

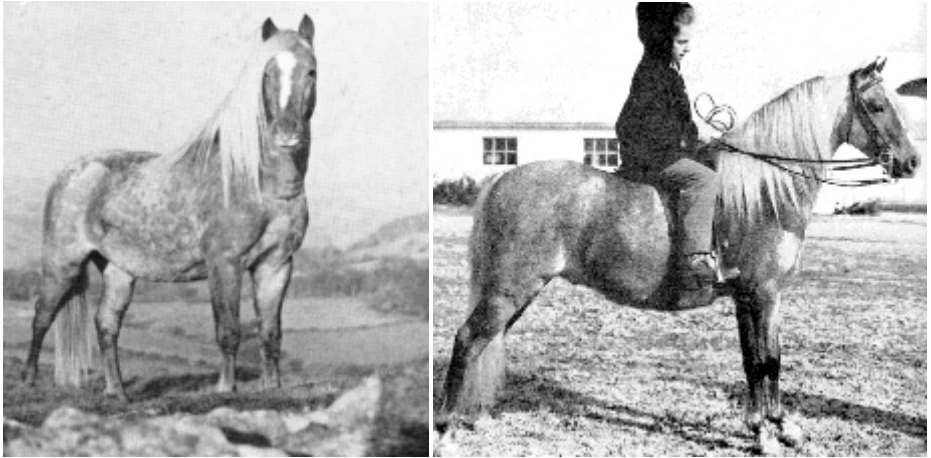
COED COCH PALA FS2

After the enormous success of Valiant on the part-bred breeding scene, Ida Illingworth soon realised that to continue with this project, a suitable Section B mare was essential. She wrote: 'In 1959 I went over to Wales to see what I could find. I found that Miss Brodrick of the famous Coed Coch Stud was having a partial disposal sale at which she was disposing of practically all her Section B ponies. This was an opportunity not to be missed and I was privileged to go up and stay with Miss Brodrick before the sale and pick out everything I liked and which would fit in with Valiant's breeding. I was fortunate in having the help not only of Miss Brodrick herself but also of her neighbours, Mr and Mrs E.G.E. Griffiths, the breeders of Valiant who had so generously made it possible for me to bring him to South Africa three years previously. Top of the list of ponies we marked was 'Coed Coch Pala', then only three months old. She was a lovely little thing and her breeding fitted ideally, but her dam was twenty years old – too old to be asked to emigrate to South Africa! However, this was only July and the sale was not until September. I went off on a round of shows and visits trying to work out how to get the little 'Pala' to South Africa without her dam. Three weeks on board ship would surely be disastrous when she had only been weaned and yet there seemed to be no other alternative. At the Great Yorkshire Show I was in the Jersey Society's tent when they started to discuss the 'Noah's Arc Plane' which flew down Africa weekly and which Jersey Breeders had been using most successfully to export their heifers and young calves. I pricked up my ears. Was this the solution to my problem? It was!

'I went to the sale triumphantly, with my secret plan in my pocket, only to be somewhat overawed by the 'League of Nations' surrounding the ring. Buyers were there from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, as well as many of the European countries, while a strong contingent of British buyers were there on the 'Home Defence' duty, trying to save some of the best lots from going abroad. In a glorious setting up in the Welsh hills, proceedings opened with a parade of the stallions whose progeny were on the Sale. These were trotted out for our benefit and it was worth being there if only for that display, without the excitement of trying to buy a wife for Valiant.

'Most lots went 'over the moon' and mostly to buyers from abroad. Finally came my foal and I bid rather doubtfully, for she had got to the awkward stage and was not nearly as attractive as she had been when I picked her three months before. The bidding was keen, but I hung on, going well above my limit. Finally, she was mine and I sank back exhausted! (*ed - according to the sale results, Pala went for 150 guineas - £157.50*)

'Her flight took under a week from door to door'



Coed Coch Blaen Lleuad, sire of Coed Coch Pala, seen in the hills of Wales and, shortly after his export to the USA, being ridden by Gretchen Bonnie, the daughter of his new owner

5748 Coed Coch Pala FS2 was foaled in March 1959 and was by Coed Coch Blaen Lleuad out of 347 Coed Coch Pluen FS1. Daisy Brodrick described Coed Coch Blaen Lleuad 2222 (Criban Victor 1775 x 9270 Berwyn Beauty) as having the ‘most perfect temperament’ and was backed with minimal difficulty.

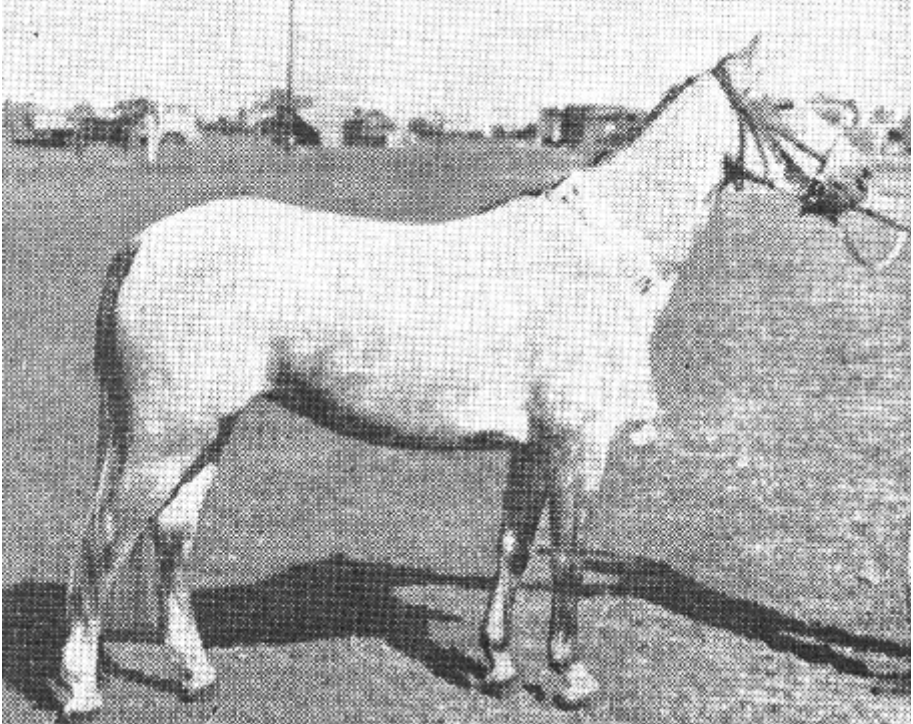
Pala’s life in South Africa was, however, not plain sailing. She arrived on Forsight farm in November, 1959, and immediately started suffering severe and persistent colic, and no treatment appeared to help. In 1961 she was finally taken to Sandown Clinic and the diagnosis was an aneurysm in the mesenteric artery¹. The treatment prescribed, NO HARD CORN EVER.

Once she had recovered sufficiently, owing to her new diet, it was decided that her showing days should start. The first was the Welsh Championships at the 1962 Rand Easter Show where Col G T Hurrell OBE (*J2012 p21*) was the judge. She was 1st and Champion Welsh Pony Mare over 3 years and was 1st

¹ An aneurysm is a bulge in a blood vessel caused by a weakness in the blood vessel wall, usually where it branches. As blood passes through the weakened blood vessel, the blood pressure causes a small area to bulge outwards like a balloon.

The mesenteric artery carries oxygen rich blood to the gastrointestinal tract (stomach, intestines, colon and rectum).

with Valiant and Foresyte Valiant Deb in the class, Stallion and two Mares of the same owner.



Pala was put in foal to Valiant immediately after the show and in 1963 the first of her eleven foals by Valiant were born, a colt, Foresyte Valiant Prince Llewelyn. Ida wrote 'he is a lovely thing and I have christened him Foresyte Valiant Prince Llewelyn named after Miss Broderick's home named Plas Llewelyn', seen here on the left, three months old.

Pala's second, and last, show was the Welsh Championships at Bloemfontein in 1964, judged by Mr and Mrs Dorian Williams (*J2014 p17*). She was 1st and Champion Welsh Pony Mare over 3 years, was Reserve Supreme Section B (to Valiant) and came 2nd with Valiant and Llewelyn in the open Stallion, Mare & Joint Progeny class. She was never shown again.

At the show she was in foal to Valiant and in October, the filly Foresyte Valiant Welsh Princess was foaled. In 1965 saw the arrival of Foresyte Valiant Cymro; in 1966 she slipped and with another stallion, 1967 saw the arrival of Foresyte Willo's Wizard, by Brockwell Will o' th' Wisp; and then a further 8 foals by Valiant: Foresyte Valiant Pwyll in 1968, Foresyte Valiant Pendifiges in 1970, Foresyte Valiant Pili-Pala in 1971, Foresyte Valiant Merlin in 1972, Foresyte Valiant Pembroke in 1973, Foresyte Valiant Peprhyn in 1974, Foresyte Valiant Pax in 1976 and Foresyte Valiant Warrior in 1979.



Pala, with her one-day-old foal, Foresyte Valiant Welsh Princess, on 30 October, 1964

Before her final retirement, she was put to her son, Foresyte Valiant Cymro, and the filly, Foresyte Cambrian Poppet was foaled in 1982, but was never registered.

Coed Coch Pala died on 20 February, 1991, almost 32 years old.



Pala, at Forsight farm in retirement

Coed Coch Pala FS2	Coed Coch Blaen Lleuad	Criban Victor	Criban Winston	Coed Coch Glyndwr	
			Criban Whalebone	Criban Blonde	
		Berwyn Beauty	Tan-Y-Bwlch Berwyn	Mathafal Broadcast	
			Dinarth Wonderlight	Criban Mulberry	
	Coed Coch Pluen FS1	Tan-Y-Bwlch Berwyn	Sahara	Sahara	
			Brynhir Black Star	Brynhir Black Star	
		Tan-Y Bwlch Penwen FS	Cairo (Arab)	Bowdler Brightlight	
			Grey Princess	Irfon Marvel	
				Bledfa Shooting Star	
		Brynhir Flight			

Note that Pala is FS2 (Foundation Stock 2). Her grandmother, Tan-Y-Bwlch Penwen was unregistered but was approved by a panel of judges for inclusion in the Foundation Stock project. This means that she could only be covered by a registered stallion, which in this case was Tan-Y-Bwlch Berwyn. Had Coed Coch Pluen been a colt, he would have been gelded. But as a filly, and after inspection, she was passed for entry in the FS1 register. Pluen was covered by the registered stallion Coed Coch Blaen Lleuad and Pala, after inspection, was approved for FS2 status. Again, had she been a colt, gelding was the only alternative. As FS2 status, all Pala's progeny, colts and fillies, by a registered stallion would be eligible for registration, without inspection. Her progeny also would not carry the FS suffix.



Foresyte Valiant Pili-Pala, foaled in 1971

Coed Coch Pala was the first of many Welsh ponies and cobs which have arrived in South Africa since 1959, by air. Another interesting fact is knowing how easy it was to import livestock in those days. The current quarantine requirements, both in the country of origin and in South Africa on arrival, are extensive and costly.

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ANIMAL DISEASES

South Africa is particularly rich in animal diseases; every species of domestic animals seeming to have one or more particularly adapted for its destruction

Dr Duncan Hutcheon, Director of Agriculture, Cape, 1907