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EDITORIAL

LANAKEN... VALKENSWAARD – COMPLIMENTARY, TO SAY THE LEAST

One week before the first edition of the WBFSh Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy organized by Jan Tops on the lawn of the Longines Tops International Arena, Judy-Ann Melchior was interviewed at her home during the 27th edition of the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses (WBCYH). These took place at the headquarters of Studbook Zangersheide, when she was asked about the creation of this new event and declared without hesitation: “Some people in my team were surprised, even shocked. For my part, after studying the concept, I considered it to be complementary.” She added: “If my father had been alive he probably would have been more aggressive, but at the same time he always defended liberal values, like me today. So I think he would have had the same answer.”

In fact, eight days later (September 28 to October 1), under a somewhat milder sky in Valkenswaard than in Lanaken, we attended a completely different event. Certainly it was again a question of allowing the best young horses (the planned competition for stallions being canceled for lack of starters) between the ages of five and eight to present themselves to the breeders and prove the validity of their genetics. They also represented the studbooks with which they are registered, thereby promoting their respective training policies and proving that the value of their products are in line with the needs of the market and sport for which they have been bred.

The idea is also to prioritize quality (which of course is found at both events) over quantity, leaving selection up to the studbooks rather than the National Federation members of the FEI, the governing body in terms of rules and regulations.

That is, for sure, the essence of this new Valkenswaard concept.

But, other concerns were added to this educational component for young horses. An ethical concern. The WBFSh Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy is part of a voluntary initiative to protect the physical and mental integrity of young horses. This was proven through several new measures, including the omission of a jump-off to determine the final classification for five-year-old horses. The desire to offer breeders and competitors the opportunity to play collectively; that is to say, the innovation of allowing teams of five competitors per studbook, and not simply for individual combinations as in Lanaken.

The stands for this first edition certainly saw fewer spectators than eight days earlier in Lanaken, but the feeling of belonging and the desire to support a team, a studbook, was manifest during each round, guaranteeing an enthusiastic atmosphere. Promising!

Of course, globally there were five-times few entries than Lanaken (perhaps around one thousand), which was visibly obvious. But was it so bad? First of all, it allowed all the horses to discover and express themselves on a superb international field, and on grass. The Holy Grail! An incredible learning opportunity for horses, their riders, owners, and breeders; and a unique opportunity for the same observers and potential buyers to witness them in such exclusive circumstances.

Fewer rounds present an ideal gauge (400-500 horsepower) which should be reached quite easily during the forthcoming editions, and still allowing sufficient time to watch, to converse, to exchange opinions about the horses.



Throughout this first edition of the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy, passion had plenty of time to express itself, to share. And that's without mentioning the exceptional comfort offered by this remarkable complex developed by Jan Tops, from stables to VIP restaurants. First class!

This difference in atmosphere also materialized during the auction organized by Tops Trading on the Saturday. During a crazy evening, only 14 horses (including three foals), passed under the hammer, with no other presentation (or not!) other than a few videos of them completing clear

rounds in competition. Phenominally, a total of €6,000,000 was realized.

The Lanaken auction included a quality dozen, exclusively Z-branded three-year-olds, alongside 80 foals (the majority from embryo transfer, or more especially especially using ICSI – Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection – a questionably contested technique). So, two quite different options to consider.

Did you say “complementary”?

Xavier Libbrecht

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BRIEFS

Another record for NZ-bred Johnson son: Windermere J'Obei W (Johnson - Miss Pompei xx x Pompeii Court xx) was recently named by Equestrian Sports NZ as the country's International Horse of the Year. The 13-year-old gelding was bred by David Woolley and Rania Todd, and is owned by Rodney and Anne Parkes and their daughter, Melissa Galloway, who has ridden him through every step of his training and exceptional career. 'Joey' is unbeaten in his 11 Grand Prix starts this year, and recently won the CDI-W freestyle at Boneo (Australia), with score just below 80% (79.865%). This broke the New Zealand record set by him in February (77.035%). "He just keeps getting better and better and I don't even know where it comes from," Melissa Galloway told ESNZ. "He has the biggest heart and I seriously never have a bad ride on him. He is the horse of a lifetime for me and it makes me incredibly emotional thinking about what he has done for me and my life and my career."



*Windermere J'Obei W ridden by
Melissa Galloway (Ph: Cornege)*

At the premiere of the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy in Valkenswaard, the Netherlands (turn to page 16 in this issue for a full report and analysis) Hannover's five-year-olds won the studbook ranking ahead of Zangersheide and the Anglo European Studbook (AES). Recording, also, two fifth places in the classes for of six- and seven-year-olds, Hannover was the most successful studbook from Germany. Hannover's trio in the five-year-old final included Diarello (Diamant de Semilly x Cascadello; breeder: Stefan Aust, Armstorf) with Tim-Uwe Hoffmann, Constable (Contendro/Diarado (breeder: Ilona Turowska, Sosnowica/POL) with Jaroslaw Skrzyczynski, and DiCardo (Diacontinus x Chale; breeder: Enno Köster, Loxstedt) with James William Passy, who had already impressed in the qualifications with clear rounds. In the seven-year-old final only one rider delivered a clear round, but with the fastest four-faults, Baloula FRH (Balou du Rouet x Dollar du Murier; breeder: Hans-Heinrich Philipps, Wunstorf) and Dieter Smitz took an excellent third place. In the studbook ranking Hannover finished fifth, behind KWPN's win. Besides Baloula FRH, Valantus (Van Halen Z x Adlantus As; breeder: Henning Müller-Rulfs, Ritterhude) with Amelie Ottens, and Comilkora (Comme il faut NRW x Cassin II; breeder: Klaus Brandes, Asendorf) with Jordi Sander represented Hannover's colours in the decisive round. Hannover also finished fifth in the six-year-old class. The best Hannoveraner horse was Diabolo (Don Diarado x Grey Top; breeder: Eduard Voss, Eydelstedt) with Dieter Smitz with the fastest four-fault round in fifth place. The two had won the first qualifier with a lead of more than one second. It's Mylord (I'm Special de Muze x Mylord Carthago; breeder: Frank Johannsen, Buxtehude) and Thies Johannsen as well as Lubago (Lord Pezi Junior x Satisfaction; breeder: ZG Luttmann, Klein Heins) and Amelie Ottens completed the team. The team studbook win went to Belgian BWP. Eight-year-old Hannoveraner horses did not compete in Valkenswaard.

Swedish Select Horse Sales collection now online: On Saturday evening November 4 in the arena of Jönköping Horse Show, the hammer will start to fall for the horses in the 19th edition of the Swedish Select Horse Sales auction. The collection includes 22 promising three-year-old jumpers, selected for the auction based on their jumping technique, pedigree, talent for future sport, and veterinary status. In the pedigrees we find international blood lines from famous stallions such as Casall, Cornet Obolensky, Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, Dominator 2000 Z, Zirocco Blue VDL, Clarimo and Tobago Z. The horses are presented online with extensive videos displaying gaits, jumping and conformation and, on Friday evening November 3, will be presented live during a short training session in the arena. The Swedish Select Horse Sales will be held as a hybrid auction. This means that you can bid live in the arena but also online from your computer in real time. Please note that you have to be logged in as a registered user to be able to bid online. The Swedish Select Horse Sales will also be arranging an 'online only' auction the week after the live auction, with the collection also including selected three-year-old showjumpers. <https://sshs.auction/home>

Oldenburg Licensing 2024 in Ankum: The Oldenburg Licensing, a highlight in the calendar of the Oldenburger Verband, is introducing a change for 2024. Due to extensive renovations at the auction hall in Vechta, the upcoming Stallion Licensing, taking place from January 18-21, will occur in a modified format in Ankum. This alteration promises a unique licensing experience for horse enthusiasts and breeders. The 2024 Oldenburg Licensing will be divided into two parts: The emphasis will be on show jumping stallions from Thursday to Friday, January 18-19, followed by the stallion market. From Saturday to Sunday, January 20-21, dressage-oriented candidates will take the stage. Due to logistical reasons, it will not be possible to organize a stallion gala as part of the 2024 licensing event. The event promises a pleasant experience for all attendees. Tickets for the Oldenburg Licensing 2024 will be available from November 15 through the Northwest Ticket Center. We recommend securing your tickets early, as demand is expected to be high. A list of hotels in the vicinity of Ankum will be published soon to assist visitors in planning their stay. A generous room allocation will be available to ensure that every guest finds the perfect accommodation. We look forward to an exciting event in Ankum and warmly invite all horse lovers and breeders to attend the Oldenburg Licensing 2024. You can expect top-quality stallions and the typical Oldenburg auction atmosphere in Ankum. Contact: Bernhard Thoben: thoben.bernhard@oldenburger-pferde.com / Dr. André Hahn: hahn.andre@oldenburger-pferde.com

Who knows horses better: Their riders or their breeders?

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, AND COURTESY ROLEX

To date, only one showjumping rider has managed to pocket the \$1,000,000 bonus by winning three consecutive Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping classes in their Majors: Aachen (GER), Geneva (SUI), Spruce Meadows (CAN), with the Dutch Masters joining the series in 2018.

In 2015, modest British Olympian Scott Brash wrote himself into the record books when he sensationally won the prestigious CP International presented by Rolex – a much-coveted Grand Prix that traditionally concludes the Spruce Meadows Masters every September.

On that dreamlike day, Scott proved not only to himself but to the world that it was possible to win the largest and richest of 1m60 Grand Prix competitions; not once, not twice, but three times in a row.

Scott's journey began in Europe's largest indoor showjumping arena at CHI Geneva in December 2014, in which 13 horse/rider combinations progressed to a hotly contested jump-off. Riding Hello Sanctos, and with less than a one-second advantage over his nearest rivals – Frenchman Roger Yves Bost riding Qoud'Coeur de La Loge and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson with Casall Ask – Scott recorded a brilliant victory, which coincidentally followed their win two days earlier in the 14th Rolex IJRC Top 10 Final.

On the last day of May 2015, also riding Hello Sanctos, the Brit scored his second hard-fought win, this time fractionally beating home-crowd favourite Daniel Deusser and Cornet d'Amour by one-third of a second. The seven-horse jump-off also included a three-time previous winner of

this historic trophy, Ludger Beerbaum (1996, 2002, 2003), and future Rolex Testimonees Daniel Deusser (GER) and Kent Farrington (USA).

Fast forward some 13 weeks to September 13, and another equally momentous day during the acclaimed Spruce Meadows Masters. Many will recall the moment Scott Brash entered the ring, given that no previous horse in the second round had jumped double clear. Thanks to recording the fastest time in the first round, Scott and Hello Sanctos were, some might say, enviably in the last-to-go position. Many remarked that you could hear a pin drop when the pair entered the ring, followed by a deafening cheer just over one faultless minute later. They had achieved what many had thought was impossible, and in stunning style and, once again, beating some of the best horse/rider combinations in the world.

Who is Hello Sanctos

Now enjoying a well-earned retirement at Scott Brash's farm, Hello Sanctos was bred in Belgium by Willy Taets and registered with the Belgian Sport Horse studbook under the name Sanctos van het Gravenhof (Quasimodo van de Molendreef - Nasia van het Gravenhof x Nabab de Rêve). Ironically, he was born on May 13 – a recurring number that brought nothing but success in his progress to the Rolex Grand Slam.

A maternal grandson of Nabab de Rêve, who also sired 2010 World Champion Vigo d'Arsouilles (BWP: out of Illico d'Arsouilles x Fleuri du Manoir [SF]), Sanctos's competition career didn't follow today's more traditional route via young horse classes, but he appeared on the showjumping scene in CSI3* classes at the age of eight under the saddle of American Peter Wylde. According to the breeder's wife, Lieve Taets; Sanctos was sold for a small amount of money – he was very cheap. He looked nothing special and my parents didn't



Scott Brash

expect much of him. One year later, following some notable placings up to 1m50, he moved to German Katharina Offel at a time when Ukrainian oligarch Aleksander Onyshchenko was buying great horses to represent a national team with imported riders.

A second, definitive move, took place towards the end of 2011 and ahead of the FEI's ownership deadline for Olympic horses for London 2012. Noticed by Lord Kirkham and Lord Harris, Sanctos was subsequently purchased for British team contender Scott Brash, and renamed Hello Sanctos. It was a propitious move as the pair won their first Grand Prix, a World Cup class in March 2012, during the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida. Several successful Nations Cup appearances during the summer season secured their selection to the London 2012 Olympic Games in which Scott and Sanctos finished fifth individually, and won team gold alongside Nick Skelton, Peter Charles, and Ben Maher.

Sanctos's success story continued with Scott and in 2015 Willy Taets was awarded as the WBFSH breeder of the year in Geneva, saying; Sanctos has meant so much for so many people; he made Scott's career and helped us. Sanctos was our lucky shot. The previous year, Scott travelled to Belgium to meet Santos's dam, Nasia, who was then 22 years old. Taets concluded by saying; The day Sanctos retired, my son was working with Sanctos's sister – under saddle for the first time that day, so we will keep the family tradition alive. For us, Sanctos gave meaning to our hobby. It's all about feelings, and not about money.

Hello Sanctos was retired from sport at the age of 17 in 2019, having already had his career interrupted by injury.

(The quotes from Willy and Lieve Taets in this section were published with grateful thanks to World of Showjumping.)

Scott Brash: Son of a builder

Scott Brash arrived at the 2023 Spruce Meadows Masters in Calgary as a Rolex Testimonee, and with an eye on launching another series of Grand Slam wins – this time with the 14-year-old Belgian Warmblood gelding Hello Jefferson (birth name Jerenmias van het Hulstehof). Bred in Belgium by Bernard Mols, 'Jezzie' is by Cooper van de Heffinck, out of Hovis (Irco Mena). Owned by Lady Pauline Harris and Lady Pauline Kirkham, he and Scott have already achieved the qualifying standard for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Although Scott is best known as an internationally successful showjumping rider and a long-time member of the British team, he has, together with his horses' owners, been quietly breeding, affording his former competition mares a happy retirement as broodmares. However, unlike many riders who use sport horse breeding to commercially help support their competitive careers, Scott has some strong opinions, and his dream is quite different. But, let's begin with his arrival at Spruce Meadows with Hello Jefferson.

◆ The Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping is celebrating its 10-year anniversary since its creation, could you tell us what it has done for the sport, and how it's affected you and your fellow Testimonees and riders?

I think it's amazing – a great opportunity for all riders, but it has really improved our sport. The creation of the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping has given us all major goals to aim for during the year. It brings out the best horse and rider combinations, those that are at the top of their game and want to be at these Majors. It's amazing what it has done for our sport and we are all very thankful.

◆ Each of the four Majors that make up the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping are so different in their own way – can you talk us through all four and describe what it takes to win?

Where shall I start? Well, firstly, all four Majors have an amazing audience – they create a fantastic atmosphere in these arenas, it's so great to experience as a rider.

Going to Geneva, it's an amazing indoor show, just before Christmas – but all four are amazing. It's fantastic to ride in Geneva, a huge arena, then the Dutch Masters is much smaller, very compact. Those two events are run over two rounds, so very different to Aachen and Spruce Meadows. Aachen is tough, a lot of big jumps and, still, in the third round you're up against three of four of the top horse/rider combinations in the world; normally, then Spruce Meadows is probably one of the hardest in the world. Historically, I would say the hardest as there have only ever been one or two double clears so it shows how challenging it is, and probably the biggest one height wise.

I remember when they were allowed to raise it to 1m70, that year I spoke to the course builder (Leopoldo Palacios), and he said there were three verticals at 1m70, and I think only one of those three verticals fell once, so that shows the standard of horses and riders that come to this event.

A time to reflect

◆ Going back eight years, your journey came with two wins before coming to Calgary, so can you try and go back to that Sunday morning, and run us through the day. Did you stick to the same routines, did you do anything different? What can you remember from sunrise to getting the trophy in your hands?

It was funny actually because I was down early every day to see what was going on, to check Sanctos and make sure everything was good, but I remember the day before I had quite a lot of media duties, so I was quite tired and fell asleep at 11 o'clock, didn't wake up once during the night so had a good night's sleep, and was down here for 7:30, 8:00. I remember walking down to see what the course was going to be, and there was no one, so I looked around parts of the course that were already up, so it was already going through my head, so I was very focused. I then rode Sanctos at the same time as I always would before a big competition, maybe not too far away from the competition, but I remember



Scott Brash riding Hello Jefferson at the 2023 Spruce Meadows Masters

competitors but, yes, a matter of respect to give you more space in the collecting ring, no one wanted to get in your way, which was quite nice.

◆ There are champions on the wall (photos outside the Rolex Sky Box at Spruce Meadows), and you often hear that when big champions, athletes, win big events, one of the things they describe is the relief of winning, rather than the jubilation. Did you have that sense as well?

It was quite amazing actually. I remember jumping the last fence and feeling all sorts of emotions, but one of them was relief. But kind of weird is also a bit of sadness because it's all you've been driving towards and now it's done. Now, what next? On top of that the joy and excitement, and my owners and my father were here as well, so it was an amazing day that they were here to experience it.

working him and knowing that he felt really good. I think it was probably the fittest I've ever had him in his life, actually. Here and in London (2012 Olympic Games), I think were the two shows that I really peaked his fitness, so he felt really good, and we were really focused.

When we did win, to show how fit he was, when we walked out of the ring, I remember thinking that he hasn't even broken a sweat, so he was in great shape and we still have photographs of that day and he looked a million dollars, so it was an amazing day in my career.

◆ So you didn't do anything different, the same routine for you and him?

I tried to keep it the same as possible. Naturally, it was a bit different as I was more focused on the day, and the more important a day is, the more focused I am, and what was right for Sanctos and wanted everything the same. At the end of the day he didn't know he was jumping for the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping. To him it was another day, another course, so I just tried to focus on that and tried to beat the course.

◆ Did you sense anything different from your fellow riders, a different buzz around the warm-up arena, anything different when you went in for the final round?

Yes, I did remember all the riders standing at the in-gate, and although you're very focused I did sense it. When I rode in it felt like you could hear a pin drop. It was great, and I don't think there was much difference from the fellow

◆ As outsiders watching someone do something like this, you're all such terrific riders with terrific horses, having done it yourself, do you ever sit back and think it's remarkable, do you think 'wow' that's difficult with so many good riders?

I think when you're having a down day you can always think back to that day and it makes you feel good. But do I think it's taken any determination away having won it... not at all. I'm still determined to go and win it again even though I've achieved it.

◆ Sanctos was 13 when he won here, Jefferson is now 14, can you talk about each of their personalities and characters and why you chose to bring Jefferson, and had Sanctos still been of a competitive age would you have had a preference for which one you would have ridden here?

An interesting question because, actually, when we won in Geneva, Aachen was an arena that I knew Sanctos didn't like, and not everyone knows that, but it was the one ring he felt uncomfortable in. He'd jumped there before when he was young with Kathie Offel, which I didn't know until I went there with him myself. It wasn't bad, but he felt really uncomfortable and I came out of that show scratching my head thinking why did we go not so well. I think I had two down in the Grand Prix but it felt like I was riding for my life to get him round. I then met Kathie Offel at the next show and she said 'he doesn't like Aachen, does he?' She said 'I jumped him there when he was young, and he jumped

fantastic the first day, then he stopped and got eliminated.'

So, then, when we won Geneva, if I'm honest, I had two top horses right then, Sanctos and Ursula. Ursula was amazing and I know she was made for the likes of Spruce and Aachen, and if she'd been fit I would have taken her, but she was actually injured at the time, so it was Sanctos or no one. There's only a handful of horses that are capable of jumping on Sunday (Rolex Grand Slam day at Spruce Meadows), and Jefferson is now the only one capable of jumping on Sunday. Having said that, I think he's a fantastic horse and has a good chance on Sunday.

Personality wise, I think what made Sanctos so good was how clever he was – and still is. He's so clever, and I think that's what gave that extra bit over other horses. Jefferson has all the attributes you need to win any Grand Prix, he's really talented, but he's really sharp, really strong minded – which I don't mind – but he has a really busy brain so I put a lot more work into him than Sanctos, at that time. Jefferson this week, I worked him Monday and he felt quite sharp, but he'd just travelled so I didn't want to overwork him. The next day I worked him quite hard because I didn't want him too sharp for today (first day of the Masters), then yesterday I worked him twice, a little bit easier, but he was really sharp yesterday afternoon. That's the difference, whereas Sanctos might not have needed quite so much work, but two very different horses; they're all individual and I think it's about getting to know each and every horse, what's right for them, what they like, what they don't like.

In the past, at Aachen one year, I think he was capable of winning it, but the adrenaline and the pressure gets to him and then you have a fence down because of that. But he's more experienced now and the older he gets the better he's going to be as a horse. Very different but, Sanctos, if I'm honest, when I tried him I didn't feel like he had the scope to ever do the Spruce Meadows Grand Prix, the biggest Grand Prix, and I would never have called that when I tried him. I think it just shows how amazing horses are because when a horse is confident and really trusts the rider. I think we just had a fantastic partnership and he really grew into the scope.

◆ Talking about qualities you look for, is there ever a grand plan with your younger horses with the same qualities as Sanctos?

That's actually a funny question because we've done a little breeding from Ursula and some of our top mares, and we bring them down to my yard in England – my family's up in Scotland – so bring them down to break them. I was taking horses back home to Scotland, dropped them off, brought some more back down just before I came here, and I've got two two-year-olds in right now, and we had a little loose jump just before I came here and I got all excited because I came away thinking this one could jump Spruce Meadows (laughing). Yes, it's certainly what I look for when I'm trying horses. Could it be a down side? Sometimes, because when you're trying horses you know how good a horse you need to win Spruce Meadows, Aachen, or jump the Olympics. You

know what it takes, so sometimes you can be a little picky, too picky sometimes, when actually you have to make a horse and like Sanctos's example, we improved his scope with confidence and experience. So, yes, I always look at horses with the goal of these Majors for example, and it could make me think perhaps we should sell that horse because it is only capable of jumping 1m45. It doesn't make it a bad horse, but what I'd like to achieve in the sport is winning the big ones.

◆ You mentioned how fit he (Sanctos) was, and you've mentioned before about training in Scotland towards fitness, so is that what you did to get him that fit?

Yeah, [laughing] that's one of my secrets, the Scottish hills. Hill work is really beneficial to horses and when I'm trying to get a horse really fit, with him he went up the hills, he went on the gallops, he did flatwork in the arena, but Sanctos was that clever that he would much prefer to hack out than work in an arena, so we did a lot of hill work to get him to peak fitness.

◆ Can you share a stand-out moment when you've learned something from a fellow [Rolex] Testimonee or another rider that has left a deep impression in life?

That's a tough question. It's hard to single out one moment because especially when I was growing up, even today, you can take something from every rider. We can all win a Grand Prix but we all have different styles and different ways to do it, so who's to say what's right and what's wrong. I think you can learn from everyone and I used to find myself standing at the collecting ring a lot, and still do, watching other riders how they go about their job, their management, I think you can learn from every rider. You can never stop learning and yeah, people I've looked up to through my life... Ludger Beerbaum, Marcus Ehning, John Whitaker, Nick Skelton, Daniel Deusser, Steve [Guerdat]; you can take bits from everyone, so I've learned from not just one rider.

◆ Talk about the prize money in showjumping and what it means to win the big purses?

It's certainly good because it costs a lot of money to do this job, and a lot that people don't see to travel horses around the world, week in, week out, but it's what we do. It's tough so it's good to be rewarded in that sense, for sure, and the bigger the purse, the more audience watch, and the more it brings out the best in sport. But I can honestly say that when I was going for the Rolex Grand Slam in Show Jumping, even if there wasn't a big bonus, I was still desperate to try and make history and complete the Grand Slam.

◆ Have you watched it again since then?

Yeah, I've certainly watched it more than once. [Laughing] It was a long time ago to be honest. It's funny because I can still watch it and think it could have been better.

◆ We've spoken about the qualities of a horse, but how do you achieve the partnership qualities?

I think you can only win a top Grand Prix by having a good partnership with your horse, and you only create a top partnership by working with them every day and knowing what they like, what they don't, how you should ride them. When I walk a course I visualize through Jefferson's mind, okay I think he'll jump a touch to the right coming out of the double, which is what he does; he might land a bit short there, so that distance might be a bit long; so I know him really well. I think, vice versa, that he knows me, he knows the pressure I give, and they only get that from working with you every day, doing the groundwork. When you watch him in the stable he's always got to be doing something, and into something, and you don't see him lying down too often, so you only get to a partnership by working with them every day and knowing them inside out.

◆ What is it about horses that drew you in as a boy and make you want to keep living this crazy life and travelling the world?

It's certainly my love of the animal. If you were to go right back to the start I was seven years old when I rode my first pony. Back then I don't think I dreamed of winning here, but I loved the pony – Minstrel, he was called. I remember always wanting to get him out and go and do something, and I would always think 'what's he thinking', and I think that's always stayed with me, so the love for the horse. Even at school I'd be day dreaming half the time thinking I want to go and ride my pony, instead of concentrating what I was supposed to be concentrating on.

Then, of course, starting to showjump that became my love and passion, that winning feeling. One step further, there is definitely no better feeling in the world than winning a big Rolex Grand Prix – money definitely cannot buy this feeling. That is what my owners see too – to be so involved in such a sport and see such a rewarding performance – it is definitely addictive.

◆ Who chose the 'Hello' prefix?

My owners. Although to be honest there was no real fantastically interesting story. It was actually [Lady] Pauline Harris who had her first horse she called Hello Max, and then it just stuck and she said she thought we should call every horse 'Hello'.

◆ You're so accomplished, you were so young when you first won and from the outside it looks so easy, such smooth riding, but behind the scenes I feel you give yourself a lot of pressure, a lot of discipline, so can you share something that was a real test, mentally, or something you feel you've overcome or how you've grown?

As professional riders, we ride everyday so we should be good at it. It should look easy, and we should look in tune with our horse. This is what I am always aiming for when I work my horse, to be totally in tune. I feel fortunate because I think I am quite strong mentally in handling pressure that

comes with important events.

After winning team gold at the London 2012 Olympics, and after completing the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping, I remember feeling a little low, questioning what was next – but I think that's very normal.

I actually talked to Bruce Springsteen once about a musician's career and questioning why things can go wrong sometimes. He said that whilst performing, one experiences such an adrenaline rush and intense atmosphere, it can be a shock when walking off stage to nothing; there is naturally an experience of a low. I certainly felt this after winning those Major events; there was absolute joy and fantastic celebrations afterwards and a couple weeks later, I naturally experienced a low.

I remember my first show with Hello Sanctos after winning the Gold medal, and then coming here to Spruce Meadows and having two down; and on my way home I was hard on myself that I did not ride hard enough, and I couldn't explain why. However, I know now this was a natural low to experience after such a period of elation. This may be an example of overcoming something. I do not really know what I did to overcome it apart from continuing to train and work my horse as normal. The hunger quickly developed from this.

◆ Can somebody win the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping again?

It can definitely be won again – anything is possible, but everything has to go right on the day for the rider. In our sport, we are working with a living animal, and sometimes things can go wrong that can be out of our control. The year after winning the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping, Ursula XII was very close. She was second in CHIO Aachen, we won at CSIO Spruce Meadows Masters and came third in CHIO Geneva. I remember thinking that we should have won Geneva – it is still one of the rounds that still haunts me from losing by such a small margin. I was last to go with four tenths of a second too slow – I have never been so disappointed coming home from a show.

◆ So if it can be won again, do you think that there is an order in which the three shows would be the easiest to win? So, if a rider won CSIO Spruce Meadows Masters, won CHI Geneva, then The Dutch Masters would be the final challenge...

They are all very challenging for different reasons. But what makes ending with The Dutch Masters very challenging is that you know there will be a lot of clears and therefore you know the jump off will be really fast – so last year there was 16 in the jump off, which resulted in being really challenging. But if the campaign ended at Spruce Meadows, there might easily be only one double clear and no third round. It really depends on your horse; so, if you have a really fast horse then The Dutch Masters might be an easier show for that horse rather than ending in Spruce Meadows. I couldn't tell you the easiest route to the Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping – I don't think there is an easy way.

A second career in breeding sport horses?

◆ You mentioned that you are now breeding with your former competition mares, so what size is your breeding operation?

It's very small to be honest. Nothing massive. On average we have four foals a year, three or four, and from our good mares that we used to have in sport: Ursula (2001/SHBGB Ahorn - Paloma x Papageno), M'lady (ex Gwindeline: 2006/BWP Indoctro - Beach Quella x Baloubet du Rouet), that calibre of mare, so I like to think we're breeding from the best mares and use some of the best stallions to keep their bloodlines in sport, keep them going, and hope to breed superstars.

◆ Are you using any of the modern breeding techniques, like ICSI for instance?

No, I don't like ICSI. I don't like it and always wanted Ursula to have a foal herself. We tried three times, and on the third time I said to myself, 'maybe someone's trying to tell us something and it just isn't meant to be', so we tried one last time, but it didn't take. My vet kept saying we should try embryos, but I wasn't sure about that, if I'm honest, but then we tried it with her and the first time she gave an embryo. While we were doing it I saw the process and she was so good about it, so I think if it's done in the right way that's as far as we should go. I'm not a believer in ICSI or cloning,



Scott Brash at home with Hello Sanctos

it's just not for me. I like to think of them having a foal themselves, or an embryo to keep the lines going.

◆ So you have young horses from Ursula right now?

Her oldest is actually four, by Big Star, and out of Ursula, so we have high hopes from that one. She's amazing now that when you go to take an embryo she gives one. She obviously wants to be a breeding mare, she's been great. She's only 23 and still looks brilliant. Even Sanctos looks great, and we quite often put the young ones, the foals when they get weaned into a field with Sanctos and Ursula together. It depends if she's had one and how it goes, but the foals are usually with them and it gives them a new lease of life. You see Sanctos running around with them and it's so nice to see. [Smiling] Hopefully, he'll teach them a thing or two.

◆ Have you ever had a stallion you've ridden in high-level competition?

I've had Hello Vincent (2009: birth name Coquin de Coquerie Z) who jumped here a couple of years ago, but he's now retired to stud and this year for the first time we've used him with a couple of our horses, so it'll be nice to see the result. He was French bred, by Consul de Vie (out of Quadrille de Coquerie x Fergar Mail [aka Chapultepec La Silla]) and was so level headed and scopey. He jumped the CP Grand Prix here during the Covid year and was fifth or sixth, and won many other classes through the year, he was very careful, a good brain, so I like to think he would pass down some of those traits. (Hello Vincent is approved by SF and SLS studbooks.)

◆ What do you consider when choosing stallions for your mares?

First I try to match what I think could be right for the mare. But a mare like Ursula had all the attributes you could have wanted, so to start I thought I'd simply choose some of my favourite stallions. Okay, you have to consider the terms, and some are just impossible, but now that I see what's on the ground I'd try to pick a stallion that throws a little bigger. She's quite small herself, but what's great to see is that I've broken in a few young ones from Ursula and they all seem to have her willingness to work, and definitely parts of her attitude I can really see in the youngsters, and that's really nice. They're all so keen to please you and that's great to work with, so that alone I can see us having some really nice horses from Ursula.

◆ How much of an advantage is it to breed and then to ride your own-bred horses, and what do you look for as both a rider and a breeder?

I'm dreaming of breeding a horse that could come and win the Rolex Grand Prix, which would be incredible. What will be good about is that we've taught them from the very start, so I like to think they're getting taught in the right way from a very early age, so what I dream to breed is a 1m60 horse. Even if they make a 1m40 horse, I would still like to think they're a very nice horse for someone to go and have


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a lot of fun with because we've taught them in the right way.

It's hard sometimes when you buy a horse older that maybe you'd have taught a little bit differently growing up, so then you're trying to retrain to your methods, your ways, and at an older age it can take longer to get to that great partnership with a horse.

◆ When you're looking for a stallion, other than those you've already used, do you look at their papers or what they've done themselves in competition?

I need to like the way the stallions jumped themselves, but then also I do look at what they're throwing on the ground and what they're breeding. It depends, because M'lady was a really sharp mare, real quality, but a little bit fine in her build, so I'd be looking to put her with a bigger, rangy, solid stallion on her, scopey...

◆ Like a Darco...?

Exactly like a Darco. Whereas there might be another mare that's the opposite so you're maybe trying to find a finer stallion like Urikas [Urikas van de Kattevennen (2012/Holst Uriko x Cassini I)], for example, with Harrie Smolders, you learn what the mare breeds then try to make changes to suit what you think could be right.

◆ Do you see breeding as your future, as a few showjumping riders are now breeding commercially to support their sport, but is breeding your dream ending to jumping competitively?

I think it would be great if what we breed can be good enough to compete at the top end of the sport, it's definitely the dream. But whether that can happen or not, I don't know; it's still too early days, but it would be nice to be working with a horse from a young age. I think you can get a good partnership a lot quicker, and hopefully have good longevity with that horse if you've produced it from the start and trained it right.

◆ Would you take your young horses to compete in Lanaken yourself, or have someone else to ride them for you?

I'm actually looking for a rider now to start taking them out to shows because they're getting to that age, and each year we'll have more coming through, so I like to think we'll have a nice crop of horses coming through each year, rather than having to go out and pay big prices for them and feel like you've still got a lot of work to do. For me, thinking about the young horse championships is not so much for me to be honest as I'm looking at the big picture and the end sport. It wouldn't bother me at all if I have a horse that hasn't done all the young horse championships. It's not one of my goals.

◆ Are you associated with one particular studbook for your breeding?

We use Breeders Elite (BEIS) in Britain, but I wouldn't be completely allied to just one; I have some through Zangersheide and some with KWPN, but I'm not super

knowledgeable with breeding as it's a whole different sport and I really appreciate the breeders, as some have done it for years, studied it, and are really fantastic at it, so we can learn a lot from them. For me and my owners it's more a hobby as we've had some great mares and it would be nice to see if we can pass on some of their traits.

◆ The question of welfare in breeding has been a very hot topic, and you've already made your feelings known about ICSI, but do you think studbooks, in general, and breeding are going in the right direction?

No. I'm a bit worried about it to be honest. I don't really like the way it's going and don't think it should ever become that unnatural. I don't believe that any mare should be used as a machine and would be so against that. If you see on the database sometimes some mares have 20 or 30 offspring in the one year, I just think it's wrong. I certainly think ICSI will dilute the [breeding] process because I saw a foal in an auction the other day that was sold, and later heard that there's 20 of the exact same breeding, so 20 brothers and sisters in the same year with the same breeding. What's natural about that?

◆ You mentioned earlier a young horse that you've jumped once before you left to come here...

Yeah, it's a gelding actually, and [laughing] we haven't named him yet. The girls have a stable name for him, but we don't have an FEI name yet, and I have only jumped him once, but really liked him. He looks like he has a lot of the attributes you need to be able to jump a 1m60 Grand Prix; scopey, careful, a good brain, looks brave and straight, and is really kind to work. Okay, he's only two so it's a long way to go, but it's nice to dream and to have that dream and goal and something to get really excited about. ■

CPKC GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY ROLEX

The Rolex Grand Slam of Show Jumping was won at Spruce Meadows in the CPKC Grand Prix presented by Rolex by Martin Fuchs riding Leone Jei (2012/KWPN/g Baltic VDL - Mom's Dara x Corland [Holst], bred by G.M. van Mersbergen in the Netherlands).

The second round, contested as usual by the top 12 horses from the first round, included Scott Brash and Hello Jefferson. However, in this second round they lowered two rails in the triple combination, ending their dream to launch themselves in another Rolex Grand Slam series.

Only two horses produced double clear rounds and contested the jump-off: Canada's Tiffany Foster riding Figor (ex Quindoctro 2010/KWPN/g Querly-Elvis - Voberlina x Indoctro), and the eventual winner, mentioned above.

Ireland's Bertram Allen and 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding Pacino Amiro (Pacino - Carnone Dancing Queen x NC Amiro) finished third.

WBFSh Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: STEFANO GRASSO/WBFSh STUDBOOKS JUMPING GLOBAL CHAMPIONS

This inaugural event showed huge potential and saw four days of very good sport hosted by the Longines Tops International Arena in Valkenswaard. Breeders, riders, and owners were really impressed and happy with how the horses represented themselves.

In particular, both Eric Levallois and Dirk Demeersman stated that the horses have learned a lot during this event, which saw a total of 169 horse/rider combinations.

Leading the breeding charge

The Belgian-bred stallion Cornet Obolensky/ex Windows van het Costersveld (Clinton - Rabanna van Costersveld x Heartbreaker, breeder: Thierry Degraeve) was represented nine times as a sire, while his son Comme il faut (out of Ratina Z x Ramiro, Stamm 8145, breeder: Ludger Beerbaum Stables GmbH) had eight competing offspring.

The Selle Français stallion Diamant de Semilly (Le Tôt de Semilly - Venise des Cresles x Elf III, breeder: Jules Mesnildrey) appeared no fewer than 11 times in pedigrees as the dam sire. As confirmed stalwarts close to Diamant, it should be noted that brothers, Eric and Richard Levallois, both attended with two home-bred horses. Eric had Harry de Beaufour (Cornet Obolensky - Ramona de Beaufour x Diamant de Semilly) and Gjos de Beaufour (Contendro I - Kolchic du Donjon x Diamant de Semilly), while Richard entered approved SF stallions Hot Pleasure Semilly (For Pleasure - Betty Boop Semilly x Diamant de Semilly) and I am Semilly (Casall - Alizee Semilly x Diamant de Semilly).

The well-known French breeder Fabrice Paris was

represented by three horses: Ioke des Forêts (GFE Candy de Nantuel - Athena des Forêts x Untouchable M), Heroine des Forêts (GFE Up to You - Cocaine des Forêts x Ready des Forêts*HN), and Honolulu des Forêts (Cicero Z van Paemel - Si Belle des Forêts x Quaprice Bois Margot).

Several mares were also represented by more than one offspring. For example the mare L'Innocence van't Meulenhof (Diamant de Semilly - Carthina Z x Carthago, breeder: Mariette van Lombergen), who herself competed at 1m55 with Jeroen de Winter, is also now seeing her offspring under saddle, with Ruby-Linn van het Netehof (Casall) and Skelton van het Netehof (For Pleasure). The name Carthina Z will be recognized as being the dam of 1m60 jumping horses Diamanthina van't Ruytershof, Emerald van't Ruytershof (both Diamant de Semilly), Ilusionata van't Meulenhof (Lord Z), and Nixon van't Meulenhof (Denzel van het Meulenhof).

The mare Diamonds Billy (Diamant de Semilly - Quassia de la Bonette x Heartbreaker, breeder: Koen de Waele) had an international jumping career under the saddle of Dirk Demeersman, and stayed with him into breeding. He competed in Valkenswaard with two seven-year-old stallions out of Diamonds Billy: the Zangersheide-bred Carrasco Z (Cornet Obolensky), as well as the Zangersheide-bred, BWP-approved Cote d'Or Z (Carambole). According to Dirk Demeersman; "This event is really good for the young horses. They grew every day and have learned a lot. It was also very nice that we could compete on grass."

A less likely 5yo winner

Ridde by Spain's Fidel Davila Garcia, the CDE-bred gelding Arezzo de Llamosas (Arezzo VDL - Cartalma x Carthago, Stamm 5356, breeder: Yeguada Las Llamosas) was perhaps an unexpected winner of the five-year-old final. His half brother Luchino (Luccianno) jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Emil Hallundbaek and Sergio Alvarez Moya, while his sire, Arezzo VDL, jumped 1m60 under the saddle of Jessica Kürten.

Runner-up was the Westfalian-bred stallion Unglaublich 3 (United Touch S - Carla x Carrico,



Laursen Mikkel (DEN) riding 6yo winner, Emmett H DWB

breeder: Heinrich Dowe) ridden by Hendrik Dowe. His sire is currently showing his skills at the highest level under the saddle of Richard Vogel, while his dam competed as a six-year-old at the Bundeschampionat under the saddle of Hendrik Dowe. Unglaublich's third dam, Edeka's Connycor (Con Capitol), jumped at 1m60 with Stefan Eder.

Third place was claimed by the BWP-bred and BWP-approved stallion Stanny HR (Stakkato - Babouche Z x Balougran Z, breeder: Rob Holsbeek) with Jan Vermeiren. His half sister, Hour (Echo van't Spieveld) jumped at 1m60, while his third dam, Orient of Baarle xx, is a pure Thoroughbred mare.

Studbook rankings following this final: 1. Hanoverian, 2. Zangersheide, 3. AES, 4. BWP, 5. ISH, 6. DWB, 7. KWPN, 8. CDE/Ancades, 9. Westf, 10. SF.

Not every studbook entered a complete team, while DWB, AES, Wesf, BWP, and CDE only entered four horses.

Day two and the final day were also won by the Hannoveraner Verband, with all three horses participating in the final being influenced by Diamant de Semilly. His direct son Diarello, out of Flaire-Welcome x Cascadello I, Stamm 3615, breeder: Stefan Aust, recorded clear rounds all week, and his rider, Tim-Uwe Hoffmann, is notably also competing with his mother Flair-Welcome at 1m45. Flair-Welcome comes from the performance damline that produced mares such as Ornellaia, Fein Cera, and Cera. Dicardo (Diacontinus - Cinderella x Chalet, breeder: Enno Köster) has Diamant de Semilly as his grandsire through Diarado x Diacontinus. Constable is by Contendro I, but his mother Diascada is by Diarado, bred by Ilona Turowska, he is Hanoverian bred but AES approved.

Individual 6yo victory to DWB

Individual victory in the six-year-old final went to the Danish-bred stallion Emmett H DWB (Emerald van't



Runner-up 5yo – Westfalian-bred stallion Unglaublich 3, ridden by Hendrik Dowe (GER)



The Irish Army's Commandant Geoff Curran (IRL) riding 8yo DHF Alliance

Ruytershof - C-Prinzess Z x Cancara, breeder: Marie-Louise and Lars Wulff Henriksen) and Mikkel Laursen. Second place, ridden by Britain's Georgia Wells, was claimed by the AES-bred mare Heart of Cicero (Cicero Z van Paemel - Ziezo x Heartbreaker, breeder: G. Reynolds), whose full sister, Heartstring, is competing at 1m50. Overall, AES performed well in every class and in the overall final ranked third among the studbooks.

The BWP-bred and Zangersheide-approved stallion Rhythm-K van't Kattenheye (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve - Melodie-K van't Kattenheye x Cornet Obolensky, breeder: Annemarie and Tony Raman-Strobbe) finished third with Jan Vermeiren. His dam, Melodie-K, is currently jumping at 1m60 under the saddle of Michael Hughes.

There is a special story from this age-group behind Coolcorron Lone Ranger (Tyson - Jokers Bell C x Slyguff Joker, breeder: Robert Splaine), which has everything to do with his breeder Robert Splaine, by whom he was ridden in Valkenswaard. (Round 1 – 22nd, Round 2 – 8th, Round 3 – 19th.) According to Splaine: "I think this event is tremendous. The facilities are absolutely fantastic, which is what we expected because that's what this horse show is all about. I think the concept, which I think was created by Xavier Libbrecht, is wonderful. Hats off to the whole organisation for at last giving us an opportunity to bring our horses here and to promote our studbook. It's a unique and new event which is a good promotion for the younger horses and brings them to the forefront of peoples minds as being the best from each country that is representing their studbook.

"I am a small breeder myself, so this event gives me great pride that I actually bred, own, and am able to ride my horse here. I love the horse as he everything I like; careful brave, and good looking, so I'm really proud that I own him. I also feel very privileged that I was giving this opportunity by my studbook to come here and do what I am passionate about.

"I used to have a very good stallion that I jumped at five-star level with Coolcorron Cool Diamond (Glidawn



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Diamond - Bonmahon Belle x Bronti, breeder: R. Francis Fitzgerald). He had some wonderful achievements and was a great horse. We had the honour of winning the Grand Prix in Saint Gallen and, at the same show, I was part of the Nations Cup. We were also on the team that won the Nations Cup of the CHIO in Aachen in 2003. When he was younger I already thought he was fantastic, and I also knew that his breeder had produced a filly from that line that would be sold. So I said to myself, 'I think the stallion is going to be a great horse and I would buy the filly if I could and use her for breeding.' In the beginning it was a bit unlucky because I couldn't get her in foal. We used Tyson as he was a stallion I'd always admired in the ring. She was a super jumper herself but she had an injury that prevented her from going in the sport. I couldn't get her in foal again after she gave Coolcorron Lone Ranger.

"There is good jumping blood in the genetics and, although her line now ends, I can use Coolcorron Lone Ranger as a breeding stallion. I covered one of my own mares with him and the result is a wonderful two-year-old. I don't want to use him for too many mares to keep his mind clear for the sport.

"I only breed with a few mares... About five foals a year. I admire breeders and love to do something for them. Without them we don't have any horses and it's a lot of work being a breeder. Sometimes you're lucky, sometimes you're not, but from a breeder's point of view, the concept here in Valkenswaard is wonderful. My son and I are busy with various aspects of the horse business, and although he was the one who produced this horse, he managed things at home so I could come here."

I asked Ritchi Fitzgerald to explain the family connection: "The grandmother of Coolcorron Lone Ranger, Mahon Run, is a daughter of Bonmahon Belle. The latter is the dam of Coolcorran Cool Diamond. Mahon Run was by a stallion called Deep Society, who was by Deep Run and a half-brother to Bregau xx who won the Gold Cup in Cheltenham." (A grade 1 National Hunt horse race run over a distance of close to three-and-a-half miles, with 22 fences.)

We see the following ten studbooks in the six-year-old final ranking: BWP, DWB, AES, SF, Hann., Zangersheide, Irish Sport Horse, Westfalian, KWPN, and OS.

Chrysler Key SR (Comme il faut = Renaissance VII x Calido I, Stamm 474A, breeder: Keystud) was one of the better performing AES-bred horses. His grandmother, Renaissance (Calypso I) produced Clarissa (Landgraf I) who became the mother of Verdi TN (Quidam de Revel).

Seven-year-old winner, Cote d'Or

The earlier mentioned Cote d'Or Z won Sunday's seven-year-old final under the saddle of Dirk Demeersman, ahead of second-placed KWPN-bred Loekie-Douglas (Douglas - Vinci x Corland, breeder: Vof Platenkamp and Evenhuis Services), ridden by Hilde Woudstra. The stallion Corland (Cor de la Bryère - Thyra x Landgraf I, Stamm 104A,

breeder: Prof. Hartwig Schmidt) once again proving his role as a damsire. Third was the Hanoverian-bred mare Baloula FRH (Balou du Rouet - Arielle P. x Dollar du Murier, breeder: Hans-Heinrich Philipps) with Dieter Smitz.

Studbook list for the seven-year-old final: KWPN, AES, SF, Westfalian, Hanoverian, Irish Sport Horse, DWB, BWP, OS, Zangersheide.

Irish through and through!

The Irish-bred mare DHF Alliance (Douglas - Rosie Bee x Lux Z, breeder: Paul Douglas) won the eight-year-old final and represents a bloodline built up with stallions that all stood at stud in Ireland, and who dam, Rosie Bee, herself competed at 1m40.

Second was the Danish-bred stallion Untouchable Olympic (Untouchable - Agenda x A'Khan Z, breeder: Schou Absolute Horses A/S). His sire Untouchable competed at international level under the Schou brothers, Andreas and Christian, and at 1m60 level under the saddle of Daniel Deusser. Agenda, his dam, also competed at 1m60 with Christian Schou.

Third in this class was Ecuador DW Z (El Torreo de Muze - Daiquiri van de Moortelshoeve x Quasimodo van de Molendreef, breeder: DW Stables), whose sire, who passed away earlier this year, jumped at 1m60 under the saddle of Brazilian Bernardo Alves. His dam, Daiquiri van de Moortelshoeve, competed at 1m45 under the saddle of Thomas de Wit, who also started in Valkenswaard with Ecuador DW Z.

Eight-year-old final studbooks: Westfalian, Zangersheide, DWB, KWPN, SF, BWP, Irish Sport Horse.

An event with great potential

The format of this event is hugely promising and a way to create a better connection with the studbooks and breeders, although it was quite a challenge for some of the studbook teams. Although they might have performed very well during the first two rounds, they all started with a clean sheet for the final, which meant extra pressure for the riders and young horses.

In fact, some breeders were suggesting maintaining the record from the first two rounds, then create a provisional ranking (individual and team) to which the scores from the final day would be added (akin to the showjumping World Cup Final). However, the inaugural format did provide an opportunity for the smaller to claim a share of the limelight when the larger studbooks failed. Danish Warmblood and AES, for example, returned better results than expected from this first edition, which is certainly good for their future development. Good results were also recorded by some of the larger studbooks with the Hanoverian Verband doing a really good job with their five-year-old horses. ■

Krack C: The sire that launched Dutch dressage breeding

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/LIZ GREGG; FEI/LEANJO DE KOSTER

The story of Krack C is important because he marked the real beginning of dressage specialised breeding in the Netherlands, but also because it highlights the role Holsteiner stallions played in the development of the modern Dutch dressage horse.

Krack C was presented to the KWPN stallion committee in 1996, one of the panel at the time, Cor Loeffen remembered him well; “He was a fancy and long-legged stallion from the start. On the hard surface he showed a sufficient walk and a very good trot. At liberty in the ring he demonstrated strong movement with lots of leg action and suppleness. In jumping, however, he showed little technique, push or scope. Although Krack C comes from jumper bloodlines, the committee was convinced that he could benefit dressage breeding, and it turns out we were right. And that’s how specialization got started.” (I am indebted to Dutch journalist Gemma Jansen who profiled Krack C in an article in the KWPN publication *Idsi* back in 2012)

Originally christened Kevin, Krack C was foaled in April 1992 at Stoeteri ’t Centrum, the home of breeder Fred Vlaar. Fred’s daughter, Petra, recalls that he was something of an ugly duckling, with a thick baby coat because he was born so early in the year, but he soon shed that coat, and was very definitely a swan.

Petra Vlaar told Gemma Jansen that Krack C’s dam “Gicara II is now 20 years old and in great health. Her dam Baccara (Ulrich) is also keur preferent prestatie and competed in the national championships for broodmares. Giacara II’s granddam Lady Cara (Uppercut xx) is keur preferent. Her dam, Gicara (Eratosthenes xx) is kroon preferent and dam of

the KWPN approved stallions Kalief (Uppercut xx) and Monaco (Le Faquin xx). Another three generations of predicate mares follow Gicara.”

It is interesting that with a horseman’s eye Mr. Vlaar could see a young jumping-bred stallion’s talent for dressage. Again thanks Gemma: “Krack C’s sire is Flemmingh keur, who was not well known at the time of his breeding to Gicara II. Petra Vlaar recalls ‘My father followed the stallion competition and saw Flemmingh jump in Veendam. What stood out, in particular, was the way he moved between the jumps. My father thought he’d be a good match with Gicara II, and he was right. Krack C means a lot to our family. Of course, it was very special that he competed in the World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera [2002]. My parents were there and greatly enjoyed watching Krack C.”

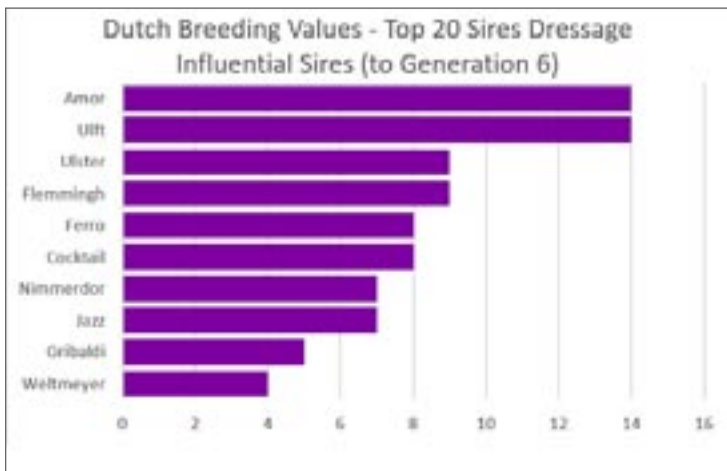
Chance again plays its part, there was another astute spectator in the stand: “In 1994, Ad Valk, who operates a horse sales business in Gorinchem, coincidentally sat next to Fred Vlaar in the stands at Indoor Brabant. The two struck up a conversation about Flemmingh, and Vlaar mentioned that he owned one of his sons. Valk’s curiosity was piqued, so one day he took a drive to Midden-Beemster. Valk recalls the first time he saw Krack C: “I saw him in a herd and his conformation and movement stood out head and shoulders above the rest. It didn’t take long to make a decision. I bought a 50% share in him. He came to my place as a two-year-old. The initial plan was to present him at the stallion selection as a three-year-old, but he wasn’t mature enough, so we waited another year. A working student started him under saddle, which wasn’t any trouble at all because he was so easy. Before we took him to Ermelo the well-known German horseman Maas Hell came by to look at him. He offered a lot of money for the stallion, but we didn’t take it. I’ve never regretted my decision, although Krack C is the first and last horse that I’ve kept.”

Valk found something special in Krack C: “I was crazy about that horse – his presence, temperament, and of course, those front legs. In my opinion, Krack C comes very close to the ideal horse. Look, we all know what the ideal horse should look like, but we don’t have one. Krack C is no wonder horse, but he’s one of the few stallions that I know that can sire a very special horse.”

American dressage rider, Nick Wagman was working for Valk at the time, and he started riding Krack C as a four-year-



Krack C great-grandson Bohemian (Bordeaux) ridden by Catherine Dufour



stallion Apache, he is also out of a Krack mare. Krack was a super sport horse and after he got back to the stud he has known eight wonderful years. He's had a top-life."

Dutch breeding retrospective

With the motorization of agriculture after WW2 the Dutch horse breeders got serious about breeding for the sport horse market. In 1970, several stud books were combined into one and the KWPN was born.

Krack C's pedigree is a picture of the horses and bloodlines that made the transition from the plough to the

old, and loved him: "He was very hot and sensitive to ride but always well-behaved." Wagman went on to win two Pavo Cups with the stallion. The first time I saw Krack C, at a demonstration in Den Bosch, my next door neighbor told me that Krack C's movement was so extravagant that special methods might have been used to train the horse. [The practice of 'stringing' with ropes joining diagonal hooves, so that when one diagonal is on the ground, the other must be up, way up, has been a constant rumour on the Dutch dressage scene]. Wagman recalls "I almost stopped riding him because of all the unfair criticism."

The American returned home, and the ride went to Anky van Grusven; "Ad Valk and Fred Vlaar approached me and asked if I wanted to ride Krack C. I said 'yes,' but I wanted to take him on trial for a month. I soon discovered he was my kind of horse. At first, I just focused on winning his trust and getting him relaxed. He was really an incredible horse – always very enthusiastic and cooperative. What's more, he was consistently very well-behaved and sweet on the ground, and he was very quiet around other horses at shows. In his tests, he often got low scores for his walk, which was unfortunate because he had a really good walk at home, but he didn't always show it in the hectic show environment."

The pair had victories at Aachen, Mechelen, Moscow, Oslo, Helsinki, Wiesbaden, and Rotterdam, and went on to represent Holland at the 2002 WEG in Jerez, where they finished eighth. After that Krack C was retired from competition, and joined the stallion barn of Joop van Uytert, where he stood until his death in May 2017.

At the time of his death, Krack C had a total of 10 KWPN approved sons, including Vivaldi and another successful breeding son, United, who is the sire of another stallion success, Bordeaux. Krack C had 13 grandsons, also on the list of KWPN approved stallions.

Joop van Uytert summed it up: "We are tremendously proud of the breeding of Krack C. He and Gribaldi were the two first stallions on our stud. They were both so influential. And not only Krack's sons are doing well, you also see lots of good horses from Krack C dams. Think about Juliette Ramel's Buriël (Osmium), a fantastic horse. And what about the KWPN

competition arena. Krack C's dam Gicara's pedigree reflects the influence of the Thoroughbred, she carries the blood of two of the most important Lucky Boy xx and Uppercut xx. But the Dutch breeders whose first love was jumping turned naturally to the German powerhouse of jumping breeding, Holstein. What is somewhat amazing has been the ability of the Dutch breeders to mould fabulous dressage horses from this genetic base – it's something they never really managed in Holstein, but I suspect they weren't trying hard enough.

At least half of Gicara's pedigree comes from Holstein; her sire Beaujolais is by Lucky Boy xx but out of a mare by the Hosteiner Lorenz (Ladykiller xx). Her dam Baccara is by Ulrich, the son of perhaps the most important Holsteiner stallion to come to the Netherlands, Farn (Fax I x Monarch). Krack C's sire, Flemmingh is 100% Holsteiner, by the Landgraf son, Lacapo, out of a mare by the Cor de la Bryère son, Carneval.

Flemmingh placed third in his performance test in 1990, scoring three nines, including a nine for jumping. In the 1992/3 edition of Jacob Melissen's *The Leading Sires of the Netherlands*, Flemmingh is described as having 'fine movements, an active, roomy walk, a rich trot, and a good canter. He is a careful jumper with a lot of talent. He showed to be a willing worker and never seems to tire. In the jury report, Flemmingh was described as having sufficient talent in dressage and a lot of promise as a jumper. His first offspring are distinguished by their size and splendid movements.' But even so, the promotional photo, shows Flemmingh over a jump.

Fourteen years later in Jacob's directory, the jump shot has gone and the emphasis is on Flemmingh the dressage sire, and with good reason: two of his stallion sons, Krack C and Lingham had competed with the Dutch dressage team. In Holland there are dozens of his offspring competing at a national level, and Flemmingh has been an internationally successful sire of young horse competitors – Wladimir was the champion of the Swedish three-year-old dressage horses, while Up To Date was the champion of the five-year-olds in the USA. Flemmingh was ranked sixth on the WBFSH dressage sires standings for 2008. (The graph at the top of this page compiled by Gemma

Alexander in April 2021, shows how influential Flemmingh continues to be.)

Krack C is an excellent brood mare sire, but his most important contribution is as the damsire of Apache, by UB40, who despite being WFFS positive is proving an exceptional sire.

Back to Krack C, he may have sired 10 licensed stallions, but there are two who have written his name in the history books. First: United is out of a mare by another of Anky's Grand Prix stallions, TCN Partout. In 2011, United produced most of the KWPN competitors for the WBFSH World Breeding Championship for Young Horses in Verden, namely Avanti, Brooklyn, and TC Athene. Avanti and TC Athene both delivered exceptional performances by becoming Young Rider European Champions – TC Athene with Jeanine Nieuwenhuis in 2016, and Avanti under Anne Meulendijks in 2014. United has produced eight Grand Prix horses, the most important of which is Bordeaux. Bordeaux is proving to be a good sire of dressage horses, including Catharine Dufour's star, Bohemian. He was ranked 17th on the WBFSH dressage sires' ranking list in 2022.

But the stallion who secures Krack C's place as one of the heroes is Vivaldi, the Dutch stallion whose influence has spread throughout Europe.

Born in 2002, 170 cms, chestnut, bred by Antoon Versantvoort, Vivaldi was the shooting star on the 2019 WBFSH rankings, coming in at number nine, up from 18th. By 2022 he had jumped to 10th just behind another with a huge leap, Bordeaux (see above), up from 17th to ninth.

Vivaldi was reserve champion of his stallion performance test in the Netherlands and won the Pavo Cup for five-year-old dressage horses in 2007. In 2008 and 2009, ridden by Hans Peter Minderhoud, he won the KNHS/KWPN stallion competition, where he was awarded 10.0 for his trot. He was then internationally successful up to Prix St. Georges. In 2013, he won the VHO trophy at the KWPN licensing.

Vivaldi's dam is by the most famous of Dutch dressage stallions, Jazz, who headed the WBFSH stallion standings on numerous occasions, and she comes from the famous Utopia line of mares, although the line is more famous for producing great jumpers like Arko III and Darco, than dressage horses.

Caroline Ironside interviewed the breeder, Antoon Versantvoort about his Utopia line, on the website *Horse Breeders Magazine*. Apparently, Mr Versantvoort describes himself as a 'hobby breeder', but a hobby breeder with a history. "Horse breeding has already been in the family several generations," he told Ms Ironside, "At the time, my grandfather had already bred an approved stallion. With this stallion they took him out for one year through the country to cover mares. Later came the transition from work horses to sport horses, and at an early stage my father bought a luxurious and modern mare which he has bred some foals with. I acquired one of those foals from him to start my own breeding.

"At that time, we went through all the inspections to see how we would do, and we actively participated with the horses we had. After several years, it became clear to me that

the mare line is very important in breeding. When my mare died unexpectedly, I then decided to find a mare from a known strain.

"At the time, I knew someone who successfully bred with the Utopia dynasty, who had a filly for sale out of the Jazz mare Darla-Utopia (Ulft). This filly was Renate-Utopia and I bought her in 1998 to be my future breeding mare. Renate-Utopia comes from the famous Nomana dynasty, mare line two, breeding family eight."

The Utopia-line has produced both dressage and jumping horses, including Nick Skelton's Arko III, the KWPN stallions, Premier and Radar, and international jumpers, Loretta, It's the Business, Now or Never, Darco, and Opium. The original 'Utopia' mare is Ellen-Utopia, by the Trotter stallion Kan Pom B, out of the Gelderlander mare, Gerda. Her daughter, Hellen-Utopia was by the L'Invasion son, Boris.

Mr Versantvoort was well pleased with his choice: "Renate-Utopia herself easily became ster as a three-year-old. Unfortunately there was no central examination (keuring) to go to that year because the foot and mouth epidemic prevailed. We had her under saddle for a few months, but because of a busy private life we decided to have her only as a breeding mare. This has certainly paid off and she was already awarded preferent on just her first three offspring, and as an 11-year-old she received the title prestatie."

Arie Harmoen was for many years the head of the KWPN stallion committee, and remembers Vivaldi well when he appeared at the stallion show: "At the stallion show of 2005 Vivaldi was in the third place. Johnson was first. Vivaldi's condition was not so good, he looked very young, but he was also a very nice mover, and had a very nice temperament. When he was presented free moving and in free walk, he did a very good job, but he was still a young horse, too young. He looked like a two year old... Some people said, why was he third? There was not a lot of muscling, not a lot of conditioning, but he was a good mover that's why he was third."

And the mother line?

It was normal. Good enough, good functional horses, but they had not a lot of chances – it depends, some horses have more chances, some breeders bring them to riders and let them go Grand Prix. Vivaldi's mother line was average, good stallions, but not a lot of results in the sport.

I find it interesting that Vivaldi never made it to Grand Prix, he got no further than small tour, but he is breeding Grand Prix...

That is the interesting side of breeding. You have Grand Prix horses that never breed Grand Prix offspring. Damon Hill for example, he was a fantastic Grand Prix horse but you see not a lot of offspring in Grand Prix. Vivaldi is a little bit like Sandro Hit, although he went further than Sandro Hit – to Prix St Georges. I think the problem with Vivaldi was that as a young horse he had trouble with his stomach, he needed a little bit special food. He was easy to handle in the arena, but

sometimes in the stable he was a little bit nervous, I think that was part of the problem.”

Hans Peter Minderhoud who rode Vivaldi in his competition career, thinks the failure to go on was related to trying to combine a competition and breeding career:

“It’s a problem with stallions that were successful as young horses, they have been breeding like crazy every year, frozen semen in the winter, fresh semen in the summer, and with some you just have to make a decision, if the value is higher as a breeding stallion, then keep just him as a stallion because I cannot do both with him.”

Vivaldi was much in evidence at the 2022 WBCYH in Ermelo, siring one representative, while his son, Vitalis was responsible for four. Vitalis, Vivaldi’s first licensed stallion, has had quite a dramatic career. Bred by Toon de Crom and W. Verbakel, he was presented at the Westfalian stallion licensing in 2009, where he was crowned reserve champion. Leased to the Westfalian State Stud, he stood for three years. During that time he was presented at the KWPN stallion licensing, but was not accepted.

Vitalis competed in the 2012 WBCYH to finish sixth in the consolation finals. He was sold to the American-based, Danish rider, Charlotte Jorst in September 2012. Ms Jorst and Vitalis competed at the 2013 WBCYH in the six-year-old class to finish 13th. He went on to win the US Young Horse Championships that year. In 2014, the pair competed in Small Tour classes and were 11th in the Inter I Freestyle at the US dressage championships. Vitalis disappeared from competition in 2015 before being sold in September of that year to Paul Schockemöhle and Lone Boegh Henriksen and brought home to Germany.

Ridden by Schockemöhle stable rider, Isabel Freese, Vitalis won the 2016 Nürnberger Burg-Pokal, and since then seems to have concentrated on his breeding duties – with success.

Vivaldi was also the buzz stallion at the 2018 Hanoverian licensing, mainly through his son, Vitalis. Hanoverian breeding expert, Ludwig Christmann thought it was Vivaldi rather than Vitalis that attracted the breeders: “It is not only Vitalis, it is Vivaldi in general. When you look at the sons and grandsons of Vivaldi, you can see his qualities.”

So you think it is Vivaldi more than Vitalis, certainly in Holland they think Vivaldi is the most exciting younger stallion...

I remember when he first started as a stallion there was a question mark behind him, it was felt that Vivaldi would not be a Grand Prix producer but now we see offspring of Vivaldi



Krach C grandson Glock's Dream Boy NOP (Vivaldi x Ferro) ridden by Hans Peter Minderhoud at CHIO Rotterdam 2021

competing in Grand Prix. At our licensing, Vivaldi was the most influential stallion, I think he had 16 stallions with his blood at the licensing. The riders like the mix of traditional Hanoverian blood, particularly from the ‘D’ line, and some Dutch blood.” Interesting then that Vivaldi’s two most successful Grand Prix horses, Cennin, and the emerging Blue Hors Venezia are both out of Donnerhall mares.

Floor Dröge works for the KWPN where her job is inspecting the mares, but she had a rare opportunity to evaluate Vivaldi: “I rode Vivaldi in the performance test. He was amazing. He had the best head and rideability that you could wish for, and you see that with his offspring. You really see it, really nice characters, really able and willing to do it.

Yet he never made the jump from Small Tour to Big Tour...

No, but he did everything at home. That’s the question: does he need to do the Grand Prix? Vivaldi didn’t but if you look at the horses he is producing they are great, so I don’t mind that he didn’t do the Grand Prix himself. If you’ve got the mare with the hind leg and the things you want, use Vivaldi.

Did he feel special from the first time you sat in the saddle?

His rideability was very nice, as a three-year-old he went on a long rein outside, just enjoying himself, and you also see that character with his offspring.”

In 2009 Vivaldi was the second most popular breeding stallion in the Netherlands with 285 mares. In 2011 Vivaldi only covered 33 mares, which I guess shows just how important success in the sport can be for a Dutch stallion. These days the KWPN declines to release the figures on how many mares each

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stallion covers – the last figures I can find are for foals born in 2018, when the Vivaldi son, Dream Boy (Ferro), a Grand Prix star with Hans Peter Minderhoud was fourth with 138 mares, but Vivaldi does not appear in the top five!

Vivaldi's ninth place on the WBFSH sires rankings comes from eight international competitors, the two most successful being Dream Boy and Desperado (Havidoff).

On the 2020 KWPN rankings Vivaldi with a dressage value of 166 was in fourth spot, behind Jazz (186), Olivi (179), and Painted Black (176).

Vivaldi's son, Cennin (out of a Donnerhall mare), was successful with Madeleine Witte-Vrees with a sixth in the Grand Prix at the World Cup final in Omaha, and fifth in the Freestyle, before he was sold to a young rider in Australia.

In a surprise move in January 2017, the KWPN licensed two sons of Vivaldi – Vitalis and Cennin – after previously rejecting them.

I've always thought it unfortunate that the Dutch decided to name their horses with a letter of the alphabet that was assigned to the year of their birth, rather than using the first letter of the sire, as is the case in Germany and many parts of the world. Thus, despite his dominance of dressage breeding over the past decade, we have no 'J' line for Jazz, though if Johnson (who got the J when he was licensed in Germany) keeps up his current rate of success, we may end up with one...

However it seems a 'V' line may emerge because Vitalis, and some of his influential sons were produced by Eugène Reesink, a Dutchman who lives very close to the German border, and tends to license his stallions in Germany, so the V line is up and running. (Vivaldi was licensed at the 2005 KWPN stallion show, where all the stallions were given names beginning with V – the other stallion of note to come out of the 2005 crop, Verdi (Jazz x Flemmingh) went on to fame and glory, re-named Johnson).

The Vitalis influence

I met with Eugène at the Rotterdam show and asked him about Vitalis and his influence...

Currently two of the most popular dressage stallions – Valverde and Asgard's Ibiza – are both horses you discovered...

Yes but both are not mine any more, we had them as youngsters. Ibiza (Desperado x Jazz) we sold when he was three years old, and Valverde (Vitalis x Ampere) we sold when he was five years old.

Let's talk about Valverde, where did you find him?

We were the breeders ourselves. A few years ago we owned Vitalis (Vivaldi x D-Day) and we had a couple of quite good broodmares, so he was one of the few that was born when Vitalis was in the United States. We sold Vitalis to Charlotte Joost and we had some frozen semen and that's how we produced Valverde. We have another one produced at the same time, he is a year younger, he's called Vaderland, and he is also quite popular at the moment.

Popular in Hanover?

In the whole of Europe I think, he was breeding in the last three years more than a thousand mares, and his first offspring will come to the stallion show this autumn so we are waiting how it looks, but I think it looks real well for Vaderland. Vaderland is being shown by our rider Dinja van Liere.

What to your mind makes Valverde a good stallion?

I think in total Vitalis gives a lot of rideability to all his offspring, so also to Valverde and Vaderland, all have the same plus and minus points. You have to be a little bit careful with conformation, they can give a little bit a big head, a little bit old fashioned conformation." (If we look at Vitalis' pedigree, we see that his granddam, Naliva, carries two crosses of Pion and one of Uniform – two of the old-style Dutch dressage sires – they were both by Thoroughbreds, but both out of mares by sons of Amor. The pedigree of Vivaldi reveals the heritage of the founding sires that came to the Netherlands from Holstein, two crosses of Farn and one more of Amor).

But on the other hand they are strong, they've got a good hind leg, and the strongest part is their real real high rideability. They are pleased to work for you.

Do you think that's a change, at one stage in Holland the horses had to be more pretty, more pretty, more pretty – and at one stage I asked one of your stallion commission, why can't you use a stallion like Breitling, 'oh he is too ugly' – but he makes lots of Grand Prix horses...

In the end it is a little bit what you like to breed, but in the end in the international dressage world, it is all about the rideability, that's the most important thing. We were quite lucky with our stallions, especially the whole V line, Vivaldi, Vitalis and their offspring, all give rideability."

And does that go back to Vivaldi?

Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's where it started. And in a way it's funny because if you see the breeding of Vivaldi, it's Krack C, Jazz so you expect...

Crazy...

And yet they are so easy, so nice to ride, it starts with Vivaldi, I am sure of that.

What about the other current hot stallion, Ibiza, what do you like about him?

He's pretty, he gives horses with a good hind leg, good movement, and also quite high rideability, I think. Once again, it's back to Vivaldi; Ibiza is by Desperado, who is by Vivaldi. I love that line."

And so it seems do an enormous number of mare owners in Europe. ■

Stefan Aust: “Breeding is the optimisation of chance...”

BY ADRIANA VAN TILBURG

PHOTOGRAPHY: JULIANE FELLNER/VERBAND HANNOVERANER AND GRASSO/TOPS

Stefan Aust bred this year's Herwart von der Decken-Schau champion for jumping, Donna Bella (Don VHP Z - Flair Welcome x Cascadello I, Stamm 3615). Also the 1m55 jumping horse Cortes (Chacco-Blue - Singapur x Stalypso) who is currently competing under the saddle of Laura Klaphake comes from his breeding.

So far, Stefan Aust has bred a little over 100 horses, so what are his opinions and philosophies.

◆ When did you first start breeding?

The first foal that was born at our farm was in 1966. This foal was by Duden II (Duellant - Loewenart x Der Loewe xx) out of a mare who didn't even have proper papers. It was like this when we started with the whole horse thing, and we had a small farm in Stade. We still had horses for agricultural work and at some point they were abolished and we had a tractor. My dream was always to have a pony and to ride. When the storm flood came in 1962, our cows drowned and the pastures we had on the Elbe were no longer important. Then an eye doctor from Stade asked if his ponies could graze there. My father said 'yes', and that's why we were allowed to ride them. Then we were all so crazy about it, I was 15 or so at the time, and we always rode on the beach and so on.

My father had just inherited some money and bought three mares which he saw in an advertisement in the *Stader Tageblatt*. A three-year-old, a two-year-old and a yearling filly. They were pre-book mares, nothing great. We raised them and bred them a bit, but it was nothing great. Then at some point, around 50 years ago, I said to myself: 'A good horse doesn't eat any more than a bad horse, so I bought a foal through the stud manager Wolski – who came from

Trakehner horse breeding – from Oberndorf.

It wasn't cheap back then, compared to today's foal prices, it was really expensive. A filly by the well-known stallion Pik König (Pik As xx - Anna x Abhang II). I wanted to have an offspring of Pik König because the stallion was a half-breed. He was standing at the breeding station and I wanted to have a foal by him.

The filly, Prudenzia, came out Florette by Florentiner II, a son of Fluegeladjutant. She could move outstandingly well, but she could have been prettier: her head too big, legs a little too short, her back a little too low. Her front legs were not so correct and she wasn't so tall. At the mare show she was placed somewhere at the end, but she could move. Even at 30 years old, she had an impressive trot. She was to become the basis of my dressage horse breeding.

I had my first foal out of her from a stallion at our stud farm because, at that time, we didn't have such a big choice. We were loyal to a certain stud and if you had a good relationship with them you would never think of going somewhere else. That was Ilienworth in our case, run by the Celle state stud farm Albers. The following stallions stood here at stud: Garibaldi II (Grande - Marbel x Marcio xx), a little coarse, but with a lot of potential. Plus Akrobat (Abglanz - Almispule x Almfaenger II) who was considered a bit crazy, but he was the last direct descendant of Abglanz, the Trakehner. His dam was from the stallion Almfaenger II.

At that time the G line (Grande line) was the best there was. If you go upstairs at the Hanoverian Verband in Verden and look at the pictures of the most successful showjumpers, their names all begin with G. I think Garibaldi was the last really good one from that line, which is why I was a bit interested in breeding. Our focus was however at the stallions and their offspring here at the breeding station. At that time, too much attention was paid to the stallions and too little to the mares, and in Hanover there wasn't even a real register of the best lines. The Holsteiners had already paid a lot of attention to their strains in the past, but in Verden they started much later. Somehow we always paid attention to the stallions and didn't think about the simple fact that in reality the heredity through the stallion is just as strong as through the mare. Over the years, the heads got better and the legs longer, but the movement potential



Stefan Aust and his mare Donna Bella



Diarello with Tim-Uwe Hoffmann during the five-year-old final of the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy at Tops International Arena

remained. Most of them could also jump.

The line of Prudenzia has also been my most successful line to date. It is amazing that at the moment there is a horse that was fourth in a 1m50 competition in Samorin in Chechnya, and is now competing 1m55. This is Carim 11 (Calido I - Fabiola x Frappant) under the saddle of Anna Rantner. He is a very beautiful horse. More good horses come from Prudenzia's line – dressage horses also, and the owners of her family are still having success with their horses.

Carim's mother, Fabiola, was also a really pretty horse who could move and also jump. She was at a small foal event in Ilfenworth and was the best horse of the show, although her grandmother was not pretty at all. They could all move well, so I thought, 'What are you going to mate Fabiola with now?'

At that time there was one stallion that was unbelievable here; that was Rotsporn. He could also move very well, and when his filly was born we took her to a mare show at the age of three where she scored nines and 10s for jumping.

One year later I had another offspring by Rotsporn and she scored eight and nine for jumping. I then thought that if she could produce such horses with a dressage stallion, I would next take a jumping stallion. In the meantime, I'd had a lot to do with Achaz, and thought I should now take a Holsteiner stallion that can move and is beautiful at the same time. So, I took Acorado I, but when this horse got older it turned out that she couldn't jump at all, but she could move endlessly. She was the most expensive dressage horse ever sold in Verden at the riding horse auction. That was Argentina.

However, a full sister to Argentina could move even better but she was not so good to ride; she was always difficult. I took Totilas for her because I was gifted his semen for my birthday, and now Tacorado goes L level dressage and 1m35 in jumping. Breeding is the optimisation of chance. The attempt to optimise chance. You must not let chance slip away.

◆ What is most important to consider in breeding?

The mare for breeding needs to have the same quality as approved stallions. If we look at the breeding of Harm Thormählen, he started breeding with mares who were very good in sport and were at least just as good as an approved stallion. Then the probability that the offspring will be above average when mated to an equally successful stallion is insanely high. This is the reason for the greater influence of the mare.

Of course, I have always thought about that but have never had the courage to do so because one is also attached to one's horses, and I have never had the expertise to look or to buy something from a really successful mare line. I never really thought about it, which is why it took me 50 years with the one successful line I have. That's an endless period of time, and if

I'd started 50 years ago looking for a horse from a mare line as good as Harm Thormählen's, then things would have turned out differently. Maybe he didn't even know at that time what kind of quality his dams had. The decisive factor is the mare line.

At the same time, this does not mean that every mare from such a dam line will produce world-class horses, because chance also plays an important role. Coincidence doesn't just play a role in the combination of the two parents, but also in the raising of the horses. Then, also, under which rider's saddle the horses progress. But probability is most influenced by the mare line. That's never in question.

◆ What's the story behind the mare Abendluft by Abseits, born in 1975?

I bought her as a foal at the auction in Kutenholz. I wanted to have her from the catalogue already. The sire line was Abseits x Aberwitz II x Abhang I x Abglanz. I wanted to have a Thoroughbred, but also a Trakehner. She was a bit small; I didn't buy her cheap either. I had no idea of the marelines performance, but I just liked the foal. She was prettier than another one, and didn't have as much movement, but she could jump. You could really tell when she saw the obstacles in the hall, she galloped up and wanted to jump them. The stud manager also liked her and said take Garibaldi II should be for her.

He was one of the few Grande offspring that still existed at that time. He wasn't the most beautiful horse, a bit rough, but that somehow fitted well. Her first foal was Grimaldi, a beautiful foal. However, there was a colic problem that needed surgery. My brother was a medical student at the time, so we got a sheet and he operated on the foal in my stable at home. The vet removed the intestines and massaged them so everything started to pass through, then everything was stuffed back in and he was stitched up. I then told the

foal 'if you survive this you will never be sold.' After the anaesthetic had worn off he got up, drank, was out in the pasture a few days later, and never had colic again. With Grimaldi I went to shows and we spent many nice moments together. A great horse and he had almost turned 30 when we unfortunately had to put him to sleep as he'd grown so incredibly thin.

His full sister, Georgia, had a daughter from Amani (Argentan - Elfenfee x Einglas). This was an interesting stallion for me because he had a son, Aramis (1977), who won a World Cup at the age of seven under the saddle of Mario Deslauriers (CAN), and in the following year he was as an eight-year-old he was at the Olympic Games. The line of Amani was good, so I used Amani.

My daughter always wanted to have a pony with the name Abilaly, instead of a pony we named an Amani filly Abilaly (1991). At that time I was working with Achaz von Buchwaldt and was asked if I had more horses with her kind of quality. In the end Achaz said 'don't sell her, bring her here,' so he jumped a little bit with her, but then said that while she was young she should be given to another good rider. So, Abilaly went to Sigune Vohland-Lecke although we told him that he should never win a class with her, only clear rounds for her education, and he did a good job with her. Abilaly. She then returned to Achaz who competed with her up to 1m40, but he still had rather a lot of horses. That was the moment when Ulf Plate came and said 'I've seen that horse several times at competitions, may I ride her?'

They won the grand prix of Verden in 2002, on their first day finishing second, winning a class the second day, then the 1m50 Grand Prix on Sunday when Meredith Michaels Beerbaum came second with Stella. It was the second-fastest jump-off that year in all of Germany. It was sensational. I then sold Abilaly to Willi Mellinger but she never reached the same level that she had with Ulf Plate.

Collin (Contendro I - Georgia x Garibaldi II) comes also from this line and is now retired, but he achieved around 80 1m40 and higher placings during his career.

◆ Do you have other lines you breed with?

Yes. In 2003 Achaz found me a foal by Carnute x Grosso Z. This foal belonged to a Swiss owner whom he'd advised, but when I bought the foal I thought 'what is this?' She wasn't as beautiful as I originally thought, although the line was good, descending from Matcho x x Goldstein x Pik König x Wolfsburg x Domspatz. Later, I saw the stallion Stalypso (Stakkato - Caracalla x Calypso II, breeder: Jürgen Heumann) at the licensing and decided I would like to use him for the Carnute mare.

From this combination came the mare Singapur. I would have been able to sell her long ago had she not suffered an injury when she jumped out of a trailer as a yearling. I covered her three years later with a stallion that I had also just seen for the first time, and that was Chacco-Blue.

As Singapur could also move well, I had her covered by a dressage stallion, Don Nobless, and one year later by

Damon Hill. I sold the Chacco-Blue offspring to Enno Klaphake and his daughter Laura, who is now riding this horse, the gelding Cortes, very successfully.

Dark Hill (Damon Hill) was fourth and sixth at the Bundeschampionat in dressage. He was later placed in advanced (S) level dressage. Then I have another from this mare who can do both – the four-year-old Vasco 119, by Van Gogh. We don't know yet whether he will become a showjumper or a dressage horse, but he shows an amazing potential for both. I really want my horses to be able to do both, I want them to be beautiful, I want them to be decent, I want them to be intelligent.

The value of a mare line

◆ How much value do you give to a mare line?

A mare line is the most decisive thing of all. The way semen is sold today... You can, in principle, buy semen from any stallion in the world, the best stallions in the world; it's just a question of price. But you can't buy semen from the best mares in the world. If you have the best mares in the world it's nice to have semen from the best stallions, but the mare lines are the deciding factor, there is no question about that.

In theory, I think that the idea behind ICSI (the best mare with the best stallion) is absolutely right. Whether this is true in practice is a completely different question that I can't really judge. I believe that nature cannot be completely excluded when it comes to breeding, particularly where good horses are concerned.

In fact, I'm not that enthusiastic about embryo transfer either. I have done it before, it has either worked or not worked. I would never do an embryo transfer if it wasn't with a receptive mare that belongs to me; one that I know and that I can keep in my own pasture. I am very sceptical about taking such a mare out of a foreign herd because I believe that the psychological support of a broodmare plays a huge role. If I now imagine everything in a petri dish, I'm not so sure everything will still work. I have my doubts.

I also know people who have a great mare and have pulled out I don't know how many embryos, and have somehow brought them together with the greatest stallion in the world. Does it work like that?

◆ How important is it for you that mares and stallions have a performance record?

Their own contribution is the most important thing of all. In most horses you can't find out because the majority of mares don't go into sport so don't have the chance [to prove themselves]. For me it is very important that the stallions I use not only have successful ancestors, but also go into sport themselves. But you could easily make a mistake, because there are successful stallions that don't have good offspring, and then there are some that have great offspring and no one really notices. I have often oriented myself basically on my own feeling. That's why I had early offspring from some

stallions when you couldn't really know what might become of them. But when I saw them I decided I'd like to use them.

I actually first came across Diamant de Semilly through Diarado, which I can still remember very well. At that time Achaz was on the licensing committee of the Holsteiner Verband and invited me to attend. I saw Diarado jumping at the licensing in Neumünster and how he looked. He was not yet out of the hall when I called Achaz on the mobile and said 'Achaz, don't we want to buy him?' He told me 'you'll have to bring a million with you'. Diarado was then bought by Schockemöhle, van Uytert, and the Holsteiner Verband together. However, I used Diarado in his first year of breeding for my mares and have quite a few offspring from him.

Of course, due to my friendship with Achaz I had a special interest in Holsteiner-bred horses, which I didn't have in the past. For instance, they had Contendro I in Lower Saxony and I also had offspring by him from his first year. So there are many that I didn't have in mind, but have to say that my good friend and neighbour Frank Johannsen told me 20 years ago; 'I tell you, there is one stallion you have to take, his name is Cornet Obolensky'. At that time I just thought 'what are you talking about' and now I have more offspring from Cornet Obolensky than from any other stallion. Somehow I didn't have him in mind.

◆ **Why do you have a lot of feeling for some stallions? Diamant de Semilly, for example...**

I have never seen Diamant de Semilly, only his offspring, like Diarado. That was the first one. Then I saw another direct offspring of Diamant de Semilly at a show with Enno Glantz, then Don VHP with Harrie Smolders at the Hamburg Derby. Don VHP is also a great stallion that nobody talked about, but now I have three offspring by him. I have to have a certain feeling about a horse to use him as a stallion. I do it on the spur of the moment although, of course, I always look up all the information about his offspring. With Diamant de Semilly I have a problem because sometimes the heads are not so nice. Diarado is the opposite as he's an unbelievably beautiful horse and his offspring also have very beautiful heads. However, I have Diamant de Semilly several times directly because I really like his offspring.

◆ **What is your breeding goal?**

The breeding goal is, of course, to win Aachen. It doesn't matter whether it's dressage, showjumping or eventing, preferably all of them together! One thing I've viewed differently to other breeders over many years, I've always been of the opinion that a showjumping horse must also be able to move well, and a dressage horse must also be able to jump a medium course. I don't really want to strictly follow this specialisation, but it's always been important for me to have horses that can do both as individuals. But for some I would like to have a mare – I'm exaggerating now – that produces good jumpers with a jumping stallion, and a good

dressage horse with a dressage stallion. With a stallion that can do both – of which there are very few – but a horse, let's say, who I would like to be placed at the Bundeschampionate in showjumping and dressage at the same time. I don't want to go along with this exclusive specialisation, but that's what I've done to a large extent.

"I want to have beautiful horses"

Then there is the fact that I want to have beautiful horses, and I have not always succeeded. But I want to come into the stable and say 'my God, what a beautiful horse that is.' The horses also have to be reliable, because it doesn't make sense if they have defects after a short time. They have to have a certain amount of blood, not too little. There are far too few Thoroughbred stallions in showjumping or in sport in general.

◆ **What advice would you give to young breeders or new breeders?**

You have to pay attention to the mares. Look to see whether the mare line has had some very good sport horses in the past. If there are successful horses in the mare line, then the probability of successful horses coming from the offspring is relatively high.

In the stallion lines, with those that are on offer, the decisive question is not whether there are successful horses in the sire line but in the dam line – and there are always some. Then, for me, decisively, is that one must not somehow be sidetracked by specialisation in breeding. I think horses have to be able to do both. When you look back, you have to be able to say about a bloodline; 'look at that; a successful advanced dressage horse, and there is a successful advanced showjumping horse.' I think too little attention is paid to that.

In conclusion

One line that isn't mentioned in this article is that of Stefan Aust's mare Flair Welcome (Cascadello I - Welcome II x Come On, Stamm 3615, breeder: Harm Thormählen). This is the line of Fein Cera (Landadel - Cera x Cor de la Bryère). Flair Welcome is half sister to the 1m55 jumping horse Quando Vengo (Quadros) under the saddle of Patrick Stühlmeyer. She is the dam of this year's Herwart von der Decken-Schau champion mare for jumping; Donna Bella (Don VHP Z). She is also the mother of five-year-old Diarello (Diamant de Semilly), who delivered three clear rounds under the saddle of Tim-Uwe Hoffmann in the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy for five-year-old horses. Their clear rounds contributed to victory in the five-year-old final for the Hanoverian Verband in this inaugural Trophy. Flair Welcome herself is competing at 1m45 under the saddle of Tim-Uwe Hoffmann. ■

Best sires: Junior du Seigneur, Conthargos and Chacco-White

BY JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: JO DE ROO

The Wallonia breeding championship took place in Ghlin, Belgium on September 30/October 1, with free jumping classes for two- and three-year-olds (110 and 62 entries, respectively), as well as a foal championship (almost 70 participants).

The many spectators created a very pleasant atmosphere and, during the free jumping contests, Daniel Boudrenghien provided a very smooth and expert commentary about the pedigrees, breeders, riders, and the selection criteria.

Ologie du Pont-Rihen: 3yo free jumping winner

With four competitors to go, Olisco du Seigneur led the interim rankings of the free jumping championship for three-year-olds with 87.08 %. The SBS-registered Olisco is a son of Touardo Blue Z out of Diana du Seigneur, a Vivaldi du Seigneur daughter who, amongst others, produced the AES approved stallion Joker du Seigneur and the four-star international showjumper Jolie Mome du Seigneur. Olisco was bred by the founders of La Ferme du Seigneur, Marc and Kathleen Vanlangendonck. However, victory was not yet in their hands as Olisco was immediately followed by another SBS-registered three-year-old – Ologie du Pont-Rihen. This daughter by a ‘du Seigneur’ stallion displaced Olisco from his provisional first place by receiving 90.83% from the jury – a score that the final three competitors were unable to better.

Ologie is a daughter of the eight-year-old SBS approved

stallion Junior du Seigneur, with whom Edward Levy ranked third in this year’s four-star 1m45 class in Ascona. Ologie du Pont-Rihen was bred by Patrick Donnay, who said; “Her dam, Emeraude du Pontrihen, is by the stallion who won the 2012 World Championship for six-year-olds, Gangster de Longchamps. Emeraude performed at the age of five and six and showed good showjumping technique, good use of the back, and a lot of punch.

“As a six-year-old she managed to place well several times during international showjumping competitions. In 2016, she finished 14th in the six-year-old final in Lummen, in partnership with Charlotte Lutz. Emeraude was then injured and used in breeding, producing Luracine du Pont-Rihen (Emerald van’t Ruytershof), Nulle Part du Pont-Rihen (Nixon van’t Meulenhof), and Ologie du Pont-Rihen. Unfortunately, Emeraude passed away fifteen days after Ologie’s birth. Ologie was raised by a foster mare.

“Emeraude’s offspring are cool-headed and easy to ride; not too spooky and have a lot of balance. They always want to do their best. Emeraude didn’t have the scope to jump at the very highest level, but thanks to Junior du Seigneur we have managed to improve that issue, which was the intention. I love Junior as he jumps with great ease.”

Patrick Donnay has been an active breeder for 15 years. “I’m an amateur. I breed an average of two foals every year. The first horse I bred, Bijou du Pontrihen, jumped internationally at 1m50 level. Even after he was sold to the United States and came under the saddle of another rider he continued to perform at that level.”

Patrick lists other successful, own-bred horses: “The nine-year-old Ikann du Pont-Rihan, a son of Kannan out of a Darco mare, jumps at international two-star Grand Prix level. I also bred Malka du Pont-Rihen, a daughter of Cicero Z van Paemel out of Birdy du Houssoit (Rexar du Houssoit). This year Malka participated in the five-year-old Belgian Championship in Gesves. She made only one mistake over three courses. Her full brother Litho du Pont-Rihen, one year older, regularly jumped clear this year during international showjumping classes for young horses in Vejer de la Frontera [Spain].”



Ologie du Pont-Rihen (Junior du Seigneur) – 3yo winner – alongside



Roquèpine Biolley – winner of the foal championship

◆ Why the suffix ‘du Pont-Rihen’? Patrick, laughed:

“I live in a village in Hainaut, called Henripont, so I simply mixed up the letters a bit.”

Professionally, Patrick is the director of an IT company. “My spare time is spent on my great passion – horse breeding and sport. I have my youngsters competing with François Bossu, who also prepared our champion Ologie for this free jumping class. I brought her to François a month ago and it was Ologie’s first participation in such a competition. Once the horses are seven, eight or nine years old, we try to sell them. I currently have six horses staying at François Bossu’s competition stable.”

Like any studfarm, Patrick is also selective: “All two-year-olds are subjected to an x-ray examination. The horses with good x-rays are kept until the next selection moment. This takes place when they are three or four years old and is based on free jumping. I see the horses every day, which is extremely important. The breeder who sees his horses every day notices many things and over time knows them inside-out.”

◆ What are the future plans Ologie?

“We’ll see. She’s not currently in foal, but I might flush out an embryo next year. I’m not a professional and I don’t like industrial breeding. I usually let my dams carry their foals themselves and this year made use of the embryo transfer technique for the very first time.”

Victory for two-year-old Value White

Registered with BWP as a daughter of Chacco-White out of Cornet’s Princess, Value White was bred by Margherita Timitilli, whose husband, Thomas Wauthier said; “I bought Cornet’s Princess in Germany. She was sold for a lot of money, but just before she left for her new owner, she injured herself in her stable. She was six years old at the time.” Thomas bought the mare partly because of her pedigree as this Oldenburg dam line includes several international showjumpers, such as Agent (four-star level with Guy Goosen), the 2014 Caen WEG showjumper Remonta Parforce Cooper (Alexis Trosch), and Corisanto, who performed up to five-star level under the saddle of Guido Klatte Junior.

Thomas Wauthier continued by saying; “Cornet’s Princess is crazy under the saddle. She has a lot of character in the pasture, but as soon as she’s in-hand, she doesn’t move. German education will do that.”

◆ Cornet’s Princess was born in 2009 and, according to various databases, Value White (2021) was her first foal...

“Yes, that’s correct. We haven’t had much luck so far; several abortions, one dead foal, and another that became ataxic as a result of an accident in the pasture.”

◆ Is Cornet’s Princess in foal now?

“No, because we had to dismember a foal in order to remove it, and she became dirty internally as a result of this procedure. We now fear that she will no longer be able to carry a foal although we will still try to flush embryos from her. We still have a frozen embryo with her by Cornet du Lys.”

Thomas sounded determined about the future plans for Value White: “Sport,” definitely. Although he adds that a foal is expected from Value White next year by Dollar du Rouet.

Having only started breeding about 10 years ago, Thomas doesn’t have to think long and hard to explain his best breeding success: “Djoko Z, who won in Ghlin just like Value White.” Djoko Z (Dominator 2000 Z) won the free jumping for two-year-olds in 2018 and was approved as a breeding stallion at Zangersheide in 2021.

Thomas is a farrier while his wife, Margherita, is a veterinarian. “Everyone has their own tasks within our breeding farm. I take care of the horses’ feet; my wife inseminates the mares. We choose the stallions together.” And he added another story about Value White: “I’m not someone who gives gifts easily as I’ve had to make up for my losses, but when our son was born I gave Value White to my wife as a gift.”

So how will Thomas look back at this championship? “Satisfied. During such a competition all the participating horses are competing against other high-quality peers. The number of participants also plays a role. More than 110 horses took part in the free jumping contest for two-year-olds in Ghlin. In Belgium, the Wallonia breeding championship is the best.”

The perfect mix between the best Anglo-arab performer and two worldwide leading sires!



Boldness itself: this is how we can define the beautiful Hugo d'Authou, the result of the union between a maternal line impregnated with the blood of two world-renowned sires - **Kannan & Diamant de Semilly** - and the Anglo-Arab ambassador, himself an international performer, **Upsilon**. After a very good season at 4 y.o. under the saddle of F. Clément, he ended his season with the 3rd place of the SHF Indoor 4 y.o. Championship. An original genetics for a bet of future!

PEDIGREE

His sire **UPSILON** is gifted in the 3 olympic disciplines. Star of the eventing planet, he did not stop confirming his huge talent. Respectful, serious and courageous, he passes on his qualities to his products: **ETOILE DE BELIARD** (ICC 158), **FLY UP DE BANUEL** (ICC 152), **FIRST LADY DU DESTIN** (ICC 152), **EPSILON FIRST LADY AA** (ICC 149), **FARINO DU GUINEFORT** (ISO 145), etc. Upsilon brings the precious blood of the great international winner Canturo (B. Alves), sire of many international performers, and that of the Anglo Arab leading stallion **FUSAIN DU DEFEY**.

His mother Celimene d'Authou is a daughter of the world leading sire **KANNAN**. Hugo is her first product. She comes from the line of F. Leredde from which came **DIABLE ROUGE**, **TIGRE ROUGE**, **ULTIMO VAN TER MOUDE** (stallion), **APPLE DE RIVER** (ISO 162, World Cup), **KIKUYU DU COTY** (ISO 170), **AMETHYSTE DU COTY** (ISO 159), **CARLITA DE GAIA** (ISO 150), **PIMM'S DU COTY** (stallion, ISO 145), etc. Celimene's full brother, **UGOLIN D'AUTHOU**, is also an approved stallion (ISO 144).

PERFORMANCES

- 8 clear rounds out of 8 on the SHF Cycle Classique circuit for 4-year-old horses including a double clear round in Compiègne (3rd). Finalist at Fontainebleau, without fail in the final reserved for males and geldings, he finished 46th in the Championship, all sexes combined.
- He finished 3rd in the Equita Lyon SHF Indoor Final in 2021 reserved for 4-year-old horses with twice 18/20 in style and manner.
- He continued his training on the SHF Cycle Classique circuit for 5 year-old horses.
- ISO 122 at 4 years old.



OUR ADVICE

Approved on performance, his genetics are of interest to the SF stud-book. His harmonious model will bring flexibility, balance, chic to mares with size and frame.



PRODUCTION

- Hugo d'Authou started breeding in 2022. His first offspring are harmonious and chic.
- 5* at the CIRALE radiographic protocol.

PEDIGREE

Cantus, holst
Canturo, holst
Fara, holst

UPSILON, AA
Fusain du Defey, aa
O'Vive, aa
Garce d'Aulix, aa

Voltaire, kwpn
Kannan, kwpn
Cemeta, kwpn

CELIMENE D'AUTHOU, SF
Diamant de Semilly, sf
Joyce du Coty, sf
Désirée du Val, sf

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Foal winner, Roqu epine Biolley

Brigitte de Biolley and Stephanie de Sadeleer have a vested interest in this breeding championship of Wallonia. Two years ago, they ranked third with the foal Penelope Biolley, and last year topped the podium as foal breeders of Quantara Biolley, a daughter of Diablue PS out of Kiss Blue Biolley (Chacco Me Biolley). This year they won again, this time with Roqu epine Biolley, a filly by Conthargos out of Challis Biolley (Chacco-Blue).

Brigitte's daughter, Stephanie de Sadeleer, is primarily known as the breeder of Roqu epine Biolley and said: "She is a full sister to three sport horses: the approved 14-year-old stallion Chacco Me Biolley who performs at international five-star level; the 15-year-old Indigo Blue Biolley who jumps at three-star level under the saddle of Spain's Paola Alea Caballero; and the 11-year-old Chamant de Biolley, who competes at 1m60 level in Spain. We use Challis Biolley exclusively as a broodmare and she has, so far, produced six offspring, of which the eldest, Nicky Blue Z, is six years old and has started her sporting career. The other descendants were almost all sold to Spain, so we are eagerly awaiting their sporting results. Challis is currently in foal to Diablue PS."

Roqu epine Biolley is a filly by Conthargos, so why that choice of stallion? "Fiorentina Biolley, a half-sister to Challis Biolley, is a daughter of Converter. It is well known that Converter produces horses with a good character. The fact that Conthargos is a son of Converter played a role in our decision to use him." Stephanie continued by emphasizing: "In our studfarm we attach great importance to mentality. We must be able to work with our horses, so being easy-headed is very important. In a manner of speaking, every rider should be able to ride our horses. Not just the professionals. After all, riders who perform at 1m20 or 1m30 level also need horses."

Roqu epine's great-granddam is called Tania van het Wintershof... "We purchased this mare from the BWP dam

line 78 at the time, and she is one of our foundation mares. We have built up both a showjumping and a dressage line from her." And not without results, as it turns out: "We have bred five-star showjumpers and equally five-star dressage horses from this line. Two years ago, we finished third during the breeding championship of Wallonia with Penelope Biolley, a daughter of Chacoon Blue out of Fiorentina Biolley (Converter - Bellissima Biolley), in turn a half-sister to Challis. From Bellissima we also have a two-and-a-half-year-old Chacoon Blue daughter, named Perlissima Biolley whom we've kept for breeding. Bellissima died giving birth to Perlissima. In terms of conformation and movements, Perlissima corresponds to the ideal type of a showjumper."

◆ Breeding dressage and showjumping horses from the same dam line, how do you do that?

"We started the showjumping branch by using the stallion Argentinus. He brought size and scope, so we bred in the showjumping direction with his daughters. On the other hand, we used the dressage stallion Florestan I on the same foundation dam, which resulted in horses with a super character, suppleness, and good gaits. We breed based on our feelings and purely as a hobby. Thanks to a bit of luck, we now have a wonderful performance studfarm and enjoy worldwide fame."

If everything goes according to plan, three showjumping foals (by Diablue PS, Conthalou, and Chacfly PS), plus two dressage foals (including by the coveted Vitalis and the Totilas son Thorgal Biolley) will be born next year at the Biolley studfarm.

What do you enjoy about breeding? "It's always a new challenge. We like to see which stallions could match with our broodmares. We do not embryo transfer. The mares carry their foals themselves." Why? "Because by using the technique of embryo transfer the character of the surrogate mare is partly passed on to the foal, so we do everything the natural way." ■



WBFSSH 2022-23 studbook rankings under the microscope

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/ARND BRONKHORST, FEI/LEANJO DE KOSTER, FEI/LIBBY LAW

It's that time of the year again when the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses releases its annual breeders, sires, and studbooks rankings. Since the role of the studbook has changed so dramatically over the past 30 years, it might be useful to consider exactly what a studbook is, and what it does.

The model of all studbooks is the General Stud Book founded in Great Britain in 1791. This is the organization that controls the breeding of Thoroughbred horses all over the world but, compared to the European books that cover the various Warmblood breeds, its aims have always been modest.

The General Studbook lays down strict rules covering breeding, but again, the rule is simple, 'live' covering is the only insemination allowed, it makes no attempt to tell the breeders which mares to use or which stallions to send them to; it leaves those sorts of decisions to the racetrack.

The European books were somewhat different since they were, in the main, founded by rulers in search of better horses for their cavalry to ride. They actively sought out better stallions, making them available to the farmers and rewarded breeders with premiums for better mares. Great power lay in the hands of the director of the state stud, and the colts he selected; and the districts he sent them to, shaped the foals of the future. In 2023, this system has almost entirely disappeared. In France the great State Studs have closed, and throughout the world the private stallion stations have become more and more influential.

The distinction should be clear between the 'Studbook' with its volumes of rules and regulations, stallion licensing, and performance tests, and mere 'Registries', where organizations offer, for a price, pedigree papers without all the rigmarole of the studbooks. Today, that difference is not quite so apparent and, indeed, some of these registries have been quite successful, more successful even than some of the traditional studbooks.

A grand studbook contest

Recently the WBFSSH organized a grand contest of the studbooks, the WBFSSH Studbooks Jumping Global

Champions Trophy, held at Jan Tops' Valkenswaard arena. Ironically this showcase of studbooks simply reinforced the feeling that studbooks are increasingly irrelevant in the business of sport horse breeding.

To take one of many examples, the six-year-old title, which was won by the Belgian Warmblood studbook. I think the horse that led their charge, Ransome III, makes my point fairly decisively. The bay gelding is by El Barone III Z, whose sire Emerald van't Ruytershof is branded BWP, though Emerald is by the great Selle Français sire, Diamant de Sémilly out of a Zangersheide-branded mare, by the Holsteiner, Carthago out of a BWP-branded Selle Français/Hanoverian mare.



Pure French world #1: Donatello d'Auge and Julien Epailard (FRA)

On the mare line Ransome III is out of Die van de Pol Z by the BWP stallion, Der Senaat III who is by the KWPN stallion, President, who combines the Holsteiner, Clinton with the Hanoverian, Voltaire. Die van de Pol is out of Alinka by Power Light the Hanoverian son of the great Westfalian, Pilot, out of a solidly Holsteiner mare, by Cash (Cor de la Bryère) out of a Ramiro mare.

Number two in the BWP team, Rhapsody van het Netehof is by the Mecklenburg stallion, Chacoon Blue, by the most famous stallion to bear the Mecklenburg brand, Chacco-Blue. The Mecklenburg component is a nicely balanced mix of Holsteiner and Hanoverian. But in this case the mare,

Caprice van het Netehof is recognizably Belgian, by the stallion that 'made' the Belgian book, Darco, and out of a mare that is three generations BWP.

Rounding out the champion Belgian team is the stallion, Rhythm-K van't Kattenheye who is by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, born in Holland but combining two of the French greats, Narcos II and Laudanum xx with three of the founding sires of Zangersheide, Ramiro, Almé, and Gotthard through the mare, Racyona Z who was branded Hanoverian, the result of the marriage of convenience



Glamourdale (ranked 2nd to TSF Dalera) ridden by Charlotte Fry (GBR)

between Zangersheide and the Hanoverian Verband that lasted through the 1970s until Melchior established the Zangersheide book in 1992. Rhythm's dam is by the stallion star of the BWP book, Cornet Obolensky who is by the Holsteiner, Clinton, out of the BWP mare, Rabanna van Costersveld, by the great Dutch stallion Heartbreaker out of a mare by Randel Z, once again, the classic Zangersheide triumvirate – the Holsteiner, Ramiro, the Selle Français, Almé, and the Hanoverian, Gotthard.

And actually the Belgian contingent at Valkenswaard had a greater component of their own 'Belgian' blood in its team than the degree to which most of the other books featured horses recognizably of 'their' blood.

Back to this year's WBFSSH rankings

But, back to this year's WBFSSH rankings. This time around, the jumping studbook rankings are headed by one of the last books to open itself to 'outside' blood, the Selle Français with 8,317 points, followed by the Holsteiners on 8,084, and Zangersheide with 7,677.

And just to upset the thesis I was developing about how today's horses grab blood from books all over the world and the distinctive studbook breeding lines are disappearing, the leading French horse, Donatello d'Auge has a pedigree that is as French as a croissant with café au lait. The gelding is by Jarnac (by the French Anglo Arab, Ryan d'Anzex out of a J'T'Adore mare), and he is out of an Olisco x Galoubet A mare – it doesn't get more French than that! Really the only member of the SF team heavily infused with 'foreign' blood is their fourth representative, Caracole de la Roque who adds the Westfalian Polydor and the Hanoverian Voltaire (via Kannan) to the equation.

The second placed Holstein group is led by Theo 160 who is solidly Holstein bred, by Christian, a Carthago grandson, via that great jumping mare, Taggi. The only outside influence comes from his grand-dam, a heady mix of Selle Français and lots of Hanoverian. However, it should be noted that two of the Holstein five are by Zirocco Blue, acquired by Wiepke van der Lageweg in France. The stallion is a mix of Dutch, Oldenburg,

and Selle Français blood, and I was somewhat surprised to find that even on the third line of his pedigree, there is not one horse bearing the Holsteiner brand.

Coming in third is Zangersheide, but this time around, my 'same blood is spread everywhere' thesis is looking healthier, since the most successful Z jumper shows no trace of Leon Melchior's breeding program. The stallion, Dexter Fontenis Z is by the Holsteiner Diarado, that much-vaunted amalgam of Diamant de Sémilly and Corrado, out of a mare that combines Voltaire and Grand Veneur. But it does in fact remind us that Leon Melchior was one of the first to advocate hybrid vigour, based on his researches into pig and poultry breeding, and he set about deliberately crossing the best of the French over the best of the German.

The dressage rankings

Turning to dressage, we find the leading studbook, KWPN with 14,770 points, followed by Oldenburg, 13,599 and Hanoverian, 12,461. The Dutch were the first to specialise, creating two lines, jumping and dressage, while the other leading books were still proclaiming the aim of breeding the all-round horse, and now it would seem the Dutch breeders are reaping the rewards. Whereas once the successful Dutch dressage horses had a hearty infusion of German blood, now their team is solidly the product of their own Dutch lines.

As Dutch breeders are happy to border-hop in search of the best blood, the number one in the KWPN team, Glamourdale is indeed a German-Dutch fusion. Studmaster Gert Jan van Olst explains why, to compliment the blood of his foundation sire Negro, (who is third generation Dutch dressage breeding, by Ferro out of a Variant mare, two stallions that competed at FEI level) he went to Germany where he and his wife, Ann, found the Rheinlander, Lord Leatherdale – by Lord Loxley out of a Ferragamo mare...

"In Holland we had many sons and daughters of Jazz and Krack and their lines, so we needed new blood, that's why we bought Lord Leatherdale. The other reason was that I thought his good things were fitting quite well on the good things of Negro. We had a lot of Negro mares, and he was a nice stallion to combine with the Negro mares. Lord Leatherdale gives a lot of looseness, a lot of presence, and a lot of front, those things he brings very well to the Negro mares who are mostly a little bit more closed, having a lot of power and missing a little bit of suppleness when it comes to the lateral movements. The strong things of Negro are very nice combined with Lord Leatherdale, and it has been a successful combination: Chippendale, Everdale, we have Fairytale, we have Glamourdale, all from this combination."

It's interesting that while Lord Sinclair, who founded the line that lead to Leatherdale through Lord Loxley, and who was the first of the Bundeschampionate mega-stars after consecutive wins in the stallion classes and gaining a huge book of mares in his first season, was withdrawn from breeding a couple of seasons later, shunned by the mare

owners. His legacy has been felt far more in Holland than his native Germany. And sure enough, the second member of the Dutch team for studbook rankings, Imhotep, is by Everdale, and out of a mare that is second generation Dutch dressage, by the small tour competitor, Vivaldi out of a mare by the Grand Prix competitor, Krack C.

Rounding up the Dutch top three we have another international Grand Prix star, Hermès NOP, by the small tour competitor, Easy Game, by the Grand Prix star, Gribaldi out of a mare by another Grand Prix competitor, Schwadronneur. That's all Trakehner blood, and it would seem that the Dutch breeders, in particular the canny Joop van Uytert, have made better use of what the Trakehner has to offer than their German neighbours.

Second in the dressage studbook rankings to Oldenburg, a book that has prided itself on being open and innovative thanks to high powered private stallion keepers who flourished in the absence of a State Stud. Their representatives this time around were suitably eclectic.

Noteworthy to mention is that I have a problem when people buy a horse and immediately put their own prefix on the name, sometimes removing the breeder's prefix. Zepter may be called Blue Hors Zepter but he was in fact bred by well-known Oldenburg breeders Bernhard and Britta Sieverding. The Sieverdings are full-time horse breeders and breed about 15 foals each year on their farm in Twistringten. They breed on several different damlines, of which Zepter's is represented by no fewer than three breeding mares. The breeding program of the couple goes all the way back to the Schokolade damline, which has also produced horses such as WBCYH winner Don Martillo, and Jessica von Bredow-Werndl's Grand Prix horse Ferdinand BB. Jessica's Ferdinand BB was born on Britta and Bernhard's farm, just like Zepter and many more breeding stallions and top dressage horses.

The gelding Bluetooth was the second highest point scorer for Oldenburg. I must confess that when I first saw him he looked so long in the back and strung out that I doubted he could ever make Grand Prix. Wrong! Frederic Wandres has proven how good training can alter the shape and balance of a dressage horse. Bluetooth is by Dutch stallion Bordeaux whose pedigree is packed with dressage talent. He is by the small tour competitor, United, by Grand Prix star, Krack C, out of Nessica by another GP star, Partout. United is out of a Gribaldi x Donnerhall mare.

Bordeaux is out of Lorena by Riccione, a grandson of Rubinstein, but then we hit dressage royalty since Lorena is by Don Schufro out of Loretta, the superstar of Paul Schockemöhle's mare band, and the dam of Sandro Hit and Diamond Hit.

The third Team Oldenburg horse is Dante Weltino, by Danone who is by De Niro out of a Weltmeyer mare, with another cross of Weltmeyer on his dam line, along with a half-blood mare by Noble Roi xx.

The Hanoverian studbook took third place in the rankings, with their squad led by Ingrid Klimke and Franziskus. The dark-brown stallion is once again obviously

bred for dressage; his sire Fidertanz competed Grand Prix as did his grandsire, Fidermark, while his dam is by Alabaster who never progressed past Advanced/Medium. Alabaster was definitely selected as a dressage sire by a master breeder, the late Werner Schockemöhle. Alabaster is by Akzent out of a mare by Grand Prix competitor Rubinstein.

Their number two, Blue Hors St Schufro has already commenced a very promising international career with Nanna Skodborg Merrald, and while he doesn't get much in the way of dressage accolades on his Sandro Hit top line, his dam is by Grand Prix star, Don Schufro (Donnerhall x Pik Bube I). The mare line under that is solidly Hanoverian.

Third in the Hanoverian team, FRH Davinia la Douce is by one of the most popular and successful Celle stallions of recent times, Don Frederico; at least he was before the WFFS nonsense! Don Frederico is by Donnerhall out of a mare by another Trakehner, Consul. Davinia's dam, Anneliese is suitably solidly Hanoverian bred, by the Argentinus son, A Jungle Prince, out of an Akzent II mare.

Irish Sport Horses rule in eventing

The Irish emerged as the top eventing studbook this year with 1,318, just in front of another traditional source of eventing stars, the Selle Français on 1,292. While the Dutch are relative newcomers to the eventing scene, they have gradually been moving up the rankings. They were sixth two years ago, but third this time on 1,268.

However, Ireland has long been a source of eventing talent, but with the evolution of the sport, Irish breeders have turned to European jumping blood to stay competitive. Thus, the leading Irish eventer, Ballaghmoor Class is by Courage II perhaps the most successful of modern Irish eventing stallions; trouble is, he was straight Holsteiner. Courage II, was by Capitol out of Vamara (Cor de la Bryère x Liguster). Vamara was the full-sister to Cavalier Royale, another Holsteiner import who played a key role in resuscitating Irish eventing breeding. Cavalier Royale was for many years ranked in the top three of eventing sires on the WBHSH list. Courage II stood at Kedrah House, for several seasons until his death in 2006, but his offspring continue to shine almost 20 years later.

Second in the Irish team Rehy Dj again draws on European blood as he is by the Westfalian stallion Inspector, who combines Indoctro and Contender, out of a mare by the Thoroughbred Big Sink Hope xx, but out of Lady Moore by Cavalier Royale.

There's more non-Irish blood in the veins of the third member of the team, Black Ice. The gelding is by the Dutch-bred Vechta (Voltaire x Joost) out of a mare by the Galoubet A son, Touchdown.

The sires' rankings – dressage

The Dutch stallion Johnson (Jazz x Flemmingh) moves up from second to first, while his sire, Jazz, gracefully slides to fifth. Last year's number one, Sandro Hit, slips to ninth,

reinforcing doubts about him as a genuine Grand Prix sire, since his first place was largely due to one horse, Salvino, though Johnson's pre-eminence is also somewhat compromised as his best international competitor, Edison (Balzflug), ranks 34th in the world.

The second-ranked stallion, Quarterback (Quaterman x Brandenburger) boasts two of the world's top 10: Isabel Werth's DSP Quantaz, out of a mare by that wonderful Trakehner, Hohenstein, who is fifth on the world standings; and the Swedish-bred, Touchdown, out of a mare by Sack, by the Swedish Stallion, by Kaliber, by Utrillo (Hann). Touchdown and Patrik Kittel took the first World Cup qualifier of the 2023 season in Herning.

There is only one other stallion in the WBFSH top 10 sires with a representative among the world's top 10 competitors, and that's Sandro Hit with Salvino ranked eighth. The next two stallions, Sir Donnerhall I and Totilas stand at Paul Schockemöhle's power-house stallion station, which gives them a head start thanks to the loyal band of mare owners who turn to PSI year after year, not to mention the extremely effective marketing operation.

While Jazz is quietly fading (his best representative ranks 84th in the world), the shooting star is Blue Hors Zack, up from 27th last year to sixth, although once again this is largely thanks to one horse, Zepter. Zack's next best is Zap Zap ranked 142nd in the world. Fidertanz II (Fidermark x Ravallo) drifts from sixth to seventh, but with 62 licensed sons and 46 Grand Prix progeny continues to fly the flag for the greatest of them all, Furioso xx.

As we've already discussed, Sandro Hit sits in eighth, just in front of Bordeaux who ìs up from 17th to ninth, thanks to Bluetooth in 19th supported by erstwhile number one, Bohemian down to 26th after a change of rider.

Rounding out the 10 we have Vivaldi, another sire that is gracefully slipping away, although he has a band of sons making their mark as breeding stallions themselves. Vivaldi's leading representative is that very attractive chestnut stallion, First Apple, out of a Partout mare.

Jumping sires

Turning our attention to the jumping sires we find there has not been a lot of movement, Chacco-Blue is first again, and Le Diamant de Sémilly stays second, while Mylord Carthago, fourth last year and Kannan (third) swap places. Toulon representing that great Dutch father and son combination, Nimmerdor and Heartbreaker, up from sixth to fifth, while the mighty Casall slides from third to sixth and Cardento drops from fifth to seventh.

The only real mover in the 10 is Eldorado van de Zeshoek thanks to his son, Elektrik Blue P (For Pleasure) a superstar with Austria's Max Kühner. Nabab de Rêve seems to be a permanent feature in the WBFSH top 10, and is holding in ninth thanks to world number 30 Brooklyn Heights, another out of a For Pleasure mare. What a sire he has been!

Zirocco Blue takes 10th thanks to his daughter, Glamour



Rehy DJ ridden by Yasmin Ingham (GBR)

Girl out of a Caletto I mare, ridden by man of the moment, Henrik von Eckermann, into 28th on the world standings.

Eventing surprises?

I'm guessing you weren't expecting any surprises on the eventing rankings, and you were right! Diarado has moved from second to first on the eventing Sires rankings, but I suspect this is at least in part the result of the enormous number of mares he has bred each year. We are still waiting for him to produce a star as his best so far has been world number 27, QC Diamantaire ridden by American Sydney Elliott.

The second ranked Grafenstolz is the real thing when it comes to an eventing sire. He competed three-star with Michael Jung and is the sire of a host of eventers, including three at five-star level, led by world number four, Lordships Graffalo. And it should be noted that while Diarado had hundreds of mares a year – at least at first – Grafenstolz covered just a few, but 48 of his progeny evented internationally in 2021 alone

Third to another of those imports that reinvigorated Irish breeding, Obos Quality by Quick Star out of a Domspatz mare. He has actually been more successful as a sire of showjumpers, but has still produced three five-star eventers. His current best representative is ranked 161st in the world.

Fourth to Jaguar Mail, by Hand in Glove xx out of a mare by Laudanum xx, with just an eighth non-Thoroughbred, through the mare Adoret Z (Almé x Gotthard). Jaguar Mail has been a mainstay of eventing breeding for some time, producing three five-star eventers, including two real stars, Vassily de Lassos and Tenareze.

After last year's WBFSH sires rankings were released, my friend Ludwig Christmann and I were both puzzled by the apparent anomaly that the leading sires did not seem to be producing the leading competitors, and we suggested that perhaps the rankings' formula needed tweaking. This year's rankings only serve to reinforce that impression. ■

Oldenburg price highlights go all around the world

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN

PHOTOGRAPHY: OLD ART

The 100th Anniversary Elite Auction was a great success, with customers from all around the world securing their future Oldenburg stars in Ankum, and saw the top-priced horse sell to an Austrian studfarm for €146,000.

The top-priced horse at this 100th Fall Elite Auction was D'Elegance by D'Egalite x Sandro Hit x Riccione, bred by Gestüt Bonhomme in Werder. D'Elegance is the sister of the stallion Fidelity, and this powerful and agile ballerina sold to a renowned stud farm in Austria for €146,000.

The second highest-priced horse was Breaking News, a licensed stallion by Bonds x Desperados x Brentano II, bred by Mirjam-Mathilde Drenth in the Netherlands, and presented by Heinrich Giesselmann from Barver. The dam, Destina, is the sister of the Grand Prix-successful Fiodora/Sabine Egbers and the Olympian Destano. This ultra-modern young talent was sold to Poland for €101,000.

Escala Gold OLD, bronze medal winner at the Bundeschampionat, by Belissimo M x Rohdiamant x Ex Libris, bred by Heinz Ahlers in Hatten, was sold to a Grand Prix rider in the USA for €90,000. Forgio by For Dance x Sergio Rossi x Wolkentanz II, bred by Egon Wichman, Edewech, and owned by Gerd Sosath, Lemwerder, was sold to Great Britain for €82,000.

The top-priced showjumper Bella Rose by Balou du Rouet x Corlensky G x Landor S, bred by Harm Oncken, Sande, sold for €60,500. This breeder has so far presented 90 auction horses for the Vechta sales in recent years and was appropriately honored during the Welcome Evening.

The top-priced elite foal, sold for €73,000, was the charming Viva Moon by Vitalis x Zack x Fürstenball, bred by Dr. Rolf-Peter Schulze in Tiddische. This king of movement will move to a renowned dressage stable in Bremen. The third dam, Donnerlady, is the sister of the Grand Prix-successful Lord of Loxley by Lord Sinclair I/Hans Peter Minderhoud (NED), and the licensed stallion Charme by Condor M. Customers from Poland paid €50,000 for the elite foal Fairlas by Fair Deal x Totilas x Donnerhall, bred by Karsten and Tammo Zech, Wardenburg.

Roland Metz, the auction manager and CEO of Oldenburger Pferde-Vermarktungs GmbH, commented on the anniversary in Ankum by saying; "The 100th Elite Auction was a complete success – we were able to relive old times and celebrate a fantastic auction weekend with a wonderful Welcome Evening in Ankum. We would like to thank all breeders and customers for their years of loyalty and we are looking forward to many more

successful auctions.

"A special highlight was the charity auction on Saturday during the Welcome Evening. The exclusive 'jump' in memory of Uwe Heckmann was auctioned by former Vechta auctioneer Fabian Kühn in support of the charity initiative 'Reiten gegen Hunger' (Riding Against Hunger). After an exciting bidding duel with UP Sporthorses from Bad Oldesloe, Anne Haase from Fischerhude secured the jump for €50,000 following an emotional speech in honor of Uwe Heckmann. The jump will find its place in the Oldenburger Horse Center Vechta."

Almost half of all riding horses will bring joy to Oldenburg enthusiasts abroad. Specifically, these quality horses will make an impact in Sweden (three), Poland (two), Switzerland (two), the USA (two), with one apiece going to Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, Colombia, the Netherlands, and Austria.

In the foal collection, six of the young Oldenburg talents were sold to: Poland (three), Sweden (one), Ukraine (one), and the USA (one).

The average price for the excellent riding horse collection settled at over €37,500, with a total turnover of €1,238,000. The foals achieved an average price of over €16,500, with a total turnover of €398,000. ■



Price topper D'Elegance by D'Egalite x Sandro Hit x Riccione, bred by Gestüt Bonhomme

Surprise top of the Tops Auction: Rolensky MVNZ

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: STAL TOPS

Rolensky MVNZ (Cornet Obolensky - Casual LVP x Cassini I), a New Zealand-bred stallion previously unknown in Europe, was the equal top earner at the recent Tops International Auction in Valkenswaard.

'Roly' sold for €1.9 million, reportedly to a rider based at Stal Tops, causing a shockwave of delight to all Kiwi sport horse enthusiasts and, of course, to his own breeders, Wendy and Richard Keddell at Mount View Sport Horses in Tauranga. "I always believed wholeheartedly in Roly," says Wendy Keddell. "He has such an incredible brain and travels so lightly across the ground. The qualities he's been gifted with, and his good character, make his future in the sport very bright."

Rolensky MVNZ had been in Europe for just a few months prior to his auction, during which he competed several times at Valkenswaard at heights of 1m35-1m40, without once touching a rail.

He is from Holst Stamm 826, and has a very good half-brother, Picasso MVNZ (Connor), who was New Zealand's top eight-year-old jumper this year, and finished sixth overall in the ESNZ Grand Prix series last season

Their Zangersheide dam, Casual LVP Z (Cassini I x Landjunge x Lord) was bred in Belgium by LVP Stables and born in 2008. She is out of a Bezirksprämie mare, Nouvelle I, who was bred by George Clausen of Gestut Rabenhof in Germany. Her granddam, Lisa (Lord) is a half-sister of the famous foundation sire Caretino. Both descend from the mare Isidor.

Two other LVP mares, Heidi LVP (Cassini I x Lennon x Cascavelle) from Holst Stamm 2543, and Bonita LVP (Berlin x Lord x Farnese) from Holst Stamm 890, were imported as foundation dams for MVNZ.

LVP's Luk van Puymbroeck has been an ongoing mentor to Wendy, for which she is very grateful. "We took a lot of our principle aims, goals, and learning from the Germans, Dutch, and Belgians, especially from Luk," she told ESNZ recently. "When I first met him, I spent a whole afternoon with him talking about breeding. After that, I'd visit him every couple of years and he always had something planned. His wife would pack sandwiches and we'd drive the seven-hour journey to Holstein. On the way, we would talk flat out about horses and everything to do with breeding. I had pages of notes, and when he wasn't on the phone I was



Rolensky MVNZ

asking him questions and making more notes. He's just like a walking encyclopaedia."

Rolensky is not the only MVNZ horse competing internationally: The stud has had some very successful horses over the years and currently has two of the highest ranked NZ horses internationally: McCaw MVNZ (Corofino II - Heidi x Cassini I) with Katie Laurie in Canada, now owned by Carissa and Mike McCall; and Eldorado MVNZ (Cardento - Solette x Emilion) now owned by Lieven Devos in Belgium.

Wendy and Richard Keddell have put heart and soul into their stud, which was founded in 2002 and has been turning out top young horses almost ever since, always with serious competitive pedigrees; Rolensky MVNZ typifies these.

Wendy describes the European breeding industry as 'a whole different deal', but says, "We have an advantage in New Zealand of being able to raise horses on large pastures all year round, and young horses have a great place to grow up. That is something that is challenging to do in Europe.

"New Zealand breeders are doing a great job and the quality of the New Zealand-bred Warmblood is improving with every generation. I'm sure in the future more NZ sport horses will feature prominently on the world stage." ■

Best of breed: New Zealand Hanoverian Society awards

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAKE THE MOMENT

The New Zealand Hanoverian Society, which is also the official administrator of the NZ Rheinland Studbook, recently announced its 2023 award winners. Included in the categories were Best Mares, Best Foals and the prestigious Exceptional Performance awards.

The line-up of Exceptional Performance champions, although dominated by dressage horses, includes a purpose-bred eventer... and a human! All of the equine award winners have international bloodlines; three of them are by Fürstenball, and two are by the German-bred NZ legend, Anamour (Aalborg x Lombard) who died in 2015.

Fanciful MH (Fürstenball - Saphira Prämienstute x Soliman de Hus) is a five-year-old mare and was bred by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians. She is from Stamm 4194001, Schridde 196, and won the National Preliminary title at the NZ Dressage Championships earlier this year, and was reserve four-year-old champion. Owned by Judith Matthews, she is ridden by Casey Burton. Her gorgeous Prämienstute dam Saphira was purchased by Matthews from the Elite Foal and Broodmare Auction in Verden in 2014, and is the daughter of a Staatsprämie mare, Wisconsin (Wesley Defilee Staatsprämie x Duerkheim).

Falcon O (Fürstenball OLD - Vollrath Latika x Lessing). This seven-year-old Rheinland gelding was bred by Dr. Anne Stewart of Ohuatahi Warmbloods. His bloodlines include Fürst Heinrich, Londonderry, Lauries Crusador, and Donnerhall (twice), as well as two of New Zealand's Hanoverian supersires: the D-line Dynamit (Dynamo) and G-line Genius (Garibaldi). Falcon O was the winner of the Medium title at the National Dressage Championships and champion six-year-old. He is owned and ridden by Candice Nichol.



*Uma (Untouchable 27 x Centrico)
Best Jumping-bred Rheinlander with her breeder Ike Baker*

HP Fürst Welcome (Fürstenball OLD - Parkridge Welcome x Wolkentanz I), an eight-year-old Hanoverian gelding bred by Stacey McCoy and ridden by his owner, young Amy Sage. This horse was the winner of the Youth Festival Medium Championship. His dam is proving to be a very successful broodmare and also produced Parkridge Disco (Dancier), another Exceptional Performance award winner (see below). Both mother and son were bred by Carol Eivers at Parkridge Stud; Parkridge Welcome now belongs to Raosini Stud, where her broodmare career is continuing.

Kinnordy Golda (Gymnastik Star - Dancing x Daktylus). This 15-year-old mare won the National Small Tour Championship and YR Small Tour Championship with her owner Madison Schollum. Bred by the late NZ Olympian Julie Brougham and her husband Dr. David Brougham, she has been wonderfully consistent all season. She also finished third in the FEI CDII* Intermediate Freestyle with 71.005% at the Sydney CDI in Australia in April. Her dam, Dancing, is out of a Thoroughbred mare, Linlithgow xx (Exiled xx). Her sire is a German-bred, Australian-owned Prämienhengst Hanoverian from Stamm 3192409, Schridde 382.

Ardmore (Anamour - KH Delay x Dynamit). The 2023 NZ Young Rider Big Tour Champion is a 15-year-old gelding with a lovely, harmonious way of going. He is a son of the great Anamour (Aalborg x Lombard) and grandson of another very influential German-bred Hanoverian, Dynamit (Dynamo x Eger II). Ardmore was bred by Justine Parker, is owned by Tina Dolley and ridden by Lucarne Dolley, who has trained him since his earliest days and they have won five consecutive U25 titles. His dam, KH Delay, was bred by Karaka Hills Sport Horses; her own dam is not recorded.

Parkridge Disco SW (Dancier - Parkridge Welcome x Wolkentanz I). Bred by Carole Eivers at Parkridge Stud, owned by Sheena Ross at Sterling Warmbloods, who previously competed him at GP level, and ridden by Brina Carpenter, with whom he has had a super season with many wins and high placings. This lovely gelding is 2023 NZ Pro Am Medium Tour Champion, Intermediate Champion, Reserve Champion Medium Tour Champion, and Youth Festival Medium Tour Champion. He has the blood of Anamour through his dam, who is a granddaughter of the truly great German stallion.

BL All By Chance (Anamour - Benefit Babe xx x Hey Baba Riba xx). Another Anamour; this time a 13-year-old gelding



Riverpark Versace

who was bred by the stallion's owners, Gary and Wendy Freeman of Bilbar Lodge. He is ridden by Vanessa Way, owned by Renee Etherington (who also rides him), and was this year's National Medium Tour Champion. The handsome grey looks

sure to head for higher levels, and has two full sibling sisters, All Amour (2006) and After All (2009), also bred by Bilbar. Their dam Benefit Babe xx was bred by W. C. Clark and Miss P.J. Gillett, and was described as a 'fabulous mare' by Dr Ludwig Christmann during the 2013 Hanoverian inspection tour. She had a light racing career before being acquired by Bilbar and has the blood of the immortal Sir Tristram xx through her sire, who is his son.

Don Vito MH (Don Frederico - Adelheid MH x Anamour). This 11-year-old star is another grandson of Anamour's. He was bred by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians, and is owned and ridden by Wendi Williamson. He was Reserve Grand Prix Champion at the Nationals this year, and his competition record shows that he has seldom (very seldom) been out of the top three in all his classes. He has two impressive gelding full siblings: the excellent Grand Prix performers Dejavu MH who died in 2018, and Don Amour MH. There are also several half-sisters, including Decadance MH (Dacaprio), who was the five-year-old National Young Dressage Horse in 2015. Adelheid MH has retired from breeding after producing 14 wonderful foals for Judith Matthews.

Henton High Court (Hyperion - Henton Lucille x Limonit). This handsome nine-year-old black gelding was bred by Dave and Bridget Sutton at Henton Lodge, a stud that was established the year that New Zealand's first Hanoverian stallions arrived from Germany (1982). Henton specialises in eventers and this latest young star has the eventer's advantage of Thoroughbred blood on both sides of his pedigree. He also has Anamour from his dam Henton Lucille (Limonit - Henton Anastasia x Anamour). Henton High Court won the National Three-Day Eventing 105L championship with his rider Olivia Sutton.

Breeder recognition

Stacey McCoy (née Hartshorne) received this award which acknowledges her extraordinary accomplishment of breeding three of the four qualifiers for the 2022 World Dressage Challenge: HPH Sir Wolkentanz (Sir Donnerhall OLD - Parkridge Welcome x Wolkentanz I), who is now a nine-year-old; an eight-year-old half-brother, HPH Fürst Welcome (Fürstenball OLD - Parkridge Welcome x Wolkentanz I); and

13-year-old HPH Benedict (Balletmeister - Kinnordy Widia x Winterkönig). Stacey's is a genuinely 'boutique' operation, and it is turning out progeny to be proud of.

Best Mares

For obvious reasons, this is one of the most interesting categories, and in two of its eight divisions (Best Older Hanoverian Studbook Mare and Best Pre-Studbook Hanoverian Mare) there were joint winners.

Best Hanoverian Young Studbook Mare was Fanciful MH (Fürstenball - Saphira Prämienstute x Soliman); a gorgeous five-year-old who was also an Exceptional Performance winner (see above). She was bred by Judith Matthews of Matthews Hanoverians, and is from Stamm 4194001, Schridde 196.

The best Jumping Bred Hanoverian Studbook Mare was Henton World Class (Worldly - Henton Elite x Escudo I), bred by Henton Lodge Hanoverians. This mare's dam Henton Elite (Escudo I x Delphi x Distelfink) is the full sister of Puhinui four-star eventing winner Henton Executive and a half-sister to Henton Attorney General, who not only won Puhinui CCI4*, but also won Boekelo, the Netherlands, in 2015.

Best Rheinland Young Studbook Mare: River Park Salanjo (Swarovski OLD - Leo Dee Dee x Dream Boy). This lovely young mare was bred by Renai Hart at River Park Farm. Her dam is a beauty too, and is by the very successful Hanoverian Dream Boy (Dream of Glory) who was imported from Germany in 1999. Leo Dee Dee's own dam is by the New Zealand-bred stallion Leo Godonov (Gouveneur).

Equal Best Older Hanoverian Studbook Mares

Fürst a Ballerina EDH (Fürst Romancier OLD - Shez Amazing xx x Le Bec Fin xx), bred by Victoria Wall at Elite Dressage Horses. Fürst a Ballerina never competed in sport and has a 2022 yearling by Le Formidable. This mare is currently leased by Sarah Catherwood.

Vienna K (Vitalis - Flowervale Sandrena AWhA x Sandreo OLD), who was bred in Australia by Angela Rose, and is owned by Rosemary Richards. The Verband visiting judge, Maren Schlender, was particularly impressed by the quality of this mare and her foal by Zaublerherlhing

Best Thoroughbred mare

Chelsea Street xx (Zacinto xx - Joyous xx x Golan xx). This beautiful nine-year-old was bred by Windsor Park, one of the leading Thoroughbred studs in the country. She is owned by Sherleena Griffin, and has a 2022 filly by Fürst Hit EDH (Fürstenball).

Equal Best Pre-Studbook Hanoverian Mares

Jackie NZPH (Kannan KWPN - Fiona NZPH Orlando KWPN), bred and owned by NZ Performance Horses.

Balmoral Luna (Corofino II [Holst] - Lanzstar x Lansing [Holst]) This mare was bred by Christine Lovelady in Christchurch and belongs to Anna Stokes and Simone Kann of AVS Bloodstock.

Best Mare from Another Population

J Bird NZPH (Uhlan de Temple [SF] - Vibe Blue NZPH x Mr Blue [KWPN]), bred and owned by New Zealand

Performance Horses. This mare has an interesting 2022 filly by the NZ-bred Olympic jumping stallion Casebrooke Lomond (Lansing).

Hannover Verband Vet+ Award

EM Stoneylea Lusenska Imp. (Lauries Crusador xx x Lemon Park Grande); more details about this wonderful imported mare below. She was bred in Germany by Ilsemarie Wrede, and is owned by John and Angela Smith of Stoneylea.

Top Foals

Best Hanoverian Foal of Tour, Patricia Dalrymple Trophy winner, and Gold Medal Foal: These honours went to the gorgeous filly, Stoneylea Fürstin Valentine (Fürstenball OLD - Stoneylea Vitality x Vitalis [KWPN] x Weltmeyer), who was bred by John and Angela Smith of Stoneylea Farm. She was assessed on Valentine's Day (February 14) by the German Hanoverian Verband deputy breeding manager Maren Schlender, and Robin Potter of the NZ Hanoverian Society. However, the romantic date of her inspection also brought the arrival of Cyclone Gabrielle and some of the worst weather New Zealand has ever seen. "She was viewed in very wet conditions," reports Angela Smith.

Stoneylea Fürstin Valentine was given a Premium award, with scores of 9.50 walk, 10.0 trot, 9.50 breed type and 8.50 conformation: an average of 9.30. She is the first foal of her dam Stoneylea Vitality, who, with her own dam Stoneylea Welt Princess and her granddam, the German-bred EM Stoneylea Lusenska, comprised the Top Mare Family of the 2019 Hanoverian Tour. The family consisting of Stoneylea Welt Princess, Stoneylea Vitality, and Stoneylea Fürstin Valentine also prevailed as the top mare family in 2022.

EM Lusenska StPrA (Laurie's Crusader xx - Lefalda x Lemon Park) is Stoneylea Farm's foundation mare and comes from the famous mare line of Schulppera. She was bred by Ilsemarie Wrede of Gut Neuensteden in Freiburg, and acquired for the Smiths by Dr. Ludwig Christmann. EM Lusenska has Elite status with the NZHS, sailing through her Mare Performance Test in Germany, while and her daughter

EM Stoneylea Welt Princess also sailed through her Mare Performance Test in 2017 when judged by Dr. Christmann, and won the NZ Young Dressage Horse Championship that same year. "Stoneylea Fürstin Valentine is the result of 17 years of breeding up – four generations

– from Lusenska, following the Hanoverian Breeding Programme guidelines," says Angela.

Interestingly, her superb damsire Vitalis [KWPN], is the sire of 2023's Best Hanoverian Colt... and both foals have the blood of Laurie's Crusador xx. Read on!

Best Hanoverian Colt and Gold Medal Foal went to another seriously nice youngster: River Park Versace (Vitalis [KWPN] - Don Laura x Don Bosco), who was bred by Renai Hart at River Park Farm. His dam, Don Laura (Don Bosco - Laila x Lauries Crusador xx) is a German import, and is due to have a second Vitalis foal any day now. She is from the Cabanda (Pik Bube) line, Stamm 1191207, Schridde 239.

Best Jumping Bred Filly and Gold Medal Foal: Henton Classic Jewel (Cavoiro H OLD - Henton Faberge x For Edition). This exciting young girl was bred by Henton Lodge Hanoverians using embryo transfer, because her dam, who is a star in her own right, is still very active in sport, jumping Grand Prix and World Cup classes. H. Faberge also won the Mare Performance Test in 2011, as judged by visiting Verband judge Gerhard Senckenberg. H. Cavoiro, Classic Jewel's sire, was the top jumping stallion of the 2018 Oldenburg Stallion Days, and her damsire won his Performance Test in 2003 with a jumping score of 9.20.

Equal Best Hanoverian Jumping Bred Colts and Gold Medal Foals: Aston MH (Arezzo VDL [KWPN] - Graffiti MH x Graf Top). This very special colt is the first post-mortem ISCI foal born in NZ. His dam died tragically young after an exceptional early career, in which she won at World Cup level. Aston MH was bred by Judith Matthews at Matthews Hanoverians.

Henton Crown Prosecutor (Comte x Stolzenberg x Gymnastik Star), another super youngster from Henton Lodge. His grand dam, Grandessa, has also produced an FEI level dressage horse, Belladonna MH (Brentano II) and the Grand Prix jumping mare Enya MH (Edward), currently competing successfully in three-star jumping classes in the Netherlands with New Zealand rider Melody Matheson.

Best Rheinland Colt and Gold Medal Foal: Fortune Favours DW (For Romance II OLD - Rockchiq DW x Rockstar [Westf]). This colt is a three-quarter brother of Fürst Rock DW, who is a very successful small tour horse with Vanessa Way, and was the top six-year-old of the National Dressage Championships in 2020.

Best Rheinland Filly: Let's Rock My Sox (Lingh II [KWPN] - Ravishing x Routinier OLD), bred by Kim Stiven of Levin. This beautiful baby is out of a Novice-level dressage mare bred in Northland by Adrienne Bryce.

Best Rheinland Jumping Bred and Gold Medal Foal: Uma (Untouchable 27 [KWPN] - Centrica x Centrico [KWPN]). This filly was bred by young jumping rider and Equine Research Masters student, Ike Baker of Hawke's Bay, and her dam was bred by the legendary NZ showjumper Maurice Beatson, who has bred many top-level horses. Very sadly, Centrica died after foaling, so another of Ike's mares raised the very classy Uma. ■



SL Valentine

Brazil's national pride and a passion for breeding

BY ROBERTA MILANI (TRANSLATION: CAROLINE PADILLA)

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANA CAROLINA DE OLIVEIRA, 2CLAC, AND PERSONAL COLLECTION

The XIX Pan American Games continue as we publish our November issue: running from October 20 to November 5 in Santiago, Chile, with equestrian sport opening on October 22 and concluding with the showjumping final on November 4.

Equestrian nations participating in the event include Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The end of September was the final deadline to register combinations that had met the Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER). Despite slightly longer lists than those who will represent their countries, the nominated horses and riders are just one step away from embarking on this great dream.

In showjumping, a total of 18 countries are registered, with nine qualified for the team competition and another nine solely with individual representatives. Dressage will see 13 participating nations, from whom eight have sufficient riders and horses to form teams, leaving five individual riders. In Eventing, out of the nine participating countries, eight will compete with teams, with only one country having an individual representative.

The Associação Brasileira de Criadores de Cavalos Hipismo (ABCCH – Brazilian Association of Sport Horse Breeders) is proud to announce that it has representatives in all three disciplines, from various countries, as follows:



Stephan Barcha/Chevaux Primavera Montana Império Egípcio



Florisbela VO/Eduardo Alves de Lima



Vinicius Albano Almeida Leal/Texas do Rincão

Showjumping Brazil

- Chevaux Primavera Montana Imperio Egípcio (Calvaro Z [Holst] x Paroli [Rhein]) – ridden by Stephan de Freitas; bred by Haras Montana

Bolivia

- Doria One Loar Mystic Rose (Numero Uno x Diamant de Semilly) – ridden by Reynoldo Roberta Daza Cardoso; bred by Haras Loar

Chile

- HFB Versace (Verdi x Indorado) – ridden by Samuel Parot Jnr; bred by Haras FB

El Salvador

- Zilouet Mystic Rose (Balou du Rouet x Chin Chin) – ridden by Juan Manuel Bolaños; bred by Haras Rosa Mystica

Eventing

Brazil

- Texas do Rincão (HFB Codex One x Argus) – ridden by Vinicius Albano Almeida Leal; bred by Coudelaria de Rincão

Dressage

Brazil

- Florisbela VO (For Romance x Just Perfect; imported mare with ABCCH registration); ridden by Eduardo Alves de Lima (BRA). ■

Tim Coomans: Half a century of collected horse knowledge...

BY GEMMA JANSEN / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: JESSICA PIJLMAN/JESSY PHOTOGRAPHY

Horse people are not born; they are made. Through trial and error, by making mistakes, extracting the positives, and continuing their journey 'in the world of horses,' these individuals have gathered extensive knowledge. Some are eager to share this knowledge passionately and with dedication. One such person is Tim Coomans from Oud-Beijerland.

Tim's breeding product, Puma TC (Liverpool TC), was the reserve champion at the National Mare Inspection among three-year-old mares. She is born out of the provisional keur mare Gina Ballerina (United), who is also the mother of two stallions approved for different studbooks, including the KWPN-approved Blue Hors Monte Carlo TC (Glock's Dream Boy). The reserve title of Puma TC was reason enough for us to pay a visit to this successful breeder and lover of a good dressage horse. The entrance to his stable is an impressive hall of fame, decorated with photos and ribbons of past champions, including the Olympic horses Lancet, Ravel, and Dream Boy.

Special riding jacket

Tim: "Horses have been a significant part of my life since the beginning. I started as a young adult running a pet shop. I sold that when I could rent a riding stable in Schipluiden for five years. After that period, I moved to the Hippisch Centrum Hoeksche Waard in Oud-Beijerland. There, I provided instruction, and they were definitely not dull riding lessons but lessons for people who were at least very enthusiastic and interested in the sport. At the time, I was competing at the Small Tour level. In today's times it seems like everyone does that, but back then it was still quite exceptional at a high level, and you even had to have a special riding jacket tailored.



Tim Coomans holding Joop TC (Ravel), alongside his wife Nel, and stepdaughter Manon

I took lessons for 10 years from Henk van Bergen and Jo Rutten. From Henk, I learned a lot about the basics of riding, which has remained an essential tool throughout my life. And it still is. During that time, I also developed more and more my feeling and preference for a particular type of horse – a good sport horse that moved well on all four legs."

What you want to see, or not!

Tim has witnessed a significant part of the KWPN's development, from a workhorse to the modern riding horse of today. "Equestrian sports were growing, which demanded a different type of horse. At that time, there was a lot of crossbreeding with Thoroughbred stallions, which improved flexibility and toughness, especially. Along with a few friends of mine I had the Thoroughbred stallion Mytens (1983: Spectacular Bid xx - Photographic xx x Hoist The Flag xx). He undoubtedly produced good offspring. I was also charmed by Trakehner blood in breeding, but in the end I found the movement to be somewhat flat so I stopped using that blood. Through all these various crosses, you also discover more about what you want or don't want to see in a horse."

High in the world ranking

Tim recalls his first stallion at the stable he co-owned with Piet Oosthoek: Nepal, a son of Pericles xx out of a mother by Dolman. "A very modern horse for that time. He had a lot of length in his body, which has always been crucial to me. He had a beautiful front and a degree of expression in the foreleg. Both he and his offspring had a lot of natural ability. I also find it important in a horse's conformation to have a long, not-too-sloping croup because a horse must derive power from it to collect. Horses should also show youthfulness. Older Grand Prix horses that endure for a long time often have a touch of classicism. In the past, those horses competed on poor footing and had slightly shorter legs and pasterns, which, in my opinion, made them slightly less vulnerable to injuries. That doesn't mean I want to return to those classic horses; we must continue to breed a modern horse while preserving functional traits. In breeding we have already achieved a lot because the KWPN ranks high in the world ranking."

A good start

After working hard for 27 years at Hoeksche Waard, a new challenge presented itself. “In 1994, I bought the house where we still live. The house had been vacant for several years and was completely overgrown. It was a gamble because the extension of the A4 highway was supposed to pass right over the house and the riding arena. The construction kept getting delayed for various reasons, and that has been the case for 30 years now. Together with my wife Nel and stepdaughter Manon, we are living here very satisfactorily. Manon manages the entire operation and social media, which is essential in this day and age.

“Our broodmares are located a kilometer away, and here at home horses are trained and prepared for trade. Nel and Manon ride some of them, but we also have stable riders Robert Jan de Visser and Lola Middelburg. A young man who used to work here starts the horses under saddle, and I’m always there for the first 10 times. If there are issues with breaking in, like fear or resistance, it always leads to trouble. Fortunately, I usually have an answer to a problem because I hate it when it becomes a battle. The saying ‘a good start is half the work’ certainly applies here as well.

“There is a lot going on in the world of horses. Everything has become so much more expensive: fuel, feed, and bedding. There is always a demand for very good horses because there is always a group of people willing to pay a handsome sum for them. At the same time, in general, horses are not becoming more expensive due to rising costs. This makes people cautious about spending. So if you’re breeding, you need to aim for excellence. And, of course, for a healthy horse.”

Business knowledge

“The most crucial factor is that a horse is clinically sound, although x-rays remain a tricky business. Veterinarians who frequently examine sport horses can make a good assessment, but veterinarians with less or occasional experience tend to be more cautious, mainly to avoid the risk of legal action from dissatisfied clients. Our system of health-based vetting has effectively eliminated navicular disease, which is excellent, but new problems have emerged in the backs and necks. For now, it’s a big gray area, and it hasn’t been scientifically proven how much impact certain abnormalities have.

“Just like with people, horses can perform excellently even with minor defects, provided that the management surrounding them is done well. Because you can breed an excellent horse, but if stabling, feeding, and training are not done right, it will never become a top horse. That’s why we prefer to sell to knowledgeable people, so we can see our horses at a World Championship or the Olympic Games. Nowadays, people want everything in a horse: beauty, expressive movement, easy rideability, health, and a gentle temperament. Breeding such a horse remains a challenge.”

Always convinced

“The art is to find the right rider for a good horse. Steffen Peters had been searching for a new horse for a year, but couldn’t find one. Klaus Balkenhol was also searching for one on his behalf. I was at the Aachen show when Reesink referred Steffen to me. At that time Ravel was with Edward Gal, and Steffen immediately fell in love with him when he went to see the horse. Klaus, who was the national coach at the time, also had a say, but when he came to see Ravel a week later, he didn’t like him at all. He told Steffen, ‘this will never be a Grand Prix horse.’ Ultimately, Steffen bought Ravel anyway and won everything with him. When we were at Aachen again later, Klaus approached me and shook my hand, saying, ‘you were right; he is a very good horse.’ I was always convinced that Ravel could do everything.’

Half a century of experience

At 74 years old, Tim has been involved in breeding horses for half a century and has undoubtedly developed a preference for certain bloodlines: “Jazz has done incredible things for breeding, but those weren’t average horses for amateurs at the time. I am still a huge fan of Contango in the dam line. He brought solidity and hard workers. They didn’t always win the beauty prize but were such pleasant horses to work with. This can be seen in Ravel and even now in Joop TC. In the dam line Ferro and Charmeur are also excellent, in my opinion. Sometimes the mare has more influence than the stallion, and other times it’s the opposite. You must continue to seek improvements. There is always a good foal beside some mares. A good broodmare is always the starting point.”

Everyone wants the best

“We then bought Resia, bred by René Franssen, the mother of Dream Boy. One day, I was away from home when I received a call from Nel. She said, ‘there are two young ladies here in jeans, and they want to buy Resia.’ That was not the plan at all, so I gave them a price not to sell. But I got an immediate agreement. It turned out to be Charlotte Dujardin and Emma Blundell of Mount St. John. It’s always the best mares that everyone wants.

“Manon and I wanted to keep Puma TC, but when Grand Prix rider Antonia Ramel asked to buy her, we decided to sell her because the business must keep running, and Antonia is a rider who rides the way we like to see. Currently, Puma is being trained by us, and she will move to Sweden afterwards. To keep our business healthy, we have to sell a gem every few years.

“As a young stallion we also sold Liverpool TC, the father of Puma TC. Liverpool was intended for the stallion inspection but was found to have one normal and one smaller testicle during an examination in Utrecht. However, his sperm quality was excellent. I then sold him as a sport horse to Germany after inseminating some of my own mares with him. He produced very nice offspring, including Puma. So, yes, that was another

learning experience: I should have given Liverpool a longer chance here.”

Impact on the result

“In neighbouring countries, breeding and rider training has greatly improved. A few years ago, I was in Herning, and I thought, ‘they ride really well here.’ In the meantime, the Danish riders have surpassed us. Recently, I was at a competition and noticed that the development of riding in the Netherlands is stagnating. What stands out to me is that nowadays the training must progress more quickly, with the risk that if you’re not careful you’ll skip parts that you’ll run into later. In my time, after the Small Tour, you disappeared for two years before preparing for Grand Prix, but then you were well-prepared. This success couldn’t be bought; it required hard work and discipline. If riders hit a rough patch these days they quickly run to another trainer. In the past you tried to solve problems together with your instructor. The field has become much wider and larger, but there is still work to be done, especially in terms of coaching.”

Ground support

“For training horses we always work together as a team. Ground support is crucial in confirming to the rider, ‘this is a good picture.’ Since Jeanine Nieuwenhuis left I’m now working with new and young people again. They use my horses, and how they are trained has an impact on my company’s results. It’s important that a horse is ridden over its back, and the rider should strengthen the horse instead of breaking it down. The rider’s influence can be very positive, but just as easily negative. That’s why I always like to attend the Pavo Cup for four-year-olds, the most beautiful class where a horse’s natural talent is still clearly visible. With five- and six-year-olds, you often see that they have already learned ‘tricks’ from their riders and the natural mechanics of movement disappear. I am generally in favor of allowing horses to spend a long time in the pasture and not starting their training too early. That’s why I would advocate for all stallions to participate in the performance test only in the autumn. It’s important that a horse gets a chance to be a horse and can remain mentally sound. It causes one year of discomfort for the stallion owners, but after that, we can continue with a system that has improved horse welfare.”

A bit of gambling

“Along with Nel and Manon I still enjoy the horses very much, although the horse trade has changed significantly. Nowadays, we are presented with various videos and photos of horses through the internet, and the whole world has become a horse dealer. In the past, I would physically go out to find those exceptional top horses.

“One time, I was introduced to an older man who had Esperanza, the current Grand Prix horse, as a young mare in

his stable. He had no facilities to showcase her, and the weather was very bad. The entire deal took three minutes. I told him, ‘Let her trot around the yard, once to the left and once to the right.’ Afterwards, I said she was sold, and he looked as if he had seen water catch fire. My gut feeling about a horse rarely lets me down. Discovering a gem and getting ahead of everyone else is rare these days. That’s why we breed a few foals ourselves every year, sometimes using older stallions with known qualities, sometimes newly approved stallions. It’s always a bit of a gamble, but that’s what makes it fun.

“Great Lady TC and Ivoli had two embryos flushed which will be born next year. Soon, both mares will return to sport. Due to my age, soon turning 75, I do want to take things a bit easier, but guiding young talents, whether they are people or horses, to reach the top remains the most beautiful thing and it never gets boring.”

Achievements

- Co-owner of Lancet (Wenzel I x Shogun xx), KWPN-approved stallion: Olympic participant in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 (in Hong Kong)
- Discoverer of TC Ravel (Contango x Democraat), KWPN-approved stallion: Olympic participant in Beijing 2008 and World Cup champion in Las Vegas
- Discoverer of TC Athene (United x Jazz): Multiple gold medals at Youth and U25 European Championships
- Co-owner of Brother de Jeu (Voice x Jazz): International Grand Prix dressage with Antonia Ramel
- Discoverer of Esperanza (Desperados FRH x Krack C): Stere mare and international Grand Prix dressage horse
- Co-owner of Glock’s Ziësto (Lancet x Clavecimbel): KWPN-approved stallion and Grand Prix dressage horse
- Breeder and co-owner of Glock’s Dream Boy (Vivaldi x Ferro): KWPN-approved stallion and Tokyo 2020 (in 2021) Olympic participant
- Breeder of Blue Hors Monte Carlo TC (Dream Boy x United): Approved in multiple studbooks including KWPN
- Breeder of Puma TC (Liverpool TC x United): Reserve champion of three-year-old dressage mares at the 2023 KWPN Championships
- Breeder and co-owner of Joop TC (Ravel x Krack C): KWPN-approved stallion and competing in the Light Tour
- Breeder of TC Washington (Polansky x Contango): Third-round viewing, designated by KWPN, Large Tour competitor
- Breeder and co-owner of Great Lady TC (Bretton Woods x Osmium): Elite sport and international Grand Prix, winner of the Pavo Cup for six-year-olds.
- Owner of Ivoli TC (Dream Boy x Jazz): Pavo Cup champion for four-year-olds
- Breeder of Cheatodon (Vic x Gouverneur): International Grand Prix dressage horse
- Multiple successes at mare inspections
- KWPN Breeder of the Year in South Holland in 2012. ■

A prestigious honour awarded to WBFSh's Jan Pedersen

BY BRITT CARLSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDEHESTEN.COM

The president of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses, Jan Pedersen, was recently awarded a prestigious prize during the World Cup Qualifier in Herning – the honour bestowed by HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark.

The patron of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses HRH Princess Benedikte also serves as chairperson of the association Dressurens Venner (Friends of Dressage) – an association she herself instituted in 2007. During the intermission of the FEI Dressage World Cup Freestyle in Herning, the Princess awarded the president of WBFSh Jan Pedersen (DEN) with the prestigious 'Lis Hartels Mindepris' (Lis Hartels Memorial Award).

At the ceremony, HRH Princess Benedikte said: "This year's recipient of the Lis Hartels Memorial Award has, through his many years working for Danish Warmblood, helped to strengthen the Danish dressage horse. Jan Pedersen's invaluable work as a breeder and leader of our Breeding Association and as president of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses has promoted and helped develop breeding.

"The Danish Warmblood Stallion Show, with its professional, competitive, and beautiful show, has become

an extremely popular event also far outside the country's borders. Danish Warmblood horses have won 20 medals at the Young Horse World Championships, 11 of which are gold, which speaks volumes.

"Jan Pedersen has the ability to appoint efficient teams and undertake tasks with long perspectives that benefit breeding and dressage. Danish-bred dressage horses are highly regarded, bred for durability and elegance – we can rightly be proud of Danish Warmblood dressage horses."

In his response, Jan Pedersen said: "I have rarely been as moved as I am today. To receive this award, and to have it presented here in Herning by the Princess, and to be mentioned in the same sentence as Lis Hartel, and to have my name engraved in this trophy with such luminaries who have already received the award, it cannot get much bigger for me. I am incredibly honored, proud, and very grateful, and I would like to thank the board because they have chosen to think of me in this context." ■



HRH Princess Benedikte, alongside Jan Pedersen, president of WBFSh and Nicole Siesby-Suhr representing the Siesbye-Hartel family

Tight finales during Mondial du Lion eventing WBCYH

By JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/PSV PHOTO

Since 2000, Le Lion d'Angers in north-western France has played host to the most prestigious championship for young eventing horses: The FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses.

Many of the past winners progressed to become household names at the highest level, including championship performances. There is no doubt that this event highlights the connection between breeding and performance, as well as the stallions and breeders of eventing horses from around the world.

This year, a very wide range of studbooks were represented in both the six- and seven-year-old championship, with top prizes going to a British-bred six-year-old mare and a French-bred seven-year-old mare.

Mares dominate

Overall, the seven-year-old class proved to be a hard-fought contest throughout, with less than one penalty point separating the top five horses on the final leaderboard. But it was a fairytale win for Golden de Beliard AA (Upsilon AA x Vieusinge du Maury AA x Jalienny AA) and Thomas Carlisle in the seven-year-old World Championships. Bred by Elevage de Beliard, this elegant Anglo Arab mare was sired by Upsilon whom Carlisle successfully campaigned to championship level and appeared on a number of French national teams. A very athletic little mare, Golden de Beliard has also been produced by Carlisle and, after a clear showjumping round, finished on her dressage score of 28.3 penalties.



Golden de Beliard AA – 7yo World Champion with Thomas Carlisle (FRA)



Izzy Taylor (GBR) riding 6yo World Champion Barrington Alice

Speaking after his victory Carlisle was emotional about her performance. “She gives everything she has. This little mare is a ray of sunshine. I am a little exhausted but I am really happy. She had a great season, everything she has done she has done really well. I am not thinking what comes next for her, we will see what happens next season. She is exceptional because she her chassis is a little small, but she has a lot of desire. With her breeding she’s not one we intend to sell, and because she’s a mare.”

The runner-up, Kiarado d’Arville (SBS/gelding: Diarado [Holst] - Nooney Blue (73.53%) x Jet Set du Rezidal [SBS]) was ridden by Lara De Liedekerke for Belgium, who was narrowly defeated by Carlisle after picking up 0.4 of a time penalty in the jumping phase. This tiniest of errors cost her the victory as she wound up just 0.1 penalty adrift on a final score of 28.4. The striking Belgian gelding was sired by top jumping stallion Diarado, and Lara De Liedekerke has future Olympics in mind with this horse. “He is a fantastic horse, I am so happy. He’s a horse I plan very strongly for Los Angeles. He is very efficient in all phases.”

Third place went to another French-bred mare from multi-national bloodlines: Gravure de la Mouline, by the KWPN stallion Eldorado de Hus/aka Ebel, out of Quandry de Hus Z, by the 2008 Holsteiner Que Guapo. Ridden by Astier Nicolas for France, the mare finished on her dressage score of 28.7.



Cooley On Ice ridden by Amanda Goldsbury (NZL) – making her Le Lion d’Angers debut

The six-year-old championship was won by the British-bred mare, Barrington Alice, ridden by Izzy Taylor (GBR) and owned by long-standing event-horse owner, Johnny Hornby. The flashy grey mare was sired by the dual-purpose stallion Cevin Z out of Allercombe Mayday who was sired by the prestigious Thoroughbred stallion Kuwait Beach xx. The pair produced a stunning test to put them into second after the dressage before jumping clear inside the time on the cross-country phase. Once again, with less than a fence in hand between the top seven horses going into the showjumping phase, Taylor and Barrington Alice kept impeccably cool heads and incurred just 0.8 time penalty to finish with 26.9.

Summing up her mare’s performance Taylor said; “We are very happy. She’s a very exciting horse for the future, I rate her very highly, and think she’s a senior championship horse. She handled this week and every phase very professionally. She jumped a super round today and was never going to touch a fence. The course was plenty tough enough and the time was tight enough for babies.”

Taylor is a previous Le Lion winner, having won the six-year-old championships on Monkeying Around in 2018 – the horse she has since been short-listed to ride in senior championships: “I’ve won here with two very different horses, but have ridden them both since four-year-olds. This horse was bred by Susie Holroyd, who also bred Allercombe Ellie who was

meant to go to Rio (2016 Olympic Games), so maybe this horse will...”

Taylor has competed on a number of British senior teams with different horses and very much hopes to be the one to take Barrington Alice up the levels. “She will have a holiday now and come back for next year. Hopefully she will win the seven-year-old championships next year. Barrington Sport Horses own her, they own several lovely young horses, so if someone really wants to buy them they can, but hopefully that won’t happen and she will go to the top with me.”

Bred by Les Hunieres, second place went to the French-bred Hermes du Gevaudan ridden by Stephane Landois, finishing on their dressage score of 27.7. The Selle Français gelding is by Quintus D’09 and the dam is Amber Du Gevauden by Quality Touch. “The horse is normally a good jumper and the course was tough and the time was tight today but he delivered. For the future he will do the seven-year-old season and hopefully come back here next year. The goal for the end of the season was coming here.”

In third place on a score of 28.8, was Cooley on Ice and Amanda Goldsbury from New Zealand, who was competing here at Le Lion for the first time. Her Zangersheide mare was very inexperienced but is another exciting eventing horse under the world-famous Cooley prefix. “We’ve only had her since June and she had never evented. She had only done four events before coming here but she has an amazing attitude, she’s brave, and careful, and a lot of fun to ride.”

Riders and owners were full of praise for this popular event, which is always famed for its imaginative cross-country fences and testing but educational tracks. The course was once again designed by the prestigious French Designer, Pierre Michelet. ■



ISH Studbook success in 2023

WBFSH rankings

BY HORSE SPORT IRELAND / HSI

PHOTOGRAPHY: IRISH EVENTING TIMES, H. CRUDEN, D. FITZGERALD/SPORTSFILE

The 2023 World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) Studbook Rankings were released on October 13, where it was announced that the Irish Sport Horse Studbook (ISH) has retained its place as the leading studbook for Eventing horses in 2023.

The WBFSH rankings also show that the Irish Sport Horse has maintained its Top 10 placing for showjumping horses, moving up to sixth place from 10th in 2022 and 2021.

In an even more positive development, the six horses, whose individual ranking count towards the overall studbook score, all placed within the Top 20 internationally for event horses, and the Top 120 for showjumpers.

Speaking about the ranking result, Dr. Sonja Egan, Head of Breeding, Development and Innovation in Horse Sport Ireland had the following to say, "Horse Sport Ireland would like to congratulate the breeders, owners, and riders of the horses who contributed to the success and ranking of the Irish Sport Horse in 2023. We would also like to acknowledge the connections of all horses who represent the Irish Sport Horse, and Irish breeding worldwide.

"We would like to particularly acknowledge the joint 17th ranked Irish Sport Horse in eventing, Oughterard Cooley (ISH) [TIH]. He is the leading traditionally bred Irish Sport Horse in the rankings and shows the continued value of traditional breeding in the modern age. Traditional breeding also comes to the forefront in the dams of the showjumpers James Kann Cruz (ISH) and Rincoola Milsean (ISH). Also noteworthy is the contribution of Thoroughbred mares as can be seen in the back breeding of the event horse

Black Ice (ISH), and the showjumpers Up Too Jacco Blue (ISH) and GRS Lady Amaro (ISH).

"It is due to the continued efforts of all of our breeders that the Irish Sport Horse is one of the leading sport horse studbooks in the world. Each year with each crop of new foals being born comes the renewed dream of all breeders to breed an eventual champion. To breed a horse that will in time trot into the hallowed arenas of the world, from the RDS to Badminton, Aachen to Burghley, Lanaken to Le Lion d'Angers, Valkenswaard to Kentucky. Without the dedication of our breeders, producers and the wider connections from grooms, vets, farriers, dentists, physios, and all the ancillary roles in between, results like today's result simply do not happen. Their contribution is not unnoticed.

"We must also make special mention of the owners of these incredible horses, whose investment in them is vital in continually giving them the opportunity to compete on the world stage.

"To the riders, we thank you for the hard work, effort and dedication that goes towards producing these horses for competition, and providing Irish horses with the opportunity to demonstrate why they are the best in the world.

"HSI looks forward to continued success for the breeders, owners and riders of Irish Sport Horses, and wish you the very best of good luck as WE move into 2024 and beyond. We also look forward to the Irish Sport Horse Studbook continuing to be recognised as one of the leading studbooks in the world.

"It is also refreshing to note that the vast majority of the horses which have contributed to the rankings in both showjumping and eventing spent their formative years competing in the young horse classes in Ireland, such as the Horse Sport Ireland Studbook and Development Series.

"As we continue to develop the Young Horse Pathway through which horses in Ireland can be produced towards their international careers, it is Horse Sport Ireland's intention to continue to make Ireland the best country in the world in which to produce a young horse."

Speaking to Horse Sport Ireland, Stephen



Ballaghmor Class ridden by Oliver Townend (GBR)



Shane Sweetnam of Ireland riding James Kann Cruz during the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup of Ireland at Royal Dublin Horse Show

Russell of Atlantic Stud in Co. Clare where the world number four eventing horse, Rehy DJ (ISH) was bred, said: "He always showed great potential. From day one he showed potential. He had to be sold as an unbroken four-year-old because we had no one to bring him on at the time, and we probably didn't get the value for him that he was worth but he was always one that just showed that bit extra potential.

"His mother Rehy Misty (ISH) is a right good mare. She bred a few other horses that were good performers in their own right too, such as Rehy Snow Flake (ISH) by Search For Royalty (TB), as well as Rehy Too Step (ISH) and Rehy Haiti (ISH), both by our own stallion Rehy High Society (ISH). They all evented internationally, and we retained a half-sister to Rehy DJ (ISH) for breeding, Rehy Ruby (ISH), also by Rehy High Society (ISH). Hopefully there'll be another star to come from that family."

Ranked number four in the world for showjumping was Pacino Amiro (ISH), bred in Co. Donegal by Simon Scott who told Horse Sport Ireland: "Buddy, as he's known in the stable, was always a class horse. The great thing about him is that for breeders in these parts, it's a great boost. It's a great boost for Donegal and just a really great boost for the area that a horse of his quality that has gone on to do what he's done has come from this area. It gives local breeders a shot in the arm, and certainly for us here it makes us think we're going the right way.

"We're fortunate to still have the mare breeding. She was covered this year with Carrera VDL to no joy, but she has a colt foal with her by Flonix (ISH), a yearling colt and a four-year-old stallion both by Echonix (ISH), and she has a filly by For Kinmar Hero Z (Zang) that'll be three next year so we'll put her into work in time and jump her on a bit. She'll probably be kept though to keep the line here with us. There's a few of the family around anyway, and they're showing promise, so you never know, maybe there's another Buddy to come. To have bred one like him though is what dreams are made of."

Denis Duggan, Horse Sport Ireland Chief Executive, added: "It is an absolutely magnificent achievement for the

Irish Sport Horse studbook to be crowned as the leading studbook in the world yet again. The continued dominance of the Irish Sport Horse in the eventing ranking is a testament to the passion, hard work, and sacrifice made by Irish breeders, producers, and owners.

"On top of that, the Irish Sport Horse is ranked at number six for jumping, another fantastic result, with the likes of James Kann Cruz (ISH), bred by Patrick Connolly in Co. Galway, a particularly exceptional performer in 2023.

"A huge amount goes into breeding operations and these rankings are something we should be very proud of. HSI continues to provide the best possible support to Irish breeders through schemes and initiatives supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – long may results like these continue."

Irish Sport Horse rankings

The horses whose international performances contributed to the Irish Sport Horse rankings are:

Eventing

(2) **Ballaghmor Class** (ISH) 2007, gelding by Courage II (HOLST) out of Kilderron Place (ISH). Breeder: Noel Hickey, Co. Limerick. Owner: Meses. Shuter, Hislop & Ryan. Rider: Oliver Townend (GBR).

- 2nd Badminton (GBR), CCI5*-L.
- 2nd Ainwick (GBR), CCI4*-S.
- 1st Burghley (GBR), CCI5*-L

(4) **Rehy DJ** (ISH) 2010, gelding by Tinaranas Inspector (Westf) out of Rehy Misty (ISH), by Big Sink Hope (TB). Breeder: Noel Russell, Co. Clare. Owner: The Sue Davies Fund. Rider: Yasmin Ingham (GBR)

- 9th Chatsworth (GBR), CCIO4*-NC-S
- 3rd Little Downham (GBR), CCI4*-S.
- 3rd Luhmuhlen (GER), CCI5*-L

(11) **Black Ice** (ISH) 2010, gelding by Vechta (KWPN) out of Brookhall Lady (ISH), by Touchdown (ISH). Breeder: Judith McClelland, Co. Down. Owner: Dorothea Von Zedtwitz. Rider: Jerome Robine (GER).

- 10th Luhmuhlen (GER), CCI5*-L.
- 7th Le Pin au Hara (FRA), CH-EU-CCI4*-L.
- 3rd Baborowko (POL), CCI4*-S

(17) **Cavalier Crystal** (ISH) 2010, mare by Jack of Diamonds (SWB) out of Cavalier Iris (ISH), by Cavalier Royal (Holst). Breeder: Thomas Horgan, Co Waterford. Owner: Charlotte Opperman. Rider: Harry Meade (GBR)

- 5th Thoresby Park (GBR), CCI4*-S.
- 5th Bramham (GBR), CCI4*-L.
- 3rd Burghley (GBR), CCI5*-L

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*Pacino Amiro ridden by Bertram Allen (IRL) – Herning, Denmark
2022 World Championships*

(17) **Oughterard Cooley** (ISH) [TIH] [formerly known as Oughterard Sky Boy] 2010, gelding by Puissance (ISH) [TIH] out of Oughterard Sky Cruise (ISH) [TIH] by Cruising (ISH) [TIH]. Breeder: Gerard Lynch, Co. Clare. Owner: Liz Magennis & Debbie Whalley. Rider: Wills Oakden (GBR)

- 12th Badminton (GBR), CCI5*-L.
- 6th Ainwick (GBR), CCI4*-S.
- 5th Burghley (GBR), CCI5*-L.

(20) **HSH Blake** (ISH) [formerly known as Galwaybay Blake and Galwaybay HSH Redfield] 2015, gelding by Tolan R (KWPN) out of Doughiska Lass (ISH), by Kannan (KWPN). Breeder: Justin Burke. Owner: Meses. Hoff, Martin, C. Pamuckcu and D. Pamuckcu. Rider: Caroline Pamuckcu (USA)

- 5th Ocala, FL (USA), CCI3*-L.
- 3rd Myakka City, FL (USA), CCI4*-S.
- 2nd Strzegom (POL), CCI04*-NC-S.

Showjumping

(4) **Pacino Amiro** (ISH) 2012, gelding by Pacino (BWP) out of Carnone Dancing Queen (ISH), by NC Amiro (AES). Breeder: Simon Scott, Co. Donegal. Owner: Aiden McGrory. Rider: Bertram Allen (IRL).

- 1st La Coruna (ESP), 1m60m CSI5* GCT Grand Prix.
- 1st Spruce Meadows (CAN), 1m60m CSIO5* Nations Cup
- 1st Wellington FL, (USA), 1m55 CSI5* Challenge Cup.

(12) **James Kann Cruz** (ISH) [Formerly known as CSF James Kann Cruz] 2013, gelding by Kannan (KWPN) out of CSF Telly Cruz (ISH), by Cruising (ISH) [TIH]. Breeder: Patrick Connolly, Co. Galway. Owner: Gizmo Partners LLC. Rider: Shane Sweetnam (IRL).

- 3rd Wellington FL, (USA), 1m60 CSI5* Grand Prix.
- 2nd Dinard (FRA), 1m60 CSI5* Grand Prix.

- 1st Vancouver-Langley (CAN), 1m60 CSIO5* Nations Cup

(28) **Up Too Jacco Blue** (ISH) 2011, gelding by Chacco Blue (MECKL) out of Celestial Up Too (ISH), by ARD VDL Douglas (KWPN). Breeder: Mark Sherry, Co. Wicklow. Owner: Hans Christian Jacobsen. Rider: Max Kühner (AUT).

- 2nd Valkenswaard (NED), 1m60 CSI5* GCT Grand Prix
- 1st Valkenswaard (NED), 1m60 CSI5* GCT Table A Speed
- 1st London (GBR), 1m60 CSI5* GCT Table A Speed

(48) **Rincoola Milsean** (ISH) 2013, gelding by Aldatus Z (OLD) out of Rincoola Abu (ISH) [TIH], by Cruising (ISH) [TIH]. Breeder: Harold McGahern, Co. Longford. Owner: North Star Sporthorses. Rider: Charlotte Jacobs (USA)

- 8th Vancouver-Langley (CAN), 1m60 CSIO5* Grand Prix.
- 2nd Vancouver-Langley (CAN), 1m55 CSI5* MLSJ Team Competition
- 2nd Wellington FL, (USA), 1m50 CSI4* Classic

(86) **GRS Lady Amaro** (ISH) 2013, mare by Amaretto Darco (BWP) out of Legal Lady (TB), by Over The River (TB). Breeder: Denis Hickey, Co. Wexford. Owner: S.n.c McAuley. Rider: Mark McAuley (IRL).

- 7th Paris (FRA), 1m60 CSI5* GCT Grand Prix.
- 5th Helsinki (FIN), 1m60 CSI5*-W Table A Two Round.
- 2nd Hickstead (GBR), 1m60 CSIO5*-NC Nations Cup

(120) **BP Wakita** (ISH) 2013, mare by Pacino (BWP) out of BP Masterpiece (ISH), by Cruising (ISH) [TIH]. Breeder: Greg Broderick, Co. Tipperary. Owner: Trefoil Farm LLC. Rider: Roberto Teran Tafur (COL).

- 3rd Aachen (GER), 1m50 CSIO5* STAWAG-Prize.
- 3rd Aachen (GER), 1m50 CSIO5* Table A Jump Off.
- 1st Devon PA (USA), 1m50 CSI4* Table A Jump Off. ■



Oughterard Cooley ridden by Wills Oakden (GBR)

Liselotte Tillberg: Proud to have bred Albführen's Maddox

BY ANETTE SÅNESSON / SWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROLAND THUNHOLM

In recent years, the SWB (Swedish Warmblood) horses have succeeded each other in the international showjumping arenas. One of them is the bay gelding Maddox, born and raised in Östergötland, bred by Liselotte Tillberg.

“I am so proud; having bred a horse competing at the very top level in the world adds a little extra luster to life,” says Liselotte, who has enjoyed a love for horses throughout her life.

Growing up, there were Fjord horses at the neighboring farm, and Liselotte used to go over there as a little girl to spend time with them. As she got older, she cared for the same horses together with other girls from the area. When she turned 12 years old, Liselotte got her first pony, which she competed in the lower classes. A few years later, she started working for the competitive rider and breeder Karl-Åke Hultberg.

“I bought a horse from Karl-Åke before I went back home,” Liselotte recalls. “It was a very nice horse, an offspring by the Thoroughbred stallion San Michele xx, which I rode and competed in both dressage and showjumping.”

Liselotte took a break from horse ownership for a few years while pursuing a healthcare education and starting a family. In the early 2000s, she returned to horses, and a daughter of Maraton, Miami (out of Parla x Happy Day), turned up at the barn. Liselotte quickly took a liking to her and bought her as a three-year-old from Angelica Karlsson. Over the years, Liselotte has had immense joy with her. “Miami had an excellent temperament and was pleasant to



Albführen's Maddox demonstrating his enormous scope in the hands of Steve Guerdat (SUI)

work with,” Liselotte explains. “She was also well-built and modern in type and had an incredible canter. I had a lot of fun with her; we competed in the lower classes and did some eventing training with Lars-Erik Gällerdal.”

A few years later, Liselotte began to consider breeding Miami, and in 2009 her first foal was born. Besides Miami, Liselotte has had a few other well-bred mares in her breeding program, including Nuit Blanche and Janneau Grand, as well as Jambalaya, which she leased. Over the years, there have been quite a few foals produced. Liselotte's breeding operation has been small-scale, but the outcome has been good, her horses have placed well in national foal shows and are successful in M-level dressage and show jumping. “The horses I have bred have ended up with owners who are happy with them, and that makes me feel satisfied as a breeder,” Liselotte explains.

Maddox was born in 2011 and is Miami's third offspring. “I gave the choice of stallion a lot of thought,” Liselotte remembers. “I wanted a consistent jumping stallion with good overall scores and good gaits. After thinking carefully and discussing with Gränsbo Stud, I decided on Cohiba.”

It turned out that the choice of sire was right when Maddox participated in the national foal show, and placed second with the judges' comment that he



The reins of Albführen's Maddox in Steve Guerdat's capable hands



could just as well be a good dressage horse.

Maddox sold at the age of one-and-a-half, and Liselotte stayed in touch with the new owners Sylvie Ragnarsson and Robert Bertilsson. As a three-year-old, Maddox was awarded a premium in jumping with the score of 9.90. He was trained by Victoria Almgren and, in the same year, he won the three-year-old championship at the Swedish Breeding and Sports Championship, where the judges Mikael Nolin and Helena Persson gave the gelding 19.2 out of a total of 20 points. Maddox was sold to Lisen and Peder Bratt Fredricson at Grevlunda shortly after the competition. “I was thrilled and

pleased when I heard that Maddox was sold to Lisen and Peder,” Liselotte says with pride. “They really care about their horses and have a fantastic philosophy; they let them be horses.”

FACT SHEET

- **Maddox**

Born: 2011

Sire: Cohiba 1198

Dam: Miami (37) (SWB) 29335 – Maraton 600

Breeder: Liselotte Tillberg

- **Miami** (37) (SWB) 29335

Born: 1998

Sire: Maraton 600

Dam: Pärla (37) (SWB) 18907, by Happy Day 650

Breeder: Angelica Karlsson and Sven-Olof Gustavsson

- **Nuit Blanche** (45) (SWB) 27653

Born: 2001

Sire: Don Schufro

Dam: Norea (45) (SWB) 21335, by Maraton 600

Breeder: Rune Augustsson

- **Janneau Grand** (SWB) 28880

Born: 1998

Sire: Guinness 888

Dam: Cocolada (SWB), by Good Future 741

Breeder: Bastängens Stuteri, Anne-Lie Lindbom

- **Jambalaya** (SWB)

Born: 1996

Sire: Ampere (SWB) 859

Dam: Jarrah (SWB) 22591, by Martini (SWB) 744

Breeder: Barbro Klensmeden

As a seven-year-old, Maddox, under the saddle of Stephanie Holmén, competed in the seven-year-old class in Åby, Norrköping, and the plan was for the duo to also compete in Falsterbo, but they never appeared on the starting list. “I began to suspect that a sale was in progress,” Liselotte recalls. “Then I heard that he was sold to Steve Guerdat and his sponsor Team Albführen, and I thought ‘Oh, wow!’”

Under the name Albführen’s Maddox, the gelding has since competed in top international competitions with Swiss rider Steve Guerdat, and the duo has consistently performed



exceptionally well. The team’s gold medal at the 2021 European Championships was the crowning achievement, and Steve has spoken warmly in various interviews about his Swedish-born horse, praising his capacity and work ethic.

Liselotte has so far followed Maddox’s journey from her TV couch but hopes to one day have the opportunity to see him live. “It’s very exciting but nerve-wracking to watch Maddox compete on the TV screen,” Liselotte says. “It’s fun that even people outside the horse world have contacted me when they’ve heard my name mentioned in the TV broadcasts. My biggest wish is to see him live, but it’s difficult to get time off from work on short notice; hopefully, it will happen someday.”

Even though horses have come and gone throughout Liselotte’s life, her passion has persisted, and she has always kept a foot in the horse world. She is active in the regional association SWB Östergötland, where she has been a board member for several years, and for the past 11-12 years, she has been the managing director for the association’s foal inspections. “I am so glad that I gave myself the chance to breed horses,” Liselotte concludes. “Unfortunately, Miami didn’t have a filly; otherwise, I might have continued. But one should never say never; I still have the horse trailer.” ■



Maddox as a foal

Latvian Warmblood Studbook supports young breeders

BY LAINE ORBIDANE / IYB

PHOTOGRAPHY: AIJA LUSE, LUIZE DINSORFA, JOLANTA ROTHBERGA

The activities of Young Breeders of the Latvian Warmblood studbook supported by the Latvian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association started only two years ago, in 2021. Membership of International Young Breeders was the first step alongside building a team to participate in the 2022 World Championships in Ermelo, the Netherlands.

In October 2023 we hosted our first Latvian Young Breeders National Championships, and Diana Pelsa, a senior member of the Latvian World Championship team in shares her experiences: Progressing from her involvement in young breeders, Diana recently used her experiences and knowledge gained to offer back as a judge at the recent National Championships during the in-hand discipline. She is also studying and practicing to become an inspector for the Latvian Warmblood Studbook in the future.

First steps in horse breeding

According to Diana; “I have always aspired to breed horses – it’s been my dream, my plan. When I first came across a social media post about pre-selection for the Latvian Young Breeders team and the opportunity to take part in the Young Breeders World Championship, I made the decision to devote 100% of my efforts towards it. I felt the opportunity presented as a step toward realising my dream.

“I bought my first horse already with the intention of breeding. She was a four-year-old, Latvian Warmblood (LWB) mare that I sourced in 2017 directly from her breeder with whom I was training at that time. In

2022, I celebrated my first foal from this mare. Then in 2019 I purchased a wonderful nine-year-old LWB gelding for jumping training, who turned out to be a bit ‘spicy’.

“I graduated from the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies in 2021 with a Professional Bachelors Degree in Agriculture and Zootechnician in Breeding. Furthermore, also in 2021, I joined as a member Latvian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association.

“Currently I have five LWB horses of which two have Latvian Heavy Warmblood (LHWP) bloodlines. LWB horses are typically large, exceeding 160cms at the withers, and stallions often reach 170cmd or more, athletically built, with well-defined toplines, suitable for various equestrian sports. The aim of breeding LWB is to preserve and develop two historically established horse types, which are the sport and draft types, and to popularise the valuable traits of LWB, such as their good-naturedness and balanced mind.”



Young Breeder Diana Pelsa

Becoming a ‘Young Breeder’

“In July 2021, there was a pre-selection process for team formation, comprising a theory test and an interview, which marked the first Latvian Young Breeders event of many since. Following that, practical horse training sessions occurred approximately once a month, and we had the opportunity to provide volunteer work at various shows. I happily participated at all of the training and show events.

“My perspective has changed the most. Now, when I look at a horse, I automatically start analysing it – its conformation, movement, and what would be the most suitable discipline or rider for it. I have definitely learned a lot, made new friends, gained valuable experience and confidence in what I do, also



LWB Young breeders in training clinics during preparation and team building for the championships. (l-r) Anna Sellere, Liana Stulpina, Sendija Samohvalova, Alise Lutinska, coach Laine Orbidane, Diana Pelsa, Evita Bogomola, Velta Krustina, Madara Soma



LWB junior and senior teams with team coach Laine Orbidane and LWB Horse Breeders Association chairman of the board Aija Luse at the WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships in 2022. (l-r) Sendija Samohvalova, Katrina Snore, Beatrise Balama, Laine Orbidane, Paula Klavina, Aija Luse, Anna Sellere, Liana Stulpina, Diana Pelsa

reassured myself that I'm heading in the right direction. Following the Young Breeders World Championship, I gathered the courage to acquire two more broodmares."

Most important lessons and opportunities

"Young Breeders activities provided me with the right place to gain experience, learn, and acquire genuine, up-to-date information, as well as growth opportunities and making new contacts with like-minded individuals. Overall, joining Young Breeders can be a transformative experience.

"The world of horse breeding is ever-evolving. Staying updated with the latest techniques, research, and industry



LWB team in 'turnout' at the WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships in 2022. Diana Pelsa braiding, alongside Paula Klavina

trends is crucial for success. Theory is important, but hands-on experience is invaluable. Working directly with horses and experienced professionals provides practical skills and insights.

"I have had the opportunity to participate in the Young Breeders World Championship in the Netherlands 2022 and visited the VDL Stud where we were shown foals, youngsters and stallions, one of which captured my eye – Indoctro. That's why I aspire to someday acquire a foal from this famous stallion, hopefully from a good damline.

"I had opportunity to learn from experienced breeders, trainers, and industry experts regarding breeding, feeding, stable management, health and welfare, conformation, and free jumping, also grooming. I had several opportunities to visit different stables and breeding farms with various horses and housing systems, which I otherwise wouldn't have been able to experience.

"Additionally, in 2023 was the third time that I had the opportunity to participate in Latvia's young horse competition 'Autumn Pearl' as a volunteer, and my favorite duty was awarding ribbons to the horses. I also this year had the opportunity to travel to Estonia with my colleagues to talk about the Young Breeders movement and I was a part of the judging panel at a Latvian Young Breeders championship, which was also a selection for 2024 WC team.

"Young Breeders involvement has been so beneficial to my personal development and learning more about the different aspects of horses. The chance to discuss with others is so valuable and most importantly new friendships made." ■



In-hand presentation during the October 2023 Latvian Young Breeders Championships. Liana Stulpina, Latvian Young Breeders senior champion

SWB Breeder of the Year 2022: The Linell Family

BY ANETTE SÅNESSON / SWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAELA SWÄRD, ROLAND THUNHOLM

Göran and Ingrid Linell have been breeding horses for six decades. Now, their sons Fredrik and Martin and their families have taken over a highly successful mare line, while grandchildren Wilma and Ludwig have started to show their skills in the competition ring.

“Of course, we are proud,” says Göran, with agreement from Ingrid. Horses have always been a part of the family. Göran grew up with horses and made his own competition debut in 1957. The breeding of horses began in the 1970s, initially on a smaller scale, but that has expanded over the years. The interest in horses and showjumping has been passed down to Fredrik and Martin, who both have competed successfully in showjumping. Fredrik in S-level classes and Martin up to 1m40. Their respective partners, Lina and Emma, also compete in showjumping, as do Fredrik and Lina’s children, Wilma and Ludwig.

“For our part, there is less and less riding,” says Lina, with agreement from Fredrik. There are 15 horses in the show barn, and their employed rider, Matilda, helps the family exercise the show horses. “It’s more enjoyable to accompany the children to competitions,” continues Lina, who attended some international competitions with Wilma during the spring, when she represented Sweden in children’s classes.

The family resides in Dösjebro, in the region of Skåne, in the south of Sweden, and the farm is just a few minutes walk from the Dagstorp equestrian facility. Fredrik and Lina

have taken over the family farm, while Martin and Emma live at a neighboring farm a few hundred meters away. Göran divides his time between the two operations and has no trouble keeping busy during his retirement. Ingrid also lends a hand when extra help is needed. “We miss Göran when he’s not here,” says Lina, and the whole family agrees that the extra help combined with the experience and expertise is invaluable.

A long-term breeding program with good foundational breeding stock is the basis for their success. Besides knowledge and intuition, the mare Heather Honey played a significant role as she was an outstanding mare. Heather Honey joined the family in the late 1980s and competed in S-level showjumping with Fredrik before Martin took over the reins. After success on the showjumping circuit, she transitioned to the breeding stall, and now the sixth generation is on its way into the family.

“Heather Honey was an extremely careful jumper,” Göran recalls, and today he can see her traits recurring in the younger generations. “Her offspring are both careful and sensitive. We wanted offspring with more scope, so we bred her to Robin Z and Cardento.”

The idea turned out to be entirely right. Heather Honey had nine offspring, four of which have recorded placings in S-level showjumping and three in M-level. Her daughter Pangea, one of the S-level horses, is the dam of Pénélope Leprevost’s competition horse, Texas, and the granddam of the approved stallion, Lloyd. Pangea, besides her competitive career, has produced seven offspring. Her daughter Panthalassa is an S-level mare and the dam of Breeders Trophy winner Pacific, as well as Tellus, who also has placements in S-level showjumping.

Emma and Martin have eight broodmares and over 40 young horses on free range. There are 15 show horses in Lina and Fredrik’s stable, and they expect around 20 foals this coming year.

The family breeds the mares early on so that they have offspring and can then enter the sport. This results in rapid breeding progress and an excellent opportunity to capitalize on the horses’ qualities. Fredrik and Lina prefer to



Helén Uddefors, CEO SWB, Göran Linell, Fredrik Linell, Martin Linell, and Mikael Theorén, Business Manager, Agria Djurförsäkring



Lina Linell and Pacifica in the 5yo class

keep filly foals for this reason: to have an opportunity to breed and pass on the genes. When selecting stallions, they like the sires to be a bit older, proving they can perform on the show circuit.

For Emma and Martin, the focus is on young horses. Martin gave up riding many years ago and works full-time for a Danish pharmaceutical company. Emma handles the day-to-day operations, including training and competing with the young horses. Currently, nine horses are being trained and competed by Emma. “The horses from the family’s mare line have fantastic rideability; I can’t take credit for that,” says Emma with a smile.

The rideability has always been there, and the combination of good temperament and strong jumping ability has taken the family’s breeding to the international competition arenas. This also applies to the family’s approved stallion, Lloyd 1428. He was approved in 2021 at the age of three and followed up with a successful performance at the annual test. Lloyd comes from a strong lineage with triple S-level stallions in his pedigree, with both dam and granddam having jumped at S-level. “He has a big jump and is careful,” Fredrik says. “Additionally, he has a fantastic temperament and rideability.”

“Our 14-year-old daughter Wilma has been competing with him this spring,” Lina proudly adds, mentioning that the offspring born now seem to have inherited his excellent qualities.

There is much to be proud of, as Göran notes, but he emphasizes Kiara as the one closest to his heart. Kiara and Fredrik placed in the Breeders Trophy, and a few years later they competed in the Swedish Championship. At her Swedish Championship debut Kiara was eight years old and had already had a foal. After a few years with Fredrik, she was sold to the Mexican La Silla stud and was ridden by Rolf-Göran Bengtsson. Rolf-Göran and Kiara competed successfully, participating in the World Cup and Nations Cups. Here, too, there are examples of quick generational intervals; Kiara was a granddam while making her debut on the international jumping circuits. Her daughter Tequila is

now a broodmare for Emma and Martin.

Bred by Göran, Texas, competes internationally with the French rider Pénélope Leprevost, achieving victories and placements in five-star competitions, and she speaks warmly about her horse. “I am so happy with Texas; he’s fun to ride, and I have great belief in him,” Pénélope Leprevost said in interviews, speaking appreciatively about her competition partner. “It’s exciting to have another breeding success at the top,” says Göran with pride. “It’s also important that the horses end up with good riders along the way and are given the conditions to flourish.”

Göran and Fredrik agree that horses can jump well and possess all the desired traits, but to reach the very top the mental aspect plays a significant role. The horses are free-jumped at the age of two or three, and often, the talent is already visible at that stage.

The victory in the Breeders Trophy for five-year-old horses was another of the family’s successes last year. Bred by Fredrik, Pacific, won with Lina in the saddle, and the horse received praise from the test rider and world star Henrik von Eckermann. Fredrik has competed in advanced show-jumping with the dam, granddam, and great-granddam, and both Lina and Fredrik light up when Pacific is mentioned.

“I believe she can go all the way,” says Lina. “She is an amazing horse with a big jump and a lot of power in her hind legs. It was great to win the Breeders Trophy and fantastic to receive a good review from Henrik von Eckermann.” Lina continued by revealing that their daughter Wilma has now taken over the reins. The pair has already started in international children’s classes and plans to qualify for the Breeders Trophy this fall.

In the stable, they have her three-year-old offspring by Zambesi, for whom Fredrik and Lina have high hopes. There is also a four-year-old half-brother by Orlando who hopefully will qualify for the Breeders Trophy this fall. On the horizon lies a performance test next spring if all goes well.

For the past three years, they have been operating an AI station on the farm where frozen semen and embryo transfer have become something of their specialty, thanks in large part to the skilled and experienced veterinarian Martina Campo, who flies in from Sicily for the breeding season. The station is popular, there is great interest in embryo transfer, and Lina and Fredrik have purchased around 50 recipient mares that are then leased to the mare owners. It also aids their own breeding operation to have an AI station on the farm.

Ingrid and Göran enjoy being in the background now that the ‘youngsters’ have taken over, and are both happy and proud to have both two- and four-legged descendants in the showjumping arenas. Earlier this year, they took a road trip to Belgium to watch 14-year-old Wilma compete.

The family is in agreement regarding the goals and dreams for the future. With a solid maternal lineage that has been with them for generations, the goal is to improve and strengthen it further. In conclusion, Lina said; “It is a dream for the children to ride in international championships on our home-bred horses.” ■

Canada reports from the 2023 WBFSh General Assembly

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA

PHOTOGRAPHY: CWHBA

The 2023 WBFSh General Assembly (GA) held in Orlando, Florida, marked the second face-to-face meeting since Covid 19. And for a second time the CWHBA sent a large contingent to participate in the meetings, seminars, and informal gatherings.

The General Assembly was ably hosted by the American Trakehner Association who provided top quality hospitality and timely, informative seminars. The hot weather was both a challenge and a surprise to Canadians who are now moving into winter temperatures at home.

Attendance by WBFSh member studbooks was inline with other years, which is to say it could always be more. CWHBA is one of the smallest studbooks, yet it managed to send five people, one of the largest contingents. Notably, CWHBA has attended every GA since 1995 with one or more people, and would be delighted to see more studbooks follow their lead.

The WBFSh has a hard-working Board and Executive Committee. They are committed to an annual plan that each year encompasses a number of important initiatives designed to serve the common interests of our studbooks and breeders. In order to do this, they need the dialogue and engagement from members. Naturally, a great deal of valuable discussion takes place outside of the formal workshops, and this annual event is a unique opportunity to network, share ideas, and work together for our common interest.

Canadian attendees were Chris Gould, CWHBA representative to the WBFSh; Janice Tyndall, Chair; Victoria Kendall, office administrator; Maria Ardito IYB coordinator; and Rod Jack, Alberta Chapter Board member.

The CWHBA offers special thanks and congratulations to Paul Hubert from Selle Francais, newly appointed honorary member and retiring vice president after 21 years of service.

CWHBA Fall Classic Breeders' Sale

A successful Fall Classic Breeders' Sale came to a close October 13. Repeating the online format that began with Covid, the sale has continued to attract quality consignments and widespread bidder interest. Average prices showed an increase over last year, and the largest category was weanlings. With a significant number of interesting jumping pedigrees, buyers were selective and sellers were able to command good prices. As a result not all were sold, but the average price rose to over \$11,500. (All prices in CDN\$.)

The high selling weanling was the dressage-bred foal Tah-Dah (Springbank x Totilas) consigned by Coreen Jamieson, Klondike Victory Farms. Topping out at \$18,500, this young

prospect is heading to a new home in San Francisco, CA.

Not to be outdone, the top jumper foal named To Be Determined, with a loaded pedigree containing Emerald van't Ruytershof, Volatire, Stakkato, and Clinton and bred by Lorrie Jamieson of Elysian Farm, sold for \$17,000. Several two year olds commanded similar prices with Winifred (Wolkenstein x Donner Bube), bred by Roxy Bell, heading to Lebanon, Tennessee for a very respectable \$25,000.

The prospects under saddle and performance horse categories also featured some very positive outcomes. At \$32,000 Raya I (Royal Blend x Gervantus II) was the high selling prospect. Bred by Sandra Donnelly of Alborak Stables, this promising young mare will make her new home in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Top selling performance horse, Chevalier Kalden, a nine-year-old amateur-friendly jumper, bred by Maya Huppie and consigned by Jim Ifko of Paramount Equestrian Centre, sold for \$45,000. Sired by Candillo Junior and out of a Titan mare, he also will be heading to a British Columbia home; this time in Vernon.

As in the past there were horses in all price ranges. Several sold for \$7,000, providing exceptional value for money. Bidders and successful buyers came from across Canada and the United States and will no doubt be looking forward to next years offering. ■



Paul Hubert and Chris Gould



l-r: Maria Ardito, Janice Tyndall and Victoria Kendall



l-r: Rod Jack, Victoria Kendall, Chris Gould, Janice Tyndall and Mara Ardito

AES teams shine at inaugural WBFSh Studbooks GCT

BY EVA MARIA BROOMER / AES

As the only studbook with all its teams in the medals, the Anglo European Studbook truly made its marks at the inaugural WBFSh Studbooks Global Champions Trophy at the Longines Jan Tops International Arena in Valkenswaard, the Netherlands.

The only studbook from Britain to participate, the AES fielded teams in the five-, six-, and seven-year-old classes. According to Lucy Simpson, AES evaluator and team selector ““We didn’t have a lot of time from the original announcement in June to put together our teams, but everyone has been enormously supportive of the concept and enthusiastic. We would like to thank everyone who participated for all their efforts in putting their horses forward and bringing them all the way to Holland. We could not be prouder of them all.”

It is perhaps not surprising that the team of five-year-old horses were the ones to find the step up to the international arena and big atmosphere at Valkenswaard initially challenging. The team nevertheless managed to finish in a very respectable sixth place overall after the qualifiers. The most improved horse in this group was the mare Moneypenny (Golden Eye x Classe), bred by Carron Nicol whose son, Leo Lamb, was piloting horses in the six- and seven-year-old teams. Following disqualification in round one, the mare showed a great improvement in round two and, really finding her stride and focus by the end. Moneypenny had been awarded an Elite score at the British Breeding Futurity as a foal, identifying her as a youngster with international potential.

In end the AES five-year-old team claimed third place in the 1m30 final of 10 teams with a total of eight faults, only one fence behind the winners, the Hanoverian Association on four. Katie Speller with Breen Equestrian’s Z7 Pink Panther (Cuick Star Kervec x Obos Quality) jumped clear, while Tom Dovkants with Moneypenny and Danielle Ryder’s stallion Espeshelli (Zambesi TN x Karandasj) each collected four faults.

Chef d’Equipe Robbert Ehrens said; “When making the selection for the final, it is always important to consider how the horse has developed over the course of the competition. Next year, the teams will be slightly bigger, with six horses to be selected, so that there can be a small final for the remaining three. What made this competition particularly uplifting was the great team spirit in which all the riders supported each other and worked together. We really saw some great examples of horsemanship and sportsmanship, with everyone cheering each other on.”

AES dominated throughout the qualifying stages of the six-year-old class were in pole position going into the final.

The final team included Emily Ward on Angela Hunt and Nick Ward’s Millfield Lottery (Plot Blue x Mr Blue, bred by Millfield Stud and sold through the AES Elite Foal Auction); Leo Lamb on his mother Carron Nicol’s Comme il faut x Calido I stallion, Chrysler Key SR, bred at Keystud; and Georgia Wells on her own Heart of Cicero (Cicero van Paemel x Heartbreaker). After Emily and Leo collected eight unlucky faults each, it was Georgia who saved the day with one of only three clear rounds, ensuring a podium place for AES to finish third overall. This exceptional performance also ensures that Georgia and Heart of Cicero claimed second place in the individual competition.

In the end, the seven-year-olds were the highest placed of the three AES teams having been runners-up during the qualifying rounds. One stand-out combination throughout the competition was Leo Lamb with Gmail (Cornet Obolensky x Diamant de Semily) who is owned by his mother and was bred by none other than this event’s host Jan Tops. The pair won the seven-year-old qualifier from a strong group of 46 competitors. A total of 10 studbooks participated in the seven-year-old final which featured a highly challenging 1m45 course. There were no faultless performances as the very few who jumped clear picking up time penalties.

First in the ring for AES was Emily Ward with her own Wild Star HF (Big Star x Oklund). This horse was bred by her father Nick Ward and is out of her own international 1m60 competition mare Wild Rose. They collected eight faults. Ben Bick on Abbie Summers’ If Evers Girl (If Ever III x Arko III) who was bred by Harry Whall, and Leo Lamb riding Gmail returned on four each to finish on a team total of 16 faults, only three points fewer than KWPN who won this class with a total of 13.

In conclusion, AES Director Joris van den Oetelaar said: “We are very proud of our horses and riders who showed a great amount of heart in this competition. It is also an excellent barometer for the future and shows that British breeding can hold its head high and stand up to the bigger and more established breeding nations. We are delighted with this new competition, which we believe will provide a great opportunity for our best horses and riders to shine and prepare for the future. We are certainly looking forward to returning to Valkenswaard next year.” ■

The effect of lunging on the distal portion of horse limbs

BY AUTHORS NAMED AT END OF ARTICLE

PHOTOGRAPHY/GRAPHICS: AUTHORS

To give this article its full title: The Effect of lunging with three aids on the thermographically determined temperatures of the distal portion of horse limbs. Highlights include the use of rubber bands to load all four limbs, triangle side reins to increase load, and the changes in pattern of superficial hoof temperature depending on the lunging aid used.

The regulation of head and neck position during physical exercise may be obtained using lunging aids (LAs): Chambon (CH), rubber band (RB), or triangle side reins (TR). The use of LAs would shift the center of horse mass caudally, thereby change the limb load. The aim is to evaluate the pattern of superficial temperatures (PST) of hoof wall (HW), the coronary band (CB), and the dorsal aspect of the fetlock joint (FJ) obtained before and after lunging with LAs and freely moving head (FMH).

Sixteen horses were imaged using an infrared camera. The temperatures of HW, CB, and FJ were measured, and differences between images obtained before and after lunging were evaluated. The correlations between HW, CB, and FJ were then described using respective coefficients (r , ρ). Before lunging PST was similar ($P < .05$) in FMH, CH, RB, and TR, with the strong positive correlations for forelimbs (HW/CB: $\rho = 0.9022$; HW/FJ: $\rho = 0.7064$; CB/FJ: $\rho = 0.8010$) and hindlimbs (HW/CB: $\rho = 0.7287$; HW/FJ: $r = 0.7831$; CB/FJ: $r = 0.7233$). After lunging, PST and correlations changed ($P > .05$) depending on LAs application. No correlations for FMH and CH, and positive correlations for RB and TR were noted: HW/CB for forelimbs (RB: $r = 0.6813$; TR: $r = 0.8396$), CB/FJ for hindlimbs (RB: $r = 0.5621$; TR: $\rho = 0.4579$). The PST of the distal portion of limbs and relations between measured temperatures change depending on used LAs.

1. Introduction

Training methods of sport horses use various techniques and aids to influence weight-bearing between forelimbs and hindlimbs. It has been shown that changes in head and neck position (HNP) caused by the reins influence kinetic variables more significantly in forelimbs and less in hindlimbs^[1]. The regulation of HNP during physical exercise, without the intervention of a rider, is obtained using special lunging aids (LAs) by forces acting on the bit, head, breast, girth, or/and withers^[2,3]. Among LAs, the rubber band (RB) and triangle side reins (TR) close the angle between head and neck (HNA), whereas the Chambon (CH) opens it^[1].

Some authors suggested that the correct use of reins

closing HNA would shift the center of horse mass caudally, thereby, increase the force put on hindlimbs^[4,5]. However, little is still known about how different riding aids influence the load of the distal portion of horse limbs. Therefore, it is difficult to predict whether using specific riding techniques and lunging aids is advantageous for the horse or may increase the risk of soft tissue injuries. An understanding of the influence of LAs on the limb load is important in clinically healthy horses to conduct appropriate comparisons in a case of overload.

The changes in surface heat emitted from injured tissue can be detected by infrared thermography, the non-invasive imaging technique allowing to identify areas of inflammation and blood flow alterations^[6,7]. Infrared thermographic imaging allows the detection of temperature changes before such changes can be detected by palpation^[8,9] and before the onset of other clinical signs of injury^[9,10].

The level of heat production during physical exercise may also influence the superficial temperature and the result of thermographic imaging^[11,12]. During physical exercise, metabolic heat production increases as exercise intensity increases^[12]. Only 20% to 25% of the energy used by a muscle is converted to mechanical energy, and the remaining 75% to 80% is dissipated as heat^[11].

Both, exercise intensity and the size of a muscle unit in a place of imaging are determinants of the rate of heat production. Therefore the appropriate evaluation of limb-load would be conducted in the region relatively devoid of muscles and fat, such as the distal portion of horse limbs^[13]. Hoof wall (HW), the coronary band (CB), and the dorsal aspect of the fetlock joint (FJ) superficial temperatures represent the thermal equilibrium between the environmental temperature, the exothermic metabolic and mechanical activity, and vascular supply of underlying tissues^{[14],[15],[16],[17],[18]}. We hypothesized that HW, CB, and FJ superficial temperatures depend on each other, and may be used for limb-load monitoring during lunging with LAs.

We present results from the study in which we evaluated HW, CB, and FJ superficial temperatures obtained from the same horses before and after lunging with and without LAs detected via infrared thermographic imaging. Additionally, we studied if the superficial temperatures of HW, CB, and FJ

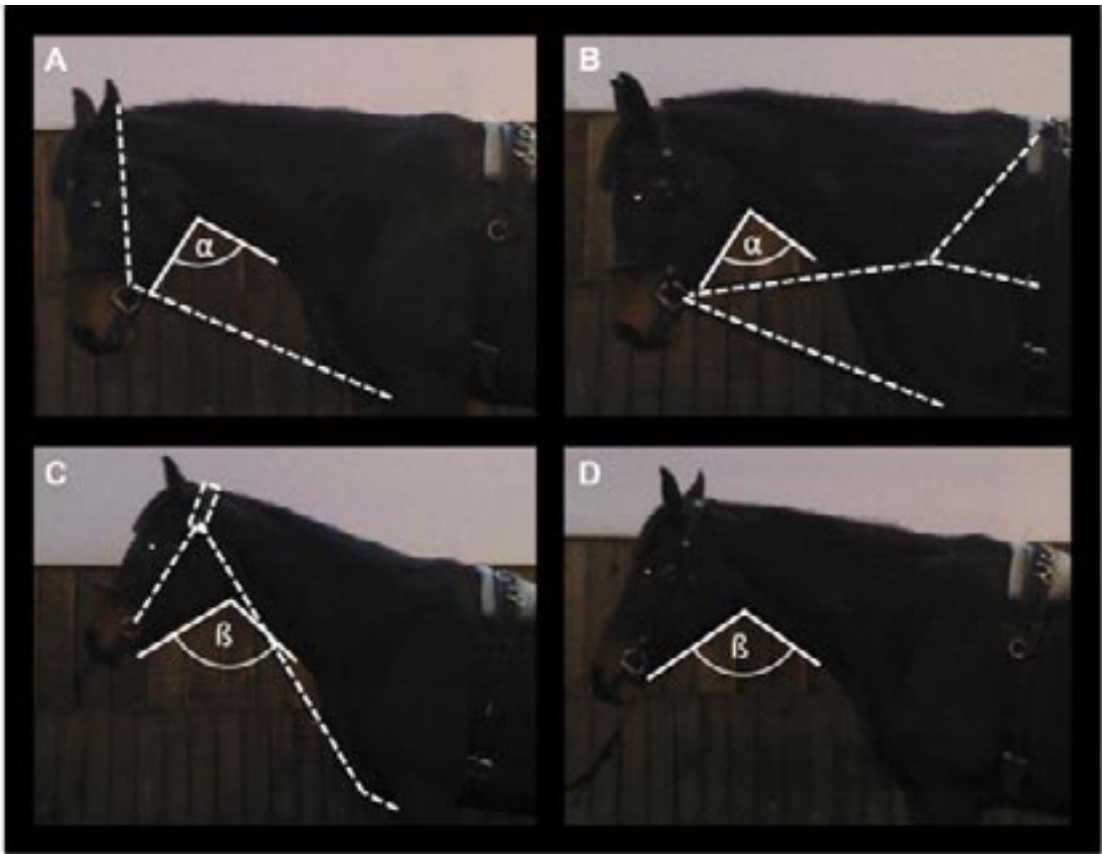


Fig. 1. The visible light equivalent of a thermographic image of the horse attitude obtained with: (A) the rubber band, (B) the triangle side reins, (C) the Chambon, (D) the freely moving head. Head and neck position: close marked with α : 85° to 90° ; open marked with β : 110° to 115° . The dashed lines marked the location of subsequent lunging aids.

are correlated and if those relations can be changed by an application of the CH, the RB, or the TR, used for limb-load monitoring during lunging with LAs.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Horses

Sixteen horses (7 mares and 9 geldings, mean age 12.7 ± 3.6 years, mean weight 546 ± 52 kg) of three Polish Warmblood breeds and four horse handlers participated in the study. All horses were housed in individual stalls with the same management.

The horses participating in the experiment were selected from all horses housed in the Didactic Stable of Horse Breeding Division at WULS (Warsaw University of Life Sciences). The inclusion criteria of horses took into account: age over 4 years, leisure usage, previous lunging experiences, hoof management, history of laminitis, health status, and condition and athletic ability.

The official identification documents were used to verify the sex, age, and breed of horses. The official horse-working documents of the Didactic Stable of Horse Breeding Division were used to report the working history, usage, and lunging experiences.

All horses were in daily leisure use, considered as recreational riding 1–2 hours a day, five days a week, including lunging with freely moving head (FMH) and LAs. The horses were only used for teaching, with riders from beginner to intermediate levels. The schedule of the blacksmith's visits and the official veterinarian documents of horses were used to determine the health status. All horses were unshod, and their hooves were trimmed two weeks before the study. None of the horses had a history of laminitis.

Before thermal imaging, physical examinations were conducted to ensure that the horses were free from a preexisting inflammatory condition. The imaging was carried out following the international veterinary standards [19]. Horses were clinically healthy, with no dental disorders or any signs of ulceration in mouth examination, no clinical signs of lameness, or musculoskeletal injury. The body condition and athletic abilities were considered comparable. None of the horses was excluded.

2.2. Data Collection

All horses were tested using the same procedure in the same order: without aids, with RB, TR, and CH. The horses were familiarized with lunging both with FMH, as well as with

each LA. During the study period, the horses were not exposed to any exercise except lunging in the experiment. After each lunging session, the horses went together to the group pasture to provide full relaxation and to avoid social isolation stress. The horses spent on the pasture no less than 8 hours per day. The HNPs were tested for four consecutive days, one for each position, and thus, there was almost all day off between evaluations. Consecutive LAs representing the following properties:

- Rubber bands (RB): RB links the bit to the girth to reduce HNA and represents compliant elastic reins^[1].
- Triangle side reins (TR): TR also links the bit to the girth to reduce HNA and are the stiffest reins^[2,5].
- Chambon (CH): CH links the bit, via the top of the head, to the girth to increase HNA, and is also classified as stiff reins^[1].

The LA was always used with comparable length adjusted to each horse basing on the HNA measured each time on the image. The HNA of a horse under these conditions was α : 85° to 90° with an RB or TR (Figs. 1A and 1B), while β : 110° to 115° with CH and without reins (Figs. 1C and 1D).

The study was performed from late June to early July. A

total of 512 images were taken before and immediately after training sessions in an indoor riding hall (ambient temperature 20.2°C ± 1.1°C; humidity 45% ± 1.5%), protected from wind and sun radiation. Horses imaging, in the indoor ridden hall, allowed to obtain the most controlled ambient conditions.

The riding hall was directly connected with the stable via a 5-meter long corridor. Leading the horse from the stable to the riding hall did not require going outside. Thus, it did not expose the horse to the influence of the outside ambient temperature.

A riding surface composed of silica sand and fiber fleece was regularly watered by the automatic floor watering facility to maintain the right level of moisture (ground temperature 16.8°C ± 2.0°C).

The thermal imaging has been performed following the international veterinary standards^[20]. The imaged area was brushed, and dirt and mud were removed 15 minutes before imaging. Images were taken using an infrared radiation camera (VIGOCam.v50, VIGOSystem S.A., Poland) with an emissivity (e) 0.99 and a temperature range of 15°C to 35°C.

The infrared camera was placed at a 90° angle to the coronal plane of each limb individually and a distance of 1.0 m to obtain a standard image^[14,18]. The images were always taken by the same researcher (MM).

The training sessions were individually adjusted to each horse for the appropriate tempo: walk (up to 1.5 m/second), trot (up to 4.0 m/second), and canter (up to 6.0 m/second). The lunging was performed on both sides. The total duration of each session was 50 minutes: 10 minutes of walk, 10 minutes of trot, 5 minutes of canter, again 10 minutes of trot, again 5 minutes of canter, then 5 minutes of trot, and finally 5 minutes of walk. After the second imaging, the horses were walked on the rope until complete rest.

2.3. Data Analysis

Surface temperatures of 12 regions of interest (ROIs 1–12), three ROIs per limb, were evaluated according to criteria described in Table 1^[14,16,18]. Studied ROIs were analyzed according to the protocols based on Rosenmeier et al (2012)^[18] for HW and CB and Becker-Birck et al (2013)^[3] for FJ. The maximum point temperature (Tmax) was measured in ROIs 1–8 (HW; CB) whereas the minimum (Tmin), maximum (Tmax), and mean (Tmean) temperatures were measured in ROIs 9–12 (FJ) using THERMCAM software. Then the maximum–minimum difference (Tdiff)

| No | Localization of ROI | Limbs | Tissue | Ground |
|--------|--|-------|---------------------|------------------|
| ROI 1 | the dorsal aspect of HW approximately one-third of the distance from the coronet to the ground surface | RFL | less muscle and fat | direct contact |
| ROI 2 | | LFL | | |
| ROI 3 | | RPL | | |
| ROI 4 | | LPL | | |
| ROI 5 | the dorsal aspect of CB approximately in the middle of the distance from the coronet to the proximal interphalangeal joint | RFL | less muscle and fat | indirect contact |
| ROI 6 | | LFL | | |
| ROI 7 | | RPL | | |
| ROI 8 | | LPL | | |
| ROI 9 | the dorsal aspect of FJ inscribed in a circle surrounding the metacarpophalangeal joints | RFL | more muscle and fat | indirect contact |
| ROI 10 | | LFL | | |
| ROI 11 | | RPL | | |
| ROI 12 | | LPL | | |

Abbreviations: CB, coronary band; FJ, the fetlock joint; Ground, way of contact with the environment; HW, the hoof wall; LFL, the left forelimb; LPL, the left hindlimb; ROI, region of interest; RFL, the right forelimb; RPL, the right hindlimb; Tissue, supplying the region with the underlying tissues.

Table 1. The characteristic of regions of interest taken into consideration in the examined superficial thermographic of the distal portion of horse limbs.

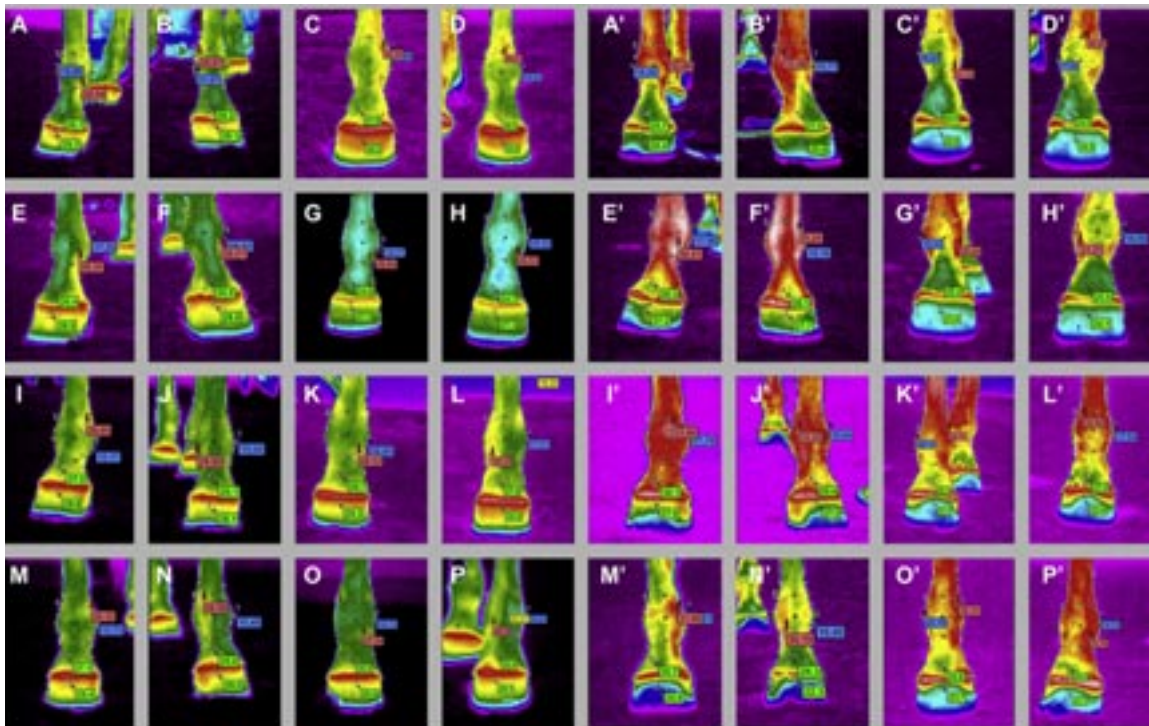


Fig. 2. The thermographic images before (A–P) and after (A'–P') lunging with the freely moving head (A–D; A'–D'), the Chambon (E–H; E'–H'), the rubber band (I–L; I'–L'), the triangle side reins (M–P; M'–P') with the marked measuring points chosen for analysis.

for FJ) was calculated basing on Tmin and Tmax measures^[3].

Data series were tested independently for univariate marginal distributions using a univariate Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Non-Gaussian distribution was stated for the following data:

- before lunging with FMH in forelimbs (Tmax/HW, Tmean/FJ) and hindlimbs (Tmax/CB, Tmean/FJ, Tdiff/FJ);
- before lunging with CH in forelimbs (Tmax/HW, Tmean/FJ) and hindlimbs (Tmax/HW);
- before lunging with TR in forelimbs (Tmax/CB, Tmean/FJ) and hindlimbs (Tmax/CB);
- after lunging with TR in forelimbs (Tmax/HW, Tmean/FJ, Tdiff/FJ) and hindlimbs (Tmax/HW, Tmean/FJ, Tdiff/FJ).

Other data series showed a normal distribution. Data series from right and left sides were compared using a paired t-test (Gaussian distribution) or the Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-rank test (non-Gaussian distribution). The data from both sides did not show any differences.

Data series of Tmax/HW, Tmax/CB, Tmean/FJ, and Tdiff/FJ were compared to estimate the differences between measurements among FMH and type of LAs used, using Friedman test with Dunn's multiple comparisons test, independently for data series obtained before and after lunging, as well as for forelimbs and hindlimbs.

Data series of Tmax, Tmean, Tdiff were tested using paired t-test (Gaussian distribution) or the Wilcoxon

matched-pairs signed-rank test (non-Gaussian distribution) to distinguish the differences before and after a lunging and between forelimbs and hindlimbs.

The correlation between Tmax/HW, Tmax/CB, and Tmean/FJ was tested independently for data obtained before and after lunging with FMH, CH, RB, and TR. Pearson correlation coefficient (r) in view of Gaussianity of the data or Spearman correlation coefficient (rho) in view of non-Gaussianity of the data was used. A linear regression was calculated and marked the figures for HW and CB ($x = \text{Tmax}/\text{HW}$; $y = \text{Tmax}/\text{CB}$), HW and FJ ($x = \text{Tmax}/\text{HW}$; $y = \text{Tmean}/\text{FJ}$), and CB and FJ ($x = \text{Tmax}/\text{CB}$; $y = \text{Tmean}/\text{FJ}$), respectively. The value of (r) and (rho) reflected the consistency when the p was considered significant.

All results were reported on the figures as mean + SD. All statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism6 software (GraphPad Software Inc, where the significance level was established as $P < .05$).

3. Results

The pattern of superficial temperature (PST) was partially modified when different LAs were applied. Example of pictures depicting thermographic patterns before and after a training session is presented in Fig. 2, the comparisons of the superficial temperatures of HW, CB, and FJ are presented in Fig. 3, and the correlations between measured temperatures in Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Fig. 6.

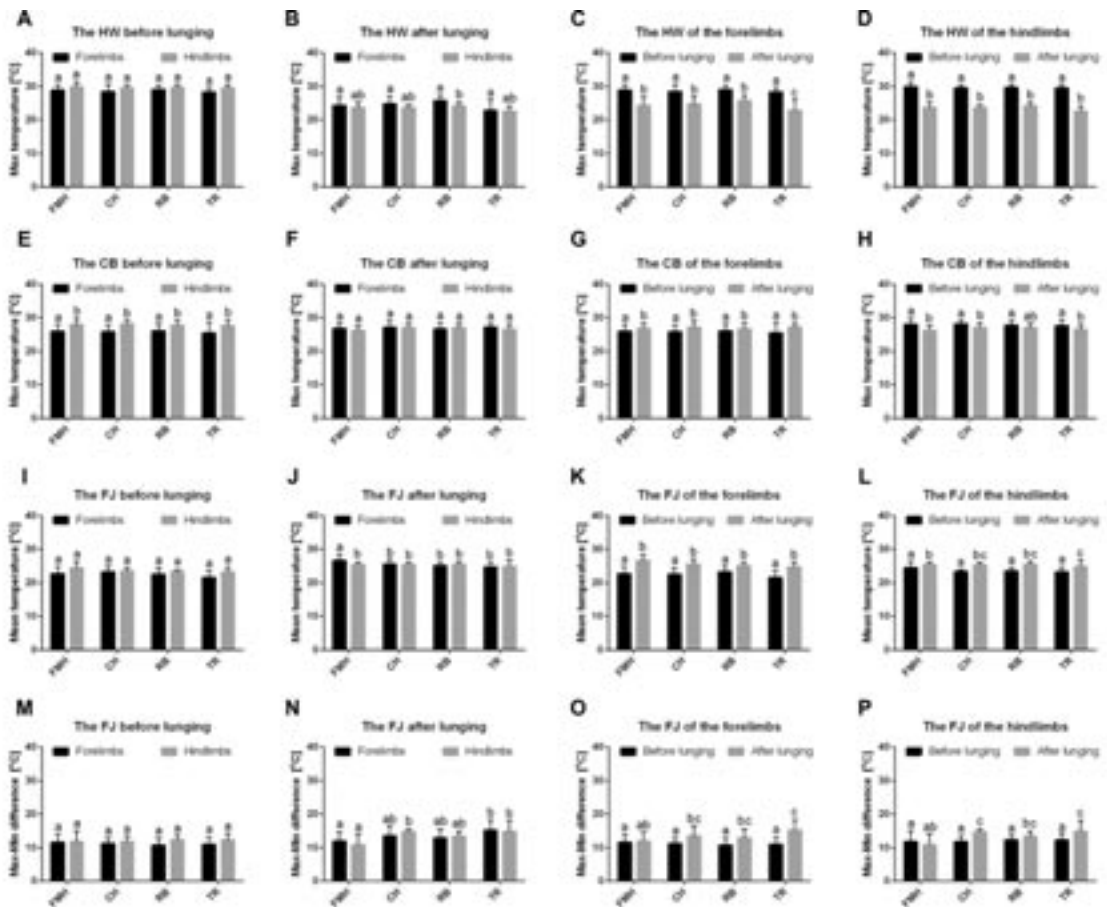


Fig. 3. The maximal temperatures (mean + SD) of the hoof wall (HW) (A–D) and the coronary band (CB) (E–H); the mean temperatures (mean + SD) (I–L) and the maximum–minimum difference (mean + SD) (M–P) of the fetlock joint (FJ) obtained: before lunging (A,E,I,M), after lunging (B,F,J,N), of forelimbs (C,G,K,O), and hindlimbs (D,H,L,P). Lower case letters indicate differences (for $P < .05$): before/after, FMH/type of LAs (A,B,E,F,I,J,M,N); forelimbs/hindlimbs, FMH/type of LAs (C,D,G,H,K,L,O,P).

3.1. The Pattern of Superficial Temperatures before Lunging

Before lunging PST was similar in FMH, CH, RB, and TR, and was characterized by no differences in T_{max}/HW ($P > .05$; Fig. 3A), T_{mean}/FJ ($P > .05$; Fig. 3I) and T_{diff}/FJ ($P > .05$; Fig. 3M) between forelimbs and hindlimbs, and higher T_{max}/CB ($P < .05$; Fig. 3E) of hindlimbs than forelimbs. Also before lunging, the strong positive correlations were found for T_{max}/HW and T_{max}/CB for forelimbs ($\rho = 0.9022$, $P < .0001$; Fig. 4A) and hindlimbs ($\rho = 0.7287$, $P = .0006$; Fig. 4F), T_{max}/HW and T_{mean}/FJ for forelimbs ($\rho = 0.7064$, $P = .0054$; Fig. 5A) and hindlimbs ($\rho = 0.7831$, $P = .0001$; Fig. 5F), as well as T_{max}/CB and T_{mean}/FJ for forelimbs ($\rho = 0.8010$, $P < .0001$; Fig. 6A) and hindlimbs ($\rho = 0.7233$, $P = .0007$; Fig. 6F).

3.2. The Pattern of Superficial Temperatures after Lunging with Freely Moving Head

After lunging PST, as well as correlations between measured temperatures changed when the different HNP were taken into consideration. After lunging with FMH, no differences ($P > .05$) in T_{max}/HW (Fig. 3B), T_{max}/CB (Fig.

3F) and T_{diff}/FJ (Fig. 3N) between forelimbs and hindlimbs, and no significant correlations between T_{max}/HW and T_{max}/CB (Figs. 4B and 4G), T_{max}/HW and T_{mean}/FJ (Figs. 5B and 5G) and T_{max}/CB and T_{mean}/FJ (Figs. 6B and 6G) were noted. Also, after lunging with FMH, higher T_{mean}/FJ ($P = .0059$; Fig. 3J) of forelimbs than hindlimbs was demonstrated. The general comparison of superficial temperatures before and after an effort showed a decrease after lunging in T_{max}/HW of both limbs ($P < .05$; Figs. 3C and 3D) and in T_{max}/CB of hindlimbs ($P < .05$; Fig. 3H), as well as an increase in T_{max}/CB of forelimbs ($P < .05$; Fig. 3G) and T_{mean}/FJ of both limbs ($P < .05$; Figs. 3K and 3L), regardless of HNP. Similarly, T_{diff}/FJ after lunging was higher than in FMH when LAs were applied ($P < .05$; Figs. 3O and 3P).

3.3. The Pattern of Superficial Temperatures after Lunging with Lunging Aids

The differences between used LAs were observed only after effort. Taking into account forelimbs, T_{max}/HW was decreased ($P = .015$; Fig. 3C) and T_{diff}/FJ was increased ($P = .0037$; Fig. 3O) when horses lunged with TR. In hindlimbs,

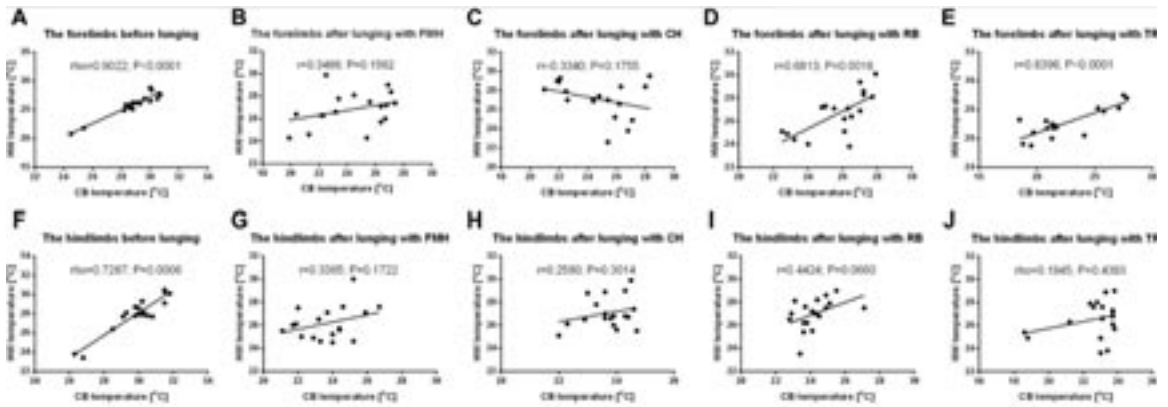


Fig. 4. The correlations and the linear regressions between Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB calculated: before lunging (A,F), after lunging with FMH (B,G), CH (C,H), RB (D,I), TR (E,J), of forelimbs (A–E) and hindlimbs (F–J). Pearson correlation coefficient (r) and Spearman correlation coefficient (ρ) reflected the consistency when the $P < .05$.

Tmean/FJ was increased ($P = .0125$; Fig. 3L) when horses lunged with TR, as well as Tdiff/FJ, were increased ($P = .0002$; Fig. 3P) when horses lunged with both, CH and TR.

After lunging with CH, no differences ($P > .05$) in Tmax/HW (Fig. 3B), Tmax/CB (Fig. 3F), Tmean/FJ (Fig. 3J) and Tdiff/FJ (Fig. 3N) between forelimbs and hindlimbs, no significant correlations between Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB (Figs. 4C and 4H), Tmax/HW and Tmean/FJ (Figs. 5C and 5H) and Tmax/CB and Tmean/FJ (Figs. 6C and 6H) were demonstrated. Although, Tdiff/FJ of hindlimbs was higher than in FMH and RB groups and equal to that in TR group ($P = .0002$; Fig. 3P).

After lunging with RB, no differences ($P > .05$) in Tmax/CB (Fig. 3F), Tmean/FJ (Fig. 3J) and Tdiff/FJ (Fig. 3N) between forelimbs and hindlimbs, as well as lower Tmax/HW ($P = .0099$; Fig. 3B) of hindlimbs than forelimbs were observed. A moderate positive correlation between Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB for forelimbs ($r = 0.6813$, $P = .0018$; Fig. 4D), as well as Tmax/CB and Tmean/FJ for hindlimbs ($r = 0.5621$, $P = .00152$; Fig. 6I) was calculated.

Finally, after lunging with TR, no differences ($P > .05$) in Tmax/HW (Fig. 3B), Tmax/CB (Fig. 3F), Tmean/FJ (Fig. 3J) and Tdiff/FJ (Fig. 3N) between forelimbs and hindlimbs were observed. Although, Tdiff/FJ of forelimbs ($P = .0037$; Fig. 3O) and hindlimbs ($P = .0002$; Fig. 3P) limbs was higher than in FMH and RB groups and equal in CH group. Moreover, a strong positive correlation between Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB for forelimbs ($r = 0.8396$, $P < .0001$; Fig. 4E), as well as a moderate positive correlation between Tmax/HW and Tmean/FJ for forelimbs ($\rho = 0.4876$, $P = .040$; Fig. 5E) and between Tmax/CB and Tmean/FJ for hindlimbs ($\rho = 0.4579$, $P = .0056$; Fig. 6J) was calculated.

4. Discussion

The results of the presented study show that infrared thermographic imaging is a useful tool to evaluate HW, CB, and FJ superficial temperatures obtained from the same horses that lunged with and without LAs. We would like to emphasize that lunging with CH provides the PST most

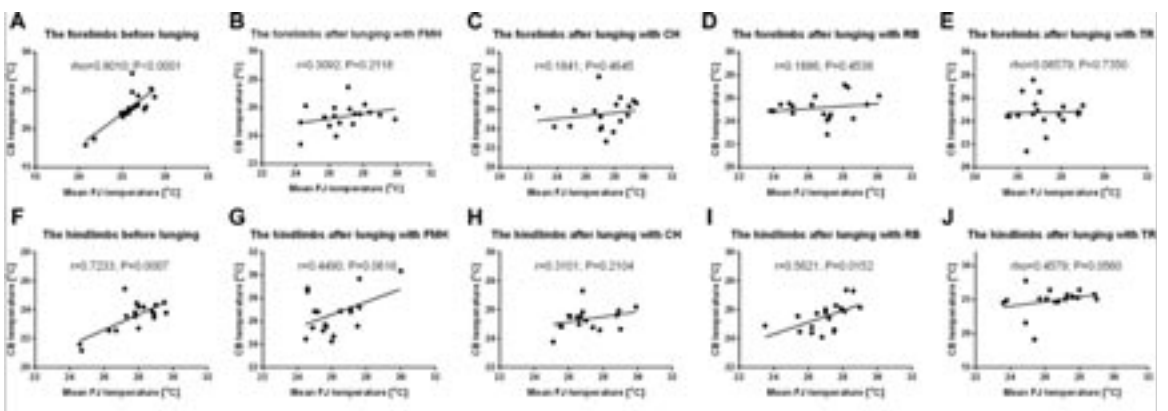


Fig. 5. The correlations and the linear regressions between Tmax/HW and Tmean/FJ calculated: before lunging (A,F), after lunging with FMH (B,G), CH (C,H), RB (D,I), TR (E,J), of forelimbs (A–E) and hindlimbs (F–J). Pearson correlation coefficient (r) and Spearman correlation coefficient (ρ) reflected the consistency when the $P < .05$.

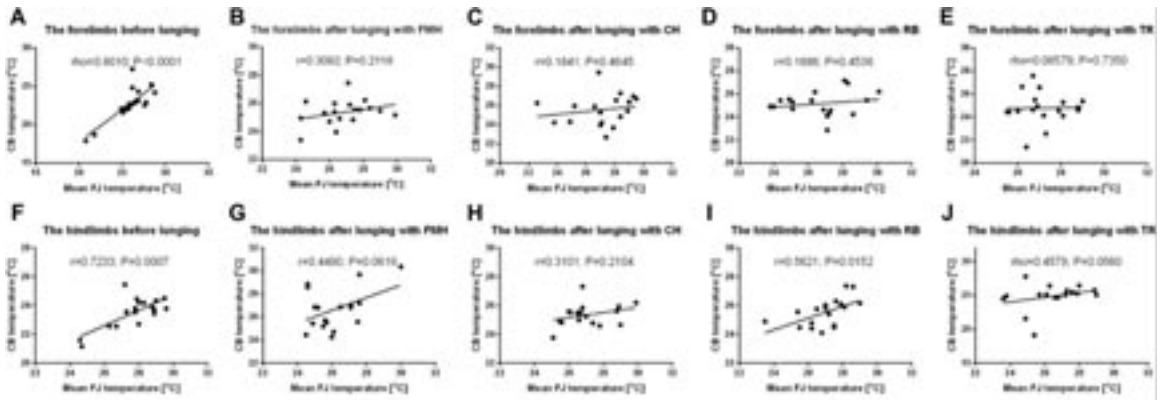


Fig. 6. The correlations and the linear regressions between Tmax/CB and Tmean/FJ calculated: before lunging (A,F), after lunging with FMH (B,G), CH (C,H), RB (D,I), TR (E,J), of forelimbs (A–E) and hindlimbs (F–J). Pearson correlation coefficient (r) and Spearman correlation coefficient (ρ) reflected the consistency when the $P < .05$.

similar to the natural effort. However, the measurement of Tmean/FJ in case of lunging with CH, as well as Tmean/FJ and Tdiff/FJ concerning RB and TR, may suggest an improvement in load, more even load, on all four limbs. Moreover, Tdiff/FJ may indicate the higher load of hindlimbs after lunging with TR.

In the study horses, surface temperature changes in HW, CB, and FJ were bilaterally similar. The high degree of bilateral symmetry between forelimbs distal to the carpus and hindlimbs distal to the tarsus makes it possible to determine the natural PST of the distal portion of horse limbs and compare it with the patterns obtained after lunging with LAs^[21,22]. Also, all measurements analyzed before lunging did not differ regardless of HNP. However, PST obtained after the effort among forelimbs and hindlimbs differed depending on the used LA.

In a standing horse, the natural pattern can be characterized by the lack of differences between forelimbs and hindlimbs in Tmax/HW, Tmean/FJ, and Tdiff/FJ. The obtained results suggest that the experiment was well designed and are in line with Hood et al (2001)^[16].

The authors described that the static horse limb-load was considered normal when the mean load placed on forelimbs was not different from established reference values for hindlimbs. Only Tmax/CB was higher in hindlimbs than in forelimbs, which may be related to the difference of valvular density in the CB between them, reflecting the adaptation to the hemodynamic changes in the healthy horse^[23].

In the Rosenmeier et al (2012)^[18] study, the association between the surface temperature of HW and CB was not evaluated. In the study reported here, strong positive correlations were calculated between surface temperatures of HW, CB, and JP, both for forelimbs and hindlimbs. Such correlations may reflect a static equilibrium between environmental temperature, exothermic activity, and vascular supply^[16], repeatable and uniform for the hoof, coronet, and fetlock of all limbs.

The lunging with an FMH represented the

unconstrained limb-load distribution and the natural PST after effort, which differed from the pattern at rest. Changes in Tmax/HW, such as a decrease in forelimbs and hindlimbs, were typical for increased heat exchange by contact with the ground were comparable between forelimbs and hindlimbs^[16]. An increase in Tmax/CB of forelimbs and a decrease in hindlimbs may again be in line with the local hemodynamic changes^[23], especially since Tmean/FJ was higher in both forelimbs and hindlimbs. The dorsal aspect of FJ supplied better with the underlying muscle and fat than CB, seems to reflect better the impact of metabolic and mechanical activity of underlying tissues^[17]. The higher Tmean/FJ of forelimbs is in line with the bodyweight distribution during exercise at lower speeds, which is distributed with a ratio of 57:43^[24]. No difference in Tdiff/FJ indicated the presence of a few extreme values of temperature in FJ. It means that all horses generated a similar PST as a result of unconstrained movement during lunging with FMH. We found that discussed PST differed not only in temperature values but also in their mutual correlations. The lack of correlations for HW:CB, WH:FJ, and CB:FJ may indicate that each examined region performed a different task.

After lunging with CH, the stiff LA, which does not change HNA, while PST slightly differed from that obtained after lunging with FMH. The patterns of Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB were comparable with FMH; however, no differences in Tmean/FJ between forelimbs and hindlimbs may indicate that some of the horses' weight has been shifted to hindlimbs. The change in load distribution from greater on a forelimbs to comparable between forelimbs and hindlimbs may result from more even load on all four limbs. Such load balancing seems to be one of the advantages of using CH. Also, an increase in the Tdiff/FJ was higher in hindlimbs, which may indicate not only higher hindquarter activity but also more extreme values. That means that not all horses generated the same PST, so they worked in a slightly different manner. Biau et al (2002)^[11] have also reported that

CH demonstrates a complementary action on hindlimbs with an increase in their activity. Therefore, further investigation is needed to assess the front: hind impulse, force, and body weight distribution^[24]. The lack of correlations between measured temperatures suggests the division of roles of each region similar to the natural effort.

The use of RB and TR, closing HNA, did not cause differences in Tmean/FJ between forelimbs and hindlimbs and increased Tdiff/FJ. Higher Tmean/FJ and lower Tmax/HW of hindlimbs after lunging with TR than FHM may support the higher hindquarter activity and hoof cooling, probably associated with prolonged contact with the ground. Our results are in line with Roepstorff et al (2002)^[5] and Rhodin et al (2005)^[4] studies, which reported that the use of reins that are closing restrictively the HNA resulted in shifting the weight of the horse caudally. Since in our research, there was no kinetic analysis of the center of mass, we only suggest the presence of a more even load on all four limbs after lunging with RB and the higher load of hindlimbs after lunging with TR. The demonstrated relationship between Tmax/CB and Tmean/FJ may indicate the interaction of the coronet and fetlock during greater involvement of the hindquarter. A determined correlation between Tmax/HW and Tmax/CB may suggest interaction of the hoof and coronet during cooling, thus relieving forelimbs.

The decrease of Tmax/HW in hindlimbs and the relative increase of Tmax/CB of hindlimbs may support the passive (ligament)/active (muscle) theory of the controlling of HNP^[25,26]. In the case of the RB application, the most elastic LAs, the role of RB in energy conservation during locomotion, requires further research.

Clayton et al (2011)^[27] reported that elastic energy would be stored as the elastic rein is stretched by the descent of the head and neck. Then the elastic rein releases the energy and recoils when the head and neck are subsequently raised. This energy storage may influence the hindquarter activity^[26], and as in our study, PST of hindlimbs. However, it could not occur in the same manner as the nuchal ligament energy conversion, but in the opposite way as a result of a greater expend of energy by flexing the atlantooccipital joint.

To summarize the clinical significance, caution is advised for the use of PST of the distal portion of horse limbs for training, clinical or experimental assessment of limb-load in horses. It is important that trainers, as well as veterinarians recommending horse lunging with respective aids in training sessions or rehabilitation programs, should know about the possible effects of CH, RB, and TR on the superficial temperatures of the distal portion of horse limbs, and probably also limb-load.

5. Conclusions

The thermography has shown changes in superficial temperatures of the distal portion of horse limbs after

lunging. The PST of the hoof wall, coronary band, and fetlock joint varies depending on an effort and the use of LAs. Lunging with CH provides the PST most similar to the natural effort; TR changed the PST by increasing a load of hindlimbs, whereas RB enables a more even load on all four limbs. All examined LAs enabled a more even load on all four limbs.

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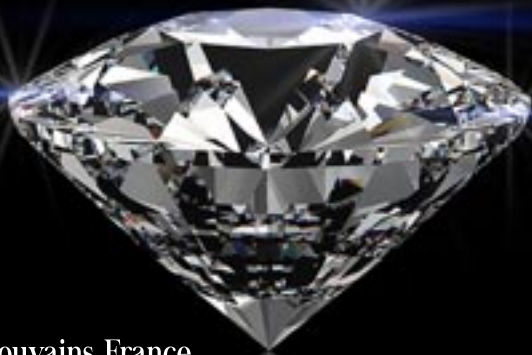
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Animal welfare/ethical statement: The ethics approval was deemed unnecessary according to regulations of the II Local Ethical Committee on Animal Testing in Warsaw and the National Ethical Committees on Animal Testing because all procedures in the study were non-invasive and did not cause distress and pain equal to or greater than a needlestick. ■

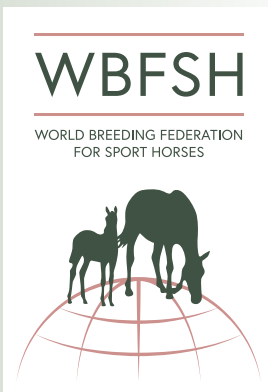


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RANKINGS 2022-2023**

■ **WBFSH SIRE RANKINGS
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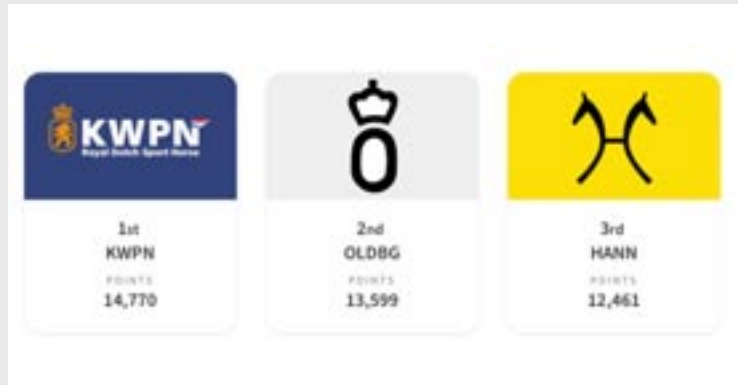
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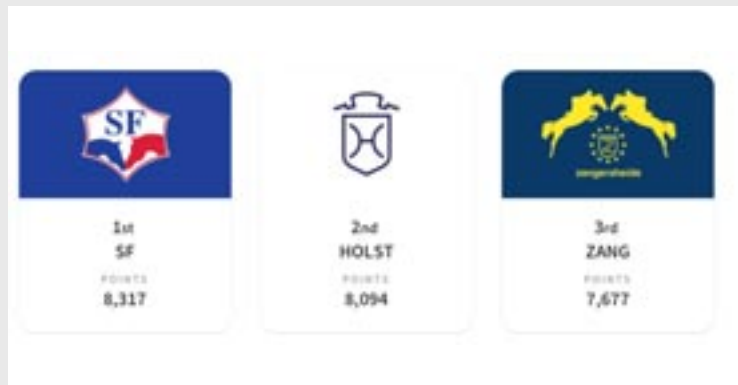


WBFSH STUDBOOK RANKINGS 2022-2023

DRESSAGE



SHOWJUMPING



EVENTING



WBFSH SIRE RANKINGS 2022-2023

DRESSAGE

| RANK | SIRE NAME | POINTS |
|------------|----------------|--------|
| 1st (Gen)* | JOHNSON | 29,551 |
| 2nd (Gen)* | QUARTERBACK | 20,467 |
| 3rd (Gen)* | SIR DONNERHALL | 17,911 |

SHOWJUMPING

| RANK | SIRE NAME | POINTS |
|------------|--------------------|--------|
| 1st (Gen)* | CHACCO-BLUE | 30,495 |
| 2nd (Gen)* | DIAMANT DE SEMILLY | 28,432 |
| 3rd (Gen)* | MYLORD CARTHAGO*HN | 15,489 |

EVENTING

| RANK | SIRE NAME | POINTS |
|------------|-----------------------|--------|
| 1st (Gen)* | DIARADO | 1,185 |
| 2nd (Gen)* | BIRKHOF'S GRAFENSTOLZ | 1,180 |
| 3rd (Gen)* | OBOS QUALITY 004 | 1,026 |

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

30/10-3 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner pre-selection of stallions for 2023 stallion grading
Tel: +49 (0) 4121 49790
zucht@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

1/2 Lyon (FRA)

Selle Français Final for 3yo sport horses during Equita Lyon
Tel: +33 (0)9 72 11 89 33
info@sellefrancais.fr
www.sellefrancais.fr

4 Jönköping (SWE)

Swedish Select Horse Sales 19th edition – Hybrid auction of 3yo showjumpers
Tel: +46 (0)70 482 1740
info@sshs.auction
www.sshs.auction

7-19 Verden Onlin (GER)

Hanoverian Sport Horse Auction
Tel: +49 (0)42 31 6730
hannoveraner@hannoveraner.com
www.hannoveraner.com

8 Ermelo (NED)

First presentation of under-saddle KWPN jumping stallions
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.org

8 Ermelo (NED)

Second presentation of under-saddle KWPN dressage stallions
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.org

8/9 Online (SWE)

Swedish Select Horse Sales online auction of 3yo showjumpers
Tel: +46 (0)70 482 1740
info@sshs.auction
www.sshs.auction

11 Monterrey (MEX)

Studbook La Silla Young Horse Auction
Tel: +52 (0)81 8155 0101
studbook@studbooklasilla.com.mx
www.studbooklasilla.com.mx

18 Aadorf (SUI)

ZVCH Swiss Breed Classic qualifiers
Tel: +41 (0)26 676 6340
info@swisshorse.ch / www.swisshorse.ch

20 Ermelo (NED)

Start of performance test for KWPN dressage and jumping stallions (ends December 11)
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.org

DECEMBER

7-10 Geneva (SUI)

ZVCH Swiss Breed Classic Final during CHI Geneva
Tel: +41 (0)26 676 6340
info@swisshorse.ch
www.swisshorse.ch

9 Ankum (GER)

XLIV PSI Auction
Tel: +49 (0)5401 89200
info@psi-sporthorses.de
www.psi-auktion.de

15 Schijndel (NED)

AES Stallion Licensing
Tel: +31 (0) 73 690 7573
info@aesbenelux.com
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

13/14 Saint-Lô (FRA)

Selle Français stallion championship and licensing
Tel: +33 (0)9 72 11 89 33
info@sellefrancais.fr
www.sellefrancais.fr

13-16 Elmshorn (GER)

Holsteiner stallion grading 2023
Tel: +49 (0) 4121 49790
zucht@holsteiner-verband.de
www.holsteiner-verband.de

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