

# W E L S H

R E V I E W

VOLUME 2 | 2015



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# W E L S H

R E V I E W

VOLUME 2 | 2015

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## Cover Photograph

by Tracy Dopko

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## Upcoming Issues & Deadlines

September 6, 2015

Welsh Review  
Sec. B, Hunter, Stallions

January 15, 2016

WPCSA 2015 Journal  
National Regional and Shows, Year-End Results

March 6, 2016

Welsh Review  
Sec. C & D, Dressage,  
Annual Convention News

June 6, 2016

Welsh Review  
Sec. A, Driving, Junior Riders

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*2015 Annual Convention ~ 2*

*From The President ~ 3*

*2014 Welsh of the Year ~ 7*

*2014 Sire Ratings ~ 9*

*Dressage Scoring De-mystified ~ 13*

*Dressage From Coast to Coast ~ 15*

*Section D Spotlight Ads ~ 16*

*High Desert Welsh Cobs ~ 17*

*From Nobody to Champion ~ 19*

*News Bits - Section A Marketing, Area Reps ~ 20*

I am sending this photograph of my Section D, Castleberry's Contender, for your upcoming publication. This is the two of us walking off of cross-country, after finishing double clear to clinch our first win, finishing on a Dressage score of 28 in Beginner Novice at the Jump Start HT at the Kentucky Horse Park in September 2014. He's even wearing his Welsh bonnet! We always represent the breed on course. ~ Jenifer Slabaugh  
Photograph by Sue Shetley.



# 2015 Annual Convention

Submitted by: *Martha Stover*

The Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America (WPCSA) held its 2014 Annual General Meeting over the weekend of February 27 – March 1, 2015 in Orlando, Florida. Over 150 members from across the United States were part of this exciting annual event with a goal for 2015 to be the YEAR OF THE WELSH. Clearly a destination spot like Orlando suits the membership and provides a fun break during the long winter. Plenty of Facebook postings from Sea World, Disney and Epcot Center teased those of us that stayed at the hotel for meetings!

Many thanks go to Jim and Lois Ferson for taking care of our hospitality room, welcoming attendees and inventorying auction items. The room was a busy hub of activity during the AGM. A big thank you to Brenda Heberling and her family for allowing us to ship auction items to her home prior to the meeting. Due to storms in the southwest many items did not make it until Thursday of the meeting and one item in particular arrived only minutes before the auction!

The Open Forum hosted by Hetty Abeles generated discussion on topics such as lip tattoos, micro chipping, Section A working group, new class suggestions and more. Several new show rules for 2015 are now officially in place, in particular the requirements for Silver and Gold shows. Please check your rulebooks for the upcoming show year! And by the way, our beautiful new rule book can be ordered online at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) for only \$3.00 plus postage.

A new video contest proposed by Pat Cochran is now official and the Winter/Spring competition is underway. Divisions are divided by Youth and Adult with a 30 second and 1 minute category in each division. The Summer/Fall contest entries are due November 15, 2015. Content can include any aspect of loving, owning, showing, or interacting with Welsh ponies and cobs and edited with creative license! Please check our website and Facebook page for more information.

Marie Coleman traveled to Orlando as a representative of the Emerald Empire Welsh Club and reported that the club has now dissolved but would like to donate the balance of their treasury to the Welsh Pony & Cob Foundation in honor of the club's originator, Dorothy Lane. The board has since had approval from Marie that the funds can be directed towards the building fund. Many thanks to the former Emerald Empire Club members for their generous gift to the Society.



A group of members from Maryland gather after the Awards Banquet. Left to right: seated - Tom Hoffecker, Sally Steinmetz, Margaret Almond, Louise Gill; standing - Tiz Benedict, John Almond, JudithAnn Hartman, Kathryn Southard and Tammie Monaco. Photo provided by Sally Steinmetz.

Winona Meyers updated members on plans for the 2015 American National Show at the Tulsa State Fair. 2015 will be the last year of the probationary period that determines whether Tulsa remains the permanent site for the American National show. Comments are still welcome but many agree that the Oklahoma/Kansas Welsh group have gone to great lengths to make the show top notch and deserving of the title.

Jackie Verkuyl introduced a proposal for a WPCSA Hall of Fame with the primary intent to recognize ponies, cobs, half and part breds within North America that have had historical significance to our breed beyond the show ring. While still in its infancy, the program is designed to have two categories of awards for individuals and for progeny (sire/dam). Look for more information about this program throughout the year.

The membership elected to return Pat Cochran, Gail Thomson and Dr. Ruth Wilburn to the WPCSA Board for another term. The Board also welcomes Megan Burtness, Bridlewood Welsh, Paso Robles, CA. Dr. Ruth Wilburn remains as President and Jackie Verkuyl continues in the Vice Presidential position. A bylaw amendment relaxing the membership requirements for becoming a director was passed during this election year.

Dr. Ruth Wilburn, WPCSA President, presented the 2014 Achievement Award to Lois Ferson, Hounds Run Farm, Hillsborough, NC. Achievement awards are given to those who assist the Society. The President thanked

# From the President

Welcome to Orlando, Florida for the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America. After last year's chilly weather for the AGM in Minneapolis I know everyone is happy to be in a much warmer climate! We have left several blocks of free time for you to enjoy the warm weather.

So which color dress did you see on Facebook? White and gold or blue and black? I definitely saw the dress as white and gold as did 63% of the viewers. The remaining people just as fervently saw the dress as blue and black. But when the dress was shown being worn it was definitely black and blue. The experts questioned about this explained it was just a matter of perception and how your brain processes information. There was no real right or wrong.

So this word perception crops up again. We have had some members who negatively perceive information about our Society. It's the old question - is the glass half empty or half full? Yes, times have been bad but we tightened our belts and worked through it. We were not in this alone - every other equine organization has been similarly affected. The economy is getting better and thus so will our finances.

I have been attending meetings with other breed organizations in the last several months and they are having the same issues that the WPCSA has. The economy has affected them all - decreasing membership, registrations, transfers causing a decrease in revenue. All of these breed organizations are looking for ways to operate more efficiently and encourage membership. So, the WPCSA is not alone in this respect. We have a tremendous pool of talent in our organization and we need to take advantage of it.

We need to be proactive - we need to grow membership. But you don't get new members by being negative. My mother always told us "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Along those lines she also told us "If you can't say something nice then don't say it!"

We all want to play with our ponies and cobs and be happy. And this is so much more fun when you have happy people around you while enjoying your ponies. We all cheered when one of our members



Photo by Kathryn Southard

said she was coming to the AGM to visit and talk ponies and have fun! That is not to say that we don't need constructive criticism. We are not perfect- no one is. The Board is always striving to improve while keeping ALL of our members needs and wishes in mind. Your directors have to do what is in the best interest of the Society and often there is no way to make everyone happy.

My new motto is "This is supposed to be fun! Be happy and no drama allowed!" This is a great organization full of talented and friendly people. They love their ponies and cobs and are passionate about them. Who wouldn't want to be a part of it? We need to capitalize on this. I'm happy and proud to say I belong to the WPCSA!

I want to thank all of our members who have volunteered their time, talent, and money over this past year to the Society. Thanks also to our Board of Directors and our office staff, especially Lisa Landis, our Executive Secretary, for all of their hard work. We could not do all that we do without you. Thank you many times over!

To paraphrase a famous quote "Ask not what your Society can do for you, but what you can do for the Society." Also remember to keep a few things in mind- be respectful of other people's opinions, keep our goal of preserving and protecting our Welsh ponies and cobs, and last but not least "This is supposed to be fun!"

~ Dr. Ruth

Lois for all of her behind the scenes hard work, extraordinary proofreading efforts and commitment as an Area Representative for the Southeast region.

This year's annual fund raising auction was a great success and resulted in a record breaking total of \$7400.00! The funds raised this year are slated for website improvements. We had over 170 items donated for the event, all unique and thoughtful. We have so much fun during the auction and it is a chance for some of us to let our hair down and "pony up" for the Society!

The awards banquet is one of the main reasons members attend the AGM. Ribbons and trophies represent the personal goals and happy successes of a year spent with people and their ponies. Many are energized to make plans for the upcoming year. We become unrecognizable for a moment in more formal attire! The kids and young adults dress up and amaze us all by growing up way too fast. There truly is a comradery among the kids that show and they look forward to reconnecting at the AGM. Megan Burtness expertly produced a power point presentation to accompany all of the award presentations eloquently emceed by Brianna Conian, Turner Davis and Arthur Thomson. It was nice to see some of these kids accept their awards in person and Audrey Schulze was thrilled to receive her championship in the All Around High Point Youth 12 and under Division, with reserve going to Jordyn Baxter. We welcomed back Kaitlin Hofer for her championship in the 13-17 age group with reserve going to Joy Hiller. Congratulations to all of these young people for all their hard work and success showing their animals at WPCSA rated shows. An article can be found on page 7 covering the Welsh of The Year Award presented to Dannielle French for High Hopes Prowler. I hope that award winners brought an extra suitcase to carry home all of their winning swag!

On Sunday a Judge's clinic on hunters was presented by Mr. Gary Duffy, a USEF 'R' rated judge in Hunter, Hunter Breeding and Hunter Equitation. His judges perspective was especially good because he is familiar with



Martha Stover - Our Auctioneer Extraordinaire  
Assisted by Samantha Verkuyl and  
Heather Lee O'Rourke  
Photo by Tammie Monaco

Welsh ponies and has trained, owned and shown several ponies all the way to the Pony Hunter Finals. Insightful and informative, Gary's expertise evaluated many examples of winning and not so winning rounds from a variety of videos. More than 40 participants had a chance to talk about specifics and understand the complexities of scoring hunter rounds.

One of our members, Barbara Magrogan invited a personal friend and special guest Charlie Davis to one of our banquets. Best known as an exercise rider for one of the most famous racehorses in history - Secretariat, Charlie met with members for a photo ops and autographs. Now in his 70's, Charlie is still involved in the racing scene, working with foals at a breeding farm in Ocala, Florida. Barbara and her husband made a generous donation to the Foundation for each item that Charlie sold during the evening.

The Society is excited to announce that the 2016 annual meeting will be in San Antonio, TX. A breeders' panel is already in the works for the event as well as a conformation clinic. Our clinician will be Cherry Wilson of Bristol Pony Farm who has been a Welsh Pony owner for 51 years. She has been an exhibitor in all venues of riding and driving, both in Welsh and open showing. She held judges cards in AHSA (R) Welsh, Western, Saddleseat, Shetland, Miniature, American Walking Pony. California is being considered for 2017. The Society encourages its members and anyone interested in Welsh ponies or cobs to make plans to attend the meeting in Texas, February, 2016.



Photo by Gretchen Aitken



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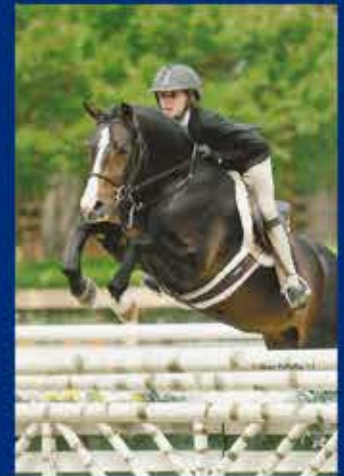
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Our sincerest thanks to  
the WPCSA members for  
making Peepers the 2014  
Welsh Of The Year



Sincerely, Dannielle French and Heather Lee O'Rourke

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Janice Thompson Photo

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# 2014 Welsh of the Year



## High Hopes Prowler

The Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America is pleased to announce that Section A Welsh gelding, High Hopes Prowler, (“Peepers”) is the recipient of the 2014 Welsh of the Year Award. Owned and trained by Dannielle French of Pinelands Farm, Mays Landing, NJ, ridden and handled by Heather Lee O’Rourke (age 6) of Salem, NH. “Peepers is a text book example of the Welsh breed’s versatility. He was shown by two riders ranging in age from 6 to 60 and achieved three national titles. We are thrilled to have him as an ambassador for the breed,” said Dr. Ruth Wilburn, WPSCA President.

Five nominees were selected by the committee for the prestigious title for Welsh of the Year including; Daventry Power Play, Glynhafan Hermione, Larks Token and Taraco Mourinho. Jackie Verkuyl of Gold Hills Welsh and program sponsor said, “This is our third year for this award series and we are consistently overwhelmed with the caliber of nominees who exhibit the extreme versatility of this hardy, kind and athletic breed.”



Dannielle French and Heather Lee O’Rourke

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- 12 yr old her USDF Bronze Medal
- Welsh Cob Gold Medallion

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Owned and trained by Kellie M Hunter

## BLACK SWAN SYR DEWI

Sire: Parcmorfa Ffraed

Dam: Dyffryngwy Heledo

- Qualified for Devon In-Hand Cosequin 2014
- Won In-Hand Championship@Sorenson 2014
- Upcoming Section D FEI stallion

Will be shown In-Hand 2015.

**KHDRAGON HEART'S WILL BE OFFERING A ONE TIME BREEDING TO A WPCSA ACTIVE MEMBER 2016 THIS BREEDING WILL BE A AUCTION WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS DRESSAGE AWARDS FOR WPCSA LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE WINTER ISSUE OF WELSH REVIEW**

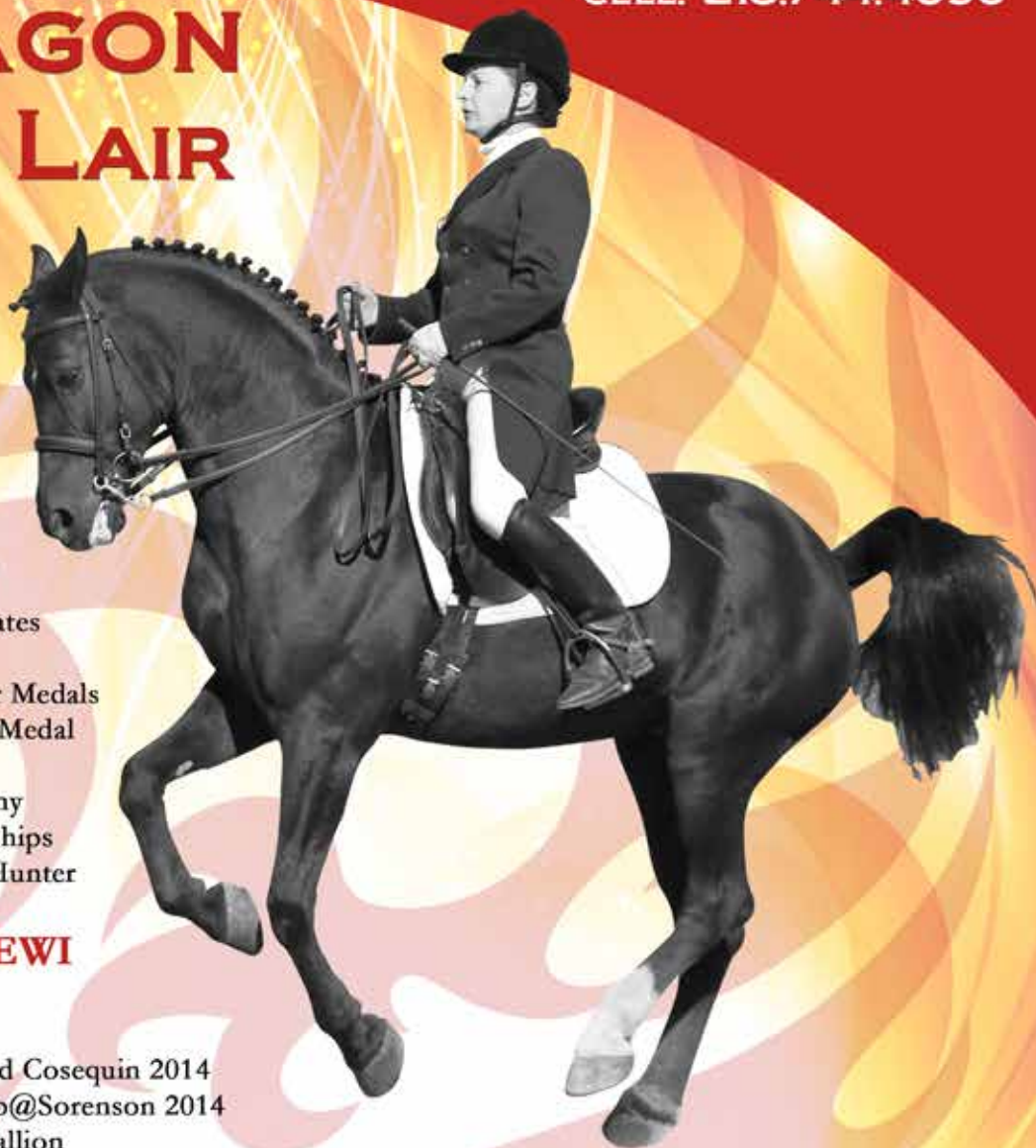
Owned by Kellie M Hunter. Bred by Jacqueline R Hamilton.

## KATRINA PRYDWYNE

- WPCSA Bronze Medallion

Will be shown in USDF levels with Bonnie Browne as rider 2015

Owned by Bonnie Browne. Trained by Kellie M Hunter and Bonnie Browne



BLACK SWAN SYR DEWI



KATRINA  
PRYDWYNE



CRESENT  
MOON'S  
LANCELOT



# 2014 SIRE RATINGS

## SECTION A

SEVERN MERRYMAKER	1235
SEVERN WEST WIND	1055
ARDMORE ROCKAFELLA	842
SEVERN CELEBRATION	563
BROOKSIDE STARBUSTER	543
*CEULAN LWCUS	533
TALOMO CRICKET	502
FARNLEY BALLAD	494
FARNLEY MAGIC FLUTE	393
ASGARD RHION	366

## SECTION B

*TELYNAU ROYAL CHARTER	1954
ROSEHAVEN TALISMAN	1811
*SLEIGHT OF HAND	1728
FLYING DIAMOND THE BAILEF	1459
GLYNHAFAN RED HAWK	1443
*PENWOOD GWR BONHEDDIG	1381
* WEDDERLIE MARDI GRAS	1202
GAYFIELDS PIECE OF CANDY?	878
JG COPS AND ROBBERS	764
*TELYNAU ROYAL ANTHEM	595

## PUREBRED SIRES OF

### HALF-WELSH OFFSPRING

JLA SIR WILLIAM	1771
FLYING DIAMOND THE BAILEF	1608
*TELYNAU ROYAL CHARTER	1057
*DOWNLAND REMBRANDT	790
FOX CRY UNDER THE ROSE	615
ROLLINGWOODS RAISING L	516
*DUNTARVIE TOUCHSTONE	446
*TELYNAU ROYAL ANTHEM	426
GOLDHILLS MOST WANTED	375
POSH OPPOSITES ATTRACT	345

## SECTION C

*POPSTERS MR BOJANGLES	222
*PARVADEAN THE GOVERNOR	216
*NEBO JOULES	191
*OLDEWORLDE BRILLIANCE	134
*PWLLMELIN RE-SPIN	67
B'S THE TERMINATOR	66
PENRHYN SWORD OF HOPE	33
GALLOD REPLICIA	19
USA RAILSIDE LADDY SUPREME	10
*MENAI DISCOVERY	9

## SECTION D

GF PRINCE ALBERT	1126
NORTH FORKS BRENIN CARDI	472
*POWYSVALLEY TROOPER YORK	446
NORTH FORK'S BRENIN DU	415
*CYFFYLLIOG PENDEFIG	350
*OKEDEN TAFFY	340
*TREVALLION ROYAL CONSORT	313
*MINYFFORDD MEGASTAR	276
STONECROFT BOLD AS BRASS	212
BEAVERWOOD'S SHAYMAN	188

## HALF-WELSH SIRES OF HALF

### OR PART-BRED WELSH


FARMORE FLAMBOYANT	135
LAND'S END THIMBLEBERRY	129
SALVANDI JAZZMAN	21
CASTLEBERRYS ROCKET MAN	3

**2014 Sire of the Year**  
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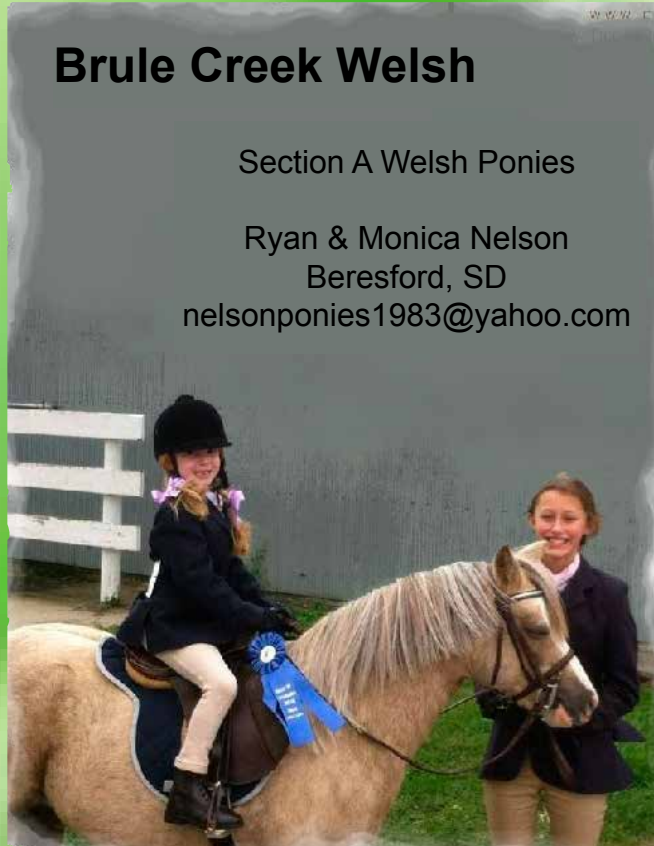


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# Dressage Scoring

# De-mystified



*Article and Photo Submitted by  
Joann Williams*

**I**n most performance disciplines, people want to know "what did you win, or where did you place". In Dressage, the first question should be "what was your score?". How the judge arrives at that final score is often mysterious, and somewhat confusing. So let's take some of the mystery out of that.

Dressage competitions are based on levels, much like grades in school, with the tests becoming more difficult as you progress up the training scale. Within each National level, Training through fourth level, there are 3 tests, with each one being progressively more difficult. Within each test, each movement, or block of movements, carries it's own score, and has a description of the purpose of each movement. Those are called directives. At the end of the test, there are the collective marks, where the judge gives scores for the overall impression of the horse's gaits, the impulsion, the submission, the rider's position and the rider's correct and effective use of the aids. These collective marks give an overview of whether

or not the horse and rider are progressing correctly in their training, and if they are fulfilling the basic fundamentals of Dressage. The marks for each movement, in the test itself, are more reflective of the correctness of each of those movements and any mistakes (like those that can happen when the show grounds resident cat jumps out of the judges booth right as you pass). Dressage is not just riding patterns, figures and movements, it is using patterns, figures and movements to develop the gaits and balance of the horse. The accuracy and correctness of the test movements show the correctness of the training.

Dressage judges have extensive training, and are under constant scrutiny. They are trained to judge based on a standard, never a sliding scale or curve. The same ride will be given approximately the same score regardless of judge, which coast you are on, or who else is in the class.

If the horse's training is correct, he will become better balanced, athletic, supple and fluid and will change from

average to extraordinary in his movements . While all horses will improve in their gaits, the inherently "great mover" will always have an edge over the average mover.

Each score is based on the following criteria

1) Basics/Biomechanics (Quality of the Basics/Biomechanics) This includes the quality of the gaits, the balance, freedom of movement, the suppleness and impulsion.

2) Criteria of the exercise (was it recognizable, and performed as described in the USEF rule book)

3) Modifiers, minor incidents or occurrences that are used to adjust the score up or down. This can be a slight resistance to the rider's aids, a momentary loss of balance, a minor mistake on the rider's part, a slight inaccuracy in the pattern, such as circle too large or small, or transition not quite at the required letter.

Each movement or (divided) section of the test is given a score of 0 to ten, with the majority of scores being in the 4 to 7 range.

**Here are the official score definitions, with my own comments in parentheses:**

**0 - Not performed** (this can happen if the rider just coasts through the movement without even trying. Most often, the judge will ring the bell as an error, and the rider loses 2 points for the error, but is allowed to try again)

**1 - Very Bad** ( maybe the rider tried, but the horse blew a gasket, having a major disobedience, or the movement done in no way resembles the movement required)

**2 - Bad** ( same as above, but maybe you won't have to cover your eyes)

**3 - Fairly Bad** (maybe you only cringe a little, and you aren't so worried that the rider is going to need an ambulance, or a lot more training time. Horse has most likely come way above or behind the bit, stopped going forward, or has done something else equally naughty)

Most scores fall into the 4 to 7 range, with 6 being seen most often on almost everyone's tests.

**4 - Insufficient** ( probably an honest try, but really lacking in one of the fundamentals above, like impulsion, submission, being on the bit and going forward in a nice balance, or a bad mistake, but at least the required movement was recognizable, like breaking to canter in a trot lengthening)

**5 - Sufficient** ( Oh how I hate getting 5's. This means that you did the movement, but only well enough to recognize it, but still lacking fundamentals, or it could be a mistake, such as: circle way too large or small, or horse is resistant to the aids)

**6 - Satisfactory** ( You did it, fundamentals are solid, horse is obedient, all went well, but not brilliant)

**7 - Fairly Good** (Getting better here, rider sits well, horse is on the aids, figure is accurate and performed according to the directives of the test)

**8 - Good** (Hurray ! now we're talking something that everyone wants to come watch. This is everything seen in the 7, plus the horse is a fluid mover, long stride, and extremely well balanced and athletic)

**9 - Very Good** (not seen very often, has to have all the qualities of an 8, but with added brilliance)

**10 - Excellent** (rarely seen)

The average moving horse will have most of his scores in the 6 range, but can be given an 8 in certain parts of the test that are not movement related, like halts, turns on the haunches, and down transitions.

The majority of judges will give the comments to the scribe as the rider is doing the movement, and the final score number after the movement is completed.

So a well balanced, on the aids, fabulous mover starts a circle with the judge thinking "this is going to be an 8.5, then the rider leans in, now

it's an 8, and then the horse cuts in the 2nd half of the circle and turns the figure into an egg shape. Now it's a 7, and then the rider grabs onto the inside rein and the horse loses rhythm and balance, and the judge gives a huge sigh, and the score given to the scribe is now a 6. Comments would read: rider leans in, egg shaped circle, lost rhythm and balance = 6.

The good news is that a disobedience or mistake in a movement that would knock one off of the judges card in other disciplines, will only have a small effect on the overall test score. If the rider can get the horse back on track, and show correctness in the rest of the test, they can easily make up those lost points and still end up with a good score. Depending on the severity of the disobedience/mistake, you may lose points in the collective marks, but not always.

I've gotten a score in the 30 percentile. We spent the majority of the test with the horse on 2 legs instead of 4, but at least we stayed in the ring.

Final scores in the 40's means that there were major issues either in the basics of the training, or horse or rider had something go very very wrong.

Scores in the low to mid 50's also show that either the horse or rider are in way over their heads, or it was just a really bad day.

High 50's can be indicative of a major problem that affected a large part of the test, or overall the horse is lacking in basics of training, has a somewhat faulty gait, or consistently shows the same mistake in several parts of the test.

Scores of low to mid 60's are very respectable, but there is room for improvement. mid to high 60's are very respectable, and definitely mean you are on the right track. This range may be the glass ceiling for horses that are average to good in movement. They have 3 correct gaits, but not extra suspension and suppleness.

Any score in the 70's should be celebrated with at least a glass of Champagne. High 70's scores need to be framed and bragged about on Facebook. These scores are attained by correct training and riding, on horses with correct and brilliant gaits.

Anything above those score ranges would mean that you and your horse can start planning on International competition, or the schooling show judge is being really, really encouraging. Both of which are really good things.

Another point to remember is that Freestyle scores are usually 5 to 10 percentage points higher than the regular test scores. This is because half of the test scores come from the artistic parts of the test.

It is expected that as the horse and rider move up the levels, their average or median score goes down a little. The higher you go up the levels, there more ways to get a 4 !!

USDF bases their year end awards on a median score, the middle score of each horse/rider combination at each level, not on points earned. This shows consistency throughout the year, and is more indicative of the quality of the training than a points earned system. Fourth level and below, you need at least 8 scores from 4 different judges (only two scores from each judge count), from 4 different competitions in order to be considered for a year end award. FEI levels require 4 scores, 4 different judges, 4 different competitions. Our WPCSA sponsors an All-Breed award for every level and every Section of Welsh. It is an honor to win one of the All-Breed awards.

I hope to see a lot more Welsh going down the Centerline soon !!!

**Here are a few links for more reading:**

**The 2015 tests and show rules are at: [usef.org](http://usef.org)**

**Even more information on awards: [USDF.org](http://USDF.org)**



# Dressage From Coast to Coast



Owner Jessica Wisdom and Welsh Cob stallion **North Forks Cardi** danced their way to TOP HONORS at the prestigious Dressage Finals show held at the Kentucky Horse Park November 8, 2014. Team Cardi wasn't quite prepared for the 80,000 plus views on the home video of the ride, taken by Cindy Miller, with the USEF Network's version going viral with over 220,000 views. That video was also tagged THE BEST OF 2014 by USEF.

The 2014 Dressage Finals was composed of dressage riders from all regions of the U.S. who had to meet qualifying scores to participate. On Friday, November 7, Cardi and Jessica earned third place in the Grand Prix at this national show and came back Saturday night to win BIG with the only score in the 70s--a 71.375%!! The winning ride was narrated by International dressage rider and highly respected trainer, Kathy Connelly; her comments included the following descriptors: "very elegant rider... she's showcasing him by doing that on a serpentine... very high in scale in difficulty... this horse has a lot of courage... this pair will score high in harmony between horse and rider... he's very happy to do it... beautiful partnership; that's just what it's all about... fabulous!... lovely!" Articles appeared in many sources including Dressage Daily, The Chronicle of the Horse, "The Reflector," Flying Changes, Ponies Quarterly, Paisley Pony, and Cardi was featured on the cover of Warmbloods Today as the RPSI-approved stallion of their choice, and shock of all shocks--graced the cover of the 2014 USDF Connection Yearbook!

~ Article by Cindy Miller Photograph by Susan Stickle



**Gallod Ffantastic (above)** draws a crowd whenever he attends a Dressage competition. The first question people ask is: what breed is he? Then they say: wow, gorgeous tail. Later in the day, when he tops the leader board, everyone wants to know where they can get one just like him.

G. Ffantastic was bred by Susan Stepney, Gallod Welsh, and purchased by WPCSA judge, and USDF Gold Medalist, Joann Williams specifically as a Welsh Dressage prospect when he was a weanling. He is sired by Quillaine Pryderi, out of Gallod Ffansi X Nebo Joules.

At 15.2 hands, he is pretty tall for a cob, but is usually one of the smallest horses on the Dressage show grounds. He is a commanding presence in the ring, thanks to his Welsh aura, and thinks that he is really 17 hands.

As a two year old, in 2008, G. Ffantastic won the WPCSA Sec. D, 2 and under Gelding National Championship and has continued his winning ways ever since.

He started his Dressage career as a 4 year old in 2010 at Training level, and has been able to move up a level per year with consistent median scores near 70%. He has been National Champion All-Breed Sec D Welsh in every level entered, and Reserve Champion Vintage Cup (riders over 50, open to any breed of horse) at 2nd and 3rd level in 2013. He has always been in the top 5 placings in the Vintage Cup National standings.

In 2015, we may be starting the FEI levels at Prix St. George, or we might stay home this year and work on strengthening (along with the occasional trail ride), and come out at Prix St George and Intermediare 1 in 2016. With luck and hard work, we hope to make it to Grand Prix, but only time will tell. G. Ffantastic is starting to show quite the talent for piaffe and passage, so we are hopeful that he can continue to rise up the levels in Dressage. ~ Article and photograph submitted by Joann Williams



**Talywern Fair Rose (above and below)** Is a 15 year old second D mare owned by Doreen Rose. Doreen is an amateur rider from Long Island, New York. She and Talywern Fair Rose are participants in our new Open Division program. Last year they paced second in Training Level and third place in First Level. Photographs by Meghann Leigh.



# SECTION D SPOTLIGHT



## ***Congratulations Marissa and Monte***

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# High Desert Welsh Cobs Submitted by Cindy Normandeau

Welsh Ponies came into my life in the form of an unpapered Sec A mare named Mandy. She was bred by a gentleman who used his ponies to pull extravagant wagons in big parades like the Rose Bowl, sometimes sixteen ponies at a time. Times changed and instead of being paid, the exhibitors had to pay to be in the parades. His twenty plus ponies were for sale. Mandy was bred to his stallion Firecracker and because I had a kid's program at the time, all this seemed like a natural fit.



Rocky with the Kids July 2009 Photo by Angela Nass

Rocky was born a dummy foal with a very crooked front leg. We nursed him back to health with round the clock care and a chiropractic vet fixed his crooked leg. He is now a great riding and driving pony. Through this, I became more and more taken by the amazing personality of this breed. People-oriented without being "in your space" or arrogant, they engage themselves in a way that seems that they enjoy our company, as much as we enjoy theirs.

I looked further into the breed and learned about the four sections. Being a person that has always liked a horse with bone and presence, I was attracted to the Sec D's. A hastily placed ad on Dream Horse put me in contact with Welsh Cob breeder, Leslie Carlson of Cobble Hill Farms, Vermont. Leslie was not actively trying to sell her Cob stallion Sapphire Creme Of The Crop (\*Scole Flying Scotsman x Twin Gates Golden Delight) otherwise known as George, and I was not intending to start a breeding program but exciting things were happening. Funding fell into place and I was able to purchase George and her two older Cob mares. \*Kurbaums Future (Rhystyd Flyer x Princess) and \*Kurbaums Shirly (Derwin Sherlock Holmes x Derwin Tiron) had been imported from Germany by their owner to start a breeding program, but he died unexpectedly. The mares found their way to Meghan Benge in North Carolina. Future is the dam of her very successful combined driving pony Zoey (The Key x \*Kurbaums Future). From North Carolina they went to Leslie's in Vermont.

On April 19th 2011 George, Future and Shirly arrived in Arizona. George and his mares lived together that first season. In the hottest month of the Arizona summer, June, they were evacuated twice because of a huge wild fire. I never expected to have either of the mares conceive after all this but Future was indeed in foal. By August, life had settled down

after the excitement of the arrival of my little breeding band and the wild fire evacuations. For fun, my son Brian started riding George. They hit it off immediately and we quickly realized George's talent for jumping. After just three months of formal dressage and jumping training, George and Brian entered Grass Ridge Horse Trials. They won the Open Novice division, purely on George's enthusiastic jumping skills!



Sapphire Creme of The Crop ridden by Brian Normandeau  
Photo by Christy Cumberworth

My first Welsh Cob baby was born in May 2012. A beautiful palomino filly, High Desert Selene (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x \*Kurbaums Future). Future is an amazing Mom and Selene had all the qualities that I had first fallen in love with; gentle intelligence and an engaged disposition. Plus she was stunningly beautiful. The next breeding season I leased Maggies Messenger, a TB and Piazza, a Hanoverian mare. In the summer of 2013, including Future's second foal, we had three beautiful fillies.

Nicole Musmanno came into my life. She owns and events a mare by George, bred by Leslie. Cobble Hill JHN Imogen (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x \*Gristhills Perla Man). "Ginny", like George, is a natural. In 2013 they qualified for the Training Level Championships and made the trip to the AEC (The American Eventing Championship) They finished solidly in the middle of a large and very competitive field, in Ginny's second year of eventing. Ginny was also the Eventing Welsh Pony Champion of the Year in 2013.



Cobble Hill JHN Imogen ridden by Nicole Musmanno  
Vinzant Photo by Christy Cumberworth

The people coming into my life are as wonderful as the Cobs themselves. Selene was bought by a long time acquaintance, now friend. And

Nicole, a whirlwind of energy and ambition, fell in love with High Desert Cara Eve (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x Piazza), the Hanoverian cross filly. Her second George baby! There is a pattern emerging; these amazing beings are finding their human soul mates. I have found mine in Future's second filly, High Desert Georgina (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x \*Kurbaums Future).



High Desert Selene and High Desert Georgina  
Photo by Cindy Normandeau

High Desert Slew Of Rumors (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x Maggies Messenger), the TB cross, has found her person. Another surprise, an old friend that reentered, with a bucket-list wish for a tall, beautiful, buckskin filly to live out her riding dreams with. George will be fifteen in June. He has found his riding partner in a petite young woman from Germany with her Bereiter Certificate. Jana Crimmins is showing him at First Level now, with Second Level on the horizon and scores toward her Bronze Medal. This year we will be breeding newly arrived mares Nibrika Mourne View Mist (Dusty's Dundee x Kelly Acres Marianna) "Britta" and Leslie Carlson's Brazos Lucky Charm (\*Sydenham Nocturne x Lyndon's Rosina Bay) "Minnie". Britta was the USDF Welsh Pony Training Level Reserve Champion in 2011 and Minnie is \*Sydenham Nocturne's last offspring. Jana has her eye on last year's colt; High Desert Arthur (Sapphire Creme Of The Crop x Mandy) as a fancy dressage and sport pony.

We are excited about the babies coming along, the roads we may get to travel with them, and with the people they find. More than a breeding program, High Desert Welsh Cobs has become the doorway to a world of soul-filled horses and wonderful people.



Sapphire Creme Of The Crop ridden by Jana Crimmins  
Photo by Marilyn R. Sheldon

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# From “Nobody” to “Champion”

by Donna Ley

I first heard of Sunny in the fall of 2006. A lady near Ashland, WI, had contacted me to say that she had 2 purebred Welsh mares that she wanted to place. Neither mare had papers yet, but she could get the paperwork to get them registered. I had more ponies than I needed at that time, but kept her contact information. The following February, I sold a pony so had the room and money for a “project” for the girls. I remembered the ponies near Ashland, so my daughters and I made a trip to see them.

The first time I saw Sunny, she was a big, fat, hairy, 6 year old bay mare who was much more interested in her round bale than in me. Her half-sister was smaller and grey. Both had some lovely lines and were good movers when we chased them into a trot. I estimated Sunny at 13.2 to 14h and since we are bigger people, we decided that she’d be the one for us. I’d keep the grey in mind though. (A year later, I brought the grey mare home, got her papers, educated her and found her a loving home too.)

We made the trip to bring Sunny home in late March. She was still hairy and VERY fat. She didn’t think that she should have to do anything other than eat either. She wasn’t evil or naughty – she just wanted some persuading. Two days later, Sunny and another of our young ponies went to some friends of ours to be started under saddle. I called our friends a couple days later to see how things were going. They said that they’d had quite the time getting Sunny in the barn the first night – we never stopped to think that Sunny had never been in a barn in her life! She was afraid to go in the “cave.” Once she got in, she found that stalls are lovely things and usually a pony can find a good meal without anyone bothering her there.

In the meantime, I sent Sunny’s papers in to the WPCSA. I’ve been a Welsh breeder since 1988 and feel very passionately about maintaining breed type according to the breed standard. Sunny’s pedigree showed that she was less than 3% cob by blood, with the other 97% being section B and section A. According to WPCSA rules, because she carried cob blood, she would have had to be registered as a cob (either section C or D, depending on height). Cob type and section B Welsh pony of Riding Type are very different animals. They

are both distinctly Welsh, but cobs have more bone and a different way of moving. While Sunny looked like a cob, with all that section B in her pedigree, she and her descendants could throw some very off-type cobs in the future. I didn’t want to take the chance of muddying up the cob gene pool, so I put Half Welsh papers on Sunny. She became SDL Dance in the Sun. She could still go to Welsh shows and compete, there will always be a “birth certificate” for her and she will always have more value than a grade pony. She is officially special.

Two months after Sunny went for training, she came home – a good broke trustworthy lady. Two days later, a clean and trimmed up Sunny hopped in the trailer again to go to her first show. She went to Ladysmith, WI, with 3 of our other Half Welsh ponies to compete at a WPCSA silver rated event. We weren’t looking for anything fancy from her – we just hoped that she’d have a good weekend. The teen age girls who had done her training came with to show her and the other pony that had trained with Sunny. The first class she showed in was Half Welsh 3 and over halter. She took both blue ribbons! Then she came back in for the championship and took BOTH champion sashes! She had some serious competition, but acted like royalty. Next, Tristan took her in showmanship. The pair came out of the arena with huge smiles – BLUE! The pony who’d never been to town before had done very well. She came in reserve champion in both English and western pleasure behind my daughter’s seasoned mare. We were ecstatic! Sunny carried a couple different teen age riders for the remainder of that show season, only showing in WI and MN, but she earned enough points to end the year as WPCSA National High Score Champion in Half Welsh western pleasure, youth rider. I had ridden her in adult trail and we did all right too.

After the last show of the season, Sunny went home with an older lady to be her riding pony. They had fun for a couple years, but life changes and she gifted Sunny back to me. Sunny will always be a special pony for me – my first WPCSA National Champion – but she’s also special just for being Sunny. She gives us both a reason to Dance in the Sun.



Sunny in WI, February 2007



Supreme Champion first show!



First western pleasure class with Tristan



Trail with Donna

## ATTENTION SECTION A BREEDERS AND OWNERS

An exciting grassroots effort is taking place and we hope you are interested in participating. A number of Section A breeders and owners are working together to help promote our favorite section. Informally organized last fall, the group is already making strides to improve the visibility of the Section A.

The first promotion effort includes organizing a new Section A Versatility Award at the 2015 American National in Tulsa, Oklahoma. When OKWPS approved the award, members quickly came together and within twelve hours more than ten breeders and owners had funded it. Supporting the award financially not only helps our beloved Section, but also provides contributors with advertising benefits. If you're interested in contributing to this special award and helping to promote your farm, please contact Kelli Broers or Winona Meyers. Additionally, watch for more details from OKWPS about the Section A Versatility Award and corresponding awards for other sections.

Also, the group is now working to create an additional special award(s) for Section A's at the 2015 American National. While the monetary amount or nature of the prize is still being considered, contenders include a prize for the Section A that travels the farthest, the Section A entered in the most classes, and the owner who brings the most Section A's. Keep your eyes open for more information. Our goal is a huge Section A turnout at the American National this year. If you own a Section A, this is THE year to get to the American National.

The group met at the February AGM and had a productive brainstorming session where many ideas were shared. Other promotion opportunities discussed include funding awards with Pony Club and driving societies, including more Section A focused classes at Welsh shows, and developing polished marketing materials.

Anyone interested in promoting Section A's, please consider joining and supporting the group. Currently, it "meets" on Facebook. Upon logging in, search for: Welsh Mountain Pony, Section A Marketing Group. We look forward to seeing you there! ~ Kelli Broers

### SECTION A VERSATILITY!!



Photos of *The Promise Sand Storm* courtesy of Cassandra Kimball

## AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Our area representatives news has gone "high tech." Please visit [www.wpcsamembers.com](http://www.wpcsamembers.com) to read the blog posts from each region. Also, most area reps have now created regional facebook groups.

Margaret Almond is the liaison for the Area Representatives and the Board of Directors. Her contact information is: (410) 459-4498, [jalmond970@aol.com](mailto:jalmond970@aol.com)

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