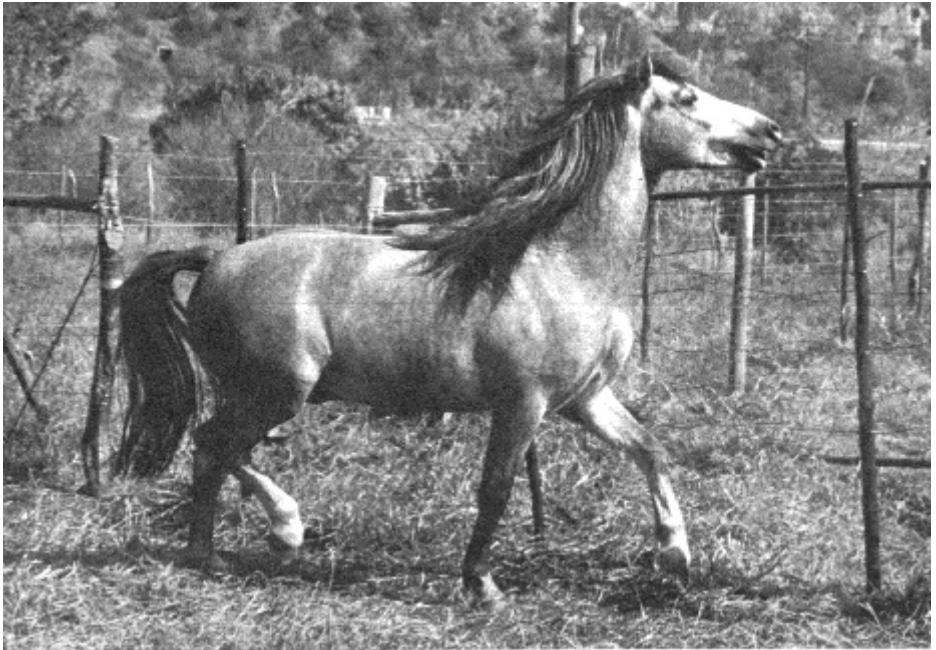


REVEL VADA A Mountain Pony Stallion

When we first visited the National Championships at Bloemfontein Show in 1976 we were enchanted by a little white stallion with a pink muzzle, who seemed to have a beaming smile on his face. To me, he was the archetypal Welsh Mountain pony. He stood Reserve Champion Stallion that time, and I couldn't understand why he was only Reserve until I realised that he was only being beaten by the illustrious Coed Coch Nerog, whose movement at the trot was spectacular and outshone everything else on that day. But then, and now, I still think that Revel Vada had the edge overall on heads, and we loved him, little realising that one day we should be part of a syndicate owning him, or that I should one day ride him at the Indoor Horse of the Year Show.



Revel Vada as a two-year old soon after his arrival in South Africa

Vada's breeding was of the very best. Revel Chip, his Sire, was a top-rated stallion, and one of the three full brothers by the famous Clan Pip. Pip, himself, had been syndicated and travelled widely in the U.K. There were also two full sisters, Revel Chase and Revel Chelsea, by Pip out of Revel Choice. Revel Chip, Revel Casino and Revel Cello were Premium Champions as well

as winning elsewhere. It was, in fact, Cello who won the Championship at the Devon Show the day we won a second prize with Knighton Belinda just before she sailed for South Africa.



Dr Jan Hofmeyr shortly before he died, with his favourite pony, Revel Vada

Vada had Revel Choice in both his top and bottom lines. His Sire being Chip out of Choice and his Dam being Revel Vienna out of Revel Viza and by the famous Revel Crusader, who was also out of Revel Choice. Choice herself, being out of the Royal Welsh winning mare Vardra Charm, a very highly thought of bloodline among breeders in Britain and very influential indeed.

Vada was selected for Dr Hofmeyr by Mrs Nell Pennel after she had been in South Africa to judge the National Championships. Shortly afterwards he won at the Nationals himself in 1974 when he was champion colt under 4 years. At the same show he was also Junior National Champion under saddle, which says a lot for his temperament! He was also champion under saddle in 1981, ridden then by Bennie Wiese. He went in tandem with Aberdare Pryddus Sattelite and other forms of harness. To drive and ride, he was like a bottle of champagne – intoxicating!



Welgemeend Vada's Society with Gerrit Swanepoel after he was Welsh Purebred Supreme Champion at the 1985 Pretoria International Show

There are something like a hundred of Vada's progeny in South Africa, though sadly not all of them have been shown. Those who were have done well, by far the most illustrious would be Welgemeend Vada's Society who is a triple Legion of Merit In-Hand winner. He won the Supreme In-Hand Championship at Rand and at Pretoria. I was amused to overhear the comment of one of the losers of the Rand Supreme Award with his imported Arab stallion announcing that 'the winner was such a joy to behold that it was a privilege to stand down to him'. Society also won in harness and under saddle for Lynette Blackie who owned and trained him and for the Swanepoel family who leased him later.

Welgemeend Cribwin has won championships for Anne Brews for many years, including the 1992 Rand and Pretoria Shows. Overseas judges recognise that old-fashioned type of quality Welsh Mountain Pony immediately. Our own Hydown Barnaby was also Supreme Champion Mountain Pony at Pretoria and Reserve Mountain Pony of the Year, while Pip, named after his illustrious great-grandsire was Mountain Pony Victor



*Lead Rein Pony — Welgemeend
Cribwen — Laurian Kay
(Photo: D. Mortimer)*

Ludorum at Horse of the Year Show in 1993. Torbry Duke was a prizewinner at Rand, etc. Vada's daughters and granddaughters pulled a beautiful and highly successful span of eight for the van Niekerk brothers at the National and his sons and daughters have proved successful.

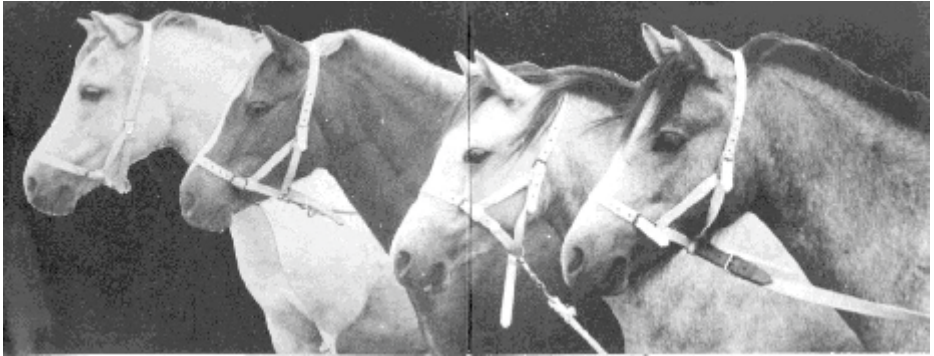
Vada's last few months were spent in Tarkastad with the Budler family who recognised his worth in their breeding programme. One always hopes that one's foals will inherit all their parents' good qualities and we wish this for the Llandilo stud who expect some Vada foals this year. Fortunately there are several beautiful daughters of Revel Vada to maintain the bloodline. If their husbands are chosen with care, the beauty of the Mountain Pony will be assured. Royal Welsh winners abound in his

pedigree and we are fortunate that Mrs Pennel and Doctor Hofmeyr were able to give us access to this in South Africa. It should be valued as highly in this country as it was in the British Isles. Our memories of Vada will always be happy ones!

As a closing paragraph, here is a quote from Dr Wynne Davies written in 1985 – 'Vardra Charm, grey mare, foaled in 1924 by the elegant Bleddfa Shooting Star. This was one of the prettiest mares of all times, a nice neat head (not freaky), a superb wither, a long elegant neck, and always bubbling over with personality. Along with her daughter Revel Choice (foaled 1949), she has had a very great influence on the breed'

PAT MOORE 1994
HYDOWN STUD

Revel Vada 9372 was born in 1970 and under export certificate dated 30 May, 1972, was imported by Dr Jan Hofmeyr of the Welgemeend Stud in East London.



From right to left - Arvon Glaw, Rhaiadr Golden Girl, Gredington Niwl, Rhaiadr Mari used on a Christmas card for Studio Nomad

Jan had imported four mares from Mrs Goode of the Rhaiadr Stud in Rhodesia in 1969, and these were the first mares covered by Vada shortly after his arrival as a two-year-old. The 4 foals born towards the end of 1973 were Welgemeend Nell (filly 10.10.73 Gredington Niwl), Welgemeend Kohoutek (filly 27.11.73 Rhaiadr Golden Girl), Welgemeend Chip (colt 30.11.73 Arvon Glaw) and Welgemeend Komeet (colt 15.12.73 Rhaiadr Mari). A further 84 progeny were registered/recorded with him as the sire in the stud book. His first 20 foals all carried the Welgemeend prefix until Jan suddenly died and the Welgemeend Stud had to be dispersed (*J2009 p104*). Vada's last foal bred by Jan Hofmeyr with his prefix foaled 25.08.79, was out of Welgemeend Noël and was Welgemeend Vada's Society. He had just become a yearling just before the auction on 11.09.80. He was lot 46 and did not receive a single bid as, in the words of Susan Hofmeyr, he was 'an ugly, scrawny thing; an ugly duckling' and was given to Pat Moore as a gift at the conclusion of the sale. The history of Sos, as he became known is legendary and recorded in the article on Lynette Blackie's Caravelle Stud (*J2008 p98*). Pat also bought Aberdare Prydus's Satellite at the Auction for R525. She was in foal to Vada and the colt (later gelded) Hydowyn Highlight was born on 05.10.80 and sold to Zaire.

At the auction, Vada was bought for R7 050 by a consortium consisting of Torbry, Hydowyn, Kallista and Manilla Studs. During the consortium years Vada sired 49 foals (21 Kallista, 11 Torbry, 9 Hydowyn, 2 Manilla and 6

others) and then 15 foals thereafter, his final registered foal being Llandilo Vada's Supreme on 04.09.1994 out of Bukkenburg Valerie.



Equerry

Llandilo Vada's Supreme at the 1997 Nationals. colt 2-4 but unplaced

