

Swedish news, August 2012

Dressage

Well into the second half of the year six Connemaras are on the top 100 of the dressage ranking. The Connemara with the most dressage points is presently the lovely Blue Eyed Cream Tic Tac (by Countach Campbell out of Köhls Rapsodi) who is in an overall fourth place. Tic Tac has had a successful season with several wins at the national level and was one of two Connemaras to participate in this year's Swedish dressage championships where he was placed seventh in one of the qualifiers and won the consolation class. The second pony to compete in the Swedish dressage championships was Backens Lotus (by Rolls Royce out of Princess Jasmin) who is presently ranked number 21.

The Lofty stud is doing well so far on the dressage top 100. A pony bred at the Lofty stud by Irish parents, Lofty Roseanne (by Ashfield Cathal Crobdhearg out of Rolo), is presently in joint 85th place together with Hansas Daisy (out of Hagens Naughty-Nora) by the stud's former homebred stallion Lofty Roderic. Also among the top 100 dressage ponies Köhls Evelina (by Shirley's Thunderbell out of Hagens Ellina) continues to do well, at present in place 69 while Okay Cosmos (by Cannon out of Iowa) made place 99. The one partbred Connemara to make the top 100 this far through the competition year is Celica by Kamik Breeze, who himself, like Hansas Daisy's sire Lofty Roderic, himself had a career as a show jumper.

During the last weekend of July the riding club Ekenryttarna arranged Connemara competitions where Swedish dressage champions in dressage and show jumping were crowned. Among the ponies 130 - 140 cm Hagens Bella (by Hagens O'Chief out of Hagens Xquisite) was in a class of her own winning at more than 76 %. The above mentioned Lofty Roseanne



Figure 1: Lofty Roseanne (by Ashfield Cathal Crobdhearg out of Rolo), Swedish Connemara dressage champion 2012. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

claimed the Champion title among the the ponies 140 - 148 cm high, while Bella's two years younger half brother Hagens Dumle (out of Hagens Zeline) won the Champion title in the class for overheight ponies and riders over 18 years old.

Eventing

After a couple of slow years pony eventing is gathering momentum again. So far this year there are three pure and two part bred connemara who have won eventing points. Leading the eventing ranking so far is the part bred Casper, a half bred half brother of the dressage pony Okay Cosmos out of a Swedish warmblood mare, who has been a reliable successful eventing pony for a number of years with several different riders. The second part bred Connemara to win eventing points is Mareld (out of Milldred).

Highest ranking of the pure breeds is another reliable eventer, the Class 1 stallion Nice-n'-Curly (by Nice-n'-Easy out of Corinne II) who continues to do well for the Cedermark siblings. The remaining two ponies with eventing points this years are two imports, the Irish born Glendun Lad (e Moyans Little Monkey u Murphy Blue) and Danish born Enghöjs Mac Neal (by Frederiksminde Hazy Marvel out of Enghöjs Queenie)

Show Jumping

Among the 100 ponies with the most show jumping points there are no less than thirteen purebred Connemaras and six part breeds meaning that almost 20 % of the ponies have a known Connemara ancestry. Add to that a number of ponies imported from Ireland with unknown pedigree but often with a Connemara look.



Figure 2: Nice-n'-Curly (by Nice-n'-Easy out of Corinne II), Class 1 stallion and highest ranking eventing Connemara. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*



Figure 3: Lexus Justice (by Westside Fred out of Dunamoney Lass), presently ranked 26 of the show jumping ponies. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

Of the purebred ponies six are Swedish bred, all by different sires. The Holmtebo stud has had a successful season so far with their home bred mare Holmtebo Our Winnie (by Hagens Zephyr out of Hagens Ultra), youngstock champion at the 2004 breed show, being placed 69 and another mare in their ownership Brittney (by Ashfield Cathal Crobdhearg out of Hagens Grandezza), just behind Winnie in place 75.

At twenty years of age Phalcon (by Öxenhalm Marble Jr out of Gräns Lady Stella) is still going strong in 22nd place. This year he has several wins and placings at the national level and has also competed in Norway where he was fourth among 27 ponies over fences up to 110 cm. Brolötens Cloetta (by Juno Rory out of Molly) combines the genes of her dressage sire, a son of Rory Ruadh, and her maternal grandsire, the show jumper producer Ballydonagh Cassanova, in a very successful package with wins and placings up to national level, including a seventh place at the Swedish show jumping championships.

The last two Swedish bred purebred Connemara on the top 100 are the two half sisters Poetic Annie (out of Myrens Anitra), fourth at this year's Swedish show jumping championships and participating in the Nordic Championships, and Poetics Flower out of Coosheen Plover) ranking in place 19 and place 54 respectively. Being by Poetic Justice then are joined by three part bred half siblings, Little Wonder in place 26 who took a silver at this year's show jumping championships, Hilma in place 47 and Poetic Star in place 77. Another two part bred to make the top 100 are Hip Hop (by Pommac) and Coronilla II (by Frederiksminde Hazy Chance) in place 45 and 62 respectively.

The French bred Connemaras continue to do well in the Swedish show jumping circuit and there are presently four French bred ponies on the top 100. Ix de l'Aulne (by Dexter Leam Pondi out of Castille de l'Aulne) is in runner up position among ponies of all breeds and took his fifth Swedish rider to the European championships this year. Together they also took the bronze at the Swedish show jumping championships. Ix's half brother Ice

and Fire d'Albran (out of Underline of Laps) is another pony doing well and presently ranking 42. Lover de Vauper (by Thunder du Blin out of Daphné de la Dive) in place 96 and Idefix du Villon (by Quignon du Parc out of Hilda des Ludes) in place 37 are the remaining two French bred ponies in the top 100. Idefix was approved as a Class 1 stallion earlier this year and the interest he has received from the mare owners did not stop him from being selected to compete at the Nordic Championships.

The remaining four Connemaras on the top 100 are all Irish born. Sceilig Siofra (by Deise Sam Maguire out of Gentle Jessie) in place 90 is a household name among the top national ponies in the 130 - 140 category. Tullamore Dew (by Monaghanstown Fred out of Heather Beauty) has competed in Sweden for several years, but in the past two years he has really begun to blossom and has competed both on a national level and internationally in Norway. Another pony to compete internationally is Lexus Justice (out of Dunamoney Lass) in place 26. He travelled all the way to France where he was third over fences up to 120 cm. His part bred half brother Wutang is presently the better of the two Westside Fred brothers and ranks 13 with a successful season so far including being one of the ponies taking a team bronze at the Nordic Championships.

On a slightly lower level, Connemaras competed for the title Swedish Connemara champion in show jumping at Ekenryttarna the last weekend of July. Hagens Earl (by Hagens Ryan out of Hagens Amy) was the only pony to make two clear rounds on the tricky course and subsequently took the championship among the ponies measuring 140 - 148 cm. Swedish Connemara champion among the ponies height 130 - 140 cm was Lofty Rose of Tralee (by Coosheen Finbarr out of Lofty Rowallane Rose) who was placed third overall in the class which included ponies of both height categories.



Figure 4: Hagens Earl (by Hagens Ryan out of Hagens Amy), Swedish Connemara show jumping champion 2012. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*



Figure 5: Lindens Fay (by Rooar out of Hagens Jubilé), winner of the meeting prize for best overall pony at the Swedish National show 2012. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

Swedish National show

At the same time as the Swedish Connemara championships in dressage and show jumping the Swedish Connemara society arranged its national show and many ponies took the opportunity to compete in the different classes offered, sometimes with teams of mother and daughter riding and showing together.

In the in hand classes Starrhults Bingo (by Holens Ingolf out of Hagens Smile) took the gelding championship to Harvey Wallbanger (by Coosheen Finbarr out of Hold Bubble Bell). Bingo's half sister, Starrhult Fly High (by Starrhult Bossanova) was named reserve youngstock champion with Bjennesby Cher (out of Coriona) by the Finnish stallion Rockfield Scarface as the youngstock champion. Lofty Deirdre (out of Beezies Bounty) by the French jumper Dexter Leam Pondi, and hence a half sister to the show jumpers Ix and Ice and Fire mentioned above, won the class for mares 4 – 7 years old and was subsequently reserve Best in Show with Trojas Molly Malone (by Janus out of Ciao Bellissima), the winner of mares 8 - 12 years old, being Best in Show. The Janus daughters had a great day in the in hand classes also being second in the class for mares 8 - 12 and winning the mares 13 years and older, winning a gold in the progeny class and with China Girl (out of Chera-Li) winning the Colour Cup for the best pony neither grey nor dun.

In the ridden section Starrhults Bossanova (by Spinway Corona out of Hagens Paloma) won the Open Ridden class and Lindens Fay (by Rooar out of Hagens Jubilé) won the Open Working Hunter Pony. Lindens Fay also claimed the meeting prize for the best overall results in ridden class, working hunter pony, dressage, show jumping and in hand, and she took the dressage award for best combined dressage and ridden class results. The corresponding prize for show jumping and Working Hunter Pony went to the Irish born Ballinasloe Ambassador (by Robin Hood out of Valley Girl)

Young pony activities

Three-year-old tests and quality tests for four-year-olds have been held in a couple of places around the country. So far two Holmtebo ponies have been given a gaits award at three-year-old tests. Holmtebo Walzing Mathilda (by Hagens D'Arcy out of Holmtebo Wait for Me) and Holmtebo Noula (by Starrhult Bossanova out of Holmtebo Nimble) are both second generation home bred ponies. During the autumn there will be more opportunities for young ponies to show their qualities and, together with young ponies of five and six years of age, qualify to the big young pony finals later this autumn.

/Jenny Hagenblad