

Swedish news, October 2014

Dressage

Swedish, Dutch and German bred riding ponies are taking most of the dressage honours in Sweden at the moment, but at least two descendants of Juno Rory are holding their own. Juno himself was one of the most successful Connemara ponies in dressage in Sweden in the 1990ies and his descendants have inherited his dressage genes. Juno Rorys son, the stallion Golden Garlic (out of Ambrosia) has done well this year with placings up to a national level. Golden Garlic's partbred niece Fix Victoria (out of Fix Julie by Juno Rory) has also been successful and placed at national competitions.

The Swedish Connemara Championships were held in conjunction with the national show. The interest in participating was big with the number of available starts filling up in record time. Fortunately more room could be made for additional participants to join. Two approved stallions participated with Erinmore Golden Marble (by Öxenholm Marble Jr out of Glaskopf Grey Joanna) taking a third among horses and ponies ridden by adult riders. The second stallion, Hagens D'Arcy (by Hagens O'Chief out of Hagens Morning), did one better and won the gold among the ponies 130 - 140 cm. Among the larger ponies, 140 - 148 cm, Ragnarps Royce Rapid (by Rolls Royce out of Moonleight) was the winner and the young promising Holmtebo Noula (by Starrhult Bossanova out of Holmtebo Nimble) to the gold among the overheights and ponies ridden by riders over 18.



Figure 1: Ragnarps Royce Rapid (by Rolls Royce out of Moonleight), Swedish Connemara Champion in dressage 2014. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*



Figure 2: Finding Nemo (by Boden Park Finnard out of Ballygarris Pretty Cailín), winning and being placed at regional eventing competitions 2014. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

Eventing

Connemara ponies have done well eventing this year. The most competition points so far this season has been gained by Essenar Zara (by Templebready Fear Bui), and imported pony who was grade A show jumper in Ireland. She won the Swedish eventing championships and was part of the gold-winning Swedish team at the Nordic - Baltic Championships. Another partbred doing well at the Championships is Casper (by Cannon) who was second at the Swedish Championships and took an individual seventh place at the Nordic - Baltic Championships.

Among the purebreds two offspring of Castleside JJ, Swedish-born Lofty Fionnuala (out of Lofty Fiona) and Irish-born Cashelbay Benny (out of Gowla Julia) have both been placed at regional competitions. Other Connemaras who have taken eventing points are the Irish-born Finding Nemo (by Boden Park Finnard out of Ballygarris Pretty Cailín) and Swedish-born Mosquito R. The latter was part of the team winning a gold at the Swedish team eventing championships.

The most successfully eventing Connemara this year must, however, be the Irish Creemully Melody (by I Love You Mélody out of Creemully Heather). With his Swedish rider he had a successful season eventing in Ireland which he concluded with an individual 17th place at the European eventing Championships. Back in Sweden he was part of the gold-winning team at the Nordic - Baltic Championships and narrowly missed being placed individually at both the Nordic - Baltic and the Swedish eventing Championships.



Figure 3: Lindens Myrna (by Frederiksminde Hazy Chance out of Ashfield Fancy), currently ranking number 50 in the show jumping ranking. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

Show Jumping

Connemara genes are a frequent feature among the show jumping ponies that have been most successful so far this year. The offspring of Poetic Justice continue to jump well and the stallion Poetic Kelly (out of Lofty Dusty Rambler RC 882) is presently the highest ranking purebred in place 11. Purebred Poetic Annie (out of Myrens Anitra), who was fifth at the Swedish show jumping championships, 3/4-bred Poetic's Blond Pearl (maternal grandsire Pommac) and partbred Brad Pitt (out of Poetics Bride) are other descendants of Poetic Justice among the current list of 100 most successful show jumpers.

It is nice to note that also other Swedish pure and partbred Connemaras are jumping well. Among the current 100 ponies with most show jumping points we find names such as Brolötens Cloetta (out of Molly), showing that Juno Rory's offspring can jump as well as do dressage, Idylle (by Kamik Breeze out of recent Elite premium mare Gina 2nd) as well as two daughters of Frederiksminde Hazy Chance: Lindens Myrna (out of Ashfield Fancy) and Coronilla II (out of Cameroon Belle). Among the Swedish born partbreds we find Winnie (maternal grandsire Kulan Kavát), Amoro (by Kamillo av Haga) and Ekhhagens Adorable (by Öxenholm Mango).

But it is perhaps the Irish born purebreds that dominate the top 100 list. Coolkill Seamus (by Dunlewey Seamus out of Coolkill Jess) is currently the highest ranking of the Irish bred Connemaras in 17th place. He is joined by Birchgrove Diamond (by Kilmore Diamond out of Daisy Hollow), Whos Aero (by Moy Hazy Cove out of Liathgan Ros), Champion

Cloud (by Champion Bob out of Daisy Belle and Donnacha Ban (by Glann's Owen out of Glann Tulip), who took a silver at the Swedish show jumping championships, as well as the partbreds Essenar Dundat (by Ashfield Storm Cloud) and halfbrothers Carnhill Clover Lass and Aughadown Ace by Woodfield Sammy.

French-born Ix de l'Aulne (by Dexter Leam Pondi out of Castille de l'Aulne) has continued to jump well this season but after representing Sweden at the European championships 2005 - 2008 and 2011 - 2013 he was not chosen to go to Ireland. That honor instead went to Some Man for One Man (by Ashfield Bobby Sparrow out of Misty Maiden) who at the age of 20 returned to his native soil to participate in his fifth European Championships.

At the national show show jumping competitions were held and three Swedish Connemara show jumping champions were chosen. Among ponies 130 - 140 cm, the winner was Biza's Butterfly (by Dale Haze out of Hagens Ibiza) took the title after double clear rounds. Among the bigger ponies, 140 - 148 cm, Holmtebo Crested Ten (by Hagens D'Arcy out of Hagens Ultra) was the only one to make a clear round and subsequently took the championship gold. Kulan Kavát (by Countach Campbell out of Carnaby Kajsa Kavát) was the only approved stallion participating in the show jumping, but he did himself credit. He had an unfortunate pole down, but it was enough to secure him the victory.

Young ponies

Young ponies of all breeds have battled it out for the honours at the young pony finals. Among the three-year-olds Holmtebo Irvin (by Hagens D'Arcy out of Hagens Ixora) who won the gaits final was the most successful of the four participating Connemaras. Four four-year-olds participated in the finals. Neither of them were placed but Big's Cha Cha Cha (by Clifden de l'Aulne out of Lofty Abigail) did herself proud and was just 0.2 points shy of a third place.

The young pony championships that have been a yearly event for Swedish purebred ponies aged five to six took a break this year, but an alternative form of competition was available courtesy of the Swedish Equestrian Federation. This event was open to both Swedish and foreign bred ponies and both pure and partbreds, but only to riders 18 years of age or younger. With a shorter qualification time than normal, just qualifying to the finals must be seen as an achievement. Five-year-old Holmtebo Noula, the Swedish Connemara champion in dressage was the only Connemara to qualify to the dressage finals but could not gain a placing. Among the show jumpers there was plenty to make the Connemara fan happy. Among the five-year-olds Annestorp Bag Lady (by Coosheen Finbarr out of Önnarps Lucky Lady) took a second place. Irish born Dolan Tina Lass (by Dolan Mick out of Katie Dolan Lass) won her class among the six-year-olds while Bjennesby Adele, full sister of the above mentioned stallion Poetic Kelly was third in her six-year-old class. It is worth pointing out that another full sister of Kelly and Adele, Poetic Vanilla Ice, was fifth though unplaced behind Dolan Tina Lass.



Figure 4: Dolan Tina Lass (by Dolan Mick out of Katie Dolan Lass, winner of the show jumping championships for six-year-old ponies, 130 - 140 cm. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

National show

The 2014 national show was held over three hot days towards the end of July. During Friday the ponies were put through their paces under saddle in a number of well-supported classes. The Open Ridden class was won by the above mentioned Holmtebo Noula while her runner up, Gräns Tiger (by Grange Flynn Sparrow out of Gräns Tussilago), won the Open Working Hunter Pony class.

Saturday saw in-hand classes for geldings and mares not yet classified as Class 1. Half brothers Holmtebo Paddy (by Hagens Ryan) and Holmtebo Crested Ten (by Hagens D'Arcy), both out of the Elite mare Hagens Ultra, were named champion and reserve champion gelding respectively. On Sunday high quality youngstock set the scene in the in-hand arena. Yearling filly Oxira (by Hagens D'Arcy out of Hagens Ulira) wowed the judges, leaving little extra to be desired, and took the youngstock champion title. Her one year older half sister Holmtebo Angel (out of Hagens Ayla) with a good type and good movements took the reserve title. The pair later helped their sire Hagens D'Arcy (by Hagens O'Chief out of Hagens Morning) win the progeny class with his gold awarded group.

Among the adult ponies no less than six stallions were shown, five of whom were gold awarded. Irish born Bunowen Paddy (by Silver Shadow out of Irishtown Beauty) won among the younger stallions while the show jumping champion Kulan Kavat took the first price among the older stallions. Brolötens Irish Made (by Abbeyleix Fionn out of Molly)



Figure 5: Holmtebo Noula (by Starrhult Bossanova out of Holmtebo Nimble), reserve supreme champion at the National show, winner of the Open Ridden class and Swedish Connemara champion in dressage. *Photo: Jenny Hagenblad*

belied her 22 years of age and won the best veteran title. Holmtebo Noula had a great weekend and showed as much quality in hand as she did under saddle and won the reserve supreme champion title. She could not quite match Winnie the Queen (by Janus out of Lindens Bonny) though, who scored a maximum 10 points for type and won the supreme championship.

/Jenny Hagenblad