

# EQUESTRIAN TIMES



FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

SEPTEMBER 2017

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**RIDING FOR GOLD**

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**WORLD EQUESTRIAN  
GAMES 2018**

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**HOW FORM AFFECTS  
FUNCTION**

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but none like this



Designed by award-winning Singapore-based practice Andy Fisher Workshop, Embassy Lake Terraces is an uber-luxury development that expands over a lush 14.5 acre property in Hebbal, North Bengaluru. The stunning 'twisted' design orients the condominiums towards the central greens and offers spectacular views of the Hebbal and Nagavara lakes. A host of international amenities takes luxury to a whole new level. Brought to you by Embassy Group - one of India's leading property developers, with a track-record spanning 3 decades.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Dear Readers,

The Equestrian sport in India is taking several small, but sure steps, to greater glory in recent times.

The next big leap that we have taken are the initiatives in breeding Sporthorses in India, with the Sporthorse Studbook, a step that will bring in a large number of imported horses from Europe into the country. EIRS is a frontrunner in producing genetically superior Sporthorses in Bengaluru, thanks to its research in artificial insemination and embryo transfers, as part of its endeavour to produce the best. A long term vision for this would be, for India to export high quality horses to Europe and the rest of the world.

Our pride, a new warmblood stallion which can be used for breeding, called Capo Cassione, has successfully competed at the highest level in the International showjumping circuit. He is also a part of the Sporthorse Studbook Stallion Collection.

Equestrian Premier League (EPL), held from June to November, and the FEI events, saw the mushrooming of many more riding clubs in the country, who's riders compete here and they look promising to win at the highest levels of competitions. With the shows getting better and bigger, other parallel services like Veterinary and Farrier, are also getting the much-needed impetus and will further boost the sport in the country.

Embassy International Riding School is a leading riding club and has the best of facilities to take this sport to even greater heights. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Equestrian Times, that highlights the giant steps taken to breed top quality horses, right here in our garden city.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lara Becker'.

**LARA BECKER**  
**EDITOR**

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# RIDING FOR GOLD

**JITU VIRWANI**

Chairman and Managing Director  
Embassy Group



At a time when the jockeys and thoroughbreds at the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) were on a holiday, the spotlight shifted on the top Indian Equestrian riders and their warmbloods. The big EPL challenge at the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS), has attracted the cream and more importantly, the good word that four young Indians will be chosen by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) to parade their skills in the Youth Olympics at Argentina early next year, has provided the Equestrian fraternity a big reason to smile.

Vice-president of EFI and head honcho of the Embassy Group, Jitu Virwani, disclosed that a couple of Indian civilian riders, Fauad Mirza and Zarosh Bharucha after their preparatory training stint for the Asian Games, have now shifted to Germany and under the care of German Olympian Bettina Hoy, are honing their skills to strike it, each in the eventing competitions in the Asian Games.

“Fauad and Zarosh are consistently producing medal winning performances, competing in the many premier German competitions and with two best army riders joining them in the training schedule drawn up by Bettina, the Indian team looks good to grab an Asian Games gold,” said Jitu Virwani.

When posed with the question, are the young Indian U-19 riders good enough to make a mark at the youth Olympics? Jitu shot back: “Yes we do have a good number of youngsters who are ready to make the big league and the big stage will provide the exposure and experience to contest with the best.”

Jitu revealed that the successful breeding operations at EIRS has provided the Equestrian sport a shot in-the-arm. In their bid to get the top Indian riders, the best pedigree warmbloods, Embassy brought in a couple of top stallions from Germany and quality Equestrian mares from Europe and attained good results. The German lass Lara Becker, who heads the breeding operations is immensely pleased with the results. She is confident that in the years ahead, India will be a force to reckon with in the Asian meets. “At EIRS we have three quality warmbloods, including a pony stallion Pillatus and this year we have five mares in foal. From the time we started breeding in 2014, we have produced and sold seven foals at good prices and that shows that a good number of Equestrian lovers in India are willing to invest and compete in the sport,” said Lara. Jitu, who himself gets a leg-up regularly doing the cross country at the ranch said: “We at EFI are looking to provide all our riders maximum competitions, both domestic and international. We have

the EPL challenge this month followed by NEC and FEI World Show Jumping championship in November and next will be the Asian Games and the Youth Olympics. It is a busy calendar and that’s how we want it to be,” said Jitu, pointing out that the sport is fast gaining the momentum required to scale a new high.

“Now that we are providing quality horses to ride and because Embassy is sponsoring all the training stints under top international coaches in the United Kingdom and Germany, a number of youngsters are keen and willing to start as amateurs and turn professionals,” said Jitu who has spent a fortune, chasing his dream, to help build and train an Indian team to win the Asian and Olympic gold. The next Asian Games offers the best chance and Jitu is confident that India can do it.



**LARA BECKER**  
Head, Sporthorse Studbook, India



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## NEC Meerut

# KAEVAN, APURVA CORNER GLORY AT MEERUT



Capt. Apurva, Kaevan Setalvaad and Maj. Harmanjeet Singh stole the limelight at the NEC Show Jumping and CCI One Star eventing championship at the RVC Centre and College ground, Meerut.

Apurva astride Cantolina came up trumps in the Individual Show Jumping novice category snuffing out the challenge of Lt. Col A K Goswami. Apurva next won the CCI One Star eventing competition astride Jiwaji.

The talented Kaevan Setalvaad proved too good in the Grade II Show Jumping individual event. The favourite Kaevan in fine nick was under no pressure, producing a couple of clean rounds, which made his task simple at the end.

Maj Harmanjeet Singh sprung a surprise in the Six Bar event, edging out the much fancied Nitin Gupta of the Equestrian Center for Excellence, in an absorbing

finish. Harmanjeet, astride Amrit, after gaining the lead, held on well till the end, while Nitin on Zala made a couple of unforced errors to rest content with the runner-up berth.

In the Grand Prix jumping event, the spotlight was on the two top riders, Kaevan and Rishab Mehta on the day. Kaevan came up good to emerge the champion rider of the meet.



# MHS PRE NOVICE, NOVICE, NEC SHOW JUMPING AND CCI ONE STAR EVENTING

At Rvc Centre and College, Meerut wef 07-17 Feb 2017

NAME OF RIDER	HORSE	PLACE
<b>Meerut Horse Show Pre Novice ( Indl)</b>		
Swr Avdesh	Jai Hind	1St
Swr Vijay Pratap	Valentine	2Nd
Ms Rathore	Lazarus	3Rd
<b>Meerut Horse Show Pre Novice (Team)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swr Hakim Ali</li> <li>Swr Avdesh</li> <li>Swr Vijay Pratap</li> <li>Ald P Vishwanath</li> </ul>	Gadar Jai Hind Valentine Tycoon	1St (Rvc 'A')
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sep Sumer Singh</li> <li>Swr Abrar Khan</li> <li>Sep Vikas Yadav</li> <li>Capt Arpit Rana</li> </ul>	Rmt Og Redwood Azgar Obra	2Nd (Asc North)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insp Sumer Singh</li> <li>Sh Sunil Kumar Raghuvansi</li> <li>Hc Ajay Kumar</li> <li>Hc Sanjeet</li> </ul>	Chakori Mishtry Krish Karan	3Rd (Bsf Team A)
<b>Meerut Horse Show Novice ( Indl)</b>		
Capt Apurva D	Cantolina	1St
Lt Col Ak Goswami	Ramzes Pearl	2Nd
Col Deep Ahlawat	Vibrant Volc	3Rd
<b>Meerut Horse Show Novice (Team)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lt Col Vivek Mishra</li> <li>Swr Jitender</li> <li>Ris Dinesh Kumar</li> <li>Col Deep Ahlawat</li> </ul>	Akbar Gabriel Triump Vibrant Volc	1St (Rvc Team B)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asi Shri Ram</li> <li>Hc Ajay Kumar</li> <li>Hc Rahuvendra Singh</li> <li>Capt Apurva D</li> </ul>	Gazal Krishna Menka Cantolina	2Nd (Bsf)
<b>Cci One Star (Eventing)</b>		
Capt Apurva D	Jiwaji	1St
Maj Ashish Malik	Chocolate	2Nd
Ris Maj Sunil Kumar	Jeet	3Rd
<b>Nec Jumping Normal (Indl)</b>		
Dr Neha Berlia	Cooper	1St
Lt Col Vivek Mishra	Ascot India	2Nd
Maj Ashish Malik	Golden Hope	3Rd
<b>Nec Jumping Normal (Team)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lt Col Ak Goswami</li> <li>Lt Col Vivek Mishra</li> <li>Ld Mohd Abrar</li> <li>Ld K Dilip</li> </ul>	Ramzes Perl Ascot India Raftar Tarzan	1St (Rvc Team B)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jyotika Hassanwalia</li> <li>Dfr Rana Pratap</li> <li>Ld Gulpinder Jeet</li> <li>Ld Mandeep Singh</li> </ul>	Desire B Aatish Absolute Gambler	2Nd (Pbg)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sehaj Singh Virk</li> <li>Jaivir Bhatia</li> <li>Arinjay Choudhary</li> <li>Amar Sarin</li> </ul>	Wadani Winning Mood Cassadillo Conets Ashva	3Rd (Egc Stables)

NAME OF RIDER	HORSE	PLACE
<b>Nec Novice Jumping Fault And Out</b>		
Sehaj Singh Virk	Wadani Winning Mood	1St
Ld K Mahesh	Tarzan	2Nd
Dr Neha Berlia	Cooper	3Rd
<b>Nec Grade Iii Normal Jumping (Indl)</b>		
Swr Pradeep Jangam	Kabootar	1St
Ld Gulpinderjeet Singh	Vazra	2Nd
Amar Sarin	Summer Rain	3Rd
<b>Nec Grade Iii Normal Jumping (Team)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ald Pankaj</li> <li>Swr Pradeep Jangam</li> <li>Swr Avdesh</li> <li>Maj Harmanjeet Singh</li> </ul>	Angel Kabootar Karishma Amrit	1St (Rvc Team A)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amar Sarin</li> <li>Ld Gulpinder Jeet</li> <li>Yash Nansee</li> <li>Gursobha Singh</li> </ul>	Summer Rain Vazra Zala Connie Briton	2Nd (Pbg)
<b>Nec Grade Iii Jumping Six Bar (Indl)</b>		
Maj Harmanjeet Singh	Amrit	1St
Nitin Gupta	Zala	2Nd
Gursobha Singh	Cannie Briton	3Rd
<b>Nec Grade Ii Normal Jumping (Indl)</b>		
Kaevaen Setalvad	Robin	1St
Amar Sarin	Alasdair	2Nd
Amar Sarin	Summer Rain	3Rd
<b>Nec Grade Ii Normal Jumping (Team)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amar Sarin</li> <li>Zahan Setalvad</li> <li>Balaji Vijayshankar</li> <li>Kaevaen Setalvad</li> </ul>	Summer Rain Cabrini Ricardo Robin	1St (Setalvad Equestrian)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swr Vijay Pratap</li> <li>Swr Pradeep</li> <li>Ld Gulpinder Jeet Singh</li> <li>Kirat Singh Nagra</li> </ul>	Andy Flower Kabootar Vazra Big Money	2Nd (Rvc Team)
<b>Nec Grade Ii Jumping Six Bar (Indl)</b>		
Zahan Setalvad	Cabrini	1St
Swr Vijay Pratap Singh	Andy Flower	2Nd
Kirat Singh Nagra	Big Money	3Rd
<b>Nec Grade I Normal Jumping (Indl)</b>		
Sehaj Singh Virk	Laila Lordanas	1St
Jibran Khan	Claudette	2Nd
Kaevaen Setalvad		



RISHABH

# TOP GUN READY TO HIT THE BULLS-EYE

Ikram Khan

He is on top of his game. And he is one of the best in the business. 22-year-old Rishabh Mehta from Mumbai, who has been chosen to don the Indian colours in the FEI World Jumping finals at Algiers in July, is also keen and ready to give it a shot to qualify for the Asian Games.

Rishabh has won medals in six senior national championships, after he first made his presence felt winning a gold in the Junior Equestrian National Championship (JNEC) in Kolkaka, six summers ago. The talented lad, astride Caprice, has won many a heart of a lover of the sport, competing successfully against the best, and is poised to earn his passage to the Asian Games.

“I started riding in 2007, while I was studying in Lawrence School, Lovedale, in Udhagamandalam. After my two year stint at the Blue Mountains, I joined Equestrian Center for Excellence, (ECE) in Bengaluru and continued riding and training under the head coach Nitin Gupta,” says Rishabh.

A confident and talented Rishabh disclosed that he has enjoyed his journey so far and is now looking to scale a new high. “After competing successfully on the domestic circuit, I’m keen to break into the international scene and I’m training hard under the care of Nitin Gupta, to make a mark at Algiers,” says Rishabh.

The top gun from United Riders Barn, to his credit it must be mentioned, has drawn out plans to train and attain qualification for the Asian Games from Germany. “I’m planning to procure a new horse and train under a top international coach in my effort to book a ticket for the Asian Games and my coach Nitin Gupta is helping me out,” Rishabh says, adding that his dad Rajesh Mehta is very supportive and is always ready and willing to facilitate his effort and exercise, to make it to the big league.

A student of SP Jain IMR in Mumbai, Rishabh is of the view that the Indian equestrian team has a good chance to win a medal at the Asian Games. “We have more than five riders who have the potential to qualify and parade our skills on the big stage,” says Rishabh, who feels that all the talented Indian riders need is the exposure and experience to compete against the best in the international events.

Class comes from consistency and the classy Rishabh is ready for the big challenges ahead. And going by his quality performances, the star performer appears ready to gallop to fame.





ANIRUDH

# TALENTED ANIRUDH KRISHNA IS AIMING HIGH

Ikram Khan

Anirudh Krishna is one good lad on the block. The 15-year-old from Mumbai, down in Bengaluru to compete in the Equestrian Premier League (EPL), is confident that he will prove his mettle and emerge among the best.

Anirudh took to this sport at the early age of five, learning his first lessons at Japaloupe Equestrian Centre in Pune and 10 years in the game, the talented youngster has served notice of his potential, consistently producing top drawer efforts in the junior circuit.

A year after getting his first leg-up, Anirudh hogged the headlines winning four golds in the Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC) in Kolkata in 2013, and from then on it has been a run for the roses for the promising lad, who is looking to graduate to the big league in the years ahead.

“Three individual jumpings golds and one team gold in Kolkata provided me the confidence and belief that I could do well in this sport and though I understand I have a long way to go, I’m happy with the progress,” said Anirudh, who recently joined the Equestrian Centre For Excellence (ECE) in Bengaluru and is training under the care of head coach Yashaan Khambhatta.

A Grade X student from Oberoi International school in Mumbai, Anirudh was selected to represent India in the German Friendship competition in 2015. “It was a good championship and the exposure and experience I brought back helped me hone my skills and more importantly, I learnt how to prepare myself for the big international events,” feels Anirudh.

The following year, Anirudh, in his effort to scale up the ladder, joined a week - long training camp conducted by the famed German coach Ludger Beerbaum in Riesenbeck and that again helped him mature, understanding that wins and failures are a part of the game and one needs to quickly correct and not commit the same mistakes again, and move on.

Bengaluru, according to Anirudh is the best place for the young and hopeful equestrian riders. “Three quality clubs, ECE, Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) and now United Riders Barn. The weather too is fantastic and the horses love it here,” said Anirudh, who is planning to make Bengaluru his base.

“I ride Amelia while I’m training in Mumbai, a good thoroughbred, and when I’m down in Bengaluru, I train astride Olgy, a quality warmblood at the ECE. Yashaan has been fantastic and I’m looking forward to a fruitful partnership,” said Anirudh, adding that the one coach who really put him on the Equestrian high road, is Bobbin Cshering.

“Bobbin is the one who started me on this journey and if not for him, I wouldn’t be jumping. He really provided me the confidence and when the chips were down, he really picked me up and slowly yet surely, put me on the road to glory,” said Anirudh.



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# *Our* STALLIONS

## **CADEAU BLANC** (Bianco)

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\*2004 by Charisma x Popcorn x Lucky Boy xx

A phenomenon equally for breeding  
and in sports



## **CAPO CASSIONE**

Holsteiner

\*2002 by Cassini I x Lavall II x Raimondo

Outstanding Holsteinshow jumping progenitor by the  
legendary Cassini I

## **PILATUS**

German Sportpony

\*2001 by Coelenhage's Purioso x Pionier's Casper



# WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2018



Qualifying for the 2018 World Equestrian Games at Tryon, for dressage and most other Equestrian disciplines, begins on Jan. 1, with the American organizers projecting a record number of horses and riders competing at show grounds that did not even exist two years ago.

Qualifying for the 2018 World Equestrian Games at Tryon for dressage and most other Equestrian disciplines begins Jan. 1 with the American organizers projecting a record number of horses and riders competing at show grounds that did not even exist two years ago. Preparations are being made for 840 horses to compete in the world championships of dressage, driving, endurance, eventing, jumping, reining and vaulting, plus another 100 for para-equestrian for the games to take place at Tryon International Equestrian Center, Sept. 10-23, 2018.

The total compares with 803 horses in the seven sports excluding Para - Equestrian at the 2014 WEG in Normandy that set a record for participants and an increase of 56.7 per cent over the 536 horses in the seven sports at the 2010 championships in Kentucky. The number for dressage is put at 90 horses, that is 10 fewer than the 2014 WEG in Normandy but a third more than the 66 in the 2010 Games, the first time the championships were staged outside Europe, since the first event in 1990 and held once every four years.



The horses are scheduled to fly into the Greenville/Spartanburg international airport, about 45 minutes from the Tryon show grounds in Mill Spring, North Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Charlotte Douglas International Airport, where most visitors from the Americas as well as the rest of the world are expected to arrive, has direct flights throughout North America and to Europe and Central America.

Although qualifying criteria for dressage in 2018 has not yet been decided, the make up will be the same as previous WEGs of four riders and horses with three scores counting for teams, and not the newly adopted Olympic format of three combinations with no drop score. The minimum requirement to qualify is expected to be scores of 64 per cent at two different CDIs at 3\* level or above, though each nation will set its own qualification standards to approve participation of athletes and horses.

Some nations are exploring the possibility of taking advantage of the schedule of international events at Tryon leading up to WEG to make final decisions on qualification of teams. The Tryon facility did not exist on any international Equestrian calendar two years ago, it has become a major attraction having grown already to about 40 horse shows a year.

Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro celebrated two individual gold medals at the 2014 World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France. © 2014 Ken Braddick/dressage-news.com

Although on the list of the top show grounds in the world sponsored by Rolex, the Swiss watch and timing company stepped aside so that Tryon could keep alive the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) banner event that is contractually sponsored by Longines after Bromont in Canada pulled out, with just two years to go to the 2018 event.

About \$125/€96 million has already been spent by the private partnership that owns the facility on 1,600 acres (650Ha) with another \$50 to \$60/€48-57.6 million tossed in as an operating fund for the next couple of years.

Built already are 1,200 permanent stables, 12 arenas including the floodlit George Morris centerpiece stadium, with



spectator seating up to 12,000 and VIP seating for up to 1,500 but more if needed, a covered arena (to be enclosed) with 5,000 seats and an eventing cross country course designed by Britain's Mark Phillips that some participants in this year's American eventing championships declared, it could rank among the world's best.

Most questions have come over hotel/motel accommodations close to the show grounds, a situation not unlike Bromont where Montreal was the closest city with most rooms available, well over an hour away from the show grounds.

About 12,000 hotel/motel rooms are in Charlotte, a major commercial hub about 80 miles/128 km or 90 minutes on Interstate highway from the show grounds at Mill Spring. Within about 45 minutes west are 6,000 rooms in the mountain tourist city of Asheville and about the same distance south another 5,000 rooms in Spartanburg/Greenville, South Carolina. Another 6,000 rooms are within 30 minutes of the TIEC.

College student accommodations have been reserved at a nearby college to accommodate media and officials, similar to affordable housing for many in the media and officials at the Equestrian competition at Greenwich Park at the London Olympics, in 2012.

By the time WEG rolls around in September, 2018, the 200 rooms in multi-bedroom condominiums and upscale motel style buildings already in use will be expanded by the organizers to accommodate 1,200 grooms and as many riders as possible, all on the show grounds.

Mark Bellissimo who heads the organizing committee as well as majority partner in the ownership group, has set up a computerized 60,000-square foot factory to prefabricate homes.

Totilas at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010, performing a final victory gallop with Edward Gal. The pair were the dominant combination in 2010, leading the Netherlands to team gold and both individual golds. © 2010 Ken Braddick/dressage-news.com

Organizers and state government officials project more than 500,000 visitors over the 14 days of WEG, but the numbers are difficult to make comparisons with previous games. The economic impact was projected by the former North Carolina governor at more than \$400/€385 million.

Normandy in 2014, reported 574,000 spectators, but 428,000 tickets were sold for sporting events. Economic impact was reported as €368/US\$414 million for France, including €102/US\$114.8 million to Normandy. The Games made a profit, including covering public funding of €46.2/\$52 million.

Lexington in 2010, counted 507,022 what it called "attendees," that included thousands of volunteers and more than 62,000 school children admitted free of charge. Economic impact was given as \$328/€315.7 million. The Kentucky government provided different accounting—419,853 visitors and an economic impact of US\$201.5/€142 million. Aachen, Germany in 2006 was the last WEG that did not include para-dressage and reported 576,000 spectators and an economic impact of €100/US\$128 million. Tickets for the 2018 WEG will go on sale in January, but pricing has not yet been decided.

For more information,  
visit our website:  
<https://tryon2018.com>



*Horse Service International B.V.*

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# Farewell VALEGRO



Born in 2002, Valegro is the dressage wonderhorse who, with his rider Charlotte Dujardin, has wowed the world, winning title after title and setting new records in all three types of grand prix. He retired from competition after retaining individual Olympic gold at the Rio 2016 Games. A dark bay KPWN gelding standing at 16.2hh, his successes include individual and team gold in the 2012 Olympics; individual gold in the 2016 Olympics; the grand prix and grand prix special gold medals at the 2013 and 2015 European Championships; and individual gold at the World Equestrian Games in 2014. At Olympia 2014, he beat his own world record to achieve the highest-ever recorded grand prix freestyle dressage score: 93.4%. Valegro belongs to Carl Hester, Roly Luard and Anne Barrott. He has lived at Carl Hester's yard in Gloucestershire, since he

was a two-year-old. Valegro is by Negro, out of Malifleur (by Gershwyn). Carl's protégée Charlotte Dujardin was given the ride on Valegro as a young horse to bring him on for Carl to ride, but their partnership proved too strong to dissolve. Despite being asked to name their price after the 2012 Olympics, Carl and Roly decided that they wanted to ensure the horse's future was secure and Valegro is expected to remain at Carl's for the rest of his days. Although he has now retired from competition, Valegro remains in work and will continue to entertain his fans with special appearances. His official retirement ceremony took place at Olympia 2016, where he produced an outstanding performance of his London 2012 freestyle to a packed house, proving that he was bowing out at the very top of his game.



# CASALL FINISHES HIS CAREER IN STYLE

Adriana van Tilburg



The whole week from the press conference until the day of the Longines Global Champions Tour, there was one subject that kept coming back. This was going to be the last show of the LGCT superstar Casall. Viviana Kolbeck came specially over from Mexico to witness the farewell ceremony. She has at home two stallions by Casall and it was her dream to meet Casall. Rolf-Göran Bengtsson made this dream come true.

On Friday Rolf-Göran caused a shock effect by having three poles down and he retired from the class. Saturday was their day, with every clear round they received a loud roar of cheering and the riders and owners payed them respect by giving a standing ovation. It became obvious that Casall was in an outstanding form because in the end he had three clear rounds and it was very warm that day. Rolf-Göran was with Casall the last pair in the jump off to go. Harrie Smolders had with Don VHP Z a beautiful clear round. Casall however was much faster than Don VHP Z and won his last show in an unbelievable way. An interesting detail is that Casall

won his first LGCT and his last in Hamburg. For Rolf-Göran this was the most emotional victory. During his farewell ceremony the speaker said that Casall has 96 approved sons and he competed against a few of his sons like Alicante, Casallo Z, Caracas and many others. The Holsteiner Verband had printed special white handkerchiefs with a photo of Casall for waving at his last rounds through the arena.

The breeder of Casall, Wilfried Thomann said: "Breeding a foal is very special but I could have never guessed that 18 years later, I would be standing in this atmosphere for saying good bye to the sports career of Casall." He received the FN golden plaque for his outstanding performance as a breeder. Casall his groom (since the day Casall came to Rolf-Göran Bengtsson), Celia Rijntjes, received the FN golden plaque for her outstanding performances as a groom for keeping him fit. The auction for his eight foals was a great success, the average price was 21.812 Euro. The top price of 30.000 euro was payed for colt by Casall - Corrado I.





## UNBREAKABLE Z

\*2011 by Untouched x Centauer x Nimmerdor  
International top genes for  
highest demands



## CAZAAN

\*2012 by Casall x Clarimo x Cassini I  
Superior son of the Holstein  
top progenitor Casall



## JOHN DOE

\*2014 by Kannan x Heartbreaker x Ramiro Z  
The world's leading jumping progenitors  
combined in one stallion



## CONCHIVERINO

\*2008 by Concetto x Contender x Caletto I  
Performance blood combined with  
excellent performance



## CAPO CASSIONE

\*2002 by Cassini I x Lavall II x Raimondo  
Outstanding Holstein show jumping progenitor  
by the legendary Cassini I



## COMERADE

\*2012 by Castino x Calido I x Calypso I  
Premium stallion and darling of the  
public at the OS licensing in Vechta 2014

# EMBRYO TRANSFER- Success is contagious

Genetically interesting mares and mares who perform at the highest level in sports are eminently valuable for breeding. By using embryo transfer, these mares can still perform in sports and at the same time, it is possible to breed several foals out of only one mare. Therefore, embryo transfer proves to be a good solution, with general improvements in breeding as a result.

Lara Becker

In the Netherlands, several veterinary practices are involved in embryo transfer. Animal Embryo Centre Diergaarderhof in Maria Hoop, in the South of the Netherlands, is one of the leading veterinary practices in Europe regarding embryo transfer. Manager Ton Vullers predicts an increase in the number of embryo transfers, not at least due to the excellent results. 'Embryo transfer is increasingly popular, even though the overall number of breeding (shown in the total number of covered mares) is decreasing. Breeders are more critical and carefully select only the very best mares for embryo transfer. On the long term, this is a good development for overall breeding.'

### Conflicting interests

Vuller states: 'Often, riders are not very keen on using their top performance mares for embryo transfer, although this can be very interesting for the owner. For that matter there is a conflict of interest. The rider prefers the mare to stay home so the training can be continued, although the owner would like to have some offspring of the mare by using embryo transfer. In our practice, we regularly get mares who stand out in sports at an early age, and from which the owner would like to get offspring before the mare is sold. In this way, interesting genes are preserved for breeding. And, if you want to take bigger steps forward in breeding, it is best to use young breeding stock to decrease the generation interval. We work with both young and older mares, and with the first group, the success rate of embryo transfer is significantly higher. However, this is the same as in natural breeding: the older the mare, the harder it gets to get the mare in foal.'

### No charge

Although not everyone is completely positive about embryo transfer, Vullers denies the fact that embryo transfer is damaging to mares. 'Of course some horses are more sensitive to it than others, but in general it is not inconvenient for a mare. The embryo is flushed after seven days after insemination and therefore the mare does not 'know' she was carrying an embryo. Hormone wise, there are not much changes in the mare,' states Vullers, who can count several prominent foreign breeders and a lot of Dutch breeders among his clients. A lot of top performance mares are flushed for embryo transfer in Maria Hoop, such as world champion Donna Unique (s. Don Schufro), Krista (s. Polydor, dam of Taloubet Z), Telysette-K (s. Quick Star, full sister of Big Star), Jesprit (s. Burggraaf, dam of Montender), Legende (s. Coriano, halfsister of Dobel's Cento), Winning Girl (Numero Uno out of the full sister of Carthago) and Savai (v. Salieri, full sister of Salinero).

### The ideal opportunity

At the practice of veterinarian and breeder Peter Bleeker, the number of embryo transfers stayed the same in the last two years. 'Embryo transfer is the ideal opportunity to combine breeding with sports. A mare who is performing well in sports does not have to be withdrawn from sports because the owners want to have a foal. The combination of sports and breeding works out very well. However, if a donor mare is flushed and if she is performing less the next weekend, mostly the blame is on embryo transfer. I think that is nonsense, because the actual reason for the bad performance can also be a rider who is not quite fit. My personal experience has taught me that embryo transfer is not inconvenient for a mare.'





It is often said that mares suffer from it, but directly after the flushing I see those mares eating well and behaving like a 'happy athlete'.

### Cycle under pressure

According to Mr. Bleeker, it is a fact that mares who performed at a high level in sports are harder to get in foal. 'This also appears in human sports: the reproductive organs of athletes have often 'fallen asleep', and the complete reproductive cycle is under pressure. This is what I often see in trotters. Those mares are trained heavily on a regular basis, and if they don't perform, the training intensity is even increased.

When the mares do not meet up to the performance standards, they mostly end up as a brood mare. Half way the breeding season, they come to our practice and, even though the weather conditions are ideal, the tiny ovaries have the size of beans. For these mares I advice to first put them in the pasture for a while, so the natural cycle can develop itself again. Nevertheless, this problem is also seen in riding horses who perform at a high level in sports. These mares often have trouble getting in heat and therefore the chance for embryo transfer to succeed is limited.

### Avoiding risks

Veterinarian Esther de Melker from Frisian Jelkom (Northern part of the Netherlands) practices embryo transfer on a smaller scale but also achieves good results. 'Every year I work with approximately ten to fifteen mares. In total, the number of embryo transfers I do is increasing, because of the fact that previous successes are contagious. Nevertheless, I don't think that in the future, embryo transfer will be used on a very large scale because it is rather expensive and those costs will not decrease in the future. Therefore, it will only

be used for extraordinary mares, who clearly have an added value for the overall breeding.

Esther de Melker shares the opinion of Ton Vullers and Peter Bleeker: 'It is said that embryo transfer is inconvenient for a mare, however I have experienced otherwise. Every mare is different and deals with embryo transfer differently, but that is the same with breeding stallions who combine a sports career with breeding. To achieve good results in embryo transfer with a mare who is performing in sports, it is very important to communicate with the rider. Whether we like it or not, the mare must temporarily take a step back in training. It is a costly process and to increase the chance to succeed you have to avoid as many risks as possible. If possible, I let the mare follow her own cycle. As the whole process runs smoothly, in 90% of the cases, embryo transfer is not inconvenient at all for the mare.'





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# CAPO CASSIONE



### *Outstanding Holstein show jumping progenitor*

The Holstein stallion Capo Cassione presents himself as a significant progenitor, in an ice-grey coat. Standing high in type and equipped with excellent movements and endless scope at the jump. Capo Cassione has competed at the biggest showjumping arenas around the world and celebrated successes in international show jumping classes up to 1.60m level.

Equally impressive as his own performance is his pedigree. His sire is no one less than the progenitor hero Cassini I, who is a legend not only in Holstein but around the globe. Under Franke Sloothaak, he was successful in the international show jumping circuit and produced numerous offsprings competing at the highest level. His offsprings have won 3.7 Million Euro prize money so far and he sired not less than 75 licensed sons. His most successful sons, both in sport and breeding are Cumano, who became World Champion under Jos Lansink in 2006, Berlin who won Gold with the Dutch team at the WEG 2006 under Gerco Schröder, and the internationally successful Cabrio van de Heffinck.

Dam sire Laval II, in terms of his breeding abilities, is the best son of the Holstein stallion of the century Landgraf I. The Holstein foundation sires Raimondo, Capitano and Manometer xx round off this outstanding pedigree.

Capo Cassione originates from the Holstein dam line 776, one of the most successful and famous dam lines in showjumping breeding worldwide.

Capo Cassione is constantly passing on his exceptional quality to his offspring.

His oldest offspring is successfully competing up to 1.50m classes and they show the same great scope and willingness to work like their sire who will set a milestone in sporthorse breeding in India because of his exceptional pedigree, his performance and as sporthorse and last but not the least, by passing on these excellent characteristics to his offspring.

### PEDIGREE

CASSINI I	CAPITOL I	CAPITANO
		FOLIA
	WISMA	CALETTO II
		PRISMA
JACARA	LAVALL II	LANDGRAF I
		MADAM
	BACAU I	RAIMONDO
		UTA V



Capo Cassione is available for breeding through Embassy International Riding School and the Sporthorse Studbook, India. At the Embassy International Riding School, Bengaluru.



# ‘Holstein Global’- a studbook opens



The German studbook ‘Holstein’ takes a big step in the direction of opening their studbook. Due to a change of the statutes the establishment of the new breeding book ‘Holstein Global,’ foreign blood mares and foreign blood stallions can also be entered into the breeding book ‘Holstein Global’ breed Register of the ‘Holsteiner Verband’. Thanks to the delegates at Neumünster (Germany) on 24th May, who granted their approval.

## *Conditions for foreign blood mares*

The conditions for the entry of foreign blood mares into the breeding book ‘Holstein Global’ are:

- The father and the fathers from the mother (4 generations) have to be registered at the stallion book I in a breeding population, of which inclusion in the breeding program according to 23 number 2.2 in the statutes of the Holstein studbook is arranged.
- The mares must be presented for evaluation at an event organized by the ‘Holsteiner Verband’ for the registration of the mare.
- If the descendant of a foreign blood mare is descended from a stallion that has a certificate of approval and is registered in the stallion’s book I, they are taken up in the breeding book ‘Holstein Global’ and get a ‘Holsteiner’ firing and receive a ‘Holsteiner’ pedigree proof.

## *Conditions for foreign blood stallions*

Foreign blood stallions can be registered in the stallion’s book ‘Holstein Global’ under the following conditions:

- The minimum age of the stallion is six years.
- The stallion has been registered by one of the WBFSH and approval and registered in one of the affiliated breeders’ associations, named in the association’s articles.
- The breed committee shall process the applications.
- Besides the results of a comparable stallion performance, test as well as data on breeding/sporting successes must be available.
- The descendants of these stallions taken up in the breeding book ‘Holstein Global,’ too, if they descended from a mare which is registered in the breeding book ‘Holstein’.
- They are also getting a ‘Holsteiner’ firing and receive an ‘Holsteiner’ pedigree proof.
- Mares with 50% ‘Holsteiner’ blood share

The additional requirements (district premiums quality as well as achievement and descendant’s succession) to the foreign blood mares were deleted in this context.



# HOW FORM EFFECTS FUNCTION

RUSSELL DEERING



Let me start by answering the question “How does form effect function” The answer is yes of course it does, it is prevalent all around us in nature and the things we make, it actually dictates function.

## *Who is a Farrier*

A Farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care, who comes into play with trimming and balancing the horses’ hoofs for the application of a shoe, either for protection of the hoof, or for remedial application, to help or fix limb deformities or defects.

The farrier needs a good understanding of the temperament of the animals he is dealing with (the horse) and an understanding of how a horse moves and acts, so coming from a riding background is paramount in my opinion, but not essential, it gives you the understanding that you are working on a live creature, and that is crucial.

For the farrier to carry out his/her job, the following are essential: a good understanding of blacksmithing skills for fabrication of metal shoes; an in-depth

knowledge on par with a veterinarian in horse anatomy and physiology of the lower limb.

It is worth pointing out that the UK (my country of origin) has the leading farriers in the world, with a legal qualification and an apprenticeship of four and a half years. Stringent evaluation and exams are undertaken in both practicals and theory/ written to obtain a qualification Dip WCF (Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers.)

## *Why I became a Farrier*

I come from a riding background and my mother, sister and I have all been riding from a young age. It was at this young age that I decided to become a farrier, while watching our farrier come to my home to fit the shoes onto our horse’s feet. I was

transfixed, I was in awe of the guy and I couldn’t believe there was a job out there that had so many great elements to it. Working with horses (A truly powerful and magnificent animal) and hot metal, as well as being out in the open air in the countryside, I was hooked.





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Provisional RERA no: PR/KN/170731/000633



### *The challenges I had to overcome*

The challenges started from the moment I was able to apply to become a farrier (at the age of 16 after leaving school) because in England you first need to get an apprenticeship with an approved Farrier and prove you are worthy of doing the job. This involves writing letters and sending your resume to people who are too busy to reply, so it can get very disheartening. I am sure that I sent about 25 letters and got only 3 replies.

Once you have an interview which is mainly practical (how you are around the horses, if you are strong enough for the job and if you show talent) you are invited back for a trial. Once you are through your trial, you start your apprenticeship for four and a half years, where you are put through vigorous practical tests of shoe making and horse shoeing along with theory test on all the horses anatomy below the knee. This involves having an in-depth knowledge of BONE, BLOOD SUPPLY, NERVES, TENDONS, LIGAMENTS, STRUCTORS OF THE HOOF, TYPES OF NORMAL SHOEING and finally METHODS OF REMEDIAL SHOEING FOR LIMB DEFORMITIES and WAYS TO HELP THE HORSE.

Once we are at the end of our apprenticeship, we undergo the final exams, a timed practical exam to make and fit two shoes to a horse in the time of 1 hour 40 min and this is marked by 3 examiners. Then there is an oral exam, where you are asked to explain different subjects relating to shoeing and finally a 2 hour 30 mins written exam on all the topics mentioned above.

Only after passing all three exams, are we then deemed fit to shoe a horse without supervision and we qualify with the following letters after our name Dip WCF.

It is a rollercoaster ride of challenges from the very beginning and that is only the tip of the iceberg. Once you are qualified you are on your own, and without a master to help! This is where the real learning starts and I am still learning, every time I pick up a horse's foot.

### *The technical details*

So once hired, I travel to the customer to assess the horse/horses and as your article quite rightly asks "How does form effect function" well this is what I look

for. What type of horse am I looking at, is it big or small? Is it well put together i.e. conformation? Is the conformation correct? Are there any limb deformities that can affect the way the horse moves, or the way I decide to shoe it?

Once assessed I look at the feet - are there any deformities that will affect the way it moves or anything I should take into consideration when fitting the shoes. Once assessed I look to see if the current shoeing or current hoof effects or infringes on the way the horse moves i.e. feet/toes too long, heels too low, out of balance medial/lateral, any unnecessary pressure around the hoof wall or coronary band, hoof cracks and so on. All of these things have a negative effect on how the horse moves. Finally I will then assess if I can improve the way the horse moves with shoeing i.e. bigger shoe with more width or more length to support the hoof and the body of the horse, or if it needs specialist shoes, or if I can help in way of just trimming the hoof correctly.

### *Types of shoes, or shoeing for a specific purpose*

It would be wise at this point, to name the different types of shoeing that are recognised by farriers and this will hopefully shed some light on the reason why a certain type of shoeing is recommended.

#### *Hunter shoeing*

Hunter shoeing is used for horses out hunting as the name suggests, essentially this means horses working at high speed in rough terrain or heavy going. Taking into consideration speed and rough terrain, the shoeing job must not have any over-hanging shoe or support for the hoof and heels, the shoe is generally fitted with great precision to the foot penny on a penny i.e. nothing hanging over that the horse could strike and pull the shoe off, or even injure itself. Although this style of shoeing offers no support and is considered tight on the hoof, it is very functional and fits a purpose. Hunter shoe fit would be used today on race horses due to the speed they travel and cross country horses for the heavy going at speed and of course hunting horses.

#### *Riding style*

Riding style is more about fitting the hoof with a little bit of support i.e. width



or overhanging shoe to give the horse something to stand on, like the footings of a house or the roots of a tree, both of these things offer support to the above structure. This is deemed as a more sensible way of shoeing horses due to the support it offers the horse and the ability to encourage good foot growth, in the right direction.

Riding style shoe fit is used on most types of horses from big to small and is the commonly used method by a broad spectrum of farriers all across Europe.

It is good to mention that riding style shoe fit means not excessive length and with that, the horse can strike itself and pull the shoe off, its just the right amount, a kind of middle ground, just giving what the horse needs.





### Roadster fit

Roadster fit is used on bigger horses who need a lot of support both length and width, to aid the hoof. Some may say it is excessive, but it is a very good way to fit shoes to the hoof, as it offers maximum support to the hoof and the horses limbs to maximize support. Roadster fit is mainly used on big heavy horses to give support. It is also used to give maximum support to horses working on a surface as the width and length keep the hoof above the surface and stop the limbs being over worked or strained.

### Other forms of shoeing

Other forms of shoeing would be specialist with the fitting of medial or lateral support or bar shoes for hoof or limb problems in both old and young horses. Examples would be an older horse with ring bone or side bone, needing more support in one area or a hoof crack, needing a shoe to support the affected area in younger horses (foul or yearling in a stud farm). It would be the application of a shoe to stop or help the development of the limb or joint, a boxy foot needing a toe extension to lower the back half of the hoof.

### Shoeing for India

Having worked in India for over a year now, I am getting to the bottom of a lot of problems with a mixture of all the shoeing

types above, for example, on a dressage horse these animals need a lot of support to stay above the surface and not lose power, so I would go for a ROADSTER FIT to give the maximum support all round, whereas for a show jumper I would use RIDING STYLE for the front feet, so as to give a little support, but being conscious of the horse not being able to interfere with itself on tight turns and fast work, but shoeing the hind feet with ROADSTER FIT to maximize support for giving a good powerful take off when jumping and maximising support while turning at speed.

### How I tackle the feet in India

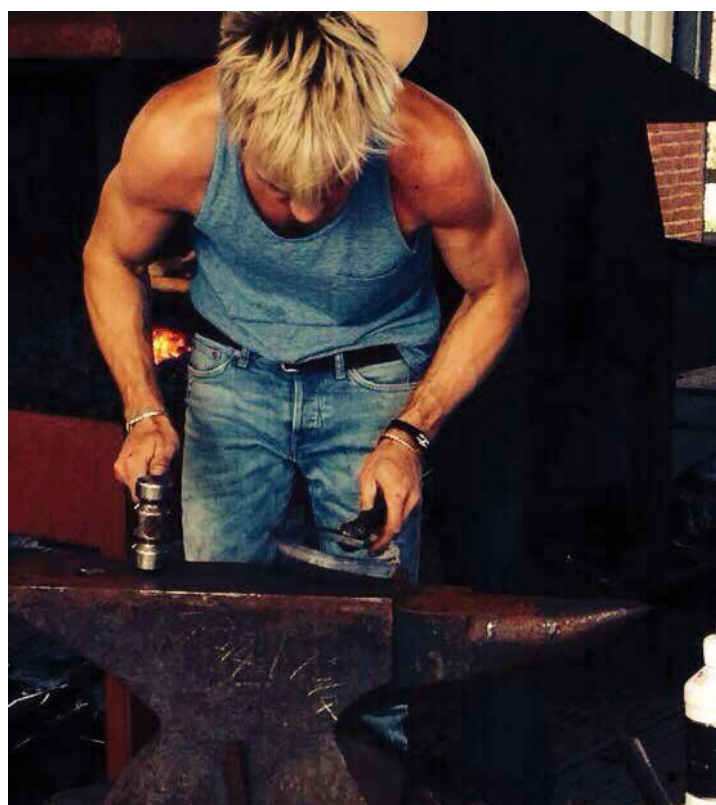
Firstly almost every foot I come to, is too long in the toe and the heels are crushed (due to the length of the toe) which puts the limb under a lot of negative pressure in areas of the tendons ligaments, this quite often does and will definitely in the future cause problems for the horse and will cut its working career dramatically and its life expectancy. So I take great care and focus on getting the hoof balanced in the right areas to elevate unnecessary stress in areas like the tendons. Once I am happy the balance is correct I apply the relevant shoe to give the horse maximum support in the areas that it will need it, this might mean leaving quite a lot of shoe on one side for the best effect of aiding the horse while supporting the hoof and the limb.

It is crucial to remember the old saying "NO FOOT NO HORSE" and this saying has never been more relevant than it is in today's scenario in India with many more people importing horses from Europe. These horses are a lot bigger and stronger and need a lot more support to maintain good joints and a good working career.

It really does start from the feet up for these animals, with badly shod feet not offering a good platform to stand and work on. It has a knock on effect through to the bones and more importantly the muscles above. Bad shoeing greatly affects performance and also hinders you from getting the best out of your animal.

By

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FEATURE

# DESPITE DRAWBACKS THE EQUESTRIAN SCENE IS ON THE FAST TRACK

The Equestrian scene in India is on the fast track mode. The riders are consistently raising the bar. The horses, lot of good pedigree warmbloods on the circuit including the seven fouts bred at the Embassy International Riding School (EIRS) look good enough to put the big stride ahead. And most importantly the training schedules sponsored by Embassy in the United Kingdom and Germany have provided hope. The Equestrian Federation Of India (EFI) too have realised that with the sport gaining the necessary momentum they need to get their act right, chalking out the many designs and plans, studying the progress and providing the desired platforms for the Indian riders to catapult to fame.

While the Embassy Group spearheaded by the passionate Jitu Virwani has not shied away spending big money sponsoring their quality riders and putting them under the care of top international coaches for long stints in the UK and Germany, the EFI must look to hire a few foreign coaches and help out the talented few from the other premier clubs. It is needless to mention that it costs money but EFI must understand that without investments you just cannot obtain favourable results.

Coaches, infrastructure and technology apart, EFI should impress on the government to relax the import policy and add quarantine stations. One in Bengaluru is a must, taking into account

that the warmblood breeding operations in the garden city have been successful and the climate and soil conditions here are good for breeding.

The Embassy Group chief, Jitu Virwani in a chat disclosed that he is ready to provide the required land and space for a quarantine station and the onus is on EFI now to convince the Indian government that the sport is on the climb and the government needs to facilitate, promote and support the man and horse. The one month quarantine period for horses coming in to India after going through the mandatory procedure in the host country is a joke. This must be addressed. A week is good enough for horses coming in with a quarantine certificate. It is no secret that a lot of stallions and mares imported from Europe, lost condition and looked terrible after the one-month quarantine at Chennai before travelling to Bengaluru or Hyderabad. This puts the owners who have made huge investments in horses under pressure and a couple of them have confessed that the exacting exercise from both the owners and horses point of view is not worth the effort.

The Embassy breeding operations Head, Lara Becker from Germany brought in three quality stallions including one pony stallion Pillatus, last year and all the warmbloods, it is reported lost more than 30 kilos in the one-month quarantine at Chennai and the sprightly German lass

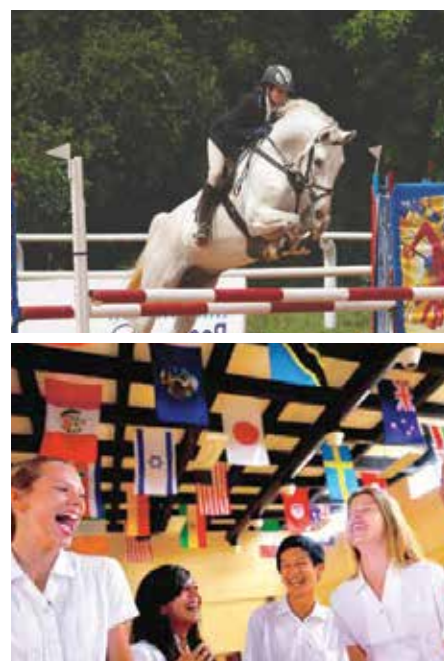
was left wondering, if the three imports would get back in shape for the breeding programme. Well as luck would have it, the three survived though it took them a while to sport the appealing coat.

A couple of riders too who were looking to bring home warmbloods understanding that you need quality performers on the international stage, shelved their plans knowing that the risk factor was big and they just couldn't afford it. Equestrian Center for Excellence (ECE) in their wings have a good number of youngsters who are calling the shots. The club in their yard have a couple of good horses but they time and again have their backs against the wall, the owners of the three-acre land they have rented asking them to vacate. To the delight of the Equestrian fraternity, ECE has managed to hold on, gaining the required 'stay' but it is never a good feeling to wake up in the morning or hit the sack at night knowing that a sword is dangling over the head.

Gutsy ECE director Sanya Khan is seen running pillar to post the moment the court notices to vacate arrive at the ECE door seeking legal advise and support. The state government in the case of ECE must intervene to support the sports association. And for this to happen, the EFI must impress on the sports ministry. Does the EFI have the time and inclination to save a club which boasts of rich talent? Well, your guess is as good as mine.



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