

## GREDDINGTON RABELAIS

Gredington Rabelais 18426, bred by the Rt Hon Lord Kenyon, was by Gredington Simwnt (grandson of Coed Coch Seryddwr) out of Gredington Awyr and was foaled in 1977. He sired 7 Lacy and 2 Bengad foals.

As reported on page 67 in the 2009 Journal, in 1984 Pat Moore visited Wales and was asked to look around for a good stallion for a consortium of breeders in South Africa. She came back with pictures and photos of a few stallions. The one that stood out was Gredington Rabelais and a decision was made to import him. A delay was inevitable and the Export Certificate was only issued on 20 August, 1985. This delay led to the letter below from the seller, Colin Tibbey of the Lacy Stud in North Wales.

Dear Mrs Moore

Thanks for your letter, sorry about the slow reply but we were involved with the Royal Show last week where one of Rabelais sons was reserve male champion (Lacy Simon). I have enclosed a photo, prize winning list and extended pedigree which may be of interest to you.

I fully appreciate the high cost you are undertaking when considering buying Rabelais and therefore I would be prepared to split the difference with you and sell him for £1100.

I understand you asked Mrs Cookson if she would be interested in holding him for a year until next year, but I believe that is not possible. However if it is of any help I would be quite happy for him to stay with me until such time that you are ready to import him, as it would suit me to be able to show and use him next year possibly.

Yours Sincerely  
Colin Tibbey



*Carol Gibson*

*Seen at the 1985 West Midlands Championships shown by Colin Tibbey. He was the Top Stallion and the Welsh Section A Reserve Champion*

Poena van Niekerk wrote in 2009 ‘In the midsummer of 1985 Rabelais arrived in South Africa. We were impressed and his movement was what was wanted.’ However, his first encounter with South African mares was not good; they kicked out one of his eyes. The upside was that shortly after he left Wales, the new stallion ratings was published and Rabelais was the number one stallion in Wales. His first title on SA soil was the Supreme Champion at the Free State Championships. In 1986, our last show, was a big highlight. Rabelais was crowned Supreme Champion Section A. The down side of Rabelais was that his fertility was very bad. Only four offspring were registered to him’.



*Rabelais being unloaded at the docks. His nose is barely visible*



*At the Quarantine Station with the van Niekerks in 1985*

In the 2007 Journal on p51 Pat Moore wrote ‘Rabelais was a charming pony and won the Section A National Championship. But he did not have a lot of luck in South Africa. His foals though were lovely and were successful as show ponies and breeding stock. Hydown Folksong won championships and his first 14 foals at Lyn King’s stud were all Fillies. This was all in spite of having been savaged as a tiny foal by a TB colt, and hand reared for a week or two until he was able to stand again’



*Supreme Champion Welsh Mountain Pony as the 1986 Nationals*

The four foals which Rabelais sired were:

Foresyte Roland part-bred colt out of the Studvet P Petra of Onderstepoort in 1988

Hydown Folksong Section A colt out of Hydown Popsong in 1989

Hydown Beaujolais Section A colt out of Knighton Belinda in 1989

Hydown Pollen Section A filly out of Hydown Petal.

Eventually he had to be put to sleep as he developed a large lump which was inoperable.



*In June 1985 immediately before being exported to South Africa*



*Equerry*

*Hydown Folksong as a 9-y-o at the 1998 Nationals*