



Town of Kortrijk, where we stayed.



Stallion Show

**BELGIAN WARBLOOD COMMUNIQUÉ**  
27777 SOWLES RD  
GALT, CA 95632



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*Call for Volunteers*

The BWP/NAD is a volunteer based organization and we need your involvement so that we can keep growing. This year saw the approval of 10 new stallions, the registration of 53 new foals, lots of competitors vying for the USDF All Breed Award and wonderful national advertising. We need more volunteers to keep up with this exciting growth.

Contact any board member to get involved.

Current BWP/NAD Board  
Members: Linda Bobrik, Barbara Hansen, Allyn McCracken, Julia Robinson, Christine Sallee, Ronda Stavisky,

# Communiqué



Members, Jody Potter and Kezie Mendoza with Sapphire's breeders, Walter Van Bunder and Gerda Stoop



McLain Ward riding Sapphire, photo credit Arnd Bronkhorst  
United States' McLain Ward and Sapphire Take Home Biggest Prize in U.S. Outdoor Show Jumping History in €300,000 CN  
Worldwide Florida Open Grand Prix, CSI-5\*

### Communiqué Schedule

To ensure timely publication please submit content by:  
12/15/06 for January Edition  
3/15/07 for April Edition  
6/15/07 for July Edition  
Please send your stories to [bobburkfarm@toast.net](mailto:bobburkfarm@toast.net)

## Contact BWP/NAD

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Ronda Stavisky

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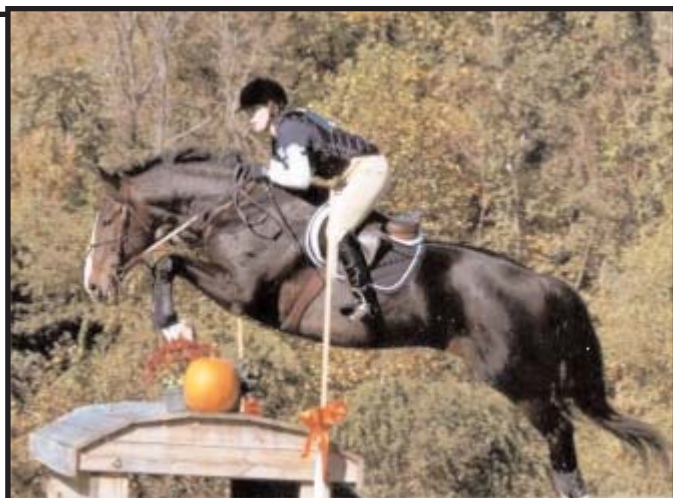
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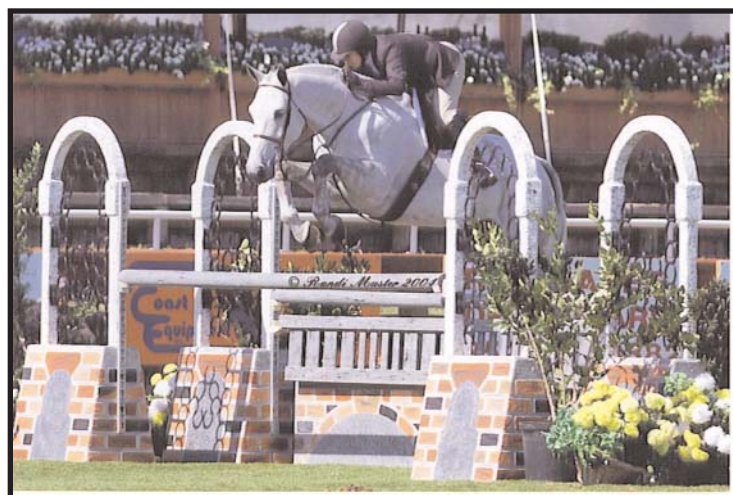
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Whittington's Cat (age 7) by Q.Eurosport out of Paksenarrion was the PHR Silver Stirrup National Champion for Novice Level Eventing for 2006. She is owned by Barbara Rice and ridden by Carolyn Rice."



Congratulations to Belgian Warmblood Gray Slipper, Owner Bridget Hallman and Trainer Louise Serio.

Photo credit: Randi Muster

Gray Slipper is the 2006 Chronicle of the Horse  
HORSE OF THE YEAR  
and  
HUNTER OF THE YEAR

#### CORRECTIONS TO THE STALLION DIRECTORY

Galatee, by Simalabim, out of Plenty of Swing, Bred by Mark and Evelyn Quigley, received a 76% on the Keuring Tour. Galatee is tied for 4th place, Fillies of 2006

Simalabim has a stud fee of \$1000 plus a booking fee of \$500

### Summary of Minutes of BWP/NAD Annual Meeting, Con't

**Advertising:** Good results from 2006 campaign w/focus on color and logo to increase brand recognition. We actually spent less money. Ads focused on The Chronicle, USDF Connection, Hunter and Sport Horse, the Plaid Horse, and the Equestrian. R. Stavisky will continue to do the ads. Half-page ads always in red, with "put some jump in your dressage" and "bred to perform" emphasis. Also breeder photo of Sapphire with "breeder to the Olympics" and logo emphasis. BE was quite impressed. The Directory is sent out to anyone who calls and taken to shows/handed out.

**Stallion Directory:** 43 stallions this year. Send candid to R. Stavisky. In addition, ads are available to NAD members, ½ pg B&W \$150, full page \$300. Waiting for high score photos from J. Robinson. Ironman will be on the cover, Watchman on the back, tributes to Branco, Fuerst Gotthard. The book will be red. 500 copies approx \$6K; R. Stavisky has done a lot of the layout formerly done by Color World, saving \$ for us; it was moved/seconded/approved that she would receive a stipend of \$2K for her work. Will work to get some outside advertising to support as well, e.g. USDF, etc.

**Stallion Auction:** 30 horses in this year's auction; electronic this year. Last year \$13,080 earned which is entirely NAD and doesn't have to pass to BE. Credit cards okay. Over \$11,000 dollars was earned in 2007.

**Call for Volunteers:** We continue to need volunteers to help recruit stallions, host keurings, participate on committees and help develop the next generation of leadership for BWP/NAD.

**Keuring Tour:** 16 sites in 2006, 196 horses evaluated. 43% of participants made credit card payments. Will contact all host sites in May 2007 after the Midyear Meeting. Need to better publicize the Futurities, halters and financial rewards. Our first Belgian Riding Pony was keured in 2006. Issue of paperwork - the breeding card needs to be filled out for the judges, which simplifies the paperwork. People need clear instructions. Breeding books should have English instructions this year. J. Robinson to develop web-page with FAQ's, including explanation of parts of breeding book, and who gets which part? Score sheets will be changed, more emphasis on comments and education, conformation clinics, etc. Handouts will be in the keuring packets. No additional time will be available to keur in 2007.

**The Communique:** will continue with hard copies, try to stick to 8 pages as much as possible to reduce costs and simplify layout. Budget approx \$2600 + postage. Continue to put online as well.

**Nominating Committee:** per the bylaws, time to start recruiting for Fall Election of BOD Officers. Most of the BOD is up for re-election. A. McCracken will contact members for the committee. Members of Nominating Committee to be published in the June Communique, so nominee election statements can be published by Oct 1st, and cards sent out by Nov 1st.

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** Moved/seconded/approved to hold the Mid Year Meeting in May at the Lexington Horse Park the weekend of May 18th in conjunction with the show being held. This will have 5 & 6 year old classes relevant to NAD horses. C. Frank will officially host. Meeting was adjourned.

**Summary of Minutes of BWP/NAD Annual Meeting, Jan 21, 2007, Koertrijk, BE**  
**BOD Present: A. McCracken, R. Stavisky, C. Sallee, L. Bobrik (Acting Sec), E. VanMuylem.**  
**Members Present: D. Drott, J.Drott, J. Potter. Guest: K. Mendoza**

Meeting was called to order 0940.

**Old Minutes:** 2006 Midyear minutes unavailable due to the unfortunate absence of B. Hansen. 2005 Annual Minutes were reviewed. Membership cards were instituted in 2006. Ongoing issues regarding the Awards program; we will no longer award All-Breed Awards to non-members. Transfers of ownership will now be processed in the US rather than in BE.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance as of 1/07 is \$22,687.39. Books are currently being audited twice yearly. Increased accounting complexity in 2006 due to acceptance of credit cards, so it was moved/seconded/approved that current auditor will review books monthly and apply charges to appropriate accounts.

**Membership Report:** Approx 300 total members, about 200 active. Growth has been dramatic. Membership cards were/will be mailed out yearly with an update letter after the annual keuring. This is proof of renewal. All inactive members will get a keuring letter and invoice to encourage renewal. C. Sallee was commended for her work in growing the membership.

**Stallion/Elite Mare Report:** 11 new stallions were approved, 8 through keuring, 3 afterwards. We are actively pursuing BWP stallions that've left BE to encourage registration in BWP/NAD. Thanks to E. VanMuylem for these efforts. Fuerst Gotthard has been retired; Lasting Impression was sold to a non-breeding home. ACTIVE STALLIONS WHO HAVEN'T COMPLETED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS ARE AN ISSUE. Stallions must complete performance in allotted time, or will be removed, unless injured, WITH communication to the NAD. It is more expensive in the US to meet performance requirements. The 100-day Test still exists and may be a good option for older stallions, as the age penalty is relatively small. There was discussion of an NAD sponsored 70 day test but there are cost and liability issues; also BE will not accept at present. The 2004 Test debacle was discussed; in Europe, horses are considered livestock, vs. pets in the US. It was moved/seconded/approved that criteria would be changed to not count time faults in the definition of a "clear round" for a given height. This avoids rushing a young horse. Same problems apply to Elite Mares, since requirements are the same. Therefore the Select Mare Pilot Program was established, which includes 1st and 2nd Exterior Labels, and the 4-year-old First Level Test One in mirror reverse. ANY BWP approved mare is eligible, not just Foal Book mares. Three mares participated in 2006. TB on TB crosses were discussed; it is OK to cross a BWP-approved TB mare on BWP-approved TB stallion. The foal will be BWP. The current ideal is to have TB in the 2nd/3rd generation.

**Liaison Report:** E. VanMuylem is preparing special score sheets for the stallions for conformation and free jumping, should be available by March. BE is working on an English issue of their magazine, we should send more promotional info to them. BE working on getting indirect financial aid as the horse business is growing in Europe, but the EU government is unaware.

**Hunter Division:** N. Maloney's letter was read. NAD will have a separate Hunter Division, since 1/3 of the US market is Hunters. The Hunter Stallion division is a work in progress and continues to evolve. One possibility is that there will be a notation in the directory if a stallion is nominated as a hunter and there might be a special Hunter keuring in US with an American Hunter judge. Proposed: regional Hunter Pilot Sites for 2007, run concurrently w/regular keuring; perhaps 5 sites with costs offset. Moved/seconded/approved.

## "If it's Tuesday, this must be Belgium"

BOD members Chris Sallee, Allyn McCracken, Linda Bobrik, and eventually Ronda Stavisky converged on Brussels airport arriving jet lagged and exhausted after almost 24 hrs on planes. Ronda's plane was delayed by a freak ice storm in Texas, arriving a day late, but 90 minutes earlier than expected aided by storm-wrought tailwinds. Chris and new member Peg Courant made a pre-dawn trip back to Brussels to pick Ronda up, only to spend 2 ½ hrs in rush hour traffic. Dee Drott of Borderline Farm and her family had arrived earlier and met us in Koertrijk, as did Jody Potter and Kezie Mendoza of Swept Away Farm. It was raining and very windy, one of Europe's biggest storms in years. During our stay, we literally circled Belgium 3 times by car, and into the Netherlands at one point to look at broodmares.

There was to be no rest for the weary. We checked into the Grand Damier Hotel and met up with Etienne Van Muylem, BWP Liaison, who had arranged a few farm tours for our education and enlightenment. Linda, Allyn, Peg and Chris, half-asleep caravanned with the others. First, we visited Farm Van't'Gestelhof, where we were treated to a dressage exhibition featuring Warkant and Saros. We were liberally plied with coffee and cake and welcomed most hospitably everywhere we went. We visited Jos Lansink's farm, as well as Pessoa's, which was a whirlwind of activity, with many horses and students from all over the world. About 10 pm local time, we stumbled into an Italian restaurant for our first real hot meal in 36 hrs, then off to bed and up early for a huge breakfast buffet.

We had a special VIP visit at Zangersheide the next day, complete with coffee and pastries in the Conference room, which has an observation window into an indoor jumping grid. Several young stallions of various ages were free-jumped, shown in hand, and then ridden in demonstration for our enjoyment. The horses certainly proved Zangersheide's motto "a good looking horse which jumps well". We toured the stallion barn, where we saw a long row of happy stallions housed together peacefully. We got a special tour of the AI lab, where innovative research is being done, including some work on cloning. The equine genome has now been sequenced and a cloned horse is expected within a couple of years.

The Stallion Inspection took place the next 2 days, in Moorsele. I was surprised to find this facility so close to the town, with its narrow, one way streets and cobblestones. The riding club has a huge indoor arena surrounded by bleachers, almost like a football stadium. There were several restaurants, a bar, waiters, VIP seating opposite the judges at the edge of the long side. We were fortunate to have a couple of reserved tables in the heated stands. BWP/BE hosted a reception for us at the end of the first night, followed by some demonstration riding, including a pas de troix with 3 young stallions, and a jumping exhibition by some of the older stallions.

## *This must be Belgium, Con't*

There were huge crowds, standing room only, the first day where the candidates were shown on the triangle. (I was glad to see that Belgium's young horses act the same way that American horses do!) There was the usual vendors hall, but with an emphasis on embryo transfer, breeding technology, and expensive footing. There was lots of food and drink everywhere, and people had a great time. This was a terrific venue, better than the Oud Heverlee site of 2 years ago. It was well lit with good visibility, except for the haze of cigarette smoke and diesel fumes from the grooming equipment. The idea of pay toilets took a little getting used to, but we managed. Another difference was the absence of dogs, unlike USA shows. Very different, but nice.

The stallions who passed the triangle returned the next day for the jumping. The crowd was quite a bit thinner. The set up for the free jumping was interesting, a true grid, utilizing the long side of the arena. There was an outside fence made up of posts, poles and cables, with a grid on the long side and a chute on the short side, with the judges standing in the middle. This gave very good visibility for spectators. There were 8-10 assistants, to reset poles, turn horses, etc. Some owners/trainers were there to help their candidates. Some horses seemed to get more help "setting up" but others were left to race around out of balance. The grid was tight, but left unchanged throughout. I discovered how difficult it is to catch the horse and the jump in the same frame of the camera!

We had our International meeting on the day of the free jumping, and our NAD meeting the following morning. Details are in the Minutes. After the NAD meeting, we visited a studfarm in the Netherlands, where we saw broodmares and youngsters. I was surprised to find that wherever we stood in the sand indoor arena, the water seemed to come up under us; the owner then explained that he uses a valve and pump system to pump the water OUT of the arena. I then realized that half of the Netherlands really IS below sea level! Watch out for global warming.

The next day, Jody and Kezie left for home, and the Drott family went their own way for another week of horses elsewhere. Allyn elected to go to yet another broodmare farm, while Ronda, Chris and I elected to wander around Koertrijk. This is an ancient city, dating back to the Romans, with beautiful medieval architecture interposed with modern art, and a farmer's market. We left for the airport the next morning. When I checked in, I realized I had lost a day and missed my flight by 24 hrs. Fortunately, there was space on that day's flight, and 20 hours later, I was back in California. This was a terrific trip, and I want to encourage all BWP/NAD members to consider coming to Belgium for the January 2009 meeting. (Written by Linda Bobrik).

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## Summary of Minutes of the International BWP Meeting 20 Jan 2007 Moorsele, BE

Present: R. Eerdeken (Sec-Gen), K. Keersmaekers (VP), E. VanMuylem (Liaison), C. Rijken (Pres), A. McCracken, R. Stavisky, C. Sallee, L. Bobrik, and Geert Ghekiere (BRP Representative) .

NAD is in good financial standing with BE; all arrears have been repaid. BE congratulates NAD on growing membership and stallion roster. BE was impressed by the current NAD "grow the brand" advertising campaign in the USA.

PAPERS ARE IN PROCESS RIGHT NOW. New Breeding Books will have an English translation and clearer instructions regarding which pages go to whom, and when they are due. Also, BE will NEVER accept a 70 day test; performance requirements are the owner's responsibility. BE would like to see more NAD horses in the Young Jumper and Young Dressage Horse Championships in the US, as 5, 6, 7 year olds.

Specific judging criteria were discussed. Conformation, walk, trot, and jumping are all equally weighted. This includes use of neck, knees, bascule, technique, handiness, canter quality. Judging is a gestalt because things continue to evolve, therefore there is no specific "score sheet" in use.

BE was informed that Coconut Grove, Capone I and Orlando were approved after the 2006 keuring tour. Offspring of Coconut Grove out of TB mares may be registered in the BWP Foal Book.

N. Maroney's Hunter proposal was discussed. BE, and Europe in general have no division resembling US hunter classes. BE understands that hunters make up about 50% of US market; BE will look for a solution, perhaps a hunter label EXCLUSIVE for NAD, e.g. NAD/BWP Hunter Studbook. NAD hunter ponies would fall in this book as well.

Microchipping is now obligatory in BE (this is now a European standard), but NAD horses will not be chipped, and not included in the BE database (which also includes drafts, ponies, etc). NAD should be able to access the database. All NAD horses will have DNA on file at UC Davis; NAD Registrar will send our DNA #s to BE so they can be accessed if needed.

BE Riding Ponies were discussed. Safety is paramount. BRP are very valuable and bring high prices. BRP may contain up to 59% TB blood. New Forest and Westphalen (containing lots of Welsh and Arab) has been the traditional base. OK to breed to German Riding Ponies. We may be able to arrange for frozen semen, but not many BRP stallions have been frozen at this point. B. Hendrix will look into possible arrangements.

*Please contact Linda Bobrik at  
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with any news for the Communique*