

JongKWPN will host 2022 International Young Breeders

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PHOTOS: IYB

JongKWPN is the youth department of the KWPN (Studbook of the Royal Dutch Sport Horse) – a Netherlands-based organization specializing in the breeding of jumpers, dressage horses, harness horses, and Gelder horses. Performance, durability, and attractive conformation are the most important elements on which the international success of the Dutch horse is based.

JongKWPN was founded in 2004 out of the idea that it is vitally important to invest in knowledge transfer as well as the premise that breeding has to be made more accessible for young people. JongKWPN is for members between the ages of 16 and 30, and is led by a board of seven members and one supervisor from the KWPN. Nowadays JongKWPN has over 800 members from all over the Netherlands as well as some members from abroad.

Members become involved with JongKWPN because they are interested in the KWPN horse and want to learn more about breeding and sports. It is a good opportunity to get to know young horse people and also KWPN inspectors, and renowned horse people are happy to share their many years of accumulated vision with us. Numerous activities are organized every year, spread throughout the Netherlands. Participation in activities is completely voluntary. Alongside this program members receive a wealth of practical information, always accompanied by a pleasant get-together.

“Have coffee with...”

However, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to organize physical activities for the JongKWPN



members, so they launched a series of online activities entitled: “Have coffee with....” involving visits with some renowned stables who shared their vision about breeding and sports.

The vision of JongKWPN is to train young horse people for the future, and make a positive contribution to increasing knowledge among its members about KWPN horses, in preparation for a

future when they will be able to breed the best-performing (Olympiad) horses.

JongKWPN also endeavours to create a springboard for its members to positions within the KWPN, for example as an inspector or on a board. Training is the most important task of JongKWPN, but the organization also has a fine network function for its members. JongKWPN doesn't only focus on the Netherlands, but tries to activate a worldwide network for its young breeders. In this way, optimal knowledge can be exchanged between the different studbooks. This is something for which the WBFSh World Championships for International Young Breeders are a perfect illustration.

The activities that JongKWPN provides





for its member are breeding- and sport-orientated, and every year there is a varied program for all of the KWPB breeding disciplines, such as training clinics hosted for young breeders.

Together with a KWPB inspector, the components for the Dutch and International Young Breeders are learned by our members, first from a KWPB perspective and later from the IYB perspective. Normally every even year the Dutch championships are held so the team for the World championships can be selected and extra training provided.

Other annual activities within JongKWPB are the Young Breeders Program for harness horses (see sidebar), selecting young talented stallions from a professional stallion owner prior to the stallion inspection, a visit to the pasture where we view the foals of a leading breeder, a trip to a foreign breeding facility, some activities on (current) veterinary issues in sport and breeding, and many other stable visits and attendance at KWPB activities, such as the EPTM test and the performance test for stallions.

Young Breeders Program for Harness Horses

Young Breeders Program for Harness horses is a well-known program for members with an interest specifically in breeding and harness horses. In this process, older breeders with interesting broodmares are matched with young breeders. In collaboration with a KWPB inspector, stallion choices are made for these mares by the young breeders. Several foals have already emerged from this, all of which have 'YBP' suffix to their names so that they can be suitably recognized everywhere. This program has already resulted in great collaborations between older and younger breeders. (See photo right.)

Every year JongKWPB hosts its own mare inspections for its members: Normal studbook inspections, but then organized for and by young members. At this inspection, more attention is paid to the learning process for the members in terms of explanations about the results and presentation of the horse. In this way, JongKWPB hopes to create a valuable network for its members: for now and also into the future. ■

