

Education, networking, and friendship for JongKWPN

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In July 2022, JongKWPN (Young KWPN) were proud to host the International Young Breeders WBFSh World Championship in Ermelo – an event of international allure with delegates representing 20 studbooks from around the world participating.

The Young KWPN program of activities is diverse and aims to provide a wealth of practical information, with the ultimate goal in mind of securing the future of KWPN horse breeding. Education is intended to contribute to increasing knowledge among its members about KWPN horses so they are able to breed the best-performing sport horses in the future. Another goal is to act as a springboard for members to positions of influence within the KWPN, for example as an inspector or on a board. Over the years the Young KWPN has grown in strength and participation and now comprises a network of over 600 members, and is accessible to every young horse lover in the Netherlands.

Edith van Oostrom

As a Young KWPN member, Edith van Oostrom shares her experiences: “Young KWPN organizes a lot of different activities, my favourite of which are the stable visits during which we watch and discuss many different horses. It’s very interesting to hear other opinions and visions. Most of all it is very educational to learn from other experienced breeders and stable owners. Another activity of great benefit is the gatherings where we speak about the conformation and movement traits of sport horses. Often, a KWPN inspector



Jeanine Schoondermark takes pictures at the YoungKWPN inspection

participates, who guides these gatherings and teaches us about these subjects. This information helps me to have a much more critical eye on my own horses.

“Young KWPN also organizes horse presentation evenings where we learn how to present a horse in hand; of benefit, for example, at an inspection. Last summer my sister participated in the Young KWPN mare inspection with her four-year-old mare. In a regular KWPN inspection you will only receive the points and a very short explanation, but the judges at the Young KWPN inspection provided the participants with a lot of extra information. They take time to explain about the positive traits of the horse and the reasons for the scores. It’s also nice that the other participants are young and passionate people like us, which is also motivating and a great opportunity to form new connections.

“The Young KWPN inspection is open to every KWPN member but the individual presenting the horse has to be a Young KWPN member, which provides another possibility for Young KWPN members to practice their skills. Young KWPN inspections always have lots of participants because people appreciate the extra explanation and possibility to talk to the jury afterwards. The judges are regular KWPN inspectors so the judging is the same as regular inspections. At the end of the Young KWPN inspection there is a foal inspection as well. Participants can enter for free and can



The YoungKWPN team at the World Championships Young breeders last year – l-r: Anniken, Niels, Nikki, Celine, Jeanine, Eline, Saffira, Vera, Nikki



Edith van Oostrom with her foal by Nirvano x Eyecatcher

even get a ticket for the national foal inspection.

“During the Young KWPN inspection, my sister’s mare Otry (Blue Hors Kingston x Gribaldi) became champion in the four- to seven-year-old mares category. It is always nice that Young KWPN creates this opportunity to meet other young breeders so we can learn from each other. I think it’s very important to stimulate young breeders and help them to produce the very best sport horses in the future.

“As a Young KWPN member there are also plenty of opportunities within the organisation itself. I am currently a board member of KWPN Utrecht (a regional department), and part of the KWPN dressage breeding committee representing Young KWPN, as an active dressage breeder myself.

“My own breeding journey began with an elite mare called Ma Jolie (Eyecatcher x Serano Gold), which I bought when she was a foal. When she turned three years old I prepared her for the mare inspection myself. After the mare inspection, I trained her for the IBOP test (performance test) which she completed successfully. Ma Jolie has already given birth to a filly by the KWPN approved stallion Livius (Bordeaux x Vivaldi), who is two years old today. I plan on bringing the Livius mare to the mare inspection next year. This year Ma jolie provided a filly by KWPN-approved stallion Nirvano (For Forrero x Charmeur), who recently moved to the stable of Simone Pearce. This filly recently became the foal champion in Utrecht and received a ticket for the National Foal Championship in Ermelo on August 11. It’s such a honour to win this ticket with the second foal I’ve bred.

“When you participate at inspections you get a good image of your horse compared to others of the same age, which ensure you maintain a critical look at your own horse, and is very educational. I hope my breeding continues to produce good quality horses that do well in sport in the future. Hopefully there will be more successes yet to come.”

Jeanine Schoondermark

“My journey with Young KWPN began in 2022 when I participated at the World Championships for Young Breeders in Ermelo. During the preparations for the championships, we trained hard to master the judgment skills. The whole experience was so educational, and I also benefited from these lessons in selecting my own mares and the stallions to which they should be mated. It was nice to meet young breeders from all over the world and discuss our views on the modern sport horse. During my time as a Young KWPN member, I met so many new people, and I’m very grateful for all the special friendships I’ve built during that time.

“Young KWPN always provides opportunities for members to assist at important events. Last summer, I assisted the jury at the national mare inspection and national foal inspection. In the winter we represented Young KWPN at the KWPN stallion show. This year, I will assist the jury at the PAVO Cup and national mare inspection. While assisting the jury, I write down all the marks and their notes, which also allows me to benefit in learning a lot from seeing the horses and hearing the scores and comments. I also have the possibility to ask questions and learn from the inspectors. These are such fantastic experiences which contribute to improving my knowledge and skills, especially at events like PAVO and the national inspection. I’ve learned so much since I became a Young KWPN member, and I hope to keep improving my knowledge.

“Thanks to Young KWPN, I became really passionate about breeding, so bought two breeding mares last year: Kytopia vd C (El Capone x Sandro Hit) and Darling Vurona (Wynton x Negro), and this year, two beautiful foals were born. I paired Kytopia with the stallion Nordic Blue Hors (Totilas x Jazz), who was only just licensed by KWPN when I decided to use him. Using a newly licensed stallion is a bit of a gamble, but KWPN has, I feel, a very thorough selection process to rely on. I also visited the stallion station Van Uytert to look at the stallion in real life.



Edith van Oostrom with the champion mare Otry



Jeanine with her mares Kytopia vd C (left) and Darling Vurona (right)

“Young KWPN also organizes information evenings where we talk about the licensed stallions. These evenings are very educational and also help with making the right stallion choices. Kytopia gave birth to a strong black colt named Tom Ford JS, who had already been sold to the owner of the stallion station, and I’m very curious to see how he will develop. Because this combination turned out so well, I made the choice to repeat the cross and now we expect a full brother or sister to Tom in 2024.

Darling Vurona was paired with Extreme US (Escamillo x Vivaldi), who was also licensed in 2022 and became champion of the stallion test. This combination resulted in a stunning filly: Tiana Vurona JS. One of my best friends immediately fell in love with Tiana and bought her.

“Young KWPN provides training days for members where you learn how to present horses at inspections, and thanks to this education I’m able to present my own foals at the inspections. For example, you learn how to position them so the jury can take a good look at their conformation. We presented Tiana at one of the KWPN foal inspections in July, when she placed first in her group and, subsequently, placed seventh in the group of champions. This result earned a ticket for the national foal championship on August 11 in Ermelo, so I’m very happy with this success in my first year of breeding.

“With my Young KWPN membership, I have access to all the options of a regular KWPN membership, but we only pay a small contribution. As a Young KWPN member, I’m able to easily register my foals. Young KWPN also organizes a mare and foal inspection for its members, which is a great chance to meet other young breeders and present your own horses.

“I have lots of dreams and hopes for the future, but my biggest hope is that my horses stay healthy and sound. Besides that, I also dream of breeding a licensed KWPN stallion and, of course, the highest goal possible; a Grand Prix horse. Being a member of Young KWPN makes these dreams more realistic because now I can build a network of serious buyers and of course expand my knowledge.”

Kate Wijtes

“I have been a member of Young KWPN since the beginning of 2022. Pretty quickly I got to know a nice group of fellow young breeders and immediately had a good connection with these girls. After several fun activities, including stable visits to Van Olst Horses and Waaij Stud, I was asked by the KWPN if I would like to help with various events, so during the national inspection and the annual stallion show I helped with the presentation of prizes. This was a really great experience where I saw behind the scenes of the planning and hosting of such significant events for breeders. Furthermore, these events were great for expanding my network and learning about breeding.

“Young KWPN has taught me a lot about breeding, for instance about standing foals, and what to do if they’re not standing in the right position. I learned about conformation (exterior) of horses and how to evaluate and compare horses with different conformation. I’ve met so many nice and interesting people, but the highlight so far was the trip to Prague where we attended the final of the Global Champions Tour, which was amazing.

“We also visited the stable of Matthias Rath and saw some of his horses in training. I can hardly wait until the 2023 WBCYH for showjumpers in Lanaken, when I will travel as part of a group of 50 Young KWPN members. We will first visit the stables of Rob Erhens to learn more about breeding and training showjumpers before attending the championships. A visit to the stable of dressage rider Saskia van Es is also planned. These trips are not only educational but also a chance to really get to know and build friendships with other young breeders. We are so lucky. ■



Jeanine Schoondermark with her foal Tiana Vurona JS (Extreme US x Wynnton)