



The Celtic Times

Official publication of the
Celtic Warmblood Registry

Issue No. Spring 2004

Light The Lantern - Editorials and information

Cynthia Lurix – Editor

The Celtic Warmblood Registry is donating 10% of every registration fee to the Morris Animal Foundation, established in 1948. This foundation funds humane health studies of companion animals and wildlife and disseminates information from these studies. For information about the Morris Animal Foundation call (800) 243 2345 or visit their website at www.morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Defining the breed

The Celtic Warmblood Registry gives its members the freedom to decide for themselves on the choice of breeding stock. There are pros and cons regarding the inspection process and I won't elaborate on either. The fact is that unfortunately perfection doesn't exist and even near perfection rarely duplicates itself. If the inspection process really could eliminate all flaws in the offspring then why is the number of eliminated horses not declining dramatically? How many horses are passed over only to later prove their genetic merit in personal performance and quality get. Unlike Ireland breeding programs in many countries are not funded by the government. Usually when the financial motivation to conform is absent there is a greater desire for individual expression. Will individual freedom of choice help or hurt the Irish Draught as represented by the Celtic Warmblood Registry? Perhaps only time will tell but I can't help wondering if the proportion of exceptional Irish Draught horses has increased since the introduction of the inspection process or if the experience and wisdom of the breeders themselves hasn't always been the more important factor. Perhaps the real formula to successful breeding is experience, knowing exactly what your goals are and knowing which stallions to breed to which mares. Frankly some people just have an instinct for this. The rest of us usually learn by trial and error. You can breed the same stallion to the same mare with a variety of results so perhaps luck is a factor as well. The best breeding horses are consistent in what they produce. Usually they strongly stamp their stock. Will an inspection reveal this quality? Of course not. Some horses consistently reproduce qualities of a grandparent. You don't really know until the foals start to reveal the truth, Freedom always involves responsibility. With the freedom to choose for ourselves comes the responsibility to make intelligent and informed decisions. Lets set a goal for the long stretch to prove that it takes more than an "inspection" to produce Irish Draughts that anyone can be proud of.

Celtic Warmblood features nine-month-old Mickey Finn.

Mickey Finn, Purebred Irish Draught horse and registered Celtic Warmblood.

Mickey Finn is the son of Macs Blue Erin my purebred Irish Draught Stallion and registered Celtic Warmblood and Maggie's Last, RID. Maggie is the last daughter of the foundation mare, Mrs. Thatcher, of the famous Suma Stud in Ireland.

Mickey Finn spends much of his day tearing around our pasture; jumping fences on his own including a dividing fence that is five feet high. He has huge eyes that are full of intelligence and yes, mischief. (Perhaps he is living up to his name.) His legs are straight his shoulder sloping he has depth and breath and balance. He has the best of both parents. Is he for sale?? NO!!! I can't wait to ride him myself. He is what is called a good nick. Unfortunately finding a good nick is for the most part accidental and at this point I am not certain the same cross would produce a similar result. I had a strong compulsion to do this cross, however, and I went with it.

Here's Mickey!!! Is he a cutie or what?





Please submit photos and information about any of your Celtic Warmbloods. We would love to feature them in our newsletter.

celtic warmblood featured farm

Greylyn Stud

By Evelyn Gillen

In August 1996 I went to England to find and purchase Irish Draughts after learning there were none in Ontario. I had planned to breed a Thoroughbred mare of mine to an ID stallion but came up with none. I had started to research the breed, bloodlines etc. in February of that year and had been in touch with the ID society in North America and England.

I spent two weeks in England after doing my homework and looked at dozens of ID's, with the very kind assistance of the Symonds, who own Snowford Farm. In the end I bought seven horses: Five fullbreds, one halfbred, and one three quarter bred. There were two weanling ID colts and one yearling ID colt, one yearling halfbred colt, one weanling ID filly, one yearling ID filly and one weanling three-quarters bred filly. The three yearlings arrived in November of 1996 and the weanlings arrived as yearlings the next spring in May of 1997.

I chose this breed for a number of reasons. I am very impressed with their calm, easy-going temperament. They are easy to handle, to break, and they are spook free. They are easy keepers and adapt easily to our harsh Canadian climate. They have excellent movement and throw their bone and jumping ability to their offspring.

I belong to Rare Breeds Canada and promote the idea of protecting endangered domesticated breeds. I try to attend fairs and exhibitions where RBC has displays and talks to the public about breeding and raising rare breeds.

In November 1998, I was invited to take an ID to the GM walking ring at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto and spent a hectic but worthwhile eight days in Toronto promoting the ID as a rare breed. True to the breeds wonderful temperament and adaptability, my two year old stallion took it all in stride.

I was thrilled the Spring of 2000 with the arrival of a grey filly, Greylyn Silver Ashes, my first fullbred and one of the first in Canada where both parents stood on the property. At four years she is 17.0 and a lovely example of the breed.

My plan is to raise and promote the fullbred ID as an all around horse for any rider from pleasure hack to high-level competition in dressage, show jumping, eventing or hunter classes. I also plan to breed my stallion to outside quality mares to produce equally wonderful Irish Sport horses.

There is no doubt these animals are superb athletes and terrific performance horses in show rings around the world.

All of my babies are easy to handle, learn quickly and are a pleasure to be around. I enjoy breeding and raising these animals and have been very pleased with the quality of the animals my stallions produce. All are correct, have excellent temperaments, good bone and are super movers.

Greylyn Farm spring arrivals include the following

Filly, Greylyn Silver Daylight- (Damhnait)

Born on April 14 '04. She is a chestnut turning grey by liam out of a chestnut ISH mare.

Colt Greylyn Diamond Milestone, (Miles) born April 25 '04 chestnut. This is the first colt for this mare after five fillies; hence 'milestone.' He is huge and correct. Celtic Warmblood stallion prospect.

Colt Greylyn Silver King, (Kieran). Born April 26,'04. Chestnut going grey fullbred by Liam, grey, out of Flying Duchess, bay. Fullbred stallion prospect.



Bridgeford Diamond Warrior



Bridgeford Markham Moor

NEWS AND ARTICLES!!!!!!*^\$#%\$#@!&*&*(

Having been the editor of another horse newsletter for several years, many years ago, I am only too well aware of the challenge to procure interesting material. Here is PLAN 'A'.

- 1.) We would love to publish material about individual farms, horses and even to help rewrite rough drafts if necessary.
- 2.) If you would like an article on your horses or farm but don't feel comfortable writing I will be happy to interview you over the phone. 281 346 1552. I will write the article then send it to you for approval and correction if necessary before it is published.
- 3.) If you have an informative or humorous article that would be of interest to most of us we will PAY for the privilege of printing it!!! Not very much but as close to being competitive for free lance work as we can.
- 4.) We would like to have regular entries of horses who are competing. Where and in what discipline. Email or phone with the information. We do our own publishing and the information can reach a lot of people to help promote our horses.
- 5.) Please try to avoid any negative statements about other horses or individual people. You can make fun of yourself or your own horse!!! (I do this a lot.)
- 6.) Plan 'B' ---I'll be working on it.



Listed below is the introduction from the Irish Horse Breeders' Society first edition of the **Brood Mare Stud Book** (1971) Dublin, Ireland.

Introduction

Since Ireland is traditionally the best known horse-breeding country in the world, it is extraordinary to think that Irish non-thoroughbred horses have had no authority or Society to establish factual breeding.

This situation has at last been taken in hand by the Irish Horse Breeders' Society. This Stud Book, which has been painstakingly prepared, is the first of its kind in Ireland and embraces the 32 counties. It contains particulars on almost 400 Brood Mares and their progeny, together with details of their breeding, performances, etc.

It is envisaged that the Book will be re-issued every three years, and that supplements will be published in the intervening years.

The information given should prove invaluable to breeders of non-thoroughbred stock, and should eventually enable them to make use of the best bloodline that will emerge, and which for the first time can be substantiated.

The Society would like to express its appreciation to all the many individuals and associations which have given freely of their help and encouragement, without which it would not have been possible to prepare this Herculean task.

In particular the Society wishes to acknowledge the grant-in-aid, towards this publication and for general administrative expenses, made by the Northern Ireland Government.

The Society also wishes to express its thanks to firms who supported the publication by taking advertising space.

Listed below is the description of the Irish Draught Horse from **The World's Finest Horses and Ponies** by Richard Glyn – by George G. Harrao & CO. LTD High Holborn, London. The Celtic Times will regularly publish descriptive articles of Irish Draughts as these descriptions do vary somewhat.

The Irish Draught Horse (See Plate 9)

The Irish Draught, also known as the Irish Light Draught Horse, was the indigenous breed of working horses in Ireland, prior to the importation of the Shire and the Clydesdale. It is thought that quite a number of them originated from Connemara and grew bigger and stronger on the better land in other parts of Ireland. They should have good shoulders, good neck and head carriage, free, easy and true action, and no hair at all on their legs, except perhaps at the fetlocks.

They are capable of doing all agricultural work on a farm as well as being good fast travellers on the road; they are natural jumpers. The average height of a mare is 15.1 hands and of a sire 16.2 hands. The colours are grey, bay, brown, and chestnut.

The mares are ideal for crossing with a Thoroughbred stallion to produce weight-carrying Hunters and showjumpers. Work of Art, Supreme Champion, and Teneriffe, a well-known show winner, were both out of the same Irish Draught mare.

The Irish Draught Horse Book was established in 1917 by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. One thousand one hundred and eighty mares and 270 stallions were inspected, of which 374 mares and 44 stallions were accepted. The entries to date are 6464 mares and 577 stallions. About 150 mares are registered annually. Mares and colts have to be inspected before acceptance.

Free nominations are awarded by the Department to Irish Draught stallions, as well as prizes in the Irish Draught mare classes at shows. A number of yearling colts likely to make stallions are selected by the Department, who pay a subsidy to the owners to retain them. The suitable ones are subsequently purchased by the Department for allocation as sires.

The breed was very much depleted during the 1914-18 War as large numbers of the best mares went away, being requisitioned by the Army in the R.H.A. and R.F.A. as 'Gunners'. Having no hair on their legs they did not develop 'greasy heels', etc., in the Flanders mud. They were also hardy enough to live on the Army ration. Some of them left Kilkenny in the Gun Teams in 1914, and were still there to march into Brussels in the Ceremonial Parade in 1918.

The breed suffered its most serious depletion in the last two decades from the unrestricted export of mares to the Continent for slaughter. Work of Art's dam was exported for meat before her owner realized that she had produced a champion. However, during recent years the country was fortunate enough to have a Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries who was an enthusiastic hunting man, as well as being a breeder of bloodstock. He assembled a Committee of Farmer-Breeders to make a survey of the whole horse- and pony-breeding industry.

Since December 1964 the export of horses to the Continent for working purposes has been prohibited, and a similar prohibition in regard to horses for slaughter has been in operation since March 1965. Exports of horses to the Continent now consist only of Thoroughbreds, Army and Police Remounts, and horses for sport, recreation, and similar purposes.

[47]

DECIPHERING THE GENOME CODE

Is there a "speed gene" in horses?
Or a gene that predisposes a horse
to certain diseases, such as laminitis?
For that matter, is any disease or trait
completely inherited?

These are questions to which any
horse lover or breeder would like
answers. Dr. Ernest Bailey at the
University of Kentucky, along with
Drs. Loren Skow at Texas A&M
University, Jim Mickelson at the
University of Minnesota, Jim Murray
and Cecilia Pededo at the University
of California–Davis, and Doug
Antczak at Cornell University, hopes
to provide some answers. Dr. Bailey is
part of the International Equine Gene
Mapping Workshop, which began in
1995. Morris Animal Foundation
began supporting the project in 2000.

The goal of the project is to develop
a comprehensive map of the horse
genome. Horses have 30,000 genes
that determine everything from hair
color to size or predisposition to
certain diseases. The finite details
behind which genes are expressed,
the amount of genetic material they

produce, and the time at which they
produce it ultimately determine
predisposition to disease.

For example, scientists know laminitis
occurs when a gene expression
changes the cells in a horse's hoof. If
they can determine what that exact
change is, scientists can better treat
the disease. In order to do that,
however, scientists must first have a
comprehensive gene map. The gene
map will help them simplify and
understand gene function for very
specific traits. That's where the horse
genome project comes into play.

During phase one, Dr. Bailey and his
team of co-investigators mapped
about 1,000 of the 30,000 genes in
the horse genome. While that may
sound like a drop in the bucket, Dr.
Bailey says they don't need to identify
every gene in order to use the gene
map. He expects that by the end of
phase two of the project, currently
under way with a second grant
from Morris Animal Foundation,
the investigators will map 4,000 to
6,000 genes.

That will provide scientists with
enough information to investigate
conditions like muscle diseases,
fertility problems, infectious diseases,
developmental bone disease and
most other conditions that affect
horse health.

"This project pretty much started
from scratch in terms of the horse
genome," says Dr. Bailey.

One of the biggest advances to come
out of this first-phase study was the
development of an effective method
for mapping additional genes. That
may sound academic, but it means
the investigators are one step
closer to a comprehensive map that
will give scientists worldwide the
information they need to examine
every aspect of equine health.

*Co-sponsors: Terry Stephen, DVM;
The Carter Family Foundation*

*Follow the progress of the International
Equine Gene Mapping Workshop
online at www.uky.edu/Ag/Horsemap.*

