



Report: Stephanie Law
 Photo Right: Weihegold, Christine Kroge & President Wilhelm Weerda

Weihegold Takes the Brilliant Ring, and Lara Croft is OS Champion Mare at Rastede!!

The Annual Oldenburg Mare championships took place on a beautiful, sunny day on the grounds of the Royal Stud of Graf Anton von Oldenburg which is still owned by his family in the village of Rastede just outside of the city of Oldenburg, Germany. Out of the hundreds of mares inspected in Germany, only 59 were invited this year. They were all presented on the triangle in walk and trot, and then 16 were selected to go on to the "Brilliant Ring". Once there the judging committee had them walk in a circle and debated who the top mares were to be.

The Champion was the fantastic three year old mare, Weihegold (Don Schufro x St.Pr.St. Weihevoll (Sandro Hit)), who really turned heads and created a buzz as she showed off a powerful trot and superb walk on the triangle. Not only did she display fantastic gaits, she is a stunning mare exhibiting an excellent type. The Oldenburg breeding director and judge, Dr. Schleppinghof stated, "Weihegold has almost the ideal sport horse qualities that one wishes for. She shows a high level of talent, and today with her excellent trot and walk she was very convincing." She was bred by Inge Bastian, and is owned by Christine Kroge and Arns-Krogmann of Lohne, Germany.

Weihegold's dam, St.Pr.St. Weihevoll was sold at a Veichta

auktion, and she in turn is out of the mare, St.Pr./El.St. Desiree. The approved stallion, Dartagnan (Duntroon) who went on to be successful at S level in dressage was out of Desiree showing how good this mare line truly is.

Dr. Schleppinghof went on to say, "Together we have seen a noteworthy year of mares with wonderful movement. The rankings were not easy for us to decide upon."

It was an especially close call between the top four mares that the judging panel seemed to debate upon for a long time. The Reserve Champion mare, Surprise aus der Heide, was definitely a crowd favorite. Sired by Sir Donnerhall and out of the Trakehner mare, Hamada von der Heide (Münchhausen) she exhibited wonderful elasticity in her trot, and with her long legs and refined type she was beautiful as well. She was bred and is owned by Manfred Reuter from Dorsten, Germany.

Surprise aus der Heide came into the championships at Rastede having earned the highest performance test scores of the year. She earned an 8.5 for her trot and canter, 8.0 for her walk and a 7.5 for her jumping giving her an overall of 8.18. She also stems from a successful mare line that produced the approved stallion Hessencharme (Hibiskus).



Surprise aus der Heide. Photo Law



(Above) Remember. Photo Werner Ernst
(Below) Auguste Victoria. Photo Law



The third placed mare, Remember (Depardieu x Rebecca (Le Matin)) also showed a super trot and excellent walk. She comes from a mare line that has been bred to top Holsteiner blood. The well known sire Classiker (Calypso II) appears in the second generation of her damline. She was bred by Berthold Gerdes and is owned by Helmut Osterkamp. Dr. Schulze-Schleppinghof commented that her "clock work walk" was especially impressive.

The fourth place mare, Auguste Victori (Sandro Hit x St.Pr./El.St. Puppenfee (Plaisir d'Amour)), also received great accolades from the audience. She is the full sister to the 2006 Reserve Champion Licensing stallion, San Amour, and she showed wonderful strength and lift in her trot as well as a fantastic walk and type. She was bred and is owned by Britta Budeus-Wiegert from Gross Nemerow, Germany. Auguste Victori's dam, Puppenfee, was herself the Reserve Champion of the Brilliant Ring and represented Oldenburg in the 1998 European Mare Championships.

The Full Results from the Brilliant Ring:

- 1a – Weihegold
(Don Schufro x St.Pr.St. Weihevoll (Sandro Hit))
- 1b – Surprise von der Heide
(Sir Donnerhall x Hamada von der Heide (Münchhausen))
- 1c – Remember
(Depardieu x Rebecca (LeMatin))
- 1d – Auguste Victoria
(Sandro Hit x St.Pr./El.St. Puppenfee (Plaisir d'Amour))
- 1e – Samba Queen S
(Sir Donnerhall x Tiffany (Lord Liberty))
- 1f – Luwina-P
(Ludwig von Bayern x Antonia (Landsieger I))
- 1g – Seepferdechen
(Stedinger x Condeoleezza (Concetto))
- 1h – Sarena
(Donnerball x Santa Fee (Pik Labionics))
- 1i – Milan
(Future I x St.Pr.St. Milanda (Haarlem))
- 1j – Pretty Woman
(Sunny Boy x St.Pr./El.St. Perle (Donnerhall))
- 1k – Facella II
(Laurentio x St.Pr.St. Facella (Feinbrand))
- 1l – Dolores
(Depardieu x Heidi (Royal Dance))
- 1m – Sabrina
(Sandro Hit x Vb.Pr.St. Sarina (Rubinstein I))
- 1n – Alice
(Florencio I x Alabama (Alabaster))
- 1o – Luxana
(Luxius x Gitana (Cordalme))
- 1p – Shiloh
(Sandro Hit x St.Pr./El.St. Herzdame (Don Gregory))

The Mare Championships for Springpferdezuchtverbandes

Oldenburg-International (OS) were held earlier in the day, and the top mares also showed a lot of talent. This was the 4th year for mares that were registered with the OS as foals to have the chance to be invited to this prestigious event. Starting in 2001 it has been up to the breeders to decide if they wish for their foals to be registered and branded in the OS jumper society or remain with the traditional Oldenburg Verband and brand.

The Breeding Director, Dr. Schulze Schleppinghof has explained that he and the other founders of the OS such as Paul Schockemöhle felt it was necessary to found an organization that specialized in the jumper lines. However, he does foresee in the future that these two separate organizations will re-unite and be managed under the same roof and possibly the same brand, but with two different specializations.

Having already done their performance tests, the top three mares had excellent scores in the free jumping. The champion mare was Lara Croft (Lordanos x Walburg (Fernando)). She not only received a 9.0 on her jumping, she also showed a nice elastic trot, and very good walk as well.

Dr. Schulze Schleppinghof commented, "Lara Croft is a very modern type that demonstrated exceptional jumping ability in her performance test, and today here in Rastede her correct basics, a good walk through her body, and a ground covering wonderfully elastic trot. She is a proven jumper through and through."

She was bred by Marco Baldsun, and is owned by Sabine Beutler who very happily accepted the champion's award from Paul Schockemöhle. Lara Croft stems from a dam-line that has produced the stallions, Clearway, Arturo, and Conway I and II.

The second placed mare was Balinqua (Quite Capitol x Bali (Acrobat II)). She had received a 9.5 on her jumping and was also a super type. She was bred by Ilse Hell and is owned by Dr. Jobst Hartmann. Dr. Schleppinghof commented, "Balquina was captivating, and she was well presented both under saddle and here in the hand."

Finally, the third placed mare was Walmeria II (Cordalme x El.St. Wanja (Grannus)) who was a super type and also had very good gaits. She is the full sister to the 2006 OS Champion mare in Rastede. She was bred and is owned by Henry Gr. Macke. Her gaits were superb, but her scores in jumping were not as high as the other two ahead of her.

To see video clips and the full pedigrees of the top mares please visit www.oldenburghorse.com. Go to "Clinics and Events" and then click on the tab, "Events in Germany".



Lara Croft, Paul Schockemöhle, & Sabine Beutler. Photo: Law



(Above) Paul Shockemoehle, Ilse Hell & Balinqua. Photo: Law
(Below) Walmeria II. Photo: Werner Ernst

