



Alison Moore, photographer extraordinaire and bloodline expert, graciously shared her wonderful photos with us.



Bart Henstra demonstrating the detailed examination required for the linear score sheet.



Bambino Chin P earning his first premium

2009 KEURING REPORTS - SECOND TOUR.

Prima Equestrian Center – Mount Albert, ON

Hosts: Roy Maher and Michelle Bartlett, ably assisted by Cheryl Mayberry – office manager.

Jury: Bart Henstra, Dr. Deborah P. Harrison, Faith Fessenden.

Here at Prima Equestrian (*Prima is PRIMA! ['first rate' in Dutch]*), Roy Maher and Michelle Bartlett provide a focal point and gathering spot for many sport horse activities and educational opportunities. Located in the heart of Ontario's beautiful horse country with 'Guelph' (world renowned Ontario Veterinary College - the oldest vet school in Canada) right down the road, the knowledge level in this region is very high and the interest intense.

This keuring location provided the second of our 2009 KWPN-NA Education Seminars. This educational opportunity was well-advertised, -organized and -received, providing us with a cross-section of interest that proved to be very satisfying. Beneath a designated tent the lectures on history, veterinary considerations for the KWPN selection system and the nuances of heritability and trait analysis via the linear score sheet began. The weather was warm and sultry - so up went the sides of the tent and coffee was switched to iced drinks. For the practical aspects, all moved to the hard surface area providing the venue for the 'dissection' of the components of the linear score sheet. The group then worked on the movement and jumping traits with several individual participants proving to be very adept.

Questions, answers and more discussion continued into the evening enhanced by the light buffet and open bar provided by Prima. The participants were girded and ready with their knowledge for the keuring which was to begin the following morning.

Prima Equestrian came on board as a keuring location for the KWPN-NA a few years ago, and they certainly 'hit the ground running'. Their high quality mare base and their rigorous use of our inspection system have put them into the Top Fives annually. Many sites carefully 'put their toe in the water' when attempting a keuring. Prima jumped in the deep end of the pool in 2007 marking their first year as a host and they've not stopped swimming laps since. They gather super horses and super helpers - just see the photos for our ribbon bearer, and an honorable mention must be made for their announcer who kept everyone moving and informed -and- had wonderful background music selections!

Regardless of the weather upon arrival, within hours the weather gods have always supplied a deluge. We should have known what the calm heat the day before was portending. Noah was spied putting the finishing touches on his ark behind the arena. The decision was made to begin immediately with the under-saddle jumpers in the outdoor sand ring while the dressage horses could be waiting in the indoor arena. Scurrying with umbrellas everyone headed to the ring.

3-Yr-Old Pre-Evaluation for Stallion Approval

This is the class discussed in detail in the Iron Spring Farm Keuring report. Here at Prima it was wisely utilized by Kristina and Maureen Smith of Laurel Crest, owners of the handsome Bambino Chin P (Chin Chin out of Rolanda elite by Ahorn with grandam Kalanda a pref elite by Lord Calando) bred by Prima Equestrian. Easily earning scores that gave him a first premium and star, the jury looks forward to seeing him under saddle in the future.



Beyond P carried herself to the Keur Predicate as well as the Top Fives for both the Jumping IBOP and ISF Cup for 2009



Bella Luna during linear scoring of her jumping traits



The Gelders mare, Adessa earned her keur with a bevy of 8.0's



Amelia cantered to 1st place in the Top Fives Dressage IBOP

Jumper IBOP and Iron Spring Farm Cup

Three horses were presented for their IBOP's combined with the ISF Cup for 3-Yr-Olds. In the order of points awarded - and - their placing in the Cup, the first place horse was the bay mare **Beyond P** (Ahorn x Rumpole Prima by Ferro x Double Leader xx) bred and owned by Prima Equestrian. A beautiful type, she showed that she was not just another pretty face. Jury notes were good canter rhythm and use of the hind leg in movement. In jumping she was attentive, powerful, careful and showed the ability to adjust herself forward. Earning 8.0's for reflexes, technique, attitude and talent she scored a 7.8 total for 1st place to receive the neck ribbon and cooler for the ISF Cup, first place in the Top Fives for Jumper IBOP and first place in the Top Fives for the ISF-Cup for 3-Yr-Olds. To top all that - she is the first 'Jumper Direction' mare to earn her 'keur' predicate as a 3-Yr-Old! Looks like Prima has added a super home-bred (to include the all-important xx blood in the pedigree) to their mare base.

In second spot with a total for both phases of 7.6 was **Beam P** (Indoctro out of Pepita keur by Emilion by Larome) also bred by Prima and owned by Maureen Smith and Susan Parker. This bay gelding was initially challenged by the conditions and showed some tension and was not easy on the aids, but steadily he became better. In movement he scored solidly but his talent showed in his jumping as it should. 7.5s for scope and talent and 8.0s for attitude and rideability (his settling gave us that glimpse) put him in a tie for 3rd place in the Top Fives for the Jumper IBOP and second behind Beyond P in the Top fives for Iron Spring Farm Cup 3-Yr-Olds.

Third place for this group was **Bella Luna** (Ikoon out of Uganda by Wolfgang x Jumbo-Jet). Scoring lower, the Jury conferred with the owner and moved the mare for evaluation in the Hunter Book. Rewriting the scores against that backdrop, the bay mare fared better. Jury notes showed she was more horizontal in her body-direction and movement, with a slow quiet way of going. She was third in the Top Fives for the ISF Cup 3-Yr-Olds.

Dressage IBOP and DG Bar Cup

Dashing for the indoor arena all shook off the water and found the dressage horses awaiting us. Two 4-Yr-Olds readied themselves for their 'go'.

Adessa, ster (Koss out of Odessa keur, sport-dressage by Ahoy x Hoogheid) [= highness, sheesh - talk about royal bloodlines!], bred by Mrs. I. Verhagen and owned by Beverley Hilton, the beautiful Gelders mare we'd seen last year, showed easy swing through her body, with good cadence, activity and balance, especially when on the loose rein. A single 7.0 at the walk moved to 7.5s for trot and canter, to 8.0s for suppleness, self-carriage, rideability and talent to earn a 7.6, her keur and a tie for 5th place in the Top fives for IBOP-Dressage.

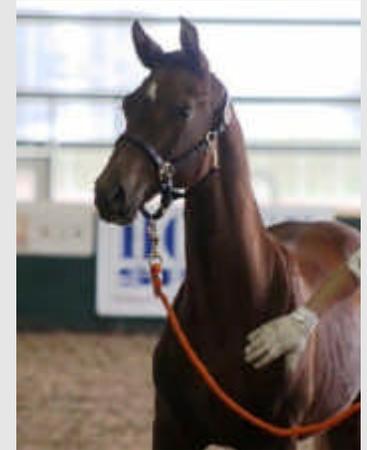
The next horse to go was the ster mare **Amelia** (Jacardo out of Urania by Kelvin x Faldo) bred by Lana Topilko and owned by Stanley Topilko. This chestnut mare showed good leg technique at the trot. But it was the quality of her gaits especially the canter (noted for good self-carriage, scope and balance and earning her an 8.5!), her swing and power landed her with a 7.8 for the IBOP, placing her first in the Dressage IBOP both at this keuring and in the Top Fives. The DG Bar Cup segment incorporates different factors, giving her 76.5 points and earning her the first place neck ribbon, the DGB Cup cooler, and placing her 2nd in the Top Fives for DGB Cup for 4-Yr-Olds.

Linear Scoring - Jumper Geldings

The single entry in this class was **Beam P** (see above) who we'd seen under saddle. Now free-jumping notes were made on his scope, reflexes and attitude which combined received a total of 7.5. In conformation he has some weakness in back and loin and small remarks on legs. His quality was still such to give him the score needed for a first premium, ster and the first place in the Top Fives for Jumper Geldings.



Bieni, vb to ster, to keur eligible to 1st in the Jumper Top Fives



ElchoP displays the quality of a first premium foal



Estrada LWS canters away with the first place here, and number three in the Top Fives



Epsom Bloom brings another first premium ribbon home to Bloomington Farm

Linear Scoring - Jumper Mares

Three 3-Yr-Old mares were entered. Receiving top scores (picture Ed McMahon asking 'and how 'top' were they? - try an 8.0 for conformation and an 8.0 for movement) was the grey mare **Bieni** (Cardento out of Tieni keur by Lux-Z x Wagenaar) [note: her grandam, Jeni, is keur pref prest] bred by M.G. van Gils and owned by Rivercross Farm. A long sloping shoulder on rectangular body and good legs combined with upward, quick takeoff, good foreleg technique and opening of haunches, all packaged with 'careful' as a modifier gave her a first premium, ster, keur eligible and first place in the Top Fives for Jumper Mares.

Star Jumper Mare for Keur Evaluation

This class is one of the components of the prestigious 'keur' predicate. Evaluated on the highest standards for mares,(conformation excellence plus a successful IBOP/sport test) the girls who earn this designation rank in quality above that of their studbook and star sisters. To see a group of keur mares is breathtaking. To see a keur mare that has fulfilled the toughest of the radiographic evaluations is a rarity, indeed. This latter evaluation is termed "Prok" and is assigned to studook and ster mares, and geldings, too, that undergo those scans. When a 'ster prok' mare fulfills the tougher conformation requirement for keur - and is successful - the new predicate changes to 'Elite'. For a full explanation: www.kwpn-na.org/resources/predicates.php.

Volette TH (Pacific out of Polette by Jimtown x Nimmerdor) bred by Stoeterij Trudie's Hof and owned by VDL Stud and Prima Equestrian, became one of those highest of the high at this keuring. Congratulations to VDL and Prima!

Foals/Weanlings – Dressage

Two foals entered and both received first premiums. In first place was **Elcho P** (Johnson out of Odette N keur by Houston x G. Ramiro Z) bred by Prima Equestrian and owed by Catherine and Darren Cole. This chestnut colt was well built with smooth connections and good bone. The conformation score of 7.5 would have been higher but notes on hock angles kept it there. His movement was uphill, supple and with good technique for a 7.5 and the Best Young Horse award at his keuring.

The second place youngster was **Exodus Bloom** (Sir Sinclair out of Nabella ster by Rolls Royce by Sir Dalton) bred and owned by S. Trickey and J. Dubois of Bloomington Farm. The bay colt was elegant in his expressiveness and development with a very smooth top-line. Light-legged and employing clear technique, the overall body direction and movement was horizontal, thus bringing his scores lower when judged from the dressage perspective. It was recommended to the owners that Exodus Bloom, be switched to the Hunter Book where those remarks would be rewarded. They happily did so with the colt becoming the number two in the Top Fives for Hunter Foals.

Foals/Weanlings - Jumper

This largest class of jumper foals was truly remarkable. Eight were entered, with two scratches. Even with six remaining we ran out of orange first ribbons. Every entry presented was designated first premium with the top two youngsters landing in the in the Top Fives.

First place here, and number three in the Top Fives was **Estrada LWS** (Numero Uno out of Majesteit by Nimmerdor x Erdball xx BB) bred and owned by Don and Tracy Holmgren of Longwood Stables. Long-lined with exemplary self-carriage, the bay colt's canter was beautiful. Conformation and movement each scored 7.9. Slightly back at the knee and tied in, the jury almost gave an 8.0.

Second place and fifth in the Top Fives was **Epsom Bloom** (Clinton out of Wagrusa H ster, prok by



Note the costumed ribbon bearer complete with wooden shoes, as Elle Chin P waits patiently



First premium, Elektra LWS doing laps during the Jumper Foal inspections



Empress Chin P taking herself very seriously as a first premium foal



First premium and fifth place in the Top Fives was Disney

Silverstone x Le Val Blanc xx BB) bred and owned by Bloomington Farm (see above). Modern and long-lined this grey colt showed a good canter to earn a 7.8 for conformation and a 7.5 for movement.

Third was **Elle Chin P** (Chin-Chin out of Rumpole Prima by Ferro x Double Leader xx) bred by Prima Equestrian and owned by Beata Zbierowska. [Note: same dam as Beyond P -see above] Clean legs, a good shoulder and forearm construction, good technique and suppleness in movement gave this chestnut filly a 7.7 on conformation and a 7.5 for movement.

Don and Tracy Holmgren loaded up on orange ribbons as their **Elektra LWS** (Ustinov out of Ucinda by Lux-Z x Concorde) earned solid scores for both conformation and movement. Special notes were made on the good bone and legs of this well-built bay filly.

Last but certainly not least was **Empress Chin P** (Chin-Chin out of Pepita-S keur by Emilion x Larome) [Note: same dam as Beam P - see above] bred and owned by Prima Equestrian. Well built and with a solid, active canter, the bay filly 'did her bloodline proud'.

Yearlings - Dressage

A single entry, **Disney** (Freestyle out of Panash Applied Science by Gribaldi x Zirkoon) walked out with a first premium for her owner/breeder Marsha Voica-Fraser. This large, well-developed, smoothly connected black colt had good bone and showed suppleness in movement but lacked some power. Nevertheless, the overall scores put this youngster into fifth place in the Top Fives.

It's a 'Wrap'

Whew! Finito! Following 'fare-thee-wells' we headed back to Toronto. On the way to the airport we 'pushed and shoved' the results - in an Excel spreadsheet - in what we believed to accurately reflect the correct quality sequence for the Top Fives of all locations and horses.

Those lists and these reports, we offer as evidence of an exemplary year of Dutch horse breeding here in North America.

Over the three-plus weeks of inspections we'd seen collections of promising youngsters at all the keuring sites, well-bred and well-presented broodmares, and very exciting prospects for the future in sport: dressage, jumping, and harness.

We conclude that our breeders are doing their homework, using good sense rather than emotion in their stallion/mare match ups, employing the linear score sheets for the sound evolution of their breeding programs, and last but not least, supporting one another and this organization. We are privileged to be a part of this process.

*Sincerely,
The KWPN-NA Jury*

(Note: Many of these lovely horses are for sale. See page 22 in the keuring program, or go to page 22 in: <http://www.kwpn-na.org/display/files/program09.pdf>)