



# SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

*Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia*

## JULY 2009

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Ingleside Symphony – Best Shire Exhibit, 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show  
owned by Korrie, Helen & Ineke Kuiper and Byron Biffin*

**PATRON:**

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

**[www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au)**

# SHSA NEWS

## ***New frozen semen for sale – Grey Shire***

SHSA member Adele Hill has frozen semen arriving from the UK in time for this breeding season.

### **Goose Green John Wesley**

Grey Shire, born 2003, Premium, 18.2hh

#### **Cost:**

\$1200 (inc GST) per breeding dose or \$5500 (inc GST) for 5 doses

Contact Adele on 0427613973 or [ahi45862@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ahi45862@bigpond.net.au)



*Goose Green John Wesley*

## ***SHSA Stud Book – free registration period ending***

The free registration period for our Stud Book will be closing on January 1<sup>st</sup>, so if you are yet to dual register your horses make sure you get in before this date. All you need to do is to photocopy your UK rego and post it to our Registrar:

Deb Buckland  
132 Stewarts Rd  
Winkleigh Tas 7275

If you have any queries you can phone Deb on 03 6396 3213. The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book is now recognised at all the Royal Shows in Australia that hold Shire Classes – Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne.

## ***Queensland Royal SHSA display***

As you may remember, Debbie Ormond and Michelle Milnes are running a Shire Horse Breed Display at The Ekka (Brisbane Royal Show) in August.

As part of the display, they would like to make a booklet for interested public to flick through to get information about Shire studs and owners.

To help them with this, we want members to send Debbie an A4 page ad (colour or black and white) at [debnsport@yahoo.com.au](mailto:debnsport@yahoo.com.au).

These pages could include horses for sale, stallions at stud or just some general breed information and photos. It is great free promotion, and you can include whatever you like as long as it is to do with Shires.

Debbie and Michelle are also compiling a list of contacts for people interested in Shires to take home. If you are willing to have your contact details on this list, please give approval for this when you email Debbie.

Debbie needs to receive your information by Monday July 27 to ensure enough time to put the booklet together. Please support them by getting yours in on time!

## ***Newsletter items***

We are always looking for newsletter stories and photos, so if you have anything you would like to share, please send it to Ineke (see committee contacts).

## ***In this issue.....***

SHSA News.....	2-3
Sydney Royal Easter Show results.....	4
Bedfords draw a crowd.....	6-7
Committee contacts.....	8
Breeding in foal heat.....	9-10
Service providers and sponsors.....	11

# **SHSA *NEWS* continued....**

## ***New SHS UK Registration rules***

The Shire Horse Society Stud Book in England has had to change their rules due to new European Union (EU) requirements.

They lobbied to have horses residing outside the EU excluded from the new rules, but failed.

These rules state that all horses registered in the English Stud Book must be sketched by a vet and microchipped. This includes Notified Colts and Non-Breeding horses that until now have been exempt.

As the rule changes are only as a result of the EU, we will not be changing the Australian Shire Horse Stud Book rules.

As a result, the differences between the English Register and The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book are as follows:

### **England**

- Non-Breeding Registry Horses must be sketched by a vet and microchipped.
- Colt Foals must be sketched by a vet and microchipped for provisional registration

### **Australia**

- Non-Breeding Registry Horses can be sketched by the owner and microchipping is not compulsory.
- Colt foal sketching may be done by the owner until Stallion approval at 2 years old and microchipping is not necessary until 2 years old.

This is going to result in considerable savings to owners registering Non-Breeding Horses and Colt Foals in the Australian Shire Horse Stud Book through reduced vet costs.

## ***New Australian Shire Sport-Horse Registry***

After receiving some requests from our members, the SHSA has decided to start a Shire Sport-Horse Registry. Crosses between Shires and a light horse breed will be eligible for registration. Rules and a new certificate are in development.

## ***St Heliers Heavy Horse Field Days, Swap Meet and Auction 8 & 9 August, Muswellbrook***

Comprehensive show program open to all heavy horse breeds and part bred including led, driving, ploughing, heritage and novelty classes.

The sale is open for everything horse related (horses, harness, saddles, equipment, clothing, vehicles etc).

*Call Diane for more information or a program – 02 4571 1743*

## ***Don't forget...***

### ***SHSA Seminar – 9 & 10 Jan 2010***

This is always a great weekend, and we are working on what we hope to be our best program yet, so make sure you can keep the weekend free so you can come!

## ***ANOTHER proposed horse levy***

The Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) are seeking support for another levy - this time to fund research and lobbying. The position of the SHSA is that we do not support the idea of a levy. If you would like to complete the survey, visit [www.horsecouncil.org.au](http://www.horsecouncil.org.au).

# Shire Results - 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show

## Shire Filly, 2yrs & Under.

- 1 Ingleside Elsa  
*K H & I Kuiper*
- 2 Southern Cross Diamond Princess  
*Mr Peter & Marylou McKeon*
- 3 Ingleside Anastasia  
*K H & I Kuiper*
- 4 Cedars Magnolia  
*Mrs Helene Scarf*

## Shire Filly, 3yrs.

- 1 Ingleside Symphony  
*K H & I Kuiper*
- 2 Mingara Charlotte  
*Miss Brooke Carrington*

## Shire Stallion or Colt, Any Age.

- 1 Ingleside Enterprise  
*K H & I Kuiper*
- 2 Cedars Majestic  
*Mrs Helene Scarf*
- 3 Southern Cross Major  
*Mrs Rebecca Ferguson*

## Shire Mare, 4yrs & Over.

- 1 Ballafayle Sonata  
*Mr Peter & Marylou McKeon*
- 2 Luscombe Joy  
*Mrs Helene Scarf*
- 3 Dothan Stewardess  
*Mr Peter & Marylou Mc Keon*
- 4 Cedars Lady Aspen  
*Mrs Helene Scarf*

## Best Shire

**Ingleside Symphony**

***K H & I Kuiper***

*also winner of the SHSA Perpetual Trophy in Memory of Kathryn Mckay and Greg Hosa*

## Shire Gelding, Any Age

- 1 Ingleside Flash Dance  
*K H & I Kuiper & C & C Perdikaris*
- 2 Ingleside Snap Shot  
*K H & I Kuiper & C & C Perdikaris*
- 3 Mana Excalibur  
*Ms Anne Coull*
- 4 Mingara Jack  
*Miss Brooke Carrington*

## Ridden Shire

- 1 Ballafayle Sonata  
*Mr Peter & Marylou Mc Keon*
- 2 Mingara Charlotte  
*Miss Brooke Carrington*
- 3 Cedars Majestic  
*Mrs Helene Scarf*
- 4 Mingara Jack  
*Miss Brooke Carrington*
- 5 Southern Cross Athena  
*Mrs Rebecca Ferguson*

## 2009 Easter Show – a personal reflection

*from Ineke Kuiper, owner, breeder and exhibitor (in partnership) of Ingleside Symphony*

2009 was a great year for Shires, with really good numbers and quality.

It was great to see some imported horses in the ring – it's encouraging to see horses are still coming into the country to build and improve the breed. It was also good to see locally bred horses go head to head with them and do well. I think it's a real credit to how the breed is progressing in Australia.

For me, it was very exciting to show under Walt Bedford. Having spent 2 years in England, I attended many shows as a spectator, an exhibitor and a probationary judge, so I know just how successful and professional the Bedford family are. Walt and his brother Paul are recognised as the

best exhibitors of Shires in the world and I have great respect for his judgement.

This is the 2nd year Symphony has won Best Shire. She is out of an Ingleside mare and by Trelow Father Abraham – a Super Premium stallion imported from the UK. He has sadly passed on now, but his success lives on through his progeny.

It was also very moving for me to receive the SHSA trophy in memory of Kathryn and Greg. They bought their first Shire from us – Ingleside Matilda – who also went on to win Best Shire at Sydney. In fact Symphony is Matilda's great-granddaughter, so it is nice to have the trophy won by one of their equine 'family'.

# Collars & Harness Made to Order

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## Walt & Bill Bedford draw a crowd in Australia

Over 70 people flew and drove from across Australia to Tim Peel's farm near Wagga Wagga, NSW on April 26 to meet Walt and Bill Bedford and to hear Walt talk on Clydesdales and Shires.

The event was run by the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society NSW, in conjunction with the SHSA. The Societies wanted to enable their members to learn from, and be encouraged by, such experienced and successful overseas breeders and exhibitors while they were here for Walt's judging of Sydney Royal.

Walt talked on the history of the breeds, the points of conformation of the Shire and Clydesdale, plaiting for show, shoeing for show, and judging harness horses. Some of the attendees included Mike Keogh from Coopers Brewery in South Australia and Max and Kristin Marriott from the Aarunga Stud in Victoria.



*Walt demonstrating the Shire plait*

For the breed comparison, both 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show Champions – the Peel's Champion Clydesdale, Stanhope Park Moss Rose, and the Kuiper family's Champion Shire Ingleside Symphony – were on display.

People were mesmerised as they watched Walt show us how to plait the Shire in his traditional and famous style.

A blazing camp fire and hot forge for making horse shoes added to the atmosphere, and Julie Peel's catering was terrific. Bill Bedford was able to talk and advise people on a one-to-one basis during the day and during the social breaks.

We are very grateful to Walt and Bill for making themselves available for the seminar, and for their extremely informative and stimulating advice and discussions.



*Walt Bedford and Mark Peel making a show shoe.*



*More work on the shoe...*



Walt talking about feet and shoeing horses



Plaiting workshop



Points of a Clydesdale



Moss Rose as a Shire!

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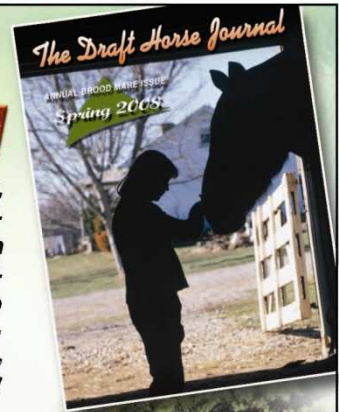
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or See JZ at Peterborough, Fri 13th - Sun 15th March

### **Stud listings on SHSA website**

The SHSA website gets a lot of traffic and many inquiries from people interested in buying Shires, looking for stallions or meeting other Shire Horse enthusiasts.

The Stud pages hold about five photos or images, a stud logo, a full A4 page of text and your contact details. Each stud has its own click through link for enquires, going directly to your email address.

The annual \$200 fee (plus GST) covers all set up costs, minor changes throughout the year, and an annual revamp of your content and images if requested.

To place your page, please contact Andrew Gunter –  
07 5599-4463 or [andrewg@ita.com.au](mailto:andrewg@ita.com.au)



# Veterinary advice – Breeding in Foal Heat

*Susan Piscopo, DVM, PhD, reprinted courtesy of TheHorse.com*

If a barn full of people were asked their opinion about breeding a mare during foal heat, a barn full of opinions would result. This topic has been controversial for a long time. There is debate about whether it is harmful to a mare's health, negatively impacts fertility or causes an increase in foetal loss during pregnancy. Unfortunately, there have only been a handful of good-sized scientific studies published that thoroughly evaluate the practice.

So, is there any reason to breed during foal heat?



## What is Foal Heat?

"Foal heat" is the term used to describe the first oestrus or heat that occurs after a mare delivers a foal. The process of foaling stimulates the mare to begin cycling within a matter of days - typically eight to 12 days, sometimes sooner. Interestingly time of foaling plays a role, with mares that foal early in the season often experiencing a longer interval (15 days after foaling) compared to mares foaling later in the season (about six to seven days). Research has shown that optimal conception rates are achieved when mares are bred at least 10 days after foaling.

## Why Breed On Foal Heat?

The reason to breed during foal heat is simple - economics. Each mare in a commercial breeding herd can produce

one foal every year if successfully bred within 20 days of foaling. Delivering one foal per year maximises the number of foals a mare produces over a reproductive lifetime. However to achieve this, intensive management of each individual mare is required.

Research has shown that conception rates achieved during foal heat are slightly lower than those at later heats. Not every mare is suitable for foal heat breeding; and only those mares physically ready for another pregnancy should be bred at that time.

## Choosing a Candidate

Mares that experience a difficult foaling should not be considered for breeding on foal heat. They need time to recuperate, as do mares that have post-foaling complications, such as retained foetal membranes or endometritis (inflammation of the innermost lining of the uterus).

Another consideration is gestation length of previous pregnancies. Gestation length tends to be repeatable in broodmares, to within several days, so if your mare has a history of short gestation length (less than 330 days), there may be no need to breed at foal heat.

Older mares that have produced foals year after year are also not good candidates. Reproductive tracts undergo changes with age, including a natural increase in the time it takes to recover from foaling. The uterus and cervix take longer to involute (return to normal size), making it more difficult for these mares to successfully begin a new pregnancy at foal heat.

## The Postpartum Physical

An invaluable management practice is the evaluation of all broodmares at about seven days after foaling. A thorough physical examination ensures that each

mare is recovering as expected after foaling, and it allows you to schedule a date for breeding if everything is normal.

The first part of the postpartum breeding-readiness physical examination involves a visual inspection of the perineum, vulva, and vestibule (the area just inside the vulva). The veterinarian looks for any lacerations, hematomas (blood clots), or abscesses that might have occurred as a result of foaling. Even a small laceration can cause big problems if left untreated.

The veterinarian passes a speculum into the vagina as the examination continues. Lacerations are noted, as are the color of the membranes and the shape and appearance of the cervix. Cloudy cervical mucus can indicate endometritis and signals the need for uterine culture and cytology prior to breeding.

Next, the veterinarian performs palpation of the reproductive tract per rectum so they can evaluate the size and shape of the uterus, ovaries, and supporting tissues. This is usually followed by an ultrasound exam, looking for free fluid in the uterus, hematomas in the uterus, ovaries, and pelvis, and tumors in the ovaries. Some types of tumours grow more rapidly during pregnancy and are often found during postpartum examinations.

Finally, the ovaries are examined for growing follicles and the veterinarian measures the largest dominant follicle to help predict the onset of foal heat, if it hasn't arrived already. The overall findings of the examination help determine whether the mare is physically ready for breeding during foal heat.

### **Foal Heat or Later?**

If everything looks normal during the postpartum physical examination, the next step is to monitor follicular development, tease the mare, and prepare her for breeding. Again, the mare is typically in oestrus for four to seven days, and she

ovulates sometime near the end of that period. Greatest success in achieving conception or later, so if the mare ovulates before the 10th day after foaling the chances for conception are significantly decreased. Therefore, the recommendation is not to breed her if she ovulates before the 10th day.

The main reason we wait until Day 10 to breed foal heat mares is to allow the uterus to return to normal. In a normal mare the uterus has involuted by Day 14 post-foaling. Mares bred on Day 10 will most likely ovulate on Day 11. The embryo does not enter the uterus until Days 5.5-6 post-ovulation. Therefore the embryo shouldn't enter the uterus until Days 16-17 post foaling. This allows time for the uterus to recover and provide a healthy environment for the embryo.

### **Manipulating the Cycle**

When the decision is made not to breed during foal heat and to wait for the next heat, the veterinarian can shorten the mare's next estrous cycle with the use of prostaglandins.



### **Take-Home Message**

Foal heat breeding is a practice that is not intended for every horse breeder or every mare. There is simply no reason to breed back most mares during the first heat after foaling. There is data to support a decrease in conception rates during this first heat, and without a thorough postpartum examination, there is reason to be cautious about rushing forward into another pregnancy.

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