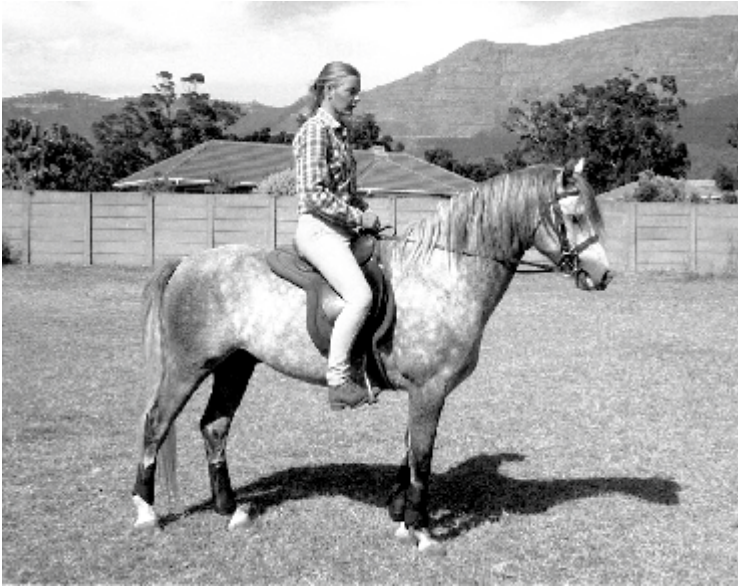




JOURNAL

2011



*This Journal is dedicated to the memory of Angela van Zyl
(Here riding Lechlade Periwinkle)*

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Farm Bergfontein, P O Box 318, Albertinia, 6695, South Africa
Telephone/Fax +27(0)28 735 2128 E-mail journal@freyja.co.za

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The following is provided for information only
The Secretary
Welsh Pony and Cob Society of South Africa
P O Box 1029, Halfway House, 1685
Telephone 012-668.1003 or Mobile 083-788.2503
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EDITORIAL

The year under review. It is unfortunate that despite trying to be as positive as possible, the year under review must go down as the lowest point in the history of this Society. Without going into detail, the blame can be laid at one place only and that is with Council for failing to provide the leadership and communication necessary to ensure a motivated and enthusiastic membership. The future of the Society, and indeed the breed in South Africa, is in jeopardy and the Registrar of Livestock Improvement has of necessity become involved in endeavouring to address the problems of the Society. We trust that this process will lead to the re-emergence of the values, enthusiasm and motivation which was present when the Society were first established 54 years ago.

This Journal. Members will notice that the title of this Journal, as with that of the 2008 edition, has changed. At the 2010 AGM, members voted to continue the then current position for the publication of this Journal. Unfortunately Council in November last year took a decision to reverse the decision of the members, notified the publishers of this Journal that it would no longer be the official publication and decided to issue their own 'official' journal. By the 2011 AGM no sign of any activity to publish a journal by council was obvious. This Journal will continue to be published whether official or not as it is done not for the self aggrandisement of individuals but to honour those ponies and cobs and their breeders who have made a contribution to the Welsh Breed in South Africa.

The Articles:

Piper Stud. Last year after having met Shirley Southey (*2010 Journal p51*) I thought that I had met the last surviving foundation member of the Society which started in 1957. I was indeed fortunate, in a passing comment when researching the Rynet Stud, to hear the name Shirley Kingwill being mentioned and the statement that she was resident in Graaff-Reinet. I immediately tried to make contact with her. Some old friends of hers were contacted and within a few hours, I had her address and contact details. The next time I went through Graaff-Reinet, I had the pleasure of meeting with this delightful lady who sadly had only three weeks earlier lost her husband, Con Kingwill. I was taken by this charming lady who, despite still being only shortly in mourning, willingly searched through her late husband's desk to find the photograph album of the Piper Stud. Some of these photographs have never been seen before, and especially not the accompanying photograph of Daisy Brodrick judging the Section B mare class at the 1960 National Championships at Beaufort West. The time I spent with Shirley Kingwill gave me great pleasure, but also sadness. She related the wonderfully delightful years just after the formation of the Society and the camaraderie of those days. What a pity the current scene in the breed is wracked with discontent and backbiting caused primarily by that most destructive trait of man, jealousy.

Rynet Stud. Over a number of years, I have had the pleasure of meeting the family of the de Klerk Brothers who had the Rynet Stud in Graaff-Reinet. They, like the famous



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Daisy Brodrick after awarding the Mare Section B Championship to Badgemore Silver Flash shown by Roley Trollip

Gordonville Stud for the Arabs of the Kingwills (Piper Welsh Pony Stud) worked very closely together for the benefit of the two breeds. This article has been three years in the making, when I finally had the opportunity of meeting Orpa de Klerk, Kleintjie de Klerk's widow and her eldest daughter Amanda (now Retief) who was 13 at the time that the stud was disbanded. I was also fortunate in being able to meet the son of Kabous de Klerk, the other partner of the Rynet Stud, Tokkie de Klerk, who with his dry sense of humour and recollections of the past kept Orpa and me amused for most of a morning. Both Kleintjie and Kabous were foundation members of the Society and with this article, I have now covered every stud of the eleven foundation members of what was then the Welsh Pony Breeders Society. The willingness which with the families of these foundation members recalled the history of the studs and searched in boxes for photographs last seen many, many years ago is certainly appreciated by me and signifies how accommodating these families are. I can only express my thank you's through the medium of these Journals which are a tribute to their co-operation.

Nell Pennell. Forty Five years ago in 1966 the 6th National Championships of the Society was held at the Goodwood Show grounds in the Cape. In those years Nationals were held every two years. Nell Pennell had decided to visit South Africa of her own volition and the Nationals were held in the Cape for the second time in the history of the Society. It was also the second time that an overseas judge officiated, the first being Daisy Brodrick in Beaufort West in 1960 which was reported on in depth in last year's journal. Nell Pennell also judged our National Championships in 1975. But she formed a close association with

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South Africa and visited our shores on many occasions, every time agreeing to judge a show here and there. We were indeed fortunate to have someone of her stature showing such great interest in our young Society and she was instrumental in creating and maintaining considerable interest in the Welsh breeds in South Africa. She also assisted many South African Studs to obtain ponies of quality in the UK for importation into South Africa to improve the breed here. We owe her a large debt of gratitude.

Ponies and Cobs. So many members have requested articles highlighting the achievements of ponies and cobs over the years. In most cases those requesting them are required to prepare and submit articles. In other cases research over a number of years finally bears fruit and an article on a particular pony appears. So we have articles on Persie Nimrod and Pendock Harebell which were suggested by the former head groom at Bukkenburg, Jacob Joseph. I was also fortunate in twisting the arm of the Editor of the Journal for the Mother Society, David Blair, to provide his reminiscences because I knew that he had successfully shown Nimrod at the Royal Welsh and other shows. Other ponies honoured are those that have achieved much in the show ring. This is the business end of the ponies and where the children who ride them excel. This is as important as any other facet of the breed but without the breeders of quality animals, the children will not be able to compete against other breeds.

Breeding. If we revert to the late 1940's and early 1950's we had two great ladies who both in their own way achieved much in breeding quality animals. Rose Lasbrey wanted to breed purebred ponies for children to ride and Ida Illingworth started off with the purebred Section B pony stallion Valiant, mostly breeding part bred riding ponies for children which did exceptionally well in the ring. At one stage some members of the public believed that 'Valiant' was a type of pony. Forsyte ponies dominated the riding classes at so many shows in the then Transvaal so much so that the progeny of Valiant often took up the first six places at shows. All these breeders were continually reminding members that to breed quality riding ponies, you needed the quality purebred stock as your base, without this the quality would merely deteriorate. Breeders must continually strive to improve their stock, otherwise they were not making any progress. The progeny must be either as good as or better than the dam. If this was not the case, the breeder had achieved nothing; in fact he was going backwards. The stallion is the dominant part of this equation as the mare only has one foal that year, but the stallion could sire many foals. It is therefore important to use only the best stallion in the breeding programme. It costs as much to breed and raise a poor quality pony as a top class pony. In these poor economic times, or indeed at any time, why waste money with second best.

Stallions. Above I make comment about Nell Pennell judging our Nationals. It is interesting to note that where she believed that a pony was not up to standard and did not deserve to win a class, she refrained from awarding first place. In some cases only 3rds were awarded thereby eliminating that pony from coming forward for the championship. It is a pity that more judges do not do the same today. The South African Society has a major problem about the quality of animals coming forward at the various shows. Some of them

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have lost type to such an extent that one has to look very carefully to try to find some characteristics which match the breed standard. Speaking to overseas judges after the event, it becomes clear that many animals have lost type but as guests of the country appear to select the best of the poor quality and still award championships. This is doing nothing for the breed and judges should be encouraged to ensure that champions at least can be assimilated to the standard. If judges cannot carry through with their conviction, they should not accept judging assignments. Council decided to up the stallion registration fee which had not been increased for 15 years. This was approved by the membership at the 2010 AGM. Unfortunately, because too much emphasis on complaints from a very small section of the membership, this decision was reversed. This vacillation is doing nothing for improving the breed; on the contrary, it is a retrogressive step which needs to be addressed very seriously. The alternative of an inspection system is wrought with so many problems as to be unworkable and expensive. The longer this matter remains unresolved, the worse the quality of animals will be and the greater the eventual problem. This generation must solve the problem and not present future generations with animals which have lost all semblance of that Welshness which we all admire.

African Horse Sickness. This disease is endemic to Africa as its name implies but responsible owners will take whatever precautions they can to ameliorate the problem. It is heartbreaking to hear that some owners of equines fail to take the basic precautions of at least an annual vaccination of African Horse Sickness. This does not guarantee a 100% efficacy but at least many equines have been saved the devastating effects of the disease, and the suffering leading to an horrendous death. We reach out to those members who have lost ponies and cobs to this disease and trust that this will not deter them from acquiring another pony or cob. They need you and you need them as another companion.

Angela van Zyl. I would not normally comment on only one person in the obituaries but I had the highest regard for Angela and I believe that her achievements largely went unnoticed. After Glynis and I imported the Welsh Cobs, Angela made a point of visiting us and studying intently the Cobs at the farm. Her questions were pointed and it was clear that she was trying to learn as much as possible about Welsh Cobs as she could. She explained to me that she valued the opportunity of seeing them in their various stages of development, more so as there were foals, yearlings and 2 y-o to study. When we were let down at the last minute by a person who was to show our Cobs at the Nationals in 2007, Angela without hesitation volunteered to assist us. She later told me how much she enjoyed being with and working with the Cobs and that she had learnt so much about their conformation, action and temperament. In addition, I was fascinated by the paintings which Angela did of so many ponies and cobs. Many of these were featured in the 2009 Journal in the article on Flippie Katz's Kadima Stud and this year another page of paintings by her which I have been able to track down is published. These will remain as a lasting legacy to her and reflect only one of her numerous talents. She was taken from us too soon and her passing is a tremendous loss to the Welsh breed. I have no hesitation in dedicating this issue of the Journal to her memory.

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The Future. I once again record the words of a past President of the Australian Society, Richard Evans, where he wrote 'Whilst the success of any society is obviously dependent on the adherence to the basic principles of the Constitution and the commitment and dedication of the members, there are a few other aspects which we must not lose sight of, namely integrity, etiquette, sportsmanship and the work ethic. The Society is greater than any individual, so let us raise the standard where necessary. We owe it to the past, present and future members'. It is my earnest desire that when the 2012 Journal for Welsh Ponies and Cobs is published, I will be able to use the expression '*A future so bright, you gotta wear dark glasses*'.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY

Adopted at a special meeting of members of the Society held at Shrewsbury on October 8th 1935 (incorporating amendments made at the Annual General Meeting of Members on December 8th 1951)

THE WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY SECTION A of the STUD BOOK

Not exceeding 12 hands high (1,22m)

General Character	Hardy, spirited and pony-like
Colour	Any colour, except piebald or skewbald
Head	Small, clean-cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle
Eyes	Bold
Ears	Well-placed, small and pointed; well up on the head, proportionately close
Nostrils	Prominent and open
Jaws and Throat	Clean and finely-cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw
Neck	Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions
Shoulders	Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine, but not "knifey". The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.
Forelegs	Set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below knee, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped and round, hoofs dense.
Back and Loins	Muscular strong and well-coupled.
Girth	Deep.
Ribs	Well sprung.
Hind quarters	Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily.
Hocks	Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards or outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate shape and length. Feet well-shaped, hoofs dense.
Action	Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Knees and hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage with hocks well under the body. (The introduction of the word knee into the description of the movement of a Welsh Mountain Pony is a deliberate endeavour to emphasise the true action of the breed rather than the daisy-cutting movement which has crept in over the last few years. The active flexion of both knees and hocks, originally developed to negotiate the rocks and uneven terrain of the Welsh Mountains, is a vital part of this action and it is equally important that the pony's hocks must come well under the body with powerful force to propel it forward with the characteristic free up and out movement associated with the Welsh breeds)

DESCRIPTION OF THE WELSH PONY, WELSH PONY (COB TYPE) AND WELSH COB

THE WELSH PONY

Not exceeding 13.2 hands high (1,37m)

SECTION B of the STUD BOOK

The general description of ponies in Section "A" of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section "B", but more particularly the Section "B" pony shall be described as a riding pony, with quality, riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution and with pony character.

SECTIONS C and D of the STUD BOOK respectively

(Section C not exceeding 13.2h hands high (1,37m))

General Character	Strong, hardy and active with pony character and as much substance as possible.
Colour	Any colour, except piebald or skewbald
Head	Full of quality and pony character. A coarse head and roman nose are most objectionable.
Eyes	Bold, prominent and set widely apart.
Ears	Neat and well set.
Neck	Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions
Shoulders	Strong but well laid back.
Forelegs	Set square and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearms. Knees well developed with an abundance of bone below them, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped, hoofs dense. When in the rough, a moderate quantity of silky feather is not objected to but coarse, wiry hair is a definite objection.
Back and Loins	Muscular strong and well-coupled. Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up.
Hind quarters	Lengthy and strong. Ragged or drooping quarters are objectionable. Tail well-set on.
Hindlegs	Second thighs, strong and muscular. Hocks large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate shape and length. Feet well-shaped, hoofs dense.
Action	Free, true and forcible. The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder, and as far forward as possible in the trot. Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPS, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA JUDGE'S REPORT

I was delighted to be asked to judge the Northern Region Championships at Pretoria Show. I had always wanted to go to South Africa and it certainly lived up to expectations. I was met at the airport by Rob Tracey who, with his wife Alison runs the extremely comfortable guest house, Owl's Loft where I stayed for the duration of the show.

Entries at the show were not large but there were some very quality ponies and the standard of production was high. Section A's were well supported with many of the best coming from Wehlia and Jack De Villiers' Gwyddls stud. My champion was their young, homebred stallion Gwyddls Dante. He was perhaps not the most mature but was a very nice mover with a tremendous walk.

Section B's were disappointing which was a pity as there were some good ones in the ridden classes but they did not come forward for the In-Hand judging. Champion was Meifod Bellisimo.

There was only one Section C, but what a Star!! Freyja Taliesin, by the imported Danaway The Sting out of Bukkenburg Gwenllan. He not only outshone all the Welsh but went on to win the prestigious Inter-Breed Championship in the afternoon.

My Section D Champion was the barren mare, Bukkenburg Gwendoline, a lovely typey mare with a "leg at each corner". I felt that some of the cobs had lost type in favour of size.

Part Bred classes were well supported with champion, the filly Dibynn Chit-Chat. The next day saw the ridden classes. It was nice to see so many of the ponies doing a number of the classes from lead rein to Working pony.

After the show the De Villiers picked me up and took me to the Kruger Game Park which was a great experience. It was a bit like being in a David Attenborough programme; saw a lot of wonderful wildlife including four of the "Big Five". All too soon it was time to head for the airport.

My grateful thanks go to Sue Cook for her hard work and great organization, and to Jack and Wehlia De Villiers for an unforgettable trip.

K.Sheil 2010
Dukeshill Stud

See Photographs of Supreme Champions on pages 17 to 21

SUPREME CHAMPIONS - NORTHERN REGION 2010



*Section A Gwyddls Dante by Dunkid Andante out of Dunkid Anita owned by W de Villiers
(Photo: Fine Photography)*



*Section B Meifod Bellissimo by Meifod Trefor out of Meifod Belle Epoque owned by S Ralston
(Photo: Fine Photography)*



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SUPREME CHAMPIONS - NORTHERN REGION 2010



Section C & Supreme Interbreed Champion Freyja Taliesin by Danaway The Sting out of Bukkenburg Gwenllan owned by R le Roux (Photo: Fine Photography)



Section D Bukkenburg Gwendoline by Parc Crusader out of Fronarth Gwenllian owned by S Ralston (Photo: Fine Photography)

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SUPREME CHAMPIONS - NORTHERN REGION 2010



Part Bred Dibynn Chit-Chat by Strinesdale Matador out of Dibynn Firecracker owned by the Dibynn Stud (Photo: Fine Photography)

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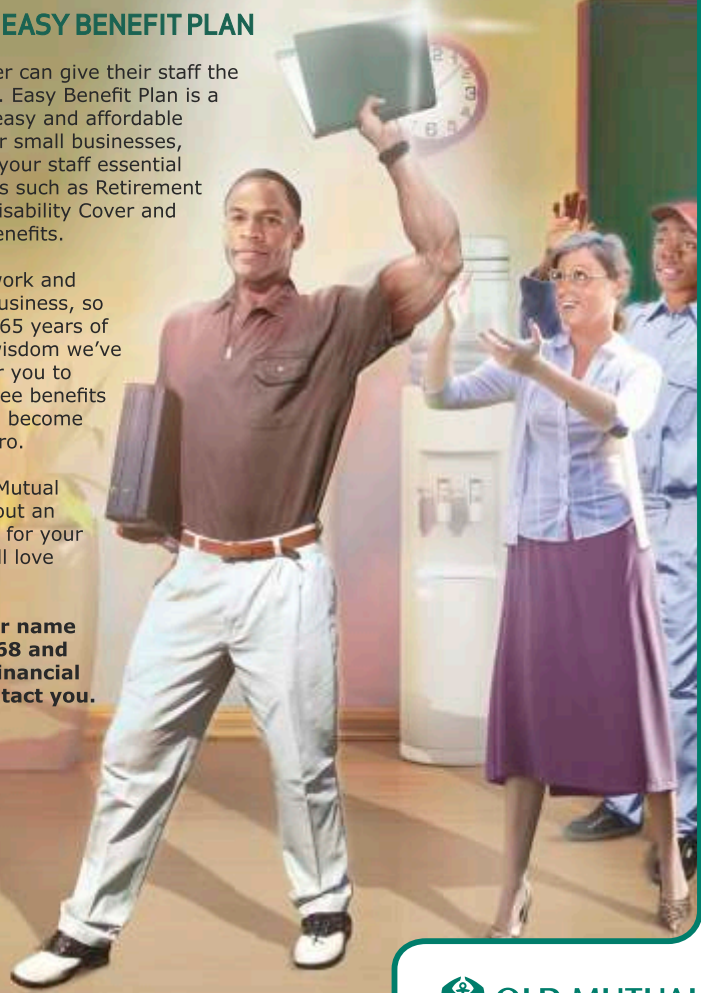
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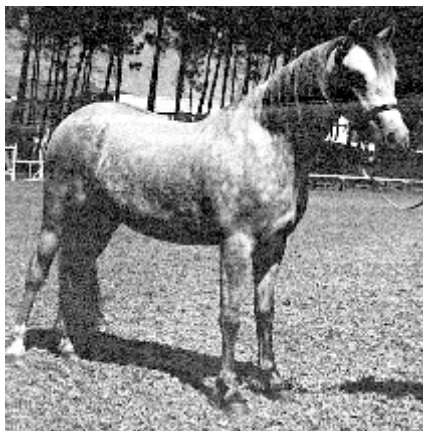
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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1966

The initial notice read “A Championship show is to be held in conjunction with the Goodwood Cape Show in March 1966. The Society has been promised an evening parade for the Welsh alone. Mrs Nell Pennell, the well-known Welsh judge and breeder and owner of the famous Bwlch Stud in the UK, is coming from the UK to judge our classes and we hope there will be a great turnout of ponies for her. This is the first time since the Late Miss Brodrick’s visit in 1960 that we have a judge from the Welsh panel to judge our championships. Mrs Pennell is coming out largely at her own expense as we as a Society cannot afford to bring her out. Her generous offer to help a young and struggling Society is appreciated and it is hoped that members will give her such a welcome and a galaxy of ponies to judge that she will really feel that the journey has been worthwhile. Although it is far for members outside the Cape to travel for the show, it must be realised that exactly half the membership is resident in the Cape. Unfortunately, despite a personal appeal to the Prime Minister of Rhodesia, the Rhodesian members were unable to obtain the necessary fuel permits to attend.”



*Badgemore Primrose, Junior Champion Filly
Photo: Farmer's Weekly*



Revel Society, Supreme Champion Section A

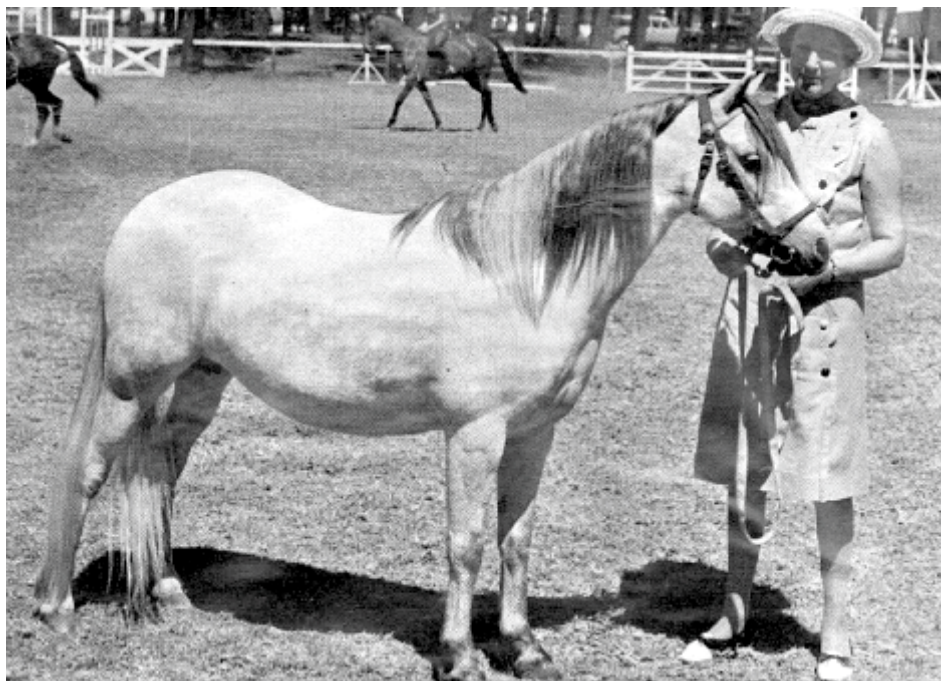
Judges Report The Welsh Championship Show takes place every two years and this time was held during the Western Province Agricultural Show at Goodwood, near Cape Town. Owing to the drought in several parts of the Union and petrol restrictions in Rhodesia, entries were rather down on other years. Nevertheless there were 60 entries in the various classes. Most exhibitors had to travel vast distances, some coming over 1000 miles, so that their ponies were several days on the journey.

The Supreme Mountain Pony championship was awarded to



*The Mare Championship class with Mrs Rose Lasbrey and Badgemore Pixie
closest to the camera*

Revel Society, who had previously won the stallion class and competed successfully in several harness classes, including the span of four and eight ponies. This chestnut son of Coed Coch Madog is a true Mountain Pony with a beautiful head. He was bought by Mr R H Torr, president of the Welsh Pony Society of South Africa from Mrs Emrys Griffiths when he came to Wales two years ago.



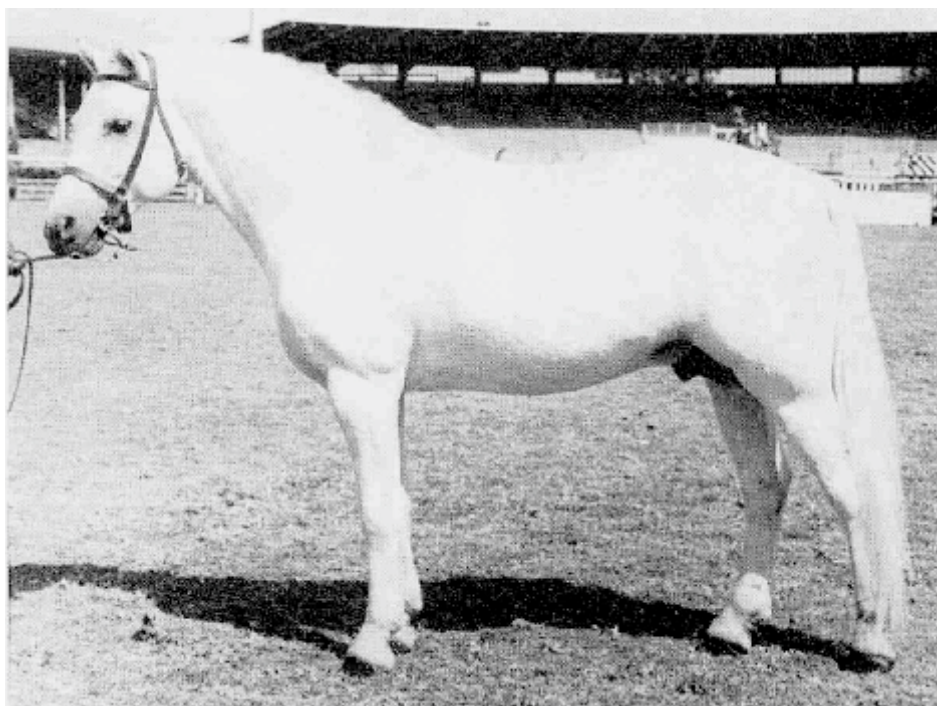
Badgemore Pixie, Champion Mare

Photo: Farmer's Weekly

Mrs Lasbrey, who has done so much to promote the Welsh Mountain Pony in South Africa, owned or bred most of the ponies in a nice broodmare class. Her Badgemore Pixie and Badgemore Moonlight were first and second, the winner beating her stable companion on type.

The Welsh harness classes held after dark in the floodlit arena brought applause from the large crowd. The winner, Mrs Mackie Niven's Coed Coch Prydus, a full brother to Lord Kenyon's Coed Coch Planed, is a free-going pony when going at his best, and he gave a very good show round the big ring. In this event, he turned the tables on Revel Society who had beaten him in the stallion class.

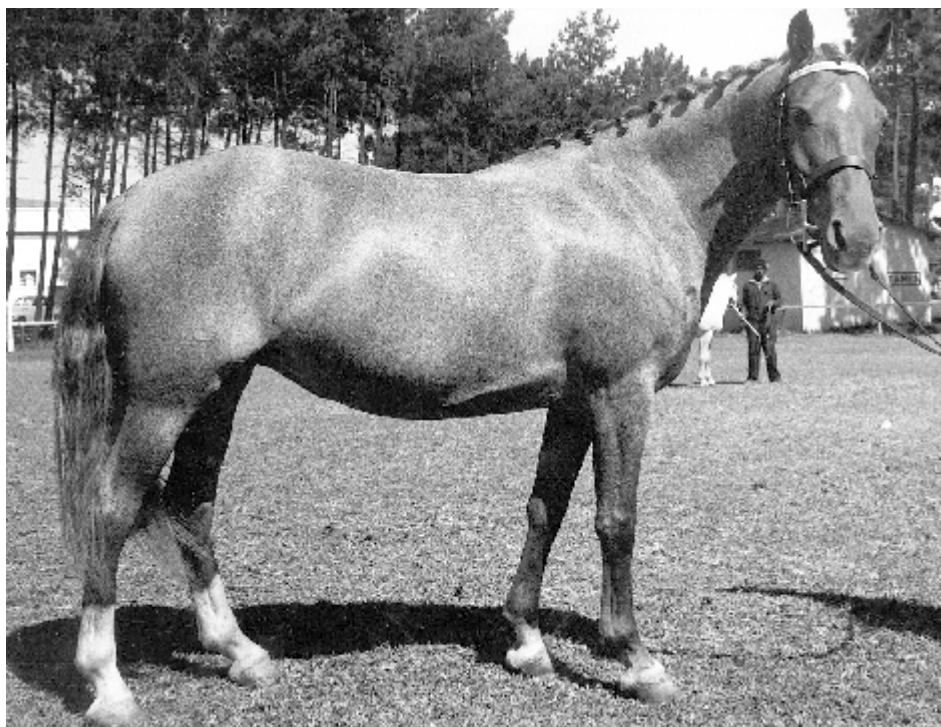
Miss Ida Illingworth's Valiant had an easy task to win the Welsh Pony (section B) class.



Valiant, Supreme Champion Section B Photo: E Pocock

In the children's riding pony classes, the championship went to Miss J Blackwell's Turkish Delight, with Judy Hinderks' High Noon, reserve.

Nell Pennell 1966
Bwlch Stud



Llanel Valiant Gwynneth, Champion Part-bred

This was the first National Show to be judged by Nell Pennell in South Africa. She also judged the Nationals held in Bloemfontein in 1975 (see page 85). She was elected an honorary life member of the SA Society in 1975. In her obituary in the 1979 Journal it is written "In the last few years Nell travelled often to South Africa to judge and had a strong affection for that country"

Nell Pennell served on the Mother Society's Council for many years and was elected President of the Society in 1937 and again in 1954. She was Publicity Officer until just before her death in 1978 when that position was taken over by Dr Wynne Davies OBE of the Ceulan Stud. She was elected an Honorary Life Vice President of the Mother Society.

Results were:-

Section A Colt/filly <1yr 1 Badgemore Golden Honey Bee, 2 Badgemore Moonbeam, 3 Badgemore Ginger Snap (8 entries) **Filly/gelding >1<2** 1 Badgemore Bo-Belle **Colt >1<2** 1 Torbry Wayward Wind **Filly/gelding >2<3** 1& Jnr Ch Badgemore Primrose, 2 Torbry Blossom 3 Badgemore Lucky (3 entries) **Mare 3+** 1 Badgemore Pixie 2 Badgemore Moonlight 3 Badgemore Fairy Light (12 entries) **Stallion 5+** 1 Revel Society 2 Coed Coch Prydus 3 Oakroyd Tywysog Ô Gwalia (5 entries) **Champion Stallion** Revel Society **Champion Mare** Badgemore Pixie **Supreme** Revel Society

Section B Filly Gelding >1<2 2 Valiant Welsh Princess **Colt >2<3** 2 Badgemore Moon

Rocket **Mare 3+** 1 Badgemore Blonde Honey Bee 2 Badgemore Silver Flash **Stallion3+** 1 Valiant 2 Badgemore Brightlight **Supreme Champion** Valiant
Part-bred Colt/Filly <1 1 Pamshor Alfa 2 Pamshor Lucy **Filly/gelding >1<2** 1 & Jnr Ch Badgemore Bay Melody 2 Torbry Sherry 3 Aberdare Prinia **Mare 3+** 1 & Ch Llanel Valiant Gwynneth 2 Badgemore Grey Mystery 3 Foresyte Valiant Pandora
Group classes Stallion, Mare & foal Badgemore Bambi, Badgemore Ballerina, Torbry Button **Mare and foal <1** 1 Badgemore Moonlight/Moonbeam 2 Badgemore Biscuit/Ginger Snap 3 Badgemore Dun Honey Bee/Golden Honey Bee (8) **Three Progeny** 1 Cui Hailstone 2 Coed Coch Seryddwr 3 Coed Coch Seryddwr (6)
Saddle classes (pure and part-bred combined) <12hh 1 Coed Coch Prydus 2 Badgemore Bambi
<12hh Mare/gelding 1 Badgemore Ballerina 2 Badgemore Bright Light 3 Badgemore Fairylight (4) **<13.2hh Mare/gelding ridden by child** 1 Badgemore Blonde Honey Bee 2 Badgemore Ballerina 3 Badgemore Bright Bee (5) **<14.2hh Mare/gelding ridden by child** 1 Foresyte Valiant Pandora 2 Llanel Valiant Gwynneth (3) **>12<14.2hh Stallion** 3 Badgemore Moon Rocket **>12<14.2hh mare/gelding** 1 Foresyte Valiant Pandora 2 Llanel Valiant Gwynneth 3 Badgemore Blonde Honey Bee (4) **Champion part-bred mare ridden by a child** Foresyte Valiant Pandora **Supreme Champion ridden** Coed Coch Prydus
Harness classes Pairs 1 Revel Society/Badgemore Fairylight 2 Badgemore MistyLight/B Silver Flash 3 Badgemore Brightlight/B Cherry **Fours** 1 Revel Society Badgemore Fairylight B Bubbles B Periwinkle 2 B MistyLight B Silver Flash B Brightlight B Cherry **Single Stallion** 1 Coed Coch Prydus 2 Revel Society 3 Badgemore Brightlight (5) **Single Mare/gelding** 1 Badgemore MistyLight 2 Badgemore Fairylight **Combination ridden/driven** 1 Badgemore MistyLight 2 Badgemore Fairylight 3 Badgemore Moon Rocket **Champion Single Harness** Coed Coch Prydus

Studying these results it is clear that where Nell Pennell did not think the pony justified it, no first or championship was awarded, in one case, only a third place.

There's always another show, another judge and another day.

Lynn Russell in Horse & Hound 28 Jan 2010

A generous creature a horse is, and made most handsome by that which deforms man
most – pride. Thomas Fuller

No one ever came to grief, except honourable grief, through riding horses. No hour of
life is lost that is spent in the saddle. Sir Winston Churchill

No sport that does not involve the companionship of a horse can be as good as one that
does. C B Fry

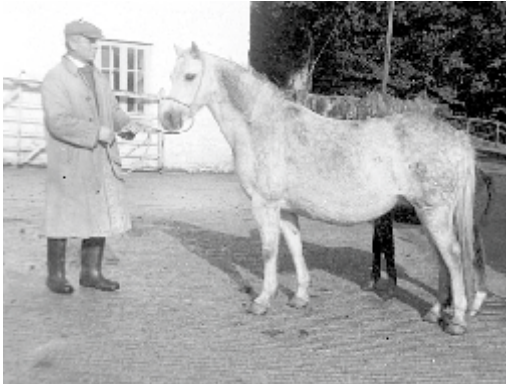
PENDOCK HAREBELL

Pendock Pilleth x Pendock Bluebell

1968 - 1996

In August, 1974, Mr Streicher, a friend from Bredasdorp, Mr Hannes Uys and I went to the Cape Town Docks. I went there to look after Coed Coch Neger during his quarantine period and Messrs Streicher and Uys to fly off to the UK. At the quarantine station Mr Streicher became very excited when he saw Neger and said "I have got more than what I was expecting". He left saying that he was going to buy some top quality mares to match

Neger. Mr Streicher was a man who set by example; he was not a big talker – he did what he said he was going to do.



Harebell prior to leaving the UK together with foal Rosemarie

In the UK he saw Pendock Harebell and immediately liked her and bought her. She was heavily in foal and after foaling Pendock Rosemarie, arrangements were made to have her covered by Coed Coch Bari, at that stage champion stallion in Wales. From this mating Bukkenburg Helen was foaled.

champion mare in Wales (*winning at Northleach*). In November 1974 Harebell, Rosemarie and Hayley arrived at the docks and my brother Andries went to collect them to bring them to Diepkloof. Mr Streicher commented that with Harebell he wanted to surprise (*Badgemore*) Fairylight in the show ring. Harebell was the most beautiful Welsh pony mare that I had ever seen in my life. She was also a wonderful mother. Take her foal away from her and she performs but when the foal is returned, she shows tremendous joy.

Mr Streicher also bought Springbourne Hayley who was at that stage junior

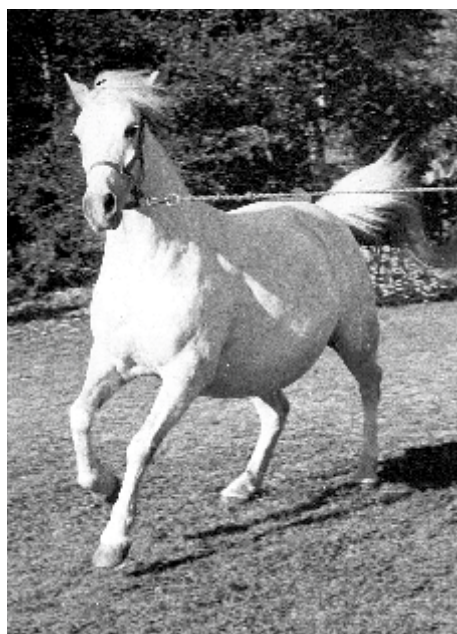
In 1975 Harebell was the champion mare at Bloemfontein and reserve supreme champion whilst in the following four years she was champion mare as well as the supreme champion at Bloemfontein. Thereafter Mr Streicher decided that she had had enough of showing. She was also not put in the team of eight; I had asked Mr Streicher never to put her in the team as I was scared that she may be injured. Harebell was very nervous and scared of



Supreme Champion 1976



Supreme Champion 1978



noises such as the wheels of the wagon. She was, however, successful in double harness with Bukkenburg Belinda.

Harebell was of great benefit to the Welsh Ponies in South Africa. Her descendants, especially through Bukkenburg Helen were of an excellent quality. Mrs van der Walt once asked Mr Streicher what he was going to do with Harebell when he had finished breeding with her; he replied that she will be covered with the soil of the farm (*which she was in 1996 at the age of 28 years*). Although Mr Streicher is no longer with us, I just want to say that through him and my love of horses I had the privilege of travelling virtually the whole of our country, made many friends, had the opportunity of seeing some of the best ponies in the world and had the further privilege of having him as an employer. My thanks also for the opportunity of being able to publish my recollections in this article.

Jacob Joseph 2011

Previously Head Groom at Bukkenburg Stud, Diepkloof

(ed. freely translated from Afrikaans)

Pendock Harebell had two foals in the UK, Pendock Lobelia in 1973 and Pendock Rosemarie in 1974, full sisters by Twyford Juggler. In South Africa she foaled Bukkenburg Helen (imported in Dam) in 1975 by Coed Coch Bari, Bukkenburg Rex in 1976 by Coed Coch Nerg, Paloma in 1977 by Torbry Twilight, Peanuts (a Section B) in 1978 by Firby Cronos, then three foals by Lottesmore Superstar, Pollyanna in 1981, Heiress in 1982 and Herman in 1983, and the final two by Coed Coch Nerg, Henry in 1984 and Pilleth in 1986.

Where there is livestock there is dead stock - old saying

Experienced riders are not prone to brag. And usually newcomers, if they start out being boastful, end up modest

C J J Mullen

It is not enough for a man to know how to ride; he must learn to fall

Mexican Proverb

Care, and not fine stables, makes a good horse

Danish Proverb

There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man

Sir Winston Churchill

Show me your horse and I will tell you what you are

Old English Proverb

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Purebred in-hand: Paddock Hill Sun Coquet by Llandilo Victor Ludorum out of Llandilo Sundew owned by AE van Blerk (Photo: Elpita)

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BECOMING A COUNCIL MEMBER

The Mother Society issues a note for all members on 'Becoming a Council member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society'. Below is a summary of that document for the South African daughter Society.

The legal duties of a Council Member

Council members are bound by certain legal obligations, also known as statutory duties. Broadly speaking these legal duties mean that individuals serving on Council are expected:

- To ensure that the Society complies with its Constitution, the law and any relevant legislation or regulations
- To ensure that the Society pursues its objectives as defined in its Constitution
- To ensure the Society uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives; the Society must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objectives, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are
- To contribute actively to the Council's role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Society
- To ensure the financial stability of the Society
- To protect and manage the property of the Society and to ensure the proper investment of the Society's funds

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Council Member is encouraged to use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Council reach sound decisions. It is important to remember that no individual can be expected to retain all the knowledge, skills and experience that the Council requires. It is essential that Council has a balance of knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas.

If you are thinking of standing for Council, you may find it helpful to consider the following questions:

1. Are you committed to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and enthusiastic about its Mission, Vision and Values?
2. Would you bring with you knowledge and understanding of the breed, its history and pedigrees?
3. Are you willing to devote the necessary time and effort, including preparation for meetings?
4. Can you take a long term view, plan and look ahead; make decisions; be level-headed and focus on the task?
5. Do you approach issues impartially and openly with good, independent judgement?
6. Can you think creatively?
7. Are you willing to speak your mind, question constructively and listen actively?
8. Do you accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a Council Member?

9. Do you possess basic financial awareness?
10. Can you appreciate and understand issues of good practice, rules and regulations in the wider sense of the Law?
11. Are you an effective team-player?
12. Are you interested in developing and expanding your own knowledge and abilities as a Council Member?
13. Are you able to subscribe to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership?

NOLAN'S 7 PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

Honesty – holders of public office have a duty to declare their private interests relating to their public duty and resolve conflict so as to protect the public interest.

Accountability – holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Leadership – holders of public office should promote and support those principles by leadership and example.

Objectivity – in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Selflessness – holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of public interest and not in the interests of themselves, their family or friends.

Openness – holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Integrity – holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

All the above are relevant to the South African Society. So what are our members to do?

RESPONSIBILITY OF SOCIETY MEMBERS

Before proposing a member for election as a Council Member, or voting for that member, do you believe

- that the candidate is able to answer 'Yes' to the 13 questions above
- that the candidate will fully comply with 'The legal duties of a Council Member'

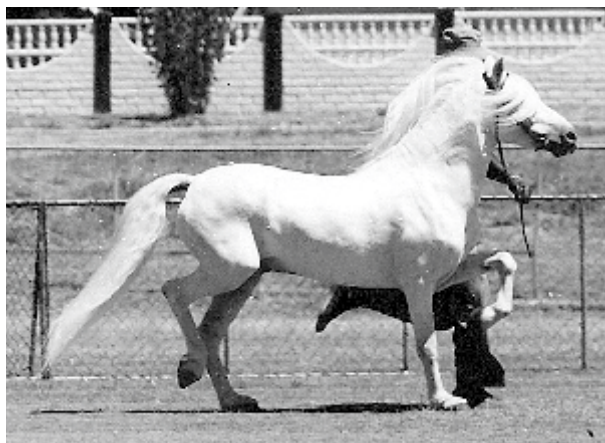
The quality of the Society depends on the quality of its Council Members. Be sure to elect competent individuals to represent you.

Don't forget - you get the Council Members you deserve!

GK 2011

MIDSPRUIT STUD

The Midspruit Stud was started by Mattheus Wessels on the farm “Middelspruit”, Kroonstad in the Free State Province when in April 1978 he purchased the stallion Torbry Twilight (Revel Society x Badgemore Fairy Light) and 2 mares from Myburgh Streicher and one mare from Mrs Cecily Mackie-Niven. They were Bukkenburg Beryl (Coed Coch Nerog x Bukkenburg Black Style) and Bukkenburg Cherry (Coed Coch Nerog x Pendock Campanula) and Aberdare Gaiety Girl (Coed Coch Prydus x Badgemore Gaylight). Later that year he also bought Bukkenburg Beulah (Coed Coch Nerog x Badgemore Biscuit) and Bukkenburg Tanya (Torbry Twilight x Bukkenburg Tiny), the latter being in foal to Twyford Splendour (Twyford Gamecock x Revel Spring Song).



Midspruit Sunlight in-hand 1996
Photo: Equerry



Midspruit Sunlight with Jurie Wessels

Mattheus put all four mares in foal to Twilight and on 13 September 1979 his first two Midspruit foals were born; Suzy out of Cherry and Joey out of Gaiety Girl. In October that year Tanya foaled Midspruit Shela and Beulah, Midspruit Anne. And so began a stud which made a significant contribution to the Section A's over the last quarter of the 20th century. 151 foals were registered and many other mares were sold in foal and therefore these foals carried the prefix of the purchaser. In addition there was a strong market for unregistered ponies from Namibia and a number of ponies were sent there without being birth-notified or registered. Mattheus was sentimental about his ponies and did not like selling any of the ponies he bred. He had to be practical, however, because there were a considerable number of ponies on the farm and every year the numbers were increasing.

Son Jurie started farming on Middelspruit in 1980 and thereafter the first foal to be born was Midspruit Sunlight out of Beryl. When his father was not on the farm one day, he and groom Damsman decided to put the ponies in harness and drove them around the farm successfully before telling his father. He then visited Chris Bredenkamp the well-known Saddler and Hackney Pony man from Bultfontein who showed him the correct way of putting ponies to harness. Jurie always started his ponies on long reins and when ready, into single harness before being placed in the teams. His experience was that when one put



Midspruit Teresa with Moediehi' driving



Child's Driving. Midspruit Hobby with Wian Venter and groom Hans Klaas

the pony in the teams without first doing the basic training, that pony developed bad habits, especially leaning outwards which was very difficult to correct once learnt. When a pony leaned outwards it could not be driven for any length of time as it was not able to use its hocks properly.

Myburgh Streicher arranged their purchase of two Aasvoël carts. Jurie's brother Piet was good at woodwork and Jurie at metal work with the result that they thereafter built their own carts on the farm. Their first Bloemfontein show was in 1983 where they took a few ponies as a trial and were satisfied with the results achieved. And so Midspruit began a relationship with the National Championships which was to last some 20 years. Although they were very successful in doubles, fours and eights in harness, Midspruit won the single harness championship only once, and that was with Midspruit Handsome. Jurie's favourite harness classes was without doubt the tandem class which he felt was so elegant.



*Midspruit Goudman at the 1984 Nationals with
Jurie Wessels driving*

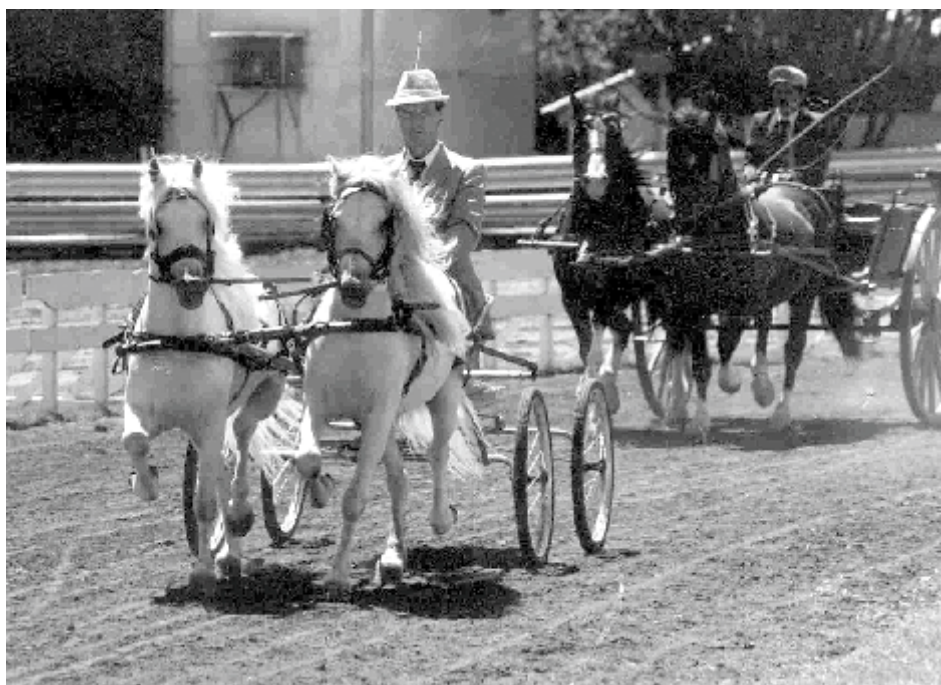


*Midspruit Hitler at the 1984 Nationals with
Piet Wessels*

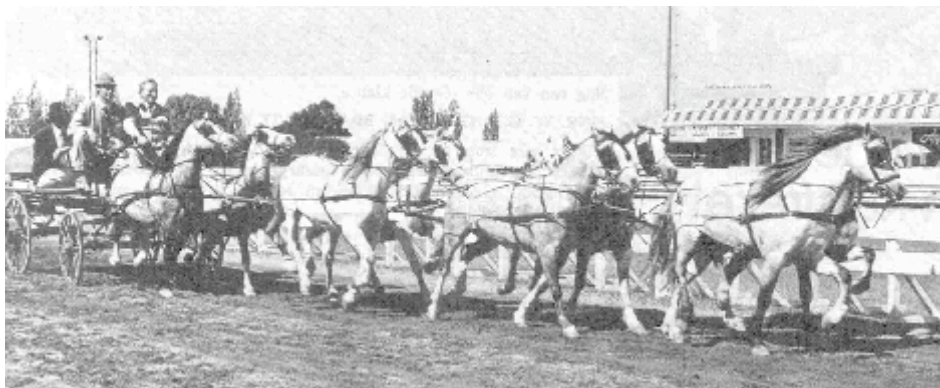
Later more mares were bought primarily from the Bukkenburg stud but mostly older quality mares who could still have a few foals. Amongst these were Revel Velveteen who foaled Midspruit Victoria by Coed Coch Nerg and Midspruit Vanessa by Bukkenburg Tomboy; Pendock Campanula who foaled Midspruit Twinkle Star by Lottesmore Superstar and Midspruit Carol by Bukkenburg Tomboy; Torbry Springsong who foaled Midspruit Soldier by Coed Coch Nerg; Bengad Tansy who foaled Midspruit Victor by Bukkenburg Valour; Monnow Milk Maid who foaled Midspruit Mary by Bukkenburg Valour, Midspruit Millie by Uyzel Hino and



*Midspruit Ligman and Midspruit Goudman with Jurie Wessels
in Tandem at the 1984 Nationals*



*Midspruit Sunlight and Midspruit Brand in double harness with Jurie Wessels driving. Just behind
them are Persie Nimrod and Bukkenburg*



The Midspruit Team of Eight at the 1986 Nationals

Midspruit Minette by Bukkenburg Harri; Twyford Peach who foaled Midspruit Torr by Twyford Teme, Midspruit Tiger by Torbry Twilight and Midspruit Pik by Bukkenburg Valour, amongst others. Mattheus considered it more important to use a good old mare for a season or two to retain the bloodlines.

The stud stallion Torbry Twilight remained with the stud until 1988 when he was lent to Koos Botha of the Koosbad Stud in November 1988 where he sired 9 foals, 6 with the Koosbad prefix and three colts for the Korla stud. Unfortunately he ran into a staywire and broke his neck. Koosbad, as he was commonly known, felt so bad about the death of the senior stallion that he made Mattheus a complete set of harness for a team of eight.

Bukkenburg Harri (Lottesmore Superstar x Springbourne Hayley) was bought from Myburgh in April 1981 as a weanling and was used until the beginning of 1988 when he was sold after siring 34 Midspruit foals and 7 for other studs. His first foal was a colt, Midspruit Hobby out of Midspruit Shela who was gelded and was a very versatile pony who died in 2009 (*see the article on him on page 147*). Bukkenburg Remus (Coed Coch Nerg x Pendock Rosemarie) was leased from Myburgh from the end of 1988 for 14 months during which time he sired 21 foals. Hinton Heather Bee was leased for a two month period in 1986 and in 1987, 7 foals by him were born. In addition he used Uyzel Hino but although he was a good sire of harness ponies, Mattheus was more interested in breeding ponies with a temperament suitable for children and stopped using him. Hino went to the Eastern Cape and years later when Jurie was acting as ring steward he only realised how much influence Hino had on the harness ponies in that region. Bukkenburg Tomboy was used for three years in the early 1990's. He was the Supreme Champion as a foal which caused an outcry. The next year the show rules were changed to exclude foals from the supreme championship!

The Wessels family were keen on participating in showing and as they were only 200km from Bloemfontein made a concerted effort to have as many ponies at the Nationals as possible. It was common to take 30 ponies to the show and one year they took 37 including



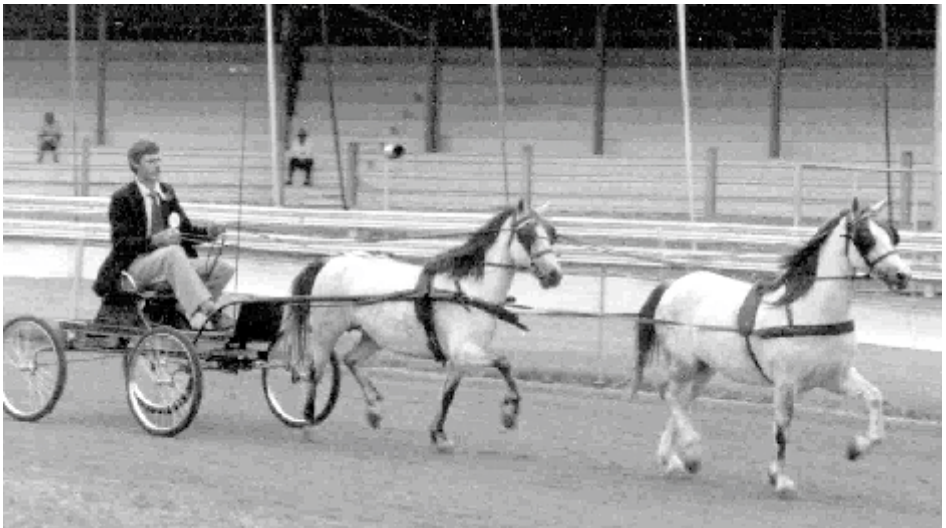
The Midspruit Team of Eight at the 1995 Nationals with Jurie Wessels, Moediehi' Venter and Piet Wessels with the whip

the foals, and enough people from the farm to handle these. There could be up to 6 single harness entries from the Midspruit Stud in a class at Nationals with overall entries being more than 30 in that class. At some shows there were so many entries in the classes that they had to be split into two heats competing for a place in the finals. Jurie, Piet and Moediehi' were active participants at the shows. They were not particularly successful in the in-hand breed classes but shone in the harness classes. Their forte was not in the single harness stallion class which they won only once. But in the pairs, fours and tandem they were particularly successful year after year. One year, Jack Gilfillan, who was not participating at the Nationals, admitted to Jurie that he had entered a Team of Eight for Midspruit. Jurie was taken aback, but Jack borrowed a wagon somewhere and brought his harness for his team of eight. On the Sunday afternoon they took the two Midspruit Teams of Four and inspanned them with the borrowed equipment. After they had done the second circuit of the ring in practice, Jack told Jurie that they would win the Team of Eight championship which they went on to do on the Wednesday night much to the surprise of Jurie. This, also, much to the chagrin of Myburgh Steicher who had entered a Team of Eight Cobs and loudly expressed his displeasure at being beaten by the "Cowboy" team. After this they acquired a wagon and started showing Teams of Eight, also very successfully.

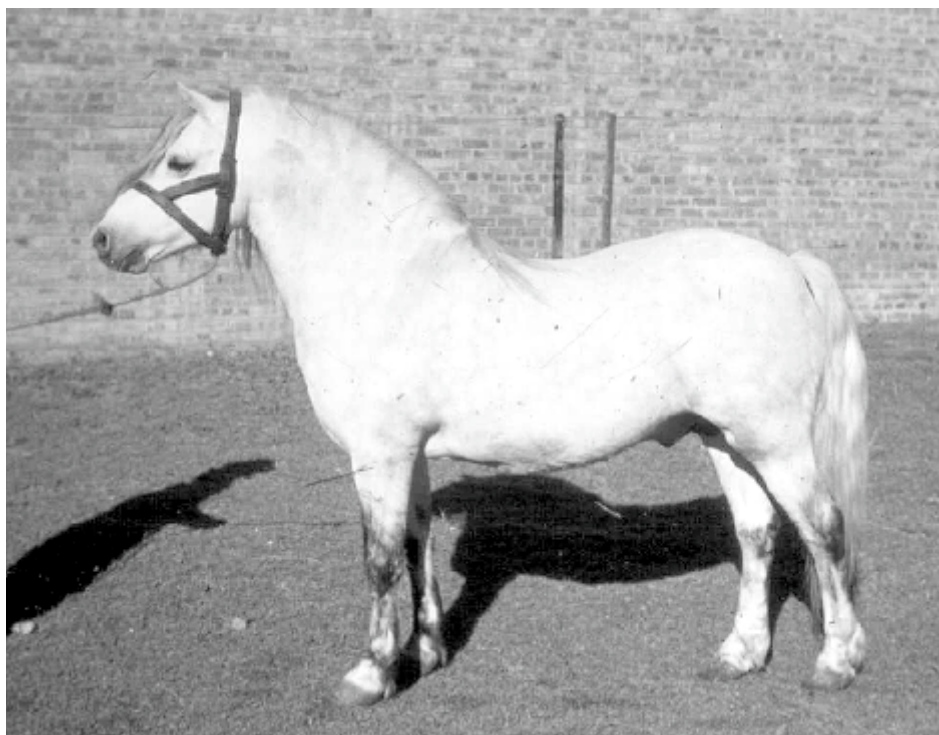
In those days they felt that the showing community was one large family that met once a year at Bloemfontein. Everyone helped each other and there was a feeling of camaraderie. Competition was fierce but friendly. Midspruit Stud brought the meat for a braai for all participants and also ensured many watermelons. This was on the Sunday afternoon but they were so busy unloading and preparing their animals that they themselves seldom were able to be at the braai on time. However, there was time during the few days of the show that they could relax. Moediehi' is crazy about the fun fare at the show and one year she decided to take Jack Gilfillan, Annetjie Botha, Schalk du Toit and others to join in the fun at the fare. They went on the big dipper and for once she found that Jack, whose mouth was always so big on the ground, was deathly silent and pale when up at the top of the big dipper! He was terribly cross with her.

And Trudie Gilfillan, the collecting ring announcer sitting in her caravan was always so stern with them and became very annoyed when the class was delayed. But she was loathe to understand that when there were classes one upon another and ponies had to be changed for singles, doubles and fours, it took the participants time to ensure that the tack was safe and well-fitting. In addition, when the Midspruit team had to harness 6 single harness outfits, it took time. If they had a shortage of whips for the entries, Sonnyboy Bosman and Basie Uys who came to the shows with Myburgh Streicher were always keen to help out. However, these two had their own private competition against one another which made the class so much more interesting.

They normally exhibited a grey Team of Eight but one year they decided to show two teams by entering in addition their team of palominos and chestnuts. The Teams of Eight were always the highlight of the show and were enjoyed by all.



Jurie Wessels Driving Tandem



Torbry Twilight, the original Stud Stallion

Because they were only 100km from the NAMPO show in the Free State, it fell upon the Wessels family to represent the Society at these shows although Peter Duncan, the Secretary, did make an appearance there during the week. But they had to erect the stand and dismantle it afterwards. It was a thoroughly enjoyable show and a lot of interest was shown in the Welsh ponies, but it was hard work. The main feature of the show for the Welsh was Midspruit Hobby, a section A gelding who was a tremendous advertisement for the breed as he could do anything and children at the shows could be led around without fear of injury. (*see his article on page 147*)

In the December 1984 Newsletter it is written. "At the Midspruit it is going very well. This year we again have some very good foals from Bukkenburg Harri. The old man Torbry Twilight is as beautiful as always and he had some work to do again. After three years of drought, we are full of expectation for the new season. Not only the crops, but for the animals as well".

In the mid 1980's Mattheus decided that Jurie must go to the UK to look for a good stallion and arrangements were made to accompany Myburgh Steicher. Unfortunately a month before departure Myburgh had an accident in his bakkie between Riversdale and Diepkloof and Jurie was forced to go on his own. He met up with Chris Jacobs who was

then resident in the UK and who had hired a cottage in England. Jurie hired a diesel Golf for £25 a week for transport to the studs. He spent three weeks in the UK and was fortunate in being able to attend the Royal Welsh. He could never forget the feeling that came over him on the Wednesday afternoon, Cob Day. It was unbelievable; all those Cob stallions running up and down in the large arena with handlers taking it in relays to show off their stallions. He realised then that although Welsh Mountain Ponies were a hobby for the Welsh, Welsh Cobs were a religion. During his visits to the various studs, he learned that all studs always had what they described as the 'special' stallion which he required. Those that he was interested in were not for sale and those that were offered to him were not of any interest to him. He returned to South Africa empty-handed. He, however, clearly remembers the visits to Rosemary Russell-Allen who stayed close to where Chris had hired his cottage and Alison Mountain whom he describes as a wonderful person of whom he is very fond. As she realised that he came from a farm, she offered him freshly produced whey which he enjoyed very much.

Jurie recalls the turbulent years of the late 1980's when the Johannesburg 'pony club' members descended on Bloemfontein in their combi's, attorneys and proxies to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society. They proceeded to wrest control of the council from the Free State membership but unfortunately also the important breeders. At that stage the finances of the Society were in a parlous state and having the businessman Gavan Young as President made a vast improvement to the finances of the Society. This action of the Johannesburg members caused the start of the 'second Boer War' and the following year the members from the ousted provinces caught the Johannesburg crowd by surprise to regain some representation. It was realised by both parties that change was necessary and deep into the night discussions were held leading to a council which would have Regional Councillors elected at the various Regional AGM's. Jurie was at that stage then elected as Vice-President. He believes that councillors often forget what they were there for; not the aggrandisement of individuals but for the ponies and cobs. There are always one or two members who believed that they own the Society, and that was where the problem arose. But he also remembers the former Secretary, Margie Torr, an angel, such a wonderful person and such a tremendous loss to the Society in her untimely death.

Jurie has a son, Mattheus, who, due to ill health required the family to move to Bloemfontein. Jurie commuted regularly to the farm. One benefit of this move was that as he was on the spot, he, together with the secretary, Judy Stuart, organised the National Championships for five years, and very successful these were as well. At one show they had over 250 ponies and 7 Teams of Eight. Most of the entries were Section A's as the C's and D's had not taken off. At the 1989 show there were 49 Senior Section A Mares and 44 Senior Section A Stallions in their classes. In addition there were so many single harness entries that most classes had to be split into two heats. In those days showing was fun. Jurie moved back to the farm in the early 1990's and his last show was in 1995. Moediehi', however, continued with the showing.

In the late 1990's Mattheus stayed in an old age home in town and later suffered a stroke; he was then unable to compete physically. When he died in 2000 Moediehi' continued showing until 2003. It was at that show that their head groom Damsman (known in the



*Groom Damsman together
with Midspruit Torr*

catalogue as Hans Klaas) had just returned from the show ring with Frosty Spike in the single harness Cob class when he had a stroke, collapsed and died. This was a tragedy which was felt by all participants and caused a sombre atmosphere for the rest of the show. As Moediehi' did not have a groom for the shows she never showed again. On the farm in Kroonstad a number of good mares were struck dead by lightning and some had succumbed to snake bites. Many of the original stock were getting old and it was decided not to continue breeding on any scale. Moediehi' moved to the Loxton district in the Northern Cape and still has a few of their good ponies but they are ageing. A number of the descendents of Lottesmore Super Star (Twyford Buckle x Twyford Peach) who were generally 'hot' and also those of Twyford Peach (Twyford Gurkha x Bwlch Peony), who were docile, still survive.

Jurie still clearly remembers the attributes of the ponies at Midspruit. Monnow Paper Boy (Fairlea Commando x Cwmnantwyn Paper Doll) was a small pony but had a good rhythm with all four feet. He does not like the modern tendency for the ponies to have that choppy action which was not in accordance with the breed standard. Hannes Uys produced some excellent harness ponies through Hinton Heather Bee (Hinton Pepe x Criban Wee Bee) and Uyzel Hino (Lottesmore Superstar x Uyzel Heidi) also produced some good harness ponies. He had one fault and this can also be seen in his progeny; this was that although he had wonderful action in front, when required to 'show your pony' he was inclined to have 'bicycle action' with his hind feet. Twyford Teme (Coed Coch Asa x Twyford Teifi) was nice up front but was slightly weak behind. It was sometimes unfortunate that judges only saw the front of a pony in action but failed to see the weak action behind where the feet were virtually being dragged along. They failed to realise that the engine of the pony lay in the hind legs.

Nowadays Jurie is often seen in the show ring as a Ring Steward for many of the shows, primarily Saddlers. He notices that the numbers in the Welsh classes are dwindling and that few youngsters are becoming involved in the Society. This he considered as a big problem and it is necessary for the Society to gain exposure to the public to promote the Welsh breeds, otherwise it will just die out in South Africa.

GK 2011

My sincere appreciation to Jurie and Moediehi' whom I was delighted to meet to talk about their earlier days in the Society, and for not only all the information contained in this article but also for the stud records and photos of the ponies which are used here. Without their considerable contribution, this article on the Stud would not have been possible. In addition, Moediehi's husband had the task of at first filming and later videoing the shows. My further grateful thanks to them for the opportunity of converting these videos onto DVD for record purposes.

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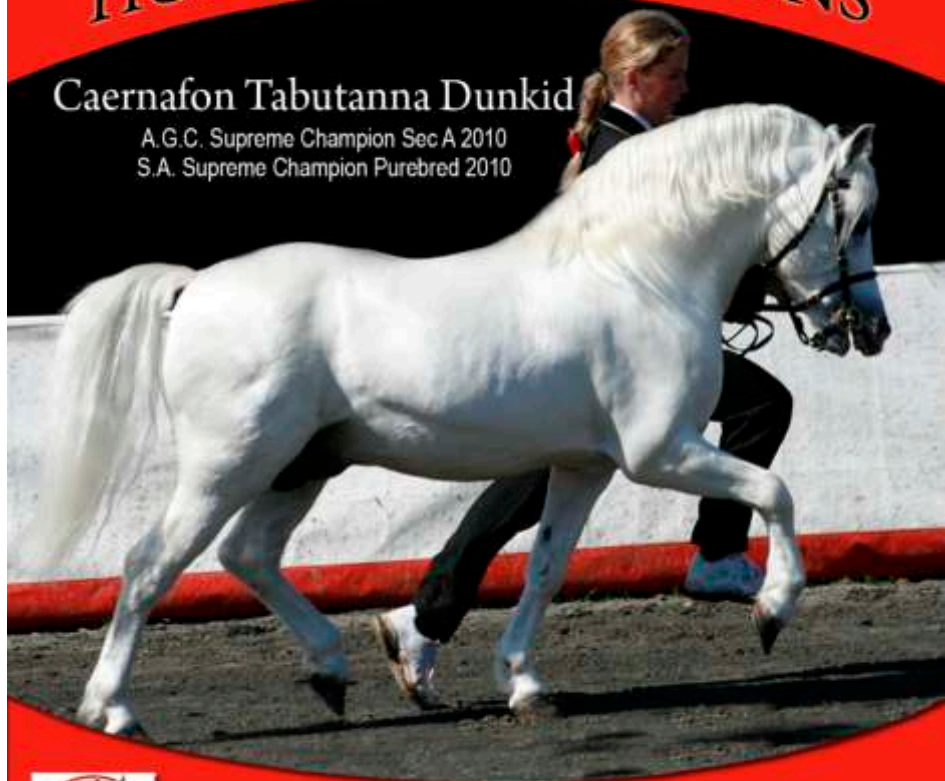
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WATERSIDE TWICKERS

Bred by the late Mr Richard Bennett, founder of the Waterside Stud, Twickers was given his unusual name because Richard in 1998 was watching England playing South Africa at the home of English rugby - Twickenham - whilst he was being born, strangely on a misty Saturday afternoon rather than at night. His dam Lady Art was a show quality TB and his sire the Supreme Champion Partbred Welsh stallion Dimmock Dragonfly bred and owned by Delia Gardner.

It was evident from the first that Twickers was no ordinary foal. He had the look of a future champion and always had a very calm and self possessed way about him. This has never changed. Owing to Richard Bennett's ill health, the whole stud was sold to Johannesburg when Twickers was just over a year old. In 2000 Di Nicholson of the Dibynn Stud purchased him and produced him to win in the ring in hand. She also used him in her stud to cover some of her mares and collected semen prior to gelding him and selling him on as a

child's pony at the age of four years, having trained him under saddle and in harness.



with Danielle Photo: Tamara & Blake Images

Kirsten Loots, proprietor of Sun Valley Stables, a riding school for children, found him for her pupil Michaela Baxter, and they formed a successful partnership, the high point being winning the Supreme Under Saddle Ridden Championship at the HOYS. Twickers proved to be the perfect child's pony as not only is he calm and kind but he is also talented and versatile.



with Danielle Photo: Tamara & Blake Images

When Michaela went into Juniors, another Sun Valley Stable's rider, Danielle Nortje became his lucky owner and an amazing partnership ensued which lasted from 2006 to 2010, their final year together when Danielle and Twickers represented GHS in Showing, Dressage and Equitation at the SA Pony Rider Championships. In 2008 and 2010 they won the SA Pony Rider Showing Championship and in 2009 the SA

Pony Rider Working Pony Championship. In their first year together they won the Reserve Supreme Working Horse/ Pony of the Year at the HOYS following up in 2009 and 2010 by taking the Supreme Working Horse title at HOYS. Also in 2008 they won the Compleat Pony at the Pony Rider Derby, a great achievement. In 2009 at Autumn Gold Cup Show they won the Supreme Working Hunter Championship and later in the year the Supreme Ridden Championship at the Summer Show. Danielle and Twickers also competed in Medium level Dressage and came first in the SANEF Competition 2010, Gauteng leg, as well as achieving second spot in Open Equitation at SA Pony Rider Championships.



with Danielle Photo: Tamara & Blake Images

carrots! We shared our love for each other and therefore developed an exceptionally strong bond and connection. He helped me out when I got the wrong stride to a jump and showed me exactly how it's done at shows; taught me everything I needed to know; forgave me when I lost my temper. Twickers needed all my love and attention, then gave me back all of his attention; love and shared his talent with me, which made me an even more confident and better rider.”

Now Danielle too has moved onto her Junior career and luckily Twickers will stay at Sun Valley Stables, his secure and loving home, where he has been so excellently produced and his riders given top class instruction. It is a great achievement on the part of Kirsty Loots and her staff to have kept this superb pony so contented and in such wonderful condition and to have helped each child in turn to learn from him and also to go out and win against the best show riders in the country under International judges. His new owner Shannon Dawson has already had a big win, Supreme Champion Working Riding Horse at Summer Show 2010 which was very well done so early in their partnership. Great ponies like Twickers give their riders a wonderful start to their equestrian careers.

Waterside Twickers is an exceptional pony.

Delia Gardner 2011
Dimmock Stud

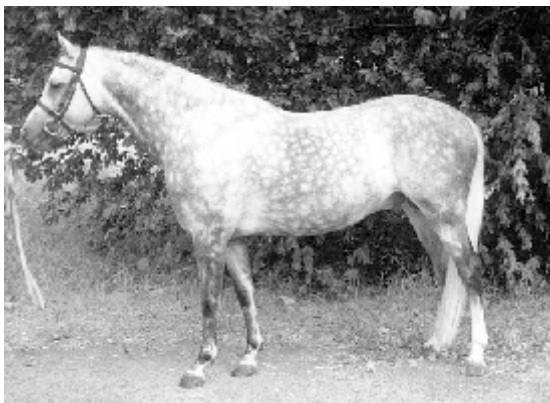
WILLOWBROOK STUD

Mrs Rose Lasbrey of the Badgemore Stud bred Welsh Mountain ponies in Constantia and Lorna Ramsden always used to go past and wished to own one, especially a Dun. She got to know Rose Lasbrey quite well and in 1964 when her son Robert was one year old and she was pregnant with her daughter Amber, she bought two Section A geldings (*Badgemore Pampas and Badgemore Prunus*). They were bought as riding ponies for her children when the ponies were foals with the experiment of having children and ponies grow up together which was a great success. Amber started riding at the age of one and when she was two was going on outrides in the adjacent vineyards with Lorna leading. They had a lot of fun with the ponies and started competing at shows. In December 1983 Margie Torr, the then Secretary of the Society, reported on the November 1983 Goodwood Show that “Amber Ramsden and Badgemore Pampas gave us an excellent show and took first prize with Badgemore Bonny coming in second and Badgemore Sunspot third”.

Lorna got to know Margie Torr and although she had no thought of breeding or indeed becoming involved with the Society at all, Margie and Mrs Lasbrey asked her to take on the job of Regional Representative for the Western Cape for a few months – or so she thought; it lasted a few years! She then started to become very interested in Welsh ponies, but it was only when Mrs Lasbrey asked her to join her in importing a Section B stallion that she decided to start a small stud of her own.

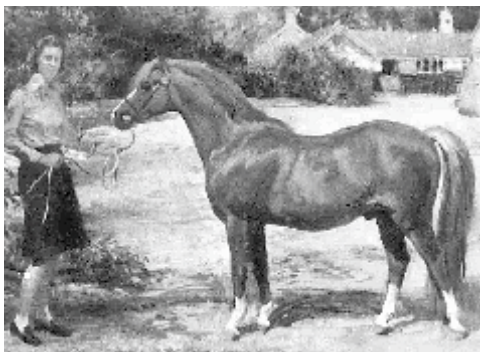
Miss Rosemary Phillipson-Stow had been asked by Rose Lasbrey to find a suitable Section B stallion in the UK and she suggested Lechlade Periwinkle (Downland Romance x Lechlade Angelica) (*see 2005 Journal p46*) who they bought on the strength of the recommendation and the photographs sent to them. He arrived here in 1982.

The land that Lorna had available for her ponies was very small so she had to keep numbers down and felt that she should try and get one or two top mares to start with. She had always liked Solway Master Bronze very much and was very keen to get a mare from him as her foundation mare. They were very hard to get and she was extremely lucky to have been given the chance of buying Rotherwood China Doll who was by Solway Master Bronze out of Downland Dresden, and was in foal to Penwood Monsanto. China Doll was a Silver Medal winning mare at a show at the Ponies for Britain Show. Lorna was even luckier to have been allowed to import her. However, her importation was not without drama. Between the time that she left the UK and arrived in



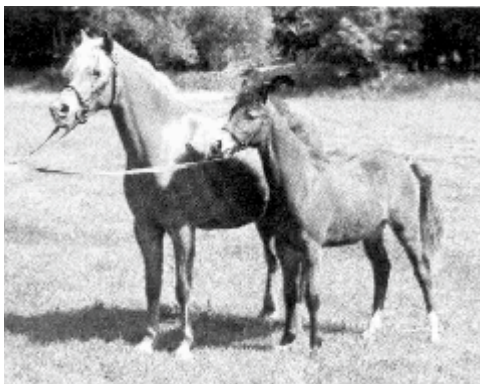
Section B imported Stallion Lechlade Periwinkle

South Africa in January, 1984, the regulations for the importation of in-foal mares had been changed and the authorities wanted to send her back. Lorna challenged the authorities that they allowed her to come into the country, how could they now send her back? The outcome of this was that she was allowed to stay on condition that she was quarantined on a separate portion of her farm over the road until the mare had foaled and tests had been made for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM).



Solway Master Bronze together with the Hon Mrs Ponsonby in a painting by Tom la Fontaine

China Doll was due to foal on April 20th, 1984, but as ponies tend to do, surprised them by producing a most beautiful bay filly on March 9th, 42 days early! The first week of the foal's life was a nightmare. Saline drips and bottle feeding every 2 hours. By the time Lorna got the foal feeding from her mother, she was exhausted, and so were the vet and her friends who were marvellous with all the help they gave her. Anyway, Willowbrook China Jade survived the ordeal and started developing normally and grew up to be a very pretty pony, but more a British Riding Pony than the old fashioned Section B.



Rotherwood China Doll together with her foal Willowbrook China Jade

It was now necessary to find a stud name. This was nearly as traumatic as nursing a premature foal. It took nearly three months of sorting through names including lots of Welsh ones that sounded lovely but were impossible to spell. She finally decided on 'Willowbrook' as her farm had a lovely willow-lined stream running through the middle of the paddocks.

In the meantime, early in 1984 Lorna had bought a lovely Anglo Arab mare by Betty Arnold named Olford Enchantress (1/4 Arab 3/4 TB) and put her to Periwinkle. The result of this mating was Willowbrook Prospero who went on to become a top CA jumper 2 or 3 times under 2 or 3 different children. Later in 1985 Willowbrook Melody was born out of Glanwyn Harmony whom she got from the Jarmans in Johannesburg. In December 1994 it was reported that "one of Badgemore Golden Honey Bee's young daughters, Glanwyn Harmony, sired by Section B stallion Firby Cronos, and currently owned by the Willowbrook Stud, is busy making a name for herself in the ring, both under saddle and in



Olford Enchantress with her foal Willowbrook Prospero



Willowbrook Timpani in July 2000 with Kim Bray at the Kyalami SA Children's Champs Photo: News Review

hand. Harmony is about to make her debut as a brood mare, having been bred to the imported stallion, Lechlade Periwinkle. Golden Honey Bee's grandchild will be born very near to the birthplace of her grandmother!"

There were only two more Periwinkle foals; in 1985 Willowbrook China Dragon, the second foal of Rotherwood China Doll which was an exquisite pony and a real picture but very much a show pony who went to Johannesburg as a stud stallion but the new owners decided to geld him; and in 1986 Willowbrook Timpani, also a colt out of Glanwyn Harmony who became a good dressage and team pony. Lorna found that all of Periwinkle's foals were rather feisty which was not what she wanted in a child's pony so she sold her share in the stallion back to Rose Lasbrey in 1985.

In November 1987, the stud was fortunate in being able to buy the imported stallion Ty Isha Flashlight (Ty Isha Stripe x Bryniau Starlet) from the estate of Mrs Kinnersley-Brown of the Running Waters Stud in Natal. Mrs K-B had imported

Flashlight as a two year old in 1971 and he sired but three foals there, 2 colts in 1973 and a filly in 1974. When a Welsh judge saw him at a show he remarked that he would like to take him home because he considered him to be a true old fashioned Section B with all the quality and movement. In 1987 when Lorna moved to her farm Ohio in Noordhoek she left Flashlight for a few months on her parents farm as a companion to a 22 year old TB mare, Barouche, which had been certified as being sterile. She started getting fatter and fatter and the two of them were moved to the Noordhoek farm and soon after Willowbrook Barbarbella appeared. Two years later Barouche had Willowbrook Baraka, also by Flashlight. At Willowbrook stud he sired 8 ponies, Jade Warrior, China Clipper, China Goblin, Barbarbella, Merlin, China Brocade, Baraka and Titania. He was also used on Nooitgedacht mares and was later leased to Helen Gilfillan of the Wayfillan Stud, foaling Wayfillan Athena, a partbred out of Jerico Gazelle. The condition was that he was to spend the rest of his days there provided that he was put down humanely by Helen's husband, a

vet, when the quality of his life deteriorated. At the age of 27 he was put down in the field where he was running with his mares.

Lorna bred ponies for performance with great success. Many of them were very successful in the show ring. Propero became a top CA jumper, Merlin went CA, Timpani was very successful in dressage, Jade Warrior was a winning show pony, and Titania was a very good all rounder. In an article in the local paper under the heading "Willowbrooks do it for Western Province" at the 2000 SA



Ty Isha Flashlight

Children's Championships held at Kyalami Park, it is recorded that in the individual showing Championships with 77 participants Willowbrook Merlin ridden by Lee Dunbar came first and Willowbrook Titania ridden by Daniela Veermeer came second. Titania was also selected for the WP Showing Team. In the Dressage Championships at the same show

Willowbrook Timpani ridden by Kim Bray came first in CN8 with a 70% dressage score. Timpani was also a Western Province Team member in Dressage. The WP team came second to the Transvaal Team but Lisa Hall, the Chef d'Equipe of the dressage team remarked that "it was a young team aged between 10 and 12 years with little interprovincial competition experience between them. Their ponies too, are inexperienced compared with some of those ridden by the Transvaal team, many of whom have been doing their stuff carrying winning riders for years. But our team did extremely well despite their youthfulness."



Willowbrook Titania with Daniela Veermeer and Willowbrook Merlin with Lee Dunbar waiting to jump CD. Full sister and brother competing as individuals

1st and 2nd in the CC Championships out of 77 entries in 2000 at Kyalami

Lorna decided to take up driving but always remained a novice whip. She unfortunately had three driving accidents. The first was on Llanel Shooting Star at Goodwood Showgrounds. Shooting Star was being driven in the Part bred ladies Fine Harness class. There was a howling South-Easter blowing and one of the banners along the side of the arena came loose, hit the pony on the face and wrapped around her head. She got such a fright that she flipped over with the carriage and Lorna was tossed out. The second incident was at Johnny Bongers' stables when she was driving a half



WP Children's showing team Megan Paymans (D'Leni Comeaway) Danielle Veermeer (Willowbrook Titania) Jessica Trollip (Jebel Diorella) Sarah Niesius (Bardun's Twinkling Star) Oliver Lazarus (Foresyte Warrior Song) with Chef d'Equipe Larissa Allan and reserve rider



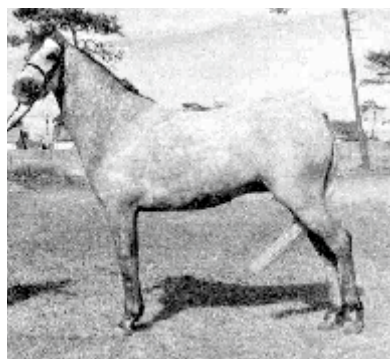
Willowbrook Baraka with her dam Barouche



Willowbrook Brocade



Willowbrook Jade Warrior at the 1993 Goodwood show with Joy Norman winning Show Pony <1.4m class



Willowbrook Melody at the 1989 Cape Show where she was the Supreme Champion Section B

brother to Willowbrook Titania out of a warmblood mare. She was told that the carriage was too heavy for the horse and they changed to a lighter type carriage. Unfortunately the shafts were too short and when the horse trotted, his hocks hit the carriage. He got a terrible



Willowbrook Titania with Daniela Veermeer at the 2000 Kyalami Children's Championships jumping CB Grade Photo: Equerry

fright and took off. Lorna dropped the outer rein and pulled him in ever decreasing circles with the backstepper doing a wonderful job in keeping the carriage upright, until someone finally caught him. The third incident involved Titania herself and this incident is recorded on the article on her (*page 106*). After these experiences, it was definitely time to give up driving.

The last and most successful and versatile Willowbrook pony was Titania who did exceptionally well in the ring in many disciplines (*see separate article on her on page 106*).

GK 2011

My appreciation to Lorna Ramsden for all the information on her stud and photographs of the ponies, without which this article would not have been possible.

D'LENI MARY ROSE

D'Leni Mary Rose was born at Tricia Vale's D'leni Stud on 25/08/1987, her sire the well known Section B, Bannut Larkspur, her dam a thoroughbred mare named Solent. She was named Mary Rose because of the ship called the Mary Rose, which sank in the Solent river in England, so Tricia Vale thought it an appropriate name for the bay filly, with dark points and a tiny star. I bought D'leni Mary Rose from Delia Gardner, who bought her at a Welsh Auction a month earlier in Natal, as a two year old. She was a beautiful quality pony with a fine thoroughbred head and limbs and extremely well proportioned.



*1993 Rand Show with Sharon Rhode (Walsh) -
Champion Welsh Partbred In-Hand*

I backed Mary Rose as a three year old and she was always quick to learn and very brave. Possessed of extremely good conformation, a very correct mover with very good limbs, she won many In-hand Welsh Partbred

Championships, including the Supreme Champion Partbred in hand and reserve Supreme Champion Breed Horse at Rand Easter Show, Supreme Champion Breed Horse of the Year in 1993 at Horse of the Year Show and Champion Partbred at Pretoria Regional championships. In 1993 she also won the Supreme Partbred Ridden Championship for Children under 12 (ridden by my son Greg Walsh), as well as the open Partbred Supreme Ridden Championship (ridden by Andrew Webb) at Pretoria Regional Championships. She later won the Champion Show Hunter of South Africa at the SA National Children's Championships ridden by Andrew Webb.

Mary Rose was a whizz at utility and working hunter classes and during her long career, won many championships both with my son Greg and later with the two Kaiser sisters, Maria and Stefanie. She won the South African Working Hunter Championship 3 times at the SA National Championships and the Working Pony Championships as well. She was very successful at Children's Derby winning the Complete Pony twice with the Kaiser sisters. Mary Rose was also a talented event pony and had a wonderful ground



SA Eventing Champs with Greg Walsh



1997 Show Jumping with Greg Walsh



*1993 SA Children's Champs - Champion Show
Hunter Pony with Andrew Webb*

covering stride. She won the Children's Eventing Championship of South Africa with my son Greg in 1996 and with Maria Kaiser twice later on. She represented the Transvaal Children's Eventing, Equitation and Showing Teams at least 3 times, with Maria Kaiser who took over the ride when Greg outgrew her and one year she was selected for all three teams at the Children's SA Championships. With Maria's younger sister, Stefanie Kaiser who took over the ride when her sister went junior, she also represented the Transvaal at the National Championships in Showing and eventing and Stefanie went on to win the South African National Working championships with Mary Rose in her final year as a child rider.

Mary Rose never had so much as a windgall when we retired her at the age of 17, when she developed a severe abscess in the hoof which needed time to grow out. She had one filly foal by Delia Gardner's Dimmock Dragonfly, whom we called Coachhouse Rosemarie. Rosemarie became a lovely children's pony with an outstanding temperament, winning her first foal class at Horse of the Year show. She was sold as a yearling to Yvonne Lubbe for her daughter Lena. Mary Rose remained with me throughout her life, until sadly we had to have her put down at the age of 19 early in 2007, after she was diagnosed with Cushing's disease. We were very proud to have owned such a wonderful pony, always a pleasure to handle and who took care of her young charges over many difficult courses. Mary Rose always "rose" to the occasion..

Sharon Rhode (Walsh) 2011

SHOWING IN HAND

DO start your preparations for the show in good time. Six weeks from the first worm dose to the last plait is a fair guide for the Yearling at the early shows. Once the grass is growing, much of the work is done for you

DO work the pony's food up slowly. Too many oats too fast have a lamentable effect on both digestion and manners.

DO spend time on teaching him to lead really well. Your shoulders and his should be level. He should stop when you stop; walk when you walk; trot when you run. ALL on a loose rein. Obviously the trotting part of the proceedings is the most difficult to achieve, but no pony can give of his best with your right hand locked in a vice-like grip on the bit! You just have to evolve a working arrangement that suits both of you, and Practise, Practise, Practise.

DO teach him to walk quietly in and out of a trailer/horsebox. It pays a handsome dividend when everybody is tired and cross at the end of a long day.

DO turn your pony out for an hour or two every day, preferably with another. The grass and exercise are essential for his physical and mental well-being.

DO reward for a lesson well learnt.

DO punish at once for bad behaviour. Nipping, particularly in colts, must be stamped on hard whenever it occurs. You should never have to hit your pony in the ring; it is merely a sign of insufficient "home work".

DO turn the pony out as well as you can. Go to the big shows, and see what a well turned-out pony should look like. Aim high always. It pays.

DO show in rubber-soled shoes. The grass in any show ring very quickly achieves an icing-like quality, and measuring ones length demoralises the pony, infuriates your husband, and you did not come to amuse the spectators. It is also very painful ...

DO be neat, clean and tidy when showing your pony. It is a poor compliment to the pony to be worse turned out than he is.

DO send your entries in on time. This can cause more bad blood and rows than almost anything else.

DON'T OVER-SHOW. Particularly a young animal. The temptation is great .. But it is certain death to that alert, sparkling, yet obedient performance that we all acclaim when we see. At the first signs of staleness, turn the pony out for a time. Don't wait for him to go like the proverbial boot in the ring. Half the battle is keeping him amused at home; take him for walks with the dogs; shopping down the village street; down the jumping lane with poles very low; anything that you can think up other than the same boring exercise on the lunge every day.

Given the conformation, and to a certain extent the temperament, the show that our pony puts up in the ring depends entirely on our skill in making the most of his good points and cloaking the bad ones. It is a challenge, and as such, tremendous fun.

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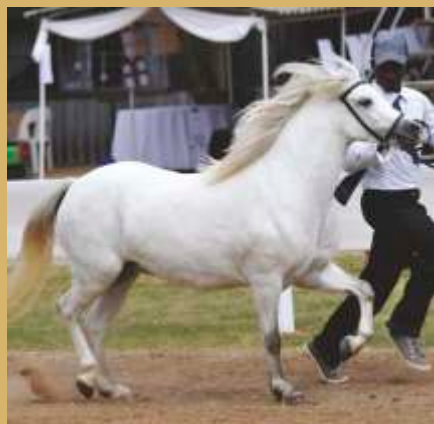
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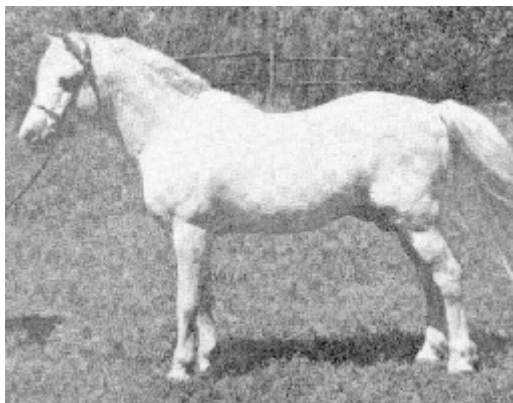
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OUR AIM IS SIMPLY TO BREED THE BEST

WELSH IN SOUTH AFRICA

The object of my going was to judge the Welsh Championships at the Goodwood Show (see page 25) in Cape Town and the Children's Riding Ponies at the Rand Show in Johannesburg. The hotel in Newlands where I stayed for the week of the show was once for a short while the home of the enchanting Lady Anne Barnard in the 18th century.

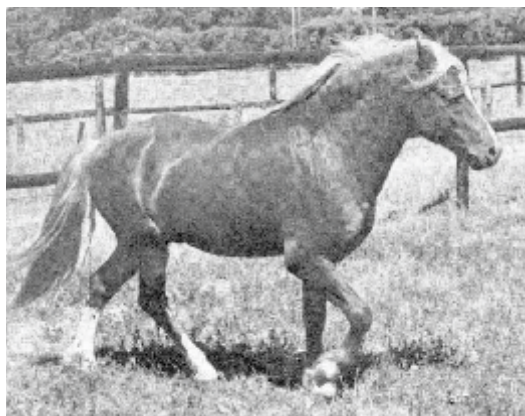


Coed Coch Seryddwr

After the show I went to stay with Mr and Mrs Lasbrey at their farm in Constantia, the famous wine-growing district of the Cape Province. In place of the vines that a few years ago grew at Badgemore, a stud of 25 Welsh Mountain Ponies now flourish. From the stoep where we so often sat, one could watch them grazing in the paddocks against the background of the Cape Town mountains, which in certain lights looked like Wales. Mrs Lasbrey is the pioneer of Welsh Mountain pony breeding in S Africa, and her ponies go to prove that the only way to start a stud is to buy the best.

After the last war, she came to Wales and was fortunate in being able to buy from Miss Brodrick, Coed Coch Seryddwr, the sire of Coed Coch Madog, which speaks for itself. With him went the lovely little chestnut mare Criban Sara (Criban Winston-Criban Posy) from the Cui stud, and Revel Black Style of the best old Forest breeding. These good ponies are now dead but some of their dependants would more than hold their own were they to come into a show ring in Wales.

Seryddwr is succeeded by his son Badgemore Starlight, out of Criban Sara, who died when he was a small foal. "Snappy" as he is called, was brought up on the bottle. Later he had the misfortune to have sunstroke! In spite of these major setbacks he has grown into a strong tough pony, who would, I feel sure, contend with the rigours of his native hills. Badgemore Starlight could not be shown, having grown to 12.1. This was a pity as I would have liked to have judged him against Mr Torr's "Revel Society", Champion Welsh Mountain Pony



Badgemore Starlight

stallion at the Goodwood Show. Until one saw them together I do not know what the outcome would have been.

Mrs Lasbrey later imported Cui Hailstone (Criban Snowball-Cui Jane) but has since sold him. His grandson by Starlight (*Badgemore Ginger Snap*), will, I feel sure, make a good pony – a backward foal, he was only third in the show, but had greatly improved by the time I left for home.

While staying at Badgemore I met several keen pony breeders and had some most interesting talks with them. The farmers around the Cape are enthusiastic about every kind of driving class and are most knowledgeable on the subject. In the shows they drive spans of six or eight horses, mules or ponies, a relic of the old pioneering days. Their expert handling of these teams is a sight to be seen. They now realise the potentialities of the Welsh as a harness pony and in several cases they are being bought to replace the Shetland type pony.



Oakroyd Tywysog Ô Gwalia

of six or eight horses, mules or ponies, a relic of the old pioneering days. Their expert handling of these teams is a sight to be seen. They now realise the potentialities of the Welsh as a harness pony and in several cases they are being bought to replace the Shetland type pony.

Mrs Lasbrey took me to visit Mr and Mrs Fred du Plessis at their farm 80 miles from the Cape, and I very much enjoyed their hospitality. Mr du Plessis is justly proud of his span of blue and white Shetlands, but he is also buying Welsh.

We left Badgemore by car to stay a night with Mr and Mrs Streicher in their delightful new house near Albertinia on our way to Plettenburg Bay. That evening Mr Streicher drove us round his well-farmed land, which was of great interest to me. He is forming a stud of black Welsh Mountain ponies and hopes before long to have a span of them to drive. Last year he imported a stallion (*Oakroyd Tywysog Ô Gwalia*) and a mare from Wales. Unfortunately the latter met with a fatal accident soon after she arrived, but Mr Streicher is importing several others to replace her. Black ponies, once so plentiful in Wales, have now become a rarity and extremely hard to find.

The following morning we continued to Plettenburg Bay where I spent three glorious days bathing in the warm Indian Ocean with mile upon mile of white sand and the blue sea with its great rolling breakers and hardly a soul in sight. Mr Mackie Niven and his wife fetched me from Plettenburg Bay and we drove 150



Coed Coch Prydus with Cecily Niven driving at Amanzi

miles along this beautiful coast to Amanzi. They took me to the Addo Elephant park, 30 miles away, where before dusk a huge elephant appeared on the skyline coming down to drink in the dam. Mrs Mackie Niven owns Coed Coch Prydus, a full brother to Coed Coch Planed. His owner enjoys driving him round the estate and he won the Welsh Harness Championship at Goodwood. Prydus has been put to some very good TB polo pony mares, as well as the Welsh, resulting in some nice young riding ponies. Not long ago Mrs Mackie Niven bought Badgemore Gaylight, a lovely quality mare from Miss Illingworth. I very much liked this pony's daughter Foresyte Valiant Gwynneth, an exceptionally nice type of Section B mare. Last year Revel Siesta was imported from Wales and should be an acquisition to this stud, being a grand-daughter of Pendock Playboy, a pony with the most beautiful head and used with great success for a short while at the Revel before he died (*see 2009 Journal p87*).

Leaving Amanzi, I flew 2000 miles from Port Elizabeth to Rhodesia to stay with Mr and Mrs Goode at Waterfall Ranch near Bulawayo. Here the country was once more lush and green, having recently had the first rains for four years, but flying over the Northern Transvaal one looked down on red soil bare of herbage and stock were dying. Mrs Goode



Coed Coch Pibydd Moel

has the foundations of an excellent pony stud. Her stallion Coed Coch Pibydd Moel by Snowdon Blighter is out of one of Miss Brodrick's best mares, Coed Coch Pioden by Tan-y-Bwlch Berwyn. This pony has a wonderful temperament and is often ridden by their young son James. Pibydd Moel is a good mover and is now broken to harness. He will be a worthy opponent to Prydus should they ever meet in harness classes.

When Mrs Goode came home nearly two years ago she bought Arfon Glaw. This nice young filly was well up in the filly class at the Royal Welsh among the huge entries judged by Mrs du Pont from the United States in 1964. Arfon Glaw is by Madog out of Meifod Ballerina, herself a Royal Welsh winner. Since I left she has produced a filly foal by Gredington Simwnt (*Rhaiadr Mari*) to the delight of her owner. Another pony imported at the same time was Gredington Siriol by Coed Coch Planed out of a daughter of Criban Victor. Although on the small side, this pony has the conformation needed for a riding pony and a sweet head. Her two-year old son (*Rhaiadr St Donat*) by Victor had, I thought, the making of a Section B stallion.

From Rhodesia I flew back to Johannesburg on my way to stay with Miss Illingworth and Miss Noel Wight (Secretary of the South African Welsh Pony Society) at Forsight, their home near White River in the Eastern Transvaal. Miss Illingworth has been breeding ponies for some years. It is well known that she owns the Welsh Pony stallion Valiant, who is having such a great influence on pony breeding in South Africa. So much has been written about him that anything I write will be mere repetition. Valiant is, however, a most charming pony and a great character. He is much loved by everyone at Forsight and has

complete confidence in his African groom, Willie Shabangu, who looks after him so well. Valiant has been used mainly on local pony mares and produces children's riding ponies. The mares that Miss Illingworth bought to start her stud were mostly of mixed Arab and Basuto blood, and their stock by Valiant is promising. He is giving them the bone and substance that they need, while retaining the pretty heads of the dams. I thought this year's foals were all of a type, and if a suitable riding pony stallion can be found to build up the foundations Valiant has laid, Miss Illingworth will have achieved her ambition in breeding a top class riding pony.

There are also several good section B mares at Forsight and I saw the recently imported Trefesgob Priscilla (a daughter of Cusop Sheriff) who had just produced a pretty filly foal by Brockwell Berwyn (*Foresyte Sweet Nell o' th' Mountains*). I also saw Brockwell Will o' the Wisp who had only been there a short time, and his first foals were eagerly awaited. He is to be put to some of Valiant's daughters.



Valiant

I went to the Kruger Park Game Reserve and spent three strenuous and enthralling days in the company of Mrs Hilda Stevenson-Hamilton, whose late husband was the first game warden. Seeing wild game in its natural surroundings is an unforgettable experience and made me dislike zoos even more than I did before, if that is possible.

The country around Forsight is one of the most beautiful places I have seen in this world where I spent a happy week and was reluctant to leave. Motoring back to Johannesburg and the Rand Show we called in on the way to see the Basuto ponies at the experimental station at Ermelo.

In Johannesburg I stayed a night with Mr and Mrs David Stubbs. He is well-known in the show-jumping world and a brilliant horseman. His wife joined me at Goodwood and I was impressed by her sound knowledge. I spent a week of the Rand Show (which goes on for a fortnight) with Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, who made me, a complete stranger, so welcome in their lovely home.

After the show I flew back to Cape Town on the last lap of my journey, to find that autumn had come, bringing a cold nip in the air, and the swallows had left for the north. We steamed out of Cape Town harbour on the Windsor Castle and headed for the open seas. I stayed on deck to catch a last glimpse of Africa, feeling very sad to be leaving the friends who had done so much for me and made it possible, during the few weeks that I was there, to see something of this vast and wonderful country.

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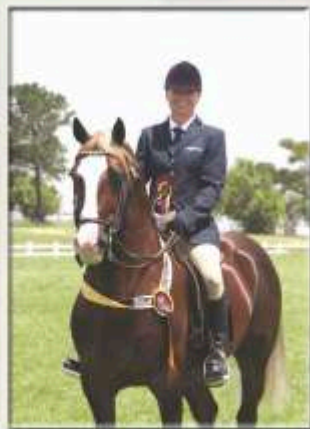
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