

PRETORIA INTERNATIONAL SHOW 2002

It was certainly an honour to be invited to judge at the Pretoria Show and as we hadn't had a holiday for eight years, Terry and I decided to give ourselves two weeks off! As most of you with ponies will realise, organising people to look after all the animals is like a military operation.

After an 11-hour flight we were kindly accommodated for a three-day stay at a game lodge in the North. We had a marvellous time there seeing all the wildlife you have seen on TV, but seeing it in real life is something else. We were then driven back to Pretoria where we stayed with the wonderful Rodriques family for three nights – Welsh enthusiast Ellie, long suffering husband Tony and their children were extremely hospitable and we had many laughs in their company.

Ellie was also judging at the Show and we set off next morning together, with her constantly telling me to put sunscreen on. I started judging at 8am and with 38 classes to judge I certainly had my work cut out, but I was kept to a very strict timetable and was quite proud of myself that I only went 5 minutes over by the end of the day!

The fact that it was early Spring there may have explained why I didn't have hoards of section A's to judge, but what I did have was of very good quality. My Champion came from the mare class, a 12-year old called Destiny Style and an extremely good mover. My Reserve Champion here was a very nice stallion called Llandilo Gungadin.

My Section B class was well filled, especially the mare classes and it was from here that both the Champion and Reserve came. If I could have taken one pony home it would certainly have been my section B Champion Foresyte Princess Cirrus. This cream roan, although only about 12.1hh was an outstanding mover and caught my eye straight away. I later found out her great-grand-sire was Cirban Victor, a pony that appears in the pedigrees of most of my own. Reserve was a bay mare Galway Emerald Pirate Princess by Rotherwood Pirate King. I was pleasantly surprised to find that most of the ponies forward were very similar to ponies back in the UK, but not at all surprising when you realise that most are descended from imports from Britain. Unfortunately, their gene pool is now quite small and it is a shame that it is so expensive for them to import new stallions.

The section C's and D's were a bit thin on the ground and I found most of them to be not at all 'typey'. But I did have a nice Champion in the three-year old filly Kallista Katryn.

I did find the Part-breds impressive with some very nice animals of all ages forward. My Champion was the outstanding four-year old bay mare Dibynn Star Quality, full of presence and a good mover. Reserve was a very attractive

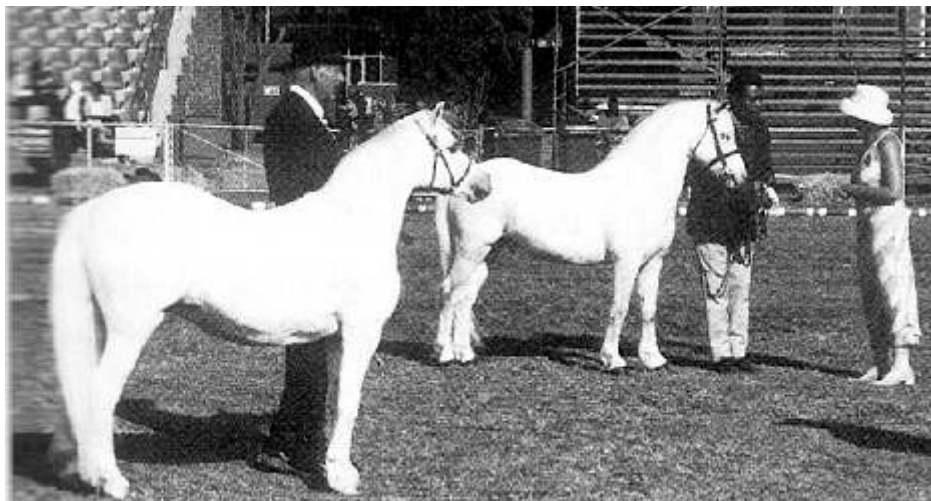
black stallion Cyndon Bolero, hunter type pony but with a lot of quality and according to the catalogue he was by Persie Nimrod.

At the end of the day there was a Supreme Championship judged by Sharon Walsh with 24 animals forward of all breeds including the native South Africa Nooitgedacht (a bit like the Connemara) and the Boerperd (like a hunter pony). I was pleased to see my Part-bred Dibynn Star Quality awarded Supreme of the show, and the little section A mare, Destiny Style taking the Reserve slot.

The next day I had all the ridden classes to judge, and it was very encouraging to see most of the in-hand exhibits appearing under saddle and in harness. My overall ridden purebred Champion was the section B mare Foresyte Fidji (she was also harness champion), and in the Part-breds it was a reverse of the previous day, with the stallion Cyndon Bolero Champion and Dibynn Star Quality Reserve, just a little bit of fidgeting in the line – but then she was only four years old.

After the show we went down to Cape Town for a week where we had a wonderful time. South Africa is certainly one of the best places I have ever visited. The food is superb, the hospitality outstanding and some of the scenery is very like Wales! I feel very privileged that I was invited to this country as an ambassador for the Welsh breeds and I would like to encourage anyone who is thinking of applying for the Judges Panel to do so – you might just get a wonderful opportunity like we did!

RUTH THACKER 2002 FARCHYNYS STUD



Destiny Style and Llandilo Gungadin – Supreme and Reserve Champions Section A

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Equerry

Destiny Style: Supreme Section A



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Llandilo Gungadin: Reserve Supreme Section A

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Foresyte Princess Cirrus: Supreme Section B



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Kallista Katryn: Supreme Section C/D

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Dibynn Star Quality: Supreme Part Bred



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Foresyte Fidji: Champion Purebred Ridden

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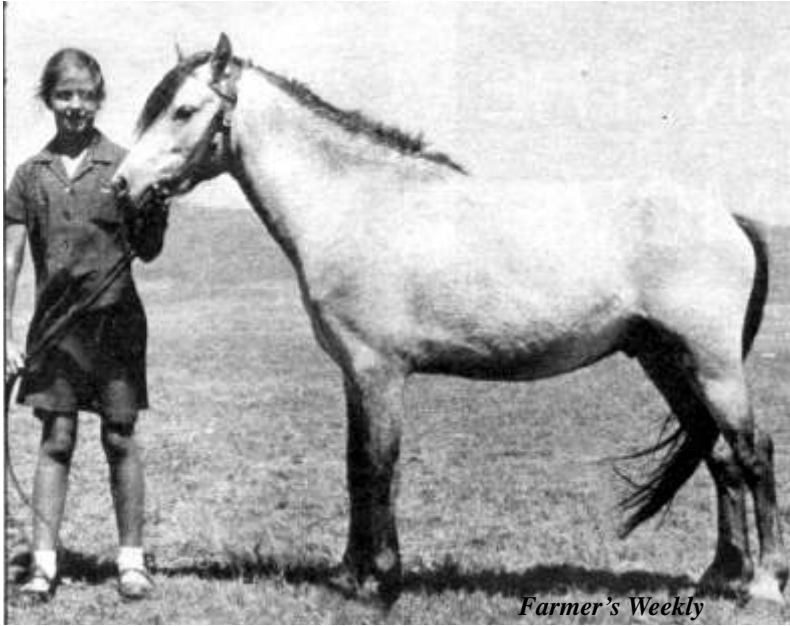


Cyndon Bolero: Reserve Supreme Partbred and Champion Ridden Partbred



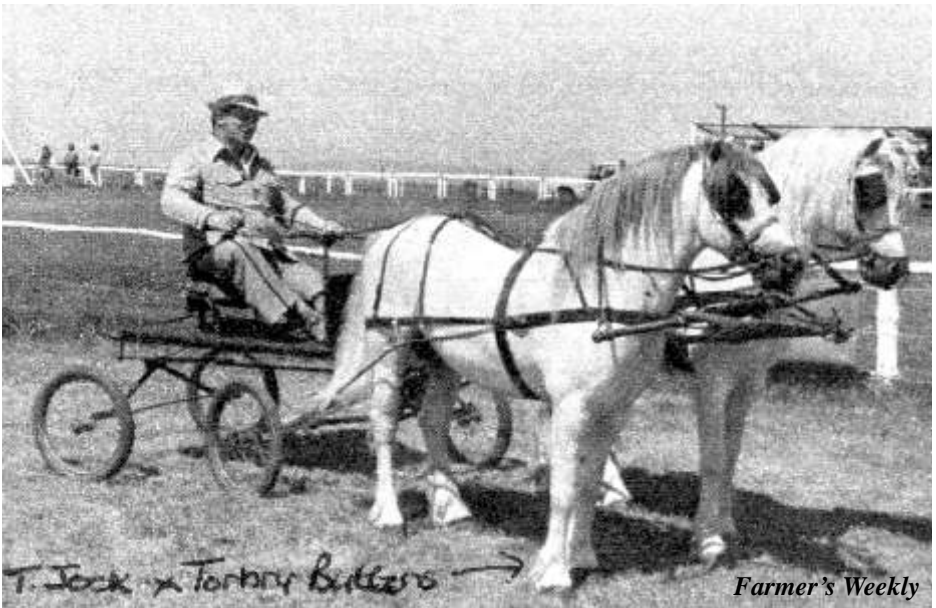
Foresyte Fidji: Champion in Harness

BARCLAY EAST 1982



Farmer's Weekly
Junior Champion: Torbry Bomber with Liesl Nel

ALEXANDRIA 1982



Farmer's Weekly
Double Harness Champion: Torbry Paddy and Aberdare Flight with Jack Gilfillan