by Chacco-Blue out of Boyante de Muze (Kashmir van Schuttershof), sold for €25,000. At the same auction, a three-year-old mare by Casallo Z out of Bel Amie Courcelle (Apache d'Adriers), sold for breeding for €7,500! This seems to demonstrate that buyers are willing to pay a great deal of money based on 'hope', by investing in an embryo, frozen or otherwise. It appears that the tipping point has already been reached, where buyers will pay more for an embryo than for an in-foal broodmare.

Broodmare influence

This prompts us to consider the value of broodmare contributions to auctions. So far this year, the 10-year-old mare Lavina van den Bisschop (Bamako de Muze - Aphrodite d'Arsouilles x Nabab de Reve) has had five embryos at five different auctions. The competition mare Centaura (2004: Cento - Quicklight x Centauer Z) has had four embryos, but it seems this is only a small quantity of the embryos/frozen embryos that have been collected from her. The list of mares with two foals is quite numerous.

For sure, stallions will always come forward with more offspring, but it's indisputable that the use of embryo transfer and ICSI is changing the marketplace for auctions and, in the end, for breeding itself.

At this point in the auction year analysis, Lavina van den Bisschop and Centaura both feature more offspring than some stallions, and it's no secret that breeders like to invest in commercial and proven damlines.

Interestingly, there is an ongoing discussion about the genetic diversity with dressage stallions, that is lower for jumping stallions. For instance, when we look at the top 10 dressage and jumping stallions for most offspring sold, we see that the overall volume for dressage stallions is much lower than jumping stallions: The top two dressage stallions have 15 and 13, while four stallions occupy third place each with 12 offspring. For jumping sires the top three have 42, 31, and 25 offspring, respectively. Looking at volume, there are 941 jumping sires in the list, and 574 dressage.

So far this year, the WEF Sport Horse Auction in the USA has recorded the highest turnover compared to other auctions, with an average price of almost €200,000 for the 12

horses sold. Harley VDL was represented by three offspring who generated an average price of €323,201.

During this period, Paul Schockemöhle has been responsible for organizing nine auctions for a total of 93 horses sold for a turnover of just under €4 million (averaging €43,010). In fact, he has been scheduling twice-monthly online auctions of young horses that are proving immensely popular.

Within the top 29 horses that sold for €100,000 and more, we find 11 dressage and 18 jumping horses, although the top two in the latter group were both dressage bred.

You will find nine stallions, 11 geldings and nine mares in these top 28, with the top price, so far, being for the DSP-bred and approved stallion Best Future (Benicio - Pink Floyd x Don Diamond, breeder: Franz Galneder), at €630,000. He also became the champion of the DSP approvals.

In jumping, the mare High Five d'Ive Z (Harley VDL - Biscotta d'Ive Z x Berlin, breeder: Isabelle van Eeckhout) sold for the top price of €417,936. The breeder started this line with the 1987-born Holsteiner mare Birke III (Landgraf - Unke II x Rossini, Stamm 4847, breeder: Johannes Thies) which, through the generations, has produced quite a few international showjumpers.

At the youngest end of the spectrum, the top price for a foal was €60,000 for the Westphalian dressage-bred colt Deichgraf (Dream Boy - Dance on Points x De Niro, breeder: Ludger Wigger-Pieper), who sold via the Westfalian Online Auction, dressage edition.

For the top price for a showjumping-bred foal we must return to a Cornet Obolensky son, Cornet's Creation (out of Deja-Vu x Diarado, breeder: Thomas Sagel) who sold for €53,000. Which also brings us also to the popularity of Cornet Obolensky (Clinton - Rabanna van Costersveld x Heartbreaker, breeder: Thierry Degraeve) himself, as he heads the leaderboard (as he did for most of 2020), with the highest volume of offspring, ahead of that other very popular choice, Chacco-Blue (Chambertin - Contara x Contender, bred by Karl-Heinz Köpp).

Will this change before the 2021 year-end? It will certainly be interesting to watch the results of the coming auctions. ■

HORSES PURCHASED FOR MORE THAN €100,000

Name (YOB/Studbook/gender – Sire x Damsire) – Orientation – Sale price – Host auction

B (2018/DSP/st Benicio x Don Diamond)	Dressage	630,000	DSP Online
Splendid (2017/Oldbg/st San Amour x Dream Boy)	Dressage	515,000	94 th Oldenburger Elite Auction
High Five d'Ive (2014/Z/m Harley VDL x Berlin)	Jumping	417,936	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Jesmond VDL (2014/KWPN/g Harley VDL x Cash)	Jumping	300,891	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Pik Sunshine (2018/Oldbg/st Asgard's Ibiza I x Sunny Boy)	Dressage	300,000	DSP Online
d'Amour (2017/Oldbg/m d'Egalite x Ampere)	Dressage	260,000	94 th Oldenburger Elite Auction
Lovely Boy P (2016/KWPN/g Arezzo VDL x Campbell VDL)	Jumping	259,195	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Ironic (2013/KWPN/g Carrera VDL x Quantum)	Jumping	259,195	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Jeetjemina (2014/KWPN/m Harley VDL x Oramé)	Jumping	250,776	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Z (2018/Oldbg/st Blue Hors Zackery x Don Juan de Hus)	Dressage	206,000	DSP Online
Zaunkönig (2018/Westf/st Blue Hors Zack x De Niro)	Dressage	205,000	61 st Westfalian Elite Auction
Quickthago VDL (2015/Westf/g Quickly de Kreisker x Numero Uno)	Jumping	192,268	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Flora de Riverland (2015/SF/m Malito de Reve x Kannan)	Jumping	188,049	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Eliarado (2018/DSP/st Eldorado vd Zeshoek TN x Diarado)	Jumping	170,000	DSP Online
Artist van den Driehoek Z (2018/Z/st Aganix du Seigneur x Quasimodo vd Molendreef)	Jumping	150,000	BWP Top Stallion Auction
London's Ladylike PS (2016/OS/m Glock's London x Chacco-Blue)	Jumping	150,000	Zangersheide Young Horses
Toscana (2013/Oldbg/m Tomahawk x Welt Hit II)	Dressage	125,000	94 th Oldenburger Elite Auction
Action Balou PS (2017/OS/g Action Blue x Baloubet du Rouet)	Jumping	120,000	PS Online Young Jumpers
Kiefer VDL (2015/KWPN/g Douglas x Cardento)	Jumping	117,011	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Jefrieda (2014/KWPN/m Arezzo VDL x Indoctro)	Jumping	116,991	WEF Sport Horse Auction
F (2018/DSP/st Fürst Wilhelm x Fürst Scheurenhof)	Dressage	110,000	DSP Online
Dovizioso (2015/Oldbg/st Dancier x Sunny Boy)	Dressage	108,000	94 th Oldenburger Elite Auction
Connection Blue PS (2017/OS/g Continental Blue x Action-Breaker)	Jumping	106,000	PS Online Young Jumpers
Donette Z PS (2017/OS/m Dominator Z x Winningmood)	Jumping	106,000	PS Online Young Jumpers
Sympatico (2018/Hann/g Secret x Don Crusador)	Dressage	105,000	Verdener Online Auction
Dialoubet Blue PS (2017/OS/g Diaron x Chacco-Blue)	Jumping	102,000	PS Online Young Jumpers
Kreta (2015/KWPN/m Extase x Goodtimes)	Jumping	100,285	WEF Sport Horse Auction
Come To London PS (2017/OS/g Conthargos x Glock's London)	Jumping	100,000	PS Online Young Jumpers
Roncevall (2012/Oldbg/g Romanov x Donnerhall)	Dressage	100,000	Oldenburger Special Edition

Auctions in chronological order:

January 13: BWP Top Stallion Auction 2021 (BEL)
 January 30: DSP Hengststage Online Auktion Dressurhengste
 February 21-23: PS Online Young Jumpers
 March 7-9: PS Online Young Jumpers
 April 2-4: PS Online Young Jumpers
 April 3: WEF Sport Horse Auction (USA)
 April 8-11: 61st Westfalian Elite Auction Online
 April 10-13: Zangersheide Young Horses (BEL)
 April 11-17: Verdener Online Riding Horse Auction
 May 16-18: PS Online Young Jumpers
 June 12-13: Oldenburger Special Edition Riding Horse Auction (GER)

Dietary supplements for horses: Part 3 – Joints

BY DR. MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG B. APPSC. (HONS), MSc., PHD (EQUINE NUTRITION)
PHOTOGRAPHY: DR. MARIETTE VAN DEN BERG

Vitamin and mineral supplements abound – products for joint health support, a shiny coat, hoof quality, and much, much more. And the dietary supplement industry continues to grow. Joint health support products make up the second largest part of the many supplements available.

Many ingredients have been marketed for joint health. Some of these ingredients have been shown to be efficacious alone and/or in combination in published equine research, and others have less evidence to back up their claimed benefits. Therefore, in this Part 3 we aim to shed some light on the important information when considering using joint supplements for horses.

Anatomy of the joint

To understand how joint supplementation may help you horse, it's important to know a bit about the anatomy of the (equine) joint.

A joint is an articulation between two or more bones in the body and are broadly classified by the tissue which connects the bones. Horses have three types of joints – synovial joints, cartilaginous joints, and fibrous joints. Of the three different types of joints, the synovial joint is the most common type in the horse's body.

Synovial joints are freely movable anatomic structures made up of the articular cartilage, the synovial fluid (joint fluid), and the soft tissue structures that hold the joint together (capsule and ligaments) – see figure 1. Examples of synovial joints are stifle, hock, knee, fetlock, etc. Synovial joints are complex organs in which all constituent tissues (articular cartilage, (subchondral) bone, and synovial membrane) interact with each other, both directly and via the synovial fluid, in health and disease.¹ The articular cartilage and the synovial fluid are very important:

The articular cartilage is made up of chondrocytes (cartilage cells) that reside with a matrix. The matrix is made up of proteoglycans, collagen, and elastin. The proteoglycans are made up of a core strand of hyaluronic acid, a type of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), with branches of other types of GAGs (including Chondroitin sulfate). Water sticks to the GAGs and gives the cartilage resistance to pressure.

The synovial fluid contains two main components. The first is the fluid part which is produced from filtrated blood plasma. The second component is hyaluronic acid. It is produced by cells of the synovial lining of the joint capsule. The joint fluid acts as a shock absorber, decreases friction,

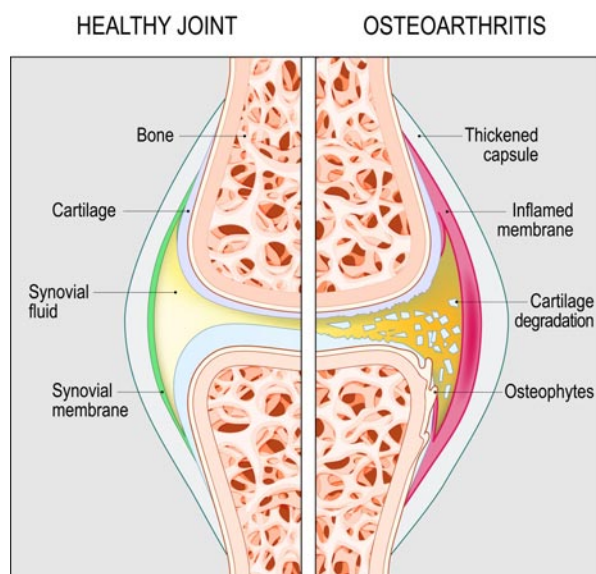
supplies oxygen and nutrients to the chondrocytes, and removes waste.

Inflammation develops when there is stress or wear and tear on these structures. The inflammatory factors (including inflammatory cytokines, matrix catabolic proteases, and neuropeptides) degrade the structures and quality of the cartilage and joint fluid. Normally, the joint is able to respond by producing new joint fluid and cartilage cells, but if this process is overwhelmed, then permanent damage can occur, thus producing an unhealthy and sometimes painful joint (see figure 1).

As horse owners, we want to enjoy riding our horses and keeping them healthy for many years to come. Therefore, we want to reduce this stress and inflammation in our horse's joints and these have been the target for joint supplements.

FIGURE 1

Synovial joint



Joint overview - normal vs osteoarthritis lesions (diagram supplied by MB Equine Services)

Joint supplements contain ingredients that are part of the make-up of either the articular cartilage or the synovial fluid. There are also supplements that act as anti-inflammatories. For more advanced diseases, there are prescription-only treatments available from your veterinarian.

Therefore, the most common reason to use joint supplements is when horses may already have joint/cartilage irregularities or damage and may experience (intermittent) lameness or loss of mobility, often due to osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis (OA) is considered one of the most important musculoskeletal disorders in both humans and horses². The focus here is on reducing pain, inflammation, and supporting repair and improving mobility. However, in severe cases horses may require additional prescription only medications and/or medical interventions under supervision of a veterinarian to manage pain and inflammation. The second reason is more for preventative use, focusing on maintaining healthy joint function and supporting joints that are often stressed due to higher performance demands. In this context we also want to reduce inflammation and support repair and mobility especially during intense training or competition periods.

Science behind joint supplements

Nutraceuticals, like joint supplements for horses, have been mainly following the trends and research conducted in humans and other animal species (like mice) or in vitro based testing (laboratory tests). In comparison only very limited studies have been conducted in horses, and especially not for all the marketed joint supplement ingredients that you can find online or in horse and agricultural stores. In addition, even the studies that have been peer-reviewed and published (or unpublished) often have deficiencies in the way the studies have been designed and the parameters/markers that these studies have examined. Setting up properly designed and controlled studies with horses or ponies to demonstrate and/or examine the short- or long-term use of certain ingredients, especially taken in an oral dose, poses challenges and is costly.

For example, studies may focus on OA cases and the effect of dietary supplementation, which means that researchers need to select ponies or horses with pre-existing OA, and the degree of this may vary. Or they may focus more on the preventative effects of ingredients in performance horses with no OA diagnosis. Then there are various other factors to consider such as uptake and bioavailability of the ingredients, horse/pony breeds, age, sex, performance status, and previous management history of these ponies or horses including their nutrition and hoof care. In addition, because the studies use various ingredients, concentrations, study criteria, and designs, it's often difficult to compare the studies. In summary, when reviewing the literature, you will find conflicting findings with some researchers documenting a positive outcome whereas others have

inconclusive findings or observed no benefit of various joint supplement ingredients taken by horses and its effect on joint pain, inflammation, repair and/or mobility.

Most common joint supplement ingredients

Nutraceutical supplementation of glucosamine, chondroitin, sodium hyaluronate (hyaluronic acid), and Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) are the most marketed and frequently investigated ingredients as alternative methods to aid in joint recovery.³

Glucosamine is a natural compound found in healthy cartilage. It is a precursor in the production of proteoglycans in the cartilage matrix and synovial fluid. Glucosamine is believed to strengthen cartilage and may inhibit inflammatory mediators and improve joint comfort. It is constantly broken down and resynthesised in normal joints. As a dietary supplement, glucosamine is commonly harvested from beef and marine sources, but it can also be produced synthetically.

There are three forms of glucosamine: hydrochloride, sulfate, and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine. It works synergistically with chondroitin sulfate. It has been suggested that horses should receive approximately 20 mg glucosamine/kg bodyweight per day (which equates to 10 mg per day for a 500 kg horse).⁴ The studied amounts/or recommended levels may vary from 10 mg to 50 mg/kg bodyweight per day.

Chondroitin sulfate is a chain of various sugar molecules that is normally found in cartilage around joints in the body (as a component of proteoglycans ie. GAG). Chondroitin sulfate is usually manufactured from animal sources, such as shark and cow cartilage. It can also be made in a lab. Formal studies on chondroitin in horses give mixed results, with its greatest benefit appearing to be prevention of further cartilage breakdown. This is most likely due to the variable results in bioavailability.⁵ Studies in human indicate that it may decrease the amount of destructive enzymes in the joints and certain biomarkers of inflammation in synovial fluid. It works synergistically with glucosamine and appears less efficacious on its own. There is no consensus in recommended levels for horses with publications stating 2 to 10 g per day.

Hyaluronic Acid (HA) is a main part of the make-up of synovial fluid and articular cartilage (as a component of proteoglycans ie. GAG). It increases the lubrication of the soft tissue structures in the joint and increases the viscosity of joint fluid, while decreasing inflammation in the joint by scavenging free radicals. Supplementation may induce the body to produce more of its own HA. For example, one equine study feeding 100 mg/day HA found less joint effusion (swelling), compared to horses not taking HA, after arthroscopic removal of an OCD lesion.⁶ HA can be given orally or injected into the joint. HA (hyaluronan) can exist as the acid (hyaluronic acid), the sodium salt (sodium hyaluronate), or as the hyaluronate anion depending on the chemical environment in which its found. The sodium hyaluronate is the most common form added to

supplements.

Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) contains sulphur in a form that the body can use. Sulphur is necessary for the formation of collagen, glucosamine, and chondroitin, all components of cartilage. Found in lucerne and grains, MSM, is a readily available natural form of sulphur that is well-tolerated by horses. It has proposed anti-inflammatory activity in the joint, though exactly how is not known. A study in exercised horses given MSM reported anti-inflammatory and antioxidant benefits in the bloodstream.⁷ This study used 9 mg/kg body weight.

There are many more ingredients that you may find on joint supplements labels, including ASU (avocado/soybean unsaponifiables), green-lipped mussel, Cetyl myristoleate, collagen, resveratrol, lubricin, blue-green algae, curcumin, and other compounds of herbal or marine origin. There is ongoing interest in studying the efficacy of these ingredients in both humans and horses for the support and repair of joints. However, keep in mind that you may find very limited or no studies specifically in horses.

Quality and regulation

Another factor to consider when selecting joint supplements for horses is that there can be major differences in the quality of the products. Dietary supplements for horses like vitamins, minerals, and even joint supplements are often not regulated by countries' governments and therefore there is a difference in concentrations, label claims, and prices from company to company. For example, a published analysis of equine joint health supplements revealed quality problems with nine out of 23 glucosamine products failing to meet the label claim, and with four products having less than 30% of the labelled amount.⁸

Regulation means that an animal health and/or veterinary product must pass an assessment and often require registration by a government agency of your country. For example, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), European Medicines Agency (EMA), Veterinary Drugs Directorate (Canada), or Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Among other things this assessment focuses on the safety and efficacy of a product (formulation) and determines the acceptable label concentrations, claims, directions for use, storage and additional statements for the marketed label. Depending on the country, product type, active ingredients, and claims, some joint supplements will require registration with these government agencies (for example injectables). If you are unsure, please contact your local veterinarian and/or government agency for more information.

Should I use joint supplements?

So where does that leave you? As mentioned earlier most joint supplements contain ingredients that are part of the make-up of either the articular cartilage or the synovial fluid.

Or supplements may include ingredients that act as anti-inflammatories. Many of these ingredients at the concentrations proposed by companies are not harmful, and considering most horse owners want to keep their horses healthy, starting or experimenting with these supplements poses no major risks overall, and on case-by-case basis may prove to be beneficial.

However, the quality issues make it very challenging to select from the many supplements on the market. For example, how do you know that the product you're choosing contains what the label states, as well as being safe and efficacious? Even if the supplement contains what is listed on the label, have the concentrations of ingredients included at those levels actually been found to be helpful?

Therefore, the best approach is to be very critical of product labels and use this to your advantage. Take your time to read the label and use the following ACCLAIM acronym guide developed by Oke & McIlwraith 2008.⁹ This guide is also very useful for any other supplement you may want to purchase.

A company name you recognise

Joint-health supplements made by established companies that offer educational material to both you and to veterinarians are generally a better choice over companies that are unfamiliar and offer no educational information about their products.

Clinical experience

Ideally look for a company that supports clinical research showing safety and efficacy of its products in horses. Results should be published in peer-reviewed journals which are often free to access online or could be obtained via your veterinarian. As research is expensive, companies may also rely on literature: Ensure that they reference peer-review studies and provide information related to the ingredients and concentrations in their products.

Contents: Ingredients (actives) should be clearly specified on the label.

Label claims: The products should not include unsupportive or misleading claims. Products making extensive claims like 'cure' or 'prevent' are considered veterinary medical products and need to meet regulatory criteria (as discussed earlier). Check if the product is registered with your government's authority. Otherwise, avoid these as you may be buying a product that is non-compliant. Testimonials aren't necessarily a bad thing, but a company with only testimonials and no scientific data to support its claims is less likely to be producing a quality supplement.

Administration recommendations: The dose and how to administer the supplement to your horse should be clearly stated on the label. You should be able to determine how much of each active ingredient you're giving your horse per

day.

Identification of batch/lot and expiration date: Choose a joint-health supplement with a lot or batch number and expiration date noted on the label. A batch or lot number means that the company has a tracking (QA) system in place to ensure product quality. An expiration date shows that the company has evaluated product quality over time (shelf-life).

Manufacturer information: Information about the manufacturer should include name, address, phone number, and website. You should have a way to contact the company if you have a question. Ideally you also want to check if the product has been manufactured under a quality system. Products that are not regulated may have different systems that they operate under (although often this is lacking or not a requirement). The highest quality is when a manufacture is certified under Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMPs) – which is required for pharmaceutical and immunobiological products.

For more information contact a veterinarian or equine nutritionist when thinking about starting the use of a dietary joint health supplement. They can provide recommendations, depending on discipline, age of your horse, and medical history, etc., on which ingredients or specific products may be suitable. For more specific therapeutics and pain management, consult with your veterinarian as they may suggest combining a particular supplement with something else (or instead of), such as NSAIDs (by mouth or injectable), injectables (e.g., polysulfated glycosaminoglycans and hyaluronic acid), and/or an exercise program depending on the horse's status. It is always a good idea to manage your horse's health as a team with your health professionals.

And keep in mind some things you can do to support the overall health of your horse and prevent joint injuries:

- Maintain a healthy bodyweight for your horse to avoid undue stress on the joints;
- Ensure your horse is receiving a balanced diet to prevent nutritional deficiencies;
- Warm up and cool down your horse with every ride to allow your horse's body to prepare for and recover from exercise;
- Schedule regular hoof trimmings with a proficient farrier to maintain balance in your horse's feet, which will help prevent stress to the joints;
- If an injury or lameness occurs, you should always consult your veterinarian.

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Lower legs

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GRANDE SEMAINE DE FONTAINEBLEAU 2021

PLANNING

JUMPING (NON-PRO)

JUMPING (PRO)

HUNTER

FOALS

SELLE FRANÇAIS
FILLIES

Warning - This is a provisionnal schedule. Indicated times and locations can be changed at any time. Weather or variation in the number of participants can have an impact on this forecast. Please check the time schedule the day before each test on <https://grandesemainecsohunter.shf.eu/>

FRIDAY 27TH AUG.

Carrière des Princes Warm-up Spring Garden	Petit Parquet Warm-up Puits du Cormier	Grand Parquet ● Warm-up O'Delant
CL1 4 Y.O. Qualifier 1	CL2 5 Y.O. Qualifier 1	
CL1 5 Y.O. Qualifier 1	CL2 6 Y.O. Qualifier 1	CL3 6 Y.O. Qualifier 1

SATURDAY 28TH AUG.

Carrière des Princes Warm-up Spring Garden	Petit Parquet Warm-up Puits du Cormier	Grand Parquet ● Warm-up O'Delant
CL2 5 Y.O. Qualifier 2	CL1 4 Y.O. Consolation Final	CL3 6 Y.O. Qualifier 2
CL2 6 Y.O. Qualifier 2	CL1 5 Y.O. Consolation Final	CL1 - 4 Y.O. Final
		CL1 - 5 Y.O. Final

SUNDAY 29TH AUG.

Carrière des Princes Warm-up Spring Garden	Petit Parquet Warm-up Puits du Cormier	Grand Parquet ● Warm-up O'Delant
CL2 5 Y.O. Consolation Final		CL2 5 Y.O. Final
CL3 6 Y.O. Consolation Final	CL2 6 Y.O. Consolation Final	CL2 6 Y.O. Final
		CL3 6 Y.O. Final

TUESDAY 31ST AUG.

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up Spring Garden

4 Y.O.
Mares
Qualifier

4 Y.O.
Geldings
Qualifier

4 Y.O.
Stallions
Qualifier

Petit Parquet

2 Y.O.
& 3 Y.O.
Selle Français
Fillies

WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPT.

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up Spring Garden

4 Y.O.
M / G / S
Consolation
Final

4 Y.O.
Mares
Final

4 Y.O.
Geldings
Final

4 Y.O.
Stallions
Final

Petit Parquet

2 Y.O.
& 3 Y.O.
Selle Français
Fillies

Grand Parquet ●
Warm-up O'Delant

6 Y.O.
Geldings
Qualifier 1

6 Y.O.
Stallions
Qualifier 1

6 Y.O.
Mares
Qualifier 1

THURSDAY 2ND SEPT.

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up Spring Garden

7 Y.O.
Qualifier 1

Petit Parquet
Warm-up Puits du Cormier

5 Y.O.
Mares
Qualifier 1

Grand Parquet ●
Warm-up O'Delant

5 Y.O.
Stallions
Qualifier 1

5 Y.O.
Geldings
Qualifier 1

FRIDAY 3RD SEPT.

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up Spring Garden

6 Y.O.
Mares
Qualifier 2

6 Y.O.
Geldings
Qualifier 2

6 Y.O.
Stallions
Qualifier 2

Petit Parquet
Warm-up Puits du Cormier

5 Y.O.
Stallions
Qualifier 2

5 Y.O.
Geldings
Qualifier 2

Grand Parquet ●
Warm-up O'Delant

5 Y.O.
Mares
Qualifier 2

SATURDAY 4TH SEPT.

Model Presentation

Morning

6 Y.O. Model

Afternoon

Hunter Model

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up Spring Garden

5 Y.O.
Consolation
Final

6 Y.O.
Final

Petit Parquet
Warm-up Puits du Cormier

6 Y.O.
Consolation
Final

4 Y.O.
5 Y.O.
6 Y.O.
Hunter Horses

4 Y.O.
5 Y.O.
6 Y.O.
Hunter Ponies

Grand Parquet ●
Warm-up O'Delant

7 Y.O.
Qualifier 2

Carrière des Princes
Warm-up O'Delant

5 Y.O.
Final

7 Y.O.
Final

Petit Parquet
Warm-up Puits du Cormier

4 Y.O.
5 Y.O.
6 Y.O.
Hunter Horses

4 Y.O.
5 Y.O.
6 Y.O.
Hunter Ponies

Grand Parquet ●

FOALS
ADECSIF

SUNDAY 5TH SEPT.

■ IMPORTANT DATES 2021

■ WBFSH ANNOUNCES 'VIRTUAL' GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

■ LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DRESSAGE WBCYH, VERDEN 2021

**WORLD BREEDING
FEDERATION FOR SPORT
HORSES**
VILHELMSBORG ALLÉ 1
8320 MAARSLET
DENMARK

TEL: +45 (0)87 475400
FAX: +45 (0)87 475410

WWW.WBFSH.ORG



IMPORTANT DATES 2021

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

WBFSH ANNOUNCES 'VIRTUAL' GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

Due to ongoing uncertainty and restrictions over Covid 19, the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses will hold its General Assembly again in a virtual format this year. The DSP, who had planned on hosting the event in Dresden this year, has kindly agreed to host the event in October 2022, instead.

Says WBFSH President, Jan Pedersen: "It is with regret that we have made the difficult decision to hold our General Assembly again in a virtual format this year. We believe that under the current circumstances, this is the only responsible and practical course of action. We very much look forward to seeing everybody in person again in October 2022 in beautiful Dresden. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the DSP, who have very generously agreed to change their arrangements to become our 2022 WBFSH General Assembly hosts."

With 80 member studbooks from 35 countries spread out over five continents, organising physical events during the pandemic has been difficult for the WBFSH who aims to ensure that its events remain accessible and safe for all members. However, offering virtual alternatives also provides interesting new opportunities.

Says Head of the Department of Scientific Collaboration, Karina Christiansen: "Over the years, the WBFSH General Assembly has grown into an important event for discussion and knowledge exchange. Every year we are delighted to welcome speakers from the equestrian world, as well as academic researchers to offer our members the opportunity to find out about the latest scientific developments in important breeding related topics, such as genetic research and equine health and welfare. As we continue to step up to the challenge of Covid 19, we will be creating an interesting series of webinars that will accompany our virtual General Assembly."

The Virtual General Assembly 2021 and WBFSH Webinar Series form part of the organisation's vision to develop its online services for members and breeding enthusiasts all over the world. Recently, the WBFSH launched a new website, wbfsh.com, which will provide a platform for visitors to access online events and information.

Says WBFSH Vice President for Marketing, Dr Eva-Maria Broomer: "We are very excited to explore the possibilities opened up by our new website and digital vision. By organising online webinars, we are able to continue to offer valuable services to our member studbooks all over the world. Our aim is to provide outstanding support to the global breeding community by providing an online platform for knowledge exchange and discussion. Above all, offering our services in an online format will create better accessibility for everyone. Virtual services are therefore something we will take



Saxons State Stud Stallions in front of Schloß Moritzburg in Saxony near Dresden, the location of the WBFSh General Assembly in 2022 (Photo: Sächsisches Landesgestüt)

with us into the future, even when restrictions on international travel and physical events are fully lifted.’

While the WBFSh is looking forward to welcoming breeding enthusiasts from all over the world to enjoy the webinar series and online events surrounding this year’s virtual General Assembly, plans are underway for a return to a physical meeting in Dresden in 2022, hosted by the DSP.

Says WBFSh General Manager, Nadine Brandtner: “The DSP have very generously agreed to adapt their preparations yet again, and to be the host of our first post-Covid General Assembly in 2022. Meeting each other again in person will be a great treat for everyone, and we are very excited to make this a very special occasion to remember. We are looking forward to exploring the beautiful city of Dresden on the banks of the river Elbe and to learn about Saxony’s rich equestrian history.”

Up-to-date information about the General Assembly can be found on the website under <https://www.wbfsh.com/general-assembly>. Anybody interested in attending the WBFSh webinars is welcome to email Nadine under Nadine.brandtner@wbfsh.com to sign up for notifications and registration links.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WORLD DRESSAGE BREEDING CHAMPIONSHIPS Verden, August 25-29, 2021

We are very much looking forward to the 2021 World Dressage Breeding Championships. Returning to Verden this year and set to take place from August 25-29, the Championships, which are organised in collaboration with the FEI, are a true highlight in the annual Dressage and Breeding calendar. Over the years, the event has introduced a plethora of exciting young horse and rider combinations to the international stage, and we cannot wait to meet this year’s dressage stars of the future.

Says WBFSh Executive Committee Member, Klaus Miesner: “Borne out of our collaboration with the FEI, the World Breeding Championships are very close to our heart and are central to our mission of fostering a strong relationship between breeding and the sport. Having sadly had to cancel last year’s event due to the Corona pandemic, we are particularly looking forward to welcoming a new generation of young horses to Verden this August.”

Across the world, qualification events are on their way as we speak, under the watchful eye of the different National Federations, as each participating country seeks to identify the most promising candidates to represent them in this highly exciting and prestigious event.

Says WBFSh President, Jan Pedersen: “The World Dressage Breeding Championship are without doubt the flagship event for the collaboration between breeding and the sport. It is always a great pleasure for us to be there and meet breeders, riders, owners and studbook representatives from all over the world. I know that the organising team at Verden is using its ingenuity and passion to put on an event that - despite some challenging circumstances due to ongoing Covid restriction - will be one for us all to remember.”

To explore more about the World Breeding Championships, go to <https://www.wbfsh.com/wbcyh> where you can find results and highlights from previous years.

Further information about the championships will be published in due course under <https://verden-turnier.de/verden-international/>



Jurado Lopez Severo Jesus, (ESP) with Fiontini (Fassbinder x Romanov), and Helgstrand Andreas, (DEN), with her full sister Fiontina, gold and silver medal winners in the 5yo finale of the dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses, Verden, 2015 (Photo: Dirk Caremans)

PLEASE NOTE, THE SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, SO PLEASE ALWAYS CHECK INFORMATION WITH THE STUDBOOK OR ORGANIZERS CONCERNED

2021

JULY

1 Verden (GER)

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

2-5 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Online Foal Auction
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 511
salespromotion@kwpn.nl
https://kwpn.auction/en/home

3 Pinneberg-Waldenau (GER)

Holsteiner Foal Auction at CSI3* Hof Waterkant
Tel: +49 (0)4121 49790
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

5 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Online Foal Auction
Tel: +49 (0)251 32 8090
Fax: +49 (0)251 32 80924
info@westfalenpferde.de
www.westfalenpferde.de

10 Hörup (GER)

Holsteiner Foal Auction during Springflut Festival
Tel: +49 (0)4121 49790
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

12 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Online Foal Auction
Contact: per previous Münster entry

16-19 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Online Foal Auction
Contact: Per previous Ermelo entry

17 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Online Riding Horse Auction
Contact: Per previous Verden entry

19 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Online Foal Auction
Contact: per previous Münster entry

23/24 Berlin (GER)

Holsteiner Foal Auction during GCT
Tel: +49 (0)4121 49790
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

23-August 8 Tokyo (JPN)

Olympic Games – postponed from 2020

24 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Competition Foal Auction
Contact: per previous Münster entry

26 Münster (GER)

Westfalian Online Embryo Auction
Contact: per previous Münster entry

30-Aug 2 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Online Foal Auction
Contact: Per previous Ermelo entry

31 Vechta (GER)

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

31 Münster (GER)

Westfalian 'Live' Foal Auction
Contact: per previous Münster entry

AUGUST

Jul 30-2/8 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Online Foal Auction
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 511
salespromotion@kwpn.nl
https://kwpn.auction/en/home

1 Vechta (GER)

29th Vechta Foal Market
Tel: +49 (0)441 93550
info@oldenburger-pferde.com
www.oldenburger-pferde.com

6/7 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Online Foal Auction
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730

