



THE WBFISH INTERNATIONAL YOUNG BREEDERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Bollerup, Sweden, 12th and 13th July

PRESS RELEASE: DRAFT

Last week, on the 12th and 13th of July, nearly 200 young breeders between the ages of 17 and 25 invaded southern Sweden and Bollerup to take part in the WBFISH International Young Breeders Championships. These championships are held every two years and are contested on a studbook team basis. This year no less than 24 studbooks representing 13 countries sent their teams to compete for the highly desired trophies, making this year's championships the biggest ever!

Many of the teams arrived on Thursday 11th July in good time to start competing the day after so the first evening was spent getting to know each other and looking at some of Bollerup foals together. On the Friday morning the competition started with theory exams both for the junior and the senior competitors, followed by the grooming competition for juniors. Judging the grooming competition were Georgia Schulze-Lefert (GER) and Jane Bach-Jensen (DEN) who inspected all the horses very closely before choosing a top three.

After a short break for lunch Sweden really showed itself at its best, providing beautiful weather for the entire championships, and soon it was time for the loose jumping and paces assessment section. Split into two groups, junior and seniors, all the competitors took their seats in the largest of Bollerups indoor arenas where the Judges Lars Berglund (SWE) and Hanna Bott (GER) explained the marking system and how they would be judging using two pre-horses. The competitors were then shown five horses to judge for the competition with marks being taken away from a total of 100 for each time their scores differed from those of the judges.

At the end of the first day's competitions the time had come to break the ice between the teams and have some fun! First the young breeders took part in a typical Swedish "tipspromenad" which involves walking around answering questions, this time questions were about Sweden and the teams all had to team up with another team from another country to make new contacts and cooperate across borders. When all the questions had been answered the time had come for the traditional mascot competition where every studbook/country has to present itself by giving a short display. This a fun time for all the teams and a little light relief in an otherwise very serious competition!

Saturday morning started early for the seniors who had their grooming competition first thing in the morning, again judged by Georgia Schulze-Lefert and Jane Bach-Jensen. At 10.00 am everyone once again collected in the big grass arena to judge conformation. The competitors were divided into two groups, juniors and seniors, and they began by listening to

the judges explaining how they would assess and score a guinea pig horse before they themselves had to judge three horses for the competition. Judging the conformation for the juniors were Christina Olsson (SWE) and Hanna Bott (GER) and for the seniors Jan-Ove Olsson (SWE) and Norman Storey (IRL).

Finally, just before lunch the most prestigious section of the competition, the presentation of a horse in hand, commenced. In this phase, every competitor is given only 15min to familiarise him or herself with a horse, which they then have to present it in a very specific way, designed to show off its best points, in front of the judges. Judging the horse in hand were for the juniors Jane Bach-Jensen (DEN) and Norman Storey (IRL) and for the seniors Jan-Ove Olsson (SWE) and Georgia Schulze-Lefert (GER).

During both Friday and Saturday all the competitors performed very well and the more experienced of the judges were delighted to see that the quality of the performance was considerably higher than it had been in Lyon two years ago!

The Saturday night festive dinner and prize giving ceremony was held at the old castle at Bollerup, creating a very pleasing atmosphere. The chairman of the Swedish Warmblood Association, Lars Pelin, handed out over 100 trophies to the very happy winners, some of whom even had tears of happiness in their eyes.

Sunday 14th July was the time for a visit to Sweden's largest outdoor horse show and all the teams took the opportunity to visit it. At Falsterbo the Swedish organisers had planned an extra surprise, in which all the teams got to march into the main arena and the two overall winning teams (junior and senior results combined) from the Holsteiner Verband and the Irish Sports Horse studbooks got to stand in front to receive the applause from the crowd!

Monday 15th was spent at Tullstorp Dressage Stable where Jan Brink, former Olympic rider, gave those able to stay the extra day a tour of his place explaining his philosophy and also letting us see some of the approved stallions he is hosting at the moment! After lunch it was time for a visit at Flyinge, the former state stud of Sweden, where both a tour around the building as well as a short presentation about the Swedish Warmblood Association, had been arranged by Managing Director Phd. Karl-Henrik Heimdahl. The visitors also got to see some horses from the Swedish breeders, Västra Hoby Stuteri, including a foal by Floricello, plus the two approved stallions Dalwhinnie and Armani Code, who is owned by Paul Schockemöhle but working in Sweden at the moment.

After four intense but very enjoyable days together it was then time to say goodbye to everyone with the hope that all the teams and judges meet up again all in two years at Writtle College, near Chelmsford in Great Britain! From a Swedish point of view the organisers are very happy that the event turned out just the way they had wished for and they were delighted with the many compliments they received from the visiting studbooks! They were also naturally very happy to conclude that as far as results and overall rankings were concerned it was the most successful championship ever for Sweden, the home team taking no less than five trophies! (Only Ireland went home with more!) The results can be found in the attached file.

Further information about the International Young Breeder Championships can be found on its web site www.young-breeders.com. The complete resultlist from the competition can also be found on the Swedish organisers website www.ungasvh.se. Pictures can be downloaded from www.dropbox.com using the username: world-championships@hotmail.com and the password: Bollerup2013.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:¶