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# WORLD BREEDING NEWS

for Sport Horses



BN #303

BREEDER INTERVIEWS

STALLION PROFILES

BLOODLINE ANALYSIS



Rancho El Mexicano



Montemorelos, N. L. México



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*When we own, manage, and/or train horses we all have a moral and legal obligation to meet their needs and safeguard the well-being of horses under any circumstances. Horses are the superstars of our livelihoods, whether we breed horses, compete, or never step in the ring and ride just for fun or have them as companion animals.*



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# EDITORIAL

## ABOUT EMBRYOS AND TRANSPARENCY!



**A**s you probably know, *Breeding News* launched in 1997 and has always had only one goal: To serve the breeders of sport horses by providing them with information, studies, interviews, opinions useful to their cause, to the devel-

opment of their knowledge, and thus of their breeding.

This is how, according to our sentiments, we have also developed services such as the *Stallion Directory*, the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of which we are publishing this year. Likewise, since 2018, the results of sport horse auctions and, more recently, the sale of embryos, the explosion of which over the past two years has never failed to intrigue.

In the lines that follow, you will find a crude account of this work, carried out in the early years, under the direction of Peter Llewellyn, by Aurélie Covini and, for the last fiscal year (2021), by Adriana van Tilburg, whom we both thank at the outset.

2018: 23 online auctions, 223 embryos, most valuable stallion *Vivaldi* with €3,830,500 in sales. Most prolific – *Cornet Oblensky* with 154 sales.

2019: 41 online auctions, 246 embryos, most valuable stallion *Chacco-Blue* with €6,138,500 in sales, Most prolific – *Cornet Oblensky* with 159 sales.

2020: 129 online auctions, 525 embryos, most valuable stallion *Cornet Oblensky* with €3,860,270 in sales. Most prolific – *Cornet Oblenski* with 164 sales

2021: 88 online auctions, 575 embryos, most valuable stallion *Chacco-Blue* €3,564,138 in sales, Most prolific – *Cornet Oblensky* with 131 sales

From this list three things are evident. *Primo*, that the number of these online sales is increasing impressively, although with a sudden and curious trend reversal in 2021.

*Secundo*, that the number of embryos placed on the market is also growing exponentially, albeit once again with a slowing trend 2021

*Tertio*, that over the four years the interest of buyers focused heavily on the products of *Cornet Oblensky* and *Chacco-Blue*.

The first two years show an impressive increase in embryo sales, and then what appears to be a sharp drop in 2021, which deserves an explanation. It's simple. In 2021 there were more sales than the established number (88). It is very likely, according to our estimates, that we have far exceeded the 2020 data.

Why should we be satisfied with these figures under these conditions? Simply because we didn't have access (not because we didn't ask!) to the final results of these new auctions. As soon as they concluded the operators simply wiped the results from the websites on which they were being sold, so we were unable to enter the prices into the database that we've managed for four years now. And don't think that we haven't tried to convince them, a posteriori, to provide us with these results. It was a waste of time! In reality, these operators, whom we will not name, simply did not want to share their results so they would not be published.

Of course, they are not obliged to communicate information, but we can certainly be surprised by this behavior, which is in total contradiction to the principles of auctions that exist in other fields, notably the world of art. Can you imagine *Christie's* or *Sotheby's* working in this way? Imagine, in the field of *Thoroughbreds*, sales operators such as those of *Keenland*, *Tattersall's*, *Goff's* or *Arqana* behaving like this?

So a question remains... Why? Why this opacity, when only transparency allows for an objective view of the market, and allows us to provide genuine indices and valuable bases of selection for breeders?

We can, of course, ask ourselves many questions such as, for example, the complicity between these operators and semen dealers who could have common interests so as to promote and regulate the value of the stallions through this new embryo market.

Let speculators find something to gain from it, let it be false bids that push the value of certain lots, for good fiscal reasons, let it be to regularize the traceability of unpaid fees, for cutting straws of semen, for example, by intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) or, even worse, let it be for washing dirty money... or at least grey money!

In our opinion there are a great many bad reasons. Only transparency and, therefore, the systematic publication of sales results is healthy.

The major, duly established operators know this and must be infuriated by these excesses.

Here is a suggestion: That they create their own policing, their own organization, so that the breeder and the buyer can benefit from serious and honest business. We believe that international regulation is essential in this domain, as well as in some others.

The final point in this 'rough' survey of our four-year statistics and records, showed that buyers focused on only a few origins, such as Cornet Oblensky and Chacco-Blue. We are not only concerned about this polarization from a commercial standpoint, but also from a genetic one.

We'll return to that topic next month.

**Xavier Libbrecht**




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# WBF SH TRIBUNE

## BUILDING TOGETHER...



**T**he inspection season is just around the corner, and jury members of the Koninklijk Friesch Paarden-Stamboek (KFPS) are at the ready to inspect Friesian horses all around the globe. Inspections are done on the basis of the breeding and the selection programs. The Friesian horses' distinctive breeding characteristics, such as their black coat colour, their abundant feathers, their elevated paces, as well as their sport aptitude, are all part of the assessment process.

Around the world Friesian horses are inspected by a jury of KFPS-educated judges who assess the horses in keeping with the same uniform standard. This approach guarantees the most consistent and fair assessment of the horses.

Annually, with the exception of the Covid years, the judges fly around the world to inspect Friesian horses in every corner of the globe. This is how KFPS looks after the interests of over 10,000 members worldwide, and our judges assess the horses in line with the breed-

ing goal which was revised in 2021.

The breeding goal describes the ideal Friesian horse as one that should first and foremost be healthy and vital, that has a functional build, possesses the Friesian breed characteristics, has a reliable character, and has the aptitude to perform in sport. It's this latter aspect – sport aptitude – to which I would like to draw your particular attention.

The Friesian horse can boast a rich history in the in-harness disciplines, as an agricultural horse, but also as a show-driving and driving horse. However, somewhere in the 70s and 80s an increasing number of Friesian horses started to be competed in dressage sports. Recreational riders had discovered the by then hugely popular Friesian horse, and especially in the northern provinces of the Netherlands these

black pearls became more and more of a common sight in the dressage ring. At first mainly in the lower classes, but gradually we witnessed a steady growth of Friesian horses participating at higher levels, and even at

the highest level in dressage.

At some point, competitions were organized especially for Friesians, and representatives of the Friesian breed could be seen at ever-more events. But most important was the enormous increase in overall quality. The beautiful exterior and most certainly, too, the fine, hardworking, and reliable character in combination with decades of breeding aimed at sport aptitude, all played a key role in the success of the Friesian horse in dressage sports.

As the more professional riders started to take a fancy to this breed, the Friesian horse's popularity was no longer restricted to recreational use, and so performance levels started



to climb. Whereas back then seeing Friesian horses at Grand Prix level were still a rarity, these days they are no longer the exception. Their conformation, with the impressively rich front and abundant manes, their athletic capacity, their talent for exercises like piaffe and passage, and most definitely too the cherished character of the Friesian horse play an important role.

It's not only in the Netherlands that Friesian horses can be seen at the highest level, but also in Russia, South Africa, Australia, the United States and South America. This is the KFPS studbook's justification for membership of the WBFSh, which was obtained last year.

There are many factors that have led to this success. The selection policy used by the Jury

members has resulted in today's breeding of well-built and athletic horses. The riders take credit for competing the Friesian horses at high levels in the sport. But above all the breeders are the people who are breeding the horse of the future...

And let's take another detour to the sport. Are we ever going to reach Olympic levels? There is no longer a questionmark as we are sure we will... The only thing still open is the exact date.

**Marijke Akkerman**  
**Director, KFPS**  
**Koninklijk Friesch Paarden Stamboek**  
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# BRIEFS



**RIP Corofino II:** The superb German-bred Holsteiner Corofino II Corrado I - St.Pr.St. Valeska IV x Fernando I), who has been in New Zealand since 2009, died last month at his home, Xtreme Sport Horses in Otaki after a sudden and untreatable illness. “Everything we have is due to him,” says Xtreme’s Sharlene Workman. There have been few imported stallions with greater influence here: he won the ESNZ leading stallion title several times and his list of winners is huge. It includes the three-time NZL World Cup victor, Windermere Cappuccino, McCaw MVNZ, who is making an impact in North America with Katie Laurie – now based in Canada – and nine-year-old Campari, who has just won the NZ National Grand Prix championship (see separate story in this issue). Corofino II was bred in Germany by Hobe Bernhard. His StPrSt dam, Valeska IV (Fernando - St.Pr.St. Option x Lord), is from the renowned Stamm 318d2 with its many licensed stallions. Three of these are Valeska’s sons: full brothers Corofino I and Corofino II, and the licensing winner Camiros (Contender). With the blood of For Pleasure and Furioso through his damsire, as well as a duplication of Corrado I – who is not only Corofino II’s sire, but is also Fernando’s damsire – Corofino II was destined to jump. He was approved in 1998 and passed his 30-day test in Schlieckau with 10s for jumping and character and nine for temperament. As a five year old at the Bundeschampionate, he won one of the qualifications with a score of nine. He then competed with Thomas Konle, and later with Janne Friederike Meyer, accumulating more than 125 wins and placings up to 1m60. Corofino II was imported to New Zealand in 2009, and was 25 at the time of his death. He had retired from stud duties and was living a wonderful life as Sharlene Workman’s treasured friend and the Xtreme Sport Horses team hero. **S.R.**

**Cappuccino takes the cup:** After his almost unbeaten season, the World Cup series win – his third – was a foregone conclusion for New Zealand’s ‘little coffee horse’, Windermere Cappuccino (Corofino II - Vespa x Voltaire II). The only leg he failed to win was in Hastings, where he came third on wet and slippery ground, and he finished the series on 90 points. The NZ Warmblood gelding was bred by the Parkes family at their small farm near Blenheim in the South Island, and has been ridden from the start by Tegan Fitzsimon, who now part-owns him with the Parkes. This is his third victory in the World Cup series here – and might well have been his fourth, had injury not forced him to miss last year’s final. “I’m so lucky to have such an amazing horse,” says Fitzsimon. “He just gets out into the ring and adores his job.” The second ranked horse was Central Park (Euro Sport Centavos - Silk and Spice xx x Omnicorp xx) a 10-year-old NZWA gelding, bred by Imogen Neale. He is owned and ridden by Maurice Beatson. His sire, the imported Hanoverian Euro Sport Centavos (Escudo I - Anabell, Staatsprämie x Argentinus) was bred by Heinz Schütte in Germany. His dam, a Thoroughbred mare, is registered in the New Zealand Hanoverian Studbook. Third went to the new NZ National Premier Grand Prix champion, Waitangi Skynet (Cassini I – Pétanque x Aberlou xx), bred by Joss Bayly of Waitangi Sport Horses, and owned and ridden by Sophie Scott. Scott and Skynet were the only combination to beat Windermere Cappuccino during the series. **S.R.**



**RIP Diamant de Semilly:** As he neared his 31<sup>st</sup> birthday – May 22, 1991 – the legendary stallion and iconic sire, Diamant de Semilly, passed away peacefully at his home. Eric Levallois wrote an emotionally fitting announcement on social media on February 15: “Our dearest Diamant, the emblem of the Haras, left us yesterday morning. He passed away peacefully, leaving behind a great emptiness. Our team is devastated. Diamant enjoyed life until the end, and had a beautiful and well-deserved retirement, surrounded by a loving and caring team. I lost my horse, but most of all my best friend... EL”. Bred in 1991 by Jules Mesnildrey, this son of Le Tôt de Semilly enjoyed a successful sporting career under the saddle of Eric Levallois, famously winning a French team gold medal at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez de la Frontera, one of a unique quartet of Selle Français stallions. One year later they won a European championship silver. Diamant was only eight-years-old when his career as a sire was launched and, to date, he has over 4,000 offspring registered in France alone, plus several thousand more with other studbooks with whom he and some 92 sons were popularly approved. To mention a few well-known names: Diarado (Roxette I x Corrado I); Emerald/aka Emerald van’t Ruytershof (Carthina Z x Carthago Z); Quickly de Kreisker (Bri-seis d’Helvis x Laudanum xx); Elvis ter Putte (Ukase ter Putte x Darco); and Don VHP Z (Sara van het Parelshof x Voltaire).

# Remarkable surprises during KWPN Stallion Show

BY CLAARTJE VAN ANDEL AND SABINE TIMMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: FEI/LEANJO DE KOSTER

*Rewriting history, the KWPN Stallion Show continues, but with everything now live-streamed by the studbook to reach every corner of the world, enabling armchair viewing under ongoing Covid travel restrictions. This year, jumpers opened the show – with 50 horses selected for the saddle test, while dressage saw 39 stallions progressing to the performance text.*

As far as the jumping group was concerned, Willeke Bos's Stal 104 from Wijdewormer, close to Amsterdam, was remarkably successful, and you can read an interview with her on the following pages 18-19.

Interestingly, anyone watching the live-streamed free jumping may have noted that there were few stallions who could be considered outstanding this year. Certainly, it was noticed by Cor Loeffen, chairman of the selection committee, who commented following the presentation by saying that the horses were shown in a very natural way, which is what they wanted to see. However, they were looking for several characteristics that would determine whether or not stallions would be sent to the saddle test.

The first day delivered 28 approved jumping stallions with a lot of foreign bloodlines, such as the line of 't Roosakker, and also from some of the best-known bloodlines in France and Hannover. Remarkably, three selected stallions represented Cape Coral RBF Z (Cornet Obolensky - Gerona PP x Argentinus, breeder: M. Coenen) who impressed the judges.

On the second and last day for the jumpers at the stallion show, a further 22 stallions joined the group, and also provided four that were specifically awarded premiums, for a total of five overall.

## *Premium stallions*

**# 26 Oska JDV** (Cape Coral RBF Z - Kalina JDV x Cardento)  
Breeder: J. Dresen, Valkenburg); Owner: HX Breeding, Kessel

**# 30 Over The Top** (Carambole - Itsy Ditsy x Dante HBC)  
Breeder: Raeven Sporthorses BV, Noorbeek; Co-owners: Raeven Sporthorses BV and H.J. Braat, Wenum Wiesel

**# 105 Hashtag Who Else Z** (Heartbeat - Kamille x Comme Il Faut) Breeder: A.C. van der Peijl, Oene; Owner: K.B.W. Brama Walsh, Zenderen

**# 159 Oberon ES** (Nixon van 't Meulenhof - Lolita ES x Mosito van het Hellehof) Breeder/Owner: E. Schep, Tull en 't Waal

**# 187 Oreo VDL** (Zirotto Blue VDL - Zoklahoma VDL x Emilion) Breeder/Owner: VDL Stud, Bears

## *A controversially large group*

The overall total of 50 stallions selected for the saddle test was according to a mandate provided to the committee. However, whether this influenced any decisions was not made clear in the post-show commentary. Even those breeders and stallion owners whose horses progressed to the next round questioned the rather high number, as everyone knows that young jumping stallions don't breed enough to earn any real money this early in their careers. Even by analyzing the list of the sires of presented horses you will rarely find a young stallion. However, their work is not yet over as they still need to succeed for the saddle test which could result in a much stricter selection due to the difference between free jumping and being ridden.

## *Focus points*

The committee focused especially on damlines in sport as much as possible – a fact that is becoming more and more important in breeding, and became apparent in their stallion selections, too. Alongside the damline, they selected athletic horses, with correct foundations, intelligence, overview, and a light-gaited way of moving and jumping.

The new member of the stallion selection committee for jumping horses this year is Eric van der Vleuten, who was happy to join the team: "It's not easy to make a decision after seeing just nine jumps. Some horses are tense and therefore acted more extreme or holding themselves in because of it. So next to the damline and the model you judge the things you see. A pear won't fall from an apple tree, so a sporting damline is definitely a plus. I look at those stallions as both a rider and breeder. We try to breed top sporters, but that's not easy, and also the sport is evolving. The courses are becoming more and more technical. In an indoor World Cup you need to jump 15 fences in 65 seconds. A horse needs to be able to accelerate, have enough power to conquer the jumps, and have intelligence and a light gait. You can always see if a horse moves with a light gait, as well as the technique he uses. The atmosphere during the show was good and all three of us are realistic and look at a sport horse in the same way."



*Hermès (Easy Game - Bukkie keur pref prest EPTM-dres x Flemmingh, bred by G. Gijsbers of Loosbroek, owned by Joop van Uytert) was elected as KWPN dressage horse of the year having won the GP and GP Freestyle in Aachen under the saddle of Dinja van Liere*

### *Offspring facts*

If we just look into some facts to close the jumping part we can see they selected the stallions from several licensed stallions. Only from a few they selected two or three stallions to test in further. A list of stallions who mainly already proved themselves in sport and breeding.

The following list is sires of licensed stallions with one selected representative: Arezzo VDL, Asca Z, Camargo, Canturano, Carambole, Castle Creek, Cayetano Z, Chacco Blue, Chacoon Blue, Cicero Z van Paemel, Cornet Obolensky, Côte de Zélande Delta Mossel Z, Dallas VDL, Di Cantero van Ter Hulst, Etoulon VDL, Grandorado TN, Halifax van het Kluizebos, Heartbeat, Heartbreaker, Hermantico, Impressive VDL, Ipsthar, It's Otto, Janssen VDL, Luigi d'Eclipse, Manchester van t'Paradijs, Matisse de Mariposa, Oklahoma van de Zelhem, Quabri de L'Isle, Untouched, Zirocco Blue VDL.

With the exception of Cape Coral RBF Z who exclusively saw three sons licensed, the following were each represented by two: Baltic VDL, Carrera VDL, Conthargos, Emerald van 't Ruytersho, Herakles, Jukebox, Nixon van 't Meulenhof, and United Touch S.

### *Stal 104 rules the dressage arena*

A total of 39 dressage stallions were selected to present themselves for the stallion performance test with Willeke Bos's Stal 104 finding exceptional success. Her home-bred Grand Prix stallion All at Once (Ampère - Wynona RB elite prest x Gribaldi x Jazz) who competed in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, had three selected representatives, and included the highest recommendation as premium stallions. The first is Opoque (out of Ice Princess STH elite IBOP-dres sport-dres PROK D-OC x Davino VOD). Ice Princess is an exceptionally well-tested mare (IBOP 90.5 points) and is now

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**KWPN**  
Royal Dutch Sport Horse

owned by Andreas Helgstrand. According to dressage committee chairman Bert Rutten: "This stallion has a valuable pedigree and moves with an athletic use of his body and lots of ability to regulate his stride."

The second All At Once son was the beautiful Otazu (out of Small Tour mare Atilinda M elite IBOP-dress sport-dress pref prest D-OC x Negro). Otazu is bred out of the same dam as the remarkable KWPN-approved stallion Jameson RS2 (Blue Hors Zack). Rutten added: "Again, a stallion with a high breeding value. He combines an appealing conformation to lots of suppleness and ability to both collect and lengthen and extend in movement."

Premium status was also awarded to Stal 104's own-bred One-Two-Three (Vivaldi - Tolia elite sport-dress pref prest PROK x D-Day). He is full brother to the KWPN-recognised Small Tour stallion Vitalis (bred by A. de Crom and W. Verbakel), who is also approved for Bavaria, Danish Warmblood, Hanover, Oldenburg, and RH. He is another elegant, long-lined stallion that moves with abundant suppleness, balance, and lightfootedness.

There were remarkable moments during the stallion show when Stal 104 received the green light for two additional stallions to progress to the performance test.

### *Just Wimpf Hof*

Four Just Wimpf Hof sons were selected, with damlines by Vivaldi, Apache, Jazz, and Galaxie. However, the most impressive from a very good damline was Oakly (out of Tara elite pref prest x Jazz x Juventus, breeder J. Klinkers). The imposing chestnut Tara was a highlight in U25 Grand Prix with the breeder's daughter Kyra Klinkers in the saddle, and she also educated Tara's son Whoopydoo (Lord Sinclair) to Grand Prix level.

Kingston Blue Hors (Glock's Toto Jr - Arina elite prok x Turbo Magic x Flemmingh, breeder J. Zeewuster) joined the list of multiple representatives with three sons selected. Likewise, Kingston's sire, Glock's Toto Jr (Totilas - Desperada x Desperados FRH).

A number of stallions saw two sons selected, including the Rheinland-bred Escamillo (2015: Escolar x Rohdiamant; bred by Gestüt Caroline Tenterhof); the Hannoverian-bred and approved for BWP, Hannover, KWPN, NRPS and Oldenburg, the Grand Prix horse For Ferrero (2014: For Romance x Don Crusador); plus Deparon US (Deveraux 3 x Londonderry, owned by Jewel Court Stud), and, of course, everyone's dream sire, Totilas.

The big black Our Totilas (out of Umathika M elite pref x Sandro Hit, breeder C.F. van Mook) was quite impressive, while the Escamillo son out of a Vivaldi mare was bred and presented by Paul Schockemöhle's Gestüt Lewitz.

Nowadays, open borders between the European studbooks results in a great deal of watching and identifying each other's talents, and trying to improve their own craft by gathering the best of all abilities. Two notable examples of amalgamated thinking are two KWPN-selected stallions of

Dutchman Gert-Jan and his Danish wife Anne van Olst: Secret Lover (Secret x Fürstenball, breeder B. Zumbruch from Wangerland Germany, already approved in Oldenburg), and Fabiano (For Romance x Diamond Hit, breeder G. Höckesfeld from Drensteinfurt, Germany, already approved for Westfalia.)

### *Horses of the year*

In the end it was Joop van Uytert who saw his stallion Hermès (Easy Game - Bukkie keur pref prest EPTM-dress x Flemmingh, bred by G. Gijbers of Loosbroek) elected as KWPN dressage horse of the year. After missing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games last summer due to failures in ownership registration with the FEI, Hermès made a remarkable appearance in Aachen by winning the Grand Prix and GP Freestyle under the saddle of Dinja van Liere. Joop van Uytert has promised that this pair will remain together at least until the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

A few days earlier, Explosion W (Chacco Blue) became the KWPN jumping horse of year, having won individual Olympic gold with Britain's Ben Maher last summer in Tokyo.

### *An attestation inspection*

Two jumpers and one dressage stallion were presented during a post-show attestation inspection in Ermelo on February 16. At that time, one showjumper Teyssier van de Heffinck (Chacco Blue - Maquinn vd Heffinck x Quinn van de Heffinck, bred by Van de Heffinck BVBA of Evergem, registered by De Havikerwaard Stud in De Steeg) was selected. According to chairman Cor Loeffen: "He was slightly fresh in the arena, but he jumped with great technique and was very eager. He originates from an interesting Oldenburg damline, of which four generations have been active in sport, at 1m30, 1m50, 1m40, and 1m50 level, respectively." His granddam, Isolde van de Heffinck (Contact van de Heffinck x Orlando) is herself successful in 1m50 classes with Thibeau Spits.

### *Final foreign' words*

Preserving some final words for a foreign visitor and contributor from Blue Hors Stud in Denmark, Jens Meijer said: "I have seen many complete horses in Ermelo. They have a lot of power in their hindquarters. I loved to see the results the Dutch breeders have achieved with our stallion Kingston. So, breeding interests in Denmark and Holland go well together. The Dutch could pay more attention to the angle in the hind leg, but I find the improvement in the walk great to see." ■

# Measuring breeding success: KWPN's Willeke Bos

BY CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

*Once again, the KWPN Stallion licensing was held behind closed doors at a result of the Covid pandemic, so I missed one of my favourite shows for the second year running. However, even from afar, it was impossible to miss the extraordinary feat of Dutch breeder, Willeke Bos.*

Of the 39 colts accepted, five were bred by Willeke Bos, including three of the four colts awarded the premium title by the KWPN stallion licensing committee, comprising Bert Rutten (chair), Wouter Plaizier and Johan Hamminga.

The three premium colts bred by Willeke Bos include Opoque – with 50% of this colt having already been purchased by Helgstrand Dressage at the pre-selection phase. Opoque is an intriguing mix of old and new bloodlines, by one of Willeke's two licensed stallions, All at Once, who is by Ampère out of a Gribaldi mare. The mare's pedigree also features Jazz, Contango, and Ulft. All at Once, a 12-year-old black stallion, competed at last year's Tokyo 2020 Olympic Game with Dutch-based Moroccan rider, Yessin Rahmouni. His original KWPN name was Flow, but as he was licensed in Germany, before his KWPN approval, he received a new name according to the German practice of using the initial letter of his sire's name.

Opoque's dam, Ice Princess Sth, is by Davino VOD, a son of the German stallion, Hotline (Hofrat x De Niro), out of Kilucienne (Michelangelo), then back to a couple of the Dutch foundation sires, Farn and Erdball xx. Ice Princess is out of Belle Vurona Sth, by the German stallion, Fürst Heinrich (Florestan x Donnerhall) out of Vurona, who brings the blood of Negro and Vincent. Wow!

Next, Otazu, by All at Once out of Atalinda (by Negro), the dam of Jameson, one of the most exciting young stallions in the Netherlands. Atalinda is by Negro, out of a Krack C / Contango mare.

One-Two-Three is out of Toliva, by D-Day, by Vivaldi, making him the full brother of the licensed stallions Vitalis and My Vitality. Vitalis is a Nürnberger Burg-Pokal winner, and one of the most popular stallions in the Paul Schockemöhle barn. Double wow!

## Willeke's *Stal 104*

### ◆ How long have you been breeding horses

Serious breeding started around 2010.

### ◆ Do you come from a 'horse' family?

Not a real horse family, but I started riding when I was six and I've been infected with the horse virus since that time.

### ◆ Were you always aiming to breed dressage?

Yes, but I tried showjumping in the past, just with one mare because of her pedigree, but she was a bit more a dressage type, and I got better horses from her with dressage stallions.

### ◆ How many mares do you have?

I've got a lot of mares, but for breeding I use about eight mares and they are all in their own way precious to me.

### ◆ How many stallions do you have?

At the moment I have two licensed stallions, All at Once and Impress, and five young stallions that hopefully get their license soon. I bred them all myself. All at Once is very sensitive, but in a good way, but maybe with a nervous or sensitive mare, it can be too much. He can improve movement and type and hindleg.

The AES licensed stallion Impress Taonga (Vitalis x Hotline) is a really large horse with strong body parts, so I think he could fit also on tiny mares. He can improve movement, type and height.

### ◆ Which are the most important/successful horses you have bred so far?

All at Once, Jatilinda, Jameson RS2, Jamsession, Fynona, Jappeloup, My Vitality, Irabel, Impress Taonga, and Majestic Taonga. [NB: This last horse has recently been purchased for Isabell Werth to ride, he is by Toto Jr out of a Jazz x Hotline mare.]

### ◆ Why do you think you have been so successful?

I think every breeder has to start with super mares, a dose of luck, and of course a critical eye for each mare and stallion you want to use.

## Willeke's *eight mares*

- **Atalinda M** (Negro - Tilinda M x Krack C), the mother of Jameson, Jatilinda, and Otazu
- **Jatilinda** (All at Once - Atalinda M x Negro), the mother of Obsession and Natilinda (top-10 mare championships)
- **Darabel** (Westpoint - White Spot x Don Schufro), the mother of licensed stallions Kilimanjaro (Bordeaux), and

Irabel (Charmeur)

- **Tolivia** (D-Day - Nalivia x Argus) – mother of Vitalis (Vivaldi)
- **Fariska** (Vivaldi - Variska x Nourejev)
- **Fynona** (Ampere - Wynona RB x Gribaldi) – full sister of All at Once
- **Jamsession Taonga** (Jazz - Templeton's Honeymoon x Blue Hors Hotline) – mother of Majestic Taonga
- **Dalivia** (Spielberg - Tolivia x D-Day) – half sister of Vitalis, mother of Oklahoma (Depron U.S.)

I've sold Davilia, and have just started with the following mares: Lafurstinel (All at Once x Hotline), first foal last year, and Laliue Taonga – by All at Once out of the dam line of Pompidou (Piet), first foal in a couple of weeks.

I try to find the best and worst things of my mares and then find a stallion who maybe can better the worst parts.

◆ When I look at your bloodlines what strikes me is the wonderful balance of old Dutch blood, with cutting edge stallions in Germany and Holland. Do you start with the pedigree?

No, I start with the mare. She has to have for me something extra, then I really have the wow factor with her. After that, she has to have a perfect pedigree – then I go looking for my stallion."

◆ When did you decide that what you wanted to do with your life was breed these wonderful horses?

It started when I had my first child. At that time I wasn't able to ride so I started breeding and that was so nice to do, so it just continued.

◆ In the past we have heard lots about the famous breeders, but they all seemed to be men...

(Laughing) Sorry I'm a woman!

◆ Is it harder for a woman?

To be honest I don't know, I just do my thing and it happens to be quite good. It's not luck any more, but you need luck because you never know with genetics; my sister can be Miss World but it doesn't mean that I am going to

be Miss World. So you need a dose of luck, but also I have super sport mares, and they also tend to be super breeding mares as well, and that is not always the case. You can have a really good breeding mare and maybe she is not a sports mare. I start with sports mares, and maybe they are excellent in sport but not really a breeding mare... I have the luck that my mares have both sides.

◆ You say that you breed with just eight mares, is that part of the secret, a small mare band that you can know really well?

I don't know to be honest. I've just got a couple of mares, my daughter is riding some of them, others are riding them, they are just normal sports mares in normal life, and in the breeding season, I do embryo transplants only because I think they are good parents, good movements, good exterior, things like that. Mares that have a bit extra in their sport career, and when I look at them ridden I like what I see, and it is just with those mares that I want to breed. For example Jatilinda is by All at Once and being ridden by my daughter Lara van Nek. So I know the pedigree of the mare, and also know the parents of the stallion because I own him. It can be difficult as you don't have to breed with only your own stallions, you've got to figure out what the mare needs.

◆ When you went to the licensing did you think you were going to have three of the four premium stallions?

No! Not at all. In the first round, all the kids went through and everybody asked me what do you think, how many will they license? I said, I don't know, the jury sees them for just a couple of minutes, and the stallion has to be just right on the day, not hysterical, or too lazy, or shy. I said, if I have two stallions licensed then I am happy, but it is not only that they were licensed they got a premium; that was really extra, but I didn't expect it, not at all, not at all. ■



# Nangaye de Kergane: Small in size, tall in talent

BY MARC VERRIER

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN

*Renamed Lady Lindenhof after passing to Luciana Diniz, the very small Nangaye de Kergane had already shone at the highest level with Kevin Staut. However, for Alexandra Rantet, her first rider, Nangaye remains the mare of her life. Several of her products have competed at a good level, and her descendants have very promising elements.*

It was at the yard of Louis Menier, in Morbihan, some 50 kilometers west of Rennes, that Nangaye de Kergane was born. For his mare Je Viens de Kergane (Type of Elle x Benroy xx), Louis Menier had chosen Grand Chef Bleu, a stallion he loved very much and used widely. This son of Quidam de Revel and Queen du Parc, by Lord Roussetière – who was none other than a son of the full sister of breed chief Almé – competed until the age of 18, often changing riders, recording an index of 136 thanks to rankings earned between 1m30 and 1m40. Grand Chef Bleu had a fairly discreet production with only 72 products registered with the SIRE, 44 of whom were recorded competitors. Among them, nine were indexed above 120 and only one above 140, Nangaye de Kergane, who obtained the very good index of 168, from six seasons between 157 and 168.

## *A serious strain*

The maternal line of Nangaye de Kergane is not necessarily the most prestigious, since Nangaye is the only one of her family to have competed at the highest level. However, until the fifth dam, there are several winners between 1m20 and 1m40 in each generation, which is certainly a sign of a certain quality in the strain. Besides Nangaye, other horses from this family, all bred by Louis Menier, have also had good careers, such as Maeva de Kergane (Gold de Becourt x Arpege Pierreville) ISO 148 and classified over 1m50 with Swiss Nadine Traber, or his uterine brother Quasi de Kergane (Elan de la Cour) classified over the same heights with Poland's Wojciech Wojcianiak, ISO 159. We should also mention the young Eothymm de Kergane (Quinoto Bois Margot x Campo Flamingo Z), from a uterine sister of Maeva and Quasi, ninth in the five-year-old final at Fontainebleau and CIR champion of Saint-Lô, and 16th as a six-year-old with Arthur Le Vot, earning him a very good index of 150 in 2020.

This strain began to show itself in sport from Javotte (Ulster x Neroli), born in 1953, the fifth dam of Nangaye de Kergane. Successive crosses with Obelisque II xx (Louqsor xx) then Nankin (Fra Diavolo xx) and the Thoroughbred Benroy xx (Double Jump xx) produced Smasch [SF], Nangaye's grandmother, who arrives at the Meniers after a

small competition career (ISO 125) and a few foals for Odile Le Baron. According to Louis Menier, "It was my son Thibault who bought Smasch when she was 12. She gave us three offspring, including Natashquan au Galet (Elan de la Cour), indexed 123, and Je Viens de Kergane (Type d'Elle), the mother of Nangaye. Smasch died at the age of 19. As we often do, we bred Je Viens de Kergane before putting her into competition. We chose Grand Chef Bleu, a stallion that I liked very much, which resulted in Nangaye de Kergane. Then, Je Viens went into a competition and, since we already had a daughter, she was sold." He continued by relating the story of Nangaye: "She was seriously injured in a posterior and was marked for the rest of her life. She was a mare with a lot of energy and had a first foal at age four by Elan de la Cour, but he died soon after birth. Then she had four foals with L'Arc de Triomphe. Scala de Kergane and Suhisa de Kergane, who remained as broodmares, Squad de Kergane, who competed up to 1m30 (ISO 127) and was sold to Mexico, but I don't have more news. The best was Sangali de Kergane, classified in 1m50 Grand Prix classes with Marc Lucas (ISO 145).

"When she was five years old we sold half of Nangaye to Alexandra Rantet, then the second part a little later. Nangaye was not obvious; at first she would jump too hard and could scare herself a little. Later she had a very good career. I remember the La Baule Grand Prix where she was magnificent with Kevin Staut, with just one fault at the last obstacle.

"Nangaye's daughters gave good products, including Arany de Kergane (Nervoso), who went to Switzerland (index 149), touring with Fiona Meier then Cameron Hanley, with whom he won international seven-year-old classes. [Author's note: Then with Fiona Meyer, he moved up to 1m35.] From this strain I kept Ambryme de Kergane (Amadehus), a daughter of Scala."

## *Alexandra Rantet: Under the spell of Nangaye*

Freshly arrived in Brittany where she joined her companion Yoann Lepage, Alexandra Rantet met Louis Menier and Nangaye: "I arrived in Brittany in 2005 when Louis Menier's stable jockey was injured and he was looking

for someone to ride horses off the cuff. So I rode Kergane horses twice a week, and Nangaye was one of those. When I arrived, she had just been broken in and had foals. Nangaye was an exceptional mare. The first time I saw her jump free I said to Yoann that I'd never seen a horse jump like this. It was paranormal, her stature and the respect she shows, she was way above the rest. I did the first set-up jumps and she was exceptional, even though she was very small. When she finished growing, she was only 161 cms tall. But she had lift and great respect. She had a very nice, easy-going appearance, but a lot of character. She was firing on all cylinders, which I couldn't believe because she wasn't testing me and trying to knock me down."

Completely seduced, Alexandra bought half of Nangaye and started in competition before later buying the second half: "She started directly in the five-year-old qualifiers. At first she jumped too high and quickly got a little scared. She was a mare who did very few rails, but she could come to a stop emotionally at times. Despite everything, she was efficient from the start, since she qualified for the final, where she scored clear and four faults – something I didn't even feel and didn't see on the video.

"She had a good six-year-old season, notably being second in the interregional, and in the final there was a course builder who walked past us when we hit a bidet [water obstacle]. She made a big mistake and got very scared and it took me a while to get her to jump bidets with peace of mind.

"When she was seven, she was four feet tall and we started getting some great offers. I told Louis Menier not to sell her right away, but that was his plan so I bought her outright. At the time, we had no money at all, we were just starting out, so it was the whole family who helped us, and in particular Yoann's parents who bought a quarter of the mare, even though they didn't have a lot of money. We really believed in her and put all our savings into the mare. We knew she was good, but at first we couldn't say how far she would go because she did everything with her heart."

## *The Grand Prix of Dinard*

From that moment on, the pair continued to progress, showing themselves to be consistent over 1m40 in Nangaye's ninth year, before finishing the following season over 1m50 and competing in their first four-star Grand Prix in Bourgen-Bresse with four faults. At the age of 11 Alexandra and Nangaye had a magnificent season, being placed 19 times over 33 courses, winning in particular the two-star Grand Prix of Challans, and peaking in the three-star Dinard Grand Prix. It was an Emerald Coast victory that would be the couple's last class, when Alexandra made the heartfelt decision to sell the mare. As she explained: "When she was eight, I returned to a smaller scale to ride her more relaxed, without using too much pressure. From that day on I definitely had her confidence, she never refused on the track again and was incredibly consistent. Of all the rounds I did

from the age of eight, she was always clear or had only four faults, maximum. If I didn't make a mistake, she didn't make a mistake. The last competition we did together in Dinard, I felt that she could go clear with no problems and that we could win, which we did. Before that, I had done a three-star Grand Prix only once. She allowed me to do my first four-star Grand Prix and win my first and only three-star Grand Prix.

"Following Dinar we sold her to Xavier Marie, who entrusted her to Kevin Staut. The choice to sell her wasn't too difficult to make since we had no money at the time and, in addition, I knew I would have difficulty accessing the major competitions because I was already struggling to get three star selections. Kevin rode her only a little during his collaboration with the Hus studfarm, including finishing with four faults at the final obstacle in the Grand Prix of La Baule. At that time, Edouard de Rothschild knew that the partnership Kevin and Hus was coming to an end, so bought Nangaye and gave her to Luciana Diniz."

Nangaye only remained for six months under the saddle of Kevin Staut, in particular recording a ninth-place finish in the five-star Bordeaux Grand Prix, and fourth in the three-star Grand Prix of Harellet. When Nangaye passed to the Portuguese saddle of Luciana Diniz, she was renamed Lady Lindenhof. However, in the shadow of Lennox, Winningmood, and Fit For Fun, Nangaye never managed to progress to the major five-star Grand Prix classes, but remained a very good intermediate competition mare, winning classes in Cannes and Valkenswaard, as well as placing at 1m50-1m60 in some of the world's most beautiful arenas, such as Aachen, Rotterdam, Paris, Miami, Hamburg, Doha, and Geneva. In April 2016, when Nangaye was 15, Luciana Diniz decided to retire her from sport, explaining: "It was Edouard de Rothschild who knew that Kevin Staut would no longer ride the mare. As we were looking for a good second horse I went to try her out and quickly felt very comfortable with her. Lady Lindenhof was a very charismatic little mare, who fascinated the spectators with her looks and her way of jumping. With her I had a lot of wins and rankings in some great shows and she was a very useful mare in my stable, even though I felt she was not showing her full potential. I spoke to a 'whisperer' who told me that Lady had given 11 foals by embryo transfer, but had never carried one herself, and that she wanted to be a mother. So we decided to end her career so that she could breed."

Since then, Nangaye de Kergane has enjoyed happy days at the Meautry stud farm, near Deauville, where she gave birth to two Lamm de Fetan offspring born in 2018 and 2019.

## *A promising lineage*

Previously, Nangaye had given seven foals to Alexandra Rantet, including Unladylike, Vegas Flamingo, and Airelle Flamingo with house stallion Campo Flamingo Z (Chellano Z x Ronald). Very promising and classified over 1m45 with Alexandra, Unladylike (ISO 138 at the age of nine) will see



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*Baloubet du Rouet (Galoubet A - Mesange du Rouet x Starter) – produced good daughters combined with Nangaye, with whom Alexandra Rantet is now breeding*

a premature end to her sporting career due to health problems. Started by Alexandra, Airelle Flamingo then competed with Pénélope Leprévost, with whom she finished over 1m40, before being half sold to Luciana Diniz. Classified in the 1m45m Grand Prix with Diniz, Airelle will then be entrusted to different riders before returning to Alexandra Rantet.

Vegas Flamingo, at a young age, will have a very good career in ponies under the saddle of Sixtine Morvillers, winning the Grand Prix As Pony Elite and holder of an IPO of 143.

Nangaye was then crossed with Baloubet du Rouet, notably producing two daughters now in breeding with Alexandra Rantet, who believes a lot in the foals from her second generation: “She was perhaps lacking a little bit of blood and also a little bit of strength. This is why Nangaye was not easy to come across in the first generation, because you had to give her size and strength without removing blood, even bringing back a little. I used Campo Flamingo knowing it wouldn’t bring back size and strength, but it was going to give her blood and a little more chic. After that, I used Baloubet because I thought he could bring both size and blood.

“I always thought Nangaye would be better in the second generation, and I told myself that if we were lucky enough to have females by Campo Flamingo, it would be easier then to put stallions that brought back size and strength. We quickly put Baloubet’s two daughters on the farm without taking

them out too much, because embryo transfers are still very expensive. I think we have some who are better than Nangaye, but we have to leave them time to age and then see them in good tests. In the youngsters of the line there are many who seem exceptional, such as Paillette Flamingo Z (Popstar Lozonais).” We should also mention Donatella Flamingo (Cardento), daughter of Unladylike, classified over 1m35 with Rémy Neve and recently ridden by Marc Dilasser.

Thinking back to Nangaye, Alexandra, who cannot hide her emotion, describes her as the most important mare of her life as a rider, but also as a breeder: “She is the mare of a lifetime with whom we have lived extraordinary things. She has given us great memories. The qualities she had were very innate and that’s why she reproduces well. She was a mare who rode in a single bridle, without martingale or fetlock boots.

“She will remain unique to us, she was so endearing, so intelligent, and she has marked me enormously. I still have a lot of emotions thinking about her departure. It changed our life and, sentimentally speaking, we are still very attached to her. If we hadn’t had her we might not be doing this job today. It allowed us to build the stables of our dreams and to work in good conditions. You can have a fantastic working tool and save money with it. It’s not without meaning to have a horse that changes your life like that and, above all, we have the future with her daughters and granddaughters. Nangaye was a wonderful time for us.” ■

# Worshipping the shrine: Specialists or all-rounders?

By CHRISTOPHER HECTOR

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY HANNOVERANER VERBAND

*When I traveled to the Hanoverian breeding district for the first time, back in the mid 1980s, the breeders were still worshipping at the shrine of the 'all-round horse' – or at least that was the theory. Indeed, from the very beginning it was the breeding goal.*

When the Hanoverian Studbook was founded in 1888 the breeding goal was a “medium-sized carriage horse, a strong riding horse, and a horse suitable for the troops, especially as a cuirassier horse and an artillery-pole horse.”

Dictated by other needs, the look of this horse changed. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with cavalry as the primary market, more Thoroughbred blood was used to produce a finer, riding type. After WWI, with the German cavalry disbanded, the market swung to agriculture, and the elephant-model reigned supreme.

At the end of WW2, with the future in grave doubt, many mares were sent to the slaughterhouse (the number of Hanoverian mares fell from 30,000 in 1948 to 6,300 in 1963), so would the horse breeding industry survive?

Then the canny administrator Gustav Rau came up with the idea of riding clubs to encourage the sons of the farmers to compete in horse sport, and equestrian sport became the saviour of the German horse. Even then the writing was on the wall that type would follow rider demand, and as horse sports became more specialised, the breeding direction for mare owners followed.

Back in 2000, Dr. Jochen Wilkens, the breeding director at the Verband, did not give up entirely on the ‘all-round’ mantra, but obviously saw the way the wind was blowing; future breeding would be in the direction of the “careful

specialisation of an all-round riding horse. The breeders are already specialising.”

It was a hot topic of discussion at a special Expo seminar week that year: ‘The Modern Sporthorse’ [sic]. There, the then deputy breeding director, Dr Ludwig Christmann, stressed the need to specialise. His paper was a study of the sires of mares invited to take part in the loose jumping and riding horse class at the Ratje-Niebuhr show, and he produced two quite different lists. The sires of the jumpers were Acord II, Calido, Contender, Continue, Crazy Classic, Dinard L, Escudo I and II, Laptop, Linaro, Metternich, Raphael, Silvio, Spartan, and Zacharias. For the riding horse class: Brentano II, Cordoba, Davignon, De Niro, Fabriano, Hohenstein, Longchamp, Prince Thatch xx, Regazzoni, Weltmeyer, White Magic and Wolkenstein II.

The type in both groups was very different, bearing out Ludwig’s research findings that good marks for every single one of the conformation ratings on the Hanoverian evaluation sheet – even saddle position – had a negative, yes negative, relationship to jumping ability. In other words, what was accepted as ‘good’ conformation was, in fact, ‘bad’ conformation for jumpers.

Another speaker, Professor Eric Bruns advocated breeding the ‘all-rounder’ for the general leisure horse market, although the argument that was strongly resisted by Ulli Kassermann (a person who really knows which way the wind is blowing in the marketing of dressage horses). Kassermann argued that the breeder must aim for high performance: “I don’t like the concept of an all-rounder, it is a marketing gimmick.”

This in turn produced a strong counter argument from Dr. Lehmann, a former director of the Westphalian Verband, who concluded an impassioned speech with the warning: “All the stallions that do not want to jump should be excluded or they will ruin the good mares we have.”

By 2021, for the first time, there was not one, but two Hanoverian licensings, one for dressage, one for jumping. But while Ludwig Christmann supports the separation, he points out the following with regard to licensing commissions: “The five person commissions are not totally separate. Uli Hahne, the Hanoverian breeding director is on both commissions. So there is still a link between the disciplines. But in general I feel this is a step into the right direction. We have to breed the



*Totilas x Danciano*



*Escamillo x De Niro*

horse the sport wants, and therefore we have to include riders and trainers into our selection decisions.”

### *Current breeding aims*

Back to 1990 when, for the first time, the breeding aim mentioned a focus on dressage, showjumping or eventing, and this is still reflected in the current breeding aim:

“4.1 The Hanoverian is to be bred as a horse which is particularly suitable for riding. The aim is to produce horses which, on account of their inner qualities, rideability, external appearance, sequence of movement, natural jumping ability, and health, are suitable as performance as well as leisure horses.

“4.2 On this basis it is aimed to breed horses with particular ability for the discipline either of dressage, jumping, or eventing.

“4.3 With the qualities mentioned in paragraph 1, it is also aimed to breed horses which are suitable for driving sport.”

The move to specialisation has seen huge changes in the performance tests over the years. Up until 1975, ‘harness’ was included in the stallion performance test, including dragging a heavy sled.

In 2016 the cross-country sector of the performance test was abolished, while at the same time the length of the test has been progressively reduced from 100 days (11 months for the stallions owned by Celle), to 30 days, with much easier access on the basis of sport results.

Back to 2021: So how did the bloodlines shape up at the first ever dressage licensing? One of the most influential lines was the newly revived E line through Escolar. This line originated in Hanover with Adeptus xx, but migrated across the border and was refined by the Westfalian breeders, particularly the Borgmann family who bred Escolar’s sire, Estobar.

There were five colts by Escolar, and five by his son Escamillo (out of a De Niro mare). The highest-priced

stallion was by Escamillo out of a De Niro x Prince Thatch xx mare, that sold to the Netherlands for €700,000.

But the line with the most representatives was the F line through Florestan, with 14 colts nominated. Hanoverian stallion of the year, Fidertanz (Fidermark x Ravallo) sired two, For Romance (Fürst Romance x Sir Donnerhall) produced four. The F group contained one of the Dutch-fusion representatives, Fürst Toto (Fürstenball x Totilas).

The D line remains influential with seven in the lineup. A new sire at Celle, Da Costa had three. This stallion is interestingly bred, by the successful Donnerhall grandson, Dimaggio, but out of a Holsteiner mare, Pamela, who is by Coriander, who is a grandson of Calypso II (Cor de la Bryère x Heisspohn), who was the first Holstein stallion to be accepted at the State Stud Celle. Pamela is out of a mare by the Thoroughbred, Amigo xx. Da Costa was fourth at the Bundeschampionate, and currently competes at Prix St Georges level.

Don K (Don Nobless x Sir Donnerhall) sired one, as did his sire, Don Nobless, who has two crosses of the great Donnerhall, being by Dancier out of a Don Davidoff mare.

It would not be a licensing without some Millennium (Easy Game x Ravel) presence, and sure enough he has two, including one out of a Jazz mare, while his son Mykonos (out of a Desperados mare) also has two.

The R line is just hanging in there with three representatives; one by Rubin-Royal (Rhodiamant x Grundstein II), and two by Springbank II by Skovens Raphael – a great-grandson of Rhodiamant – out of a De Niro mare.

### *Identifying stallion lines*

In most German studbooks, identifying stallion lines is made much easier because of the requirement that a foal’s name begins with the initial letter of the sire. The exception to this rule is the Trakehner book where the first letter is the first letter of the dam’s name. There are the occasional exceptions, like the Oldenberger, Weihegold, who is by Don Schufro, but her name salutes the Weissena dam line.



*For Dance (Dagostini)*



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*Da Costa x Lauries Crusador xx*

But once we leave Germany, it becomes more complicated: The Dutch (and Selle Français) confuse things when their stallions are named with the letter of their birth year rather than their sire's initial. Then when the horses travel north to Denmark, they find there is no rule for naming, although most breeders follow the German tradition, but there are no restrictions from the studbook as to the first letter. There is, however, a limit to the length of the name. Many Danish breeders use their stud name or farm name as a prefix or a suffix, eg. ERA Dancing Hit or Mistral Højris.

So at the 2021 Hanoverian licensing, we have the Baden-Württemberg licensed stallion Secret, by Sezuan, who was bred in Denmark by the Dutch-bred, Danish-based Zack. Secret, out of a St Moritz mare, is the sire of five colts, while Sezuan sired one. Does this mean we have another S line to join the Sandro Hit version? Not really: Zack is by Rousseau by Ferro by Ulft. Like they say, go figure!

### *Interesting cocktails*

There is an interesting blend of Dutch blood at the licensing. Livaldon, a Dutch-German fusion, by Vivaldi out of a Donnerhall mare, has two colts and his son, La Vie, out of a Scolari x Wolkenstein II mare, one. Asgard's Ibiza, who is flavor of the month in some circles in Germany, is by the Vivaldi son, Desperado NOP. He is out of a Jazz x Contango mare, but his third line is more or less a history of Dutch dressage breeding: Krack C, Havidoff, Cocktail, Contango, along with the famous mares, Renate-Utopia, Charmante, and Wendy. He is represented by an exquisite black colt out of a For Romance x Fidertanz x De Niro mare.

Now take a trip in time back to 2000 and that collection of stallions that Ludwig identified 20 years ago. One star, Brentano II, and one superstar, De Niro, while the rest have largely faded, although there was a cheer from the breeders at the latest 2021 Verden licensing auction when the auctioneer announced that the first premium stallion to go

under the hammer was a brown by Bon Coeur x Carabas from – I'm now quoting from the Hanoverian press release – "the line of the stallion of the century, Weltmeyer, for €300,000."

From Ludwig's 2000 collection, the 2021 jumping licensing showed that the influential lines are less volatile, and a number remain prominent: Acord II, Calido, Cotender, Continue, Silvio, and Spartan through his son, Stakkato.

The premium stallion at the jumping licensing by Checkter x Stolzenberg (breeder: Jasmin Leymann, Bassum, exhibitor: Böckmann Pferde GmbH, Lastrup), whose dam is a half sister to Eric Lamaze's world-class horse Fine Lady 5 (Forsyth - Dorina x Drosselklang II), was auctioned off to a regular customer from the United States for €130,000. Whereas it once appeared as if the old Hanoverian jumping lines were going to disappear, either absorbed into the dressage breeding population or swamped by the blood from Holstein, the highest-priced colt carries that older Hanoverian jumping blood, specifically the Norm mareline, which has been at the Habermann farm for 100 years this year through his sire, Checkter (Celestial x Lord Pezi). The colt's dam, Solina, is by Stolzenberg, a grandson of Spartan. Solina is out of Dorina, the 2018 Hanoverian Mare of the Year, by Drosselklang II by Don Carlos, another Hanoverian jumping stalwart and out of the Grannus mare, Golden Lady. Again, digging into the pedigree reveals a time when the Hanoverian breeders were keen to boost the jumping ability of their stock, rather than their ability to point a toe or trot on the spot.

But will there be even more specialisation down the road? Ludwig Christmann in a recent article, *How Does the KWPN dressage horse compare with the German horse?*, points to yet another degree of specialisation within the dressage discipline. What Ludwig suggests is that the Dutch select horses that are more likely to perform Grand Prix movements, even if they are less pleasant to ride as young horses and lack the natural movement of the German horses. "From my impressions at mare performance tests, I can confirm that offspring of Dutch stallions are more often endowed with less swinging trot movements than the Hannoveraner or Rhineland mares. The canter often is the best gait, the walk the weaker gait."

But this might not be a disadvantage: "Just sufficient movement with less swing can be advantageous for the collection. A pre-disposition for Grand Prix does not require very big movement; the rideability of a Grand Prix talent does not have to be easy. There are enough examples of successful Grand Prix horses, including Hannoveraner, that were difficult and required great riding skills."

In the future could we see two streams of dressage horse – one aimed directly at Grand Prix, and the other for the vast majority of competitors who never attain that lofty goal? Or do even the weekend pleasure riders share a belief that one day they too will compete Grand Prix? ■

# Strong backing in Joost damline from power mare Ulana

BY SABINE TIMMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: HOLSTEINER VERBAND ARCHIVE

*No one is unfamiliar with the remarkable stallion Joost (Consul x Unblick xx), but his qualities are no coincidence, as his dam, Ulana descends from a strong Holsteiner bloodline, Stamm 242 although, in actuality, if we open the history books, it's line 2825. To date, Ulana has produced three approved stallions, but we should also talk about her own dam.*

Dam line 242 starts, according to the records, with the mare Ahne (1894: Iserlohn x Maik x Midas) – with Trakehner origins via Midas (1876). In combination with the stallion Rotbart (1902: Falb - Fregatte x Ethelbert) she gave the mare Ella, born in 1907. In 1981 Ella became the mother of Philippine (Rudolf), bred by Bendix Markmann. Ella gave two foals: The approved stallion Miltiades (1936: Mirza) and the mare Kunigunde (1935: First). The latter was registered in books that were maintained during WWII, but it was during that time that errors occurred – including the recording of bloodlines. And so it happened that line 2825 became line 424 with the mare Kunigunde. Thereafter, line 2825 bled to death while 424 became world famous!

Kunigunde subsequently produced two foals by the stallion Loretto (Lorbeer x Zerline x Erbherr), both fillies, one of them being Diastolchen; which is where Ulana's success story begins.

## *Diastolchen's legacy*

Born in 1945, Diastolchen is the dam of approved stallions Laertes (Ladykiller xx) and Anklang (Anblick xx), neither of whom were acknowledged as being amazing sires, although Laertes did produce a few approved stallions, and some sport horses who jumped 1m30 and higher.

However, it was Diastolchen's daughters that achieved greater acclaim. Out of the five mares she produced, three became highly influential in breeding. Her first mare, Ulana (Anblick xx), born in 1960, produced the approved Holsteiner stallions Joost (Consul), Colt (Cromwell), and Mannerheim (Rushing Water xx).

Her next famous daughter is Zypresse (1963) by Aldato (Anblick xx - Kreta x Heidelberg). Zypresse produced her own celebrated branch with approved stallions, state-premium mares, and numerous 1m50-1m60 jumping horses, such as Chienos, Roxette, Chamisso, Coster, Contano, Lady Macbeth DH, United Love HDC, Cinba, and Chiclana.

The next daughter in Diastolchen's line, Alpenblume (Fasching) will also turn out to be a great

broodmare. She produced the mare Hyazinthe by Ladykiller xx, who is known for producing excellent performance horses and approved stallions, including Ahorn (Nimmerdor), Denver (Nimmerdor), and Good Line (Good Times). From this branch of the Diastolchen line also comes horses such as Taloubet VDL, Falsterbo VDL, Fontaine VDL, Caresino, Cantatus B, Locarno, Merano, Lesanto, Arc de Triomphe VDL, and Lancier.

## *Joost: A fine damsire*

In our investigation we find no fewer than 721 offspring of the stallion Joost (1968: Consul - Ulana x Anblick xx). A word of warning: There seem to be quite a few Joosts, so don't be confused by his other namesakes.

A great many Joost offspring proved to be good jumpers, and he produced horses with a strong build, and lot of power and ability. He gave 12 approved stallions and 14 horses at 1m60m level, including Hey You, VIP, and Attent, all out of Abgar xx dams.

Joost was, in fact, quite a modern stallion and improved a lot of old, heavier mares. He certainly proved to be a golden match with Abgar mares; a combination that produced,



*Ulana (Anblick xx - Diastolchen x Loretto)*



*Diastolchen (Loretto - Kunigunde x First)*

among others, Germus R (Joost - Zermie x Abgar xx); Namelus R (Concorde - Eamelusiena x Joost), descending from grandmother Amelusiena (Abgar xx); Mermus R (Burggraaf - Dwermie x Ramiro Z), a great-grandson of Joost; Arthos R (Namelus R - S.Adermie 2 x Mermus R); and Dexter R (Namelus R - U.Rubertha 15 x Contender), a maternal and paternal great-grandson of Joost. It was these golden combinations that earned fame for the Dutch stable Stal Roelofs.

Joost was not only a great sire, but also an amazing jumper himself. His career beginning at the stallion test at the age of three when he showed his reliability, receiving an 8.0 for his jumping qualities. He subsequently jumped nationally at 1m30 level with Franke Sloothaak, with whom he progressed up to 1m50 internationally.

### Years ahead of their time

Ulana and Diastolchen were both extremely beautiful mares from very old and classy blood. But they were years

ahead of their time. They were small but remarkably quick, something we still recognize in their offspring. Not only in the offspring by Joost, but also the stallion Colt as grandsire of Chin Chin (Constant - Larese x Farnese) and Quantum (Quidam de Revel - Ulla V x Cor de la Bryère) – grandsons of Ella, and great grandsons of Colt

Just like her mum, Ulana is also a maker of some great mares, such as Hulana (Fasching), bred by Hendrik te Luggenhorst. She also gave the approved stallion Lancier (Rushing Waters xx) and is granddam of approved stallions Record (Komeet) and Turijn (Rigoletto).

Interestingly, Ulana also gave birth to Nirza (Ronald) a successful driving horse under the name Noblesse, before she bred the stallions Alcatraz (Aloube Z), Castellini (Contender), and Comet (Caretini). Ulana's daughter Berolina (Fasching) is also the dam of approved stallion Merano (Merlin).

### Still influential

Ulana's damline has brought founder of the AES Studbook, Henk Minderman, a lot of good sport horses. "I'm still breeding with this line. They are light-footed, have a lot of blood, wanted to work and were quick. Joost was a small blood stallion who gave a lot of horses with great effort and blood. At that time, you had a lot of heavy horses so it made him special and to me an amazing sire. So, when I could buy Lana (Fridericus), out of the mare Juliane I (1972: Merlin x Marder), Ulana's daughter, I did. At home she jumped with a lot of joy over 1m40, but she was stubborn and not the easiest horse. Anblick xx, the stallion behind this damline, gave a lot of strong horses with courage. But for that time maybe a little too sharp for their riders. Lana gives me a lot of blood horses who are suitable for the courses of today."

|                              |                                       |                                  |                                |   |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>ULANA</b><br>(1960/Holst) | <b>AMBLICK XX</b><br>(1938)           | <b>FERRO XX</b><br>(1923)        | <b>LANDGRAF XX</b> (1914)      | <b>LOUVIERS XX</b> (1906)<br><b>LADORA XX</b> (1902)      | <b>ISINGLASS XX - ST. LOUVAINE XX</b><br><b>LADAS XX - DOPROTHEA XX</b>  |
|                              |                                       |                                  | <b>FRAUENLOB XX</b> (1915)     | <b>CAIUS XX</b> (1906)<br><b>FARANDOLE XX</b> (1902)      | <b>REVEREND XX - CHOICE XX</b><br><b>SAPHIR XX - FRANCO COMTE XX</b>     |
|                              |                                       | <b>ANTONIA XX</b><br>(1926)      | <b>HEROLD XX</b><br>(1917)     | <b>DARK RONALD XX</b> (1905)<br><b>HORNISSE XX</b> (1908) | <b>BAY RONALD XX - DARNIE XX</b><br><b>ARD PATRICK XX - HORTENSIA XX</b> |
|                              |                                       |                                  | <b>ADRESSE XX</b><br>(1913)    | <b>NUAGE XX</b> (1907)<br><b>ANTWORT XX</b> (1907)        | <b>SIMONIAN XX - NEPHE XXA</b><br><b>ARD PATRICK XX - ALVEOLE XX</b>     |
|                              | <b>DIASTOLCHEN</b><br>(1945)<br>HOLST | <b>LORETTO</b><br>(HOLST/1932)   | <b>LORBEER</b> (HOLST/1919)    | <b>ELEGANT</b> (HOLST/1913)<br><b>KANTE</b> (HOLST/1911)  | <b>LORD - DUPPEL</b><br><b>VOLLMACHT - DISTANZ</b>                       |
|                              |                                       |                                  | <b>ZERLINE</b> (HOLST/1922)    | <b>ERBHERR</b> (HOLST/1913)<br><b>SPANNE</b> (HOLST/1914) | <b>ZEUS - GLOSSE</b><br><b>SCHILLER - BRUN</b>                           |
|                              |                                       | <b>KUNIGUNDE</b><br>(HOLST/1935) | <b>FIRST</b><br>(HOLST/1914)   | <b>TOBIAS</b> (HOLST/1904)<br><b>GEMSE</b> (HOLST/1908)   | <b>ARCHILL - URANIA</b><br><b>MEISTER - CERES</b>                        |
|                              |                                       |                                  | <b>PHILIPPINE</b> (HOLST/1918) | <b>RUDOLF</b> (HOLST/1902)<br><b>ELLA</b> (HOLST/1907)    | <b>FALB - KIEFER</b><br><b>ROTBART - AHNE</b>                            |

# Critical and successful Roelof Bril: KWPN Breeder of the Year

BY JENNEKE SMIT / KWPN

PHOTOGRAPHY: JACOB MELISSON AND DIRK CAREMANS – COURTESY KWPN

*The breeding successes of Roelof Bril are sensational. By continuously selecting a well-jumping mare out of a strong lineage as a starting point, he has been able to breed top showjumpers. In addition, he largely supplies his own sports stable of first-class talent. Last year, his success culminated with the Breeder of the Year title, and the expectation is that this international rider will remain on top of his game in the coming years.*

In August 2021, and much to his own surprise, Roelof Bril was declared Jumper Breeder of the Year, receiving this prestigious award not during the KWPN Championships, as mare inspections are not his cup of tea. No, the ceremony was held during the Blom Cup in Valkenswaard, as sport competitions are his natural habitat. “Fantastic that the KWPN could land this location for the Blom Cup, this is the perfect advertisement.” Through outliers such as the extremely successful Darry Lou (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve), recognised by KWPN; the KWPN-approved Grand Prix stallion F-One USA (Toulon); and other Grand Prix horses such as Dizzy Lizzy (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve), Zenzero (Kashmir van Schuttershof), and

Duke (Phin Phin), Bril met his own goal: breeding very good jumpers.

## *A growing number of foals*

Over the years, breeding has claimed a growing portion of Roelof Bril’s stable since over half of his string of sport horses is now home-bred. “It has become increasingly difficult to scout good horses, so luckily we started building up our own breeding program over time. We mostly use mares that we know from sport ourselves, and thereby know their pluses and flaws. You must be willing to see those, so you can base your stallion choice on it. Our best three-year-old mares are

*“The sport keeps you sharp: if you enter a Grand Prix on Sunday, you know exactly what you need.”*

used for breeding, sometimes via embryo transplantation, while the others are being started under saddle. Normally, we breed around six foals a year, however last year we had a few more. The entire coronavirus break prompted me to flush three embryos out of a Crunch mare of Kim’s.”

Out of Cantate 47 (damsire Colandro), with whom daughter Kim Bril jumps internationally at 1m40 level, Roelof Bril bred foals by the Olympic stallion Mumbai and the home-bred stallion Invictus. Out of the dam of his home-bred stallion My Choice (Invictus), he bred a foal of A La Carte NRS. Furthermore, he welcomed two foals of his own KWPN-appointed stallion Four Seasons (For Pleasure) out of mares by Kashmir van Schuttershof (Nabab de Reve x Tenor Manciais) and Casall (Caretino x Lavall I). And finally, foals were born by Lazzaro (Homerun x Numero Uno), Mattias (Comme il faut [Westf] x Catoki), and Chaclot (Chacco-Blue x Fly High I) last season.

## *Visionary stallion choices*

Last season, the breeder was successful in his stallion choices of Four Seasons, Ermitage Kalone (Catoki x Kannan), Cero Blue TN (Chacoon Blue x Balou du Rouet), Chaclot (Chacco-Blue x Fly High I), and Invictus (El Salvador - Lababe van Hemme x Nabab de Reve). “Actually,



Roelof Bril with his own-bred *Mea Culpa* (2017 mare by *Invictus* x *Phin Phin*)

it was not so easy to get the mares in foal this year. It happens. Now we've primarily used young stallions, such as the Chaccoon Blue son Cero Blue. When I judged a young horse competition in Lichtenvoorde, he immediately caught my eye."

Besides always using his own stallions in breeding, he has bred multiple international showjumpers - that descend from Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve. Roelof Bril also likes to give up-and-coming talents a chance. "Obviously, I have the big advantage of seeing lots of stallions and their offspring at work at the international shows. I find it very interesting. An example is how I spotted the stallions Quickly de Kreisker (Diamant de Semilly x Laudanum xx) and Paddock du Plesis (Kannan x Adelfos) in Dinard nine years ago. I immediately contacted Reinie Tewis to ask if he could get his hands on their semen. Quickly was not possible at the time as he was sold to the king of Morocco shortly after, but we both covered a mare with Paddock du Plesis." For Reinie, this

resulted in the KWPN-approved stallion Jukebox (out of Bola x Vainqueur), while Roelof got the mare Jade du Plessis (damsire Indoctro), that he's currently showing at 1m35 level. "Jade first produced foals by Dominator Z (Diamant de Semilly) and Coupe de Coeur (Calido I) and now she is developing nicely in sport."

Another talent Roelof discovered at an early stage is the Diamant de Semilly son Mumbai. "I was immediately enchanted by him. He descends from an established Belgium lineage. Mumbai kept on developing tremendously; this year he participated in the Olympic Games and placed fourth at the European Championships. You cannot predict such things, but the stallion has an excellent genetic makeup and is truly an outstanding jumper himself. So I gladly use him in breeding."

*"Breeding a very good showjumper must always be the guiding principle in my opinion."*

### Focus on sport

Roelof Bril's breeding program has yielded multiple horses that perform at the highest level. "Take F-One USA, for instance, we have always foreseen this horse would reach the big classes. Now he has ended up with people who do not care for breeding, but are only focused on sport. Such a stallion is thereby lost for breeding, although he produced some great offspring. And that happens on a much larger scale," he exclaims. "In the current climate, I do not expect any new progenitors to come forward in the Netherlands. It is simply not interesting enough anymore from an economic point of view, and the young stallions cover too few mares to get a good image of their breeding qualities.

"Our stallion Invictus breeds very well, but he only covered 35 mares last year. We are not able to collect semen from the stallions at home, so we must take him to De Radstake (in Heelweg, NL). At the end of the ride, we nearly have to throw money at him to let him stand at stud. That's a shame, because his long-lined model, enormous scope, and hindquarters technique could be a valuable addition to breeding.

"And if I look at Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, it was lucky that Johan Venderbosch had an unshakeable belief in him like I did. Johan wanted to preserve him for breeding at any cost, otherwise it could have been an entirely different story." Currently eight years of age, the KWPN-approved Invictus jumps internationally at 1m45 level with Ronnie Jones. Born in that

### PROMINENT HOMEBRED HORSES

A range of horses bred by Roelof Bril have attention in international sport, including:

- **Darry Lou** (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Nabab de Rêve) ISP 1m70
- **Zenzero** (Kashmir van Schuttershof x Burggraaf) ISP 1m60
- **Dizzy Lizzy** (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Phin Phin) ISP 1m60
- **F-One USA** (Toulon x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m60
- **Duke** (Phin Phin x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m55
- **Beat Me** (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Nabab de Rêve) ISP 1m50
- **Cuba Libre** (Mr.Blue x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m50
- **Baco** (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Nabab de Rêve) ISP 1m50
- **Venus** (Nabab de Rêve x Burggraaf) ISP 1m45
- **Dew Drop** (Ultimo x Diamant de Semilly) ISP 1m45
- **Invictus** (El Salvador x Nabab de Rêve) ISP 1m45
- **Iberico** (Contendro I x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m45
- **Indeed** (Action-Breaker x Calvaro Z) ISP 1m45

### KWPN-APPROVED STALLIONS

The performance-oriented breeding program of Roelof Bril has generated various KWPN stallions. Additionally, his ambassador Darry Lou (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) was recognized by the KWPN on the merit of his outstanding achievements at Grand Prix level.

- **F-One USA** (Toulon x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m60
- **Homerun** (Vivant van de Heffinck x Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) ISP 1m40
- **Invictus** (El Salvador x Nabab de Rêve) ISP 1m45
- **Key West** (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve x Phin Phin) ISP 1m35
- **Lazzaro** (Homerun x Numero Uno)
- **My Choice** (Invictus x For Pleasure)



*Roelof Brill has bred multiple international showjumpers by Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve, including the Narcos II son with whom he obtained many international placements*

same year, Iberico (Contendro) and the Action-Breaker son Indeed (damsire Calvaro Z) are also promoting Roelof's breeding in 1m45 classes.

### *Bearing rideability in mind*

As an international rider himself, it makes sense that Roelof Brill was always aiming to breed a very good jumping horse. "Nowadays, you have two groups of breeders: one group breeds for the auctions, and the other group tries to breed a good showjumper. The latter must, in my opinion, always be the main goal. For us, selling foals is a rare occasion. Time will tell if we benefit from the entire market surrounding ICSI and auctions in the longer term. As a starting breeder it could help because the auctions provide access to highly exclusive breeding material.

"More than ever, attention has shifted towards damlines

and an increasingly high number of foals are born out of exquisite pedigrees. We must bear the rideability in mind because, in terms of demand, amateurs make up the largest share of the market. And they will not be able to manage every Chacco-Blue x Cornet Obolensky. Most clients want to get on a horse like they drive a car: get in, accelerate and brake."

### *Fortune telling*

A lot has changed over the past two to three decades. "At the time I competed in the stallion competitions aboard stallions such as Ahorn and Burggraaf, the crowds flocked in. Barriers were needed to keep all the people in place. A bygone era. What has happened exactly? I can't tell, but everything has changed. In my opinion, too many stallions are approved, I think the studbook could be stricter and more straightforward. Especially since there are now plenty opportunities to have a stallion approved at a later age.

Over the last few years too many stallions had been approved that provide no added value, including stallions with good marks and rave reports. This makes the breeders cautious; what if they stick their necks out by using a young stallion and he disappoints or is later castrated? Suddenly, you have a weak link in the pedigree.

"In addition, it remains problematic that far too few breeders and stallion

owners can be found at the shows. The sport must always be leading, and you must know exactly what you are breeding for. In the Netherlands there are quite a few horses that are able to perform over a ranking course, and also a sizeable group of horses that could complete a 1m50 test. But 1m60? You only find out the moment you enter the ring at that level. Until then, it's mere fortune telling.

### *Business asks too much, too soon*

Another aspect is business, which asks too much of young horses, too soon. "Directly following the Blom Cup, we put our stallion Four Seasons in the field. I am a firm believer in moments of rest. He has come a long way already and this is his first real break. For the higher sport you don't need the horses until they are seven, eight years old. So, in the meantime you must cherish them and only use them

sparely. If you think you have a horse with lots of quality, you must be long-term oriented. At five and six years of age, horses are still in development, and they only grow if they get rest.”

### *Valuable for breeding*

Thanks to co-owner Wiet ten Brinke, Roelof Brill will be represented by a home-bred horse in the first-round viewing of the KWPN Stallion Selection: a son of Di Cantero van ter Hulst out of Phin Phin daughter Zanory Y. This mare previously produced the KWPN-approved stallion Key West (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve). Roelof’s

Grand Prix horse Dizzy Lizzy (Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve) is also out of Zanory T. “I was not all for it, but Wiet still thinks of it as one nice adventure and we own the horses together. Reinie prepared the stallion, and we will have to see. Here in our stables sport is top priority, and Reinie is an expert in producing young stallions, so we gladly leave it in his capable hands.”

Out of Dizzy Lizzy, Roelof has already bred the Contendro I son Iberico, with whom he jumps at international 1m45. “He will be my next Grand Prix horse. I am glad that Dizzy Lizzy breeds so well, because I could sell her well as a sport horse quite a few times. She jumped at four-star level, but with the current techniques such a mare generates a higher return in breeding. I think many breeders should come to that realization. They think they can acquire a good international sports mare for €3,500, but you must be willing to invest and have a long-term vision. It is entirely impossible to get a taste for champagne on a beer budget nowadays.

“In Belgium they have produced large numbers of offspring out of very good sport mares, and they gained a huge advantage by doing so. It’s an unfamiliar concept to us and we have a lot of catching up to do.”

### *Quality wins*

So, which tips does the KWPN Breeder of the Year have for other breeders? “You must always start with a mare that jumps well. This does not have to be a Grand Prix mare, because fortunately this is not a game for the fattest wallet. Quality wins, I stand firmly on that. And the flaws are the first thing a horse passes on. It is naïve to think that it will not



*One of the Grand Prix showjumpers born in the stables of Roelof Brill, is the exceptionally successful Tangelo van de Zuuthoeve son Darry Lou, ridden by Bezie Madden (USA)*

pass on the trait you don’t like to see. Out of a stallion or mare that jumps averagely, you cannot expect a better horse. Especially in modern times, average is no longer good enough,” Roelof unequivocally states.

“Why has Tangelo produced so many good horses, you may ask? Simple, because he was a very good jumping horse himself. And he has great origins. But he always needs a mare with a good canter and lots of blood. If you are realistic in that department and use him in a targeted approach, it often leads to success.”

### *Staying sharp*

The goal has always been and will always be to breed good horses. “Twenty years ago, breeding was much more distanced from the sport. No rider ever thought about breeding. This has completely changed. Look at riders such as Leon Thijssen and Willem Greve. The sport keeps you sharp: If you enter a Grand Prix on Sunday, you know exactly what you need.”

Through timely response to this growing demand, the 57-year-old Roelof Brill was proclaimed, as one of the youngest ever jumper breeder’s of the year. ■

# The SBS INTERNATIONAL SELECTION SHOW

# 4-5-6

## March 2022

Gesves | Belgium



Picture: © Dirk Garmann

**ALL-IN** (KASHMIR VAN SCHUTTERSLOF x ANDJAM)  
Olympic Games Tokyo 2021  
Gold medal team competition  
Silver medal individual  
Breeder: Bas Halbrechts  
Rider: Fredricson Peder (SWE)



[www.sbsnet.be](http://www.sbsnet.be)

Official stallions approval



Jumping



Dressage



Eventing



design by: [www.creativyl.be](http://www.creativyl.be)

# SBS International Stallion Show will welcome 64 candidates

BY CHRISTINE RASIR / SBS

*The official SBS stallion expertise, better known as the International Selection Show, will take place on March 5/6 in Gesves, Belgium. Following the cancellation of the 2021 edition, this key event for breeders has this year reached a record number of entries: 64 stallion candidates will be presented to the jury, divided into three categories, jumping, dressage, and driving.*

While this 2022 edition will be held behind closed doors, it will be live-streamed on our studbook website, and on ClipMyHorse.

During early preparation for the International Selection Show 2022, the SBS Studbook was not yet aware of any sanitary conditions that might prevail on March 5/6. Hence, to limit the number of attendees gathered together at the same time at the Provincial Breeding and Horse Riding school of Gesves, it was decided that the event would be held behind closed doors, without an audience, and that the breeders would show their stallions exclusively by appointment.

Likewise, only stallion presenters and their companions will be admitted, called according to the schedule. All precautions have also been taken with regards to equine rhinopneumonitis (mandatory vaccination). The whole event, as well as the proclamation of the new approved stallions, will be broadcast live on our website [www.sbsnet.be](http://www.sbsnet.be), on our Facebook page, and on [www.clipmyhorse.be](http://www.clipmyhorse.be)

Despite the unpredictable evolution of sanitary norms, the preparatory work for the International Selection Show 2022 – veterinary examinations at the Equine Clinic of the University of Liège and the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Ghent, the selection of the Inter-Faculty Veterinary Commission and the SBS Judges' Commission – was carried out with the same rigor.

With the 2021 expertise having been cancelled, the International Selection Show 2022 will be open to discover an exclusive collection, gathering together two successive generations of stallion candidates. The list with the 64 candidates was published in the central pages of our bimonthly *The Belgian Sport Horse* on March 1, 2022, and a QR code displayed next to individual stallions allowing free access to the complete digital catalog. This digital catalog will also be available in its entirety on our website [www.sbsnet.be](http://www.sbsnet.be)

There is a great deal about which we can be optimistic: The list of stallion candidates with prestigious origins is of

very high quality. The dressage discipline is well represented, and for the first time we have the pleasure to welcome a candidate in driving.

## *Facts and figures*

- 54 Jumping candidates
- 9 Dressage candidates
- 1 Driving pony candidate
- 27 three-year-old candidates
- 27 four-year-old candidates
- 8 five-year-old candidates
- 1 seven-year-old candidate
- 1 11-year-old candidate

## *The 2022 schedule*

### • SATURDAY, MARCH 5

9:00 a.m. Three- and four-year-olds (jumping and dressage), conformation and movement in hand, followed by free movement.

### • SUNDAY, MARCH 6

9:00 a.m. Four-year-olds and older candidates (jumping and dressage), conformation and movement in hand.

11:30 a.m. Four-year-old stallion candidate conformation and movement in hand, plus presentation in harness

12:00 p.m. Four-year-olds and older candidates' dressage test

1:30 p.m. Four-year-olds and older candidates' jumping test

Followed by the announcement of the newly approved stallions. ■

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# Holsteiner genes for success, and interesting blood alternatives

BY DESIRÉE DAHN / HOLSTEINER VERBAND  
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY HOLSTEINER VERBAND

*The Holsteiner Verband stallion parade is normally an event drawing several thousand visitors from Germany and abroad to the Neumünster Holtenhalls, but for the second time now, the Coronavirus pandemic forced those in charge around executive director Norbert Boley to present the stallions exclusively online.*

To ensure as realistic and honest a presentation as possible, they were shown on February 5 via live-streaming on ClipMyHorse.TV from the Fritz-Thiedemann-indoor arena at Elmshorn. “In times of Covid it is rather difficult for the breeders to see the stallions in real life. That is why we believe this additional service with videos of the stallions shown in-hand, in the stable, and in side view might be helpful in deciding with which of the younger stallions to breed,” says executive director Norbert Boley. To achieve this, the sequences as well as the free jumping were recorded in advance in order to avoid longer breaks. The same applied to the two dressage sires, Fidano (Fidertanz) and Goldball (Goldberg), who presented together with a commentary by trainer Kimberly Kühl.

The Thoroughbred stallion Innenminister xx (Masterstroke xx) opened the programme and was judged to be “above average in jumping” by Tjark Nagel in his

commentary. Boley promoted the seven-year-old stallion by saying; “I do hope that Innenminister will be frequented by our breeders and sent some of the very best mares. We need Thoroughbreds to maintain the hardiness in our breed, and we need new lines.”

Anticipation was running high for the free jumping and the development of the three-year-olds. Alongside the two Neumünster-licensed stallions, Zuccarello (Zuccero) and Update (United Way), Nohoval Z (Nixon van’t Meulenhof) performed impressively. Discovered at the Westfalian licensing, Nohoval comes from one of the best female lines in the world, the damline of Narcotique de Muze, and is a very good addition to the stallions stood by the Verband. “Nohoval has a very good top-line, is modern, good-sized, and very scopey. Virtually the picture of a modern jumping horse,” was how Norbert Boley described his new recruit.

The four-year-olds and older stallions were presented jumping a course under saddle. Such as, for example, Camino Royal (Clarimo), a half-brother to Keaton with very good hooves and correct legs. Likewise, the Dominator Z offspring Daikon, presented by Mascha Krause. “He is showing good judgement and does a long jump, but is still in the early training stages and quite playful, which is absolutely normal for a four-year-old,” said Tjark Nagel, who has a long-standing tradition in providing commentary for the stallion parade.

Sophie Hidders came in from Pfungstadt in south Hesse specifically to join the parade with three horses. Beside Million Dollar (Plot Blue), “a new combination the international scene is talking about,” according to Tjark



*Talked-about newcomer to the international scene Million Dollar (Plot Blue) presented by Sophie Hidders*



*Untouchable son Uriko (2007: out of Wizzard x Lavito) – about to found his own sire line, confirmed by his international showjumping offspring such as United Way, and United Way’s son, Update*

Nagel, she also brought along Daymian (Darco), a stallion available through frozen semen this year as well as State and National Champion Crack (Cornet Obolensky). Moreover, when the reigning German ladies champion also took to the saddle of Charaktervoll (Comme il faut), she couldn’t stop beaming.

Keaton (Kannan), Dubliner (Dinken), former champion stallion Cahil (Cornet Obolensky) and Del Arko d’Henvet SF were presented by Massimo Bonomi, head rider at the Elmshorner stallion stable. Bonomi won a lot of praise for his training of the stallions in cooperation with Karsten Huck, as Tjark Nagel confirmed that all the horses had undergone an awesome development, saying; “It is fun to work with horses and riders as well trained as these.” Del Arko will be competition-focused this season: “Together with the board, we have decided that Del Arko and Massimo will be given the opportunity to proceed and advance at international level,” Boley said regarding the plans for the French stallion who provides a blood alternative for Holsteiner mares.

Arriving from Friedrichskoog, Alexandra and Marten Witt took to the saddles of Vigado (Vigo d’Arsouilles), Cardentos (Cardento), Corfu de la Vie (Cumano), and

United Way (Uriko). Apropos Uriko: At just 15 years, the Untouchable son is already about to found his own sire line as confirmed by video clips of some of his international showjumping offspring, as well as by his son United Way and United Way’s son, Update. “I am proud to have discovered Uriko. He has acquired many friends by now, even though he hasn’t always been number one with the breeders. But believing in him has paid off,” Boley recalls.

Rolf Göran Bengtsson and Zuccero (Zirocco Blue) closed the stallion presentation. The Holsteiner Verband, in particular Norbert Boley, and the Swede – who earlier jumped a course impressively with Catch (Colman) – have been enjoying a long-time friendly cooperation. Needless to say, stallions like Larimar (Lavall II), Clarimo (Clearway), Dinken (Diarado), Uriko (Untouchable), and naturally Casall (Caretino) were also presented.

The closing words were gifted to Norbert Boley, hosting his final stallion parade after 40 years. Visibly emotional, the outgoing executive director thanked his entire team and wished all the best to Sebastian Rohde who is to succeed him in March.

The entire stallion presentation is available in the ClipMyHorse.TV library. ■



DANCIANO

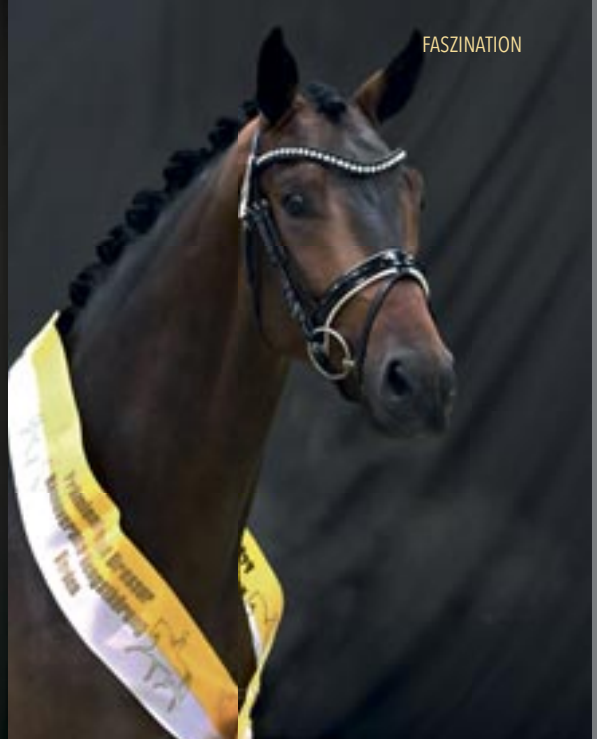


## Dressage Horses

*L'Excellence génétique  
comme patrimoine*



FLINSTONE



FASZINATION

# Brazilian Sport Horses carry children to FEI Finals

BY ROBERTA MILANI / ABCCH (TRANSLATED BY CAROLINE PADILLA)

PHOTOGRAPHY: RIDER'S PERSONAL ARCHIVE

*Brazilian Sport Horses have stood out at several levels of competition in both the national and international showjumping scenes. In 2021, at the National Showjumping Competition that took place at Brasília Country Club, in Brasília, Brazil, the two best places of each national federation qualified for the FEI Childrens' Finals in 2022.*

This event has just taken place in Guadalajara, Mexico. In Group VI, the Gold Tour Series, Brazil qualified with rider Esther Faldini Pinheiro Koren, on top of Brazilian Sport Horse Carenthus Jmen (Calisco Jmen x Ritual Jmen). The pair recorded four faults in 89.97 seconds. It is also worth mentioning that the Brazilian rider Giullia Atrasas Bolson achieved the third best result in Group VI riding Brazilian Sport Horse Job Método (Canturano x Vivaldi Método Domar) and stamped her passport for the international competition. Both riders rode horses selected by the organizing committee, as stated in the rules of the competition.

National Breeding was also a highlight of the qualifiers of the Silver Tour Series. Claiming first place was Valentina Alves de Brito Gonçalves riding the Brazilian Sport Horse Risling do Rioacima (Darno Z x Apolo Senzala) with an unbeatable clear round in 89.90 seconds.

Second and third places on the leaderboard were also Brazilian Sport Horses with Sophie Roccia riding Rosen Fee JMen (Ritual Jmen (Te) x Calisco Jmen), and Bruno Dias Cambraia Henriques Costa in the saddle of Helena-X M (Cardensee M (Ia) x Attack Z), both with clear rounds.

The 16 best host-country athletes and the 16 best foreign athletes were invited to the competition – with a maximum of two per federation. ■



*Esther Faldini Pinheiro Koren riding Brazilian Sport Horse Carenthus Jmen II*

# “Welfare is paramount” – Gérald Martinez / Haras de Malleret

BY MARC VERRIER

PHOTOGRAPHY: CÉDRIC VLEMMINGS, HANNOVERANER VERBAND, HARAS DE MALLERET

*In 2019, Gérald Martinez, general manager of the Haras de Malleret – a dressage breeding farm near Bordeaux – issued a statement announcing his decision to cease embryo transfers after noticing problems with his donor mares, including depression and psychological unwellness.*

Three years later, Gérald Martinez justifies his decision to *World Breeding News*.

◆ What motivated your decision to stop embryo transfers with your mares ?

I did two seasons of embryo transfers with mares that had never previously been inseminated. I knew my mares perfectly as I'd bought them when they were very young, so I know how they behaved at work and on a daily basis. After the embryo transfers, I could see that the mares had changed in character and were depressed. Out of five, two of them started to twitch when they were supported, and one of the two I almost lost. Out of the other three, I also saw problems with depression. So, I figured I couldn't ignore that and so I decided to stop embryo transfers in light of what was going on.

◆ Three years later, how are the mares doing ?

The mares are back to normal and doing very well. I have few mares, only six, but they are of very high genetic



*Hanoverian KÖring winner Faszination (Fürst Belissaro x San Remo)*

quality. So, when I see the foals from these dams it would be more profitable to have more of them. But I have a certain philosophy and I privilege the well-being of the horse before economic profitability. I would like to prove that it is possible to breed very high level horses while respecting them as much as possible, whether it is at the level of breeding or training and the way of doing things on a daily basis. Because I am convinced that we can do it. But it's certain that when you add it all up, my profit is lower than those who have many foals from a very high level mare.

◆ At the Haras de Malleret, you breed foals, but you also have more and more stallions...

I have a stallion who is quite well known, his name is Danciano (Dancier x Rotspon). His first offspring are eight years old and are starting to prove their quality by approaching the top level. I also



*Flinstone (Fidertanz x Abanos) – sire of several French champion offspring*



***Danciano (Dancier x Rotspon)***

have Flinstone (Fidertanz x Abanos), born in 2009, who has several French champion offspring, like First Lord de Malleret (out of Farouche de Malleret [Oldbg] x Fürstenball [Oldbg]) and First Lady de Malleret (out of Sadira de Malleret [Oldbg] x Sir Donnerhall [Oldbg]), champions of the two-year-olds at Saumur, or Philosophie de Malleret (out of Filarmonie de Malleret x Fürstenball), and Farrenball de Malleret (out of Dancelia de Malleret x Danciano), champions of the foals. This year I invested in several young stallions, like Faszination (Fürst Belissaro x San Remo), who won the Körung in Verden. I left him this year in Germany to breed, because there are many more interested breeders than in France. I have invested in eight stallions this year and it is likely that by next year Malleret will have its own breeding station.

◆ The Haras de Malleret is still very young. What is your assessment after less than ten years of activity ?

I started breeding at Malleret in 2013 by buying many very young horses. Today, the balance sheet is quite satisfactory because I have a lot of horses that are going to start the Grand Prix, which was the goal. What interests me is to be able to breed or buy horses that will compete at the highest level. But I really want to do it respecting their well-being and to bring horses in very good physical and mental health to the very high level. My satisfaction is that you can try any horse at Malleret and there are no horses that have a defect or

character problem. The horses spend at least four to five hours outside and we have far fewer physical or psychological problems. A horse is made to be outside and the more they are outside the better it is for them. The mental aspect is very important and all the staff at Malleret know how I am and that it is out of the question to yell at a horse or to hit it. Currently, I have about 10 foals born each year. This year, six will be born at Malleret and I also work with a great German breeder, Ekke Thaden, who will birth five foals that we have in common.

◆ So the well-being of the horses is what matters most at the Haras de Malleret. Do you want to be an example for the horse world in general and the dressage discipline in particular ?

If I succeed, I would dream of being a driving force and of being able to transmit these values which, unfortunately, are not sufficiently emphasized at the high level. If this is not the case, we risk having problems with the animal protection associations, because high-level sport with animals is not very well perceived. If we do not go in the direction of the well-being of the horses, the discipline risks suffering major problems. ■



***Gérald Martinez***

# Zangersheide licensing approves 28 new stallions

BY LISE LEMMENS / STUDFARM ZANGERSHEIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER VAN DEN BULCK/GALOP

*The results are in, and the names of the new Zangersheide-approved stallions are known! More than 100 stallions were presented on our domain in Lanaken at the end of February to our professional selection committee, comprising Gilles Botton as a member over the weekend alongside Heinz Meyer and Luc Tilleman.*

After the 11-year-old chestnut Bingo Ste Hermelle (Number One d'Iso Un Prince x Diamant de Semilly; bred by Elevage Ste Hermelle), who was already approved on the first day based on his own sporting performances, 27 other stallions were added to this list.

## *Twenty-one stallions after free jumping*

Following a preliminary selection after free jumping on day one, 42 young, three- and four-year-old stallions received the green light to introduce themselves once again on the second day for a decisive presentation. A total of 21 were viewed as having added value for breeding in the future and were, therefore, approved for Studbook Zangersheide.

The stallions Chacco Blue, Chacfly PS and Emerald van 't Ruytershof were each represented by two approved stallions:

### • Chacco Blue

**O'Blue** (Chacco Blue x Chin Chin; breeder: GAM Korbeld)

**Toëmmé de Regor Z** (Chacco Blue x Cento; breeder Stal de Regor)

### • Chacfly Z

**Chacin Fly Z** (Chacfly PS x Inshallah de Muze; breeder Pascale Renaux)

**Cavillon vd Connectionshoeve Z** (Chacfly PS x Cardento VDL; breeder Kevin Luyckx)

### • Emerald van 't Ruytershof

**Ember Z** (Emerald van 't Ruytershof x VDL Corland; breeder Smolders Sporthorses BV)

**Erich** (Emerald van 't Ruytershof x Cappucino; breeders Erik Welling and P. Wunz).



*The Zangersheide stallion inspection hall*



**Carthouille Philyra V.V. Z (Carthago Z x Quaprice Bois Margot)**

There were also a few offspring of our own Zangersheide stallions who convinced the jury and were added to the approved list:

- **Agalandro Keizersberg Z** (Aganix du Seigneur Z x Colandro; Stal Keizersberg BV)
- **Thor DN Z** (Taloubet Z x Emerald van't Ruytershof; Wim De Nul)
- **Dominik Z** (Dominator 2000 Z x Contendro I; Siegfried Buhl)
- **Carnet Z** (Columbus Z x Cajero; Ireneusz Slawek)

The following stallions complete the 'approved' list:

- **Mockingjay JVH Z** (Mr. Uno-K Van 't Kattenheye x Toulon; JW-Horses)
- **Turbo JW V H Gebergte** (Cappucino JW vd Moerhoeve Z x Diamant de Semilly; Bob Janssens)
- **Carthouille Philyra V.V. Z** (Carthago Z x Quaprice Bois Margot; Evelyne Van Vreckom and Pilar Cordon)
- **Tornado SH** (Toulon x Diamant de Semilly; SG Dassel)
- **Nelson van de Kapel** (Pegase van 't Ruytershof x Bentley Van De Kapel; Joris Van Den Bergh)
- **Take Off de Muze** (Mosito Van Het Hellehof x Vigo d'Arsoailles; Joris de Brabander)
- **Bonton de Hus Z** (Baloubet du Rouet x Fergar Mail; Haras de Hus SARL)
- **Top Gun van't Koningsbos E.B.** (Breitling x Andiamo Z; Stal Koningsbos)
- **Toby van de Barlebuis** (Amadeo Van 't Vossenhof Z x Comme Il Faut; Patrick de Vleeschauwer)

- **Cold Case JT Z** (Cachas x Carthago Z; Horsestud Thijs BVBA)
- **Sir Lex 55** (Diamant de Semilly x Toulon; Dirk Matthyssen)

### *Five stallions under the saddle*

In addition to the aforementioned 21 stallions that were approved after free jumping, five more were also approved after they were presented under saddle. They were first introduced in the morning on hard ground, and were later asked to jump a standard course in the outdoor arena.

These five included the five-year-old **Aymen de La Hemente Z**, a son of Aganix du Seigneur Z and Kashmir van Schuttershof, who was bred by Emmanuel Wera. Another Zangersheide-bred stallion who was approved was the six-year-old grey **Nobel van de Vrombautshoeve Z**, a breeding product of Stal Boelens LV. Nobel van de Vrombautshoeve Z is a son of Nabab de Rêve in combination with Corrado I.

The other three stallions that were approved following their presentation under saddle were: the four-year-old **Skye P** (Chatman x Cracky Z; Sam Polleunis); the four-year-old **King Kashmir TN** (Kasmir van Schuttershof x Mylord Carthago; Paul Scheuerer); and the five-year-old **Cero Blue TN** (Chacoon Blue x Balou du Rouet; Harm Thormählen).

### *Iron Man 15*

Finally, the 12-year-old stallion Iron Man 15 also received his approval for Studbook Zangersheide based on his sporting performances. Iron Man 15 was bred by VDL Stud and is a son of Indoctro in combination with Diamant de Semilly. Under the saddle of the Dutch rider Jeroen Dubbeldam, Iron Man 15 is currently jumping up to 1m50 level. ■

*A retrospective of this event written by our own Jo de Roo follows on the next page...*



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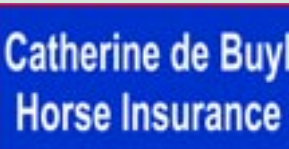
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# Influential sires Chacco-Blue and Diamant de Semilly for Z

By JO DE ROO

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LLEWELLYN, FEI/LIZ GREGG, HARAS DE SEMILLY

*Being number one in the WBFSH sire ranking has its pros and cons, but Chacco-Blue's figures speak volumes and illustrate what it takes to reach his position. Two of his sons were presenting in Lanaken during the Zangersheide Stallion Licensing, and both were approved.*

Like father, like son. The same goes for Chacfly PS. The lone and only presented son of Chacoon Blue (by Chacco-Blue) was also approved by the jury. Besides Chacco-Blue, the recently deceased top progenitor Diamant de Semilly also managed to dominate this stallion selection.

According to Judy Ann Melchior, Chairwoman of Studfarm Zangersheide; "The breeder is our top priority. We exist thanks to the breeders, and we are in their service," and last year alone the studbook registered around 7,700 foals.

It was a challenging licensing weekend, as Judy Ann explains: "It was a very busy weekend. Due to the predicted stormy weather, we had to complete the three-day program in two days. It was busy, but I'm glad everything went well. There were a large number of good stallions with a lot of performance in their bloodlines."

The arena staff also did everything they could to ensure that the presented stallions could demonstrate their qualities, and Judy Ann continued by saying; "These employees are indeed fantastic. Young stallions appear at the inspection. This should be done as horse-friendly as possible. They need a lot of rest. I must also say that most of the stallions were presented very well and in a very correct way. I am very proud of the arena staff. In my view they did a fantastic job, with the welfare of the horse at the centre. They always try to keep calm and never force things."

◆ *Has breeding become more professional compared to the past?*

It's still a mix. Breeding has partly become more professional. People who breed showjumpers with a view to top sport are becoming more and more professional. They are informed as best as possible and try to find the best stallion for their best mare. On the other hand, there are still many breeders who breed as a hobby with a lot of passion and pleasure and who can now do it more professionally. A breeder who wants to be informed today has the opportunity to collect more information than was possible in the past.

◆ *In the past you could be successful with a showjumper with a lot of scope. Today, the showjumping courses demand more than just scope.*

Indeed. Scope never goes out of style, but the picture should be complete now. Today, in addition to scope we

need horses with a fantastic mentality. Moreover, they must be careful, easy to ride, and having the right blood to handle the longer courses and faster times allowed.

◆ *Last year, Studbook Zangersheide registered about 7,700 foals. What explains the success?*

As a team we try to do the best we can for the breeders. By this I mean, for instance, customer service, organizing events, auctions, selling foals, etcetera. The breeder is our top priority. We exist thanks to the breeders and we are in their service. I try to never lose sight of that.

## *The influence of top progenitor Chacco-Blue*

The two approved sons of Chacco-Blue are called Toëmmé de Regor and O'Blue. O'Blue was bred by the combination G.A.M. Korbeld, J.H.R. Oude Wesselink and M. Boerrigter. O'Blue's dam, Cereedom VDL, is by Chin Chin and produced several showjumpers, such as Havanna and Gentle. This damline includes several performers from the five-star circuit, including Codarco and For Freedom Z. Toëmmé de Regor was bred by the Veldeman family out of Centa de Muze (Cento), the dam of a series of successful showjumpers, such as Freestyle de Muze, Horizon de Regor, Inri de Regor, Kerly de Regor, Melia de Regor, Imogen de Regor, and Ola Kala de Regor. Toëmmé de Regor is owned by the Veldeman family and Studfarm Zangersheide.

Judy Ann Melchior took up the story: "I'd heard about Toëmmé even before I saw him free jump for the first time. His dam appeared on our radar through our auctions, and we knew of the existence of a Chacco-Blue son out of Centa de Muze. He was delivered to Studfarm Zangersheide at the end of last year. His bloodline is very interesting. I think the stallion himself is very special. He has an incredibly good foreleg technique and jumps off the shoulder in the same way every time. He has a lot of blood and a fantastic damline that we don't yet have in our breeding. The combination of Chacco-Blue with such a damline is special to me. However, there is more than just the bloodline, the stallion himself completes the picture." With regard to his future, Judy Ann said; "The plan is to use Toëmmé as a breeding stallion this year. We also hope for a good sporting career because I see in him a very special sport horse."

After the Z licensing, the list of approved sons of Chacly PS was expanded by two: Cavaillon V Verbindingshoeve Z (bred by Kevin Luyckx out of Cayenne vd Verbindingshoeve, who belongs to the dam line of Quel Homme, Souvenir, and Bentley vd Heffinck, Daedalus van T&L, Lanzarote de Muze, etcetera – talking about BWP damline 13), and Chacin Fly Z (bred by Pascale Renaux).

The jury also selected Cero Blue TN, a son of Chacoon Blue (Chacco-Blue), bred by Harm Thormählen and owned by the breeder and Team Nijhof. Cero Blue TN goes back to the legendary international Grand Prix mare Fein Cera, who won team gold during the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

### *The Diamant de Semilly factor!*

If Chacco-Blue presented his business card during the Z licensing, the same applies to Diamant de Semilly, world number two in the most recent WBFSH sire ranking. One of his three presented sons was approved, namely Sir Lex 55, bred by Dirk Matthyssen out of Jes van't Hoogeinde (Toulon). In partnership with Wilm Vermeir, Jes performed in international showjumping up to and including four-star level. Risque-Tout 55, a full brother to Sir Lex 55, was selected for the performance test during the 2020 KWPN stallion selection and was sold through the KWPN Select Sale.

At the time, Matthysem said; “We bought Jes from her breeder, Rony Thys. She was then four years old. Her dam is Geena van't Roosakker, the dam of Mystic van't Hoogeinde, who became a world champion young horse in Lanaken in 2018. Geena also produced two performers from the 1m60 circuit: Jivaro and his full brother Kheros van't Hoogeinde. Geena breeds well and I liked the damline. We've had the opportunity to buy a female product from this performance

line. In the beginning it was not so easy in sport, after all Jes is a mare with a lot of blood and sharpness. Under the saddle of my daughter Charlotte she became a national champion in the Middle class. In partnership with Wilm Vermeir, Jes performed internationally before returning to us for breeding.”

Harrie Smolders, the breeder of licensed stallion Ember Z, stated; “The stallion has incredibly fast reflexes and a lot of scope. He has a lot of blood and is careful and athletic, so has the potential to become a Grand Prix horse.”

Talking about Ember's dam, SF Ariantha, Smolders said; “Initially she performed under the saddle of Andres Rodriguez before he died in a car accident and she passed to Jack Towell who jumped with Ariantha at Grand Prix level. She was a horse with a lot of blood and quality. A great horse.”

◆ You didn't ride Ariantha yourself, so where is the link? After Andres passed away, Jennifer Gates bought Ariantha for her stable rider Jack Towell. When I started coaching Jennifer, she still owned the horse, and after the end of Ariantha's sports career I was allowed to lease and breed with her. She produced Ember. I still coach Jennifer, but she now has an infrastructure of her own and in principle no longer needs me to set up her breeding activities.”

According to Smolders, Ember inherited a lot from his dam: “Ariantha has a lot of blood and we see that in Ember. I love him.” Laughing: “I like him so much that I'm going to use him in my breeding too.”

### ◆ Why the choice to cross Ariantha with Emerald?

Emerald's blood matches with her very well, and the stallion has also proven himself in breeding. He produces very good horses and I also rode him myself.

◆ We know Harrie Smolders primarily as a top rider, so what can you tell about your breeding activities?

We have always been working on that. My parents bred 10 to 15 foals a year, so we grew up with it. I myself breed three to five foals a year. Through Emerald we also entered into the stallion world a bit. Together with my sister I run several stallions. We sometimes invest in young stallions. I became co-owner of the three-year-old Tiger van't Ruytershof, who will participate in the third phase of the BWP stallion selection next month (March). Tiger is also a very interesting stallion. At first, I look at the stallions in a sport-oriented way. If they are good enough for sport, then I think they are also interesting for breeding.

◆ In addition to the sport story, the pedigree also plays a role when we are talking about young stallions, doesn't it?



*Harrie Smolders riding Emerald van't Ruytershof*



*Carthago Z (Capitol I) – Olympian with Jos Lansink (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000)*

Yes. Just look at Tiger. He is son of Chacfly out of the damline of Diamanthis van't Ruytershof, a full sister to Emerald. There are many performers in this damline. This makes the breeders feel warm, despite the fact that Tiger still has to do his third phase and has, therefore, not yet been approved. Stallions must be complete. By that I mean having a good bloodline, being part of a proven damline, having personality and appearance, being able to jump well, and I have to see a future in a stallion for sport. There are plenty of approved stallions, but few have all the necessary components.

In addition to Chacco-Blue, Chacfly PS and Emerald, there is a fourth stallion with two out of two presented and approved sons, namely Aganix du Seigneur Z, with the five-year-old Aymen de La Hamente Z, and the three-year-old Agalandro Keizersberg Z, bred by Keizersberg Stables.

Jos van Deurzen, founder and owner of this sport/breeding stable, explains: "I actually do a different business, so the horse activities are a hobby. We are professionally active in real estate, building a lot of houses. I inherited my passion for horses from my parents. They were farmers and had horses. I myself am a real builder, and Keizersberg Stables is beautifully made. It has to be perfect for me.

"At one point I took over the breeding business of Peter Rinkes. I bought 38 horses from Peter in one go, including Corione Fortuna, Agalandro's dam. She is a beautiful dam

with enough blood. We use her exclusively as a broodmare. Her Gaultier VDL daughter Love You Fortuna jumps brilliantly. Every time she goes into a competition somewhere, I am called after her ride to ask if she is for sale. We bred one foal out of her, Scotch Of Love Keizersberg Z, a son of Scotch On Ice Z. Scotch On Ice is by Stakkato out of a Zangersheide performance line."

Luc Jansen, the breeding manager at Keizersberg Stables, told us more about Agalandro's dam: "Her Spartacus daughter Gione Fortuna jumped in the six-year-old Lanaken world championship final in 2017. Immer Fortuna, a son of Berlin out of Corione Fortuna, performs at 1m40 level in partnership with Malin Parmler.

"We also have a Gaultier VDL daughter out of Corione Fortuna, named Love You Fortuna. She first produced a foal and now seems to be very good in sport. In 2018, Corione Fortuna became the dam of Syrione Keizersberg Z, then in 2019 of Agalandro Keizersberg Z. We sold Syrione during an auction. Corione Fortuna also produced two descendants from our own stallion Jaloubet – Rolavsca and Presley Keizersberg.

"Corione has a lot of blood and produces quality offspring time and time again. If you combine her with a stallion that passes on scope and strength, you certainly get a showjumper. With the sharpness, power, and scope of Aganix, it also worked well. Agalandro was an eye-catcher as a foal. He was already moving athletically and with a lot of suppleness in his body."

More should be added when talking about Agalandro's dam line: Anoulavasca Fortuna (by the Thoroughbred Kreator xx), a half-sister to Corione Fortuna, produced the KWPN-approved stallion Kordon VDL, the international showjumper Fulltime Fortuna, and the international eventer Giant Fortuna. "In addition to Corione Fortuna, we also have Anoulavasca Fortuna at our studfarm. This year out of Corione we expect a foal from Eldorado van de Zeshoek and out of Anoulavasca a foal of Colorit," Jansen explained.

## Eye-catching stallions

Carthouille Philyra V.V. Z, one of the eye-catchers of the stallion approval, is the result of crossing two equine Olympians: Carthago x Gribouille du Lys. He was bred by Pilar Cordon and Evelyne Van Vreckom, with the former being his owner.

Regarding the collaboration between Cordon and Van Vreckom, Evelyne says: “We have known each other for a long time and are good friends. My horses were stationed in Wisbecq for a while, as were Pilar’s. Pilar has also ridden my mare Fiesta van Steentje. At the time I was already breeding with my own mares. Pilar did nothing with the mares with whom she’d performed at a high level after their sporting careers. So we came up with the crazy idea to start breeding with her former sport mares and starting our activities jointly. The first foal that we bred and sold together is called Loriana Philyra V.V. Z, born in 2019. Today Pilar and I breed with three dams.

“Gribouille is very noble and has a lot of blood. When she was stationed in Wisbecq, I rode her a few times.” Laughing: “She has a lot of blood. She was a time bomb.”

Gribouille du Lys is by Quaprice du Bois Margot out of a Venu du Theil dam. In partnership with Cordon, Gribouille performed at the highest level worldwide for many years, including participating at the Aachen European Championship and the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. In 2018 Gribouille was combined with Carthago, the Capitol I son who took part in two Olympiads (Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000) under the saddle of Jos Lansink. The crossing of two Olympians resulted in the approved Carthouille Philyra V.V. Z. Carthouille is not the first approved son of Gribouille. In 2014 Gribouille was the dam of Ollister du Lys, a Hunter’s Scendro son who was approved by AES. “No foals are expected from Gribouille this year,” Van Vreckom concluded.



*Diamant de Semilly*

## Bingo Ste Hermelle and Iron Man 15

While the young approved stallions have yet to prove themselves in sport and breeding, two older stallions were also presented and approved on the basis of their own sport results, namely Bingo Ste Hermelle (2011) and Iron Man 15/ex Farges VDL, 2010, bred by VDL Stud. Since January 2022, Iron Man 15 (Indoctro) has been competing on the two-star (1m45) circuit with Jeroen Dubbeldam, and recently finished fifth in the Liege Grand Prix in Belgium.

Bingo Ste Hermelle was bred by Raymond Lefèvre, founder of Elevage Ste Hermelle. Talking about Bingo’s dam, Ujade Ste Hermelle, Lefèvre says: “Ujade was a very good sport mare by Diamant de Semilly. With my daughter Adeline, Ujade jumped in classes for youngsters, including competitions for seven-year-olds.

Ujade was then sold to the United States via Tal Milstein and jumped at 1m50 level. Ujade’s dam, Gazelle Bleus, produced for instance Anaya Ste Hermelle, who in turn is the dam of the five-star sport stallion Eras Ste Hermelle.

“It’s a very good damline which anchors a lot of performance. I bought Gazelle Bleus in France when she was six years old, and later she competed at 1m40 level with Adeline. Unfortunately, Gazelle Bleus passed away quite early, so we only have Urphee Ste Hermelle, her daughter by Lord Z.”

With some pride and joy Lefèvre added; “Since the end of last year, Anaya has re-joined our breeding stables. She is 16 years old and has ended her sport career. I have the intention to cross her with Vargas again in order to breed a full brother or sister to Eras.”

◆ Bingo’s sire is called Number One d’Iso Un Prince (by Baloubet du Rouet). Why the choice to use this stallion?

I was a good friend of the owner. Number One was ridden by Nicolas Delmotte and showed good things. Number One was a stallion with many qualities.” (Bingo himself won the stallion competition in 2017.) “In that same year I sold him to Axel Verlooy.”

Several years later, Bingo was sold to Mexico, collecting some four-star top-10 places with Martin Alejandro Jiménez Valdivia, collected several top-10 places in four-star competitions. Since last year, Bingo has performed successfully at the highest level under the saddle of Daniel Deusser, for instance winning the five-star Valkenswaard Grand Prix.

“Bingo has a very high responsiveness and a lot of respect for the fences. He has a real winning mentality. When he appears in the arena, he wants to complete a clear round.” Bingo was presented at Zangersheide by Sporthorses Pieter Goyvaerts who, together with Equus Terra SPR de RL de CV owns Bingo. ■

# New Zealand's new jumping champions overcome adversity

BY SALLY REID

PHOTOGRAPHY: CORNEGE PHOTOGRAPHY

*If it isn't Covid putting a stop to things these days, it's an extreme weather phenomenon. New Zealand's four-day National Show Jumping Championship show did go ahead as planned, but was brought to an early close by torrential rain, and the last day of competition – Sunday, when the big titles should have been decided – had to be cancelled.*

The cancellation meant that the final two rounds of jumping for the Rutherford Cup Premier Grand Prix Championship did not take place; the title was instead awarded on performances in Rounds A (speed), B and C, which were held on Thursday and Saturday.

The winner was a 15-year-old Holsteiner-Thoroughbred gelding, Waitangi Skynet (Cassini II - Pétanque x Polly xx x Aberlou xx), who also finished third overall in the recent World Cup series, following victory in the Hastings leg.

Skynet was bred by Joss Bayly of Waitangi Sport Horses in Northland. He is owned by Sophie and Tania Scott, and ridden by 20-year-old Sophie, who posted on Facebook after his win: "Mr Consistent, Waitangi Skynet was outstanding as per usual, jumping clear all weekend and winning parts A, B and C to claim the NZ National Premier League title for 2022. Winning the Rutherford Cup was pretty special. So lucky to have a horse like him on my team."

Like his sire (a full brother of Cassini I), Skynet is a big, handsome grey with a powerful presence. He has also competed in Australia, where he was owned by James Arkins and had Grand Prix and Puissance wins. It's a shame that he can't have a crack at the HOY title this year: The show has been cancelled because of (you guessed it) Covid!

Reserve National Champion was the three-time NZ World Cup League winner Windermere Cappuccino (Corofino II - Vespa x Voltaire II). This exceptional little

horse was just a whisker away from the win, with only 0.5 of a penalty separating him from Waitangi Skynet. He was bred by the Parkes family of Blenheim, who own him in partnership with Tegan Fitzsimon.

Third place went to the current NZ Horse of the Year, the Holsteiner mare LT Holst Andrea (Casall - Palaune x Lavaletto). She was bred in Germany by Hans-Joachim Gerken, and is from Stamm 2067. She is owned by Ewen Mackintosh of Lake Taupo Holsteiners and her rider, Brooke Edgecombe. To clarify: Andrea's HOY win was in 2019 as the show has not been held since then.

Fourth place went to the lovely Hanoverian mare, Henton Faberge (For Edition - Galatoire x Genius), bred and owned by Henton Lodge, and ridden by Emelia Forsyth.

## *Grand Prix Championship*

This was won by a gelding who many will now be keeping a closer eye on: The nine-year-old Campari (Corofino II - Lilliana x Littorio), who is the first horse ever bred by his owner, Penny Tapley. Campari is ridden by Tegan Fitzsimon and is a stablemate of Windermere Cappuccino. Both are by the late, great Cappuccino II.

Campari finished fifth in his six-year-old age-group series in his first year with Fitzsimon, and won his seven-year-old series against a huge (for this country) number of entries. He followed this up by winning the eight-year-old series last year.

He has mainly Holsteiner blood through his sire and damsire, and some very interesting family links. His dam, Lilliana, was bred by Betty Brown. She is out of Waipaoa Station mare called Just Good Fun/aka Paleface (Romanov/aka Roman Off - Willow xx x Rangong xx), whose progeny include Aberdeen Road. This gelding jumped at World Cup level and won the HOY puissance at 1m90 with Maurice Beatson, before being sold to the King of Bahrain in 2007. Other Just Good Fun progeny are two Grand Prix dressage horses by Anamour, Alcatraz and Apollo 4.

Just Good Fun's sire, Romanov (Ramzes II, out of a Thoroughbred mare whose name is unrecorded) is the damsire of 2018 NZ HOY winner Veroana. One way or another, Campari has serious jumping blood including that of



*Campari (Corofino II - Lilliana x Littorio) with Tegan Fitzsimon*

Rigoletto through his grandsire Ramzes II (Rigoletto - Ordina, Ster x Komeet) who was imported to New Zealand in 1980. According to Penny Tapley; "Lilliana had an injury at a young age; I purchased her as an eight-year-old broodmare. I bred her to Campari then sold her to Angie Mason, who bred a Centavos foal, then I leased her back and bred Hank." Hank, a 2020 youngster, is a full brother to Campari, and has the registered name Camiro T.

She continued by saying; "I bred Campari with the intention of him being a young-rider horse for my youngest daughter, but she headed off to university after his five-year-old year, so Tegan [Fitzsimon] took over the ride."

As well as sharing his home and sire with NZ World Cup winner Windermere Cappuccino, Campari shares his name with a champion Grand Prix racing driver... A good omen, perhaps?

A pair of skewbalds finished second and third in the championship, both with Australian Warmblood (AWHA) genes. Second went to the imported nine-year-old AWHA gelding, Copabella Camouflage (Cadiz - Venice x Visage), bred by Copabella Stud in New South Wales. He is owned by Leah Causer and ridden by the young Makenzie Causer of Christchurch. In third place was Lakota (Pintado Desperado AWHA), owned by Tania Scott, and ridden by Sophie Scott. The dam and breeder of this very consistent 15-year-old gelding are unrecorded.

### *ECPH triple age-group triumph*

East Coast Performance Horses, a stud run by Nicki and Jenny Booth on the south-east coast of the North Island, enjoyed exceptional success at the Nationals: ECPH-bred horses won the three main titles.

The five-year-old Championship and Style Prize, which is contested separately, went to Cosmopolitan ECPH (Cassiano - Gin x Corofino II), a mare owned and ridden by Amy McMullen of Timaru in the South Island. "I am very, very proud of her. The pennies have just dropped and she is going beautifully," says McMullen, who bought her from Tegan Fitzsimon two years ago.

Another gorgeous young mare was the reserve champion: Balmoral KS Penelope (Elias C van de Heffinck x Grosvenor xx), bred by Simone Kann of Balmoral Equestrian, who says, "She is a horse who melts my heart." Penelope's BWP sire is by Utrillo van der Heffinck (Clinton); she was recently awarded Rheinland Premium Mare status with the NZ Hanoverian Society.

The six-year-old championship went to another budding star by the late Corofino II, Celebration ECPH (Corofino II - Crystal x Salutation), a gelding owned and ridden by Rose Alfeld of Christchurch. His grandsire was the imported Oldenburg dressage stallion Salutation (Sandro Hit - Fienna x Welt Hit II), who died prematurely from colic in 2010: A big loss to breeding here in New Zealand.

Lord Axel GNZ (Lordano - Angeline GNZ x Corlando), who was last year's five-year-old champion was reserve in

2022. He was bred by Goldengrove Stud, is owned by Leah Causer of Aspen Park Performance Horses, and is ridden by Makenzie Causer.

The Style Prize was won by G Force NZPH (Air Jordan - Papparazzi NZPH x Cabdula du Tillard), a gelding bred by New Zealand Performance Horses and owned and ridden by Georgina Dormer. As well as being a very promising performer, this horse has a super style over the poles, and was also the winner of the six-year-old Style Prize at the Young Horse Show in December.

And, providing a clean sweep to East Coast Performance Horses, Benrose Casino ECPH (Cassiano - Ngahiwi Red Rinse x Nikau) was the winner of the seven-year-old championship with his owner/rider, Sophie Scott. "A big thanks to East Coast Performance Horses' Jenny and Nicki Booth for breeding such an amazing horse," she said after the win.

Benrose Casino ECPH was the six-year-old reserve champion last year. His sire, Cassiano (Cassini I x Calypso II x Maestose) now retired from stud, has a very impressive number of winners here. He is an imported licensed Holsteiner from Stamm 6691, bred by Carsten Lauck and owned by Sharleen Workman of Xtreme Sport Horses.

Benrose Casino's dam, Red Rinse, is a full sister to Blue Rinse, a gelding called who jumped in Europe with some high placings at CSI3\*, and a CSI2\* win at La Coruña, and who coincidentally won this six-year-old National Championship in 2011. In those days he was owned and ridden by Danielle Maurer, who twice won the NZ National Young Rider Series (2010 and 2011) with him.

The reserve champion's title went to Kiwi Strike (Kiwi Coronation - Kiwi Maze x Corlando), a gelding bred by Graeme Hart at Fernhill Stud, and ridden by his owner Lucy Olphert. Kiwi Strike won the South Island seven-year-old championship in February. "He really is the little horse that just keeps giving," said Olphert at the time. "Since partnering together just six months ago, he has won or placed at every single show. What he lacks in stature he makes up in scope and heart. Big future ahead for this one."

The Style Prize was won by a Holsteiner gelding, Glenbrooke Rosarno (Cassiano x Littorio) bred by the Meehan-Davie family of Glenbrooke Park, owned by Trace Whittaker, and ridden by Stephanie Whittaker. He was one of three Cassiano progeny to perform well at these championships: the other two being the seven-year-old champion Benrose Casino ECPH and five-year-old champion Cosmopolitan ECPH. Cassiano, like Corofino II, stood at Sharlene Workman's Xtreme Sport Horses. He is a fairly old boy now, and has retired from stud duty.

The four-year-olds competed exclusively for a style prize and was one by another Cassiano – the grey gelding Pure Inferno (Cassiano - Mariekee x Omnicorp xx), bred by Pure Equestrian in Auckland, owned by Michael Bulgaris, and ridden by Katie Meredith. ■

**Mumbai**  
Diamant de Semilly  
Nabab de Reve



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# Stallion Service Auctions: Early indicator of breeding activity

BY CHRIS GOULD / CWHBA  
PHOTOGRAPHY: G. MACDONALD

*The Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association finished the first round of its Stallion Service Auction (SSA) February 20. The second round finished February 27. It was the second year of renewed activity reflective of the strong sales market that the industry has been experiencing since part way through the pandemic.*

The SSA seems to be a North American phenomenon and its growing popularity augers well for growth in the Warmblood breeding sector. Unique to the CWHBA, is the foal futurity which ties funds raised to foal futurities held the following year. Only offspring of nominated stallions are qualified to compete in events held throughout Canada.

It is a great way to introduce new stallions to breeders and this year the top selling stallion was a newcomer, Confidento (Contendro I x Embassy). Standing at Sigma Warmbloods in Alberta, he brings a powerful performance pedigree and modern type into the Canadian gene pool that is clearly welcomed.

The second high seller was the 23-year-old proven stallion, Cabardino (Carpaccio x Gaspari) standing at W. Charlot Farm in Ontario. A multiple champion in hunter classes, he was



*Manitoba Foal Futurity Winner 2021 – Koastal (Kumano), alongside his Storm Ranger xx dam, Imajen, for owner Tristan Caswell*



*Confidento (Contendro I x Embassy) – standing at Sigma Warmbloods in Alberta*

named USEF Hunter Sire of the Year 2017 and 2018, contributing to W. Charlot Farm's USEF leading breeder awards from 2016 to 2020.

Part of the appeal of the SSA is, of course, the deals. Stallion services are sold at discounted prices offering breeders an opportunity to try new bloodlines at very affordable prices, with the added bonus of free entry into next year's foal futurity. If the results of last year's foal futurities are any indicator, the quality and quantity of Canadian Warmblood foals continues to rise.

Based on last year's SSA, and as covid restrictions ease, Canadian breeders can look forward to a more active show season and some very interesting foal futurities in 2022. To check which stallions offspring are eligible go to [canadianwarmbloods.com](http://canadianwarmbloods.com). ■

# Europe's top will travel to Herning for the DWB Stallion Show

BY THOMAS BACH JENSEN / DWB

PHOTOGRAPHY: DIRK CAREMANS AND RIDEHESTEN.COM

*From March 9-13, 2022, thousands of horse enthusiasts from Denmark and abroad will gather in Herning at the Danish Warmblood Stallion Licensing where breeding and sport go hand in hand.*

Alongside the stallion licensing of dressage and jumping stallions, you will find the Danish Warmblood Young Horse Championships for the best five-year-old dressage and jumping horses, numerous competition classes for stallions, CSI3\* classes welcoming many international showjumpers as well as a CDI3\* and, last but not least, a CDI5\* including some of the best dressage riders and horses in the world.

To top it all, one of the largest tack and trade fairs in Europe will be hosted at the same showgrounds and, for further entertainment, a unique Gala Show will be presented featuring international artists in addition to some of the best Danish Warmblood stallions and mares under rider.

## *Not to be missed...*

Of course, the stallion licensing itself is always a crowd-puller. Not only are the best youngsters selected during Danish Warmblood's pre-selection process, but the exclusive group of three-year-olds will be joined by around 20 colts from the German and Dutch licensings that are now co-owned by the Danish stallion keepers, Helgstrand Dressage and Blue Hors. Most of these are premium stallions from the



*KWPN premium stallion Opoque, acquired by Helgstrand Dressage and will be presented at the DWB stallion licensing in Herning.*

respective licensings, while others are either champions or the most expensive lots sold at the German stallion auctions.

In Herning the stables are open to visitors so you can meet your favourite stallions up close in their stalls, while following the entire licensing and seeing numerous competition horses as well as young and up-coming stars. ■



*Some of the best young stallions in Europe unite in Herning in March*

# Westfalian Valentine's Day gifts from Münster-Handorf auction

BY JEAN LLEWELLYN / PRESS RELEASE

PHOTOGRAPHY: RECKIMEDIA

*A total of 23 three-year-old riding horses found new owners in the Westfalian online auction, when customers from around the world invested an average of €17,382 in their future four-legged partners, and a stallion named Extravagant aroused the highest desires.*

The brown Escamillo son was worth €43,000 to his new owner from Spain, while the most expensive jumper was a Crack son, Crack Star, with a knockdown price of €20,000.

The 23 offered three-year-old riding horses for the dressage arena and showjumping courses sold online by the Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch turned over a total of €295,500, and eight of the sold horses will begin their careers under saddles abroad, travelling to seven different countries: Spain, Great Britain, the USA, Kazakhstan, Canada, Poland, and France.

Already when the online auction opened, head numbers one and two rose to the top of the popularity scale, and on the very first day the bids quickly increased, followed by an exciting bid-up evening. The striking Escamillo x Feedback son named Extravagant was bred by Helmut Wolfgang Eßer, exhibited by Berger Reit- und Turnierpferde GmbH, and presented himself with outstanding movement quality. He descends from the first vintage of Escamillo, who was vice-champion at the 2021 World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in the six-year-old dressage category. Extravagant saw a total of 53 bids before the virtual hammer fell at €43,000.



*Most popular youngster with dressage pedigree Extravagant (Escamillo x Feedback)*



*Future jumping star Crack Star (Crack x Contender)*

Interested parties in head number two also showed great perseverance. This daughter of Bundeschampion So Unique was bred by Dr. Vinzenz Bauer, out of a dam by the Thoroughbred Lauries Crusador xx. The dark bay mare impressed with elastic movements and good rhythm, securing 20 bids before a German customer secured Sambuca for €34,000. .

The youngster with head number 15 should become a future star in the showjumping ring. Bred by Thorsten Ladinig, and exhibited by Edith Lange, the Crack son, Crack Star was especially popular, and the dark-bay stallion demonstrated his capacity and overview at the fence like a storybook jumping athlete. As the most expensive show jumper, he changed to French ownership for €20,000.

According to auction manager Thomas Münch; "The offer of our youngster auctions is well received by exhibitors and customers. We are very well positioned with the increased offer of this format and are looking positively at the three youngster auctions still to come this spring."

Photos and videos of young horses for future online Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch auctions can be found on: [onlineauction.westfalenpferde.de](https://onlineauction.westfalenpferde.de) ■

# AES mare Stolen Secret wins prestigious breeding award

BY EVA-MARIA BROOMER / AES

PHOTOGRAPHY: HORSEPOWER CREATIVE AND KEVIN SPARROW

*A total of 23 three-year-old riding horses found new owners in the Westfalian online auction, when customers from around the world invested an average of €17,382 in their future four-legged partners, and a stallion named Extravagant aroused the highest desires.*

We are incredibly proud of our AES breeder Michelle Dawson of Stolen Silver Sport Horses Stud whose beautiful six-year-old mare Stolen Secret (Uthopia x Riccio) was the highest scoring entry out of 12 finalists at this year's British Breeding Equine Bridge, winning a £1,000 training bursary and one year's free membership with British Dressage. Stolen Secret was presented by the international Grand Prix rider Sonnar Murray-Brown who has produced the mare from a three-year-old.

Michelle's success is all the more remarkable as she only breeds two or three foals a year. In her day job, she has the highly responsible and demanding role of working as an NHS anaesthetist, and she is an excellent example of what makes up the backbone of sport horse breeding, the many passionate and knowledgeable small breeders who focus on quality over quantity.

As Michelle puts it: "When you breed only a few, every single foal has to count." When asked how she is going to spend her training bursary money, there is no hesitation: "We are going to go for lessons with Carl Hester. Of course,

Carl rode Secret's sire Uthopia, who is enjoying his retirement at his yard. I cannot wait to hear what he thinks of her."

Michelle thinks very highly of Uthopia whom she has used a few times: "I have got a black Uthopia colt at home who is stunning and a sweetheart. There are very few Uthopia offspring around as he stands to very few mares. He is one of my favourite stallions with Secret being typical of his offspring. They have his mega trot, good canter, correct walk and phenomenal train-ability. Nothing phases them. Secret hadn't been to a show since September yet you could see her thinking "we got this" as she walked into the arena."

## *British Breeding Equine Bridge and AES Masterclass*

The Equine Bridge is organised by British Breeding, an organisation for all British breeders of sports horses and ponies, from all studbooks. It was set up in 2018 after winning a bid to take over the running of the breeding related activities of the British Equestrian Federation. From the outset, British Breeding have enjoyed the support of the AES.

Studbook Director Joris van den Oetelaar explains: "We are often asked why we put in so much effort to support British Breeding, whose activities benefit all breeders and studbooks, including our direct competitors. The answer for me is simple: We can only grow our studbook if we make the entire industry stronger. And for that, we need to come together and support each other."

In addition to a quarterly British Breeder Magazine, a webinar series, and annual stallion event for British based licensed stallions from all studbooks, the flagship activity of British Breeding is its Futurity and Equine Bridge programme.

Dr Eva-Maria Broomer, AES representative, WBFSh Vice President and a Board Director of British Breeding explains: "The British breeding industry is very fragmented, with around six sport horse and sport pony studbooks together registering just 2,500 foals per annum. This makes it unviable for individual studbooks to put on the full range of services breeders enjoy in other countries, such as the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. Particularly recent



*Stolen Secret with Michelle Dawson and Sonnar Murray-Brown receiving their Equine Bridge Rosette*



*Stolen Secret as a 2yo*

developments in breeding, such as linear scoring and genomic selection, would be impossible with the small number of registrations experienced by some of our studbooks. By coming together with one young horse evaluation series for everyone, we can collect more data more quickly and create a valuable resource for everyone.”

The Futurity and Bridge programme is highly ambitious. Horses

and ponies from foal age through to three-, four-, and five-year-olds are inspected on hard ground by a team of senior veterinarians and nutritionists who create a linear profile of the limbs and provide additional nutritional and foot-balance advice. They are then inspected on the soft in walk, trot and canter (older jumpers and eventers are also seen over fences) by a team of three international evaluators and an experienced linear scorer.

The best three- to five-year-olds qualify for the Equine Bridge programme, designed to support young horses on their journey into the sport by providing detailed advice, training and assessment, and a special training bursary of 1000 pounds for the highest scoring entry in each discipline.

The most recent Equine Bridge event took place at Arena UK on February 11/12, where the head evaluator was Isobel Wessels, whose extensive experience includes judging at the FEL-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses. On day one the horses had a training session with Isobel, which was also attended by Lucy Simpson, our linear scorer. Afterwards, they saw a team of veterinarian experts and para professionals headed up by Dr. Jane Nixon who provided detailed feedback about correctness and management, which is a big factor in the successful development of young horses.

In the evening, participants enjoyed an AES-sponsored Young Horse Training Masterclass with Isobel Wessels with horses and riders provided by Elite Dressage and their rider Beth Bainbridge and by Hicks Equestrian.

On the second day of the Bridge evaluation, the horses are presented first with their own rider and asked to complete their age relevant British Dressage National Young Horse Dressage test. Afterwards, they are assessed with a test rider, who this year was Beth Bainbridge from Elite Dressage.

Michelle appreciates the Bridge’s philosophy in providing a holistic approach to the evaluation and



*A thorough tack check with a master saddler is an integral part of the Equine Bridge veterinary evaluation*

production of young horses, something that also relates to her own professional experience: “The Bridge shows that producing a dressage horse requires a multi-disciplinary team,” she says. “In the NHS, patients are always treated by a multi-disciplinary team as no one can be an expert in everything, and you need to look at the whole picture. As well as the training and quality of the horse, everything else needs to be in place.”

In addition to Stolen Secret, Michelle has several very exciting young horses in the pipeline. One of them is the rising three-year-old AES mare Stolen Beltara (Belissimo M x Rousseau) who was the highest scoring dressage two-year-old in the 2021 Virtual Futurity series. We are already looking forward to what the future brings for them and cannot wait to meet Michelle’s next crop of foals in the upcoming breeding season. ■



*Catherston Tarantella (Timolin x Dornenkönig), bred by Catherston Stud, attending the first Equine Bridge Event in 2019*

# Horse well-being and health: Part 2 – Nutrition

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

*When we own, manage, and/or train horses we all have a moral and legal obligation to meet their needs and safeguard the well-being of horses under any circumstances. Horses are the superstars of our livelihoods, whether we breed horses, compete, or never step in the ring and ride just for fun or have them as companion animals.*

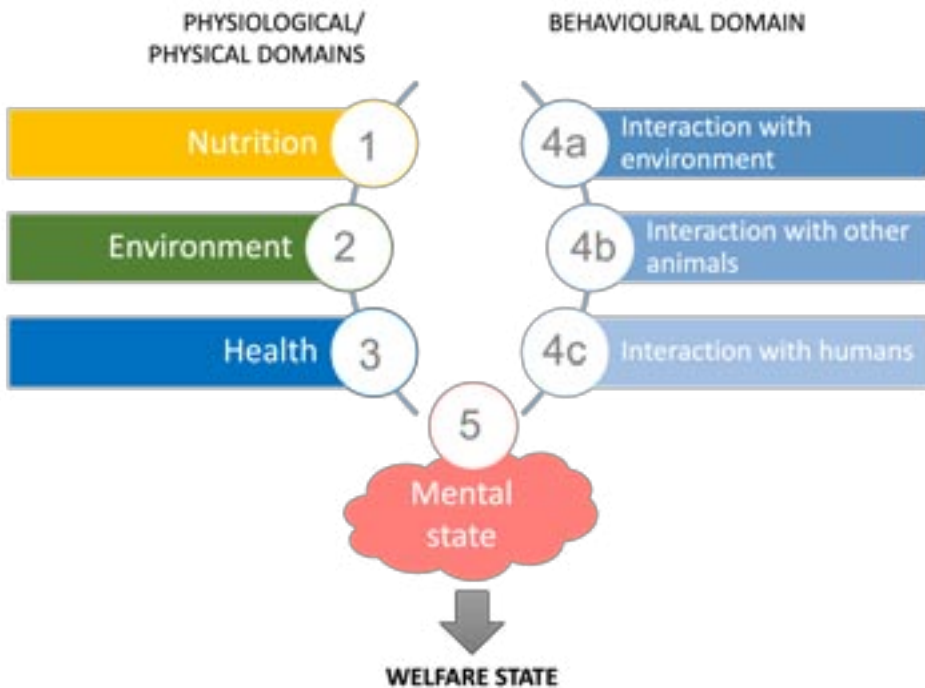
Horses are recognised as sentient beings and their mental well-being is therefore as important as any physical concern. Any performance that you ask of the horse requires him to think and process information, so keeping him content and eager to please is critical. As such it is of utmost importance that their health and daily care, as well as their handling and working environments, be the best we can provide.

Responsibility for any animal includes having an

understanding of the specific health and welfare needs of the animal and having the right knowledge and skills to care for that animal. Those responsible for horses should be aware of their duty of care and ensure that horses are kept in such a way that prevents unnecessary pain, distress, or suffering, whether this be physical or psychological. They should also know when to seek advice and help and who to approach. Because we are continuously learning and our horses are so forgiving, their welfare must be at the

foundation of everything we do with them. So what tools are available to assess/analyse how well you cater for your horses' well-being both physical or and psychological?

In the previous edition (Part 1), we emphasised the importance of having an objective view, by avoiding making assumptions or anthropomorphise when we look at how our horses are doing. In conjunction, we introduced our readers to an updated framework that can guide our assessment of overall equine well-being, including the inter-relation between health and mental state, in more practical terms. Moving away from old 'Five Freedoms' concept, we presented 'The Five Domains'



*Figure 1. Adapted from Mellor et al. 2020. New presentation of the Five domains model with a breakdown of behavioural interactions. Domains 1 to 3 focus on analysing the nutritional-, environmental- and health-related factors that are needed for the animal's survival and that can disrupt or disturb discrete features of the inner stability of the animal's body. Domain 4 was updated from behaviour to behavioural interactions and is intended to capture behavioural outputs as indices of animals' perceptions of their external circumstances specifically as it deals with its environment, other animals, and humans. The range of factors in each of the 4 domains generate specific negative or positive affects that are evaluated via Domain 5, the animal's Mental State (illustration by MB Equine Services)*

model which has a greater focus on the mental state of an animal and acknowledges that welfare can be both positive and negative (see Part 1). The model consists of five areas or domains; 1) nutrition; 2) environment; 3) health; 4) behavioural (interactions); and 5) mental state, that focus attention on specific factors or conditions that may impact on an animal's welfare (Figure 1, on left).

The model has been around for over 25 years and has under-gone various updates to incorporate the latest validated developments in animal welfare science thinking for each of the five areas. The most recent up-date is entitled 'The 2020 Five Domains Model: Including Human-Animal Inter-actions in Assessments of Animal Welfare' and was published in the journal *Animals in 2020*.

The authors emphasise that the Model is not intended to define the absolutes of good and bad welfare, nor is it intended to accurately describe all the physical and physiological functions. Rather, it is a device for facilitating systematic, structured, thorough and coherent assessments of animal welfare, and for qualitatively grading welfare compromise and improvement<sup>1</sup>. The model allows for discussions around the impact within each domain but of course many will overlap and there are no delineated lines per se.

The model is not animal specific and can be applied to any species and circumstance from companion animals, livestock husbandry, and even wildlife. Therefore, in this six-part series I will explain in more detail the different domains, their interactions, and finally how this can be transferred to the overall assessment of the horse's welfare state specifically, and that you can practically apply to your own situation. In this Part 2, the focus will be on the first domain – Nutrition.

## Domain 1 – Nutrition

Without food and water no animal can survive. Therefore, the first domain of animal welfare refers to the water and food available to animals (figure 2). This availability can be divided in:

- Negative nutritional conditions (limited/restricted, poor quality, low variety or excess); or
- Positive nutritional conditions (adequate, balanced, high variety).

These conditions in turn have a negative or positive affect on the animal (see figure 2). When reviewing these affects you need to be aware that this is all an interplay between the body and the brain which drives an animal's specific behaviours. Negative stimuli are detected by specific sensory receptors that send neural impulses to the brain for processing (i.e. hunger or thirst), which in turn, through embedded genetical mechanisms, compels or motivates an animal to engage in specific behaviours upon which their survival depends (i.e. seeking positive conditions).

Restricted/limited food availability and poor quality, while negative conditions, in nature this often occurs and is

typically driven by seasonal changes or weather events. For example, during winter or drought times, pasture growth is limited and as such feed intake may be reduced. Whereas feed availability increases with pasture growth over spring and summer. As result of this, in the wild horses' body weights/condition will naturally fluctuate.

However, under these negative conditions horses are driven to seek the positive opportunities to meet their nutritional needs, which they express by travelling significant distances as required to obtain enough food as well as the consumption of alternative food sources (variety component).

In a husbandry context, we all understand that we have full control over our horses' environment and feeding. By limiting food intake, providing low quality (i.e. nutrient levels) and variety (i.e. monocultures) or by overfeeding we can negatively affect the growth rate, reproduction capacity, health status, and performance of our horse. However, at the same time limiting or restricting food intake and reducing the quality of feed can become a requirement for horses that are overweight or obese and/or are at risk of developing metabolic disorders such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome or laminitis. Or there may be other circumstances (such as colic or toxic pasture plants) that requires us to restrict feed and/or water availability temporarily.

This highlights that in horse husbandry we may need to navigate between positive and negative nutritional conditions as needed to keep our horses healthy. But how do we facilitate for these positive opportunities while keeping horses on low rations or when they are not allowed to be on pasture 24/7. Or it may be that our housing circumstances and climatic conditions do not lend for horses being outdoors on pasture all the time.

In any husbandry situation, we need to be aware that the way we feed and manage our horses ultimately have a negative or positive impact on the horse. As mentioned earlier, any stimuli from the body or environment will be processed and elicit a specific behaviour for survival in the horse. If a horse cannot express such behaviours, horses may experience conflict, and this can lead to chronic stress that can bring on health and behavioural related problems. Signs of chronic stress include gastric (stomach) ulcers, a reduced immune response (immunosuppression), weight loss and development of stereotypical behaviours<sup>2</sup>. Stereotypical behaviours are purposeless, repetitive and are consistently the same each time. Examples include crib-biting, wind-sucking, box walking and weaving. As these are often a result of suboptimal environment, we will focus on these a bit more in Part 3.

We therefore should assess the way we water and feed our horses including the quantity, frequency, quality and variety of foodstuffs and how this affects our horses on daily basis. To do this you need to have knowledge on horse nutrition as well as the mechanisms that drive feeding behaviour to ensure that you meet your horses' nutritional requirements and support their mental health.

## Nutritional Conditions and their Associated Affects

| Negative Conditions                    |   | Positive Conditions               |  |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nutritional inadequacies:</b>       | <b>Negative affects:</b>                | <b>Nutritional opportunities:</b> | <b>Positive affects:</b>                   |
| Restricted water intake                | → Thirst                                | Drink correct quantities of water | → Wetting/quenching pleasures of drinking  |
| Excessive water intake                 | → Water intoxication                    |                                   |  |
|  | → Hunger (general)                      | Eat enough food                   | → Postprandial satiety                     |
| Restricted food intake                 | → Hunger (salt)                         |                                   | → Pleasure of salt taste                   |
|  | → Weakness of starvation                |                                   |  |
| Poor food quality                      | → Malaise of malnutrition               | Eat a balanced diet               | → Pleasures of food tastes/smells/textures |
| Low food variety                       | → Eating-related boredom                | Eat a variety of foods            | → Masticatory pleasures                    |
|  |   |                                   |  |
| Voluntary overeating                   | → Feeling bloated or overfull           | Eat correct quantities of food    | → Comfort of satiety                       |
|  |   |                                   |  |
| Force-feeding, excessive energy intake | → Gastrointestinal pain, nausea/malaise |                                   | → Gastrointestinal comfort                 |

Figure 2. Domain 1: Nutrition. Examples of nutritional imbalances and opportunities and their associated negative and positive affects assigned to Domain 5: Mental State (sourced from Mellor et al. 2020)

### Water quality and intake

The main goal is that you provide ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour for your horses.

Water is an essential nutrient for all mammals, especially the horse, a large herbivore with considerable water needs to support microbial fermentation in its voluminous hindgut. The widely accepted maintenance requirement of water for horses is approximately 60 ml/kg/day (2 to 3 ml/kg/h), or approximately 30 L/day for an average adult non-breeding, non-working horse (500 kg body weight)<sup>3</sup>. Water needs increase with increased salt and protein intake, forage intake, transportation, athletic activities, hot weather conditions and breeding status of the horse. For example, lactating mares can increase water consumption by 37 to 74% above maintenance needs to meet milk production<sup>4</sup>.

It is important that you are aware of the factors that may affect water intake, and check your horses' intake regularly. Water intake (and quality) can be easily checked when you fill water troughs by hand, but this becomes a bit more difficult with automated drinkers (unless you have a system that can calculate this when feeding water to each drinker). It's important that you check automatic drinkers that these are not blocked and provide clean water.

As mentioned in Part 1, there are various health parameters/vital signs we can measure to ensure horses are healthy. In relation to water hydration, there is an easy test that can be done to see if a horse is well-hydrated. The "skin fold test" is done by pinching a fold of skin on the horse's

neck, pulling it out and releasing it. Count how many seconds it takes for the skin to go back to its original position. One-half to one second is normal. If the skin remains in the "tenting" position, the horse is dehydrated. Ensure that you rehydrate your horse as soon as possible if this occurs, which may also entail additional electrolyte intake. Under certain circumstances horses (when sick, extreme exercise, colic etc) may even need an intravenous fluid treatment. Always seek veterinarian care if you notice any signs of extreme dehydration.

### Feed intake

Various countries around the world have documented and published feeding intake and foodstuff values for horses based on numerous nutritional studies and expert consultations. The most common used feeding reference for horse is the Nutrient Requirements of Horses, produced by the National Research Council<sup>5</sup>. This publication provides estimated values of the daily nutrient requirements of all classes of horses (including growing, working and breeding). It provides a breakdown of nutrient ingredients including energy, protein, mineral and vitamin requirements. This reference is used internationally by nutritionists and veterinarians. The NRC offers a summary and feeding evaluation program that you can use for free – visit <https://nrc88.nas.edu/nrh/>. Any one who is serious about understanding equine nutrition can benefit from a copy of *Nutrient Requirements of Horses, Sixth Revised Edition* in their library.

The general rule is that horses require about 2% of their body weight in dry matter daily (this means moisture has been excluded as this varies lots between feed stuffs and forages). This means for an average horse 500 kg horse (at maintenance) the total daily intake is 10kg in dry matter.

However, feed intake and requirements change throughout the life of horse and increase when working and breeding. In addition, between breeds and horses, metabolic systems may function differently. Some are easy keepers and for others it's much harder to keep weight on. Keep this in mind when assessing your feeding program. While body condition (scoring) is a good tool for you checking how the feeding program is going, for the nutritional evaluation and intake you will need to work on a body weight basis. It is therefore important that you get either your horse weighted at a vet clinic or you can use a mobile weighing bridge. Alternatively, you can use a measuring tape and universal formula to estimate the body weight of your mare and foals (there are few free mobile apps you can use).

Furthermore, horse owners need to ensure that their horses are consuming at least 1.5% of their bodyweight in forage every day<sup>6</sup>. Consumption of grass, hay, and other forage fulfills both physical and psychological needs. Horses are grazing herbivores that rely on hindgut fermentation to obtain their energy from fibre (through symbiotic relationship with microflora), as such any significant reduction in fibre intake can lead to digestive and behavioural problems (as discussed earlier). It is also important that forage and other feed stuffs are spread over the day.

If quality forages are hard to find or very expensive, you can consider alternative forage sources including hay cubes or pellets, hulls and other fibre foods. The variety of these will largely depend on where you live in the world. But examples include beet pulp, sunflower seed hulls and soybean hulls.

## Feed quality

Analytical testing can be used to predict how well a particular forage or food meet the needs of the horse. The status of the horse (non-working, performance, breeding, growing etc) will influence the quantity and quality of feed required to cover nutrient requirements.

For optimum productivity irrespective of horse's status, the following properties of the forage or feed are important:

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

When you buy commercial concentrates for horses, these analytical results are typically placed on the bags so that you as owner can make informative decisions about if its

suitable for your horse(s). However, this information is not as readily available for conserved forages and pastures and entails you doing your own fodder analysis. This may be very useful for commercial equine establishments but not always practical for those that only own a few horses (unless it's really needed due to metabolic disorders like laminitis).

However, there are few things you can assess in relation to (conserved) forage quality without doing analysis. One of the first questions we must ask is: 'What defines the quality of a forage?' Characteristics such as nutrient profile, digestibility, leaf-to-stem ratio, smell and appearance, cleanliness (free of toxic weeds, dirt, and trash), and natural colour determine the condition of the forage<sup>5</sup>. When we talk about the quality of a forage, we refer primarily to its nutritional value (energy, protein, soluble sugar) and digestibility. Nutritive value and digestibility are affected by plant species, maturity and harvest time. When forages are cut at a mature growing stage, the forage is very 'stemmy', which makes it less digestible and nutritious due to the higher levels of less-digestible crude fibre and lignin<sup>7</sup>. Higher quality forage is finely stemmed, soft, and leafy, and is more readily digestible.

Interestingly, high-nutrient-quality conserved forage can be as unfavourable as poor-nutrient-quality conserved forage – depending on which nutrient requirement perspective you take. For our working, breeding, and growing horses, we tend to provide high-quality forages to meet their elevated nutrient requirements (for example lucerne hay or early cut grass hay). But for horses that are not working, are easy keepers, are obese, or are sensitive to developing laminitis, we might select poorer-quality forages (for example more mature grass hay or specific species lower in carbohydrates)<sup>8</sup>.

If we consider the evolution of the horse, we find that horses have developed a feeding strategy whereby they can consume large quantities of poor quality forages (low energy and high fibre)<sup>7</sup>. So, from an evolutionary point of view, poor quality forages that provide lower energy, some protein, and high fibre (structural carbohydrates) are not a bad choice. However, studies report that high amounts of poor-quality conserved forage can increase the chances of impaction colic in horses (typically your cereal/ straw hays). This is likely to be associated with feeding mismanagement rather than the nutrient quality of the conserved forage itself.

As soon as our horses are working, breeding, and growing, the quality of their forage needs to improve to meet their daily nutritional needs. High-quality forages tend to have a higher energy and protein content compared to lower-quality forages. Depending on the type of high-quality forage, they also can contain higher levels of vitamins and minerals.

## Feed variety

Variety is the spice of life, not only for people, but also for herbivores such as horses whether they are confined or

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## PAREQUITA VH

by Jamal vd Heffinck

Bronze WC YH 6y old with  
Virginie Thonon

Breeder: Van Hoecke Willem

"WE BREED AND  
SELL CHAMPIONS"

## LUCIANO VAN GEINSTEINDE

by Quinn vd Heffinck

1.60m level with Jos Verlooy  
Breeder: Naudts - Noens Lucien

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grazing on pasture. Like us, they periodically satiate on the familiar and thrive on variety. The science behind this may be related to the fact that eating a variety of foods (specifically if you are dealing with plants) is to reduce the likelihood of over-ingesting plant secondary compounds (so called toxins like tannins, alkaloids, phenolics, etc), which have negative nutritional effects. But at the same time no one plant species provides all the nutrition an animal needs.

Thus, selection for nutrients may also be the reason why grazing animals such as horses need to be able to select from an array of plant species. This will also prevent over-eating of one grass species that may be too high in carbohydrates or protein.

However, at times we do see animals eating an assortment of foods even when plant secondary compounds are no concern and nutritional needs are met. Researchers think that also flavours may play a role.. in same way for us humans (this based on some of my own research<sup>9</sup>). In addition, we should not forget that each horse is an individual and may have different needs.

Therefore, if we manage horses on pasture we should strive for biodiverse pastures that provide a variety of grass and legume species to choose from. In the same way when we stable horses for prolonged times we should avoid monotone diets and offer a variety of conserved forages where possible. This will also keep horses longer occupied with foraging behaviour, satisfying both their physical and psychological needs. There are endless options when it comes to feed variety. Just think about adding a new flavour (like a fruit flavour or spice) to your horse's diet.

See Part 3 for more tips on feeding and environmental enrichment.

## Summary

As horse owners we all have a moral and legal obligation to meet the needs and safeguard the well-being of our horses at any time under our care. Using the 'Five Domains Model' to assess the welfare of our horses, we focussed in this article on the first domain – Nutrition. While this may seem like an obvious welfare point, there are various aspects that we need to consider – not only the total feed and water intake but also the quality, frequency and variety. These have all very important nutritional effects on the horse and should be assessed when determining what the best feeding program and management is for your horse(s). In doubt, always consult with veterinarian and nutritionist as required.

However, assessing the nutritional needs both physical and psychologically, requires also observation and analysis of its environment. In the next edition, we will therefore continue with Domain 2 – Environment. So stayed tuned. ■

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## WBFSH ORGANISES INFORMATIVE WEBINARS FOR STUDBOOKS AND BREEDERS

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought many challenges and much hardship to our industry and to our breeders all over the world. Above all, we have missed seeing everyone at our events such as the World Breeding Championships and our General Assembly. However, it has also made us look at new and different ways of coming together, and to provide opportunities for all our members and breeders that are accessible, even if we cannot travel.

As a result, we have put a lot of energy into our online activities, including the creation of a new Webinar series where expert speakers from a wide range of fields related to the breeding industry are invited to provide insight into recent developments. The intention of our webinars is to lead breeding into the future by informing breeders and studbook representatives, and by providing opportunities for interesting discussions.

As these webinars are conceived as a valuable resource for all of you, our breeders, you are warmly invited to contact us about topics that particularly interest you, and we will do our best to cover them in months to come.

To make your suggestions for seminar topics, please email our General Manager Nadine Brandtner under [nadine.brandtner@wbfs.com](mailto:nadine.brandtner@wbfs.com).

### *Webinar: How to Bring Genomic Development to Horse Breeding*

One of our first webinars of this new initiative focused on how we can promote the best use of new technologies in DNA testing among our member studbooks.

In the future, new technologies and methods such as genomic selection based on SNP genotype data provide great opportunities. SNP tests provide much more detail than the old STR tests used for parentage verification and already form a key role in the elimination of heritable diseases.

While many studbooks still use microsatellite markers for parentage testing, we need to look at how we can unlock the potential of SNP testing by providing a transition from the old system to the new.

Different transition strategies exist and have allowed moving towards SNP-based parentage testing in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. The aim of this webinar was to share experiences from routine and advanced research with the practice and to learn from each other.

Led by Professor Kathrin Stock, the webinar introduced the EAAP, which is European Federation of Animal Science and explored how the organisation can support sport horse breeding. Professor Stock related that a key focus at the 2021 EAAP had been Genomic development and future opportunities.



*Professor Kathrin Stock*

## ■ WBFSH WEBINARS

**HOW TO BRING GENOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT TO HORSE  
BREEDING**

**STATUS QUO ANALYSIS**

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




An introduction to SAC

## Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee was established to foster and support information, sharing, collaboration, and cooperation among WBFSH member studbooks in the areas of linear profiling, breeding evaluations, and genomic selection. It provides direct access to scientific expertise, which is very beneficial to the organisation and its members.

We are delighted with the development of sophisticated efforts by many of our member studbooks, to identify the best possible genetics for the future of sport horse breeding.

To move these efforts to the next level of value to our breeders three areas have been identified where SAC can facilitate cooperation and support for WBFSH member studbooks:



The image contains three panels. The first panel, titled 'Linear Scoring', shows a side-view diagram of a horse with various body parts labeled with lines pointing to them. The second panel, titled 'Genomic Selection', features a glowing blue DNA double helix structure against a dark background. The third panel, titled 'International Breeding Values', displays a complex scatter plot with multiple data series and axes, representing genetic data analysis.

The discussion progressed to learning about the experiences from some of our members who had already started the move from STR based parentage testing to SNP tests. From Holland, we were joined by the KWPN Breeding Researcher Danielle Arts. Mirell Wobbe from vit in Germany provided an account of experiences there and Harmony Crichan from the IFCE in France brought her perspective. This section was rounded off by Sofia Mikko from the SLU in Sweden who introduced the point of view of the International Society for Animal Genetics

A very interesting discussion point was whether it would be possible for WBFSH member studbooks to come together to explore economies of scale for the order in SNP chips to reduce costs.

To watch a recording of the webinar and access the presentation slides go to <https://www.wbfs.com/sac> – scroll down and click on “Workshops and Webinars”.

### ***Webinar: Status Quo Analysis: Process of Registration within the Member Societies of the WBFSH***

In March 2021, as part of her master thesis at the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Carolin Kathmann distributed an online survey on foal registration processes among our member studbooks. The survey had been drafted in cooperation with the WBFSH and its Department of External Cooperation (NF GER), to assess the status quo of foal registration processes within the member societies of WBFSH. The master thesis has been completed and the results were presented to our member studbooks in a webinar held in January 2022.

The Webinar was moderated by Klaus Miesner (Department of External Cooperation / NF GER), and after the presentation of the results by Carolin Kathmann, studbook representatives had the opportunity for questions and discussions. Carolin Kathmann's informative and thought provoking presentation focused on the new challenges presented by the ground breaking developments in reproduction technologies in recent years, and their impact on existing frameworks for traceability.

Her survey highlighted that foal registration processes among WBFSH member studbooks are heterogenous and that much could be gained by creating more transparency and working together, particularly in the face of increased use of Embryo Transfers and ICSI techniques.

Carolin Kathmann's presentation video and slides can be accessed on the wbfs website: <https://www.wbfs.com/external-cooperation> – scroll down and click on “Workshops and Webinars”.

**We hope you enjoy watching these webinars, and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our future sessions very soon!**

PLEASE, ALWAYS CHECK UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION WITH STUDBOOKS OR EVENT ORGANIZERS  
AND ANY RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19/OMICRON – WHICH APPEAR TO BE  
CHANGING AND EVOLVING EACH MONTH

## MARCH

### 26/2-6/3 Marbach (GER)

Germany's oldest State Studfarm welcomes visitors to its Open Days: Daily tours at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. – no pre-registration required  
Tel: +49 (0)7385 9695 036  
nathalie.hiller@hul.bwl.de  
www.gestuet-marbach.de

### 4-6 Gesves (BEL)

SBS International Selection Show  
Tel: +32 (0)81 330 660  
sbs@sbsnet.be  
www.sbsnet.be

### 9 Cavan (IRL)

Young Sport Horse and Registered Irish Draught Sale: 2yo, broodmares, potential broodmares, RID stallions and older horses  
Tel: +353 (0)49 4332017  
info@cavanequestrian.com  
www.cavanequestrian.com

### 9-13 Herning (DEN)

Danish Warmblood Stallion Show  
Tel: +45 87 47 5400  
varmblod@varmblod.dk  
www.varmblod.dk

### 10-13 Den Bosch (NED)

The Dutch Masters – Indoor Brabant  
Tel: +31 (0)73 629 3911  
info@thedutchmasters.com  
www.thedutchmasters.com

### 17-19 SenTower Park (BEL)

BWP Stallion Selection – 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase  
Tel: +32 (0)16 47 99 80  
info@belgian-warmblood.com  
www.bwp.be

### 19 Elmshorn (GER)

36<sup>th</sup> Holsteiner Spring Auction  
Tel: (49)171 436 4651  
rmetz@holsteiner-verband.de  
www.holsteiner-verband.de

### 24 Wergea (NED)

IBOP Indoor  
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555  
info@kwpn.nl / www.kwpn.org

## APRIL

### 1 Schijndel (NED)

AES Stallion Grading  
Tel: +44 (0)1 29 38 71 701  
info@angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk  
jrosicka215@gmail.com (Polish)  
www.angloeuropeanstudbook.co.uk

### 1/2 Vechta (GER)

96<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Spring Elite Auction  
11<sup>th</sup> Saddle Licensing  
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.net  
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

### 23 Kronenberg (NED)

KFPS Studbook Inspection  
Tel: +31 (0)512 52 38 88  
mail@kfps.nl  
www.kfps.nl

### 23 Verden Online (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horses  
Tel: +49 (0)42 31/67 37 41  
wtreu@hannoveraner.com  
www.verdener-auktion-online.com

## MAY

### 7 Vechta (GER)

25<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Elite Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.net  
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

### 11 Harich (NED)

KFPS Studbook Inspection  
Tel: +31 (0)512 - 52 38 88  
mail@kfps.nl  
www.kfps.nl

## JUNE

### 4 Nunspeet (NED)

KFPS Studbook Inspection  
Tel: +31 (0)512 52 38 88  
mail@kfps.nl  
www.kfps.nl

### 11 Vechta (GER)

7<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Special Edition Auction  
26<sup>th</sup> Elite Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.net  
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

### 23-26 Rotterdam (NED)

CHIO Rotterdam  
Tel: +31 (0)10 452 8900  
info@chio.nl  
www.chio.nl

## JULY

### 16 Verden Online (GER)

Hanoverian Riding Horses  
Tel: +49 (0)42 31/67 37 41  
wtreu@hannoveraner.com  
www.verdener-auktion-online.com

## AUGUST

### 3-6 Ermelo (NED)

KWPN Championships  
Tel: +31 (0)341 255 555  
info@kwpn.nl  
www.kwpn.org

### 6 Vechta (GER)

27<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Elite Foal Auction  
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.net  
www.oldenburger-pferde.net

### 7 Vechta (GER)

30<sup>th</sup> Oldenburg Vechta Foal Market  
Tel: +49 (0)4441 93550  
info@oldenburger-pferde.net  
www.oldenburger-pferde.net