



SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia

MAY 2011

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Tullymore Premiere Dionella - Best Shire Exhibit at Sydney Royal Easter Show
Pictured with Terry Parks, Rob Vickery, Ranvet Representative and Mr Maurice Irvine (owner)
Photo courtesy of John Edwards*

PATRON:

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

www.shirehorsesociety.com.au

SHSA NEWS...

Congratulations – to Stephanie Clark who won the Australian Championship for show driving for medium to heavy horses at the ACDS 40th Anniversary Championships at Bundanoon in NSW with her Shire mare Viewfield Gina. Gina is by Ingleside Dancer, out of a draught mare. Great work Stephanie!



Fundraising – can you help?

We have several new initiatives we are hoping to fund this year, including a 'For Sale' section on our website (free for members). To help cover the costs of these improvements, we are running a chocolate drive with Cadbury Fundraising Chocolates.

We need your help – if you are able to sell some chocolates on behalf of the SHSA, please contact Helen Kuiper (hkuiper@hotmail.com) and let her know you can help out!

SHSA seminar 2012 – Save the date!

Our annual seminar will again be held 14-15 January 2012. We are in the process of developing an exciting new program and format, so watch this space for more details as they develop.

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Sydney Royal Easter Show Report

from Bryan Morgan (Judge)

I was delighted when asked to judge the Shires and Percherons at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2011. Having visited the Show in 2004 I was greatly looking forward to returning.

As I was asked not to make my appointment common knowledge it was difficult to speak to other horse people with it in the back of my mind!

After an uneventful flight I reported to the RAS offices at the showground on the Thursday prior to the judging day on Sunday 17th to collect my passes and paperwork.

We had a day at the show on the Friday but it poured with rain on the Saturday which did not bode well for the Sunday. However, the skies were overcast but dry when we got to the showground at 8am to prepare for the judging of the Percherons .

These classes were not big but what they lacked in quantity they made up with quality; with the Champion horse Carbery Estate Pepsi, coming from the stables of Mr Ross & Miriam Carbery. Holbrook NSW.

After a quick but very enjoyable lunch my excellent stewards took me back in to the main arena for the judging of the Shire classes. The skies had cleared by now and there was plenty of action in all areas of the arena.

There was a good turnout of horses in a variety of classes – unfortunately only one stallion was forward – but it was obvious that the quality of the horses had gone from strength to strength since my last visit. As we all know, those who do judge shows, it is only when you are able to put

your hands on the horse that you can see the full picture.

As the horses, their breeding and their handlers were mostly unknown to me it made a very interesting day. It wasn't until the evening after the judging when we were invited back to the stabling, that I knew who the horses actually belonged to.

A lot of hard work had been put in to exhibit the horses (and their handlers!!) to a high standard.

At the end of a very enjoyable period of judging I had to make a decision for the Champion Shire – not an easy task – but eventually I chose the young horse Tullymore Premiere Dionella from Mr Maurice Irvine Merriwa NSW as Champion and the lovely mare Mingara Lady Ebony from K & H Kuiper & B Biffin & I Kuiper Thirlmere NSW as Reserve.

I was most fortunate in being allowed to 'sit in' on the judging of the Teams the following day – again a high standard and an impressive sight – the only comment I could make would be that the teams did not have enough arena room to get 'warmed up' before their stand shows.

I have to say a big thank you to everyone who showed their horses, the Show, the Stewards and to all those who made us feel so welcome – if I did not get to talk to anyone, I do apologise but so many were unknown to me that I could have not recognised you out of the arena.

I look forward to returning to Australia - the welcome is as good as the one we keep in the hillsides of Wales!!!

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Areas Covered:

*Southern Highlands, ACT, Goulburn, Bungendore, Kangaroo Valley, Nowra
and their surrounding vicinities*

Results and photos

Thanks to John Edwards for supplying us with these beautiful images from the day

Shire Gelding, any age.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Tullymore Sir Lancealot | Mr Maurice Irvine Merriwa NSW 2329 |
| 2 | Southern Cross Nickolas | Peter & Marylou Mc Keon Darnum Vic 3822 |
| 3 | Ingleside Snap Shot | Mr Chris & Mrs Cindy Perdikaris Mosman NSW 2088 |
| 4 | Mingara Jack | Miss Brooke Carrington Maraylya NSW 2765 |
| 5 | Shandell Park Royal Aristocrat | Miss Brooke Carrington Maraylya NSW 2765 |



Shire Mare, 4yrs & over.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Mingara Lady Ebony | K & H Kuiper & B Biffin & I Kuiper Thirlmere NSW 2572 |
| 2 | Dothan Stewardess | Peter & Marylou Mc Keon Darnum Vic 3822 |
| 3 | Southern Cross Diamond Princess | Peter & Marylou Mc Keon Darnum Vic 3822 |
| 4 | Ballafayle Sonata | Miss Brooke Carrington Maraylya NSW 2765 |
| 5 | Mingara Scarlett Rose | Miss Brooke Carrington Maraylya NSW 2765 |



Shire Colt or Filly, 3yrs.

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | Ingleside Elsa | Mr Chris & Mrs Cindy Perdikaris Mosman NSW 2088 |
| 2 | Cedars Magnolia | Mrs Helen Scarf Barrengarry NSW 2577 |
| 3 | Mingara Isabella | Mr Daryn Post Bungonia NSW 2560 |



Shire Colt or Filly, 2yrs & under.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Tullymore Premiere Dionella | Mr Maurice Irvine Merriwa NSW 2329 |
| 2 | Ingleside Anastasia | K & H Kuiper & B Biffin & I Kuiper Thirlmere NSW 2572 |
| 3 | Mingara Alexandria | Mr Daryn Post Bungonia NSW 2560 |
| 4 | Southern Cross Delta | Peter & Marylou Mc Keon Darnum Vic 3822 |
| 5 | Ingleside Remarkable | K & H Kuiper & B Biffin & I Kuiper Thirlmere NSW 2572 |



Shire Stallion, 4yrs & over

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Beandema Samson | Mr Anthony May Orangeville NSW 2570 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|



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BEST SHIRE and winner of The Shire Horse Society Australia Perpetual Trophy in memory of Kathryn McKay and Greg Hosa

Winner Tullymore Premiere Dionella Mr Maurice Irvine Merriwa NSW 2329



Ridden Shire Stallion, Mare or Gelding, any age.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Ballafayle Sonata | Miss Brooke Carrington Maraylya NSW 2765 |
| 2 | Ingleside Anastasia | K & H Kuiper & B Biffin & I Kuiper Thirlmere NSW 2572 |
| 3 | Muwarra Digger | Mr Ian Scarborough Blaxland NSW 2774 |



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For sale – Viewfield Ruby



Beautifully marked dual registered
Appendix A Shire filly, A20171 Aus, A1272
UK. DOB 27/10/10
\$4000 delivered to Melbourne

Sire: Ingleside Dancer (out of 4 x Best Exhibit at Sydney Royal Ingleside Elizabeth, by Ingleside Might 'n' Power), a jet non-fading black stallion with amazing presence.

Dam: Viewfield Rosie, a home-bred bay roan unregistered Clydesdale mare.

Ruby is well handled with good ground manners and a lovely nature, she leads, ties up, and is good to have her feet handled. She has a nice action, is well set behind, and has fine silky feather. Both her sire and her dam have been educated and have demonstrated excellent trainability and temperaments. Ruby has shown herself to be a quick learner who will have a bright future in harness or under saddle.

NZ Shires for sale

Southwind Twitches

Rising 2 year old grey filly

Dam Quaterdeck Ketch by Metheringham Upton Rory

Sire Southwind Garaboldi by Stanleyhouse Statesman

Microchipped and DNA tested and in the process of being registered with the SHS

Price NZ\$10,000 (approx A\$7,300)

Southwind Greybones

Rising 3 year old grey filly. Full sister to Twitches. Microchipped and DNA tested and in the process of being registered with the UK Shire Association.

Price NZ\$10,000 (approx A\$7300)

Southwind The Witch

6 year old bright bay mare (reg no B1015)

Her dam was a fully registered black Clydesdale and her sire Southwind Garaboldi. She is registered with the SHS.

Price NZ\$7,000 (approx A\$5200)

Southwind Hermiane

Rising 4 year old black filly, microchipped and DNA tested in the process of being registered in UK

Dam Camelot Black Pearl Studbook by Ruskington Harvester

Sire Southwind Garaboldi by Stanleyhouse Statesman

Price NZ\$10,000 (approx A\$7300)

Southwind Molly



7year old dark bay/black mare.

Molly is fully registered with the UK Shire assoc but cannot find papers. Full sister to Hermiane.

Price NZ\$10,000 (approx A\$7,300)

Southwind Miss Cooper

5 year old mahogany bay mare (reg no 1488881).

Full sister to Hermiane and Molly.

Price NZ\$10,000 (approx A\$7,300)

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SHSA Seminar Report

Once again our seminar weekend was blessed with great weather, speakers and friendship at the beautiful Cedars property at Kangaroo Valley. Over 60 people attended and the feedback was very positive.

We were extremely fortunate to have Leith Ryan, a world renowned horse dentist, come all the way from the Sunshine Coast to speak about both horse dentistry and his new Hippus bits. His collection of photos of horses' teeth and problems was truly amazing and he also brought along a skull of a heavy horse to use in his talks. Leith is a very talented man and went on to entertain us after dinner with his guitar and singing.

Our other speakers also travelled long distances to share their knowledge with us, Mark Porter and Tim Peel from the Wagga area and Ross Carbery from Holbrook. Ross challenged us to think about having a breeding plan and to aim to breed the type of horse that we want in the future. Ann Pinfold drew some sketches to illustrate his points and there were plenty of people asking Ross questions after the talk.

Mark Porter and Tim Peel gave a very interesting demonstration of Australian show harness, by harnessing up the Shire gelding

Strider. They also displayed a Shire stallion roller and discussed the differences between a Shire and Clydesdale roller. Thanks to Sam Leighton for bringing Strider, and to Stuart Garland for bringing his lovely Mark Porter show harness for use during the demonstration.

The Secretary of the Shire Horse Society UK, David Ralley-Davies and his wife Helen, attend the seminar and David said a few words after dinner.

During the seminar, the committee was very pleased to award our first ever Life Membership of the Shire Horse Society Australia, to Helene Scarf. Helene has worked tirelessly to promote the Shire horse and for the SHSA for over 30 years. Helene was a founding member of the Society in 1978 and she has never ceased in her efforts and enthusiasm in encouraging new Shire owners, and promoting our breed in Australia and overseas.

All in all, it was very memorable weekend and many thanks go to all those people who worked so hard to make it such a success, especially Karen Mitchell and Amanda Taylor, Ineke Kuiper, Byron Biffin and Helene Scarf.











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 Two covers of the magazine 'Heavy Horse World'. The top cover features a horse and a person, with the headline 'LEGNER'. The bottom cover features two horses and the headline '20 Pages of showstopping...'.

Raising the best draft foal for the modern market

Written by A.J. Neumann, D.V.M.

There are many very successful draft horse breeders that I know of here in the States and Canada. If you as an individual were to talk with them about their horse breeding business you would soon find that each individual has certain “points” in their program that they adhere to, to make their program successful. You will also discover that these points may vary from breeder to breeder, but they will be pivotal areas always found in every successful program. With all of these factors in mind I will give you some “points” from my breeding program as well as some from other successful draft horse breeders.

The first point I want to make is that it is not an accident to raise a superior horse for the modern market. The best marketable young animal exhibits good type, excellent growthiness, fine health, very good condition, an easy going disposition and, above all, soundness.

As you might expect, to produce these features in a marketable animal demands much of your time and expertise. Money alone cannot make this happen.

There are always three factors at work here to produce this animal. In order of their importance, they are: genetics or breeding; nutrition; and a satisfactory health program. If any one of these three factors is not present in your breeding program, you will always miss the mark of excellence.

In any breeding program, genetics is the most important factor of all. Genetics as applied to the draft horse is becoming increasingly important today and with that in mind I am going to discuss its application to any breeding program for horses.

In this article I will not discuss the nutritional factors and the health program, which I know are also very essential to a successful breeding program. I will just cover the genetic part of the program.

If you wish to become a breeder of draft horses, you first should select the type of horse that you wish to work with. In our common draft breeds we generally have three types, utility, hitch and show.

Now that you have picked a type of drafter to raise, you must learn about the unsoundness of the horse and be able to pick a sound one. If you do not know about unsoundness and you are starting a breeding program, you will be a sitting duck ready for the plucking. Unless you can recognize a sound or unsound horse, you are doomed to the failure of your efforts to establish breeding stock.

You will be like the individual sitting on a large pile of money in the front lawn, happily smoking a pipe filled with pot and dreaming away in a state of bliss while the cash you’re sitting on is slowly slipping away into the bottom of the “two-holer” (Ed - a two holer is a southern American term for a type of long-drop dunny ☺) in the back of the yard. When it’s all over and you’re on the bottom looking up, you are going to blame everybody but yourself!

What is an unsoundness of the horse? It is a condition found in the horse either caused by an accident to the animal, a result of a disease, or inherited and this condition interferes with the horses’ ability to work.

In addition to evaluating an animal for unsoundness, there are two other traits one should look for in selecting breeding stock. They are the conformation and disposition of the filly, mare or stallion.

Remember, conformation is a genetic thing. Good and poor conformation in the human form is passed on from father to son, mother to daughter, mother to son, and father to daughter. The same deal with the horse. Conformation can be changed over the years by selective breeding.

Good disposition was a factor I wanted in my breeding stock. A good, bad or ugly disposition is very much a hereditary factor. A mean, ill-

tempered mare will pass it right on down the line. Have this trait present in a stallion and it will spread through his offspring like gasoline thrown on a fire. If there was a mare in my barn with the slightest quirk in her disposition, she had wheels under her before too long. When purchasing a stallion, the disposition of the animal should always be a key factor in the evaluation of the animal.

A really good band of mares takes a lifetime of breeding to accumulate. I only bought 5 or 7 mares to put into my herd in the 29 years I produced foals. Each year, I selected and kept back my two best filly foals. The others were sold as yearlings. No one with any amount of money could buy my replacement fillies. They were my replacements and filled in the vacancies as the older mares were sold off or they simply were kept to enlarge the breeding herd.

Now comes the selection of the stallion. I have always viewed the importance of a stallion differently than most horsemen. My dad taught me this philosophy. My old friend, Pete Bonthuis, was also a firm believer in the same deal. A stallion is 85% of your foal crop. Many draft horse breeders laugh at that fact.

Okay, let's look at it. You have ten mares to breed and foal. The stallion services all and they are in foal and deliver in due time. The stallion has ten chances to improve your herd. The outstanding real exceptional mare has one chance. I am not downgrading the good old foundation mare, but if you have one or two; what are you going to do with the other eight or nine?

When I began using a new stallion I started looking for the next one. I did it a little differently than a lot of horse breeders do. I went over each mare in the herd as well as the replacement fillies and I listed collectively all of their good points. I then began looking for a stallion that had all of these good points or features plus an additional one or two which I could use to improve my stock.

By listing the good features of my breeding stock, I made sure in my selection of a stallion that I did not lose any of these points. I tried to

find a stud that had all of these qualifications. Remember, they are all based on genetic factors.

When selecting a stallion, always check his dam if you can. Usually the stud you buy will be young, either a two-year-old or sometimes, a long yearling. These animals will be clean in the heel at that age but may have sidebones later as a three to six-year-old. It has been my experience and that of other horsemen, if the dam is clean in the heel, her stallion foal will also be clean. If the dam is rough in the heel, there is a very good chance her offspring, the stallion prospect, will develop sidebones later on in life.

Now if you haven't figured it out already, what are you going to do if you wish to use artificial insemination on your mare or mares? The answer is easy. Make the trip and go over the prospective stud yourself. I know your answer already..."I can't do that!"

Then you are a so-so draft horse breeder. Everything I just told you is down the drain. Just because you have a \$20,000 mare and the A.I. stud you wish to use was sold for \$40,000, you are not guaranteed a halter-busting foal!

You should be the one to check out the soundness, conformation and disposition of the animal. Always remember this—you cannot judge a horse with any degree of accuracy by looking at a picture. You must see the animal in action as well as put your hands on it. Again, always look for yourself.

I've tried to give you a few pointers on establishing a breeding herd of draft horses. You might not agree with all or any of what I've recommended, but it worked for me and more importantly, it has worked for many of my students who have attended my schools in the past.

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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.

If you already have a website, for \$75 you can have a paragraph and a link through to a Shire related site.

To place your page, contact Andrew Gunter, 07 5599-4463 or andrewg@ita.com.au

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