

INTERNATIONAL SPORT PONY BREEDERS WAYLAND NEW FOREST STUD - U.K.

Submitted by Mary Bryant—Stud Principal

I started the Wayland Stud in 1973 with the arrival of my foundation stallion, Harry Bee of Danehurst by Knightwood Crusader out of Weirs Queenies Good Luck. The idea was to breed not only first class New Forest ponies, but also ponies that could compete in all disciplines, therefore breeding what we now call "sports ponies".



We did very well with Harry Bee (pictured left) showing him both in-hand and under saddle and learning a great deal along the way. I was also running a Riding Centre and it was only this that made it possible for me to show in the first place, which even then was very expensive. It also enabled me to have a choice of

good girls or adults to ride and show the ponies.

A few years later I was given the opportunity to acquire another stallion, who was to become the stud's second foundation stallion. Katric Capers, by Holly Prince Rupert out of Holtwood First Light, came to us in 1979 and was a ready made champion. This was the sort of old fashioned blood that I was looking for.

Wayland Cranberry



Capers went on to sire Wayland Cranberry, who is out of Esdaile Holly Berry, a mare by Harry Bee; also Wayland Moonsannah and Wayland Red Pepper. Cranberry has won in the region of some 25 Supreme Championships and 75 Championships in-hand and under saddle, and he has also been Working Hunter Pony Champion many times. He has also been show jumping, hunter trialling and is currently competing in and winning affiliated dressage classes at Elementary level, moving on up to Medium level classes next season.

And so the Wayland Stud was established.

I bought a yearling colt from Miss Anne Mcgrath, Vernons Rosewood by Vernons Vespers, who was going to be my out-cross. Sadly, it very soon became apparent that he was going to go over height and was therefore deregistered. I kept him though and left him entire as he was a very sweet natured pony and I thought he might make a good cross with thoroughbred mares and produce some nice Working Hunter Pony types. He was broken and he matured into an absolutely cracking pony. I would take him one-day eventing where we would generally manage a nice dressage test, (he could be a little excitable), and he really excelled in the jumping sections. He was an excellent example of a sports pony. Unfortunately, the English Sports Pony Studbook Society did not come into being until 2001.

I was still looking for an outcross and was very lucky to buy Frankincense of Vernons, again by Vernons Vespers out of Merrie Myrrh. He is still with us at 26 years old and is hacked out daily. He has sired so many good jumpers, cross country and dressage ponies. One of these was Wayland Golden Harry whom we recently sold to Kate Baxter of the Marley Dene Stud in Yorkshire, where she has done very well with him, competing in a variety of disciplines.

In 1982 I was loaned a 15.2hh thoroughbred stallion to use, again for the purpose of breeding crossbreds. Horseguards, or Charlie as we called him, was by Her Majesty the Queen's stallion Pall Mall and had also been raced and had won on several occasions. He sired some lovely native pony cross-breds that were just that bit bigger than the forest ponies and so were in great demand as Show and Working Hunter ponies. I suppose that back then; this is what was more often thought of when the term Sports Pony was used, rather than a pure bred native pony.

In 1987 I was given a grey stallion, unbroken and virtually unhandled at the age of 13, Dewlands Val Doonican by Vernons Vespers. What was I going to do with him? We broke him in, although he gave us a bit of hard time, and he turned out to have an amazing affinity for jumping. He won Working Hunter Pony classes and Championships just about every time he was entered. He would clear the courses with such alacrity and ease, and always seemed to have a smile on his face. He also did very well in dressage as he had such balanced paces. Both he and his stable mate Capers were on the Prix Caprilli team that qualified for the national riding club championships in 1990. Our team of New Forest ponies won knocking the bigger riding club horses into a top hat.

I was fortunate enough to have had Deeracres Franco on loan from Mrs Pam Harvey-Richards and Mrs Loriston-Clarke at about the same time. Again a prolific winner in all spheres. He sired Knightwood Grandee who competed internationally with the British Young Riders Dressage Squad, winning two gold

Wayland Stud cont'd.....

medals, and Wayland Charis, a lovely little mare who is on the Pony Club Teams for Hunter Trials, Dressage and Show jumping with her teenage owner.

Cranberry's stock are all winners. Wayland Crescendo is a smaller stallion standing at 137 cm out of Peveril Pirouette. He has been ridden and working hunter pony champion many times and has stood reserve to his sire on more than one occasion. He throws quality with great natural ability.



Wayland Loganberry (pictured above) is the latest 'star'. In September 2005 he was stallion graded by our English Sports Pony Studbook Society, gaining the second highest percentage of the day and earning himself a permanent place in the Head Studbook, coming reserve champion to a registered KNHS pony, (Dutch Sports Pony). Logan is only the second UK bred New Forest Pony to be graded and the first to achieve permanent status. In 2006 he competed in two one day events at intro level, showing again how truly talented our native New Forest ponies are by beating the much larger competition on both occasions. He also won ridden and Working Hunter Pony championships throughout the year and was placed in Hunter Trials, jumping 3'3" courses against horses. He then ended the year on a high by winning the Ringwood Brewery Performance Pony of the year, an annual points competition run by the New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society.

Wayland Moonsannah by Katric Capers is also entered in the English Sports Pony Society Studbook and Wayland Red Pepper is in France and competing in show jumping, having been Reserve National Champion in the 148 cm section for 6 year olds in 2004. It is hoped that he will qualify for the National Championships again this year with his twelve year old rider.

21 years ago, (has it really been that long?) I started up the New Forest Pony Enthusiasts Club, a Riding Club affiliated to the British Horse Society where members would be owners and riders of New Forest Ponies. The aim was to raise the profile of the breed, showing riders what great ponies they were and what they could achieve. Over the years the Club

has become very well known and teams were winning Dressage, Dressage to Music, Show jumping and Cross-Country team events right from the start proving that our ponies were a force to be reckoned with. Just last year, 2006, a team representing the Club at the National Riding Club Dressage Championships won the Rural Riders Test. This consists of a team of 6 riders doing a 14 minute dressage test, in line and keeping in perfect time with one another. Not that easy at the best of times but with our sensible, good tempered ponies they were very deserving winners.

The Club also choreographed a musical ride with 12 stallions which ran for about 10 years, proving what exceptional temperaments the New Forest ponies have.

Personally, I find the New Forest pony to be a first class Sports Pony, being versatile in every way whether ridden by a child or an adult. A New Forest pony can reportedly carry a stone (in weight) to every hand. I have had many a good days hunting on Harry Bee who was only 13.1hh and I am not a small adult! I have also done ridden showing, dressage and taken part in the musical ride, all on the ponies. After all, why should every one else have all the fun?



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