

WSI

APPROVAL

Approved under EU and Irish law as the only Irish studbook dedicated exclusively to breeding international showjumpers

BOARD MEMBERS

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WSI MEMBERS IN

Ireland
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STALLIONS

A-Rod m2s (WSI)
Abdullah (TRAK)
Ai Qing m2s (WSI)
Ai Weiwei m2s (WSI)
Asian Tiger m2s (WSI)
Ballistic m2s (ISH)
Boy Toy m2s (ISH)
Cabrio van de Heffinck (HOLS)
Camillo VDL (KWPN)
Casall (HOLS)
Cassito (HOLS)
Cefalo (HOLS)
Chien-Ming Wang m2s (AES)
Chipolini VM Z (Z)
Classe VDL (HOLS)
Clinton I (HOLS)
Condios (HOLS)
Consall B (HOLS)
Contendro I (HOLS)
Cornet Obolensky (BWP)
Desir du Chateau (SF)
Delano W (KWPN)
Dondoctro Ryal K (KWPN)
Dream Boy M (KWPN)
Drumm-M (KWPN)
Farfelu de Muze (BWP)
Hector van d'Abdijhoeve (BWP)
Hitchcock van Overis (BWP)
Inshallah de Muze (BWP)
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Richebourg (BWP)
Triomphe Kervec (SF)
Ulysses m2s (KWPN)
Wang Chung m2s (KWPN)

WSI SUPPORTS SOUTH AFRICA

WSI contributes 100% of our profits to the Mitzvah School. Since 1986, at the height of the apartheid-era State of Emergency, the Mitzvah School has enabled hundreds of poor students from Alexandra Township to pass their matric exam and enter university and/or pursue good careers. Please visit and support www.mitzvahschool.org.za

Warmblood Studbook of Ireland

International Showjumpers with an Irish Accent

IRISH SHOWJUMPING BREEDING: DECLINE OR RENEWAL?

The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland (WSI) is a small, highly selective studbook that is designed to stay that way. We estimate that fewer than five per cent of the population of sport horse broodmares in Ireland meet our criteria for eligibility for inspection. Are WSI's criteria unreasonably strict? We think not. To be eligible to be inspected for approval, a mare must have at least five generations recorded in her pedigree. She must have no missing ancestors or unapproved stallions in those five generations. And the mare must descend from a damline that has produced international showjumpers.

Simple criteria. But very few mares in Ireland fulfil them. And because of this WSI is small and will remain small for many years.

And what about the dominant Irish studbook, the Irish Sport Horse (ISH) Studbook? A dozen years ago I began writing articles analysing the ISH Studbook and its population, and I repeatedly warned that a crisis was in the making. Unfortunately my prediction has come true, and the custodians of the ISH Studbook – the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, which owns the studbook, and Horse Sport Ireland (HSI), the national governing body for equestrian sport that manages the studbook and its breeding policy on behalf of the Department of Agriculture – have not been able to envision and implement a strategy to reverse the downward spiral.

Am I exaggerating the plight of the ISH Studbook? You decide for yourself. Here are some relevant facts from the recently published FEI WBFSH Word Ranking List of Jumping Studbooks:

Rank of ISH Studbook: 12th

Number of ISH showjumpers in world's top 10: 0

Number ranked 11 - 50: 0

Number ranked 51 - 75: 0

Number ranked 76 - 100: 1

Number ranked 101 - 125: 0

Number ranked 126 - 150: 0

Number ranked 151 - 175: 0

Number ranked 176 - 200: 1

Number ranked 201 - 300: 2

In comparison, the KWPN has four of the world's top 10 showjumpers, and a total of 16 in the top 50. And while the ISH Studbook and the KWPN produce roughly the same number of jumping foals each year, the top 6 ISH showjumpers earned only one-third the number of ranking points that the top 6 KWPN showjumpers earned. Clearly there is a problem in Irish breeding.

What is the solution? How can the dominant Irish showjumping studbook be turned around?

The solutions are very easy to identify but very difficult to implement. Ireland needs top-down strategic change within HSI and bottom-up cultural change among its breeders. It took several decades to destroy Ireland's genetic endowment of showjumping talent and it will take at least as long to reverse the trend and become once again a credible producer of showjumping horses.

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