

INTERNATIONAL SPORT PONY BREEDERS

Brummerhoeve Stud - Netherlands

Submitted by Hannes Brummer—Stud Principal

Quality rather than quantity has always been the vision of Dutch New Forest breeder Hannes Brummer of the Brummerhoeve Stud.

Since 1970 Hannes has been actively breeding New Forest ponies. Right from the beginning of his breeding programme, he had his own opinion of what is required to create a modern pony; the type of pony to meet market demand. This initially created some problems with the Board of Directors of the Dutch Stud Book.

In the beginning Hannes had a considerable number of critics. The last couple of years has seen a dramatic change where others in the industry have seen that his policy does work and now the Board is asking Hannes for his opinions and advice. It was always a struggle to realise his goals but his aims are well founded and most importantly, he was supported in general by the riders and owners themselves that worked with sport ponies.

It is 50 years since the very first New Forest ponies were sent from England to the Netherlands. These were very simple, sober ponies who were usually not suitable for dressage and jumping. They were not the best representatives of the breed and had short necks and legs.

Around 1970 the solution for the Dutch Stud Book came with the approval of the stallion, Golden Wonder. This stallion was not 100 per cent Forester but was instrumental in bringing the Dutch New Forest to the modern pony we now see. These ponies have a very big international demand as sports ponies. Approximately 95% of ponies dominating the sport in the Netherlands have Golden Wonder in their pedigree. Mare and stallion inspections and approvals have resulted in many champions.

There was initially a lot of resistance to Golden Wonder within the Dutch Stud Book itself. A big group of people, having never used the stallion wanted the stallion banned because he wasn't 100% New Forest. Fortunately this opinion has practically disappeared.

What is Hannes ideal sports pony?

The head must have expression and not be ugly. A long neck is most desirable but not coming too deep from the chest. A good sports pony should have a reasonable length in his body, not too short in the back. Legs should be nice and long to allow the pony to dressage and jump; short legs usually lead to nothing.

The pony should have powerful movement with a bent foreleg indicating suppleness in the joints. This should be seen under saddle and not just in hand or in the paddock.

Pictured at top right is the mare Brummerhoeve's Atalanta; Hanne's vision of the ideal sports pony.



What are the results of Hannes breeding programme?

His favourite stallion is the Dutch New Forest, Brummerhoeve Boss (pictured below). He was approved as a three year old and became a Dutch National Champion.



His competition results saw him at the top levels of dressage as well as jumping. He also won championships for best Riding Pony. His approval rating has been considerable with Boss becoming the stallion of preference when choosing a mate for mares.

Last January, at the age of 18, Boss beat all of the top class Dutch dressage ponies at the highest dressage level. He has been selected for the European Championships but due to his age, Hannes thinks this may be beyond him. Boss has taken five different riders to the top levels of dressage and two riders have campaigned him in the showjumping arena.

Brummerhoeve Robijn is another favourite; being three times champion Indoor Brabant. Brummerhoeve Spider achieved this championship 5 times and has been to the top level of dressage and showjumping.

Brummerhoeve Charlie, has competed in Europe and is a top dressage pony and along with Brummerhoeve Vivienne, who also achieved the top level of dressage and is a crown-achievement mare. Her sister Brummerhoeve Vifiona has been named best sports pony of the Dutch New Forest stud book, Z dressage and star-achievement pony. Also the very quick moving stallion Ricardo, took part in the European Eventing championships.

Hannes's stallion, Jenny's Ringo was approved in 1984 and was considered way ahead in his sports prowess and character. However, at the time he was not approved by the Dutch breeders so he continued to compete at the top levels of dressage, showjumping and eventing. There came a time when he was finally recognised and people were paying top dollar to use him at stud.

The newest weapon of this stud is Brummerhoeve 's Pulsar H (pictured below). This four year old pony, also called Black Pearl, is according to Hannes, the best dressage pony. There has been a lot of interest in this pony from Europe.



The aim is to get this stallion to Grand Prix level, which has only recently been allowed in the Netherlands. Pulsar is used by Hannes for his own breeding program. While this is not allowed 'officially', in the Netherlands everyone asks what Hannes is now occupying himself with?

Hannes has the following advice for all breeders of sports ponies - always follow your own way and try out new things. Don't let yourself be led by the restrictions that certain groups may place on you - breed what YOU want to breed and carry out your vision.

www.brummerhoeve.nl