



Introduction for Open Day June 2009 - A passion for Trakehners!

I would like to tell you how we first became addicted to Trakehners.

29 years ago my sister, Julia had completed her training in classical dressage and ridden many different horses including Hanovarians, Dutch Warmbloods and Luisitanos but always felt that a certain amount of 'force' had to be used to get the desired result. She then went to work as head girl and rider for a lady who had a Trakehner Stallion and from the first time of sitting on this Trakehner it was "like a breath of fresh air" he was so willing and forward and happy in his work. This was the start of the family's passion for Trakehners.

- ✿ Soon after riding her first Trakehner Julia saw an advert in 1984 for a Trakehner mare This mare was Schlobitten by Malachit out of Schöne Schwalbe, who (although she didn't know at the point of buying her) had bred the Champion Stallion in Germany, Schiwago by Tannenburg. Schlobitten's mare family is Schwalbe by Totilas by Pythagoras some of the most famous foundation bloodlines in the Trakehner Stud book.

- ✿ Knowing how well Schlobitten had bred to Tannenberg when the opportunity to breed to his grandson Fernando arose, who was standing for just one year David and Freda Clark in 1985, Julia drove Schlobitten to their stud and she was covered once and came home. we were thrilled and the resulting foal and the first produce of Holme Grove Farm was the stunning chestnut colt Holme Grove Solomon.

- ✿ Not wanting to have an only foal Julia managed to convince our Mum, Barbara Watkiss that we needed another foal to play with Schlobitten's foal and St Pr.Marcella in foal to Elite Hengst Consul joined the herd at Holme Grove Farm and produced a playmate for Holme Grove Solomon with a bay filly Holme Grove Misulia.



- ❁ Over the next few years our addiction for this wonderful breed of horse grew with the addition of new high quality mares imported from Germany, all carefully selected for their beauty, movement and most of all temperament.

- ❁ Our foundation stallion was the Premium Stallion Istanbul by Flaneur out of Idyll, he was a 15 year old stunning class 1 performance tested stallion. Julia was invited to do a ridden display on Istanbul at the annual Gala evening at the Hengstmarkt in Neumünster, Germany, to say goodbye from Germany to Istanbul. My Mum had gone over to support her but was involved in a minor car accident while there so I flew over to make sure she was OK. This fated visit was the start of the “Holme Park Stud” Trakehner herd as while there my husband Paul and I ended up purchasing the beautiful mare Farah von der Insel by Marlon who was in foal to Sir Shostakovich xx.

- ❁ Holme Grove Istanbul came to England and became Champion Stallion of the British Warmblood Grading in 1987 scoring 10 for masculinity. He sired many beautiful foals for us and several of the fillies were retained for our breeding herd. He returned to Germany in 1994 to retire at the age of 22 where he died a couple of years later.

- ❁ At 2 years old Holme Grove Solomon was presented for Stallion grading to the TBF (Trakehner Breeders Fraternity) where he was approved in 1988. Being our first colt foal born this was real beginners luck and it was not until some years later we realized how lucky we were to get a graded stallion on our first attempt with only less than 5% of Trakehner colts born worldwide ever being good enough. More about Solomon later

- ❁ As any horse breeder will know, the most important ingredient in breeding is the mare and we at Holme Trakehners have very carefully built up our mare herd.



They have all been selected for their bloodlines with much research into the soundness and rideability.

My husband, Paul has a particularly good eye for a filly! (4 legged variety) He is from a farming background and was experienced with judging cattle but this soon transferred to an ability to judge horses and he is a regular member of the grading commission for mares and stallions in England. Paul also had the honor in 2005 of being invited to judge the German National Mare Championship in Neumünster, Germany which was the selection of the overall National Supreme Champion Mare from all the Champions from the different regions. In 2007 he judged the Trakehner Elite show in Denmark where the Annual champion Colt and Filly Foal and the Danish National Champion Mare were selected.

The second mare to be added to the Holme Park Herd was Holme Park Vabanque. Paul was in Germany on business at a printing exhibition and one of our business partners had heard that we were interested in horses and so invited him to visit a friend of his one evening. This friend was Hubertus Poll of the Hörem Stud and while there he fell in love with a beautiful young 2 year old filly by EH Consul. This filly was Vabanque and he tried to purchase her there and then. She was however already entered for an Elite auction and could not be withdrawn. Luckily we managed to purchase her a month later through the auction. Vabanque is now 24 years old and has produced us 17 wonderful foals In 2005 she was awarded Elite status due to her outstanding progeny performance. We will see her with 5 of her daughters later this afternoon.

To keep the bloodlines of Holme Grove Solomon, his son Holme Park Krug was presented for grading in UK as a 2 year old in 1998 and was approved. Holme Park Krug is out of the wonderful mare Holme Park Kremona by Kostolany. He was one of Solomon's champion foals and is the first and only 2nd generation



British bred stallion to be approved for breeding. In order to give Krug reciprocity into the German Stud book he was sent to Germany to do his Performance Test. He passed his 100 day Performance Test in Neustadt Dosse, Germany as a 3 year old and scored 9's for temperament and rideability.

✿ From the time Istanbul retired we were looking for an outcross stallion for our breeding programme. There were several possibilities but none were quite what we were looking for then one weekend in 1998 we received a phone call from our dear friend Erhard Schulte who said he thought he had found our stallion – he had just been approved in Alsfeld and he heard he would be sold. Two days later my Mother, Julia and I flew over to meet Prokofiev a stunning black stallion by Beg xx. From the moment we all saw him we knew he was the one, he was immature as a 3 year old but had so much presence and an extraordinary movement. We felt he would be the perfect compliment to our mares, particularly our homebred mares by Holme Grove Solomon and the then newly graded Holme Park Krug. Prokofiev accompanied Krug to Neustadt Dosse to complete his 100 Day Performance test where he too scored well including 9 for temperament and 10 for stamina. He has gone on to prove his talent in the dressage arena having twice been in the top 10 at the National Dressage Championships.

✿ Holme Park Legend was presented for Grading in the UK in September 2006 but unfortunately he had to be withdrawn when he injured himself running through a temporary gate at Addington Manor EC.



✿ Prior to representing him in 2007 he was now required to do a Stallion Performance Test as he would be 4 years old. He went in February 2007 to Stall Bescht, Germany for his 30 day test along with 26 other warmblood stallions. He jumped magnificently and got a round of applause from the audience and disbelief that a 'Trakehner' could jump so well. There were a lot of Holsteiner stallions in the testing who are known as a breed to be very talented in jumping. He was the highest placed Trakehner with an overall Score of 8.06 out of 10 which we are thrilled with!! He scored 9 & 10 for jumping style and ability. Following this he was invited to stay in Germany and attend a ridden Grading held by the Trakehner Verband in April 2007. We were thrilled when he was approved, the first time a young British Bred Stallion had achieved this. Having got this far with his grading in Germany it was then decided to leave him in Germany to undergo the 70 day test in Schlieckau to give him his lifetime breeding licence. He passed this with flying colours and again scored his highest marks for jumping. He arrived home in October 2007 and then qualified in one outing for the PAVO 4 year old Young Event Horse Championships ridden by event rider Sarah Bullimore.

✿ Today's herds at Holme Trakehners consist of our 4 stallions and 10 mares at each of Holme Grove Farm and Holme Park Stud. Although we are reducing the herd at HGF and therefore breeding only 4 or 5 foals a year.



We hold an annual Open Day to present our crop of new foals and youngsters and this is a real family affair with my brother Mike on video camera, my sister Julia riding, my son Dan showing in hand, my sister-in-law Jo, my Mum, Barbara and Dan's girlfriend Laura on catering and my daughter Liz on the whip in the arena and husband Paul managing the yard. This year Paul's sister Sandra and her husband Steve are here too from America as they are considering setting up Holme Trakehners USA !

The Trakehner horse has dominated our lives for over 20 years and remains a passion that we love to share with other enthusiasts around the world. We have made many friends from our Trakehner customers and love to receive news on our "babies" which are often published on the news page of our website

Further up to date information about all our beautiful Trakehner horses and new foals as they are born, can be found on our website at www.holmetrakehners.com

Now to see that first foal – Holme Grove Solomon.