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WHAT IS THE FUTURITY?

- An evaluation system of young sports horses and ponies from foal to three-year-old
- Accessible to all British bred horses and ponies (as long as they are by a licensed stallion)
- The same for all, regardless of breed
- Different sections: Dressage, Showjumping, Eventing (+ Ponies) ((+ Endurance))
- Top scoring horses (historically 8.5 and above) qualify for the "Equine Bridge", a programme designed with the disciplines to help talented horses to be developed for the sport.



BRITISH BREEDING

- Took over the Futurity as part of a wide range of activities, including a stallion show, a Magazing ("British Breeder"), and the Equine Bridge
- british-breeding.com
- 5 Directors from different areas of the equestrian industry:
 - Joris van den Oetelaar (AES)
 - Sacha Shaw (Breeding British)
 - Rachael Holdsworth (Holdsworth PR)
 - Jane Skepper (Competition Stallions)
 - Dr Eva-Maria Broomer (Horsepower Creative and AES evaluator)



WHAT WE DID

- **Overhaul of the scoring system**
- **Overhaul of the judging panel**
- **New database**
- **Re-launch of the Bridge for 2019**



THE JUDGES

- A panel of 4 judges, working together as a team, with one international judge, and one representative from each discipline
- A scorer, noting the linear profiles
- A senior, highly experienced vet to carry out the veterinary assessment
- A mixture of:
 - Experienced studbook evaluators
 - Riders
 - Breeders
 - Representatives from the Olympic disciplines



THE SCORING SYSTEM

- What we want the system to deliver:
 - Cross-studbook data collection on linear traits
 - Individual British studbooks largely too small to gather meaningful data
 - Pool youngstock data for potential heritability studies
 - Analyse plasticity of phenotypes as horses “grow up” with the system
 - Map early phenotype observations (linear traits) onto performance traits later on
 - Feedback to breeders
 - Get early feedback to improve breeding decisions
 - Recognition and marketing exposure



THE SCORING SYSTEM (CONT.)

- A Balancing Act Between Our Need for Data and the Breeders' Need for Feedback and Recognition
- Linear profiles AND numerical marks
- Numerical Classifications:
 - 6-6.99 – Third Premium
 - 7-7.99 – Second Premium
 - 8-8.49 – First Premium
 - 8.5-8.99 – Higher First Premium
 - 9 and above - Elite



THE ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE: I. THE VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

- 12-15 minutes veterinary assessment outside on hard ground, two-year-olds and three-year-olds also on soft ground on a circle
- Input from nutritionist
- Emphasis not only on correctness, but also on correct management, and on issues particularly relevant to young horses (growth plates, foot balance)

Goals:

- Collect data on the relationship between environmental influences and limb development
- Collect data on heritabilities
- Collect data on relationship between conformation and management early on and performance later on
- Improve welfare by encouraging and rewarding correct management

LINEAR SCORE SHEET

COMMENTS

TWO MARKS: HORSE AS IT IS NOW (10%), PROGNOSIS FOR THE HORSE IF MANAGEMENT ISSUES ADDRESSED (10%)



THE ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE 2. EVALUATION BY THE PANEL

- Conformation, Walk, Trot and Canter (Jump in 3yo Showjumpers and Eventers)
- Assessment in hand and loose
- {insert video link to show how we assess canter in foals}
- Judges agree all the scores



SCORES ADD UP TO 80% OF THE FINAL MARK, WITH EACH ASPECT WEIGHTED EQUALLY



BREED OPTIMA

- Discipline specific breed optima
 - Developed in consultation with key industry stakeholders:
 - Studbook representatives
 - Riders
 - Judges
 - Representatives from the Olympic Disciplines
- Traffic Light System: the more crosses in dark green, the closer to 10 the mark

Woodlander Querrida		Futurity Evaluation	
Sex	Female	Date	22/08/2018
Date of Birth	07-08-2018	Location	Mission Manor Equine Unit
Colour	Black/Brown	Judges	Rik van Marit, Jeroen Linton-Clark, Katy Holder-Vale, Ben van den Oetelaar,

Conformation - Frame							
Body Shape	Rectangular			X			Square
Body direction	Upright						Downhill
Length of legs	Long						Short
Head-neck connection	Light						Heavy
Length of neck	Long						Short
Position of neck	Vertical						Horizontal
Muscling of neck	Heavy						Thin
Shape of neck	Arched						Straight
Height of withers	High						Flat
Length of withers	Long						Short
Position of shoulder	Slung						Straight
Length of shoulder	Long						Short
Line of the back	Reached						Weak
Line of the loins	Reached						Weak
Shape of the croup	Sloping						Flat
Length of the croup	Long						Short
Tail set	Low						High

Frame Mark: 9.25



Woodlander Querrida

Sex Female
Date of Birth 07-06-2018
Colour Black/Brown

Futurity Evaluation

Date 22/08/2018
Location Moreton Morrell Equine Unit
Judges Rik van Miert Jennie Loriston-Clarke, Katy Holder-Vale, Bert van den Oetelaar,

Conformation - Frame

Body Shape	Rectangular			X												Square
Body direction	Uphill															Downhill
Length of legs	Long															Short
Head-neck connection	Light															Heavy
Length of neck	Long															Short
Position of neck	Vertical															Horizontal
Muscling of neck	Heavy															Poor
Shape of neck	Arched															Straight
Height of withers	High															Flat
Length of withers	Long															Short
Position of shoulder	Sloping															Straight
Length of shoulder	Long															Short
Line of the back	Roached															Weak
Line of the loins	Roached															Weak
Shape of the croup	Sloping															Flat
Length of the croup	Long															Short
Tail set	Low															High

Frame Mark 9.25



KYLIE

Sex Female
UEN 826002150874194
Chipnumber 941000016798337
Date of Birth 21-05-2015
Colour Grey

Futurity Evaluation

Date 25/07/2018
Location Vale View Equestrian
Judges Carron Nicol Rik van Miert, Lesley Peyton-Gilbert, Jennie Loriston-Clarke,

Conformation - Frame

Body Shape	Rectangular			X												Square
Body direction	Uphill			X												Downhill
Length of legs	Long			X												Short
Head-neck connection	Light			X												Heavy
Length of neck	Long			X												Short
Position of neck	Vertical			X												Horizontal
Muscling of neck	Heavy			X												Poor
Shape of neck	Arched			X												Straight
Height of withers	High			X												Flat
Length of withers	Long			X												Short
Position of shoulder	Sloping			X												Straight
Length of shoulder	Long			X												Short
Line of the back	Roached			X												Weak
Line of the loins	Roached			X												Weak
Shape of the croup	Sloping			X												Flat
Length of the croup	Long			X												Short
Tail set	Low			X												High

Frame Mark 9



FUTURE COOL ILLUSION


Sex: Male
Date of Birth: 06-05-2018
Colour: Bay

Futurity Evaluation

Date: 25/07/2018
Location: Vale View Equestrian
Judges: Carron Nicol Rik van Miert, Lesley Peyton-Gilbert, Jennie Loriston-Clarke.

Conformation - Frame

Body Shape	Rectangular								Square
Body direction	Uphill			X					Downhill
Length of legs	Long								Short
Head-neck connection	Light								Heavy
Length of neck	Long								Short
Position of neck	Vertical			X					Horizontal
Muscling of neck	Heavy			X					Poor
Shape of neck	Arched								Straight
Height of withers	High								Flat
Length of withers	Long								Short
Position of shoulder	Sloping								Straight
Length of shoulder	Long								Short
Line of the back	Roached								Weak
Line of the loins	Roached								Weak
Shape of the croup	Sloping								Flat
Length of the croup	Long								Short
Tail set	Low			X					High



Frame Mark 9.5

DATA IS STORED ON PUBLIC DATABASE

- Basic ID Information
- Pedigree
- Photos
- Videos
- Detailed Linear Score Sheets
- Can be searched by stallion, age, etc.

• <https://british-breeding.com>



PLANS FOR 2019

- Review and Critique of the system, using data and video footage
- Separate assessment days for 3yos, with optional training day beforehand
- Continuous Review of the Traffic Light system and optimum profiles
- Eventing focused initiatives: scoring of successful eventers to learn more about optimum traits
- Pilote trial scheme of automatically generated numerical scores
- Pilot to change the "labels": Bronze – Silver – Gold
- **Launch of the Equine Bridge: Development programme for 3-7-year-old horses, qualified through the Futurity**

