

Swedish news, April 2012

Dressage

New year, new competition season and by now it should be safe to assume that last year's competition results have all been reported. Which means time to summarize the most successful competition ponies of 2011. In dressage, Backens Lotus (by the Elite premium stallion Rolls Royce out of Princess Jasmin) was the Connemara to gain the highest number of competition points. With his 289 dressage points he ended up in place 18 of all the dressage ponies of all breeds. Lotus is now teaching the art of dressage to a new rider and together they have already won a couple of classes at the regional level and are presently the highest ranked Connemara in place 18.

The blood of Rory Ruadh through his two Swedish sons (and full brothers) Rolls Royce and Juno Rory, continues to be a safe recipe for dressage performance. Lotus's half brother Ragnarps Little Royce (out of Bolle Lusona) and Ally Mc Coist (by Juno Rory out of Brolötens Aloé) both finished 2011 among the top ten dressage Connemaras. Juno Rory's and Rolls Royce's maternal half brother Janus also had a son on the top ten last year with the dun Östrahults Benz (out of Östrahults Sonette) finishing in 7th place.

A successful dressage combination is that of Shirley's Thunderbell and Hagens Ellina who together have produced two dressage ponies both ending on the top ten Connemaras for 2011. Köhls Evelina finished in third place (64th among all breeds) and Köhls Fidolina



Figure 1: Östrahults Benz (by Janus out of Östrahults Sonette), 7th best dressage Connemara in 2011. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

took number five (89th among all breeds). Thunderbell's half brother Countach Campbell is the sire of the blue eyed cream Tic Tac who did so well last year and finished as the second most successful dressage Connemara of 2011 with a 63rd place among all breeds.

Among the rest of the top ten Connemaras Värnbergs Orion boasts a son in Ilion (out of Mykéne) in 6th place and a grandson in Okay Cosmos (by Cannon out of Iowa) in 8th place. The fourth ranking pony Lofty Roseanne (77th among all breeds) instead has a fully Irish pedigree being by Ashfield Cathal Crobdearg out of Rolo. Best among the partbreds 2011 was Poetic Poetry by the Elite stallion Poetic Justice, otherwise best known for his jumping offspring.

Turning to this year's results instead, we find a new name in Önnarps Kurant (by Aladdin out of Cillva II) who has been placed at national level during the early competitions of the year. It will be interesting to see how he will succeed during the rest of the year. Another interesting name is Molliere (by Juno Rory out of Brolötens Samba) who can be found among the top 100 after a win and a second place at the regional level. Molliere was last summer's Swedish Connemara Champion in dressage and it is nice to see him continue do well. Among the top 100 we also have the new name Hansas Daisy (by Lofty Roderic out of Hagens Naughty-Nora) and Köhls Fidolina, Lofty Roseanne and Tic Tac all presented above.



Figure 2: Mosquito R (by Calvin Klein out of Marion Jones S), third best Connemara in eventing. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

Eventing

The number of ponies gaining points in eventing were up slightly compared to last year. The pony gathering the most eventing points of all breeds was the Connemara partbred Casper (by Cannon), half brother of the dressage pony Okay Cosmos mentioned above. Among the purebreds the most successful pony was the approved stallion Nice-n'-Curly (by the Elite stallion Nice-n'-Easy out of Corinne II) who was placed 12 overall. Second to him was Kasper Kavat (out of Carnaby Kajsa Kavat) a half brother of Tic Tac who was placed 19 among all breeds. Third was Mosquito R (by Calvin Klein out of Marion Jones S) followed by Moon Struck (out of Moon Light) who is by the old Nordic eventing championship gold medal winner Uranus. The last Connemara to gain eventing points during 2011 was the Irish import Glendun Lad (by Moyans Little Monkey out of Murphy Blue).

Show Jumping

The Connemaras were doing well in show jumping in 2011. All top ten Connemaras were among the top 100 (and indeed almost the top 50) show jumping ponies of all breeds. The Elite stallion Poetic Justice, now in France, had two daughters among the ten: Irish bred Poetic Moonlight (out of Lehid Vida) finished as number four (19th of all breeds) and Swedish bred Poetic Annie (out of the Elite mare Myrens Anitra) was tenth among the Connemaras and 54th of all breeds. Another Swedish bred pony to make the top ten was Desdemona (by Brolötens Joop out of Ti-Ti-Oo) finishing 5th (24th of all breeds).

The Swiss import Little Finnigan de la Praz (by Leam Finnigan out of Little Witch) was the most successful Connemara in 2011 finishing 6th among ponies of all breeds after a strong season. A nose hair behind Little Finnigan was the French bred Ix de l'Aulne (by Dexter Leam Pondi out of Castille de l'Aulne) in 7th place among all breeds.

The remaining ponies on the top ten were all Irish bred. The little mare Sceilig Siofra (by Deise Sam Maguire out of Gentle Jessie) has long been a resident of the top end of the result lists of national competitions. This year she took a bronze at the Swedish championships and finished third on the Connemara pony ranking as well. Lexus Justice (by Westside Fred out of Dunamoney Lass) finished in 6th place (33rd among all breeds), ahead of the new name Dunbelievable (by Kylemore Rocky out of Primula Pearls Blazer, 39th among ponies of all breeds). Some Man for One Man (by Ashfield Bobby Sparrow out of Misty Maiden) had a good year participating in both the European and the Nordic championships and took a team gold at the latter event. In the 2011 ranking he was 8th among the Connemaras (41st among all breeds) ahead of Drumcong Finn (by Seafiel Fionn out of Westside Lady) in 9th place (46th of all breeds).

Looking at this year's ranking so far Brolötens Cloetta is leading the pack of Connemaras. Cloetta (out of Molly) has an interesting pedigree with the old dressage ace Juno Rory as her sire. Clearly she knows how to jump as well. Another interesting name is the French stallion Ice and Fire d'Albran (by Dexter Leam Pondi out of Underline of Laps) in place 18 who has already won at both regional and national level this year. The mare Brittney (out of the Elite mare Hagens Grandezza), a half sister to the dressage pony Lofty Roseanne mentioned above, has also had a promising start and is presently in place



Figure 3: Brittney (by Ashfield Cathal Crobdearg out of Hagens Grandezza), presently in place 76 of the show jumping ponies. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

76. Her daughter Holmtebo Bridie (by Hagens D'Arcy) earned a jumping award at her three-year-old-test in 2009 and proved that Brittney indeed also pass on her jumping genes.

Poetic Justice as always has several offspring among the top 100. In addition to last year's number ten Poetic Annie, Highlander (out of Grytåsa Kryddan) and the partbred Little Wonder are also among the top 100 so far. Another sire to have more than one offspring among the 100 first is Westside Fred. Lexus Justice is presently in number 9 and the partbred Wutang is found a bit further down in place 45. Three names from last year's top ten Connemaras are also among the first 100 Sceilig Siofra, Ix de l'Aulne and Drumcong Finn, while the partbred Hip Hop (by Pommac) has had a great start and is fifth so far.

Stallion Inspections

After a warm and sunny March, winter returned in time for the stallion inspections and sleet was falling all through the day. Thank goodness for indoor schools. Four three-year-olds, three four-year-olds and two older stallions came forward at the inspections, but disappointingly none of the boys was considered to be of sufficient quality to be passed as a stallion. Irish born Castle Verdi (by Janus out of Orphée Schueracher) and French born Vox Pop de l'Aulne (by Glenree de l'Aulne out of Ies de l'Aulne) had conformation scores closes to the approval threshold and hopefully they or one of the others can come back



Figure 4: Idefix du Villon (by Quignon du Parc out of Hilda des Ludes), new Connemara stallion in Sweden. *Photo: Anders Gustafson*

next year and show a stronger conformation after maturing a little. In the loose jumping Count on Courageous (by Coosheen Finbarr out of Count on Chiquita) shone with the highest points for the day for both technique and temperament but did not fit the bill with his conformation.

The older, already approved, stallions were reviewed with respect to their offspring. Hagens D'Arcy (by Hagens O'Chief out of Hagens Morning) could be given an A premium for his offspring's good conformation. The late Janus (by Øxenholm Marble Jr out of Brantshammar Julie) was given a posthumous Elite premium only awarded to stallions with progeny of exceptional quality. Janus is now the second generation Elite premium stallion as his sire also is one.

The 16-year-old French bred Idefix du Villon (by Quignon du Parc) has been in Sweden for a couple of years now. His dam Hilda des Ludes is the mother of 19 foals, five of which has taken part in the European Championships. Before coming here Idefix had a successful show jumping career in France and participated in the European Championships in 2005. He has continued to do well show jumping here ranking number 6 among ponies of all breeds and 2nd among the Connemaras in 2010. Due to his busy competition schedule he was unable to be present at the stallion inspections but was given a dispensation to be inspected in a separate inspection. Happily, Idefix fulfilled all the necessary quality requirements and could be passed as a stallion giving us one new stallion this year.

/Jenny Hagenblad