

Irish Horse Society

August 2004

No. 32



It was with great sadness that we heard from Miesja Reynolds in Australia, that Laughton's Legend had been put down due to an accident. At a rough count Laughton had sired 206 horses registered with the society – and countless more that were un-registered. He has three sire sons licensed with the society: Willie John, Te Mania Blue Fable and Wynyard Agile who is in the USA and four licensed daughters: Bridgette Penrice, Thornfield Exclaim, Laughtons Magic and Irish Fleur.

Vale Laughton's Legend RID

Miesja Reynolds

Beginning with vale is not how I had envisaged the Australian chapter of this lovely Stallion's life to begin, let alone end. Sadly we had to put him down yesterday because he had fractured his upper forearm. Finally yesterday we received much needed rain in our district and with it came enormous claps of thunder that even shook our house; I never thought I would curse rain but I have. We think that Laughton took fright and slipped.

I met Laughton's Legend for the first time in New Zealand two years ago when I went over to look at purchasing our purebred filly, Eireann Grania. He was a very fluffy boy and I had nicknamed him the teddy bear, and had fallen totally in love with him. He had been imported to NZ by the Morris family of Wynyard Lodge in Christchurch, as a four year old from Britain. He was bred in Ireland in County Leitrim in 1983 and exported to Britain as a yearling, where he won the 1984 Supreme Champion Irish Draught of Great Britain at the National Show, and won it again in 1986 as a three year old with Mrs. Maggie Spreckley. He stood for one season in Britain and covered quite a few mares before making the trip to NZ.

Interestingly his traveling companion on the aeroplane from Britain was another purebred Irish Draught stallion called Kingsway Diamond RID (dec) (by King of Diamonds) imported to NZ by Thady Ryan. Both owners of each stallion had no idea of the others plans to breed Irish horses, and they were also the first purebreds to be imported to NZ, what a coincidence.

While in NZ, Laughton's Legend produced many offspring mainly to thoroughbred mares, excelling in hunting, showjumping, eventing and many realising their potential as faithful quiet riding mounts for pony clubbers and adults. Some of his offspring were exported to Asia, and a few to the USA where they went on to compete in the international showjumping circuit. He sired a few horses in Australia by transported



Laughton's Legend in Australia 2004.

chilled semen. There remain in NZ two registered half bred stallions by Laughton and a few others that are not registered, one named Te Mania Blue Fable and one named Willie John, pictures at website <http://www.irishhorse/stallions/williejohn.shtml>

Laughton's Legend's sire was the great Lahinch, a sire of eleven RID stallions in his lifetime. His dam was a grey mare called Starlight. Lahinch also sired Kiltoghert Casey RID(dec) that stood in Australia with the Reeves for many years. Lahinch was sired by Laughton (446) who was sired by the famous Laughton's Last. In Alex Fell's book on the Irish Draught, she states that the Laughton family line has a tremendous reputation for producing intelligent, talented and kind jumpers. This definitely seems to be true in Laughton's Legends' case, with many jumpers and his own kind disposition evident.

But all I knew of this magnificent horse, was a horse with a lovely temperament, so quiet for a stallion and not fussed by anything. He really did have a heart of pure gold, as described by Glyn Morris his previous NZ owner when he heard of the horse's misfortune. We finally purchased him earlier this year and he arrived at our property on April 1st. I led him off the truck and he was a true gentleman. All that met him in his short stay here including me were struck by his amazingly cool disposition, that even continued in a gentlemanly manner when he was introduced to the mares, (however a very interested manner it was!!) This just confirmed to me that the Irish Draught is truly a fantastic breed, and their temperament is just one outstanding factor.

He is buried here at Icarus Park. Unfortunately we had not had a chance to put any mares in foal to him, nor to collect semen for freezing as we had planned. This really is a tragedy, not only for us, but for Irish Draught breeding in Australia. So farewell Laughton, we loved you a lot, even if it was for such a short time. (I write with tears streaming down my face)

Eireann Grania RID (bred by Thady & Anne Ryan and sold to Miesja - editor)
Grania is very well and rotund to put it kindly. She is in foal to King's County RID and is due later this year. We are looking forward very much to this first foal of hers, another purebred for Australia.

Miesja Reynolds, Icarus Park, Lancefield, Victoria. 24 April 2004.



Laughton's Legend in New Zealand in 1988.

From the AGM

The AGM held in June saw a few changes in the hierarchy of the Society. Bevan Souness has taken on the role of Chairman, as our previous Chairman Colin Price is now working in Australia. John Norris was elected as Vice Chairman. Anna Danielson and Sarah Stone were elected to the Council. We have a volunteer for the position of NI Promotion Officer, thanks to Kim Rhind of Taupo (see article following)

Main points from the meeting:

- ❑ Colin Price in his report, suggested an idea he had discussed with some Australian breeders which was the exchange of youngstock both fillies and colts between the two countries. As he is now working in Australia with horse people, he would be in an ideal position to help promote this idea.
- ❑ **Website** - We have had 16,107 visitors to the site with an average of 31/day. July to December we had been getting around 800 hits a month, but in the following six months this had shot up to around 1100/month.
- ❑ **Registrar** – 21 full registrations since the last report with 14 pending.
- ❑ Registrations this year Kingsway Diamond 5, Coalmans Touch 13, Kingcroft Wicklow 3, Kings Ransom 1, Ballycotton 2, Blood of Man 3.
- ❑ Two mare license's were completed - Thornfield Exclaim and Laughtons Magic. Sea Breeze Full Impact, a Kingsway Diamond colt was inspected for licensing – he passed inspection subject to reaching the height requirement of 16hh required by the breed standard (he was only just short of the height required) and will be re-measured in September as a four year old.
- ❑ Concern was expressed regarding the lack of new bloodlines available for natural service. It will be important for members to consider using frozen semen from Australia or beyond.

North Island Promotions Officer

In response to my appeal for a North Island Promotions officer late last year, I'm pleased to announce that Kim Rhind has volunteered for the "job". The following is a profile of our new Promotions officer.

Hi, I'm Kim and I've offered to be the NI contact for the Irish Horse Society. I returned to NZ 8 months ago after spending 18 years in Australia – I finally saw the error of my ways!! – and have since bought my first ID cross filly. I was introduced to the breed by my partner Stephen who is an Irishman through and through, when we spent 6 weeks in Ireland in 2001. Whilst over there we hunted at least twice a week - I was loaned a horse for the duration of our stay by his brother, and it was 4 year old ID X called Ryan. Newly broken, green as grass, I had the dubious honour of introducing him to the hunting, a fact I wasn't to discover until the end of our first day out. To cut a long story short, had he been a mare I would have seriously considered bringing "her" back to Oz., so impressed was I by his attitude, ability and cleverness. Stephen's brother also hunted his hounds off a purebred ID, indeed they are relatively common in the hunt field. These horses, in their native land are clever, careful and extremely capable over the most awkward terrain and fences, and also very "ride-able". I was sold!

Back in Oz they are still pretty well unknown, very few and far between. The Aussies have yet to discover the breed really, so when I moved back home, I saw

an ad for Coalman's Touch and rang Stephen who was back in Ireland at that stage, and said I'd found a horse I'd like to breed a mare to next year – being an ID he didn't throw up his hands in despair to the extent that I thought he would! Then Murphy's Law kicked in – when I least needed it and could least afford it my filly was advertised. Only in Tauranga, 2 years old by Coalmans Touch out of a TB mare – what could I do? The end result is that I purchased "Blarney" (Touch o' Blarney), resplendent in her winter woollies with a generous coating of mud and full of self-importance. I called her Blarney cos that's Stephen's home town (a bit of flattery to divert his attention from having brought another horse!) I've since started her and true to the Irish nature (both human and equine) she's very laid-back.

Nothing phases or unsettles her. She takes everything in her stride, demanding to check things out rather than worry about them. She's still only a baby but seems to impress everyone she meets. So that's me and my interest in the breed. As time goes by Blarney will probably do a bit of everything, and lots of hunting.

A wee insight into the Irish – Stephen know the old farmer who owned the legendary stallion Clover Hill, who stood at stud for the grand fee of approx \$65 NZ. He once witnessed a mare owner offer the old guy more money, Clover Hill being what he was, and was promptly thrown off the property. Only in Ireland!

Anyway I'd love to hear from any North Islanders to pass the message on and promote the breed to the uninitiated. If you've any news, results or snippets of interest please call me – I'm only too happy to talk Irish!

Subscriptions

It is that time of year again – accounts are enclosed with this newsletter for annual members. It is fine to pay memberships, registrations and performance competition entries all on the one cheque.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members: T Crossan, Ranfurly; J Hodson, Pokeno; B Podrumac, Hamilton; J Fieldes, Oamaru; N Turner, Ohoka

World Show Jumping Rankings

9th Mr Springfield (ISH) 1993 gelding, by Western Promise (ISH) out of Glebe Bess (RID) by Ballinahow Boy (RID)

11th Coolcorrion Cool Diamond (stallion) by Glidawn Diamond (RID)

24th Carling King 1991 (ISH) by Clover Hill (RID) out of Gortnageer Star (ISH). Kevin Babington rode Carling King for Ireland at the 2004 Olympics to finish joint 5th in the Individual SJ final.

- ❑ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

From Around the Country

Thanks to Kay Stott of Darfield, Canterbury for the following article on Bossanova Phoenix her up and coming dressage horse.



Bossanova Phoenix (Albert) was born on 14/11/1998 at Goldengrove Stud Farm, Greendale in Canterbury. He is by Ballycotton (x Kingcroft Wicklow) out of Nearco Ness (TB) (x Double Nearco).

I had lost my Grand Prix dressage horse "Diplomat" in January 2001 and was rung by Albert's breeder Paul Ffoulkes to say he knew of a horse that would suit my purposes. At that stage I didn't know if I even wanted another horse, so didn't proceed any further. Then in October 2001 at Ashburton A & P show, Sally Field-Dodgson told me of a horse that may have suited me, and I realized that it was the same horse I had been told about months earlier, so this time I went to view him. He was owned by people in Ohoka (Canterbury), who had brought him as an eventing prospect. He was in a paddock with a colt that had chewed off his tail to the dock, and kicked him in the chest giving him a haematoma, he couldn't move to save himself, but I knew straight away I wanted him – there was something very special about this horse. So in December 2001 my husband brought him for me.

The next 12 months were spent having lessons with Sally Field-Dodgson and taking him to In-hand Shows, where he was consistently Champion or Reserve. His first dressage competition came in the winter 2003, we then moved into the graded season. He was unbeaten at Preliminary level and was Preliminary Champion at the Canterbury Dressage Championships, he repeated this at the South Island Dressage Championships in February 2004, where he also took out the 5 year old Young Dressage Horse and the South Island Young Dressage Horse.

We finished the season moving to Novice level and winning or placing at every competition. He is very smart, sometimes too smart, and is quick to learn most new movements. We train with Sally most weeks and are working on movements found in much higher levels. In the next season we hope to compete in Canterbury and South Island Championships and the Nationals in 2005.

Due to the fact I lost "Diplomat" because of concussion problems I now fit rubber bonded aluminum shoes in the summer to reduce the jarring.

He is very loyal and intelligent and adores attention, he knows he is very special and can act on it. One of his favourite tricks when the farrier is putting shoes on, is to cross a front leg and try to step on the farrier's foot – he is a practical joker.

Irish Horse Society Loose Jumping Day

The Council have organised the 2nd Annual Loose jumping day for 17th October 2004 at the Christchurch Riding for the Disabled indoor arena (for those who don't like getting wet). The day will begin at 11am (allowing plenty of time for those who don't like rising early) and continue into the afternoon. So bring along a horse or two and have a fun day getting your horse to jump confidently in a safe environment. The day is open to any breed of horse or pony, we only ask that they are 2 years or older. For further information please contact Bevan Souness 03 318 1615 or Lyn Turner 03 312 6686

Classis Vision RID

Bridge House Stud in Ireland stand an RID stallion called Classic Vision, who is also an A grade show-jumper. See links below - <http://www.bridgehousestudireland.com/home.htm> http://www.bridgehousestudireland.com/classic_vision.htm. They are keen to supply frozen semen to NZ & Australia if there is enough interest in make it feasible. He is bay, 170hh, with 23cm bone. He is by Ginger Dick RID out of Lady Glen RID (x Flagmount Diamond RID). If interested, please contact Debbie to be put in contact with those attempting to arrange the semen.

The Show Season

Shamrock Sashes: The following A & P show's will be offered Shamrock Sashes to present in either Led Hack/Hunter classes or Ridden Saddle Hunter (or Hack if there is no Saddle Hunter section) keep an eye out for their schedules: Southland (Royal), Maniototo, Kaikoura, Taranaki, Masterton also Auckland Royal Easter show, HOY show and the Canterbury Foal Show.

32nd Annual Canterbury Horse & Pony Breeders Show will be held on 12 February 2005 at Canterbury Agricultural Park. Once again the South Island Championship will be held in conjunction with this show. Only registered horses are allowed to compete at this show, so make sure your registrations are up to date. Schedules are due out about the beginning of October from Debbie Hewitt, Bush Road, Oxford, North Canterbury.

8th Annual North Island All Breeds Show will be held on 4 & 5 January 2005 at the Waikato Events Centre (Claudelands Showgrounds). The Irish Horse Society North Island Championship will be held at this event and is open to registered Irish horses only.

Visit www.horseshow.co.nz for further details and entry forms.

For Sale Registered Licensed Irish Hunter Broodmare

Sound 1989, chestnut with blaze and white sock by Laughton's Legend. Approx 16.3hh. Has produced three stunning foals and is available on weaning. Good to shoe, clip, catch, float, show and handle with foals. Genuine reason for regretful sale. Contact Lisa Barclay 03 347 9845



Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

For Sale (continued)

PIPER JO

16.2hh registered bay mare, foaled 1999. By Kingsway Diamond out of Seychelles. Broken in and going well. Contact John & Anne Columbello, Paeroa ph 07 862 8143

ALAMO SERANADE

Bay Irish Hunter mare, four years old and approximately 15.2-15.3 hands high. Serenade is by Kingcroft Wicklow and out of Peppercorn Rent (a Blue Vermillion mare). Serenade has a lovely in your face nature (sometimes a pain if she isn't the horse you want to talk to). She has great manners, a lovely kind nature and will be someone's best buddy.



Alamo Serenade

She has been shown in hand about six times with moderate success and has one Hunter Youngstock championship. She generally does well in paced classes.

She is now ready to be broken in and to continue on with her education quietly. She is a pleasure to handle and I expect her to go far.

Contact:
Sandra Rattray
(03) 324-3998
or email
alamostud@xtra.co.nz
for further information.

How long a minute is, depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Wanted:

'WANTED IRISH SPORT HORSE'

16-16.2 hh (Preferably chestnut with a little white) special order ! Training or Novice eventing. Needs to be well trained and safe. To suit adult lady amateur rider. Please if you can help contact Trudy Boyce 09 292 7762 / 021 898 483
ta.boyce@xtra.co.nz

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Next newsletter deadline:

1st December 2004

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We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colours..... but they all exist very nicely in the same box

Points of interest:

Gerry Maguire (x Clover Hill (RID)) joint first in the Puissance Class at London Olympia CSI clearing 7 foot.

Gelvin Clover (Clover Hill (RID) x Culderg (RID) by Ginger Dick (RID) placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd respectively in 1.50m International Classes at Hickstead CSIO*****, Dublin CSIO***** and Belfast CSI*****

Some points to ponder.....

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- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
- If K-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.