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BREEDER INTERVIEWS

STALLION PROFILES

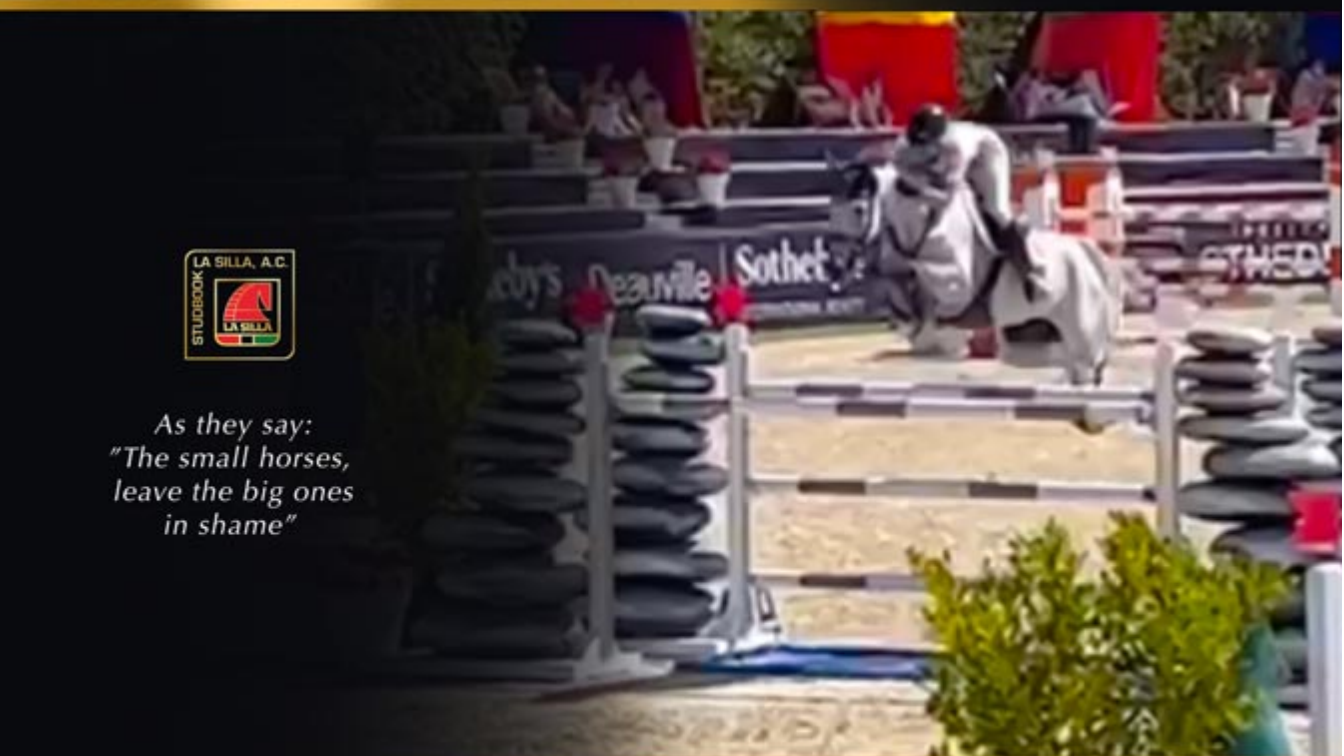
BLOODLINE ANALYSIS



La Silla's Horses

Acatitla LS La Silla

CSI3* Deauville (FRA)
August 2022



As they say:
*"The small horses,
leave the big ones
in shame"*

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CHRISTOPHER HECTOR | KIM LUNDIN | SALLY REID | JO DE ROO | HELEN SHARP
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EDITORIAL

RETROSPECTIVE ON A DEUTSCHES SPORTPFERDE (DSP) TRIP

Next month we plan to publish a full report from the General Assembly of the WBFSH held in Dresden (Saxony), which was mainly marked by the approval of its activity report (see page....), and by the re-election of Danish Jan Pedersen as President, with Stephan Kelchtermans as Vice-President after presenting his report on finances that are sound and without any surprises.

This is the eighth time (since 1999) that Jan Pedersen has won the confidence of some 80 studbooks that the WBFSH brings together. Collectively they drive the Federation and raise the importance and recognition of the role that breeders of sport horses play in the development of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines.

Several projects demonstrating this ambition were presented to this General Assembly, to which we will return in our December issue.

The presence of Ingmar de Vos, President of the FEI, recalled the projects undertaken in common, in particular on data exchange, and also the enhanced cooperation regarding the development of the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses (Ermelo, Lanaken, Le Lion d'Angers), both of which are testimony to this need for cooperation. It indeed proved that the WBFSH plays an obvious, natural, and indispensable complementary role to that of the FEI in the development of equestrian sports.

To conclude, the main theme of the presentations and discussions planned for Monday, October 10th, dedicated to the 'seminar' portion of the GA, revolved around the need for greater accountability in terms of the welfare of the horse.

It is essential that the equestrian industry meets high expectations – the requirements – of a society that is less and less cognizant of the special relationships between human being and animals. This fits perfectly with the major question facing equestrian sports fans, which the FEI must also answer. It's the same fight for sport (usage) as for breeding (production).

It is not by chance that Jan Pedersen has maintained absolute trust in his leadership role, primarily through his ambition and success over 23 years of work in developing his Federation from 40 members to 80, its globalization, and guaranteeing its unity and uniqueness.

Does the prudence and vigilance that occupies life with horses – as well as those who have charge of them – mean that their breeding and training no longer holds sway in a world where the relationship between time and money is increasingly strained? Nervous?

Should it not, for those of us in possession of this special knowledge, this relationship with the 'living', be the real question to ask ourselves? Is this not where the point of inflection lies between the advantages and disadvantages of this relationship in the digital age? How precious is the rhythm of life that the horse imposes upon us? What is its value...

These are the questions that once again blasted me during the various visits organized on the margins of this General Assembly and especially that to the Moritzburg State Stud, which belongs to and depends on the administration of the Region of Saxony. It was a real journey through time, the era of the 'national studs' as



there are so few examples remaining in the world today. Unlike France, which dumped their National Studs in less than 20 years, Germany worked to maintain them and all that made them rich.

The visit often brought smiles to the faces of sport horse breeders at the forefront of breeding techniques and genetics, not to mention genomics, with the studfarm's old and vast stables of large wooden boxes lined with long and abundant straw, the carousel with its own brass band, the presentation of stallions with origins and models sometimes less 'marketed' than elsewhere, the parade of old and beautifully maintained horse-drawn carriages harnessed to

perfectly selected horses adapted to their pulling power (from the Haflinger to the heavy, draught horses). It was a show that seduced and convinced the most indifferent or less-informed audience members about the depth and richness of the horse's world.

And here I move from agricultural to cultural purposes. The know-how of the staff, of the riders, the drivers was so obvious, and probably serves the cause eminently well. With the public authorities and motivated professionals devoting themselves to what they see as their duty, it's an example to ponder.

Xavier Libbrecht

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WBF SH TRIBUNE

THE START OF GREAT SPORTING CAREERS



Every year in December, the world's elite in showjumping, indoor cross-country, and the Driving World Cup compete at one of the world's largest and best-paying indoor shows, the CHI Geneva.

The most successful seven- and eight-year-old horses from the Swiss breed, as well as the best three-and-a-half-year-old horses in free jumping, also enjoy guest rights. This gives them the opportunity to present themselves to an international audience.

As a basis for the breeding value assessment and the selection in the ZVCH breeding association, the three-year-olds complete the so-called field test. Part of the field test is a conformation evaluation with a linear description, free jumping, and a disposition evaluation under saddle. Participation in the field test is only possible for three-year-old horses in order to obtain homogeneous and comparable results for the

breeding value assessment. A lot of consideration is given to horse-friendliness and the protection of the young horses during the test. A long and intensive preparation is neither desired nor necessary, as it is a disposition test.

The best young horses of each year qualify for the Swiss Breed Classic, which takes place in November. The horses are presented in the two separate breeding classes, dressage and jumping. The three-year olds with jumping potential are presented to a jury of three experts in free jumping and are judged on style, technique, ability, quality, respect, impulsion, and courage.

The dressage horses are presented under saddle by the owners or their own grooms and judged in walk, trot, canter, ride-ability, and suitability for dressage. The best five to six horses will be ridden and judged by renowned riders in a final.

The Swiss Breed Classic, which will take place on November 19, 2022, in Aarau, is a well-attended event that is appreciated by breeders and potential buyers and is also used as an ideal marketing platform.

The absolute highlight for the young sport horses, however, is the Super Final at the CHI Geneva every December. The eight best three-and-a-half-year-old showjumpers are allowed to compete in the free jumping competition at the Swiss Breed Classic, where they compete for the best young horse of the year.

In addition to the free jumping competition,

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the best seven- and eight-year-olds will have the opportunity to compete in a jumping competition over 130-135 cms.

With the presentation of the young talents during the prestigious and world-renowned CHI Geneva, the Swiss Warmblood breed realizes a unique opportunity every year to present its top young horses to an international audience.

For their part, the international elite appreciates an insight into the elaborate breeding work, which shows that the sport horses of tomorrow do not grow on trees. Only by making the dependence of the breeder and the sportsman visible in this way, does the mutual understanding for the respective work become conscious.

Without breeding there are no sport horses and without athletes there is no need for breed-



*C-Panamera Athletic CH
The Swiss Breed Classic 2021
(Photos: Katja Stuppia)*

ing. The symbiosis of these two facts makes the CHI Geneva unique in its kind in Switzerland.

The Swiss Warmblood breeders look forward to presenting to you all, on the occasion of the CHI Geneva in the Palexphalls from

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WBFSH General Assembly: Although we will be publishing a full report from the WBFSH General Assembly in our December issue, Bérengère Lacroix, director of the Selle Français studbook has published an important editorial item that we would like to share, under the title ‘The Power of Words’: “If we had to remember only one thing from the General Assembly of the WBFSH which has just been held in Dresden, Germany; this is the importance of vocabulary. A ‘workshop’ was organized around the subject of ‘Well-Being’, mainly oriented on selection circuits, practices to be banned, existing regulations or good practices, but also how to participate in transmitting a positive image of sport and breeding. From the discussions, in English, the importance of vocabulary usage was particularly apparent; the image we construct is directly associated with the words we use. We cannot ignore the world around us and that which sees us, but we have to adapt to it. To be understood, one must also understand the environment in which one operates. Thus,

‘working the horses’ becomes working ‘with’ the horses; ‘to prepare the horses’ for the selections becomes ‘to train/educate’ the horses for selections. In English, the French word ‘débouillage’ translates to ‘break in’; literally, ‘to break’ or ‘to force’, where it’s more appropriate to use ‘handle’ or ‘educate’, which is closer to ‘taking care of’. In English, it’s knowing how to use the wealth of vocabulary available. The word ‘well-being’, for instance, has two translations depending on whether we are talking about well-being in the sense of protecting oneself or others – welfare; or whether we are talking about well-being in the sense of ‘being happy’ – well-being. Everyone at their level can participate in strengthening a positive image of breeding and sport by making sure to appropriate a vocabulary more suited to the expectations of the world around us. This evolution of words only invites us to be more attentive and sometimes more imaginative and to put the accent in the right place, so that the intonation we communicate is positive and good.”

Beautiful sunshine welcomed the entries for the three-year-old championship reserved for Selle Français and Anglo Arabian horses oriented towards eventing which concluded on October 21. Traditionally organized to run alongside the eventing WBCYH Mondial du Lion, this 2022 edition of ‘Espoirs du Complet’ [Eventing Hopes] once again confirmed the potential of this championship whose popularity is ever growing. The breeders are present, the French and international public attend, and commercial discussions abound. There is no doubt that this circuit has a great future ahead of it. The conviviality that surrounds this event is certainly one of its key ingredients, with every component well attended, including the workshops, but it’s the crowing of the champion that provides the highlight. This year, Junior des Loges AA (Upsilon - Naiade de la Bellone x Ryon d’Anzex) took home the victory crown for his breeder Jean-Pierre Bendinelli of Elevage des Loges. The origins of the 20 candidates showed a significant percentage of blood, with some excellent lines. In particular, the 2019 champion, Garrypière (Jarnac) saw his half sister, Javanaise de Lapierre (Dairzel Duverie x Tournepiere) in action.

Triple YH triumph for breeder: Three young New Zealand Warmbloods bred by Vicki Prendergast of Sanderston Park in Matamata made a clean sweep of the age-group classes at a recent show at the National Equestrian Centre, Taupo. Two of them are out of Prendergast’s super broodmare SoFee, who is a daughter of the KWPN stallion Exquis Powerfee. She is also the dam of Prendergast’s World Cup competitor, Selena C (Cardento), who was an age-group star herself. The seven-year-old win at Taupo went to Six Sixty (Cassiano - SoFee x Powerfee) who is owned by Leanne West and ridden by Sarah West. This big grey NZWA gelding is now in third place in the 22/23 seven-year-old rankings. In the six-year-old group, Prendergast rode her young stallion Stallone K (Kannan - Stellar I x Lordano) to the win. His dam was also bred by Prendergast and is out of a jumping mare Solano (Senator VDL), who was bred and ridden by Prendergast too. Stallone K has received his stallion licensing from NZWA but is not yet standing at public stud. Another Prendergast-bred stallion, Sangster (Corlando - SoFee x Powerfee), who is now gelded and competing in the USA, is New Zealand’s current top jumping sire. These rankings were calculated by Massey University, using the number of double-clear rounds jumped by progeny in the five- and six-year-old classes for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons. Sangster was represented by just three horses and outranked major international names, including Colman, Kannan, and Zirocco Blue. The youngest of the winning Prendergast trio at Taupo is Stiletto C, a grey NZWA mare by Cohinoor VDL, out of the wonderful SoFee. She shared first place in the five-year-old class with Karlos QSH (Centavos x Guidam de Revel), and was ridden that day by Vicki Prendergast, but is also ridden by Vicki’s teenage daughter Grace. **S.R.**

Comme il faut [Westf] son in NZ: Comme FU (Comme il Faut - Raphaela 100 x Raphael), a four-year-old Westfalian stallion imported by Sheena Ross, is now available at stud in New Zealand. He is the only Comme il faut son in the Southern Hemisphere, and, at his first competition last month, showed his sire’s effortless form over fences – albeit only 90cms. He is ridden by Jeremy Whale. Comme il faut, bred by Ludger Beerbaum and ridden to the highest levels by Marcus Ehning, really doesn’t need an introduction to readers of *World Breeding News*, although it’s hard to resist mentioning his illustrious parents: Cornet Obolensky and Ratina Z. His stud career is still relatively young, but he has a good number of licensed sons in Europe already, three of which are jumping at 1m60: Chic Chic, who is with Darragh Kenny, Cemal with Christian Kukuk, and Faut-il des 7 Vallons with Gregory Wathelet. Comme FU was bred by Stephanie Falkowski and born in 2018. He is from Stamm 338. His dam Raphaela 100 (Raphael - Paulina x Phantom), who jumped at 1m40, is the half-sister of All Inclusive NRW, who was successful at the top levels with Dennis Lynch. **S.R.**

Who are the new ‘kids’ on the dressage breeding block?

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/DE KOSTER; FEI/CAREMANS, OLDENBURG STUDBOOK

After being dominated for so long by a handful of breeding superstars, the world of dressage breeding is undergoing a transformation, with an exciting line-up of young stallions rapidly making a name for themselves....

Kjento, Fusionist, Despacito, Toto Jr, Bon Coeur, Ibiza, Hesselhoej Donkey Boy, Morricone I, Escamillo, Dynamic Dream

Kjento (2015), black, 170 cms

Kjento (Negro - Zoriana x Jazz) followed up his win in the six-year-old dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses (WBCYH) with a decisive win in seven-year-old class at Ermelo in 2022. Kjento is solidly Dutch bred with a pedigree that features all the names that have gone into the making of the modern Dutch dressage horse. They are all there: the first French stallion of note, L’Invasion, the most important early Holsteiners, Farn and Amor, the Furioso II son, Purioso, and the first dressage oriented Trakehner, Doruto.

Kjento was bred by the Van Os family, well-known Dutch

breeders, indeed in 2012 they were proclaimed KWPN Breeders of the Year. The black stallion descends from the Van Os foundation mare, Diana, who was by Doruto (1962-1988), the Trakehner imported into Holland in 1964. The only non-Dutch, modern influence, comes in 1992, when Diana is bred to Rubinstein to produce Kjento’s great granddam, Koriana.

In spite of covering a very small books of mares, Doruto emerged as perhaps the first dressage sire specialist in the world and produced more than 20 progeny that competed at Intermediaire level – including German team gold medallist at the 1986 World Championship, Jo Hinneman’s *Ideaal* (second individually). The breeding of the horses in the German team at those championships was a huge embarrassment to the German breeding authorities – all four German riders were sitting on Dutch horses. Doruto also sired Jo Rutten’s *Banjo*, ninth at the Munich 1972 Olympics, and *Robby*, ridden into 11th place at the same 1986 World Champs by Jo’s son *Bert*.

Obviously the Van Os family were in the vanguard of breeding horses specifically for dressage when they bred Diana to the German dressage star, Rubinstein, to produce Koriana in 1992. Bred to the Small Tour dressage competitor, *Juventus* (by the Ulft son, *Dublin* – *Juventus* also carries a cross of Doruto on his mare line) Koriana produced *Poriana*, who bred to *Jazz* produced Kjento’s dam, *Zoriana* – all three mares competed at Medium level dressage.

Kjento is by the stallion that put the Anne and Gert-Jan Van Olst dressage stables on the map – Negro – out of the mare *Zoriana*, by *Jazz*. Once again we see the influence of the French Thoroughbred, *Furioso*, in this case through his grandson, *Le*



Kjento, ridden by Lottie Fry (GBR) – 2021 WBCYH 6yo final

Mexico (who was by Mexico, a full-brother to Furioso II whose blood continues to dominate sport horse breeding in dressage and jumping.) Le Mexico is the sire of Ulft, whose son Ferro sired Negro.

It really is a tribute to the skill of the Dutch breeders, that despite using very old-fashioned blood, they are able to produce a horse as refined and modern looking as Kjento.

Thanks to the skilled marketing of Gert-Jan van Olst, Kjento has been given every chance to make his mark. He was the most used sire by KWPN dressage breeders in 2019, with 303 foals born in 2020.

While we are still waiting to see Kjento's progeny emerge, the KWPN Inspection report notes: "Kjento is an honest, reliable, rider-focused stallion with an excellent temperament. The stallion is very willing to work and is very easy to work with. The walk is active, clear-cut, and has good scope with good use of the body. The trot is very powerful, has good scope with an extremely active hind leg that comes under well and carries very well. The canter is uphill, very powerful, with very good self-carriage and scope. Kjento moves with good 'takt' and has very good leg action, self-carriage and balance; his great ability to collect attracts positive attention. As a dressage horse Kjento is very talented and gives his rider a good feeling."

Asgard's Ibiza (2013), chestnut, 172 cms

Vivaldi is one of the most influential stallions in modern sport horse breeding, and his genes have spread largely through his son, Vitalis, who has been particularly popular in Germany, and has often covered German mares. However, Ibiza has a solidly Dutch pedigree. He is by the Dutch Grand Prix stallion, Desperado NOP, who is by Vivaldi, out of a mare by another Grand Prix competitor, Havidoff. Ibiza is out of Bolympia W by Jazz out of a Contango mare, both of them Grand Prix competitors.

Ibiza completed his 14-day stallion suitability test in Adelheidsdorf in the spring of 2016, and scored eight; the following year, in the German stallion sport test in Münster, he scored 8.73, before he crossed the border into the Netherlands to be trained by Emmelie Scholtens. She rode him to a fifth place in the 2017 Pavo Cup finals, but his bid for approval by KWPN was abandoned when he bit his tongue during the test.

Ibiza then returned to Germany in 2018 and was sent to Juliane Brunkhorst, who rode him into sixth at the 2018 WBCYH. He was then sent back to Emmelie Scholtens who trained him to small tour, but he was never shown.

Now he is based at Martin Determann's stallion station in Germany, where he is ridden by Markus Gribbe who has now won four times at S level with the stallion, most recently in July 2022 with a score of 70.357.

In August 2022, Ibiza topped the 27th Elite Foal Auction in Vechta with a colt, It's Me (Asgard's Ibiza - De Niro x Florencio I), selling for €154,000.

Like so many others, Ibiza was discovered by that man

with an eye for a horse. Eugène Reesink: "We bought him in our neighbourhood, where he was bred by a vet who owned the mare; she is by Jazz out of a Contango mare. The owner of Desperado (Vivaldi x Havidoff), Ard Valk, who is a good friend of mine, called me and said 'there should be a colt in your home town, would you have a look for me'. I went to see the colt and bought him, and I said to Ard, 'you can have him 100% but I would love to have 50% with you'. He said 'that's okay'. He never saw the foal, and when Ibiza was five months old his father, Desperado, had to present foals for KWPN. Ard Valk made a collection of foals but didn't chose Ibiza. I called him and said 'you have to take this one because I can't think there will be a better offspring of Desperado'. 'Okay, let him come'. Desperado won his class, and the winner of the best offspring by him was Ibiza.

"We brought him to Germany, to the stallion show in Oldenburg, he was approved there, and that evening we sold him."

◆ He's been a good stallion?

"Yes, at home I have three offspring from him, three years old, that I will present this autumn at the KWPN Stallion Show. Ibiza is a good breeding stallion with a good temperament. His progeny are good types, not too small not too tall. In my opinion, a horse should be 16.1 (163 cms) and not taller than 17.2 (175 cms)."

Ibiza had three representatives entered for the World Champs in Ermelo, including Dynamic Dream (2017, dark brown, 172 cms) – by the Dutch dressage team member, Dream Boy NOP. Once again we see the influence of Vivaldi, this time over a mare by Sir Donnerhall I (Sandro Hit x Donnerhall). But the next line demonstrates once again that some jumping blood can be a plus in dressage breeding. His dam Safira is the half-sister of the internationally successful showjumping mare Lady Pezi (Lord Pezi), and her breeding is Westfalian jumping through and through, Safira's dam, Annabell is by the Accord II son Arpeggio, out of a Weinberg x Pilot mare.

Dynamic Dream won his licensing in Westfalia in 2019 and was sold for a record price to Andreas Helgstrand (would you believe €1.9 million? Many didn't...) at the Stallion Market in Münster-Handorf. Presented and owned at the licensing by Heinrich and Jan-Dirk Giesselmann, Dynamic Dream was stripped of the title and his licensed status when it turned out the stallion tested positive to Flunixin, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) and painkiller, which Giesselmann claimed to have used for a skin problem. In April 2020, Dynamic Dream was re-assessed by the Westfalian licensing committee and re-accepted (with a negative medication test). The Oldenburg society also approved him a few days later.

He was premium stallion at the Danish licensing and completed his 14-day test in Denmark with nines for trot and canter, tens for willingness to perform, temperament and character.

However in January 2021, Helgstrand dressage

announced that Dynamic Dream might never return to sport and will be unable to fulfill his mandatory sport testings to retain his licensed status: “He got an neck injury during semen collection last year (2020), which resulted in him being unable to participate in the Danish Warmblood 35-day test during fall 2020, so therefore could not receive the final approval for Danish Warmblood.”

As it happened, “The Danish Warmblood chose to expand his breeding approval due to the stallion licensing and will evaluate his foals from 2021 and 2022 to see whether the breeding approval will be permanent,” Andreas Helgstrand explained. “It is really a shame when such a promising young stallion gets injured, especially since he had so many mares the first breeding season.”

In his first season at stud, Danish Warmblood registered that 32 mares (based in Denmark) were bred to Dynamic Dream. This number does not include mares from outside Denmark.

But the stallion, has proven a superior sire of expensive foals. At the 22nd Oldenburg Elite Auction, Der Hit was sold for €80,000; at the 138th Hanoverian Elite Auction, Dynamic in Black reached the knockdown price of €74,000; at the Westfalian Summer Auction, customers paid €46,000 for Danseur d’Amour; at the DSP Elite Auction, the highest bid for Dynamic Diamond was €45,000; and at the 64th Foal Market in Riedlingen, Die Tänzerin led the price ranking, selling for €42,000.

Eugène Reesink, is one who has sent mares to Dynamic Dream: “I was lucky using Sir Donnerhall on the mare side with a lot of stallions and we will have to see what the year will bring, but this year I was lucky buying foals of Dynamic Dream. I love this stallion. He is hurt and you don’t see him under saddle but I love his offspring, I really love that kind of horse, they are real pretty, they look like they have a lot of blood, refined, that’s what I mean with blood. Nice heads, real nice necks, and from what I’ve seen, real good movers, uphill with a good hindleg. I’m a fan of Dynamic Dream.”

Fusionist (2016), brown, 171 cms

In a sign of the times Fusionist was the most popular stallion in Hanover in the 2021 season with a total of 168 mares. The stallion is indeed an elegant fusion of Dutch and German bloodlines. In another sign of the times, he stands in a joint partnership between the State Stud Celle, and Ingo Pape’s well-known private stud.

Fusionist, was the top-scoring four-year-old in stallion sport test in Verden. The bay scored 8.88 points in total after receiving 8.2 for walk, 9.5 for trot, 8.7 for canter, and 9.0 for rideability and general impression.

He is by Franklin by Ampère, who is by the Ferro son Rousseau, out of a Roemer mare. Ampère is out of Larivola by Flemmingh out of an Amor x Farn mare – Holsteiner sires who provided the foundation for Dutch dressage breeding. Franklin is out of Warkle M by Ferro, out of Sparkle M by Flemmingh out of a Pion mare.

In 2015 Franklin moved to Denmark where he was a very popular breeding stallion with over 400 coverings in a season. In 2017 his foals sold for top auction prices. Franklin has been a very successful sire of young horses with seven representatives at the 2022 WBCYH in Ermelo.

Fusionist’s dam is an exceptional Westfalian mare, Evita, who is by the Ehrentusch son Ehrentanz I, out of a Florestan mare. I am indebted to my friend and colleague, Thomas Hartwig who informs me that Evita was bred in 2001 by Markus Schulze Finkenbrink. She was placed in some young horse competitions at A and L level. The Schulze Finkenbrink family has bred three generations of this mare line. Edmund Schulze Finkenbrink, the father of Markus, bred Evita’s dam Farina F (Florestan x Newcastle), and her grand-dam Nora (Newcastle x Goldlack).

Evita, Fusionist’s dam, is also the dam of the stallion Fascino, by Harmony’s Fiorano by Rousseau, out of a Rotspoon mare. In all, Evita has 10 registered FN foals.

Franklin was the 2013 KWPN stallion licensing champion (then named Fierce S) and the 2013 KWPN stallion performance test winner with 86.5 points.

I asked Ingo Pape, what is it that Fusionist gives his offspring? “Very much strength in the topline, a very solid, strong topline, and very quick, light-footed hindlegs. Altogether a very correct and compact exterior.

“I think the other thing that has made Fusionist so successful is his bloodline; there is no Sandro Hit blood, no Donnerhall blood, no Bolero blood, no Rubinstein blood, no Weltmeyer. From all the bloodlines we have in Hanover he has only Florestan, so he fits for a lot of mares, plus the top quality of his hindquarters. He has something we really need in the dressage world, so that is part of his success.”

◆ *Have you been able to see a pattern, which mares Fusionist is working best on?*

“When we have mares that need to improve behind, especially with the Sandro Hit line, it works super well – they can really use these quicker hindlegs.”

Escamillo (2015), bay, 167 cms

Escamillo was one of the stars of the WBCYH in Ermelo. He was second in the first go-round behind the eventual champion, Kjento, then a few mistakes in the final saw him slip to third. The stallion was initially trained by Isabell Werth but was then transferred to Helen Langhanenberg’s yard and taken out of breeding to concentrate on his sport career. At Ermelo, he was ridden (brilliantly) by Manuel Dominguez Bernal as he is a “bit cheeky” for Helen’s taste.

Just a few weeks later, Escamillo was once again in the news, when his three-year-old gelding son Embolo (out of a mare by the Dimaggio son, Detroit) sold for €590,000, and is headed for the Werndl family’s stables.

Escamillo is by Escolar who, along with his sire Estobar, saved the Westfalen ‘E’ line from extinction. Escolar was a young horse star and is now competing Grand Prix with

Hubertus Schmidt. Escamillo is out of a mare by Rhodiamant, who is in turn out of a De Niro mare with the wonderful jumping blood of the French Anglo Arab Zeus on the bottom line.

The young stallion was bred by first generation horse breeder, and vet, Carolin Langhorst. "Cassila, Escamillo's mother, was pregnant when I bought her and that was the first foal, but I was not the breeder. Then I had four foals from her, including one daughter who is still in my breeding program."

◆ Why did you go to Escolar?

I saw him at the Bundeschampionate, I don't know, it was a gut feeling, I had the feeling that this was a very good stallion for Cassila, and he didn't prove me wrong.

◆ Your mare must have a very pretty Rhodiamant head because, without being rude to Escolar he does not have the prettiest head...

She has a very pretty face, and you can see Rhodiamant coming through in the foals.

◆ Do you breed many horses?

We have four to five each year. Some years only one or two but the average is three to four foals. So far, I have bred about 50 foals.

◆ What is the motivation for breeding horses?

I want to breed a horse that can show all of his power, either in jumping or dressage or eventing. One that wants to work with the rider, with rideability and scopiness.

◆ Was Escamillo always special?

He was always special. I'm not from a horse background, I'm the first in my family to deal with horses in a professional way. So in the beginning every foal was like WOW! Look at this foal, this is a nice one, and this is even better, but with Escamillo it was the first time I was really sure, this is a really good foal.

I was disappointed when I tried to sell him; he's going to be too small, the mother's too small, they said they don't want to breed with Escolar. It was the beginning and now everyone is looking for the E line, but Escolar was the beginning of this wave. I think it was the second foal year for Escolar, the beginning for him as a breeding stallion, and no-one wanted to buy a foal by him, so I was thinking, oh maybe I've been wrong, but I wasn't wrong.



Escamillo in the hands of Manuel Dominguez Bernal (ESP) – 6yo WBCYH final, Verden, 2021

◆ Have you seen any foals by Escamillo

"I have a daughter and this is a special one because she is the first of all my breeding; I bred this filly's mother out of a Destano mare that I bred, and I also bred the stallion.

Bon Coeur (2012), black, 169 cms

It is easy to see why Hanoverian breeding expert Ludwig Christmann hailed the arrival on the scene of Bon Coeur, since the black stallion combines classic Hanoverian bloodlines. He is also the product of the mare line of Dr. Schulz Stellenfleth, a very successful and very traditional Hanoverian breeder – the breeder indeed of 21 licensed Hanoverian stallions, including Garibaldi I and II, Brentano II, and Wolkenstein II.

Bon Coeur is by Benetton Dream – and he was something of a dream; a Brentano II with long legs! Bon Coeur is by the Bolero son Brentano II who was out of a very old fashioned mare, Glocke by Grande out of the Ferdinand daughter Ferbel, out of Marbell by the Thoroughbred Marcio xx, out of Duellheldin, the Duellant mare that founded the Stellenfleth stud.

"We started in 1964 with Duellheldin," Dr Schulz told me. "She had two daughters by the Thoroughbred Marcio xx, and out of one of those mares, Marbel. We bred Garibaldi I in 1971 and Garibaldi II in 1974."



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Dr Stellenfleth belonged to an era of mare owners who loyally took their mares to the local stallion station and trusted in the wisdom of the man in charge at Celle to send them good stallions, and he did. "I was fortunate, I had a good start with Duellant, then Marcio xx. I was one breeder who used Grande as much as possible. Many breeders didn't like him, the foals were small, and although they had a good eye, they didn't have the nicest head. I saw how good they were as riding horses and I bred nine Grande mares.

"I have only used horses of my own genetic foundation, and horses I liked. It's not just a matter of thinking, it is very much a question of feeling. Once I tried to use an outside mare, but she didn't get in foal. "I'm always trying to breed a better horse, I think I'll try as long as I live. The result doesn't have to be a champion but what I think is a good horse.

"I prefer to use stallions in my neighbourhood. If we use stallions further away we have to take the mare and foal, and that's too far. You can use chilled semen but you can't get any on Sunday or Monday, then if you miss, you might have to wait two or three weeks before you can breed the mare.

"In former times when you went to a mare show all the mares were from the local stallions – Grande, Bolero, Wendekreis. Now they are from all over the Hanoverian region and the breeders often don't know the stallions – they look at the fine photos, then the 'numbers' (the breeding rankings) and notes.

"In former times there were no statistics. Breeders looked at the horses in question. How good do they look? Now there is a flood of numbers, part of that is good but for the individual horse it is dangerous. When breeders only look at numbers and believe they have a real picture of the horse, it is very dangerous. The breeder must look for himself, and the breeder starts looking at the birth of the foal. It's written in Latin, in my pedigree book: 'horses are my life'."

A few days after we met Dr Schulz we saw him again at the stallion licensing where he presented me with a piece of paper, a summary of his breeding credo: 'My most important principle in breeding – for building the generations, I only use daughters of stallions, the children of which are successful in the sport.'

Benetton Dream is out of a mare by the Hanoverian stallion Rotspon, one of the best sons of Rubinstein, out of the Davignon I mare Dornröschen, who was in turn the daughter of one of the foundation mares for another astute breeder, Axel Windeler. "With Windrose, who was Weltmeyer x Sender, we made a new line. Windrose with Davignon produced Dornroeschen, who bred with Rotspon produced Rotkappchen, who bred to Brentano produced Benetton Dream.

"I liked Bolero, but I came too late for him as he died before I'd decided. So I decided on Brentano because there was a magazine with the top 10 breeding stallions. There was Donnerhall, Rubinstein, Weltmeyer, and Brentano, so when I took my mare to Brentano I had combined all five of the top, and the result was Benetton Dream. Many people smiled at

me, but I wanted to have this combination of the Grand Prix blood. And it was a very special offer from the State Stud at Celle, €450, so it was easy to try."

Bon Coeur is out of Sonnenschein by Sandro Hit, and she is out of Carla by the Calypso II son Carsimo. Writing in April 2020, Ludwig Christmann noted: "As a producer, Bon Coeur is one of the biggest positive surprises of the last two years. Already in 2018 his first sons generated a lot of enthusiasm at the licensings. As three-year-olds they fulfilled all expectations under saddle. From this first vintage his son Bon Courage became the vice national champion of three-year-old stallions with rider Jessica Lynn Thomas. Many of his daughters received high grades in mare tests, which led to the high breeding value of the black stallion."

Bon Coeur was bred by Birgit Tietjen from Taaken, Germany, and was stationed at Eckhard Wahler's yard Gestüt W.M. in Visselhövede, Germany. He achieved strong scores at his sport test in 2017, and was the second-highest-scoring five-year-old in the sport test in Verden with 8.90 points. The stallion scored 8.8 for trot, 9.0 for canter and walk, 8.8 for rideability and 9.0 for general impression.

Bon Coeur also became the reserve champion at the 2015 and 2016 Bundeschampionate for riding horses, was one of three stallions to receive the 2018 Weltmeyer Prize, and sired five of the horses at the 2022 WBCYH.

Perhaps with Bon Coeur we have a B-line stallion who can swell the line. In his nine years at stud, Bolero sired 47 licensed stallions, only three – Brentano II, Bismark and Beltain – have made a mark. Since then there have been more than a few 'B' colts who have looked the real thing, but only Belissimo, Benicio, and Breiting have had lasting influence. At the 2022 Hanoverian stallion pre-selection, the dominant stallion, with 10 colts going forward, was Bon Courage (Bon Coeur x Vivaldi x Rohdiamant). Bon Courage was the premium colt at the 2019 licensing, and like his sire, stands at Gestüt W.M.

Toto Jr. (2011), black, 167 cms

Toto Jr. was the first licensed son of Totilas and has so far been his best. In early 2014 he won the stallion performance test in Ermelo with 86 points, was victorious in the PAVO Cup 2015-16, and won the stallion competition in classes L and M two years in succession. In 2021, he won two three-star Grand Prix classes with scores of 78 and 77, but with his rider Edward Gal taking a sabbatical, he has not competed in 2022.

Progeny of Toto Jr. have fetched high prices at a wide variety of foal auctions. In 2017, nine young stallions from his first year of foals entered the second round of the KWPN stallion selection. That same year Toto Jr. sired the largest number of dressage foals in the Netherlands – 369 registered – whilst also bringing the most foals to auctions in both 2017 and 2018. With Taminau and King Karim, Toto Jr. was the sire of two of the total of eight KWPN-licensed stallions in early 2018. It's interesting to note that while Toto Jr. has been a successful breeding stallion, his more celebrated sibling Total US (by Totilas out of Sondra x Sir Donnerhall I x Don

Schufro) has been an Olympic competitor with Edward Gal but does not seem to have produced any foals of note.

Toto Jr. represents a fusion of the best of Dutch and German dressage breeding. His dam Desperada is a daughter of German dressage team star, Desperados FRH (De Niro x Rotspon). Both the dam and the grand-dam of Toto Jr. achieved outstanding results in the mare performance tests in Germany and were rated 10.0 for rideability by test riders.

Totilas, his sire, was a sensation in the dressage arena and is proving himself to be a fine sire. Totilas is by one of the dressage greats, the Trakehner Gribaldi (Kostolany x Ibikus), out of a mare of Dutch jumping breeding, by Glendale, a 1m70 jumper out of a mare by Akteur who jumped 1m60. Totilas was bred by Jan K. Schuil and Anna Schuil-Visser of Broeksterwoude in the Netherlands, who also gave him his basic training.

Commenting on the young colts at that first licensing, KWPN dressage panel chairman Bert Rutten noted: "The stallions by Toto Jr. that we have referred today all combine a good, long-lined model with an uphill manner of movement."

Despacito (2015), black, 172 cms

Surely no survey of dressage breeding would be complete without reference to the great Donnerhall, and in

Despacito we have a young stallion with two crosses of the best son of Donnerhall, De Niro.

Despacito is by Don Nobless who is by De Niro son Dancier, who is out of a mare by the Lauries Crusador son Lancier, out of a mare by the exquisite Don Davidoff, by the Donnerhall son Don Gregory, out of a Rubinstein mare. Don Davidoff was a superstar in young horse classes and was destined for a stellar career as a breeding stallion, with just one problem – he wasn't very good at getting mares in foal.

Despacito is out of Selina (Sandro Hit), out of a De Niro mare, so the D line is looking safe... Despacito won the Hanoverian championships in Verden with a score of 8.8 and went on to win a silver medal at the Bundeschampionate. He passed his 50-day test with a good final score of 8.56.

No wonder Ingo Pape is enthusiastic: "We have this stallion, Despacito, who is coming with his first crop of two-year-olds in the Fall. His first colts will go to the licensing and I am very curious how they will go. We will put the bridle and the surcingle on and start to ride them next year. I think he can be very influential. I really like what he is producing in the foals, he's really stamping them no matter how the mare looks. He's really giving his type, his swing, and his way of movement. But that's foals, it has to be proved with horses under saddle. That's the main thing; we want to breed riding horses, not in-hand horses."

Morricone I (2012), black, 170 cms

Morricone is by Millennium, a stallion that provokes vigorous debate whenever dressage breeders gather – a bit like that other black stallion, Sandro Hit, though Sandro Hit's supporters would seem to have won the day.

Millennium, a black Trakehner stallion, announced he was a force in the world of dressage breeding when he dominated the 2014 stallion licensings in three different studbooks. It started with Trakehner where they licensed five sons of Millennium, including their champion Sir Sansibar. Then Oldenburg, where their licensing champion was Morricone I. In Westfalia three Millennium colts approved, one of which made the premium ring.

Millennium had been the reserve champion of the 2010 Trakehner licensing, then second in te dressage at his 30-day test, and first of the dressage scores in a 70-day test in 2013. In 2012, he "won several young horse riding classes", but it has taken some time for him to emerge in FEI ranks.

Ridden by Simone Pearce, Millenium competed twice at PSG/Inter I level in 2020, for two seconds in a one-star competition. Since then, with Simone transferring to Gestüt Bonnhomme, home of Morricone I, Millennium has not appeared in competition.

Millennium did not enjoy the best of reputations. His sire Easy Game was seemingly not



Morricone I

easy at all. Whenever he appeared in public, he was only led by the stallion master, Joep van Uyter, and then always on a lungeing rein, since the stallion not only had the tendency to stand on his hind legs but also tried to kick his handler.

My Trakehner expert suggests that Millennium was “not too calm, but by far not as awful as his sire, just a little cheeky, a young stallion, and he was by far the most beautiful of all the stallions at the licensing.”

His verdict: “Time will tell if Millennium is the one to improve all breeding programs and if he will become a performer. From a breeding point of view I think you need an active mare that needs a bit of that sought-after flamboyant front (face, neck, shoulder, front leg). And for all Warmblood breeds it is, of course, interesting to have a stallion that has no Sandro Hit or Florestan or Donnerhall blood.”

Dr. Maren Engelhardt created www.trakehners-international.com and writes for a number of publications where she takes a nuanced view; “Speaking of Millennium, clearly a horse that has a fan club, and a large base of breeders are using him every year. Over 30 approved sons across all registries, and the stallion is just nine years old. There’s always talk of his own fragile nerves and his non-compliance when it comes to being a riding horse. A more-than-meagre performance record is usually brought up immediately by his biggest critics but, to be fair, a stallion with that kind of ‘business’ from January through August really cannot do very well in competition, whether he wants to or not.

“I saw Millennium privately Friday evening when he was in the big indoor with several sons when the horses had a chance to see the hall before the frantic Gala on Saturday night. He was well-behaved, focused on his rider, and did what any other horse in there did that night – a good job. And I really am not a fan of this particular stallion.”

Back to that 2014 licensing champion Morricone, the very attractive black colt by Millennium out of a Rubin Royal x De Niro x Rubinstein mare. There was a huge furore when he was sold for €755,000 to Rebecca Gutmann of Gestüt Bonhomme, since the rival bidders Lone Boegh Henricksen and Paul Schockemöhle accused the auctioneer of ignoring their higher bid. Still it proved a wise investment for Ms Gutmann, and in 2021 Morricone was crowned Oldenburg Stallion of the Year at the annual Oldenburg stallion licensing in Vechta.

When Morricone was licensed in 2014 he was named champion stallion. In 2015 Morricone was the dressage winner of his 30-day test in Adelheidsdorf with a final score of 9.33. He produced three licensed sons in his debut year, including a premium stallion in Vechta.

Morricone is out of Hartima, who has two crosses of Rubinstein, and is by Rubin-Royal out of a De Niro x Rubinstein I mare. Once again, we find Rubinstein who had a well-deserved reputation for producing foals with a good temperament. Many believe that the reason Morricone has a calmer brain than his sire (and throws good temperament), is the blood of Rubinstein on his dam line.

In 2021, Morricone, ridden then by Lena Waldmann, won a Grand Prix at Redefin with a 74.5%, and that same

year won at Inter I and placed second three times at Intermediaire II, all with scores over 70%. He was also the sire of two licensing winners, Macchiato (Just Perfect) in Westfalia, and Montgomery (Foundation) at the DSP licensing. Another son was Oldenburg vice-champion, Moreno (San Amour).

Morricone’s son, the four-year-old gelding Mister Universe (San Amour), was the most expensive horse at the Oldenburg Special Edition Auction, selling for €340,00, while Movie Star, another son, was the top selling horse at the Oldenburg Elite Auction at €250,000. Not surprisingly, he was crowned Oldenburger VTV Stallion of the Year 2021.

Hesselhøj Donkey Boy (2012) brown, 170 cms

In this age of the universal sport horse, where geography plays a lesser role in Warmblood breeding, it is refreshing to come across a Danish Warmblood stallion, with distinctly Danish breeding.

Hesselhoej Donkey Boy comes from a damline of fine Danish blood, with five DWB elite mares in a row before we get to two branded Swedish Warmblood, one by the legendary Gaspari – the first dressage stallion to showcase his wares in the competition arena.

This important damline originates from the Hanoverian mare Amuratha, born in 1926. She was by Amos and, like her sire, grey, thanks to his Shagya Arabian sire Amurath. Exported to Sweden, Amuratha founded the Swedish damline 36, out of which we find 11 approved stallions and several Olympic participants.

Donkey Boy’s dam Søbakkehus Kamilja is a successful advanced level dressage horse. She is by the Grand Prix stallion Milan, who is by Michellino, who combines the blood of the Trakehner Michelangelo and the great Dutch sire, Ferro. Kamilja is out of Khiwa by Kawango, by the great Trakehner sire Ibikus.

Donkey Boy’s sire, ERA Dancing Hit, brings considerable German blood to the equation. He is by UNO Don Diego, who is by the Donnerhall son Dressage Royal, out of a Hanoverian mare by Falkland. Dancing Hit’s dam, Sumatra Hit, is by the ubiquitous Sandro Hit, out of a Mecklenburg mare by the Holsteiner Caprilli.

Donkey Boy was a success right from the start; a premium stallion in 2015 and the same year won his performance test. In 2020 the Danish Warmblood Society granted the eight-year-old stallion elite status, one of the youngest to be so honoured.

He won the Danish young horse championships as a four-, five-, six-, and seven-year-old, plus bronze as a five-year-old and silver as a seven-year-old at the WBCYH.

Donkey Boy was the sire of seven entrants in different age-groups at the most recent WBCYH in Ermelo. ■

(See page 26 in this issue for full profile of Hesselhøj Donkey Boy)

Building an international dam line from scratch...

BY SABINE TIMMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: SABINE TIMMAN, KIM LUNDIN, AND PRIVATE COLLECTION

The participants at the recent eventing World Championship in Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy, included one horse registered to the Dutch NRPS studbook. Shutterflyke is by the very well known Sir Shutterfly, with Kigali as her damsire – a horse that won the WBCYH showjumping championship in Lanaken as a seven-year-old, but then progressed to dressage GP fame.

It was no accident that Shutterflyke was competing at such a high level in eventing, so it was interesting to dive into her story.

Shutterflyke has been competing with Miroslav Trunda of the Czech Republic since 2017 when she was six years old. Trunda started her in young horse classes, and concluded that first year with the eventing World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Le Lion d'Angers where they finished eighth. This result was only the beginning for the pair who turned 11 this year. Last year they recorded a creditable 39th at the Tokyo Olympic Games, and appeared on the entry list for the Pratoni World Championship.

Horses without papers

Shutterflyke was bred by Sipke Bijzitter and his niece Marieke de Roos-Kerkhof, and is a product from the special damline of Sipke on which Bijzitter has been basing his breeding for many years. He began, just like other older

breeders – Sipke is already 82 years old – at a time when horses were still working the land: “We had a farm at home and, at that time, there were no tractors so we used the horses for work. When one got a bit older, we sometimes bred a foal or bought a new horse. A few times we bought a horse with good papers, but they always turned out to be less useful than the non-studbook horses that we had ourselves. At that time, studbook papers were not very important. A lot of the working horses had no papers and no one ever asked about it. Only when more inspections came and tractors took over the work of the horses did papers become more important.

“At that time, it was around 50 years ago, I had Ikarla, an easy but quick mare. I had bought her mother, a black blaze mare without papers and matched her with the stallion Ziezo, but I had no proof of that. Because the parents were unknown to the studbook, you could register your horse with the ‘helping’ studbook at that time.”

A nice work horse

Ikarla turned out to be a very nice work horse for Sipke, and so he bred a foal out of her who was Marja. “Ikarla was matched with Heros, a Geldlander stallion who had three approved brothers from the well-known Van Wittenstein line. He was standing at the nearest stallion station, something that was common to do at this time. Choosing a particular stallion will follow later on the timeline, and also the fact that you wanted to add more blood into your horses. “This happened in the late 1970s when we matched Marja with Uppercut xx, giving us the mares Renda and Sandra.”

In combination with Meridiaan Marja gave the mare Udola, and with this daughter her line ends. But Renda produced Vera, a 1m40 mare



Sipke Bijzitter and his niece Marieke de Roos-Kerkhof with Paula



Marja (left) and Ikarla (right) with the young Sipke behind

by Rigoletto who, in turn, produced the 1m60 stallion Undiamo (Andiamo). Several 1m40 horses also descend from her daughters.

It was Sandra, however, who became Sipke's showpiece, producing nine foals, including the mare Ada (Kristal). "I matched Sandra with Kristal because I had seen some of his offspring and they had a lot of movement, so that seemed like a good

idea. At that time there were no breeding directions and you therefore did not breed a specific jumping or dressage horse. It was especially important that they were good-minded horses, and it was nice if they could move a bit in front of the carriage, so that was what you looked for."

Skewbald or piebald movers

"The first of Ada's offspring was Elza (Samber) who gave the approved stallion Jos de Vos (Wellington) and the level-four horse Orient (Jazz). From the stallion Bredero, Ada gave the mare Gerda – the dam of the well-known Lincoln (Faldo) who not only became an approved stallion, but also competed successfully with Albert Zoer in 1m60 classes. "Albert was able to use Lincoln in a course for agility, but in the Grand Prix he came out just as well the next day. I am as proud of Lincoln as I am of Shutterflyke who descends from another daughter of Sandra – Gusta (Nimmerdor).

"I really wanted to breed a skewbald or piebald horse, so I matched Gusta with Samber. Samber was not only skewbald but also a very good mover. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out to be a horse with more than one color, so I bred Marijke with Ed King Hill, a skewbald NRPS stallion. The mare Samba came out of this and she got the right colors in my imagination. Where at first it was mainly about the movement for us, we started breeding more and more towards jumping, especially because Lincoln jumped so well."

Special breed

For Samba, Sipke had the partner Kigali (Wolfgang) in mind – a horse whose career

began in showjumping but then moved to dressage.

As a five-year old Kigali competed in the showjumping WBCYH in Lanaken and won this championship title with his rider Nathalie van der Meij. In 2004 the stallion made a move to dressage and the stables of Coby and Marlies van Baalen. It proved to be a special move for such a stallion at the age of 12. Kigali was retired from sport in 2013 when he moved to the BÉligneux Le Haras studfarm in France, where he passed away in 2018. He stood there alongside two other very well-known performance stallions: Lando and Tinka's Boy.

According to HorseTelex Kigali gave four approved sons, eight 1m60 jumping horses (although he has numerous others between 1m40 and 1m55), plus three Grand Prix dressage horses. Kigali had also caught the eye of Sipke and gave him the mare Zaramba, again a colored horse. "At that time, Shutterfly was performing very well in showjumping with Germany's Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum. He was quick and I loved that. So, it was with his full brother Sir Shutterfly that I wanted to match with Zaramba, and from that I got Shutterflyke."

Focus on jumping horses

Sipke Bijzitter sold Shutterflyke as a foal because he had a lot of demand for the nice horses from his breeding: Then, "As a three-year-old, stallion owner Hein Peters was looking for a number of eventing horses for Miroslav Trunda. Hein knew our damline well and he decided he should definitely take Shutterflyke and one more to his home, because he saw something in them. So that's what happened. It wasn't until Shutterflyke was six years old that we tracked her down again because she was in the news. From then on, we continued to follow her. Our heart is not necessarily in eventing, because once a horse came home injured from competing. So, the



Sipke Bijzitter with Nina

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Breeder : Patrick Trienpont | Rider : Edouard Schmitz



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Eventing

focus of our breeding is really on the jumpers, but we want to keep that good movement in the jumpers too. In general, dressage horses can no longer jump, but there are some very nice showjumpers in the dressage ring.”

Current breeding

At this time Sipke still has two mares and Marieke one with whom they continue the breeding from this self-established dam line. Obama M (Il est Balou - Lincka Z x Lincoln) who is carrying a foal of New Pleasure VDL (For Pleasure - Lady-A ter Putte x Diamant de Semilly), and Nina (It's Otto - Lincka Z) with a colt by Zinelord VDL (Zinedream - Lou x Lordanos), plus Lotte (Cornet's Diamond - Trea x Indoctro) in foal to Arezzo VDL (Chin Chin - Sarjolijn x Heartbreaker). They also have the two-year-old Paula (Il est Balou) out of Eva (Faldo), the half-sister of Shutterflyke.

According to Marieke; “Usually, we breed one to two foals a year and we do that together. Sipke makes a pre-selection of the stallions and then we list the pluses and minuses. We include the exterior and then, if possible, visit the stallion owner such as the VDL Stud. In the past we have also bred a lot with the stallions of Arend Zoer.

“Character is also very important to us when choosing a stallion. They shouldn't be too slow, but they shouldn't be a quick bastard either. We are both 1m60 so a horse is quickly big to us. It is often said that the horses with special characters are the best jumpers, but they are often the horses for a top rider. We would rather not have or keep them here



Shutterflyke ridden by Miroslav Trunda (CZE)

in our stable. We want to sell good rideable horses so that we are also well known in the area. Breeding enjoyable horses is our main goal.”

Breeding pleasant horses

In the future, Marieke would like to build on the experience and the fine damline that her uncle has created. “We don't necessarily have goals of winning things or breeding horses to compete at the Olympics. Above all it should be enjoyable, and we will mainly focus on breeding pleasant horses that can also do well in basic sport. That is often forgotten but it's the largest target group. I used to ride Shutter-flyke's grandmother Samba myself, and others. But when my children came along I rode less. My daughter is now 14 and rides ponies.

“We now have a very nice three-year-old, Obama M, and when she is properly trained later on she's a very nice mare for her to make the transition to horses. We no longer have Zaramba, Shutterflyke's mother as a lady in our neighborhood wanted to have her. She rides her at Z-level dressage and now has a foal by High Shutterfly on the way so, who knows, maybe a second top eventer will follow.”■



Nina with her foal by Zinelord VDL

Belgian 'Open' Breeding Championship 2022

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO

On October 8/9, the 'Grand concours d'élevage de chevaux de sport' took place in Ghlin, Belgium. Organized by AHECS (Association Hennuyère des Eleveurs de Chevaux de Sport), the driving forces are well-known breeders Daniël and Nicolas Boudrenghien.

Year after year, Daniël, Nicolas and their team succeed in making this championship a top event, and this year attracted a great number of participants: over 100 two-year-olds and 87 three-year-olds in the free jumping along. Alongside these two classes we saw a foal championship with 62 participants.

Certainly, the large audience enjoyed great quality and expert commentary from Daniël Boudrenghien about the pedigree, breeders, and owners. The foals and horses were judged by an international jury, with individual members distanced from each other in the arena, whose points were immediately displayed to the audience following the performance of each participant. The points were processed in real time and displayed on a large screen, as well as the intermediate standings.

Best foal – Quantara Biolley

Of the 62 participating foals, 15 were selected for the final in which Quantara Biolley was the clear winner with 90.83%. California Du Sartiau Z (Chacco White, breeder: Stephanie Daubresse) and Quelle Bonne Heure Rivereuille-V (El Pintador du Dieu D'Arras Z, breeder: Rivereuille-V) completed the podium with 85% and 84.17 %, respectively.

Quantara Biolley was bred by Brigitte de Biolley, who discovered her passion at a very young age thanks to her grandparents who owned horses. It soon became apparent that she was especially talented as a dressage rider: "I witnessed the rise of dressage in Belgium at end of the sixties. At the time, this discipline was still in its infancy and competitions saw few participants. I remember, for example, that in some Prix St-Georges classes only one or two

combinations took part, with three or four participants at the low levels.

"In 1971, at the age of 18, I participated in an international Prix St-Georges for seniors for the first time, when young-rider classes still didn't exist. I made my international debut during the CDIO Rotterdam riding the horse Potemkine, and with this very successful dressage horse I became vice champion of Belgium seven times, mostly behind the winner Anne d'Ieteren."

Brigitte de Biolley can look back on a rich and long career (1971-1992) in international dressage sport with participations in several European Championships, World Championships, the preselection for the Olympic Games in Barcelona (1992) and highly regarded dressage classes, including Aachen, Berlin, Fontainebleau, Dortmund, Amsterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch and Goodwood. Her honours list also includes two national titles. She was not only successful with Potemkine, but also with dressage performers such as Attaturk, Petit Prince, Lovely Surprise, and the BWP registered Ferno and David van de Wateringhoeve. Biolley now also has a great worldwide reputation as a breeder since she started her operation in 1998.

At the time, she bought a dam named Tania van het Wintershof, a daughter of Codex (Carthago) out of Onoline (Landadel - Hafline x Alcanar xx), belonging to BWP bloodline 78. Out of Tania, Brigitte bred approved stallions Charivari Biolley (Argentinus) and Fifty Shades of Biolley (Fiderbach). Through two daughters, Tania is also the granddam of approved stallions Indigo Blue Biolley (Chacco-Blue), Chacco Me Biolley (Chacco-Blue), Jalhay Biolley (Jilbert van't Ruytershof), Thorgal Biolley (Totilas), and Bailamos



Quantata Biolley



Brigitte de Biolley



Jazzy de Liam – three-year-old champion

Biolley (Sir Donnerhall I). Tania is also the great-granddam of AES-approved stallion Nouriev Biolley (Secret), who was lauded as champion stallion in the option dressage at the beginning of this year during the AES stallion selection.

Thanks in part to these stallions, Brigitte has an important share in this strong BWP dam line. “The horses belonging to this lineage have a special character. They also have a good mentality and always want to go for it,” she stated.

The champion foal Quantara Biolley’s sire is Diablue PS (Diaron OLD - Stakklariaella x Stakkato), so I asked Brigitte ‘why this choice?’. “That’s gut feeling. Everything revolves around feeling for me. I can give another example: Chacco-Blue. Few breeders knew him when he was a three-year-old. I knew him. My gut feeling then told me to use him for my breeding. I’ve used Chacco-Blue year after year, until the year he died. I cannot explain what attracted me to Chacco-Blue at the time. Now everyone wants Chacco-Blue.” Chacco-Blue also appears as the damsire in the pedigree of Diablue PS.

Quantara’s dam, Kiss Blue Biolley, is by Chacco Me Biolley out of Lanciana Lady Cavalor (Lanciano - Grandezza x Gralshüter). According to Brigitte: “Kiss Blue Biolley was born with us. She is a daughter of Chacco Me Biolley, a stallion who performs excellently on the international showjumping circuit in partnership with Roy Van Beek. A few weeks ago, this duo won the Youth Nations Cup final in Kronenberg. Chacco Me Biolley was originally called Just Me Biolley. With a view to the presentation at the stallion selection in Oldenburg, his name had to start with the letter C, which explains his name change. During the stallion selection he was crowned reserve champion. It’s nice to mention that Chacco Me Biolley won the championship in Ghlin as a foal and as a one-year-old.”

Chacco Me Biolley’s dam, Bellissima Biolley, passed away last year, and Brigitte explained; “With her latest descendant, Perlissima Biolley, we will participate in the free jumping contest in Ghlin for two-year-olds next year. Perlissima is a daughter of Chacoon Blue (Chacco-Blue - Cindina x Cartoon).”

Talking about Lanciana Lady Cavalor (Lanciano - Grandezza x Gralshüter), Brigitte said: “We actually won her during an edition of the showjumping tournament in Mechelen on the occasion of a campaign by Cavalor. She is the granddam of our champion foal Quantara and the dam of our approved stallion Galliani Biolley, a son of Sir Donnerhall. We breed an average of eight foals a year, both dressage and showjumping horses, with BWP damline 78 on the one side, and Lanciana Lady Cavalor’s lineage on the other.”

Champion 2yo Klassic Ste Hermelle

The free jumping contest for two-year-olds with 101 participants saw great quality. To put this into perspective, the fourth-to-last horse, Umani De Kwakenbeek, achieved 80.42% and finished 16th in the final classification. Klassic Ste Hermelle, a son by Qlassic Bois Margot out of Rheza Ste Hermelle (Surcouf de Revel - Naltysse de Ste Hermelle x Billy du Lys), bred by Raymond Lefèvre, received the highest score (89.17%).

According to Lefevre: “Rheza (Klassic’s dam) is a half-sister to the former approved sport stallion Vargas de Ste Hermelle. Vargas won the King’s Medal in Gesves as a three-year-old. In 2009 he won the French championship for four-year-olds in Fontainebleau. Vargas ranked third in the 2011 Belgian Championship for six-year-olds and third in the Belgian Championship for seven-year-olds in 2012, in partnership with Grégory Wathelet and Olivier Martin, respectively.

“Rheza herself competed in international two-star showjumping classes with my daughter, Adeline. She was then leased to a junior rider in France for two years. After the termination of the lease she returned as a dam to our Ste Hermelle studfarm. She has a very interesting pedigree, being a daughter of Surcouf de Revel (Jalisco B - Doris I x Nykio). Rheza’s dam, Naltysse de Ste Hermelle (Billy du Lys - Kalytisse de Ste Hermelle x Atlas d’Autan), is the foundation dam of our breeding and sports stable, and jumped at 1m50 with Adeline also. She had exceptionally good conformation and was very healthy, never lame. Naltysse produced four approved stallions (Babylis de Ste Hermelle, Panys de Ste Hermelle, Quaduc Ste Hermelle, and Vargas de Ste Hermelle) as well as several international showjumpers. The damline goes back to Sabina, a daughter of Brillioso. Sabina is a full sister to Nicias III who was approved as a breeding stallion by SBS and who made a career in the international showjumping world in partnership with Pierre Delcourt.”

Klassic Ste Hermelle’s sire is Qlassic Bois Margot, so why this choice? “Klassic’s dam had a lot of showjumping qualities. She jumped carefully and with a super technique, but was hot in the arena. She had a lot of blood and lost some competitiveness because of this. For that reason I had her covered several times with stallions that were slightly colder and calmer and who added scope. Qlassic Bois Margot is such a stallion; he has a lot of scope and power. In partnership with Simon Delestre, he performed at the highest level and won the



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Breeder: M. Jean-Baptiste Thiebot



***Viamant
du Matz***

Team World Champion

Diamant de Semilly SF - Heralina (Voltigeur Le Malin)
Breeder: M. Roger Sevette



***Toledo
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Diamant de Semilly SF - Ariane du Prieuré II SF (Papillon Rouge SF)
Breeder: Mme Kerstin Drevet



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World Cup class in Mechelen, among other highlights.”

From who did Rheza the high dose of blood? “From her dam Naltysse (54.30%) and, generally speaking, from the damline which goes back to Sabina (71.29%). Sabina is by Brilloso (a son of the Thoroughbred Furioso xx) out of Corina I – a daughter of the Thoroughbred Rantzau xx. A high dose of blood is important in sport today, as long as it can be used by good riders.”

Rheza produced several descendants, including the dam of Aicha Ste Hermelle (2010) a daughter of Ephebe For Ever: “Ephebe jumped very well, but his offspring were not so good. Aicha performed at 1m20 level and was then sold.” Two years after Aicha’s birth, Rheza produced Crazy Ste Hermelle, a daughter of Nabab de Rêve. “Crazy is performing very well in international three-star eventing. We sold her a few years ago and the owners are very satisfied.”

According to Lefèvre, Klassic’s most important qualities are that “He has a brilliant showjumping technique. He is careful, good technique, and has a good mentality. He’s not too hot. I think Klassic will be a good showjumper. Normally he will be sold, and after his free jumping performance I was approached by four different people to buy him. The first person to ask me will be the first to get that chance.”

Raymond Lefèvre has already bred a series of approved stallions, international showjumpers, and champion foals, so does he have a particular dream? “Yes, of course. I am successfully realizing one of my dreams, in particular breeding exclusively with mares that have performed or are performing at a high international level. I can give you an example: This year we got back Anaya Ste Hermelle to use in our breeding programme. This daughter by Andiamo has won several five-star showjumping classes under the saddle of Pedro Veniss. She produced for instance Eras Ste Hermelle and Django Ste Hermelle, two approved stallions who perform at international five-star level. Anaya’s half sister, Ujade Ste Hermelle, is known as the dam of Bingo Ste Hermelle, also an

approved stallion who is successful at international five-star level. Another dam we bought is called Callas Z.”

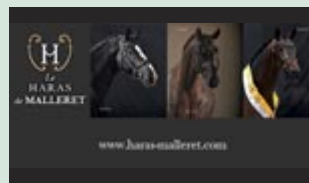
Raymond Lefèvre explains the suffix and his studfarm’s name, Ste Hermelle: “There is a chapel next door to our establishment. Sainte Hermelle is the name of a saint, to be more precise, a saint who heals eye diseases and beard burns. When we settled here, elderly people regularly visited the chapel with an empty bottle, to fill it from the well water than runs here. The composition of the soil gives the water certain positive qualities. We use the saint’s name as our stable name. If everything goes according to plan, 17 SteHermelle’ foals will be born next year.”

Three-year-old champion Jazzy de Liam

The free jumping class for three-year-olds saw Jazzy de Liam, a son of Emerald van’t Ruytershof out of a Dayton Sitte daughter, triumph. Jazzy was bred by Elevage de Liam and is owned by Viviane Velge, who said; “I bought Jazzy from Horse of Belgium for my daughter who is starting as a rider. Jazzy was two-and-a-half at the time, and I’m glad the purchase is paying off. We will now start to train Jazzy, after which my daughter will compete with him. Jazzy is still a stallion, so who knows, maybe we will present him at the SBS stallion selection.”

According to Viviane, her champion has several qualities: “He has good use of the back, a lot of power and a very good foreleg technique. He’s beautiful too. In other words, Jazzy is very complete”

Surprisingly, until now, Viviane has no experience with breeding horses. “I have a great passion for horses, having started riding when I was six-years-old. I have ridden in both England and Belgium, mainly dressage, and my mother is American. We have lived in England for 15 years, which is why I also rode in that country. I have passed the horse bug on to my two daughters, Charlotte and Laura, and it’s mainly Charlotte who has developed a great love for horses.” ■



Danish dynamite: Hesselhøj Donkey Boy's own stallion line

BY KIM LUNDIN

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/DE COSTER

A gold medal winning elite and Grand Prix competitor at age eight, Hesselhøj Donkey Boy is one of a kind. Since becoming a premium stallion as a three-year-old, there has been a constant flow of positive words about this stallion with the gentle expression and big movements.

Now, at the age of 10, he's already becoming a living legend, as a breeding stallion as well as for his success in the competition arena.

It's only seven years since Hesselhøj Donkey Boy exited the ring as a premium stallion at the Danish Warmblood Stallion Show in Herning, 2015. Even then he was a beacon of light in the darkness after his sire ERA Dancing Hit's untimely demise. Since then, Hesselhøj Donkey Boy has collected more prize rosettes, challenge prizes and awards, followed by his record-breaking elite stallion announcement in 2020 in Danish Warmblood than any other stallion of his birth year.

Even as a four-year-old the Danish stallion committee, then led by Poul Graugaard, awarded Hesselhøj Donkey Boy the prestigious Aage Ravns Vandingpokal for dressage-bred stallions, with his breeders Dorthe and Hans Jørgen Hoeck of Stutteri Hesselhøj receiving a breeder's gold medal when he was named the winning stallion. This gold medal is a rare honour within DWB, and only the sixth ever awarded since the association was founded.

The story could have ended there as for so many, but the elegant brown stallion – with a white nose, long legs, uphill with a lot of air and swing in his movement, a great walk and slightly longer back – has only continued to fulfil all the expectations that were placed upon him. Hesselhøj Donkey Boy quickly became popular as a breeding stallion, covering 167 mares in his first season for DWB, and around 20 for other studbooks, including Swedish Warmblood.

From this first crop came Diploid, who represented SWB in Ermelo at the dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses. And although the number 167 may not sound so impressive by European standards, it should be remembered that DWB is a smaller, albeit a very successful studbook for dressage breeders. Hesselhøj Donkey Boy's numbers have held up with several years of over 100 mares, and it's only after 2020 that he is surpassed in popularity by his son Hesselhøj Donkey Boss, among others. He is a full brother to Jeanna Högberg's five-year-old winner in Verden last year Hesselhøj Down Town, also approved and used in breeding.

In addition to Hesselhøj Donkey Boy producing very beautiful and mobile foals, many known for very good temperaments, his pedigree is also an advantage, especially

in Danish Warmblood which has such a large proportion of D blood in its damlines. Hesselhøj Donkey Boy is almost an outcross – despite his very Danish-international pedigree. His maternal grandmother, Milan (out of Söbakkehus Kamilja) is KWPN Michellino heritage, which marries to the blood of his sire's damsire, Sandro Hit, and the relatively unusual D line represented by his paternal great-grandfather Dressage Royal. Maternal great grandsire Kawango is a DWB stallion with a Trakehner sire in the form of Ibikus (Hertilas - Isolda x Impuls), who is found twice in the pedigree of Donkey Boy's dam, Söbakkehus Kamilja. She herself has international small-tour merits with Swiss rider Elisa Steiger, and was sold as a competition horse before Hesselhøj Donkey Boy reached his sensational status.

Not all breeding stallions are able to deliver young horses alongside established, older dressage horses for the competition arena, but Hesselhøj Donkey Boy has done it all: Young horse championship in Denmark both open and exclusive to DWB-registered horses, the young horse world championship three years in a row, and debuting himself at each level and in step with his age. Furthermore, he has excelled and won the most, despite stiff competition in his age group from, among others, D'Avie.

In December 2015 Hesselhøj Donkey Boy was sold to



Hesselhøj Donkey Boy with Jan Møller, WBCYH 7yo championship

Kristin Andresen from Norway, initially intended as a future prospect for Andresen's daughter Alexandra. They agreed with rider Jan Møller Christensen on the stallion's ongoing training and competition schedule. They had been quite an iconic pair, the towering stallion and his leggy rider who spent almost five years together. Good training, enormous rideability, and really good expressive gaits paved the way for success in young horse classes. Together they won the Danish Young Horse Championships four years in a row between 2016 and 2019, and progressed from a green four-year-old to a fully fledged small tour horse in classes for seven year olds.

For a long time, D'Avie, Atterupgaard's Botticelli, and Ferrari have represented his closest competition, but Hesselhøj Donkey Boy won every year, even if by a small margin. As for so many others, the real litmus test is whether the bouquet of talent carries all the way to Grand Prix.

In the same year that Jan Møller Christensen handed over the reins, with some sadness in his eyes, Hesselhøj Donkey Boy is declared as an elite stallion with DWB. The award is based not only on breeding results, but also the stallion's own ability in sporting achievements which he fulfilled with flying colours.

However, almost parallel to his move to Helgstrand Dressage after the DWB Stallion Show in March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic struck and there was a long period of significantly fewer competition opportunities. The elite stallion is further trained for Grand Prix level and in February 2022 Hesselhøj Donkey Boy debuts in Intermediaire II with Anne-Mette Strandby Hansen; it is a victory in true Donkey Boy spirit.

His Grand Prix debut came at the home competition at the end of April, beginning of May at Uggerhalne, when Hesselhøj Donkey Boy added two national victories in Intermediaire II and Grand Prix to his ever growing curriculum vitae. The stallion now has five offspring nominated for the WBCYH, and his first yearlings make as fine an impression as he himself did. The question is, what letter should his stallion line have?

His owner Kristin Andresen has a few words to describe the stallion and his success story; "Donkey Boy is one of a kind. He is and has been a star since the first time I saw him at the premiere in Herning. There were two premium stallions that year in Herning, Donkey Boy and Salieri. I sold Salieri and bought Donkey Boy. We were at Hesselhøj and Alexandra tried him and her late trainer Wim Ernes was there. We knew at once that this was the horse we were looking for. Because of breeding work we wanted him in Denmark, and then Jan Christensen was clearly the best solution. Jan and Donkey Boy went from success to success. They won all the championships and scored super results at the young horse championships. Over time it has turned out that he is also breeding fantastically. It's one thing to produce fine foals, but he leaves great riding horses. We saw the result of that in the young horse championships."

HESSELHØJ DONKEY BOY

DOB: April 14, 2012

Bred by: Dorthé and Hans Jørgen Hoeck, Stutteri Hesselhøj, Asperup, Fyn, Denmark

Sire: ERA Dancing Hit (2011 UNO Don Diego x Sandro Hit), stallion who passed away before his fourth birthday. Honored posthumously with a gold medal for incredible breeding results in his only crop.

Dam: Søbakkehus Kamilja (2005 Milan xKawang) is highly decorated within DWB and has in addition to Donkey Boy 11 more offspring, of whom two are full siblings via ET. Kamilja comes from a highly decorated dam line, successful for generations.

DWB offspring: 520

SWB offspring: 61

Approved sons (DWB):

- **Ambjergs Delgadino** (2016/DWB/st La Donna Rossa x Blue Hors Don Romantic), breeder Malene Clausen
- **Hesselhøj Down Town** (2016/DWB/st Boogie Woogie x Blue Hors Zack), breeder Hans Jørgen Hoeck
- **Hesselhøj Donkey Boss** (2018/DWB/st Boogie Woogie x Blue Hors Zack) – full brother to Down Town, breeder Hans Jørgen Hoeck
- **Sønderskovens Don Avicii** (2018/DWB/st La Donna Rossa x Blue Hors Don Romantic) – full brother to Ambjergs Delgadino, breeder Johanne and Lars Juul
- **Svalegårds Hot Driver** (2019/DWB/st Svalegårds Hottie x Blue Hors Hotline), breeder Stutteri Svalegård

Young horse championships participants 2022

- Representing SWB: Vendela Eriksdotter Rubin (SWE) riding Diploid (2016/SWB Hesselhøj Donkey Boy -Topaasch x Davignon I, breeder Lena Nyström); 3rd in the small final – 8.36; 12th in the final – 8.04 points.
- Representing DWB: Søbakkehus Maude (2017 Hesselhøj Donkey Boy x Wilkens) ridden by Allan Grøn, bred by Agnete Holmsted, owned by Norcordia; 12th in the final – 8.40 points.
- Skovdals Dexter (Hesselhøj Donkey Boy x Blue Hors Romanov), rider Susanne Barnow, breeder Bjarne Skovdal, owner Susanne Barnow and Steffen Kristensen. Results 2022: 8th place in the preliminary test – 8.51; 14th in the final – 7.66.
- Dúné Nec (Hesselhøj Donkey Boy x De Noir), rider Sissel Bille Jacobsen, breeder Nana Eckhardt, owner Sissel Jacobsen. Failed to qualify for the finals.
- Hesselhoej Down Town (Hesselhøj Donkey Boy x Blue Hors Zack), rider Jeanna Högberg, breeder Hans Jørgen Hoeck, owner Helgstrand Dressage. Five-year-old winner in 2021 in Verden; 2022 results – winner of the preliminary test – 9.48; 2nd place in the final – 9.38.

DWB also had several listed reserves by Donkey Boy. ■

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High quality and a new class at German Bundeschampionat

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: JANNE BUGTRUP, FEI

The level of young showjumping horses in all the classes was extremely high. There was a new class for showjumping horses of eight years and older. These horses had to have been at the Bundeschampionat in previous years.

Besides the talent of the horses, I would like to congratulate the riders Richard Vogel and his partner Sophie Hinners and their team for the success they enjoyed at this event. As you will learn by reading, they won many medals and ribbons and their success will be hard to match.

Exciting five-year-olds

From the first qualification on it was very exciting sport. There were 93 combinations with top riders such as Sophie Hinners, Patrick Stühlmeyer, Eiken Sato, Richard Vogel, Katrin Eckermann, Takashi Shibayama Haase, and Philip Rüping. The Diamant de Semilly (Le Tot de Semilly - Venise des Cresles x Elf III, breeder: Jules Mesnildrey) line was the most represented sire line, through himself as well as his sons, Diamant de Plaisir I, Diarado, Dominator Z, Emerald van't Ruytershof, plus his grandsons Dinken and Diacontinus.

The second sire line was the one from Cornet Obolensky (Clinton - Rabanna van Costersveld x Heartbreaker, breeder: Thierry Degraeve) directly and through his sons Comme il faut, Colestus, Come and Fly, and Cornet du Lys.

The third most represented bloodline was from Chacco-Blue (Chambertin - Contara x Contender, breeder: K.H. Koepp) directly and via his son Chacoon Blue. Finally, the stallion United Touch S (Untouched - Touch of Class S x Lux Z, breeder: Julius Peter Sinnack) had six direct offspring in this class and five of them exceptionally made it to the final.

The first qualifier was won by the Westfalian-bred stallion Dracon (Dominator Z - Ballerina x Balou du Rouet, breeder: ZG Junker) under the saddle of Hendrik Dowe. His breeder gave me some insights into this family earlier this year: "We live in Westfalia and are also quite loyal to the Westfalian Studbook. However, good horses have no brand or color and that's why we don't look at studbooks when we choose a stallion. In recent years, for example, we've used Dominator Z who is Zangersheide registered, but his sire, Diamant de Semilly is Selle Français and his mother by Cassini I is Holsteiner. Nowadays you can get good genetics from everywhere in fresh and/or frozen semen.

"Ballerina's dam, Cracker Jane, is again in foal by Dominator Z. In our breeding program we have Ballerina, Cracker Jane, and her full sister. Cracker Jane's first foal was the mare Enja J (Ehrentusch), who was placed in over 130

classes at 1m30 and 1m40 level."

Friederike Junker explained how these horses feel to their rider: "They give a very good feeling, certainty that they can do everything. I rode several horses up to 1m40 level. Like Cornflakes J (Cristallo I - Louise J), Enja J, and Eminem J (Ehrentusch - Cracker Jane)." Martina Junker, Friederike's mother adds: "Just like Cracker Jane, Cornflakes J has an outstanding hind end containing a top engine. You don't need a whip or spurs to keep her going. She had an injury so we took her out of sport. The most interesting overall quality of this line is that all the horses have an outstanding work ethic. They have willingness, scope and are noble."

The Holsteiner-bred mare Kalifa 9 (Million Dollar van het Schaack - Salytino HH x Caretino, Stamm 4294, breeder: Natalie Kock) under the saddle of Sophie Hinners finished second on the first day, but won her second class, then also won the final over two rounds. Kalifa's breeder, Natalie Kock, was groom to Margit Otto Crepin for more than 35 years, so has travelled the world and seen many horses. In Margit's final years her horses stood in Elmshorn where the Holsteiner Verband stallions are standing. It was here that Natalie got a good feeling for the Holsteiner stallions and fell in love with Million Dollar van het Schaack. Before the final on Sunday I had a moment with her. "I started breeding with the mother of Kalifa 9 in 2011. I purchased her from Peter Huisman from the Netherlands. He crossed Salytino HH with Contender, who became the AES-approved stallion MFS Cayden HH. This stallion is competing in England at PSG - Inter I level and is owned by MFS Studfarm. I discovered Salytino HH through an online advertisement. Peter purchased her as a foal from her breeder Gesche Krey. Salytino HH also had a foal with me by LB Crumble who is now owned by Christina Liebherr and who jumped at 1m35.

A Million Dollar match

"I saw Million Dollar for the first time when I went to work and he passed me with his handler. I immediately thought he was an interesting stallion, and if he had a good character could be a perfect match for my Caretino mare. He did have an outstanding character, but then had to be approved for breeding before I was going to use him. I was on a holiday during his approval and when I came back I asked Uwe Benzin

(who works for the Holsteiner Verband) when I needed to apply to use him. He replied, 'yesterday'. Luckily it worked out that I could use him for Salytino HH.

"Kalifa 9 was very easy and well-mannered as a foal. She always did everything right. I kept her until she was three years old and took her to the mare performance test which she passed with a 9.5 from the guest rider. I put her back on the field for a long time and, at the moment I wanted to sell her I called Jan Meves and he started competing with her. Richard Vogel discovered her when he was trying horses at Jan Meves' place. He later rang Jan and said that he couldn't stop thinking about the mare, so Jan told him he should buy her. It's so special to see her competing in top form under the saddle of Sophie Hinners. It's confirmation that I am on the right track. Also that I used Million Dollar when a lot of people were negative about him, but I believed in this stallion."

Cornet Obolensky most represented among 6yo

There were 121 combinations in the six-year-old class where Cornet Obolensky was the most represented line. Last year's five-year-old champion, Corolando 3 (Cornet Obolensky - Curioza van den Bosrand x Orlando van de Heffinck, breeder: Zhashkiv Equestrian Sport School) won both qualifiers under the saddle of Eiken Sato, but had one down in the final to finish 17th. Cornet XL (Cornet Obolensky - La Baule x Lex Lugar, breeder: Dr. Rowold) finished second in the final under the saddle of Richard Vogel.

It was interesting to see so many horse with Balou du Rouet (Baloubet du Rouet - Georgia x Continue, breeder: Gestüt Lewitz) blood, also through Blockbuster and Balous Bellini. I asked Florian Meyer zu Hartum for some background information regarding Balou du Rouet. Since 2011 Florian has worked for Paul Schockemöhle and is responsible for the training of his horses and riders in Mühlen. About Balou du Rouet he said; "The success confirms our philosophy that we are on the right track with our foundation lines since Paul purchased the fifth mare in his damline. It confirms that a breeder needs well-bred damlines that are cared for.

"I should also say that Balou du Rouet has already made a name for himself at our studfarm as a damsire. We have a lot of Balou du Rouet mares because they have a lot of quality so we keep them for breeding and so we can share our good experiences with him. His offspring are very careful in jumping, which is a very good quality. This is in his damline and he passes it on to his offspring. When we need our mares to have a bit more energy and carefulness we will use Balou du Rouet."



Most represented 6yo sire: Cornet Obolensky, ridden by Mareco Kutscher (GER)

The line of Diamant de Semilly was ranked third for the most offspring, while one of the 121 horses was by the Holsteiner-bred stallion Dinken (Diarado - Inken I x Cassini I, Stamm 2294, breeder: Theo Molenaers) – a grandson of Diamant via Diarado. Dinken became premium stallion at his approvals in 2012 and won the Landeschampionat in 2016 as a six year old, after which an injury ended his sport career.

This single son of Dinken was Dax 68 (out of Olympia J x Corrado I, Stamm 8793, breeder: Dirk Georg Jessen), who kept improving in each round under the saddle of Richard Vogel. His breeder Dirk Georg Jessen said; "Dinken's pedigree is outstanding. I have competed at advanced level so I could see he would be a good match with my mare. Dinken needs tall and long-lined mares, so Olympia was a good match. Dax 68 was normal as a foal, but did have a lot of presence. Several people wanted to buy him, so I posted an online advertisement. Then David Will's mother showed interest and I thought it would be interesting to sell him to a stable where he would be offered every possibility. For me that was more important than the money and, in the end, I can say that we did everything right, so far. We were already very pleased when he qualified for the Bundeschampionat, and although my mother was there with me the first day, she couldn't come at

the weekend, but she cried her eyes out, she was so happy. I cried also. I am really happy for Dax 68 and everybody round him.”

Fourth was the Holsteiner-bred stallion Coquette del Pierre (Cornet Obolensky - Ellen III x Casquette, Stamm 2067, breeder: Witt Pferdezucht GbR) under the saddle of Hannes Ahlmann. According to his happy owner, Dr. Peter Schütte; “We built him up carefully for the Bundeschampionat. He didn’t go to many shows, but he was always placed, including at 1m35. His mentality is very good and he is very strong physically.

A chance encounter with Coquette

“He was two years old when I purchased him at the Holsteiner stallion approvals during the auction, but I hadn’t seen him free jumping. I actually wanted to buy a different stallion but when I was outside I saw another trotting in hand who immediately caught my eye. I saw his breeder and asked if it was possible to see him without a blanket. Coquette looked at me with big dark eyes and I loved that. Tjark Witt suggested trotting him outside in hand and, at that moment, I knew I had to have him. During the auction it got very exciting. At one

point I stopped bidding, but Japanese international showjumping rider Takashi Haase was sitting with us and thought he was an outstanding horse. When I started bidding again I was against somebody else, but really thought I was going to win. That’s how I bought him.

“The plan was to send Coquette to Stud Hell and Takashi would ride him at international level when the stallion got older. He always showed excellence in jumping. As a four-year-old he stood with Franz-Josef Dahlmann, who really loved him but couldn’t use him for breeding. He really loved Coquette but there he could not be a breeding stallion. I’d noticed Hannes Ahlmann a few times and thought he was (is) a good rider, so I called Dirk, his father, and asked if they would look at Coquette. They did, took him, and since then there has been only progress. I’m not interested in selling him because I’m enjoying his journey with Dirk and Hannes. For this year we had three goals: Competing him at the Holsteiner Landeschampionat, the Bundeschampionat, and the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses.

“Coquette never loses strength, and is actually getting strong. It’s the truly special horses who are able to do that. His scope and rideability are outstanding, and he received a 9.5 from the guest rider at his last sport performance test, an average of close to 9.0. He also comes out of an outstanding damline, the same one as Conrad de Hus. The few foals that Coquette has are doing very well.”

Holsteiners complete the hat trick

The seven-year-old class of 47 horses preceded the five- and six-year-old classes and, at that moment, no one imagined that the Holsteiner Verband would take home all the medals – dominating the whole podium. Interestingly, this Warendorf success may in part be attributed to Norbert Boley – who retired earlier this year from his position as director of the Holsteiner Verband – and his team who identified and brought in both foals and older stallions. Boley said; “This success was very good for the Holsteiner Verband. Casall’s success has been no surprise for us, and it was also good that Dinken could show his value as a stallion. It was an amazing start for Million Dollar’s first foal crop in sport, and no better way than winning the five-year-old championship. You can’t win the Bundeschampionat without a good rider or without a good horse, so everything was done very well. It was especially good for the Holsteiner Verband to silence the criticism about the studbook’s lack of recent success. Through the years I had a lot of good people around me for finding



Dinken winning the 6yo Landeschampionat title in 2016 before injury ended his sporting career. His 6yo son Dax 68 won the 2022 Bundeschampionat

stallions like Million Dollar, so it for sure makes me happy to see when it works out so well. It brings joy to see that the younger stallions are able to be so successful in breeding.”

Actually five out of the top 10 horses were Holsteiner bred. The championship was won by the gelding Caillan (Casall - Perle XX x Carry, Stamm 18A2, breeder: Gerd Ohlsen) under the saddle of Rolf Göran Bengtsson. This amazing combination also won the seven-year-old championship at the Holsteiner Horse days, and later claiming the triple crown by winning the showjumping WBCYH in Lanaken. Caillan is half brother to the 1m65 jumping horse Pikeur Dylon (Diamant de Semilly) under the saddle of Markus Brinkmann. Grandmother Zurich IV (Landgraf I - Marotte x Sacramento Song xx, breeder: Klaus Wilhelm Gehrts) is mother to two-time Hamburg Derby winner Calle Cool under the saddle of Nisse Lüneburg. Already in 2008 he finished second in the Hamburg Derby under the saddle of Carsten Otto Nagel. This line is one of the oldest performance lines of the Holsteiner Studbook.

Gerd Ohlsen writes on his Instagram page: “Caillan and Rolf Göran Bengtsson did it, they got all the titles there were to get. September 25 is and remains a very special day for us. Each of us had the feeling even before we started that we would also become world champions today – and so it was! We always knew that Caillan could stand up to all the challenges and would always prevail in the end. The horse from the small island of Föhr is breaking all records. We, with our comparatively small breeding, are all the more proud to own such an amazing horse and I now also know that it does not matter how many horses you own, but which horses are at home with you, how they grow up, and how they live.”

Second was the Holsteiner gelding Munin (Mylord Carthago - De La ChinChin x Chin Chin, breeder: Michael Eitel) under the saddle of Richard Vogel. His damline is French via his third mother Fana de la Loge (Tenor de la Cour - Rebecca du Hequet x Jalisco B, breeder: Elevage de la Loge) who produced the 1m60 jumping horse and approved stallion Qoud’Cour de la Loge (Ideal de la Loge) under the saddle of Roger Yves Bost.

Third was Honey Bunny 2 (Livello - Beatrix I x Cento, Stamm 238, breeder: Otto Boje Schoof) under the saddle of Sophie Hinners. This mare’s fourth mother, Ovia (Sacramento Song xx - Copeka x Cromwell, breeder: Ernst Möhring) also gave the 1m60 jumping mare Tovia (Lord) under the saddle of Katie Monahan-Prudent (USA).

This was a class with quite a few different bloodlines, but dividing them into foundation sires: 19 came from the Cor de la Bryère line. Cornet Obolensky had the biggest influence of this line with three direct offspring, two by his son Comme il faut and one by his son Congress. The Capitol I line was represented by six horses; Furioso II with five horses – three out of the five being by Kannan; Almé was represented by four; as was the Ladykiller xx line. Father Limbus and son Livello both had one offspring in this class, while Diamant de Semilly had three.

Gerd Ohlsen: Holsteiner breeding on the right track

Holsteiner have been having a very good year in young horse classes, with one being the seven-year-old gelding Caillan (Casall - Perle XX x Carry, Stamm 18A2, breeder: Gerd Ohlsen) who has won every important championship in his age-group under the saddle of Rolf Göran Bengtsson: the Holsteiner State Championship, the Bundeschampionat, and the seven-year-old WBCYH final in Lanaken. It’s an unprecedented situation, and quite unique. So, who is the breeder of this showjumping phenom?

Gerd Ohlsen is based on Föhr, a North Frisian island off Germany’s North Sea coast. It forms part of the Nordfriesland district in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, and has a tradition for producing well-bred Holsteiner horses. The winner of the WBFSH eventing breeding ranking in 2021, London 52 (Landos - Vernante x Quinar, Stamm 3200), bred by Ocke Riewerts, was also born at this Island.

◆ When did you start breeding?

Sixty-five years ago my father won DM18,5000 (around €10,000) on the Lotto, and from this money he purchased his first mare. My sister and I both received horses as gifts at our confirmations, so the love for horses started early. I started with my own breeding about 35 years ago.

I purchased Caillan’s dam from her breeder, Klaus Wilhelm Gehrts, who lived in the Dithmarschen district of Schleswig-Holstein. He had eight yearlings in a big stable and I picked Perle XX from the herd. She had a modern build and I liked her. When she was three we tried right away with Casall. This foal was a colt who was selected for the Holsteiner stallion licensing but was not approved. We have three daughters out of Perle XX by Cassini I, Corrado I, and Casquette, and keep them as broodmares.

◆ What is the story behind Caillan?

After a while it was more difficult to get Perle XX in foal, so we went to the Vetclinic Buchenhof that specializes in embryo transfer. We tried there again with Casall and from this first embryo transfer Caillan was born. As a two-year-old I took Caillan to Hauke Jäger to train him for the stallion approvals, although he wasn’t the classic stallion type. He was light and noble in his body, and you could already notice his quality by his way of going over poles that were on the ground. Hauke was very impressed, but the day before the first selection he suffered a minor injury, so came home and spent three or four months in the field before we decided to geld him. He was quite a handful as a stallion and on our farm are only mares, so I believe he would have made his own life complicated.

“He had more time in the field, before my daughter picked up the riding, and then went to Antonio Brinkop for the next step in his career. They were a very good match, winning quite a few classes together. Since the beginning of his career under saddle he has shown progress and, as a six-year-old was reserve champion at the Landeschampionat in



Casall, ridden by Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, whose son, Caillan, won the 7yo Bundeschampionat title

Elmshorn with Antonia. The stallion, Crack, won the championship, and these two were very close in terms of quality and dominating in Holstein.

“Eventually, we had to decide what to do as the next step, and I thought that Rolf Göran Bengtsson could be a good match. We always had a good feeling with Antonia, but wanted to see where this journey was heading. I missed the first championship they won this year because we had an event on the island, but I was at all the other championships. To become World Champion is unbelievable. We all know that Caillan is a good horse, but you have to be very special to do that, and it’s very special for us as breeders.

◆ **Tell us about your Holsteiner marelines?**

I am breeding mainly with Stamm 18A2, Caillan’s mare line. We also breed with Stamm 8790, my father’s line so we continue as a tradition. However there are quite a few really good horses from this line in the USA, and Cool Water EB (Canstakko - Di’Leila x Cartani, breeder: Michaela Grosse-Brömer) is a good advertisement. He is only seven and I bred his grandmother, Zara III (Lavall I).

We also breed with Stamm 2666, the Kahlke Stamm, and still have a mare from Stamm 318D2. We breed with Stamm 95, from which Jennifer Fogh Pedersen is riding the stallion Catdaddy (Cascadello I - Withney I x Quidam de Revel) at 1m45. The last lines are Stamm 242 and Stamm 104A. It is nice that we have different mare lines, because I can use the stallions that I bred to see their offspring.

◆ **What for you is most important in the crossing of a mare and stallion?**

A lot of feeling comes into play. I watch the horses at approvals and horse shows to observe the rideability and if they are tall enough. Very important is if they have blood, which is something we sometimes still miss in Holstein. We like French blood and have used a lot of Quidam de Revel and Diamant de Semilly. You have to look through the generations to find the blood and to make the combination. Quidam de Revel did a very good job here in Holstein and is still doing a good job. I only need to mention the name Quel Homme de Hus to show how he matched with our mares in Holstein.

I am not really keen on mare performance tests as I think it’s a bit too early for some mares. It can be interesting, but it depends on the mare. Also with sport. I recognize that it’s important to have horses from our lines in sport. We had one mare as a five- and six-year-old competing, we got a foal from her, but she has now been sold for sport. The mare Deleyn (Larimar - U2 II x Cento) won a the youngster tour in Hamburg a few years ago. She has already jumped 1m60 with

Shane Sweetnam and is half sister to the Holsteiner champion stallion Quvee Prestige (Quidam de Revel) whom I bred.

◆ **What is your opinion about the current state of breeding in Schleswig-Holstein and outside Schleswig-Holstein?**

I think the Holsteiner horse breeders are on the right track and we should continue to breed like we are doing now. We saw the results of our breeding at the Bundeschampionat in Warendorf and also at the World Championships in Lanaken. What our small studbook did at the Bundeschampionat is insane. But we should also be careful with modern breeding techniques. There are stallions with many siblings, but where are all these siblings? I believe there is a place in breeding for embryo transfer but I think that the trend with ICSI will become less so. With ICSI we forget the most important aspect in breeding horses – that their raising is the crucial factor. I think we’re doing a good job at the moment in Holstein and believe we’ll see more success if we continue like this.

◆ **What would be your advice for young and/or new breeders?**

Take a close look at the mare lines. Try to find out how healthy the lines are and if they can hold together in sport and breeding. For example the line of Caillan produced also Calle Cool who twice won the Hamburg Derby, and was one time second. These horses are strong and sound. You also should not forget you need luck and a lot of feeling for breeding. The stallion is not the most important, the mares play a very important role and you should take notice of this. ■

John Kehoe: “At the end of the day, I’m a breeder.”

BY HELEN SHARP

PHOTOGRAPHY: ABC SPORT HORSES, LAFRENTZ

John Kehoe, breeder of ABC Saving Grace, the six-year-old champion at the showjumping World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken, 2022, explains what makes his mare so special, and why he may never have one better.

It's around 20 minutes after the conclusion of the six-year-old final at the FEI-WBFSH WBCYH in Lanaken and my heart is still racing as I begin this article. There has been a particularly special feeling at the show this year for us Irish, and it would bring a lump to the throat of the hardest equestrian to watch the camaraderie and support within the ranks from Ireland as they gathered at the pocket to support each other and the roar of the Irish crowd out-cheering all other nations. There's so much to be proud of after the weekend's sport, both in and out of the ring.

Ethen Ahearne and ABC Saving Grace (ISH) (Kannan GFE - Ardnehue Diamond Cruiser (ISH) x Cruising (ISH)) went up against 270 combinations in the six-year-old competition, with 40 making it through to Sunday's final. In the final reckoning, only 14 combinations managed to conquer course designer Eugène Mathy's test in the first round to go forward to the jump-off, with Ahearne and ABC Saving Grace the only Irish representatives and bringing the gold medal home in 36.74 secs.

Ethan said of his mount: “Well obviously she handled it brilliantly, she was the winner, but the first round, the first one or two jumps she was good and then she had a little spook at the water and then we just kind of got it done from there, home. After that she went back in the second round and got more confident and she tried her heart out.”

Having previously been ridden by Catherine Thornton, Ahearne and the gold-winning mare have been together less than a year, “I got ABC Saving Grace in November (2021) when I started my own stable and competed with her for the first time in February or March (2022),” he explained. “But so far, she has only jumped at national level. Last month in Dublin we were able to qualify for this World Championship, [laughing] so this was actually the first time we competed at international level and it was also my first time participating in the World Championships.”

ABC Saving Grace was bred by Patrick Kehoe of Ardnehue in Bennekerry in County Carlow, the initials of which provide the prefix ABC to his breeding programme. As we stand under a tree by the warm-up ring at Zangersehide, it's still palpable in both our voices the thrill of what just happened. “Catherine did a great job on him,” Kehoe says. “I was planning on doing embryos. The funny thing about it is that even at the start of the year I was thinking if she's going badly, I'll take embryos off

her, if she's going well, I'll leave her alone. That sounds a bit stupid, but that's just the way it worked out, [laughing] no embryos this year now.

“I have four embryos off ABC Saving Grace, so far. The first embryo is Marion Hughes's HSS Cornet, when she was a three-year-old. Then as a four-year-old I got a Pegase van't Ruytershof (BWP), Carerra VDL (KWPN), and a Lucky Luck (KWPN Grandorado TN NOP x Cannabis Z). I still have the Lucky Luck filly, we'll see how good she. I sold the rest as foals, going to Goresbridge mostly with foals, but I sell at home as well, wherever anybody wants to buy one.”

If Kehoe's experience is anything like that of other breeders or owners with winning young horses at Lanaken, I suggest to Kehoe the hounds will soon be on the heel of the hunt looking to buy the mare. “It's been interesting, she didn't even have the second round done and I was talking to a lot of people. It's grand to have that interest in her, you kind of know you have a proper one, but it wrecks your head a little bit as well because you're there thinking the plan coming out is she's a broodmare, and now you have to think, what's next?”

“At the end of the day, I'm a breeder and her mother was very good, I could have sold her mother when she was jumping, her mother jumped until she was six as well, she was bought in Dublin as a six-year-old. I just kept saying to



John Kehoe and ABC Saving Grace's dam Ardnehue Diamond Cruiser



ABC Saving Grace carries Ethan Aherne (IRL) to 6yo victory

myself, she could be the goose that'll lay the golden egg. And look. I have my golden egg today."

◆ **Why did you think that? What was it about that mare?**

"For a Cruising she had character, but not maybe typical of Cruising. She looked hard to ride and maybe wanting or whatever, but her temperament was lovely. I bought her as a three-year-old. I only bought her over the road from our farm and actually went to buy her mother. Her mother was advertised, and when I was literally 15 minutes away the plan had changed in his yard and he said he was no longer selling the mother. I went anyway and the three-year-old trotted up the field, she had her mane down to her shoulders, tail on the ground. I asked him would he sell her, he said he'd think about it, and I just stood in behind her clapped me hands and she went to the clouds with her hind legs, and I said to myself, 'Ah-ha this is good, you have to have this'."

So it's all worked out? (Kehoe smiles a wry one and starts to laugh.) "Would it be rude if I said I think I have a better one [at home]?"

ABC Saving Grace is a half-sister to Kehoe's incredibly successful ABC Quantum Cruise (ISH) (OBOS Quality 00 x Cruising) and on the July 2022 ranking he's top Irish-bred showjumper in the world. "I have a full-sister to him, a four-year-old who is broken and riding and ready to rock. Rider Niall Redmond has her at the minute, he's only had her a few weeks and the plan is to swap with Ethan [Ahearne], I'll swap the two mares."

◆ **Ardnehue Diamond Cruiser has been so good to you, what's the secret to a good broodmare?**

"It's the whole picture, and there just has to be something to catch your eye. When this lady [ABC Saving Grace] was a foal, I normally sell foals but you're always thinking of the next mare, the next mare, the next mare... There was just something about this mare, in the way she moved, and she showed lots of power off the ground as a

foal, and I said to myself she's going to be the replacement for mammy.

"It's a complete package, it was just the way she moved, same way as her mother, it's hard to describe, there's a bit of power, for me it's coming from behind a bit of power, she was just lovely as a foal, not the most over-friendly, but there's no badness in her, or any of the breeding I have. They are all angels, but you'd go out to the field and you'd have the young horses come over to you and she'd always stay back a little bit away from you. She can be a little bit like that still, she kind of wants to be her own person if you know what I mean?"

"Ah look, it's just she's obviously a model, she does look really well for a Kannan, she looks really well, she's lots of blood, everything is in the right place as well. Obviously, no horse is perfect, you could pick faults in her somewhere, but she's always been 100% sound, touch wood, there's never been a lame day with her at any stage. She has super heart, she's super careful as well; okay she doesn't do flash, but she probably will do flash when she gets more relaxed. If I was going to use a stallion, I'd be going with something with flash because flash catches the eye, but she has super heart, and is super careful."

Watching ABC Saving Grace try her heart out was a fairly emotional sight from the ringside at Zangersheide. "You just saw that it in that moment, that's her to a T, she will try her best every day. Her showjumping record this year and also with Catherine Thornton before, she was leaving all the poles up. She might have a couple of retirements and things like that on her record this year before Lanaken, but in fairness to Ethan you could nearly say he planned all of this. There was one day in Mullingar at a water fence, and she jumped it the first day, she came to it the second day and didn't want to know about it. He tried her again she didn't get any closer, and he just said right that's it, we'll leave her there."

"Then he had her in Tattersalls at the final of the Horse Board classes, she won the qualifier on the first day, and then on the second day he just retired, for no reason, not having a fence down, he just retired. And you're there as an owner thinking, 'what the hell are you doing', but I wouldn't say anything to him, just walked back along the pocket, and he said: "She just wasn't feeling it," and I said, okay. He then said: "We have Dublin to go to, if she wasn't going to Dublin, I would have kicked her on, but she's in Dublin and it's bigger there".

"He's 100% right. He's done a super job. It was Monbeg Stud's Brendan Doyle who put me onto Ethan. I told him about the mare and he mentioned a few riders and they were here, there, and everywhere. Ethen is only up the road, so that worked out with the embryo thing if it goes that way. Ethen does a great job, he has them riding really well, he's done a terrific job with her. [Laughing] He probably won't take the four-year-old now after this win here at his first Lanaken, he'll have so many people looking for him to ride their horses."

◆ **And what's for ABC Saving Grace now?**

"That's her finished, for this year anyway, while I still own her...".

New Zealand's Warmbloods of Distinction awards

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAKE THE MOMENT

Two purpose-bred champions and a 'secretly bred' eventing star are this year's NZWA Warmbloods of Distinction. The awards are given in recognition of performance excellence at National and International level in jumping, eventing and dressage during the 2021-22 season.

In total, 29 horses – most of them in the dressage division – met the NZ Warmblood Association's qualifying criteria.

Trudeau claims eventing title

The eventing title went to Trudeau (Magistad - Clarity x Valiant). The gorgeous 16-year-old grey gelding was 'secretly' bred by Winky Foley of Kumeu, resulting in a long-running argument with her partner, Peter Smith, who saw the venture as a waste of money. Finally, to put an end to his complaints, Winky added his name to the ownership papers. However, it wasn't until Trudeau began to win with his rider Matthew Grayling, that Peter was mollified, says Winky. "Now he tells everyone he owns the best horse in New Zealand."

She and Peter Smith are no newcomers to breeding; they run Kahukuri Bloodstock and have bred many successful racehorses, both Thoroughbred and Standardbred. For Winky, Sport Horses have been just an occasional indulgence. And despite the secrecy, Trudeau was carefully bred to be an eventer. "My aim was to breed a horse who could go to two-star. I thought I'd be so stoked if he could get to that level. I didn't ever dream of four-star," says Winky. "I always thought it would take time with him. I don't like horses brought on too early; Trudeau went to Matthew when he was eight, and he's never had a joint or tendon problem in his life. He's a challenging, quirky horse, but Matthew has the patience of Job."

Winky's dream of breeding a two-star winner became a reality in 2016 when Trudeau was 10. Two years later, Grayling described him as 'electric', and predicted: "I think he's going

to be all right. As long as I can keep training him how he needs to be trained and he keeps believing in me, I think we can go a little bit further yet." They have certainly done that, and Trudeau has more than made up for all his quirks. He is the current holder of the New Zealand CCI-L- 4* and CCIS-4* championships, and singlehandedly propelled Winky Foley into 93rd place on the May 2022 WBFSH eventing breeder rankings. He also won the CCI-L- 4* championship in 2021.

Trudeau has interesting lineage, including that of Galoubet, Absatz, and a number of Arabian champions. Clarity, his dam, was injured as a foal and never ridden. Her sire Valiant (1987: Galoubet A - Crystal Vale xx x Bravisimo II xx) was a Selle Français bred in the USA by Barbara Rowland, and imported to New Zealand by Bill Millar and Sally Linton of Kahurangi Farm in 1994 – the first Selle Français stallion to come to this country. His own dam, Crystal Vale xx, who was also known as Animation, competed successfully to Grand Prix level in the US with Frank Chapot, and her daughter – Valiant's full sister Ultra Light – jumped in Europe.

Trudeau's sire Magistad (Silver Reflection ox - Sorello x Allermund) was bred by John Smith of Heron's Ridge and owned by Debbie Crawford. Like Trudeau himself, he was a striking-looking grey with a superb jumping style. His dam Sorello was a champion Warmblood, and also the dam of Starlight Farm's beautiful broodmare Lakota (Argonaut Style xx). "I'm grateful to Matthew for bringing Trudeau through to the point where he's exciting and he's achieving," says Winky.

Dressage star Windermere J'Obel W

The dressage award went to Windermere J'Obel W (Johnson NOP - Miss Pompeii xx x Pompeii Court xx), a New Zealand Thoroughbred-Dutch Warmblood gelding who represented New Zealand at the World Championships in Herning in August. The pair finished a very respectable 33rd overall out of an 80-plus field.

'Joey', who is now 12, was bred by David Woolley and Rania Todd, whose programme in those days was tiny – just a couple of foals a year. "It's so long ago, I can hardly remember breeding them," Woolley told ESNZ recently. "Breeding is a very long game." He now runs the stud single-handed, aiming for around five foals each season from his mares.



Eventing winner, Trudeau, ridden by Matthew Grayling



Winky Foley – winner of the Wills Trophy

Windermere J'Obei W is owned by Anne and Rodney Parkes of Blenheim, NZ, and their daughter Melissa Galloway, who rides and trains him. They purchased him, along with another Johnson gelding out of a Thoroughbred mare – Windermere Johnson W (Johnson - Miss Phillips xx x Kilimanjaro (GB) xx) – at a time when, says Woolley, “No one would even come and look at our horses. They didn't know Johnson. Melissa had been in

Germany and ridden a Johnson horse, and when she came home we were the only people who had anything of his.”

Windermere Johnson W has also been very successful in Melissa Galloway's hands; the two horses played a significant role in Johnson's spectacular WBFSH dressage sire rankings. Woolley himself had recognized Johnson's potential at the stallion's 2005 KWPN licensing, particularly liking his modern, long-legged type and 'huge round movement'.

Windermere J'Obei W has been based at the Van Olst stables in Belgium, and has had some good results in Europe, including sixth in the CDI-4* GP Special at Aachen, fourth in the CDI-4* Special at Oplabbeek, and second in the CDI-3* Special in Liege. He is the reigning NZ Dressage Horse of the Year – a title he won in 2020 and which, because of Covid, hasn't been contested since. He also won the National Dressage Championship and the National Freestyle title that year.

A very proud David Woolley travelled to Herning in August to watch not just Windermere J'Obei W, but another Johnson gelding he'd also bred, Jax Johnson (Johnson - A La Mode x Anamour), perform on the world stage as part of the NZ team. “Joey and Melissa were sensational and showed the huge progress they've made during their time in Europe. Gaylene and Jax blew me away. The resilience and mental toughness Gaylene showed to ride that test without a mistake after a less-than-ideal preparation was incredible. Then fate threw a very unlucky spanner in the works and it was all over for Jax and The NZ team.” (A post-test mouth swab returned a slight pink coloration for Jax Johnson, and he was subsequently eliminated in accordance with FEI rules.) J'Obei W and Melissa Galloway achieved a personal best of 70.98% in Herning. “Joey is one in a million... I am just so blessed to have him.”

According to Woolley; “I'm very lucky that I've had breeding success and get a lot of recognition but generally there is not enough importance placed on the contribution that breeding has on our success as an equestrian nation. We need to create a culture where breeders are listed on entry forms and results and this would start with the ESNZ registration. I look forward to a time when this is considered normal as it is in Europe because without it I don't think we

will be able to keep up with the rest of the world.”

Another Windermere prefix in jumping

The jumping award also went to a 12-year-old gelding carrying the Windermere prefix: Windermere Cappuccino (Corofino II - Vespa x Voltaire II). Breeding is a small world in New Zealand, but not as small as this result might make it appear. Cappuccino's breeders are Windermere J'Obei W's owners, Anne and Rodney Parkes of Windermere Farm in Marlborough, who own him in partnership with his rider, Tegan Fitzsimon.

And, like the NZ breeding world, Cappuccino himself is small – just 16hh (162.5cms) – although this has never cramped his style. He has been a sensation since the very beginning of his career. He won all three of his age-group series, starting out as a five-year-old in 2015-16, and is a three-time FEI NZL World Cup winner, taking the first of these in 2018-2019 as an eight-year-old with just four faults over the entire series. He recently finished an unlucky third in a World Cup class in Sydney (Australia), with the only clear round in the competition. He is a winner of the Gold Tour final at Takapoto, in which he trounced some very serious opposition. To date, he has had 20 FEI starts for 10 wins and multiple high placings.

Windermere Cappuccino was bred for the job in which he excels, and has a pedigree loaded with jumping talent. His champion sire, Corofino II (Corrado I - St.Pr.St. Valeska IV x Fernando I), a Holsteiner bred in Germany by Hobe Bernhard, jumped at 1m60 in Europe. The stallion died earlier this year but was the leading New Zealand jumping sire several times over, and left many good European offspring before coming here. His full brother, Corofino I, also jumped at 1m60, and has been a particularly good damsire. Their St.Pr.St. mother, Valeska IV (Fernando - St.Pr.St. Option x Lord) is from Stamm 318d2 with its many licensed stallions. Three of these are her sons: Corofino I, Corofino II, and the licensing winner Camiros (Contender).

Windermere Cappuccino's dam, Vespa (Voltaire II - Karaka II x Western Bay xx) also has influential blood. Her imported KWPN sire Voltaire II (Voltaire - Daydyne ster prest x Nimmerdor) left champions here in all disciplines, most notably in jumping and eventing. Her dam Karaka II was bred by Ron and Margaret Trotter from their imported Hanoverian mare Wild Rose (Wolfsburg - Elmfreundin x Elm), formerly owned by Ron and Marg Southern, founders of Spruce Meadows in Canada. Wild Rose was from the Platina mareline Stutenstamm 2191206, Schridde 254, and her own dam, the St.Pr.St. Domfee I (Dominus) had a full sister, Domfee II, who jumped at 1m60.

Windermere Cappuccino has appeared on the pages of *World Breeding News* many times since he made his debut. He is one of the most impressive and consistent show jumpers ever bred in New Zealand, and an enormous credit to the Parkes, his breeders, as well as to Tegan Fitzsimon who has trained and ridden him throughout his career. ■

A stellar year for Holsteiner horses showered with medals

BY CAROLIN TASSIUS-DIEDERICH / HOLSTEINER VERBAND

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEFAN LAFRENTZ

So far, 2022 has been a very successful year for the horses from the land between the seas, with all five medals taken by horses registered with a German studbook at the Herning World Championship secured by Holsteiners.

The World Championship medallists in Herning are:

- **Quel Homme de Hus** (Quidam de Revel), with Jerome Guery – breeder: Dr. Andreas Kosicki, Berlin;
- **Con Quidam RB** (Cardino) and Sanne Thjissen (ZG Bröcking, Borken);
- **Monaco** (Cassini II), with Harrie Smolders (Ralf Lütje, Haseldorf);
- **Equine America Cacharel** (Cachas) and Joseph Stockdale (Hemut Blohm, Haselund);
- **Long John Silver** (Lasino) ridden by Jur Vrieling (Peter Burmester, Wangels).

But Holsteiners excelled not only in Herning, but were a factor front and centre at the national young horse championships in Warendorf, as well as the showjumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Lanaken.



Caillan jumping with Rolf-Göran Bengtsson in Warendorf

Representative of the 10 medals won in Warendorf in the showjumping arena, the cross-country and the riding horse arena, the four securing a title shall be named below.

The five-year-old jumpers were outperformed by Million Dollar daughter Kalifa (Natalie Koch, Bisse) and Sophie Hinners, while Dax (Dinken), for breeder Dirk Georg Jessen, Jardelund, won the championship for six-year-olds, with Richard Vogel, and then Caillan (Casall), bred by Gerd Ohlsen, Föhr, and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson made sure Holstein had clinched each jumping gold medal available. Cascoblanco by Cascadello I (Manfred Johannsen, Tornesch) claimed the fourth title, in the five-year-old eventer class.

Only a few weeks later, Holsteiner horses commanded attention again at the Lanaken World Championship. First and foremost Caillan, who, having won two important titles already – Holsteiner state champion and German national champion – also secured the World Championship title in Lanaken. What a triumph! The Holsteiner Verband breeders will definitely retain fond memories of this championship season. And who knows, maybe we'll meet today's young champions again at the major show grounds of the world in the coming years. ■



A triple champion in 2022, Caillan and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson

Oldenburg price highlights for top sporting stable

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OLDENBURGER PFERDEZUCHTVERBAND

Oldenburg's 97th Fall Elite Auction turned into a six-hour marathon, which saw their vice state champion, Frontman OLD dancing to the price highlight, with the 37 riding horses securing an average price of €44,000, and a total turnover of just under the €2 million mark.

It was Frontman OLD (For Romance I - Cantaletta x Don Romantic x Rubinstein I), bred by Otto Langemeyer from Visbek, who trotted to the top of the price list, when the strong-moving chestnut sold for €220,000 to a customer in Germany. The sire Don Cardinale (Donnerhall) also descends from this bloodline.

The five-year-old Casper (Chacoon Blue - Christina x Christian x Catoki), bred by Harm Oncken from Sande, achieved the second highest price, and was also the most expensive showjumper. This ultra-modern jumping star was knocked down to the Tebbel jumping stable from Emsbüren for €125,000. His dam Christina is a sister to the 1m40 successful Westfalian Cara/aka Charlotte, and from this same line the internationally successful Super Girl, ridden by Mohamed Mansour (EGY).

The top price for the elite foals at €24,000 was the charming Verano (Valdiviani - Weniga's Queen x Quattro B x Andiamo), bred by Gerd Pigge from Lastrup. This movement king was acquired by a renowned German stud. His second dam Weniga sired the Grand Prix winner Lord (Laurentio) ridden by Kathleen Kröncke, and Queeny (Quattro) with Viktoria Nielsen.

According to auctioneer Thorsten Castle: "The 97th Fall Elite Auction celebrated a successful premiere with the new Oldenburg auction manager Roland Metz. And what makes me particularly happy – the Vechta feeling is back with an auction hall filled to the last seat and the best atmosphere."

Euphoria and enthusiasm – these were the first words of auction director Roland Metz after the event. "My expectations have been far exceeded with the great auction days I was able to experience in Vechta. The top result at the auction rounds off my first days in Vechta excellently. I would especially like to thank the breeders and exhibitors

for their trust, as well as our customers and our highly motivated auction team, who made this success possible in the first place," he said.

Almost half of all riding horses will give pleasure to Oldenburg friends abroad in the future and hopefully cause a sensation in the USA (four), Sweden (three), Austria (two), Portugal (two), and one apiece in Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

In the foal collection, six of the young Oldenburg talents were auctioned off to Belgium (two), Denmark (one), the Netherlands (one), the Czech Republic (one) and the USA (one).

The foals achieved an average price of around €11,400 and a total turnover of €354,500. ■

Elite Auction results: https://oldenburgerpferde.com/upload/News/Auktion/Ergebnisse_VHA_22_Reitpferde.pdf

Elite foals: https://oldenburgerpferde.com/upload/News/Auktion/Ergebnisse_VHA_22_Fohlen.pdf



Price highlight, Frontman OLD (For Romance I - Cantaletta x Don Romantic x Rubinstein I), bred by Otto Langemeyer

Meerburg, KWPN: “Creating a future-proof organization.”

BY STEEF ROEST / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANNIEK DE WIT

The KWPN welcomed its new director Bastiaan Meerburg three months ago, so it's high time we got to know him better through a conversation that discusses “creating a future-proof organization.”

Bastiaan Meerburg (1978) has no direct background in Equestrian sport or horse breeding, and yet the new KWPN director has felt drawn to horses since his youth. Meerburg grew up in an entrepreneurial family in de Hoeksche Waard, on the outskirts of Rotterdam. His childhood offered no room for equestrian sport, but horses intrigued him to such an extent he aspired to study veterinary medicine, with a specialization in equine medicine.

Lottery system

“The lottery system was not favorable to me,” Meerburg candidly states. “That is why I went on to study Animal Sciences in Wageningen. I was a member of the horse focus study club at the time, because horses still had a hold on me. After my graduation I started working as a parliamentary assistant for a member of the European Parliament in Brussels where I focused on dossiers such as food safety and foot-and-mouth disease. I then advocated on infectious diseases. Subsequently, I worked as an advisor at the RIVM (the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, ed.), was a researcher at Plant Research International, and head of department at Wageningen Livestock Research. During the last four-and-a-half years I was a director at the Dutch Pest & Wildlife Expertise Centre. I was politically active in the city council of Wageningen and the Provincial Council of Gelderland. Furthermore, I was chairman of the De Grebberuiters riding club, known by many riders as the organisation of the Grebbeconours. I have always been involved in equestrian activities, but I think breeding offers the most beautiful experience.”

Breeding equals emotion

For Bastiaan, all the elements of his professional career, his interest in politics and various board positions come together in his current job. “We breed on a small scale at home. I am a former board member of the Rare Breeds Foundation

Netherlands; the Gelder and Groninger horse fall into their scope. I was chairman of the Breeder Council at the Welsh Studbook, and in that position I was closely involved in the process of revision of the articles of association and regulations. I know how studbooks work, and more importantly I am familiar with the emotions that emerge in breeding. Whether I ever imagined myself to become director of the KWPN? It just the way things go. The fact I am not a familiar face to many people in this sector makes me independent: I have no interests in the sector.”

Own breeding

At his home in Heteren, Meerburg breeds with the ster PROK mare Diadeem L (Gribaldi out of Verro Fleur ster prefrest by Ferro, bred by J. van Laar of Rhenen), the half-sister of the KWPN-approved stallion Kenzo US (Bordeaux). “My wife Marjolein was a rider for a breeder, and he offered us this mare. When we moved from Wageningen to Heteren, we also acquired a Welsh pony for our daughter. By now, we own four KWPN horses and 10 Welsh ponies. We bred a Welsh Section A stallion in 2017 that later got approved. That entire process was a great experience. We have also imported a Welsh Cob stallion from England that was elected NWPCS champion twice. Both stallions are active in breeding.”



Future-proofing an organization

The most important message Bastiaan received when he took up his duties, was to ready the KWPN for the future. Dutch breeders must remain able to breed the best sport horses in the world. “To become future ready, we must put our heads together to establish a long-term goal and think about our strategy for 2024 and 2030. Discussions will arise: How do we as an association remain flexible and decisive? We share a long heritage; a lot of people are in that conversation, which is a beautiful thing. The drawback is the time it takes, sometimes it would be more efficient to move ahead.

“Other studbooks foster competition, so we must capitalize on new developments. Our advantage is that we have a long tradition and we keep in touch with our breeders to learn of their current issues and needs. Nevertheless, I believe we are not fully exploiting our potential. We could be more enterprising, while keeping the interests of our members in mind. That also means trying to keep the costs low.

“We must respond to changes: rather than sticking with traditions, and could also opt for re-structuring certain events. For example, the decline at some mare inspections. We must actively engage in the dialogue and that makes it even more important that members share their views with us. In this period of economic uncertainty, we need that entrepreneurship. The increasing inflation plays a big role in the organisation of the stallion show.

As an organization it demands that we be more creative.”

Meerburg deems it important that breeders realize the office in Ermelo is not an ivory tower. “We have 18,500 members and we want to ensure we are accessible to all of them. The working organization is passionate and committed. The number of events that draw completely different kinds of enthusiasts is a positive aspect in my view. I have met various official partners and sponsors and I can tell they all hold the KWPN near to their hearts. I believe we can say the KWPN truly matters.”

Scientific developments

What is Meerburg’s view on the scientific developments the KWPN has gone through? “The KWPN assumes a leading position in this process, for which we must thank the efforts of Egbert Schep and Paul Hendrix. Although I regard being a frontrunner as positive, the danger is that it comes with mistakes. Those mistakes may have been made in terms of communication. From the bovine industry we know there was initial resistance against genome breeding values. It is important to realise that all breeding values, including genome breeding values, are a factual and therefore a valuable tool. A tool that is based on science. You do not have to use it in your own breeding, but it may be useful to consider in your decision making. Progress accelerates when you use scientific knowledge. And if I may come back to bovine industry: the breeders that deliberately steered away from scientific developments have dropped out along the way.”

Horse welfare

“The special fondness for the horse is in our favour,” explains Meerburg when asked about the future of equestrian sport. “Many people consider horses inspiring animals and the human has a long-standing history with the horse. I am convinced future generations will remain intrigued. Rightfully so, welfare is already one of the top items on the agenda of many organizations in the sector. In my view, welfare revolves around continuing the dialogue on what we find or do not find

acceptable. The image is changing, and we must let the young generations join the conversation. The ban on trimming sensory hairs, ears, and foals has been implemented, although we have installed this year as a transitional year. I think we must be very aware that we all share the responsibility for the welfare of our animals.”

Meerburg continues: “Animal welfare involves many aspects. We notice different views between the generations. The welfare discussion will be further explored in the future. It will not only concern housing and modern reproduction techniques, but also the age at which a horse may start training. Those discussions must be science based, although we cannot ignore societal sentiment. All the components will then be gathered together and, as is the procedure within an association, a collective decision must be made; the KWPN has a pioneering role here.”

Being a lobbyist

The future of equestrian sport is closely linked to the future of the KWPN. The studbook follows the changes in the market, and when the sport makes a sudden turn the breeders must respond to it. During his period in Brussels, Meerburg learned that lobbying can be very important in getting certain issues onto the political agenda. “I think the KWPN could contribute here to keep the sector in its entirety future-proof. Yet only if we know what is happening in Brussels in a timely fashion, can we harness our influence there. In Brussels it is very simple: if you are not present, you are not seen and that is why it is important to be present early on. In the past, the Sector Council Horses have achieved good results with regard to legislation on the warranty term in horse trade.”

Getting the youth on board

“How do we ensure breeding remains fun for the younger generations?”, is a key issue in Bastiaan’s view. “It is a difficult time for many young people. Keeping horses is an expensive hobby. Buying a house is difficult on its own already, let alone a property with a plot of land. When I attend an inspection I see a lot of grey heads. It worries me. I think we must start getting potential breeders on board at an even younger age. The JongKWPN offers memberships for young enthusiasts that are 16 years and up. However, the group below that, aged nine to 15, may be even more important. That’s the period in which the seed is planted. If we can enthuse that generation, they hopefully move on to the JongKWPN and later, the regular KWPN. They must be taken by the hand, and it is the task of our organisation to continue sharing our story. All the horses many enthusiasts are so fond of are born somewhere in the world. Behind every sport horse is a passionate breeder. We must raise that awareness among the young horse enthusiasts. So JongKWPN becomes thriving and striving, for they are the future,” the new KWPN director concludes. ■

“Behind every sport horse is a passionate breeder. We must raise that awareness among the young horse enthusiasts.”

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Highly talented Holsteiners from World Champion families

BY CAROLIN TASSIUS-DIEDERICH / HOLSTEINER VERBAND

PHOTOGRAPHY: JANNE BUGTRUP

On November 4/5 the traditional Elite Riding Horse Auction, a stallion grading under saddle and a short ability assessment will take place at Elmshorn – with the auction collection definitely boasting several sport and breed highlights.

The hand-picked collection now available for online viewing on www.holsteiner.auction with pedigrees, videos, and photos, comprises about 35 up-and-coming talents, most of them for the showjumping arena. The elite auction and the auction sale of the stallions are scheduled for Saturday, 5 November, at around 5:00 pm CET.

The elite riding horses range between three and six years of age – and many of the already well-trained horses have age-appropriate results in competition. Like for example lot no. 111, the very aptly named gelding Cool Blue Eye (Cash and Carry x Quintero), born in 2017, and bred by Jörn Timm. Just Magic (Clarimo x Casall), a one-year-old grey mare bred by Hans Peter Petersen (lot no. 114) has already been collecting ribbons at 1m30 level.

And as is customary in Holstein, many auction horses come from exceptional dam families with remarkable own performances. The second dam of lot no. 126, Mc Gonagall b (Million Dollar x Corrado I), is Perle XX (Carry), whose



126 – Mc Gonagall b (Million Dollar x Corrado I)



products include none other than Markus Brinkmann's 1m65 show-jumper Pikeur Dylon (Diamant de Semilly), the same as the brand new Lanaken world champion of young showjumpers with Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, Caillan (Casall). Mc Gonagall was bred by Gerd Ohlsen.

Meanwhile, the second dam of lot no. 118, Minett (Del Arko d'Henvet-Connor) has several offspring successful to 1m60 level, as her offspring includes Ben Maher's Contigo, winner of the Wellington Grand Prix. Minett was bred by Niko Detlef.

All information about the auction horses and stallions is available for viewing on www.holsteiner.auction, including updates regarding the hybrid auction on November 5. Advance try-outs of the horses may be arranged by appointment and with individual sessions at Elmshorn.

Felix Flinzer (+49 (0)162 349 3942), the Holsteiner Verband's manager of auctions and marketing will be available to answer any questions and looks forward to hearing from you. ■



#131 – 2019 mare Ulima (United Way x Con Air)

€590,000 for Escamillo son and 100% Zhashkiv Stud success

By JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: RECKIMEDIA

The Westfalian Studbook hosted two hugely successful auctions during October. Their Autumn Auction saw three horses crack the €100,000 mark, while the Cornet Obolensky Youngster Auction on behalf of Zhashkiv Stud in the Ukraine celebrated 100% success.

The Westfalian Autumn Auction was warmly welcomed with youngsters of outstanding quality, including 42 dressage and 16 showjumping horses – of which 75% were successfully sold. However, an unprecedented and sensational top price of €590,000 was achieved for a three-year-old superbly trotting son of Escamillo. The bay gelding will now continue his training at the Werndl family's stable. "I'm lost for words," was the first sentence out of Christoph Hess's mouth when commenting on Embolo during the training videos of the auction candidates. The son of Escamillo (bred and exhibited by Andrea Krehenwinkel, Neuenkirchen) impressed every spectator with his above-average quality of movement and lightness. A horse that is made for the higher tasks of dressage sport. His dam St.Pr.St. Dressed in Black (Detroit) also produced the Westfalian champion and Bundeschampionat participant St.Pr.St. For Joy.

The quality of this young horse was also recognized early on by the Westfalian auction customers when the price cracked €100,000 on the first day of bidding. Before the final bid-up the price stood at over €400,000, when the excitement really began. Finally, after 144 bids from 26 customers, the virtual hammer fell for the beautiful bay gelding in favour of winning customers from Korea. Embolo reached the highest price ever achieved by a riding horse at a Westfalian auction and was purchased by a group of investors, including the Werndl family from Aubenhausen.

The second most expensive horse on the day is a direct stable neighbor of Embolo, as Ernesto comes from the Ulmker family's breeding stable. Also trained by the daughter of the house Andrea Krehenwinkel, the tall gelding impressed customers from near and far, and bids were fast and furious in the final bid-up, with the virtual hammer falling at €141,000 in favour of customers from Germany. Ernesto will now move into a box at the stable of Marcus Hermes for further training.

Champion mare in supportive hands

Also high on the buyers' list was Baroness, a Benicio x Van Vivaldi daughter bred by Heinz Schutte and exhibited by Sportpferde Beckmann. The mare had

already shone at the end of August during Westfalen Week where she first claimed the title of champion mare of this year's Elite Show, and then secured the bronze medal at the Westfalian Championships. The bay mare passed her broodmare test with a final score of 8.78 and received the highest score of 10.0 for rideability. The talented mare was sold at a hammer price of €108,000 and will remain in supportive hands in North Rhine Westphalia.

From Westfalia to the world

The showjumpers at this year's fall auction also attracted great interest from international customers, with bids coming from all around the world, and nine horses will now continue their careers abroad.

The most popular bid in the jumping lot was Campino (out of Caipirinha x Cassini II) a son of the popular sire Cornet Obolensky, who was bred by Kai Baumgartner. The grey gelding has always shown the necessary overview, combined with heart, riding quality, and special jumping power – the best basis for a jumper with a potentially successful future. At the hammer price of €60,000, the youngster was secured by a customer from Canada.

This year's Westfalian Autumn Auction was especially



Dressage price highlight, Embolo (Escamillo)



Top-priced showjumper Campino (Cornet Obolensky)

successful, with five horses cracking the €50,000 mark, and three selling for more than €100,000.

Youngster and broodmare auction

At an average price of €16,875, 16 youngsters and six in-foal broodmares changed hands at an average price of €10,375. However, it took almost 100 bids from 15 different bidders before the virtual hammer fell on Savant SKS (Secret), a colourful chestnut bred by Pferdezucht SKS, out of the Verb.Pr.St. Sidney RA (Soliman de Hus). For a price of €71,500, German customers were delighted with this young talent, who will certainly be heard from in the future.

Meanwhile, Zoerien H-E Z jumped to the top of the price list among the youngsters with a jumping pedigree. The daughter of Zento, bred by Antonio Hassing, in the Netherlands, was one of the few two-year-old mares in this lot. Her dam, Koerien H-E (Emilion), is a half-sister to Dindependent Z, who is successful in CSI competitions with Lukasz Koza of Poland. This young talent will also start his career in Germany after the virtual hammer fell at €19,000.

The most popular broodmare of the auction was Fabula (Fursten-Look x Rotspon), bred by Hermann Röpkes and exhibited by Caroline Durema. The chestnut mare is expecting a foal next year by the 2021 Westfalian champion stallion

Extra Gold from the Hinnemann station. At the hammer price of €16,000, customers from Germany can now eagerly await the 2023 birth of this foal.

Cornet Obolensky Youngster Auction

For the fourth time, the Westfalian Studbook organized an online auction in cooperation with the Zhashkiv Stud in the Ukraine, owners of the famous sire Cornet Obolensky, who is firmly anchored in the pedigrees of the auction candidates. A total of 13 two-year-old colts were sold – a 100% success rate – all of whom found new owners for an average price of €13,019. The most coveted offer was a colt from the direct damline of Cornet Obolensky, who was worth €22,000 to his new owners.

The price leader of the evening is a grandson of Cornet Obolensky's dam, Rabanna van Costersveld, Cornet's Castello. This son of Captain Fire x Kannan changed hands to German ownership for €22,000.

Also highly prized by international customers is a direct son of the popular grey stallion, bearing the significant name, Champions League. His dam, Verb.Pr.St. Adige van't Zorgvliet (Heartbreaker), is a half-sister to Dobel van't Zorgvliet, who is highly successful in five-star CSI show-jumping arenas the saddle of Daniel Deusser. After an exciting bidding duel, the bay stallion changed hands to an Irish customer for €19,500.

Many pre-bids came from countries outside of Germany, and more than 50% of the youngsters were sold to foreign customers, generating a total turnover of €169,250. ■



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Chris Gould's years of service honoured by WBFSH at GA

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: SARAH KING

Canadian Warmblood founding Chairman Chris Gould was recently added to the list of Honorary Members of the WBFSH during their 2022 General Assembly held in Dresden, Germany, from October 9-12.

A member of the WBFSH Board for six years and one of the longest-running attendees, Chris joins a dozen others; founding members and long serving directors. BN spoke to him shortly after his return to Canada.

◆ **This is a significant honour. How did you react when you first heard your name?**

It was towards the end of the Gala Dinner and as President Jan Pedersen started to speak I was shocked to hear my name. I was deeply moved and completely surprised. I really cannot thank them enough for this honour.

◆ **You attended your first meeting in 1997, just three years after the WBFSH was formally established. What changes have you seen since then?**

Several things have changed, but before I talk about that I would like to mention what has not changed, and that is the collegial atmosphere of cooperation and welcome. From the very beginning I and the CWHBA were treated with respect as equal members. Remember we were a new studbook and the first full member from North America, so to feel so welcome was a real boost. And that atmosphere persists to today. Going from 25 members to around 80 has not changed that.

But what has changed? A lot has changed in our industry with implications for how our studbooks operate. For one thing studbooks now have to compete for customers, whereas previously they had members drawn from geographic jurisdictions.

The WBFSH has moved from a friendly sponsor of Young Horse Championships and breeder awards, to a very proactive organization working on behalf of the breeders. Projects such as the very successful UELN initiative and building a strong working relationship with the FEI. It is truly the best forum for discussions of imp-

ortance to the sport horse industry and for developing policy.

◆ **You were on the Board for six years. What are some of the things you are most proud of?**

I joined the Board just as a new strategic plan was being implemented following a report from a Dutch consulting firm. Edward Kendall, who acted as my Executive Director, and I were given the new portfolio of Internal Cooperation. Its mandate was to facilitate member initiatives as identified during the annual workshops. The first of these was the creation of CIGA – Committee for Implementation of Genomic Applications. We brought together a number of experts in the field, and through CIGA a great deal of information was accumulated and shared. Ultimately this committee has been changed to the Scientific Advisory Committee with an even broader mandate.

There was no marketing department so I chaired a marketing committee that developed a Marketing Plan. Much of that plan has been implemented. Our first challenge was re-branding the WBFSH. With the assistance of Oliver Lueck, a marketing consultant and WBFSH award-winning breeder, we took the Board through a vision/mission exercise that led to 'Leading Breeding into the Future'. The new website and revamped logo were all part of the plan.

I guess if the State of the Industry Report that Edward and I wrote last year really persists and becomes what we intended it to be – an annual reference document for industry and government policy developers as well as a tool for studbooks and breeders in planning for the future – that will really make me proud.

◆ **Generally Honorary Memberships are awarded at the end of a career. What is next for you?**

I jokingly told Jan [Pedersen] that they could not get rid of me this easily. Whether on the Board or not I have always been an advocate for the smaller studbooks. That is not going to change. There are still projects that I want to see accomplished, and under the current system there is a place for member-led initiatives. Smaller studbooks have special challenges to be able to participate in the new International Breeding Value system that is planned. We are working to find ways to meet those challenges. ■



Honorary Membership for Chris Gould with WBFSH President Jan Pedersen

Gold and silver for BH at 2022 South American Games

BY ROBERTA MILANI / ABCCH (TRANSLATION BY CAROLINE PADILLA)

PHOTOGRAPHY: LUIS CARLOS RUAS

Brazilian Sport Horses won both gold and silver medals at the 2022 South American Games held at the Club Hípico Paraguayo in Asuncion, Paraguay, thereby earning the national showjumping team qualification to the 2023 Pan American Games.

At a highly technical competition, the Brazilian team, exclusively riding Brazilian Sport Horses earned both individual gold and silver medals.

Riding Santiago Rosebud (Numero Uno x Berlin) José Reynoso Fernandez Filho incurred only four faults throughout the championship to win the title after three days of competition over five tough courses designed by Argentinian Ivan Tagli. “I’m undoubtedly very happy. We came here on a mission to qualify for the Pan American Games, achieved our goal, and also got won two individual medals. I think it was a very good result and I would like to thank the technical committee. I now hope to get to the 2023 Pan American Games, God willing,” the champion said.

Stephan Barcha, riding Chevaux Primavera Montana Império Egípcio (Calvaro Z x Paroli), lost his lead and had to be satisfied with individual silver, incurring 6.52 faults; “It was a total of five courses and no pole on the ground. We had a setback at the



José Roberto Reynoso and Santiago Rosebud



Brazil's golden quartet (l-r) Guilherme Dutra Feroni, Geronimo Marcello Viana Ciavaglia, Jose Roberto Reynoso Fernandez Filho, and Stephan de Freitas Barcha

beginning of the course and, as I usually say, championships are decided on the details. We were able to get back on our feet and finished the second round without faults. Zé and his horse did a great job; he had a wonderful final course. We are very happy with the silver medal and will move on,” Stephan explained, adding; “Next year, I intend to go to Europe, qualify for the Pan American Games and dedicate myself to that until we reach Paris.” (2024 Olympic Games).

Argentinian rider Damian Ancic and Sant Rosa Chabacón were second runners-up, with 6.69 faults, and two other Brazilian Sport Horses finished within the top 10: Marcello



Individual podium: Gold – José Roberto Reynoso (BRA), Silver – Stephan Barcha (BRA), Bronze – Damian Ancic (ARG)

Ciavaglia with GR Garuda (Douglas x Corland) 7th; and Flávio Grillo with Lorentino Jmen (Landario Jmen X Calisco Jmen) 10th with 17.50 and 26.10 faults, respectively.

The team medal dispute between Brazil and Argentina was fierce until the very end. After the first individual and partial team result Brazil got a head start with less than one fault (3.31). Finally, the team was crowned champions with 11.02 and qualified for the 2023 Pan American Games, in Santiago, Chile. Argentina was the vice-champion with 22.33, ahead of Chile with 22.90 points.

Brazilian showjumping chef d'equipe and former Swiss international

Rosebud (2010/BH/st Numero Uno x Berlin) – 4

Silver: Stephan Barcha (BRA)/Chevaux Primavera Montana Império Egípcio (2011/BH/m Calvaro Z x Paroli) – 6.62

Bronze: Damian Ancic (ARG)/Santa Rosa Chabacon/ex Chabacon (2008/OS/st Chacco-Blue x Baloubet du Rouet) – 6.69

Other Brazilian Sport Horses:
7th Marcello Viana Ciavaglia (BRA)/GR Garuda (2008/BH/m Douglas x Corland) – 17.50
10th Flávio Grillo Araujo (BRA)/Lorentino JMen (2009/BH/st Landario Jmen x Calisco Jmen) – 26.10. ■

rider Philippe Guerdat said; "I'm proud of our riders, of all five of them: we are a team. It was very important for Brazil, for Pedro Paulo, who's the head of the team, and for me to qualify for the Pan American Games, where we can qualify for the Olympic Games in Paris."

Result

Gold: José Roberto Reynoso Fernandez Filho (BRA)/Santiago



Stephan Barcha and Chevaux Primavera Montana Império Egípcio





HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Irish Sport Horse Studbook, the leading studbook for Eventing horses in 2022



(5) OFF THE RECORD (ISH) 2009 Gelding by VDL ARKANSAS (KWPN) out of DRUMAGOLAND BAY (ISH) by ARD OHIO (KWPN). Bred by Peter G Brady, Co. Cavan. Owned by Off The Record Syndicate. Ridden by Will Coleman (USA)



(6) VANIR KAMIRA (ISH) 2005 Mare by CAMIRO DE HAAR Z (ZANG) out of FAIR CALEDONIAN (WNTR) by DIXI (BEL) (TB). Bred by Kathryn Jackson, Co. Monaghan. Owned by Trevor Dickens. Ridden by Piggy March (GBR)



(13) COOLEY QUICKSILVER (ISH) 2011 Gelding by WOMANIZER (KWPN) out of KYLEMORE CRYSTAL (ISH)[TIH] by CREGGAN DIAMOND (ID). Bred by Alan O'Brien, Co. Galway. Owned by The Monster Partnership. Ridden by Elizabeth Halliday-Sharp (USA)



(14) BALLAGHMOR CLASS (ISH) 2007 Gelding by COURAGE II (HOLST) out of KILDERRY PLACE (ISH). Bred by Noel Hickey, Co. Limerick. Owned by Meses. Shuter, Hislop & Ryan. Ridden by Oliver Townend (GBR)



(18) LEAMORE MASTER PLAN (ISH) 2009 Gelding by MASTER IMP (TB) out of ARDRAGH BASH (ISH) by CAVALIER ROYALE (HOLST). Bred by Michael Byrne, Co. Wicklow. Owned by Anne W. Eldridge. Ridden by Ariel Grald (USA).



(23) CAPELS HOLLOW DRIFT (ISH) 2011 Gelding by SHANNONDALE SARCO ST GHYVAN (BWP) out of LUCKY CREST (ISH)[TIH] by LUCKY GIFT (TB). Bred by Jeanette Glynn, Co. Clare. Owned by Meses. Davenport, Simmie & Webb. Ridden by Tom Jackson (GBR).

HSI preview and retrospective of Mondial du Lion 2022

BY HSI / HSI

PHOTOGRAPHY: IRISH EVENTING TIMES

At the beginning of October, the Irish Sport Horse Studbook was once again crowned the WBFSH leading eventing studbook for 2021-2022. In fact, since these rankings were created in 1994, Irish Sport Horses have won this title for 24 of the 28 years on behalf of their studbook.

Fittingly, the eyes of the eventing world have now turned to Le Lion d'Angers in France for the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses, where the next generation of young stars will take their place in the limelight.

This year, Irish chef d'equipe and former Swedish international eventing rider Dag Albert has selected a squad of 15 horses to represent Ireland, with the Irish Sport Horse taking 14 of those places. In total, of the 118 entries competing for the six- and seven-year-old championship titles, Irish Sport Horse will see 36 horses competing for 12 countries, making ISH the most represented studbook at the 2022 staging of the Mondial du Lion.

The Irish team includes two riders making their championship debut, with Jonathan Steele and Meabh Bolger, plus three Olympic riders in Sarah Ennis, Joseph Murphy, and Aoife Clarke, with the rest of the squad comprising riders who've represented Ireland at Junior or Young Rider level, or previously having competed at Le Lion d'Angers.

Speaking about his team selection, Dag Albert had the following to say: "I'm confident in the team that we've selected for Ireland this week. There are some very exciting horses included and I think that we'll definitely be seeing some of them competing at further championships in the future."

All of Ireland's WBFSH member studbooks are represented at the Mondial du Lion 2022 with Caroline Powell's Tik Tok representing the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland (WSI), leading to 37 Irish-bred horses taking their place in the competition and further cementing Ireland's reputation as the leading nation for producing eventing horses.

Six of the Irish Sport Horse entries are mares this year, with five of those appearing in the seven-year-old division, including Brookwood Supersable (ISH) ridden by Ian Cassells. This mare's last international outing saw her take fourth place in the Ballindenisk CCI3*S in September.

Another of the Irish Sport Horse mares is Blarney Monbeg Pepper (ISH) ridden by Sian Coleman. This mare also comes into Le Lion on the back of some excellent performances such as placing

third in Millstreet's CCI3*S in August.

Fellow seven-year-old mare, Very Dignified (ISH), ridden by Robbie Kearns heads to Le Lion d'Angers on the back of a consistent season that saw her take the win in the CCI2*L in Kilguiskey House in Mallow, Co. Cork.

Championship debutant Jonathan Steele saddles another of the ISH mares in the form of the seven-year-old R Kid (ISH), who comes into Mondial Du Lion on the back of a top-10 finish in the CCI3*S in Kilguiskey.

The final two mares representing Ireland are GHS Calexico (ISH) ridden by Colin Halliday, herself a full sister to international eventing horse Van Thee Man (ISH) ridden by Ireland's Adam Haugh, and the sole six-year-old mare Monbeg Ainslie (ISH) ridden by the highest placed Irish rider at the London Olympics, Aoife Clarke.

Eight geldings are included in the Irish Sport Horse squad, including the winner of the CCI3*S at Millstreet in August, Rosconnell Alto (ISH) ridden by Ian Cassells. The son of Tabasco Van Erpekom (BWP) also finished third in the CCI3*S in Ballindenisk in September.

Irish Olympic rider from Tokyo 2020, Sarah Ennis, returns with Dourough Ferro Class Act (ISH) having also represented the Irish Sport Horse studbook in Le Lion



Rosconnell Alto (ISH) ridden by Ian Cassells



Caroline Martin (USA) and HSH Connor – 6yo silver medallist

d'Angers in 2021, finishing seventh overall in the six-year-old division.

Former Irish European Young Rider Championship rider Patrick Whelan enters the seven-year-old class double handed, with the geldings **Altitu** (ISH) and **Piltown OBOS** (ISH). **Altitu** goes arrived at Mondial du Lion on the back of a victory in the CCI3*S in Kilguiskey House in July, with **Piltown OBOS** (ISH) featuring well in the CCIO4*-NC-S in Ballindenisk in September.

Alex Houston saddles the gelding **Atlantic Rockstar**, sired by the recently approved stallion **Beach Ball** (ISH) having featured strongly in both Ballindenisk and Millstreet during the summer. They'll be looking to build on the summer's performances with a strong showing in France.

Co. Kilkenny's Christine O'Donnell brings the sole traditionally bred Irish Sport Horse on the Irish squad with the seven-year-old son of the Thoroughbred stallion **Craigsteel** (GB), a half brother to the international eventer **DOD Buster Rhymes** (ISH), ridden by Sophie Lane for Great Britain.

Two of Ireland's three ISH six-year-old entrants are geldings, including **MBF Back To Back** (ISH) ridden by championship debutant Meabh Bolger. Having won the CCI2*-S in Ballindenisk in July, they approach their first championship in top form.

Ireland's final entrant is the home-bred, owned, and produced **Stellor Deelite** (ISH) for Irish Championship lynchpin Sarah Ennis and her second mount for this WBCYH. Sired by **Caricello** (Holst), the dam **Dee Mac** (ISH) competed internationally with Nicola Ennis and is a full sister to the international eventer **Coromandel** (ISH) ridden now for Great Britain's Guy Cubitt.

With such a strong field of representatives, the Irish Sport Horse studbook will be looking to cement its reputation as the leading studbook in the world for eventing

horses.

Irish squad 7yo breeding info

- **Brookwood Supersable** (ISH). Mare by Tolan R (KWPN) out of Brookwood First Lady (ISH) (TIH) by Captain Clover (ISH). Bred and owned by Pat Duffy, ridden by Ian Cassells.
- **Rosconnel Alto** (ISH). Gelding by Tabasco van Erpekom (BWP) out of All Clover (ISH) by Cavalier Clover Lad (ISH). Bred by Patrick Lacey, owned by Gerry and Fiona Leahy, ridden by Ian Cassells.
- **Blarney Monbeg Pepper** (ISH). Mare by Dignified van't Zorgvliet (BWP) out of Ballyeden Hero (ISH) (TIH) by Cult Hero (TB). Bred by Marie and Peadar Carter, owned by Lady Caroline Colthurst, ridden by Sian Coleman.
- **Dourough Ferro Class Act** (ISH). Gelding by Creevagh Ferro (KWPN) out of ISHD Class Act (ISH) by OBOS Quality 004 (Oldbg). Bred by

Gordon Drury, owned by Wendy Harris and Niki Potterton, ridden by Sarah Ennis.

- **Altitu** (ISH). Gelding by Orestus (KWPN) out of Happy Choice (SWB) by Aram (KWPN). Bred and owned by Seamus Carew, ridden by Patrick Whelan.
- **Piltown OBOS** (ISH). Gelding by OBOS Quality 004 (Oldbg) out of Piltown Cult (ISH) (TIH) by Cult Hero (TB). Bred by Patrick Doody, owned by Michael Widger, ridden by Patrick Whelan
- **Atlantic Rockstar** (ISH). Gelding by Beach Ball (ISH) out of Missey Elliot (ISH). Bred by Alexandra Houston, owned by Sam and Alex Houston, ridden by Alex Houston
- **BGK Valentine** (ISH) (TIH). Gelding by Craigsteel (TB) out of Drimo Donn (ISH) (TIH) by Clober Dubh (ID). Bred by Michael O'Driscoll, owned and ridden by Christine O'Donnell.
- **Very Dignified** (ISH). Mare by Dignified van't Zorgvliet out of Kateys Gem (ISH) by Ricardo Z (Zang). Bred by Deirdre Bowler, owned by Trish Kearns and ridden by Robbie Kearns.
- **R Kid** (ISH). Mare by Centrestage (AES) out of Fairway Lady (AES) by Fairman K (AES). Bred, owned and ridden by Jonathan Steele.
- **GHS Calexico** (ISH). Mare by Van Gogh (KWPN) out of Penhaligon Cairo (AES) by Cavalier Royale (Holst). Bred and owned by Leanne Marshall and ridden by Colin Halliday.

Irish squad 6yo breeding info

- **MBF Back To Back** (ISH). Gelding by Metropole (KWPN) out of Aughmore Irokos Dream (ISH) by Iroko (Westf). Bred by Liam Duffin, owned by Brian Flynn and ridden by Meabh Bolger
- **Monbeg Ainslie** (ISH). Mare by Emperor Augustus (TB) out

of Tullabeg B (Unknown) out of Ramiro B (BWP). Bred by Nicholas Cousins, owned and ridden by Aoife Clarke.

• **Stellor Deelite** (ISH). Gelding by Caricello (Holst) out of Dee Mac (ISH) by Cruising Harry (ISH). Bred and owned by Niki Potterton, ridden by Sarah Ennis.

Looking back on Le Lion d'Angers 2022

Ireland's claim as the leading nation for the production of event horses was bolstered by some spectacular results achieved by Irish Sport Horses over the course of the Mondial du Lion championships.

Three of the top 10 horses in the six-year-old final were Irish Sport Horses with Caroline Martin of the USA taking the silver medal on HSH Connor (ISH). Fourth went to Britain's Tom Jackson with Midnight Endeavour (ISH), and Australia's Isabel English took sixth place overall with Sumas Tina Turner (ISH).

In the seven-year-old division the Irish Sport Horse accounted for five of the top 10 finalists, including another silver medal result this time for Britain's Piggy March and Dasset Arthalent (ISH), fourth going to fellow British rider Izzy Taylor and SBH Big Wall (ISH), and a fifth place finish for Ireland's Ian Cassells and Rosconnell Alto (ISH).

Two traditionally bred Irish Sport Horses also made it into the final day with Ireland's Christine O'Donnell and BGK Valentine (ISH) [TIH] going clear cross country to face into the showjumping test on their dressage score in the seven-year-old class, while Austria's Daniel Dunst and Jerpont Wonder (ISH) [TIH] had only 0.4 time fault from the cross country to add to their dressage score before the final showjumping day. Both horses finished inside the top 30 and seem to be top class prospects for the future.

Formerly ridden by Ireland's Clare Abbott and bred by



Dasset Arthalent – 7yo silver medallist for Britain's Piggy March

Clare's mother Catherine, seven-year-old silver medallist Dasset Arthalent is a new ride for Piggy March in 2022, already picking up wins this season in the CCIYH3*-S in Osberton in September, the CCI3*-S in Ainwick in July, as well as in the CCI2*-S in their first international together at Chatsworth in May.

Dasset Arthalent's dam, Timpany Night (ISH) [TIH] was also an international eventer for Clare Abbott and competed successfully at 1m20 level showjumping. The sire, Valent (KWPN), was an international showjumper for Ireland's 2002 Jerez World Champion Dermot Lennon, and his owner Lisa Rosbotham. He is also the sire of the international eventing horses Cooley Rosalent (ISH) and Jewelent (ISH).

The six-year-old silver medallist HSH Connor (ISH) was bred by Co. Galway breeder Justin Burke, by Connor 48 (Holst) and out of Galwaybay Merstona (ISH) by Mermus R (KWPN). This gelding comes from a very successful family of horses including Bund Iaki (ISH) by Askoll Peter Pan (Oldbg), Aurora's Diamond (ISH) by Jack of Diamonds (SWB), Galwaybay Liath (ISH) by Prince Des Vaux (SF), Simply Fernhill (ISH) by Dario (ISH), Daddy Cool (ISH) by Aldatus Z (Oldbg), and Munroe GG (ISH) by Diamond Chin (ISH). HSH Connor (ISH) has also scored wins this year for Caroline Martin in the CCI2*-L in Ocala, Florida back in April, and the CCI2*-S in Charlbury, Britain.

Fourth place in the seven-year-old class this went to SBH Big Wall (ISH) by Puissance (ISH) [TIH] and Izzy Taylor for Britain, though this combination are no strangers to Le Lion d'Angers having taken sixth place in 2021 in the 6-year-old final. Bred in Co. Kilkenny by John P. Murphy out of the mare Unanibeath (ISH) by Courage II (Holst), SBH Big Wall (ISH) took victory in the CCI3*-S in Charlbury back in September.



BGK Valentine (ISH) [TIH] owned and ridden by Christine O'Donnell

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The highest place Irish rider was Ian Cassells and Rosconnell Alto (ISH), returning for the 2022 championships after finishing 12th in the 2021 six-year-old division, a career best dressage performance saw them into fifth place.

Having taken victory in the CCI3*-S at Millstreet in August and also finishing third in the CCI3*-S in Ballindenisk in September, Cassells and the son of Tabasco Van Erpekom (BWP) went into the final jumping day having picked up just 2.0 time faults on the cross country course, a clear jumping round with a further 1.2 time faults saw them secure Ireland's highest finish.

Elizabeth Halliday-Sharp for the USA and Shanroe Colley (ISH) and fellow American Caroline Martin with HSH Blake (ISH) rounded out the top 10 finishers in the seven-year-old final finishing eighth and tenth respectively.

In the six-year-old age-group Britain's Tom Jackson secured fourth place having jumped clear inside the time allowed in both cross country and showjumping with the mare Midnight Endeavour (ISH). Bred in Co. Clare by James Nash, this mare is by the showjumping sire Future Trend (Oldbg) and out of the mare Annsfort Coole Robin (ISH) by Ricardo Z (Zang). Jackson and Midnight Endeavour (ISH) had a strong showing in Le Lion, to end the event on their dressage score of 30.5.

Sixth place in the six-year-old division went to Australia's Isabel Taylor and Sumas Tina Turner (ISH). Bred in Co. Kilkenny by prolific Irish breeders, Suma Stud, this mare is sired by Denis Lynch's international showjumping stallion Quantino (Holst) and out of the mare Sumas Fanny Brice (ISH) by VDL Arkansas (KWPN). Taylor and Sumas Tina Turner (ISH) had strong showings in 2022 leading up to Mondial Du Lion in CCI2*-S classes in Kilguiskey House, Millstreet, Charlbury and Osberton. In Le Lion they were another partnership to finish the event on their dressage score after clear rounds cross country and in the showjumping arena.

With more horses in the final top 10 of both classes than any other studbook, Mondial du Lion 2022 was another fantastic showing for the Irish Sport Horse, and along with being the number one ranked WBFHS eventing studbook, further compounds the fact that Ireland truly is the destination to find the best three-day event horses in the world.

Breeding of horses not previously listed

Six year olds:

- **HSH Connor** (ISH) – 2016 gelding by Connor 48 (Holst) out of Galwaybay Merstona (ISH) by Mermus R (KWPN). Breeder: Justin Burke (Co. Galway). Owner: Caroline Martin and Sherrie Martin (USA). Rider: Caroline Martin (USA).
- **Midnight Endeavour** (ISH) – 2016 mare by Future Trend



Ireland's Meabh Bolger riding MBF Back To Back

(Oldbg) out of Annsfort Coole Robin (ISH) by Ricardo Z (Z). Breeder: James Nash (Co. Clare). Owner: H Jarvis. Rider: Tom Jackson (GBR).

- **Sumas Tina Turner** (ISH) – 2016 mare by Quantino (Holst) out of Sumas Fanny Brice (ISH) by VDL Arkansas (KWPN). Breeder: Suma Stud (Co. Kilkenny). Owner: Sofia Von Moltke (SWE). Rider: Isabel English (AUS).
- **Jerpoint Wonder** (ISH) [TIH] – 2016 mare by Wounderwall (TB) out of Jerpoint Mist (ISH) by Clover Man (ISH). Breeder: William Savage (Co. Kilkenny). Owner: Michael Sperl (GER). Rider: Daniel Dunst (AUT)

Seven year olds

- **Dassett Arthalent**/ex Arthalent (ISH) – 2015 gelding by Valent (KWPN) out of Timpany Night (ISH) [TIH] by Nigrasine (TB). Breeder: Catherine Abbott (Co. Down). Owner: Peter Harris (GBR). Rider: Piggy March (GBR).
- **SBH Big Wall** (ISH) – 2015 gelding by Puissance (ISH) [TIH] out of Unanibeath (ISH) by Courage II (HOLST). Breeder: John P Murphy (Co. Kilkenny). Owner: Jane Timmis (GBR). Rider: Izzy Taylor (GBR).
- **Rosconnell Alto** (ISH) – 2015 gelding by Tabasco van Erpekom (BWP) out of All Clover (ISH) by Cavalier Clover Lad (ISH). Breeder: Patrick Lacey (Co. Laois). Owner: Gerry and Fiona Leahy (IRL). Rider: Ian Cassells (IRL).
- **Shanroe Cooley**/ex Shanroe Italk (ISH) – 2015 gelding by Dallas VDL (BWP) out of Shanroe Sapphire (ISH) by Condios (Holst). Breeder: Anthony Smyth (Co. Down). Owner: Ocala Farm Properties (USA). Rider: Elisabeth Halliday-Sharp (USA).
- **HSH Blake** (ISH) – 2015 gelding by Tolan R (KWPN) out of Doughiska Lass (ISH) by Kannan (KWPN). Breeder: Justin Burke (Co. Galway). Owner: Caroline Martin and Sherrie Martin (USA). Rider: Caroline Martin (USA). ■

The Hanoveraner Verband celebrates its young breeders

BY FIONA KOCH / IYB

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANOVERIAN YOUNG BREEDERS

In 1922, the Hanoveraner Verband was founded by the breeders' association. This created the prerequisite for a central and uniform registration and processing of all breeding procedures.

The Hanoverian Association has its headquarters in Verden. The Hanoveraner Verband also includes the local horse breeding clubs, which play an important role.

The horse breeding clubs are the direct contact between the association and its breeders, and they organize breeding events such as mare shows. In addition, each club has its young breeders, who are trained by youth speakers and can also qualify for larger competitions and team selection. Young breeders are between eight and 25 years old.

The Hanoverian Young Breeders were founded in 1986 by Dr. Ludwig Christmann of the Hanoverian Association. Dr. Christmann also thought about how to inspire young people to preserve



Junior team l-r: Jette Fischer, Monja Ahlf, Karl-Hendrik Rollwage, Rike Sander



Senior team l-r: Merlin Campe, Wiebke Poppe, Laura Schuldt, Sarah Scheerer

and continue horse breeding, and the first local young breeders' competitions were organized as early as 1988. In that same year, the winners of the competitions competed in the finals in Verden. The work of young breeders within the associations and the federation has developed steadily.

The Hanoverian young breeders today

In 2022 the young breeders' work started up again after the long break due to the coronavirus. The clubs were once again able to train with their young breeders, and also organize competitions to qualify for the finals. First, the trainers, the youth speakers, and the association got together to discuss the year.

The first training for the Hanoverian team began in the spring,



Merlin Campe presenting, with Sarah Scheerer behind

with training sessions taking place in different places in order to watch different horses outside the young breeders' usual environment.

After a few 'open' training sessions in which young breeders could participate from the age of 14, team selection was on the agenda. It meant that training was evaluated and individuals selected who would be considered for the German Championships and the World Championships.

More training preceded the World Championships, which took place at the KWPN headquarters in Ermelo this year, at which the Hanoverian association fielded one junior and one senior team. Naturally, the selected teams were motivated and excited about their participation in this event, and the Hanoverian team of young breeders really worked well together during this whole period. It's one of the most important points for the young breeders, that they become a real team, and everyone supports and is happy for each other.

At the conclusion of the World Championships the entire team could be very happy about their vice-World Championship title. The senior team also won the World Championship title in their age group.

One month after the World Championships, it was time for the Hanoverian team to pack their bags for their trip to Münster for the German Championships. Here again the young breeders also showed their skills, their cohesion, and demonstrated what they'd learned.

The coaches of the Hanoverian team are certainly very proud of their young breeders and are looking forward to further championships and experiences together.

After the German Championships comes the Hanoverian Young Breeders' Finals, which will take place in Verden. Here the best young Hanoverian breeders come together and compete in the young pony, old pony, and young horse, old horse divisions in various disciplines, including turn out, pattern, and judging. At the end of the beautiful day, the winners of the divisions are determined and an overall winner will be honoured.

The final is the highlight of the young breeders' year and all the participants always look forward to this day in particular.

So a wonderful young breeders' year will come to an end and we look forward to next year. ■



AES horses shine at 2022 British Breeding Futurity

BY EVA MARIA BROOMER / AES

PHOTOGRAPHY: MELODY FISHER, TANJA DAVIES, AND PERSONAL BREEDER ARCHIVES

Every year, over 400 British-bred foals from all UK sport horse and sport pony studbooks enter the British Breeding Futurity Series, a system of evaluations for foals and youngstock designed to identify and nurture future talent.

Every futurity candidate undergoes a thorough and rigorous assessment with a range of professionals and experts, from an evaluation of limbs and correctness on hard ground in the presence of a highly qualified vet and a nutritionist, to an evaluation of frame and all three gaits on the soft with an independent panel of evaluators and linear scorers.

Only the very best candidates are given the highly desirable accolade of Futurity Elite, with an average score of 9.0 or above across all assessment criteria, indicating that these are horses with the potential to reach the very top of the sport. We are immensely proud that yet again AES candidates have proven themselves in achieving five precious Elites awarded.

One of the most impressive horses evaluated was Quatro, by Goodyear, out of a Scottish Sport Horse mare called Newmiln Elite. Bred by Sarah Kinnear and owned by Nicola Wood, Quatro convinced with an athletic frame earning him a wonderful 9.25, 9.0 for walk and trot, and stand-out marks of 9.5 each for his jump and canter. As one of the older, ridden Futurity candidates, Quatro also gained a qualification for the prestigious British Breeding Equine Bridge programme. He will be one of only 10 showjumping candidates who will be



Myspires Triple Halitino

put through his paces of a two-day performance test style event on November 28/29, 2022, designed to identify and support the British-bred stars of the future.

The highest scoring Equine Bridge candidate will receive a training bursary of £1,000, so we wish Quatro and his owners every success!

Another stand-out showjumping entry in the series was Aredis Calipso (ET) a three-year-old gelding by Cabrio Z out of a Quality Time mare. His breeders Aredis Ltd have long been associated with top quality that comes from experience, knowledge, and above all from excellent motherlines. Calipso's mother competed herself at 1m30 and is half sister to the 1m50 mare Providence, by Air Jordan Z. Further highlights from that direct mare family include the 1m60 horses Farnell (Carambole), Rochefort Jmen (Voltaire), and many more.

At the Futurity, however, each horse is assessed on his or her own merits, regardless of pedigree. After convincing vet marks of 8.0 and 8.5, it was in the arena that Aredis Calipso really shone. With excellent results of straight 9.0s for frame, walk and trot, it was the dream marks of 9.5 for canter and 9.5 for his jump that propelled this exciting young horse to Elite status. Huge congratulations to his breeder, Steve Pullan of Aredis Ltd, for another wonderful achievement.



Valentino CK



Triple Elle with her daughter and granddaughter

This young horse is certainly one to watch for the future.

Among the youngest futurity entries, we were delighted to have three AES entries who were awarded Elite status, including Valentino CK from only the second crop of foals by the very exciting young AES stallion Chrysler Key (Comme Il Faut x Calido I). This achievement is all the more special, as UK stallions often cover only a fraction of the number of mares usually covered by stallions in Europe, and Valentino proved his worth in a field of entries featuring some of the very best and most established names.

He is out of a Definitely Maybe mare whose line has produced performance, for example in the 1m60 horse Zazou (Casco), and type in several licensed stallions, such as Jacorde (Concorde), Morado (Indorado) and further back Zandor L (Zeus). Valentino was bred by the owner of his sire, the international Grand Prix rider Carron Nicol. With marks of 9.25 for his frame and for his canter, he is certainly a foal to watch for the future, and we are looking forward to seeing him again.

Our final two AES Elite Futurity foals were both bred by Lianne Verity of Myspires Stud in partnership with Jake Elliott. Lianne has been a successful breeder for many years and is one of the few who achieved great successes in all three disciplines, showjumping, eventing and dressage, which is all the more impressive as she only has a small number of broodmares.

Myspires Triple Halitino is by the great Heartbreaker son Scuderia 1918 Halifax van het Kluizebos, out of Triple Elle, a daughter of Caretino Glory who has been a prolific and highly reliable broodmare for Lianne. This exciting foal absolutely swept the board in her Futurity evaluation, with marks of 9.0 for walk, 9.25 for frame and trot, and a fantastic 9.50 for canter. Congratulations to Lianne for such a special filly from this very special mare, what a great achievement.

We are staying with the same mare family with Lianne's

second Elite entry in Myspires Triple Lacarna (see cover photo) by Locarno. This interesting filly is out of a daughter of Triple Elle, Lianne's own-bred Myspires Triple Stallone by Stallone Quinton, a son of Silvio. Triple Lacarna stood out to the vets who awarded perfection scores of two 9.50s for correctness, scores that were complemented by 9.25 for the frame and very good 8.50s and 8.75 for her gaits.

Both Triple Elle and her daughter Myspires Triple Stallone also completed their AES mare grading as part of the Futurity assessment. It is perhaps no surprise at all that

both were awarded Gold Status. What a great result for this lovely family.

According to Lianne Verity: "I put my heart and soul into my breeding programme, and have supported the British Breeding Futurity for many years. Triple Halitino was born the day my grandmother passed away, so she will always be very special to me. Now her mother has turned 19, I am rather tempted to keep her. I am absolutely thrilled with this wonderful result for my special little mare family."

AES Stallion Grading dates

We are delighted to confirm our first stallion grading dates for this winter season.

- **November 27, 2022** – Ladykirk House Stables, Upsettlington, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1SU
- **November 30, 2022** – British Showjumping National Training Centre, Hothorpe, LE17 6QX
- **December 1, 2022** – Moor Hall, Dodds Green Lane CW5 8DP
- **December 16, 2022** – Schijndel, the Netherlands
- **January 5, 2023** – Bomaco, Asse, Belgium

For further information: info@anglo-europeanstudbook.co.uk



Equine monitoring: Brösarp Project – a haven in Skåne

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY/GRAPHICS: HOOFFSTEP

Former head of Sweden's national studfarm and father to Olympian showjumpers Jens and Peder, Ingvar Fredricson first introduced me to the Brösarp Project in 2020, before the lockdowns of the Covid pandemic stalled so many industries. However, we are now pleased to present a series of articles that puts years of ground-breaking work into perspective.

According to Karl Forssman, one of the founders of Hoofstep, "I first met Ingvar [Fredricson] in 2017. Some time later he and Peder talked to Magnus Skulason, who kept his Icelandic horses 'running free', and they thought this same opportunity could also benefit Warmbloods, offering them an ideal environment in which to grow up. Then, at a horse show in Gothenburg, I introduced Ingvar and Professor Lars Roepstorff (a veterinarian at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala) to the Hoofstep technology which could provide data for yearlings. After that things moved very fast and the Brösarp Project was created."

Hoofstep has been responsible for developing technology that would provide around-the-clock monitoring of horses, downloading app-enabled information from a digital head-collar directly to smart phones: Real-time intelligence. Since June 2016, their project has gathered the largest set of horse behaviour data available in the world today.

According to the Hoofstep website: "Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of horses by analyzing objective behavioural data in combination with advanced technology. We immediately identify any deviations that may affect the well-being of the horses. This shortens the time from injury, illness, or stress to action." Breeding is one of the company's targeted industry groups offering 24/7 surveillance of a pregnant mare, whether she's stabled or out at pasture.

A road-map for good health

In the WBFSH Tribune column of our December 2020 issue, Ingvar Fredricson wrote: "International jumping riders

around the world search for horses with the potential to be successful in 5* Grand Prix classes. They always know the detailed pedigree and competition record of the horses they test ride. However, they do not know much about their rearing. This is astonishing as rearing is of great importance for durability in sport.

"Proven experience has shown that horses reared on large, preferably hilly ground, with diverse footing conditions, will be far more durable. Dutch researchers (René van Weeren et al.) have studied the importance of different housing regimes of foals.

They found that pasture turnout day and night during the first three years is best for the development of the musculoskeletal system (cartilage, tendons, and ligaments, muscle, and skeleton).

A dynamic remodeling of the musculoskeletal system already takes place during the first five months of a foal's life, then successively slows down. Most interesting was that the researchers found that the shock absorbers of the limbs, the collagen of the joint cartilage, were fully developed already in the first year of the foal's life.

They also found that foals kept in freedom on pasture became better developed than foals with less hours to move freely. The conclusion of René van Weeren and co-workers was that: "Rest is bad for foals. Watch this, because if not, you may end up with a healthy (looking) foal, but one of inferior quality."

In the south of Sweden a group of scientists and equestrian professionals set up a rearing project at the Brösarp Farm to underline the importance of a solid and sound rearing period for young horses as the best way to start their lives as future stars of the sport.

The general aim of this project is to investigate whether Sweden's wild, unprofitable agricultural land can be kept open by the rearing of top-quality showjumpers. Therefore, in 2019, a group of one- and two-year-old jumper fillies was released onto the hilly pastures at Brösarp in the south of the country.

The owner of Brösarp Farm, world champion Magnús Skúlason, has been breeding Icelandic horses for 25 years. His opinion and experience are that rearing in a hilly landscape creates healthy, athletic, and well-balanced horses, a great advantage in their sport career.



In 2019, Warmbloods joined a group of unknown Icelandic horses when they were released into the pasture. It took around 10 days for the different breeds to merge into one group (herd).

The Warmbloods immediately started to investigate the outer borders of the vast pasture to localize water. In accordance with Skulason's results, we also found that the steep, hilly grounds at Brösarp built better muscles in the Warmbloods and improved their self-balance. Racing downhill, the Icelandic horses could combine their five gaits to become faster than the Warmbloods. The Icelanders seem to be of a hardier breed than the Warmbloods.

The activity of the herd followed a fixed daily rhythm. Three times a day they walk to their favorite watering hole, first time in the morning at 9:00 a.m. then at 3:00 p.m., and once during the night, normally around 1:00 a.m. After quenching their thirst the horses always then climbed to the highest point of ground.

We have observed that the hilly terrain in Brösarp is so demanding that yearling Warmbloods, now and then, need to pause and graze in a pasture area with more grass to invest sufficient protein and energy for their growth. It is not the same problem with two-year-olds and older Warmbloods. In open connection to this rich grassland, there is a very hilly part of the farm. Being in a field rich in grass, with the water hole nearby, the herd still made the trip to the top of the very hilly surroundings several times per 24 hours. [...]

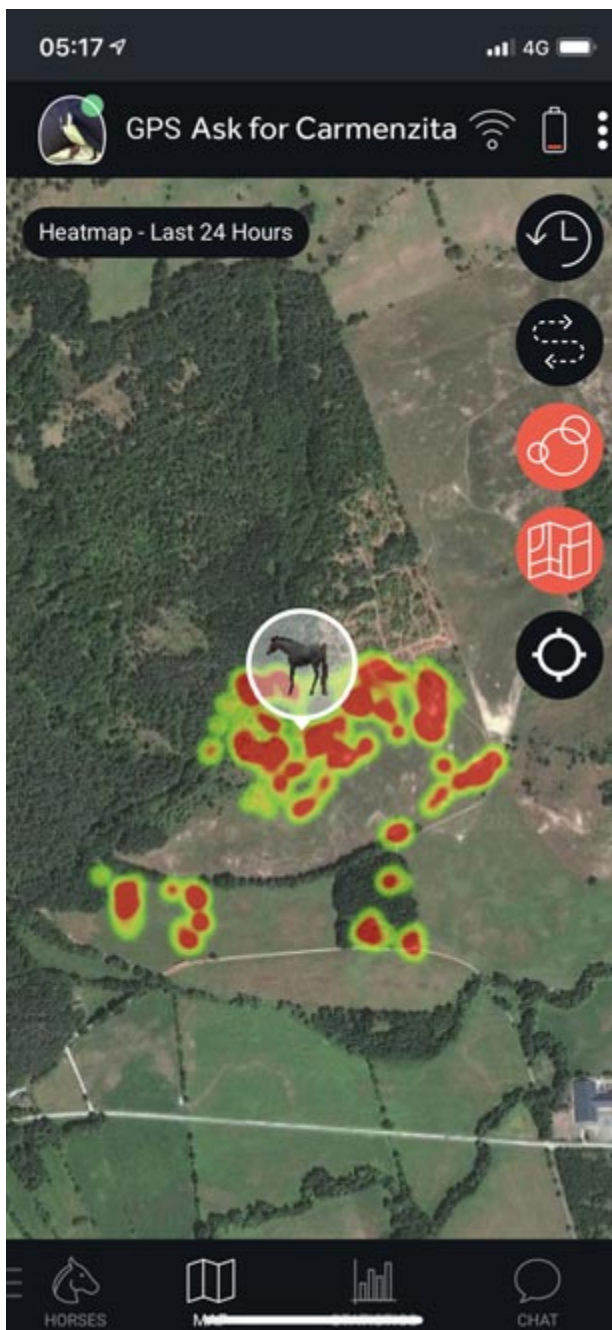
A two-fold approach to welfare and fitness

From the BN perspective, the benefits of the Brösarp Project and the equine monitoring tool are two-fold: First, it enables owners and breeders to track their horses' health in myriad ways, from long distances, by establishing individual baselines that will then send alerts in 'real time' when behaviour deviates from what is recorded as 'normal'. Secondly, based on the focus topic of Fredricson's column, this tool enables horses to live more naturally; in herds, outdoors, running free, enjoying a convivial environment without unnecessary human intervention, and thereby building mental and physical strength from which they will benefit in later life. Whether they are destined for high-level professional sporting careers, competition at an amateur level, or simply as well-rounded and temperamentally sound leisure partners, their early years create a roadmap for the future.

Equine sustainability

Veterinary horse practices are dominated by about 65% lameness and by up to about 25% in problems of the respiratory tract; other injuries and diseases make up only 10%. Among musculoskeletal problems, about 26% are caused by issues in the joints, 15% in the hooves, 14% in the muscles, 11% in the tendons, and 34% other parts of the body.

Historically, a horse's survival strategy was to escape from attacking predators. The musculoskeletal system developed



Heatmap from HoofStep's app that shows the herd's most frequented places

over 60 million years into an ingenious biomechanical design for an extreme combination of speed and endurance.

Among other things, horses developed the longest and narrowest extremities relative to body weight compared to all other animal species. At high speeds, horses' legs are exposed to very strong forces that could easily cause lameness. Horses have a powerful innate ability to move. In nature reserves, herds of semi-feral horses sometimes move several miles a day to seek water and food, even with foals that are only a few hours old. To become sustainable adults,



Smugglarbacken: 20 ha, height difference 60m – flat grass area included
Ljungbackarna: 35 ha, height difference 90m, lean natural pasture
Skogsbacken/Skogshägen: 20 ha, height difference 60m, natural pasure
(Image from Hoofstep's app)

foals and young horses should have the opportunity to move freely in large, hilly areas with varying surfaces, according to experience and, more recently, scientific research. The relationships between mechanical loading and the development of different parts of the musculoskeletal system have been analysed, and other studies have shown that there's a direct relationship between the size of the surface area that horses have at their disposal and how much they move.

In many breeding regions, foals and young horses are in stables for most of the year and only go out to pasture for a few summer months – if even then. The reason is that agricultural land is too expensive to be used for horse breeding.

In Sweden, the situation is diametrically different. There is a lot of land here that is well suited for breeding horses on a free-range system. However, these lands are significantly underused, and sometimes remote. As many of our breeders understandably want their horses near them, some breeders might not prioritize the importance of their foals and young horses being able to meet their innate movement needs.

The priority goal of the non-profit association, Hästen i Skåne, is to 'Develop Skåne into a region for bringing breeding to the forefront'. The idea is that Sweden's unique land resources for natural horse breeding will eventually be able to develop into a significant international competitive advantage.

To attract Swedish and foreign horses to group breeding in free-range facilities on these lands, quality-certified breeding and breeding centres (AUC) must be developed. An AUC must have access to competent staff, veterinary expertise for artificial insemination (AI) and embryo

transfer (ET) as well as several recipient mares. In addition, opportunities are needed for ensuring the monitoring of the horses.

Hästen i Skåne's ambition must be seen against the backdrop of the increasing importance of horses' sustainability and the rapid development that the horse sector is undergoing. Including ancillary activities, it has an annual turnover of approximately SEK72 billion (over US\$6 billion), employs approximately 38,000 people, delivers approximately SEK6 billion (over US\$529 million) in taxes and contributes approximately 0.5 percent of Sweden's GDP. If the AUC idea is marketed efficiently and skilfully, it could have a major positive impact on creative rural entrepreneurship.

In addition, many AUCs could be developed with the same support from politicians and authorities that several other sectors of the green business community receive.

Equine monitoring – an invaluable tool

In 2019, a high-profile pilot project was carried out on Brösarp's slopes with young future competition horses in jumping. The group was followed for six months, and systems were tested to monitor their welfare. The purpose was to measure the effect of raising young horses on wide, hilly lands from a sustainability perspective.

Competition horses in the top tier of the sport require multi-million investments. They compete for significant prize money, and it is very important that they be sustainable and healthy, and that they stay in the sport for a long time. Durability is the horse's most important trait!

In Sweden, there is currently unused land that is well-suited for keeping horses. Land that is kept open and contributes to biodiversity. Several European countries with major horse breeding operations have limited access to land. Establishing Sweden as a market where horses can grow into strong and healthy competition horses with long sustainability can provide both new jobs and more usage of open landscape.

A prerequisite for horse-keeping in this way is effective monitoring. With sensors on the horses, breeders can have immediate indications of abnormal behaviour, illness, and accidents. The technology means, for example, that horse owners in the Netherlands could follow their horses in realtime in a pasture in Sweden.

The need to develop alternative supervision methods, which at the same time ensure good animal welfare, is significant. The project was awarded EU funding via Sydöstra Skåne LEADER for 2020-21. Researchers at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) have been involved in evaluating animal welfare status and supervisory data.

The headgear encompasses HoofStep's sensors measures horses' movement patterns and behaviour. People

can see where horses are in real-time and how much (and where) they move during the day. Via artificial intelligence, the sensors identify the horses' normal behaviour, and they alert via an app if anything deviates from the norm. For example, the horse might not have chewed for the past several hours, or he or she might have laying down for an abnormally long amount of time.

When owners compare daily supervision with sensor data, they can also help identify behavioural patterns that indicate problems or changes in behaviour due to illness. In addition, they can see under what conditions their horses move the most, and how much energy they consume.

Hästen i Skåne want to achieve this with our project.

- We want to show, through scientific research, that horses raised in natural conditions on large and hilly pastures become sustainable individuals over time.
- We want to give landowners a system for offering optimal breeding conditions for young horses.
- We want to enable a way to promote better horse welfare while encouraging business development in the countryside and the preservation of the open landscape.

Hästen i Skåne, a non-profit association, is an umbrella organisation that supports the development of Skåne's horse industry.

Brösarp 2019

The Brösarp project came about following discussions with Ingvar Fredric Fredricson about the importance of equine sustainability and how much horses move during the first three years of life. In a primary step, researchers chose to study how a group of young and relatively untrained jumping mares would integrate into an existing herd of Icelandic mares and cope in demanding terrain. Jens Fredricson and his colleagues provided six one- and two-year-old jumping horses for a pilot trial.

Magnús Skúlason at Brösarpgården has been breeding and training Icelandic horses for a long time. As a competition rider, he has had great success with his own breeding programs and, among other achievements, has won the World Cup in various branches of his sport. The farm is located in the nature reserve Brösarps Backar in Österlen an area known for its beautiful, wild and very hilly landscape. According to Magnús, his Icelandic horses have a very positive mental and physical development being raised in herds under natural conditions on the Brösarp Backar for a large part of each year.

The first year of the Brösarp project, Hästen i Skåne created a research study team that followed a herd of young mares moving freely on very hilly pastures along the Brösarp slopes. The herd consisted of about 30 one- and two-year-old Icelandic mares and six jumping mares of the same age. Information about the horses' behaviour, development and other characteristics was published on social media so that anyone – including any interested breeders – could follow the young horses' progress in a semi-wild environment.

A herd of horses should be inspected at least twice a day,

HÄSTEN I SKÅNE (THE HORSE IN SKÅNE)

The Equine Monitoring Project has been made possible through support from LEADER, Southeast Skåne.

Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale, or LEADER), is a European Union (EU) initiative that supports local rural development through funding from the European Structural and Investment Funds. Associations, companies, organisations and authorities can apply for locally led project support to promote development in their rural LEADER area.

LEADER is an established approach to local development that has existed within the EU since 1991 and in parts of Sweden since 1995. The LEADER acronym represents coordinated activities for economic development in rural areas. The method is both a way of working and an approach that encourages local actors to cooperate beyond the usual boundaries.

Fundamental to the LEADER concept is that there are residents and operators in an area that will drive and influence development. It means creating consensus between people and organisations about the development in a particular area in the form of growth, jobs, entrepreneurship, and quality of life.

Characteristics of the LEADER concept include:

- Bottom-up collaboration: That the idea and initiative should come from those affected, and local involvement must be utilised.
- Local knowledge: That local actors must be seen as the foremost experts on the development of their immediate area.
- Cooperation: That development should be created through cooperation between different sectors of society and/or industries.
- The Tripartite Partnership: That private, non-profit, and public sectors should work together.
- Innovation: That ideas should involve new ideas, methods or forms of collaboration.
- Locally made decisions: That local actors should be those who decide which projects will receive support.



which is time-consuming. In 2019 we mainly followed the herd on foot to document how they moved across the large fields. Parts of the group worked to develop a suitable automated monitoring system so that in the future it would be possible for individual horse owners to follow their horses' health status and activities on their smartphone.

Buyers of expensive horses will probably in the near future request documentation of how the horse was bred, a 'breeding journal'. Those who buy a horse – young or old – should be aware of what they are buying. Everyone who buys a used car can get documentation about meter readings, service opportunities, etc. It is therefore remarkable that there is usually a lack of information about how a horse has been bred or used. Since horses today are often more expensive than used cars, it may be time to demand to see a 'horse journal' in order for a horse deal to be closed?

A large, hilly landscape

Hästen i Skåne wanted to investigate through collaboration with other stakeholders how young horses develop if they are given the opportunity to move freely on very large and hilly lands with varying surfaces.

In 2019, we followed a group of one- and two-year-old Icelandic horses and Swedish Warmblood showjumpers. Their health status and development were studied by visual inspection at least once a day. In addition, the behaviour of some of the horses was carefully studied around the clock through the use of the HoofStep system. Although the number of horses in the different groups was too small to draw any definite conclusions, it was still interesting to note individual differences in the horses' behaviour.

The pilot project gave promising results (see **Quantitative monitoring** section below); consequently, the following autumn, the research team set up a larger and more structured project to gain greater knowledge about the importance of horse breeding in a semi-wild environment. The idea was to be able to utilise Sweden's unique land resources for breeding

sustainable competition horses with an attractive pedigree that would appeal to horse buyers all over the world.

The test projects were successful, and further research funding was allocated via LEADER Sydöstra Skåne. In 2020 the number of showjumpers in the herd was increased.

Young showjumpers in the Brösarp project:

- Mitanni (2017/SWB/m Karmel van de Watering [BWP] - Shiva [Hann] x Stakkato [Hann])
- Push Play M&M (2018/SWB/m Gamelus R - Caprifol x Cardento)
- Ask for Carmenzita (2017/SWB/m Karmel van de Watering - Chianti x Cortez)
- U-2 Dragon Lady LVST (2018/SWB/m Karmel van de Watering - Omega x Corrado), owned by Interbreed AB
- Hedvig (2018/SWB/m Hip Hop - Philipa x Waldes), owned by Fredrik Persson

Karmel van de Watering is part of the Swedish Equestrian Federation's development program known as 'Swedish Show Jumping 2025'. He is ridden by Jens Fredricson. In autumn 2019, the pair jumped clear rounds at 1m50. In February 2020 they won the Grand Prix class during the Norwegian Horse Festival in Lillestrøm. A couple of weeks later, it was time again for a win in the three-star Grand Prix in Herning!

Karmel van de Watering's sire Diamant de Semilly is one of the best breeding stallions in jumping.

Gamelus R competed successfully under Peder Fredricson. His sire, Namelus R, holds a very high world rank for stallions based on sports results. In Sweden, his most famous offspring include Christian K and Nintender.

Hip Hop already excelled as a young horse with top places in the young horse championship. As an eight-year-old, he placed in international 1m60. Hip Hop has more than 150 international victories and placements.

An auspicious start

On May 15, 2019, six jumping mares were released on

FIGURE 1

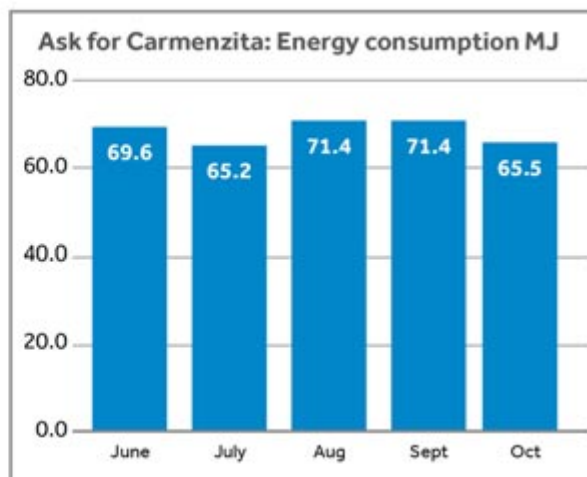
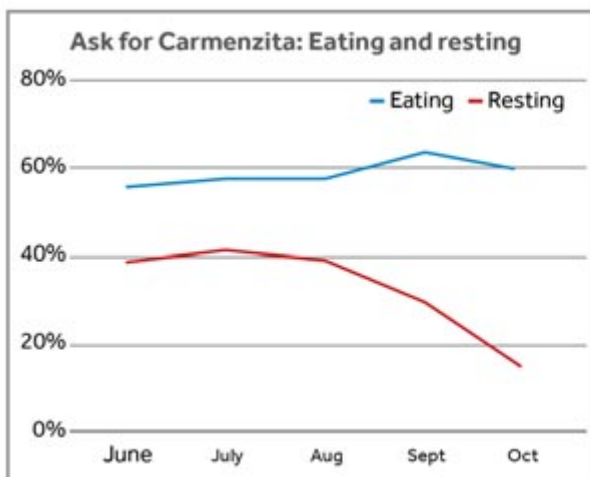
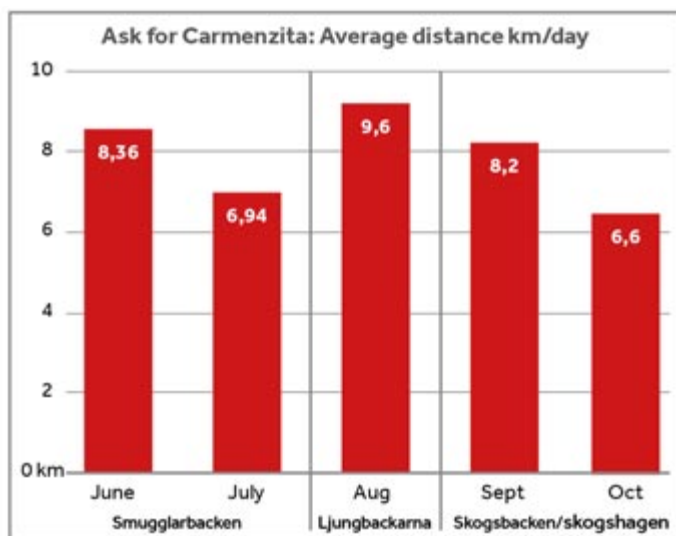


FIGURE 2



the slopes of Brösarp, where they would stay until October 10. Ten young Icelandic mares were already present in the pasture; the horses were introduced in a small, secluded, and flat pasture where there was plenty of grass. Only one of the jumping mares was immediately accepted and could move freely within the 'home herd'. She was a small yearling, about the size of the Icelandics, who had been previously pastured with a pony. These factors may or may not have influenced her rapid acceptance into the group. Overall, it took just under 14 days for the mares to establish a common, armonious herd. Afterwards, the herd was allowed to move into adjacent large pastures along the Brösarp slopes.

Qualitative monitoring

The horses were monitored throughout the trial period. Madeleine Entin, assisted by other project participants, assessed herd behaviour through visual inspections. Photography and filming took place on various occasions during the trial period.

In the latter part of the project, supervision became systemised (see examples below). Continuous comparisons were made between digital reports and visual observations of the horses' behaviours.

In addition to general health checks, project team members ensured that the fence was intact, that there was access to minerals in the pastures and that the halters with the measuring equipment were in place. During the stay at pasture, insect bite reactivity led to minimal hair loss in the manes and tails of some of the warmbloods, but no serious incidents were reported.

It could be stated that the Icelandic horses kept a good body condition, whereas the jumping mares did not manage to feed as well on the lean pastures. Some were a bit too thin. Likewise, the Warmbloods had more difficulty than the Icelanders to quickly move up and down the steep slopes,

but only during the first 2-3 weeks. For all horses, the hooves developed well on the sandy soils and were worn naturally to not require trimming.

The overall impression was that there was a clear breed difference. The more rustic Icelanders found it easier to cope in the demanding environment than the more refined showjumpers did. The significance of low body condition scores regarding young horses' future sustainability is not known; but likewise, the consequences of high body condition scores bordering on obesity in many of today's young horses is also yet unknown.

The conclusion was that Warmbloods should be kept in a separate herd and, if necessary, given a reasonably long period with good grazing for recovery. According to Magnús Skúlason, Icelandic horses raised in the Brösarp slopes develop socially while gaining good balance and sustainability.

A Warmblood mare (Mitanni) was only slightly handled and suspicious of people when she was put into the project trial. However, when she got home, Jens found to his great surprise that it was possible to mount her after he had put the bridle and saddle on her. Whether this was due to the social interaction in the herd, repeated contact with the people who supervised the horses, or that the mare was simply tired is impossible to know. In fact, her temperament had undergone a monumental change.

Quantitative monitoring

Karl Forssman was responsible for recording the herd's movement behaviours using commercial monitoring technology – HoofStep.

Ask for Carmenzita is the horse on the Brösarp slopes that has been involved in the study from start to finish. Her profile of movement in the distance, eating and resting represents the entire flock included in the study (*Figures 1 and 2 as shown on this page and the previous page*). That is, the entire herd follows the same pattern over months-long study period, even if some of the horses included in the study were removed and others were added.

Ask for Carmenzita showed changed behaviour; towards autumn, grazing (eating) increased, while resting decreased. The biggest difference in distance occurred between July and August: she walked 2.6 km farther in August, probably due to sparser grazing in Ljungbackarna. In addition, Ljungbackarna is a significantly larger area that the horses wanted to explore. ■

Join us for Part 2 in this series next month: December 2022



Clinical equine *in vitro* embryo production success rate

BY A. CLAEWS, T.A.E. STOUT

In vitro embryo production (IVEP) via Ovum Pick-Up (OPU) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) has become a popular breeding technique in Warmblood mares because of the high success rate and several practical advantages.

IVEP offers a solution for a variety of reproductive issues including, but not limited to, sub-fertility in stallions or mares, poor quality or scarce frozen semen, difficulty in synchronizing donor and recipient mares, and inefficient use of recipient mares. In 515 OPU-ICSI sessions performed in our facility in 2021, a mean of 25.9 antral follicles were aspirated yielding an average 13.8 immature oocytes, which were shipped overnight to a specialized ICSI laboratory (Avantea). One or more blastocysts (range: 0–13 blastocysts) were produced from 78% of procedures with a mean of 2.12 blastocysts per session; the likelihood of pregnancy after transfer of a cryopreserved thawed IVP blastocysts in 2021 (n = 781) was 77.7%.

Several donor mare, recipient mare, stallion and embryonic factors influence the likelihood of producing an in vitro blastocyst or achieving pregnancy. Approximately 60% of the transferred IVP blastocysts yield a foal; moreover, neither gestation length nor the health of foals is noticeably influenced by IVEP. On the other hand, a skewed sex ratio towards colts is apparent among IVEP foals resulting from day seven but not day eight embryos, suggesting that male embryos develop more rapidly in vitro. Although serious complications after OPU are uncommon, owners should be aware of their existence, because some complications can be life-threatening.

1. Introduction

In vitro embryo production (IVEP) via Ovum Pick-Up (OPU) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) is an advanced breeding technique that has seen an enormous increase in popularity in sport horse breeding over the last five years, largely because of improvements in oocyte recovery and blastocyst production rates^[1,2]. IVEP is popular among breeders of Warmblood mares because of the high success rate and a number of advantages over other breeding techniques. In particular, OPU-ICSI allows breeders to produce foals from stallions and mares with various fertility problems that other breeding techniques cannot remedy^[3]. Furthermore, IVEP can be performed at any stage of the estrous cycle or season^[4], and it is the only breeding technique that can be applied in the case of a mare that dies suddenly or needs to be euthanized due to a fracture, colic,

etc.^[5]

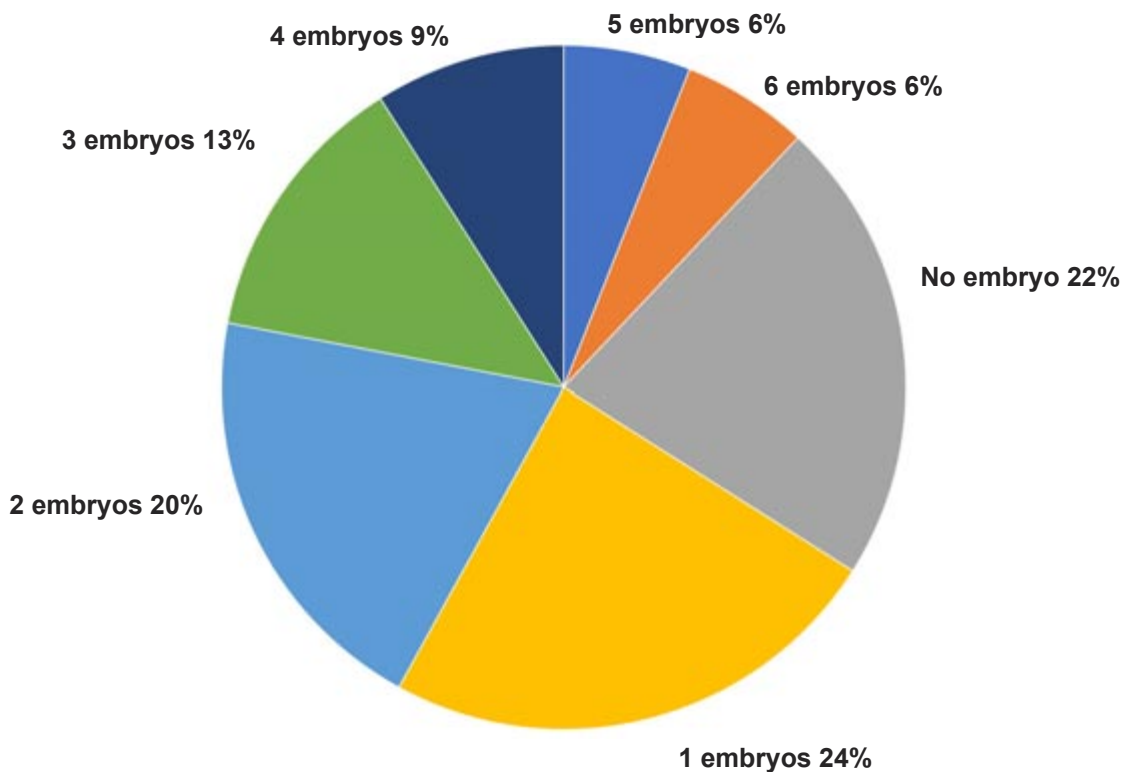
Another important advantage is that hundreds of IVP blastocysts can be produced from a single straw of frozen semen, because ICSI allows semen to be used very efficiently. Finally, IVP horse embryos tolerate cryopreservation better than large in vivo, flushed embryos probably as a result of their physical characteristics, including their small size and minimal blastocoele fluid content, and the absence of a confluent embryonic capsule^[6]. The ability to cryopreserve IVP embryos with negligible loss of viability has allowed the development of an international trade in embryos and enables much more efficient use of recipient mares. In particular, recipient mares can be used early in the season and their cycle does not need to be synchronized with that of the donor mare. Last but not least, the overall success of IVEP appears to be similar or to exceed that of traditional embryo transfer and allows the possibility of producing one or more embryos from different stallions in a single treatment session^[1].

The production of in vitro equine blastocysts involves numerous steps including recovery of immature oocytes by transvaginal aspiration of antral follicles, maturation of immature oocytes, ICSI, and culture of embryos to the blastocyst stage^[7]. The last step is the most challenging and rate limiting step of the entire IVEP process^[8]. A substantial amount of expertise is required to obtain consistently excellent results with regard to the production of in vitro blastocysts of high quality. It is common practice to freeze IVP blastocysts by either slow freezing or vitrification, not least because IVEP is often done outside the physiological breeding season and frequently results in multiple embryos. An important contributor to the growth in IVEP, is that oocytes can be collected at different locations and shipped overnight at room temperature in an appropriate holding medium (modified synthetic oviductal fluid or embryo holding media) to a laboratory where in vitro maturation of oocytes, ICSI and embryo culture can be performed^[9,10].

2. Results of IVEP through OPU and ICSI in 2021

Between January 10 and October 20, 2021, a total of 515 OPU sessions were performed at our facility, predominantly

FIGURE 1



The likelihood of producing multiple IVP embryos in a single OPU session (n = 515 OPU-ICSI sessions)

on Warmblood mares. On average, 25.9 antral follicles (range: 5–89) were punctured, aspirated and flushed six to 10 times with commercial oocyte recovery medium. A mean of 13.8 oocytes (range 1–48) were recovered per mare, resulting in an average oocyte recovery rate of 53%. All oocytes were shipped overnight at room temperature (20–22 °C) in modified synthetic oviductal fluid^[11] to an ICSI laboratory (Avantea, Italy). The average maturation rate for oocytes shipped to the ICSI laboratory was 59%. The age of the donor mare was an important factor affecting the success of OPU. The number of follicles aspirated and oocytes recovered is significantly lower in mares above 20 years of age^[12]. This age-related decline in the antral follicle number is likely the result of a depleted follicular reserve^[13]. Surprisingly, the maturation rate of oocytes is significantly higher for aged mares, which largely compensates for the reduced number of oocytes recovered^[12]. The success of equine in vitro embryo production has improved significantly over the years. Approximately 78% of the OPU-ICSI sessions (n = 515) performed in 2021 yielded one or

more blastocysts, compared to only 48% (n = 309) in 2016. Furthermore, multiple IVP blastocysts (range 0–13 embryos) can be obtained per OPU-ICSI session with a mean of 2.12 embryos per session in 2021 (Fig. 1). In contrast, the embryo recovery rate after artificial insemination and embryo flushing in Warmblood mares is typically around 50–65% and the number of recovered embryos very rarely exceeds two embryos^[14]. Thus, for most mares, the success rate of embryo production by IVEP exceeds that of traditional embryo transfer; on the other hand, IVEP is more invasive and costly.

There are several mare and stallion factors that influence the production of IVP blastocysts. The two most important mare factors affecting the success of in vitro blastocyst production are the identity of the mare and the number of oocytes recovered^[15]. The success of IVEP is highly repeatable within mares. Donor mares that are successful (i.e. produce at least one embryo) in the first OPU-ICSI session are more likely to be successful in a subsequent OPU-ICSI session than mares that failed to

produce an embryo and vice versa. In unsuccessful donor mares, it is recommended to delay performing a second OPU-ICSI session until the mare has more antral follicles than at the first attempt in order to increase the number of oocytes recovered. Alternatively, changing the stallion used for ICSI can improve the likelihood of success in mares that previously failed to yield embryos^[15].

As mentioned earlier, a donor mare should have sufficient antral follicles prior to OPU, because the likelihood of success is also influenced by the number of follicles aspirated and oocytes recovered^[15]. The percentage of successful OPU-ICSI sessions increases proportionally with the number of aspirated follicles until reaching a plateau after 20 aspirated follicles^[15]. The success of in vitro embryo production is also influenced by the breed of the donor mare and stallion. Although the number of oocytes recovered is similar between Warmblood and Arabian mares, the cleavage and blastocyst rates are significantly lower for the Arabian horse oocytes^[16]. With respect to the age of the donor mare, even though the antral follicle count and the number of oocytes recovered is significantly lower in aged mares, the cleavage and blastocyst rate is not reduced, suggesting that the developmental competence of oocytes from aged mares is not compromised. However, the total number of IVP blastocysts does tend to be lower for aged mares, although this is predominantly a reflection of the reduced number of oocytes recovered^[12].

The stallion also has an effect on the success of in vitro blastocyst production by ICSI. Nevertheless, the variation in the blastocyst rate between individual horses used for at least four ICSI sessions was much less between stallions than between mares^[15]. Besides the variation in blastocyst rate between individual stallions, there can also be considerable variation in blastocyst rate between different batches of frozen semen from the same stallion. This could be the result of the age of the stallion, characteristics of a particular ejaculate, or an effect of the freezing centre or different conditions under which the semen was processed, frozen and stored^[16]. In particular, it is important that stallion spermatozoa are motile after thawing, because ICSI with immotile spermatozoa is unlikely to result in production of blastocysts, irrespective of whether an exogenous oocyte activation medium is used^[17].

Furthermore, although it has been reported that re-frozen semen can be used without compromising the blastocyst rate, provided that motile spermatozoa are present after thawing^[18], the authors do not recommend using re-frozen of Warmblood stallion semen for ICSI because the IVEP success rates within our clinical program are very low; only 27% of the ICSI procedures (n = 15) performed using re-frozen semen from five different stallions resulted into the production of one embryo, and none resulted into the production of multiple embryos. The poor success after using re-frozen semen is evident in both a low cleavage (21%) and blastocyst (4%) rate. Similarly, although cryopreserved sex-sorted semen has not been used in our

program, other studies have shown that the cleavage rate was low (20–30%) when sex-sorted semen was used for ICSI^[19,20]. Despite the low cleavage rate, the quality of embryos produced using sex-sorted semen does not appear to be compromised because they can yield a pregnancy after transfer^[19] and develop into live, healthy foals^[20].

It is generally accepted that advanced semen processing techniques such as swim up and/or density gradient centrifugation should be applied to obtain a high quality semen sample for ICSI. Choi et al.^[17] demonstrated that a combination of swim up and density gradient significantly improved the cleavage and blastocyst rates for re-frozen semen with low fertility via ICSI^[17].

Finally, in vitro fertility of a stallion is not a simple reflection of in vivo fertility because semen from sub- or infertile stallions can be used to produce blastocysts, although the cleavage and blastocyst rates after ICSI of abattoir oocytes is significantly lower for infertile than fertile stallions^[16]. Conversely, it is important to remember that using semen of apparently good quality (motility and morphology) from a fertile stallion is no guarantee for success in an IVEP program^[16].

3. Likelihood of pregnancy

In 2021, the likelihood of pregnancy 7–10 days after transfer of a frozen-thawed IVP equine embryo (n = 781) was 77.7%. Although the likelihood of pregnancy was lower and more variable during the first two years of our clinical program (2015–16), it has remained stable at above 70% over the last five years. Interestingly, there is considerable variation in embryonic vesicle size one week after transfer (2–16 mm). This could indicate differences in effective embryonic developmental age at the time transfer.

On the other hand, a reduced embryonic growth rate in the period after transfer could also result in a small embryonic vesicle which, in turn, could indicate a higher risk of subsequent early pregnancy loss^[21]. Unless the embryonic vesicle is unusually small (less than 4mm), pregnant recipient mares are usually not examined again until 28–30 days of gestation (taking day of transfer as day four) to confirm pregnancy and to rule out monozygotic twins or triplets. These monozygotic multiple pregnancies are characterized by a single embryonic vesicle in which two or more embryo proper develop; they cannot be detected before the appearance of the embryo proper. Although the incidence of monozygotic twins after transfer of a single IVP embryo is low (1.6%), detection prior to development of the endometrial cups is crucial, because of the poor outcome irrespective of whether an attempt to reduce the twin to a singleton is attempted or not^[22].

Several donor mare, recipient mare and embryonic factors influence the likelihood of pregnancy and foaling. First, the pregnancy outcome at day 50 of gestation is approximately 15% lower in Arabian than Warmblood mares^[1]. Interestingly, in contrast to other breeding

techniques, the likelihood of pregnancy does not appear to be influenced by the age of the donor mare. IVP blastocysts from aged mares are as likely to result into a pregnancy after transfer as IVP blastocysts from younger mares^[12].

Currently, almost all cryopreserved IVP equine embryos in our program are transferred into recipient mares on day four after ovulation (day of ovulation = day 0), and a small percentage of embryos are transferred into recipient mares on day three after ovulation. Previously, we showed that a more advanced uterine environment has a negative impact on the likelihood of pregnancy. The pregnancy rate was significantly lower when IVP embryos were transferred into recipient mares on day five (57%) or day six (42%) after ovulation compared to day three (71%) or day four (74%). Furthermore, the embryonic vesicle was significantly larger one week after transfer when IVP embryos were transferred on day four compared to day five or day six after ovulation.

Besides the number of days after ovulation, the recipient's number of corpora lutea (CL) on day three after ovulation tended to affect the percentage of ongoing pregnancies; it tended to be higher in day three recipient mares with two CLs than those with one CL. In addition, the embryonic vesicle was significantly larger one week after transfer in day three recipient mares with two corpora lutea compared to those with one corpus luteum^[23].

The likelihood of pregnancy is also influenced by the speed of in vitro embryo development^[1,24,25]. In general, embryos are cultured in vitro for 6–9 days after ICSI before they reach the blastocyst stage at which they can be either transferred or cryopreserved by slow-freezing or vitrification^[1]. The likelihood of pregnancy is similar for IVP blastocysts cryopreserved on day seven and day eight (69–73%) but lower for day nine IVP blastocysts (55–62%). Furthermore, pregnancy loss appears to be higher for day nine than for day seven or eight IVP blastocysts^[1]. Thus, slow in vitro embryo development is associated with a lower likelihood of pregnancy and a higher incidence of embryonic loss.

4. Likelihood of foaling

The production of equine blastocysts in vitro does not appear to influence the length of gestation (339 days) which is comparable to the gestation length of mares bred by other artificial breeding techniques^[24]. Approximately 15% of IVEP pregnancies are lost between one week after embryo transfer and foaling^[24] such that, currently, approximately 60% of cryopreserved IVP equine embryos will result into a live foal after transfer.

Scientific data regarding the health of foals produced via ICSI are rather scarce, likely because of the difficulty in obtaining large sets of data from clinical programs. A study from Texas A&M, however, reported that foals produced by ICSI had a longer upper hindlimb whereas in other respects their general health, weight and height was not significantly different to those of foals produced by natural breeding^[26].

Similarly, we recently reported that 98.4% of the foals (n = 193) born after transfer of cryopreserved-thawed equine IVP blastocysts survived and were healthy. In short, IVEP does not appear to have any adverse effects on the health of newborn foals^[24]. At present, however, it is not known if there are any effects on health or performance later in life.

The sex ratio (male:female) of foals born from our clinical IVEP program during the first three years was skewed towards males since 61% of the foals were colts and 39% were fillies. One of the factors that influenced this skewed sex ratio was the speed of in vitro embryo development with a higher likelihood of obtaining a colt after transfer of a day seven than a day eight IVP blastocyst. More specifically, 71% of foals were colts and 29% were fillies after transfer of day seven IVP blastocysts (n = 79) whereas transfer of day eight IVP blastocysts (n = 114) resulted into 54% colts and 46% fillies. Thus, it appears that using our system male equine embryos develop more rapidly in vitro than female embryos^[24]. It is well known that in vitro culture conditions and media can have a significant impact on embryo quality, pregnancy outcome and in some species the sex ratio. Whether similar findings can also be detected in other equine IVEP systems remains to be determined.

5. Disadvantages of OPU

There is no doubt that OPU is more invasive than traditional embryo transfer. Nevertheless, the complication rate appears to be low, especially if the procedure is performed by experienced veterinarians. It is however crucial that mare owners are aware of the potential complications because some of these complications can be life-threatening.

Prophylactic antibiotics were administered in all donor mares prior to the OPU procedure. Despite proper sedation and administration of an anti-spasmodic drug, there is always a risk of causing a rectal tear since the ovary has to be grasped, manipulated caudally and medially towards the head of the transvaginal ultrasound probe, and held firmly via the rectum throughout the procedure. A study from Texas A&M reported that some rectal bleeding occurred in 16% of 153 OPU sessions, although none of the mares displayed clinical symptoms afterwards^[27]. The incidence of rectal bleeding in the last year of our clinical OPU program was 0.4% (n = 2/515 OPU sessions) and both were limited to mucosal damage.

The authors strongly believe that the incidence of rectal damage is influenced by the experience of the veterinarians performing the OPU; rectal bleeding/trauma is more common during the training period of inexperienced veterinarians who experience more difficulty in adequately grasping and manipulating the ovary into position and holding it for the whole procedure; repeatedly dropping and regrasping the ovary can lead to damage to the rectal wall.

Another potential complication of transvaginal follicle aspiration is vaginal or intra-abdominal haemorrhage caused

by accidentally puncturing a blood vessel during the procedure^[28]. Furthermore, if the needle damages a blood vessel in the broad ligament of the uterus, or the uterine artery is damaged by tension on the ligament, a hematoma can form within the broad ligament^[28].

To date, the authors have encountered three mares that suffered severe intra-abdominal haemorrhage and developed clinical signs of acute blood loss (colic, pale mucus membranes, weak pulse, elevated heart and respiratory rates, and a subsequent drop in the packed cell volume) either immediately after or the day after OPU. All three mares survived after hospitalization and conservative treatment. A small remnant of the hematoma could still be detected in one of the mares one year later. Nevertheless, it is difficult to accurately estimate the incidence of internal haemorrhage as minor bleeding often goes unnoticed. Velez et al. showed the number of red blood cells in peritoneal fluid were increased three days after OPU in all of 6 mares monitored, indicating that each OPU session is associated with some form of intra-abdominal bleeding^[27].

There is also a small risk of mares developing a peritonitis after transvaginal follicle aspiration. To reduce this risk, the perineal region of donor mares should be cleaned thoroughly prior to the OPU procedure and care should be taken not to puncture either intestine or rectum when the needle is introduced into the peritoneum and used to puncture the ovary. To the authors knowledge, only one of the OPU donor mares from our program was diagnosed with a peritonitis after OPU, she subsequently developed acute laminitis. Although this clinical peritonitis appears to be an uncommon complication, a previous study showed that the number of white blood cells in peritoneal fluid was slightly increased at three days post-OPU in two of six mares suggesting that a reasonable percentage of mares may develop a sub-clinical peritonitis after OPU that spontaneously resolves. Finally, an ovarian abscess can also form as a consequence of OPU, even though the incidence of ovarian abscessation appears to be very low (<0.5%)^[27]. ■

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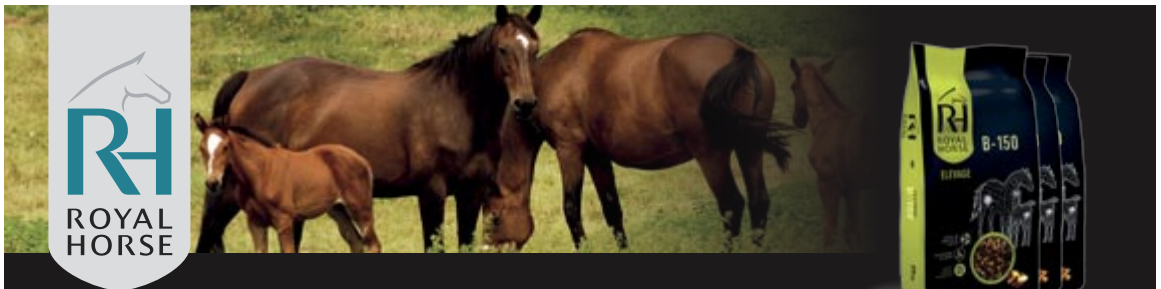
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President's report from the WBFSH General Assembly 2022

BY JAN PEDERSEN

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

The 2022 edition of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horse's General Assembly took place in Dresden, Germany, from October 9-12. Although further reports will follow next month, hereunder we publish the President's report from Jan Pedersen.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends and colloques. It is time to open the WBFSH GA 2022. It is so nice and liberating that we can finally meet face to face after two years, although the Corona ghost is once again raising its ugly head. It is probably a situation we will have to learn to live with.

In spite of that 2022 will be a year to remember in a positive way – at least with regard to the equestrian world. The FEI World Championships in Denmark brought together the best horses and riders in the world – for breeders, riders and all horse sport enthusiasts Denmark was for 10 days the land of milk and honey. It was an enormous window from the world of horse sport and breeding to the rest of the world.

The integration of breeding and sport has always been a clear goal for the WBFSH so it was really great that the starting lists contained pedigree information. That has not always been the case but it certainly has been part of our Annual Plans for many years. Sport data are the most important tool for the breeding.

Another positive observation in Herning was the demonstration of the correlation between top sport at the highest level and our young horse championship. It was clearly demonstrated by Glamourdale and Hermès, respectively world champion and bronze medalist at Herning with Charlotte Fry and Dinja Van Liere.

Glamourdale was world champion for seven-year-old horses at Ermelo 2018, while Hermès won the bronze medal for six-year-old horses the same year. It is evidence that our world championships for young horses are an incubator for future medalists.

I will now touch on the reports of our departments and try to give a brief summary. Parts of my report will be direct extracts of the various reports. I hope you have read them. They have been accessible on our website for some time.

Department of Scientific Collaboration

To reflect the increasing importance of science and research in sport horse breeding, the Department of Scientific Collaboration was created in 2021. This department aims to strengthen the knowledge exchange among studbook members and the scientific community.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Last year our CIGA Committee was renamed the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). This committee works closely together with the Department of Scientific Collaboration. The intention of SAC is to serve as a meeting point and inspiration forum and to share information about the advances in new technologies related to evaluating horses and their inheritance.

Unfortunately, more of the SAC members have left their positions with their respective studbooks and so they have also left SAC. The new manning appears from the report of the committee.

International Breeding Values (IBV)

The WBFSH members share the goal of producing sport horses for at least one of the Olympic disciplines. Bringing



Jan Pedersen – re-elected for an eighth term as WBFSH President

all the information together from different countries and from the FEI will give a more complete and more reliable picture of the inheritance of the stallions. Exclusively looking at the number of offspring a stallion has at the international level does not give us useful information. Nor does that take the quality of the dams into account.

As a pilot project, it has been decided to focus on jumping because the competition results are easier to compare between countries than dressage results. To keep it as simple as possible, it was furthermore decided that in the first phase only Germany, KWPN, and Selle Français should be involved. Those studbooks now need to make contracts and find agreements for the exchange of data.

The WBFSH-FEI data exchange project is still in progress and not ready for use. When it is, the IBV pilot project can start. KWPN is furthermore in the process of building a data warehouse which will be able to handle all the data involved in the IBV project. As the project with International Breeding values is complex and long-term, the WBFSH is planning a webinar about national breeding values in December 2022. The webinar will be on a non-scientific level and directed mainly at breeders.

The transition from microsatellite to SNP markers in parentage testing - webinar

On December 7, 2021, SAC organized a webinar entitled 'How to bring genomic development to horse breeding'. The webinar was an open exchange of considerations and first-hand practical experiences in transitioning from microsatellite to SNP markers in parentage testing. The webinar was recorded and is online on our website together with a summary. You can also find a fact sheet on parentage testing on the website.

Linear profiling

With Kathrin Stock as the driving force, there have been annual international workshops about linear profiling for many years. These workshops have been open to all WBFSH members, and they are beneficial for studbooks that want to start using this tool. On the internet www.equinephenotypes.org there is access to an overview of all linear trait descriptions used in the different studbooks and information from earlier workshops.

I also refer to our very interesting seminar yesterday on linear profiling in theory and practice.

Information about research in your country

The Department of Scientific Collaboration will be happy to receive information about any ongoing research in your country/studbook. If any, please send a small summary of the research to our secretariat in Denmark, which can then be published on the website. Other information in the form of scientific papers will also be more than welcome. If

a WBFSH member studbook needs support to implement linear profiling, breeding evaluation, or genomic selection, SAC can connect you with an expert who can advise. Do not hesitate to contact the Department of Scientific Collaboration.

Development Department

The Development Department will be following on from the extensive report that Edward Kendall and Chris Gould published in 2021 on the State of the Industry.

With this 2nd Edition the department wishes to provide a report that not only encompasses the current state of the industry, but one that moves into the future. Where the first report was more of a snapshot of data, we want the second and the future reports to accumulate into more longitudinal data. Seeing trends over many snapshots in time will enable us to see trends developing and changing, and this can add value to the further development of the industry.

Currently we have seen a positive development of global activities. Perhaps Covid and lockdowns have not been as detrimental as it all seemed at the time. In a quick glance at the data that has been returned from the survey we have identified a positive increase in breeding. Not only in Europe but in the Asia and Pacific regions. The world is beginning to open up again. This is the starting point of the 2nd Edition report.

The 2nd Edition report would like to look at a snapshot of the global perception of animal welfare and how we can apply the needs of everyone to provide a positive perception of what we do as an industry. We realise there are many factors to look into with this topic, but with a more welfare conscious industry and public, we need to create an environment that is more transparent to the critics. With the 2nd Edition State of Industry Report, we wish to not only highlight the most relevant issues currently confronting our industry but, to be more transparent and accurate with our information sharing. This will create an environment where we can monitor trends, create more longitudinal data and, help the industry plan for the future.

Department External Cooperation

Cooperation with FEI: Our cooperation with the FEI is important as cooperation between sport and breeding is both essential and completely natural. We are honoured to have Ingmar de Vos, President of FEI with us today – thank you, Ingmar for prioritizing this.

Fortunately, the members of the FEI-WBFSH Council were once again able to meet in person in Brussels at the end of February 2022. Among other topics we discussed the guidelines and schedules of the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses and it was agreed that the cooperation between the National Federations and the member studbooks of the WBFSH still needs to be improved in some countries, especially with regard to the selection of

the horses for the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses. It is desirable that the National Federations together with the studbooks prepare and publish clear and transparent selection criteria in good time. Where necessary, the FEI and the WBFSH will try to have a supporting influence.

Furthermore, the quota system of the WBCYH Dressage was discussed. The FEI accepted the proposed amendment of the WBFSH, which is now based on the current foal registration figures per year from the studbooks based in the country of the nominating National Federation.

The FEI also expressed interest in the WBFSH State of Industry Report and agreed to support the WBFSH in disseminating this survey to the National Federations.

The status of the data exchange project between the FEI, the German studbooks and the BWP was also a topic on the agenda. It was agreed to first complete the project with Germany and BWP and then to check how and when the FEI-WBFSH data exchange platform shall be available to other studbooks.

Animal welfare is a strong presence in the media image and must be taken extremely seriously.

The FEI is in the process of proactively tackling this issue internally, before involving other interest groups. We, the WBFSH, have offered our cooperation and support.

FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses

This year's FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses were again successfully organised at Ermelo in September. The participating horses represented 25 different member studbooks of the WBFSH. In total, the nominations came from 24 National Federations.

The medal table showed the following picture:

- Oldenburg (1 x gold, 1 x silver, 1 x bronze)
- Danish Warmblood (1 x gold, 1 x silver)
- KWPN (1x gold, 1 x bronze)
- Hanoverian (1 x silver)
- Rheinland (1 x bronze)

The dressage World Champions

Five-year-old horses

- Lyngbjergs St. Paris (Blue Hors Don Schufro x Blue Hors Rockefeller), ridden by Victoria Vallentin, bred by Bente Børjesson. Studbook: DWB.

Six-year-old horses

- Global Player (Grand Galaxy Win x Blue Hors Don Schufro), ridden by Ewa Möller, bred by Henrik Hansen. Studbook: Oldenburg

Seven-year-old horses

- Kjønto (Negro x Jazz), ridden by Charlotte Fry, bred by A.J. van Os. Studbook: KWPN

FEI-WBFSH Jumping World Breeding Championship for Young Horses

The FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horses once again took place in Lanaken. The event was as always organised in a fantastic way. A total of 242 five-year-old, 276 six-year-old, and 190 seven-year-old horses participated in these championships.

The medal table showed the following picture:

- ISH (2 x gold)
- Holsteiner (1 x gold)
- BWP (1 x silver, 1 x bronze)
- Selle Français (1 x silver)
- Zangersheide (1 x silver)
- KWPN (2 x bronze)

The showjumping World Champions

Five-year-old horses

- BP Goodfellas (Stakkato x OBOS Quality), ridden by Gerard O'Neill, bred by Kevin Babington. Studbook ISH

Six-year-old horses

- ABC Sunny Grace (Kannan x Cruising), ridden by Ethan Ahearne, bred by Patrick Kehoe. Studbook: ISH

Seven-year-old horses

- Caillan (Casall x Carry), ridden by Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, bred by Gerd Ohlsen. Studbook: Holstein

FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Eventing Championships for Young Horses

The FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horse took place at Lion d'Angers (FRA) from October 20-23, 2022. [Results added retroactively to this President's report.]

The eventing World Champions

Six-year-old horses

- Golden de Beliard AA (Upsilon x Jalienny), ridden by Thomas Carlile, bred by SCEA de Beliard. Studbook: Anglo Arab

Seven-year-old horses

- Lagona OLD (Lavagon x Cartani 4), ridden by Anna Lena Schaaf, bred by Anna Lena Schaaf. Studbook: Oldenburg

Marketing Department

In 2022, the focus of the department was firmly on the development of the website. In time for our 2022 General Assembly, this work is ready to go into the public launch stage, offering a range of new functionalities and opportunities, including:

- Individual logins for WBFSH member studbook enabling them to create their own attractive and interactive promotional pages on the WBFSH website.

- The ability for everyone interested in breeding, from breeders to breeding enthusiasts, to create free user accounts on the website
- Brand new virtual library, offering a wide range of educational and informative documents, videos and presentations.

Refreshed Logo

Apart from this, efforts have been made to increase the visibility of our organization. Our new refreshed logo and brand colors can now be seen at all WBFSH events, both physically and online.

WBFSH stand at Ermelo

To increase visibility, there was once again a WBFSH stand at the World Championships for young dressage horses in Ermelo. The stand was very well attended and soon became a gathering location where breeders, visitors and studbook representatives could meet each other and exchange ideas in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Sponsorship

The Marketing Department continues to collaborate with the sponsor agent to attract more sponsorship to our organization, focusing on developing excellent value and attractive packages for suitable partner brands.

News and Communications

The department has provided regular news updates, which have been published on our website, as well as in our dedicated section of the monthly World Breeding News.

Webinars

The WBFSH held several well received webinars over the past year, supported by the Marketing Department.

Breeding Department

Finding ways of dealing with traceability of Genetical Material is one of the tasks of our Department Breeding. It is a difficult and very complex project which concerns multiples actors of the industry. No solution has yet been found. The WBFSH gives advice and tries to flag up the importance of sanitary certificates and we produce and publish articles on the topic. In November the department will participate in a congress on the subject in Holland.

Definition of the 'rightful breeder' of a horse

The breeding department has proposed a new definition of the rightful breeder. With changes in the

breeding landscape over the past years, through new breeding technologies and changes in EU legislation, it has become necessary to review the definition of the rightful breeder of a horse. The increased use of surrogates for flushed or ICSI embryos, as well as the fact that many studbooks no longer require covering certificates, means that the first concrete, verifiable contact by a studbook for a foal, is the entity that owns and registers that foal, applies for identification documents, and provides material for DNA verification of the pedigree. Breeders have the choice of which studbook they want to register their foals in, and trade of embryos across borders is increasing. Therefore, the WBFSH has considered that the definition of the rightful breeder of a horse be reviewed & should be formulated in the simplest and most unambiguous way possible.

This is our recommendation: The rightful breeder of a horse is the person or entity that owns the foal at birth and first registers it into a studbook, therefore giving the foal an identity and a studbook of origin.

WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy

The WBFSH is planning a WBFSH showjumping studbook team competition for young horses between the ages of five and nine, in cooperation with Tops Equestrian Events. The event is planned to take place at the Tops International Arena in Valkenswaard, the Netherlands from 2023.

This is another opportunity for you, WBFSH member studbooks, to show yourselves and your horses to an international audience. The competition is a trophy and will be open only to WBFSH member studbooks. One team of five horses and riders per age group. I hope and think this event will put breeding even more into focus. That is the goal.

We are, of course, in contact with the FEI to discuss the modalities.

LONGINES WBFSH Breeders Award

Due to Covid-19 the LONGINES WBFSH Breeders Award ceremony has been postponed. It will take place on February 5, 2023, in Bordeaux. I very much look forward to that.

The data that has been returned from the State of Industry Report survey indicates a positive increase in breeding.

However, that data does not take into account the hard times we are facing right now. Politically and economically. We are facing severe inflation and a general recession. How the impact on horse breeding in consequence of that will be, remains to be seen. The upper segment of the industry will probably not be much affected but the market for horses of average quality may be somewhat damaged.

Ladies and gentlemen – with these words I will conclude the annual report.

Thank you. ■

WBFSH member studbook applications considered in 2022

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

Membership decisions ratified from 2021: No new members. The Cheval de Dressage Français was accepted as an associate member. One full membership application was received in 2022 from the Luso Warmblood (LW).

Two associate membership applications were received from the Société Hippique Française (SHF) – French Equestrian Society, and the China Horse Industry Association (CHIA).



Luso Warmblood

An overview:

- The Luso Warmblood (LW) Horse Studbook is for horses that are the result of the cross between purebred and/or decedents of Lusitano Horses (PSL) and horses registered in warmblood studbooks (members of the WBFSH).
- The aim is to promote a breed that enhances the qualities of the Portuguese native breed. Therefore, a minimum percentage equal to 25% PSL is required.
- The Luso Warmblood is a newly established studbook in 2022. The horses has already existed for some years and has until now been registered in two other studbooks: the Portuguese Sport Horse (PSH- which is a WBFSH member) and Cruzado Portugues (CP).
- LW is owned by the

Portuguese state and managed by APCRS (Associação Portuguesa de Criadores de Raças Selectas), a breeders association which manage five horse studbooks (one of them, the Portuguese Sport Horse Stud Book 'PSH', is already a WBFSH member).

- APCRS has legal authorisation from the Agriculture Ministry via DGAV (Direcção-Geral da Alimentação e Veterinária (the Ministry Department responsible for horse matters). APCRS hold General Assemblies twice a year (the member studbooks do not have individual General Assemblies).

Studbook statistics:

- LW was established in 2022. Therefore no foals have been registered yet. But LW expect to register approx. 80 foals in 2022.
- APCRS register approx. 400 foals in total in the five studbooks.
- APCRS membership is open to all breeders. The studbooks under APCRS do not have individual members.

LW Studbook construction:

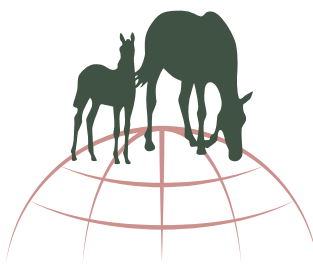
The studbook is reserved for horses registered in the National Equine Registry (RNE) that meet the conditions to be enrolled in one of the following sections:

- a) LW Birth Section (foals from horses registered in Breeding Section or in Annex Breeding Section);
- b) LW Studbook Breeding Section (horses registered in Birth Section, where sports results and conformation have been approved by the Registration Technical Committee);
- c) Studbook Annex Breeding Section

(other Breeds than LW that depending on their sports results have received a favorable opinion from the registration Technical Committee – studbook's approval by WBFSH studbooks being

WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES



Cheval de Dressage Français

Approved as Associate Member



société
HIPPIQUE
FRANÇAISE

accepted).

LW Breeding program:

- All approved stallions from WBFSH studbooks are approved in LW.
- Young stallions or those that have never been approved by other studbooks must be identified and approved by the LW studbook Technical Commission and must have a minimum point (6-9 points).
- Gradings of mares are also done by the Technical Commission and they must also receive a minimum point (5-9 points).
- Horses will only be subject to evaluation from the year in which they reach 3 years of age.

LW identification

- Foals will be identified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/963 of 10 June 2021 until the end of the year of birth.
- The registration of foals must be requested by the breeder to APCRS by a birth certificate that must be received within a period of 120 days after the foal is born.
- It is mandatory to confirm the paternity of the foal by genotyping (DNA) performed in the official laboratory (Molecular Genetics Laboratory of Alter).
- Passport in accordance with European legislation is issued.
- Microchip and UELN (620001) will be provided.
- All studbooks in Portugal work on the Portuguese Ministry owned database.

The LW Studbook was accepted as an associate member of the WBFSH as from June 21, 2022. The WBFSH Board requested that an application to become a full member studbook be resubmitted when the studbook is more established and is of sufficient size.

Société Hippique Française

Summary:

- SHF is a non-profit company representing breeders, riders and owners of young horses and young sport ponies.
- The organisation is authorised by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to intervene in the selection and genetic improvement of sport horse and pony breeds.
- SHF gathers sport horses and ponies studbooks in France and work together with the studbooks on interdisciplinary subjects, like welfare and the performance programme from four- to six-year-olds. SHF arranges competitions for young horses and ponies, i.e. the National Young Horse Show Jumping Finals in Fontainebleau and the National Dressage Young Horse Final in Saumur.
- SHF has 11 staff and 8,757 members.



The Société Hippique Française (SHF) application for associate membership was accepted as from January 20, 2022.

China Horse Industry Association (CHIA)

Summary (1):

- CHIA is a non-profit organization. It is the only organization authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China to be responsible for the management of horse breeds registration and studbooks in China.
- CHIA is formerly known as the National Horse Breeding Committee and the China Studbook Committee. Operations include horse selection and breeding, horse registration, horse auction, and organisation of equestrian and horse racing events.
- CHIA register different breeds: Thoroughbred horses, Arabian horses, Akhal-Teke horses, French Trotters, Warmblood horses, and domestic horse breeds.

Summary (2)

- CHIA started to establish the China Warmblood Horse Studbook a few years ago. Due to the recent start of the selection and breeding of warmbloods in China, the relevant organisational structure, and warmblood horse studbook rule system are still under construction. Once they are finished and the studbook is established with a sufficient amount of foals, the China Warmblood Horse Studbook aims to apply for full membership of WBFSH.
- In 2019, CHIA together with domestic equestrian sport organizations established the China Young Horse Competition, which has been held for three years.
- CHIA has 23 employees, including six full-time employees working for the Studbook Committee.

The China Horse Industry Association (CHIA) application as an associate member was accepted as from June 21, 2022. ■

German Equestrian Federation market survey results

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

A Market Survey has been conducted on behalf of the German Equestrian Federation by IPSOS (Studie des Marktforschungsunternehmens IPSOS): Around 11.2 million interviewed people replied they had an interest in horses and horse sport. Only people aged 14 or over were asked, however.

The study also determined the number of equestrian athletes in Germany: 2.32 million people refer to themselves as riders*, of which 840,000 ride regularly, 1.48 million ride occasionally. Some 700,000 people stated they would like to ride or get back into the sport.

** The term 'rider' always includes drivers, vaulters, and everyone who actively engages in any way whatsoever with horses, for example in groundwork.*

There are around 600,000 horse-owning households in Germany and 920,000 households with a riding partnership. According to projections, the number of privately owned horses is about 1.25 million. Nearly one-third are kept in private stables, the majority (around 45%) is stabled in pension [livery] businesses. The rest live in yards without an in- or outdoor riding arena.

Typical rider

According to the IPSOS study, riders who are regularly active are mainly female (78%), on average 38 years old, well educated, and mostly, fully, or at least partly employed. For most it's the close relationship to the horse and the closeness to nature that are reasons for practising equestrian sports. Riders live predominantly in towns with less than 100,000 inhabitants. The smallest proportion live in large cities. The net household income is in some cases significantly higher than the German average.

All of the subsequent figures relate to the year 2021.

Organized Horse Sport

- The German Equestrian Federation (Fédération Equestre Nationale, FN), the overall national association of equestrian sports, is the world's largest horse sport association. Within the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), the German National Federation with its 664,512 members ranks 8th (2020 – 678,264).

- Horse Sport is very popular with females. Around 80% (529,383) of the NF members are girls and women. With 135,129 members, the male sector is much smaller.

- With 97,022 club members, the regional association of

Baden Württemberg takes the lead in terms of membership numbers (2020 – 98,353; 2019 – 98,523); followed by Westfalia with 95,450 (2020 – 96,979; 2019 – 97,321); Bavaria with 86,544 (2020 – 89,912; 2019 – 92,059); Hanover with 78,983 (previous year: 79,587; 2019 – 80,454); Hessen with 67,944 (2020 – 69,334; 2019 – 69,265); and Rheinland with 57,451 (2020 – 58,696; 2019 – 58,627).

Adding together Westfalia and Rhineland, Northrhine-Westfalia would have 152,901 (2020 – 155,675; 2019 – 155,948) members while Lower Saxony (Hanover/Bremen and Weser-Ems) would count 126,582 (2020 – 128,220; 2019 – 129,375) members in their riding clubs.

Organisational Structure of the German NF

- Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN) is the umbrella organisation for 17 regional horse sport organisations with 7,289 (2020 – 7,319; 2019 – 7,334) riding and driving clubs. The breeding sector comprises 25 German studbooks; 15 of them focus on breeding the German Warmblood Horse.

- Directly affiliated to the FN (or its member organisations) are also 3,429 (2020 – 3,487) commercial horse centres as well as 57,889 (2020 – 58,711; 2019 – 58,193) personal members.

Further member organisations are:

- Deutsches Olympiade-Komitee für Reiterei (DOKR/German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sport)
- Deutscher Reiter- und Fahrer-Verband (German Riders' and Drivers' Association)
- Deutsche Richtervereinigung für Pferdeleistungsprüfungen (German Judges' Association)...
- Plus nine affiliated associations:
- Deutsche Westernreiter Union Deutschland (Western Riders)
- Island Pferde-, Reiter- und Züchterverband (riders and breeders of Icelandic horses)
- Verein Deutscher Distanzreiter und -fahrer (Endurance riders and drivers)
- Deutsches Kuratorium für Therapeutisches Reiten (DKThR/Therapeutic riding)



German eventing team selfie, 2019 Strzegom, Poland – l-r: Michael Jung; Josefa Sommer; Miria Engel; Andreas Dibowski

- Deutscher Akademischer Reiterverband (University riders)
- Internationale Gangpferde-Vereinigung (Gaited horses)
- Bundesverband für klassisch-barocke Reiterei Deutschland (Baroque riding)
- Verein Deutscher Hengsthalter (persons who own/keep stallions)
- Deutsche Jungzüchter (young breeders).

Competition sport facts and figures

• In 2021, 2,652 events (2020 – 1,880) with competitions 41,716 (2020 – 28,218) and 858,654 starts (2020 – 652,595) were run. Prize-money was distributed to a tune of €21,388,323 (2020 – €12,567,284). In comparison, the figures from 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, were 3,567 events, 66,281 competitions, around 1.34 million starts.

• In 2021 the FN issued 64,401 annual licences entitling to compete in horse shows (2020 – 67,587), including 1,342 licences for foreign riders competing in national events in Germany (2020 – 1,388). Before Covid-19, it had been 80,342 annual licences. Moreover, ‘give it a try’ licences included 4,342 adolescents and adults taking their first steps in competition sport (2020 – 3,574, 2019 – 6,077).

• In 2021 the FN issued 109,586 licences for competition horses and ponies (2020 – 111,683; 2019 – 132,257) and 2,689 FEI passports for horses competing internationally (2020 – 2,028; 2019 – 2,572). The above figure includes the registration of 20,536 first-time competition horses and ponies (2020 – 17,395; 2019 – 21,131).

• In recent years the percentage of older horses in sport has steadily increased. In 2021, 29.88% (2020 – 29.86%; 2019 – 29.35%) were aged between 11 and 15, and 8.69% (2020 – 9.13%; 2019 – 9.86%) were older than 16 – the trend continues to rise.

The horses aged between five and 10 years (51.80%, 2020 – 52.68%; 2019 – 52.71%) continue to make up the lion’s share of all competition horses. Other than in previous

years, the share of younger horses has risen again slightly. A total of 9.63% (2020 – 8.34%; 2019 – 8.08%) of all competition horses were three or four years old.

Horse breeding facts and figures

German studbooks have a significant share in the success of German horse sport.

• In 2021, German studbooks registered 2,781 riding horse sires (2020 – 2,790; 2019 – 2,832), 53,306 riding horse broodmares (2020 – 52,886; 2019 – 53,478) and 27,120 riding horse foals (2020 – 26,326; 2019 – 26,299). The number of coverings of Warmblood mares has increased from 30,169 in 2020 (2019 – 31.194) to 30,654 in 2021.

• In the category of ponies and small horses of all breeds registered in 2021: 3,531 stallions (2020 – 3,363; 2019 – 3,355); 20,370 broodmares (2020 – 19,262; 2019 – 19,477), and 9,337 foals (2020 – 8,598; 2019 – 8,399).

• Summing up all horse and pony breeds of the 25 studbooks affiliated to FN, from Akhal-Teke to Warlander, the following stock of breeding animals was reported in 2021: Horses: 8,339 stallions (2020 – 8,129; 2019 – 7,244), 85,849 broodmares (2020 – 83,927; 2019 – 80,873), and 39,877 foals (2020 – 38,224; 2019 – 36,936).

• In 2021, 94 riding horse stallions passed the 14-day test for stallions (2020 – 102; 2019 – 176); 150 stallions underwent the 50-day performance test (2020 – 127; 2019 – 75); 134 licensed stallions passed the sports test (2020 – 155; 2019 – 188); 1,843 riding horse broodmares (2020 – 1,647; 2019 – 1,672) proved their performance capability in stationary and field tests. In total, 2,673 broodmares (2020 – 2,420; 2019 – 1,917) proved their performance capability in stationary and field tests.

Horses – The Economic Factor

• For more than 10,000 companies, craftsman’s establishments and service providers in Germany, the horse is their direct or indirect main subject of business activity.

• The annual turnover for German horse industry is estimated at €6.7 bn. Expenditures for keeping a horse have a share of 39% (€2.6 bn). Some 61% (€4.1 bn) of the total turnover are allotted to retail and service.

• At the 2021 horse auctions hosted by German studbooks, 783 riding horses were sold at an average price of €29,874. The total turnover of the auctions was €23,391,577 (2020: 779 riding horses, average price €24,187, total turnover of €18,842,043). Furthermore, the studbooks auctioned 1,917 breeding horses and foals as well as ponies and heavy draught horses (2020 – 1,471; 2019 – 1,646). ■

FINAL YEAR-END BREEDER RANKINGS 2021-2022

SHOWJUMPING

1st



Wim Impens (NED)
King Edward
 2010/BWP/g
 Edward 28 x Feo
 Ridden by Henrik von
 Eckerman (SWE)

2nd

**H.A. Brinkman and M.
 Huisman** (NED)
Faltic HB
 2010/KWPN/st
 Baltic VDL x Concorde
 Ridden by Ben Maher
 (GBR)



3rd



Friedrich Lüssmann
 (GER)
Count Me In
 2007/Hann/g
 Count Grannus x Sherlock
 Holmes
 Ridden by Connor Swail
 (IRL)

SHOWJUMPING: <https://www.wbfsh.com/downloads/rankings/breeders/2022/breeders-jumping-2022.pdf>

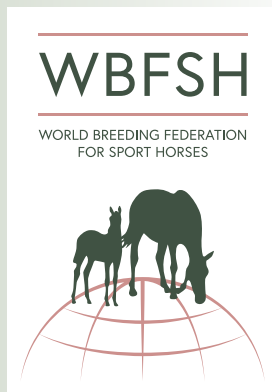
DRESSAGE: <https://www.wbfsh.com/downloads/rankings/breeders/2022/breeders-dressage-2022.pdf>

EVENTING: <https://www.wbfsh.com/downloads/rankings/breeders/2022/breeders-eventing-2022.pdf>

FINAL YEAR-END BREEDER RANKINGS 2021-2022

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION FOR SPORT HORSES

VILHELMSBORG ALLÉ 1



DRESSAGE

1st



Silke Druckenmüller (GER)
TSF Dalera BB
 2007/Trak/m
 Easy Game x Hendryk
 Ridden by Jessica von Bredow-
 Werndl (GER)

2nd



Reesink Pferde GmbH (GER)
Vamos Amigos
 2012/Westf/g
 Vitalis x Blue Hors Hotline
 Ridden by Cathrine Dufour
 (DEN)

3rd



Stald Heiline (DEN)
Heiline's Danciera
 2011/DWB/m Fürstenball OLD x De Niro
 Ridden by Carina Cassøe Krüth (DEN)

1st



ZG Meyer-Kulenkampff (GER)
fischerChipmunk FRH
 2008/Hann/g
 Contendro I x Heraldik xx
 Ridden by Michael Jung (GER)

EVENTING

2nd



Pierre Gouye (FRA)
Banzai du Loir
 2011/SF/g
 Nouma d'Auzay x Livarot
 Ridden by Yasmin Ingham
 (GBR)

3rd



Norbert Nowak (GER)
Falco
 2009/Hann/g Cardenio 2 x Weinberg
 Ridden by Tim Price (NZL)

Photos: FEI/Gregg, FEI/de Koster, FEI/Argenzano, FEI/Julliard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE, ALWAYS CHECK UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION WITH STUDBOOKS OR EVENT ORGANIZERS
AS GLOBAL SITUATIONS MAY CHANGE AND EVOLVE EACH MONTH

NOVEMBER

3-5 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Stallion Licencing and Sales – dressage stallions
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

4/5 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner Elite Riding Horse Auction
Tel: +49 (0)431 305996-0
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

4/5 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner Shortened Ability Test (jumping) with Saddle Licencing (3yo and 4yo stallions)
Tel: +49 (0)431 305996-0
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

7-19 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Online Auction of Riding Horses
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

12-15 Online (BEL)

Zangersheide Auction – Embryos and Broodmares
auction@zangersheide.com
www.zangersheide.com

14 Online (FRA)

NASH Sexed embryos and broodmares auction
Tel: +33 611 17 17 87
contact@nash.auction
www.nash.auction

17-20 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburg Stallion Days
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550
info@oldenburger-pferde.net
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

19 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Conclusion of 20-day Performance Test, dressage, jumper and gelder stallions
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.org

21-25 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner Pre-selection for Young Stallion Licencing
Tel: +49 (0)431 305996-0
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

27 Berwick-upon-Tweed (GBR)

Anglo European Studbook Stallion Grading
info@angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

30 Hothorpe, Leics. (GBR)

Anglo European Studbook Stallion Grading
info@angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

DECEMBER

1 Nantwich, Cheshire (GBR)

Anglo European Studbook Stallion Grading
info@angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

1-3 Verden (GER)

Hanoverian Stallion Licencing and Sales – jumping stallions, and Hannoveraner Showjumping Masters
Tel: +49 (0)4231 6730
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

3 Vechta (GER)

Oldenburg 8th Special Edition Auction
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550
info@oldenburger-pferde.net
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

7-10 Online (NED)

Auction of young showjumpers
info@paardeneilingonline.com
www.paardeneilingonline.com

10 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner Verband Winter Chance Auction
Tel: +49 (0)431 305996-0
info@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

14 Saint-Lô (FRA)

Selle Français 3yo Stallion Approval
Tél. +33 899 23 23 18
info@sellefrancais.fr
www.sellefrancais.fr

15 Saint-Lô (FRA)

Selle Français 2yo Stallion Championship
Tél. +33 899 23 23 18
info@sellefrancais.fr
www.sellefrancais.fr

16 Schijndel (NED)

Anglo European Studbook Stallion Grading
info@angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

17-20 Online (BEL)

Zangersheide Online Auction – Young Horses
auction@zangersheide.com
www.zangersheide.com

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5 Asse (BEL)

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