



Show Commentary of the Haflinger World Show on June 6, 2010 held by President of the World Haflinger Federation – Johannes Schweisgut

My dear ladies and gentlemen, here and now on the last day of the Haflinger World Show 2010, with the last strength of my voice and over the next nearly two hours, I will look back at the World Show with you, and present to you once again the most beautiful of the beautiful, our stars, namely all the winners, reserve winners and all those that have brought us joy over the last three days. It is also my hope during this retrospection to enlighten you once again of the judge's motivation and reasons for selecting particular groups, particular horses and particular winners.

Let's not be vexed by a few constant rainmakers here in Tyrol, but instead let's take heart in the sun that is smiling down on us now, and also in the tens of thousands of visitors here and great atmosphere that is so appropriate for the Tyrolean Haflinger. Let's also not be dragged down by the few constantly negative individuals that are surrounded by their own turbulent situations; this is my wish at the beginning of this show critique.

With that we come to the first presentation that we've prepared for you. The first presentation consists of the winners and reserve winners in the stallion's in generations.

I think it is important when one presents a show commentary on an international scale that before embarking on the first presentation, one takes the opportunity to establish a little bit of the history and development of the breed and discuss the following: where do we want to go from here, what is our goal, what was the goal of breed standards in the last decade, how much have we accomplished and how would we like the breed to continue to develop. I think this is how we can best prepare ourselves for the breeding lines.

Right as one looks at the first breeding line, the winner collection, a history of the Haflinger breed presents itself. One examines the first stallion, Nabucco, with over one thousand covers making him certainly one of the most frequently utilized Haflinger stallions in the world, but ultimately it is quality, not quantity that is the important end product left behind by a stallion. When one looks at the successes of the N-line in the last few days, also in terms of breadth, and one realises that the N-line began a mere 10 or 15 years ago, as it can be seen that Nabucco is actually the point of departure for the success of this line. Without the stallion Nabucco, we would certainly not be where we find ourselves today. When one examines the stallion, he is perhaps not the embodiment of modernity that we'd wish for today, because he is perhaps not the perfect leisure time horse, but his legs are convincing – dry and fine, even at 23 years of age. The harmony of his body structure, as well as the expression of his face; he also hasn't lost these over the last 23 years.

Looking at history also means that we remember back a little as to how the Haflinger has developed. The Haflinger was originally from Tyrol and appeared first in 1870. In 1900 there were only 300 Haflinger horses, and the modern Tyrolean association was established first in 1946 after the first breed association in Zams was founded in 1921. This was then the beginning of the breed's success. There were always rumors floating around various medias that the Tyrolean Haflinger and the Haflinger world had naturally developed further, but not the Tyrolean association – why? Here are a few clarifying numbers:

In 1949, it was the time when everyone in common opinion in Tyrol owned a Haflinger. However, during this time there were only 742



breeders in Tyrol with 897 mares, not even one thousand mares. Today there are over 3000 mares. This means that today we have over triple the number of Haflinger horses as we did in 1950, five years after the Haflinger Breeders Association of Tyrol was established and four years after Fohlenhof Ebbs was founded.

So there was a development upwards – no stagnation, no recession, but actually a large success. That too is symbolic of us. And this presentation is perhaps also a symbol for the Tyrolean association divisions, since we have stallions and horses from various regions that stand here in the ring, from Oberland to Unterland, from Imst to Ebbs. Where in 1960 there were 997 members, now there are 1200. So it has also been the trend to move upwards quickly and strongly since the 60s. Admittedly, the regions have moved around a bit. You won't believe it, but the strongest society fifty years ago was the Kitzbühel region, at that time, the strongest breeding region in Tyrol. With 183 members, and the strongest society today (Imst) had at that time only 37 members. There the shift took place. The society in Weer remained relatively the same with 100 members, as did Mittlere Unterinntal with 50, but Obere Gericht grew from 50 members in size to about 150 members in total today. The reverse was true in Wildschönau, where 90 members dropped down to ten. The shift was therefore not in the number of horses, but rather more that numbers in Oberland were strongly augmented while in the Unterland of the Tyrolean Association there was some stagnation. But over all, it is a success that we have greater numbers today than in the 50s, 60s and 70s, believe me. That demonstrates that the Haflinger is a more desired horse of Tyrol now as it was before, and that we are still the number 1 breed of horses in Tyrol – a position we will never concede or come in danger of losing.

But for now, let's return to the horses in the ring.

The stallion Nabucco, as stated earlier, is 23 years old and can be seen here with four generations. Behind him as the second generation is the stallion Nordtirol, a legend himself in his own right and already 16 years old. Already an older stallion, but he seems to be younger when one watches him jump and sees how active and dynamic he is under the saddle. When one observes the stallion during breeding season in the stall, he fights nearly daily for his herd and is a real sports typ.

Behind him, one of the new stars, winner of the younger stallions, the stallion Novembernebel, who is nine years old. However, he is already a successful breeding stallion and with his progeny as reserve winner, he too shows something special here among three stallions in a row, of which two hold the first and second place in the category of stallions with offspring. And the last of the succession of generations is Novemberschnee, who is perhaps the future. We will see how he develops. Still young, he is only one year old – too early to reach any conclusions, too early to say where the breed will develop with him, but he shows tendencies, he has a lighter neck that is perhaps on the thinner side, but his modernity, his effortlessness – this is the trend of the future.

We naturally wish that these stallions would find themselves in the high alps during this weather and at this time of year, rather than be here down in the valley. From tomorrow this young stallion will also be in the Alps, along with the others from his age category from the Tyrolean association. I would like to thank the four stallions for

this presentation; we will see them later individually. Special thanks naturally also goes to the stallion keeper Engelbert Posch, who has had the stallion Nabucco in his barn for the last 20 years. That is also something special, when a stallion is almost considered a member of the family.

Nabucco had a short bout of illness two years ago, but recovered beautifully and the care and food he receives at the Posch stables is such that he gleams today in much the same way as he did as a young stallion.

Before we move onto the next category, let me touch on the weather of the last few days once more.

When one looks at the weather today, when one looks at the development over the last few days, that is also perhaps a symbol for the development of the Haflinger breed.

At the beginning, we had a difficult start. Only a few horses in the Tyrolean mountains find themselves at home in south and north Tyrol, in what was at that time one Tyrol.

The difficult start was perhaps the rain on the opening day of the world show, that the world war then became nearly a hurricane for the Haflinger. The strong rains during Wednesday night into Thursday was the continuation, similar to the pressure that the breed felt during the second world war. In fact the change of the breed from a light, elegant horse descended from the Arabian at the beginning to a small, round, bulky beast of burden had occurred by the end of the war. This rain for us was also a little symbolic because from one minute to the next, the sun came out and streamed down on us from a nearly cloudless sky, much in the same way that it was for the Haflinger breed after the founding of Fohlenhofs Ebbs.

Today we extend over the whole world, during the 50s we moved very quickly down from the mountains to the flatlands, throughout all the countries of Europe and by the end of the 50s we had taken our first step towards America and across our first ocean, which was followed by expansion to Asia, South America and down to Australia.

Today, Haflinger's make their home in 70 countries throughout the world; the Haflinger has earned the sunshine like that which we've seen here the last few days.

Our next presentation is mares in generations.

Here we will examine the succession of generations as well, this time on the female side. Whereas we looked at four generations of stallions, here we examine five generations of mares. It is a special view that I believe allows one to see even more clearly than with the stallions the constancy, development and trend where we are actually going.

We now greet the generational succession winner starting with the mare Rialta. Rialta, 25 years old, after whom is the mare Rijana, 18 years old, both from Fohlenhof Ebbs, followed by Relie from Gerhard Berger from Monaco (11 years old), her daughter Rüga (6 years old) and lastly Rosaria, a yearling from Belgium owned by Donny Verkammen.

As you can see, there are three nations united in this lineage.

Generations not concentrated in one country, but rather a lineage spread over the world; I think that is a symbol of this presentation.

When one observes the first mare, Rialta, who is 25 years old as previously stated, one doesn't see any indicators of this age. She



competes in the show now as she did before; we will see her this afternoon in the driving school from saddle and she is still part of the dressage quadrille. There she is currently the reserve, but she is still best suited now as she was before, diligently at work with the smallest and youngest children riders daily. Longevity, and that paired with character and temperament. Generation-lineage that is proof of even more breeding lines, even more improvements in quality, even more modernity introduced in the breed – this is exactly what we wish to see.

When one examines this line, it's as though the horses in the ring here were cut from a mold: all have wonderful necks, even the oldest, all have well-defined withers, all also have good top lines leading to the loin area, perhaps naturally a little weak back in the oldest horse. But that also can't be true as after over 15 foals, this mare had until three years ago only one time no foal, which also speaks for the breed. When one sees in her the dry, fine fundament or when one sees the long fetlocks, then one recognises the elasticity, springy suspension and for the rider, the comfort, in the movement. Of course, we also want to see the classic back, not just the long fetlocks. But the combination of all of these individual points in a horse – that is what creates the end product of a all-around leisure horse and is what is truly represented by this line. Or naturally also the second horse, one generation further, here with the same neck, equally beautiful front quarters and hindquarters that demonstrate some improvements. Quality is also maintained in the third mare. This maintenance of quality within a horse generation line, as shown in the mare Rijana who has already been presented in four international shows and has four times been rated as one of the first two horses and has been winner at two European shows – this demonstrates that this horse constantly maintains quality. Not experiencing a single high point, not once in their life having success at a single show, but rather enjoying successes constantly over the course of nearly 20 years. We want that as well; not just fleetingly beautiful horses, but rather naturally natured Haflingers who are raised as much as possible with the ability to live in a herd and move freely. This ensures that the horses are happy and content and ensures their quality long-term. The same applies for the next generation Relie. She was also named best of class twice in world shows. She also demonstrates here over ten years of consistent quality. Relie is also active as a dressage quadrille horse and with riding children. This mare was purchased by an internationally renowned athlete for his children. He could have purchased a horse from any breed, but he purchased a Haflinger because he believed that the Haflinger was the best breed for children and because he believed that the future of horse breeding lie in this horse and in this breed. I believe that such breeders, such owners, who could afford to purchase any horse and wish to purchase the best horse in the world, have indeed done so by the Haflinger.

This proof is very, very important for us and therefore we're proud of our famous breeders who have chosen the Haflinger breed.

The next horse in line is Rūga, also a mare who can be seen in the show under saddle and with children. And we hope that with Donny Verkammen in Belgium with the fifth generation will also prove itself in the future. When we are dealing with generations, then naturally the development of our world shows is also a consideration.

I want to extend my thanks in advance to all the exhibitors who have made this world show truly a world show. There really are individual winners, because a winner can only be a winner when there are at least 20 competitors in the show. Sport is nothing without competition. A breed competition is nothing if there aren't enough horses to compete and at this show we really had plenty of competitors.

The World Haflinger Federation, founded in 1975, also active in the World for the last 35 years, has today 29 member organisations.

The first Haflinger world show, allocated by the World Haflinger Federation, was in 1990. There were 61 stallions exhibited and 346 mares, for a total of 407 horses. From then forward, the momentum continued upwards, but I believe that we have now come to the absolute high point. In 1995, there were 67 stallions and 569 mares, 2000 had 90 stallions and 647 mares, in 2005, 101 stallions and a total of 692 exhibited horses. This year in 2010 we've set a new record with 112 stallions and a total of 717 participating horses. For this, I wish to extend my most sincere thanks, for those who have come from all over the world to Ebbs: your appearance here is not your responsibility, but your pride in presenting your accomplishment. When one has seen and heard the international competition atmosphere here, then one comes to understand how attractive the Haflinger breed is: once more, my deepest thanks, also to our dear Haflinger friends from Germany, Italy, Belgium, and many other nations from around the world. Thanks as well in particular to our spectators, some of whom came here from the Netherlands, who have been a wonderful and fair audience that has helped create a great atmosphere.

But also the reserve winner generation line that's coming to us now demonstrates special qualities. Perhaps it isn't quite so easy when one becomes older: as I said yesterday, she is a year younger than the other first generation mare, but some horses age earlier than others. Cushing syndrome, perhaps not known to everyone, is an equine disease that appears in older horses that is treatable, but not easily cured; this is why Annette appears today outfitted in a thick coat. However, this mare appears in the ring today with pride and a love of life despite this, perhaps because of her progeny. Annette has been a frequent winner at world shows in the past but came in last place (24th) in her class in this show. Regardless, she appears with her progeny here in this lively generational presentation.

In her time she was perhaps one of the most beautiful Haflinger mares in the world, though naturally today this is no longer the case. The back is weakened, but she exhibits a tremendous fertility rate and has won world championships. Behind her is the second generation: the mare Astra. We will see Astra another two or three times today, and she won best of class as well. She was, above all, the world champion mare with the best progeny and was the winner in the generations competition. I believe that such a mare is unique and she is something special for me personally: just a few days ago, I think on Wednesday, I gave an interview to a television station and was asked by the interviewer, which horse is your favorite? To this I replied, my favorite horse is one who hasn't yet won. She was always towards the front, I believe she came in second place five times, but she had never yet won – that was my favorite horse. He then absolutely wanted to know which horse this was, but I didn't want to answer right away. After the third inquiry, I finally answered that my favorite horse in the world was the mare Astra. That she achieved her biggest success



at 17 years of age bolsters all of our confidence, I think. If one shows poorly as a yearling, or doesn't place well as a three year old, or even isn't at the top of the heap as a nine year old, it doesn't mean that one has reached the end of the line. The true quality of a breeding mare in a breeding show is demonstrated with the progeny which can only be impressively demonstrated later in life. But she is actually the second generation in this progeny of mares, and when you see the charm, the eye, the alert expression, the motherly figure – perhaps her back is a little but-weak, along with the other mares behind her, but possessing plenty of charm and motherliness – that is what we want to see in Haflingers. We don't want a small warmblood horse, we don't want an oversized Arabian, we don't just want a show horse – we want a motherly, hard-working, leisure horse with charm and perfect character. I believe this family represents this in particular, and naturally so does the following mare, Aspirina, owned by the Berchtold family from Innsbruck, who was world reserve champion mare at the last world show. Today she is included in this generation line and is probably very, very proud of her daughter, the mare Athena, who won the overall youth champion of the Haflinger World Show 2010. And that, too, is a success – not just winning once for beauty, not just becoming world champion horse a single time, but above all maintaining a focus on this quality to which the judges here have attested and praised and thusly named her world champion mare, and passing this quality along to the next generation. A true world champion must also be evidenced in her progeny. Without equally successful progeny to confirm the quality of the genetic line, success in the breeding line cannot be ensured. When one looks at this presentation, then per-

haps for the breeders on the outside, one can see exactly what horse breeding means – namely, thinking in generations. I mainly wanted to retract that one can clearly see exactly the same type in this family. Often one hears that when a horse is hollow, the stallion owner is to blame. And when the foal is bad, then it is the stallion's fault; when the foal is good, then the breeder deserves the credit. Unfortunately, oftentimes the mare is completely forgotten.

And when one sees these horses in the ring and looks at both generation lines, one sees four and five generations of horses who logically each had a different father. These five mares with their five different fathers, and the next four, also with four different fathers. But look at the profiles of these horses! Are they not all very similar, are they not all nearly the same type and model? If the stallion was the most important thing, then each of these mares should look like their sire. When the mares look like their mother, their grandmother, and their great-grandmother, then you will see what I'm trying to say. Please always consider the mare in breeding, not just the stallion, since a great maternal line in breeding will ensure successful progeny, the genetic safeguard over generations, the actual prerequisite for success in breeding – this is what is proven with these two generation lines. I wish to thank the following people for the presentation of these horses: the Berchtold family, Donny Verkammen, Gerhard Berger and the Fohlenhof Ebbs for a really beautiful overall presentation that has shown us that true breeding success can only come from a distinguished maternal line, not by chance or from the greatest stallion on earth. Rarely will a world champion be born to a second-rate mare.



To this end, I implore breeders to be considerate in the future; this is why we discourage crossbreeding with other breeds. We wish to continue pure-breeding and thereby ensure the genetics over the resulting 20 generations without undesired or uncalculated effects. We have achieved everything we want through pure-breeding. We have refined the perfect leisure horse; when one examines the breeding lineage, the effortlessness and elegance, it is clear that we've established dominance with breeding. Let us not bring defects into the breed from crossbreeding practices which would divide future generations.

In our next presentation we will be looking at some of the mares again, namely those of the first family. Now we will see the mares with their progeny; this is the first high point in a breeding show with this interesting presentation. Because it is not just important to maintain quality over generations, but it is perhaps even more important that the mare inherits the dominant quality. Not a good foal here, a bad there, and no foal at all for the third, but rather for a breeder it is most important for the breeding stock to present consistent quality dominance. So it was for the winning family that has been selected, and it was my personal joy to see this honor conferred on the mare Astra, a mare that is very close to my heart. She is in the ring with three stallions from various age categories, one of whom is the stallion Newstyle placed at Johann Maier in Wiesing from the Tyrolean association. I pray that this handler of the stallion resist from any actions that may make us laugh. Normally he is the one who sees to it that everyone is in stitches from laughter; thank you Johann Maier, because without laughter and humor, breeding wouldn't be any fun. Too much seriousness with animals leads one to view situations from a single angle and probably lose sight of other important aspects. Maier Hansi is most certainly a true horse lover, an ardent Haflinger breeder, and he also ensures that we are entertained and gives both presenters and visitors the chance to relax. A sincere thank you for that as well, dear handler of Newstyle. Behind them, I'm especially pleased to inform you that we have a breeding partnership that travelled a long, long way to be here today. I believe it's nearly 1400 km that this horse has travelled, 1400 km down from central Sweden and it will be another 1400 km back; nearly 3000 km combined to attend this Haflinger world show. When we Tyroleans say, ugh, it is so important to leave the show three hours earlier, and I would prefer to be home on Sunday afternoon rather than here in a tent. What do you think that the Thorné and Andersson families will say when tomorrow they head back north in their truck another 1400 km back to Sweden, probably not to arrive home before Tuesday evening! For this, our deepest thanks! Not just for the presentation of this beautiful stallion, but for giving us and all the breeders renewed motivation to walk through the valley, begin anew and forget our daily cares; this, I believe, is what we all need.

Only when we truly believe in this breed, when we place our personal affinities in the background, when we dedicate ourselves to this breed rather than individual persons, only then can we achieve as much success with breeding in the future as we have to date. To this end, I want to ask also this in the future: Nachtmann, himself a stellar model, will hopefully produce many offspring in Sweden who will develop into good mares and stallions.

The last stallion in this family with the number 102 is a yearling stallion and while he shows the same vibrancy, requires more time to develop. A yearling stallion from the herd will naturally not give the impression of a full-grown stallion as yet, but one can observe the good breeding that will hopefully develop later, and the potential is certainly recognisable.

Now we come to the female animals in this group led by the mare Aspirina who we've seen earlier, because this mare owned by the Berchtold family from Innsbruck was also in the generation group. This family of breeders is most likely very proud, as this group of mares has three individual progeny alongside the former reserve world champion Aspirina, the number 315 Alexandria, who is over-all world champion mare in 2010. And here we have exactly the model that we are aiming towards. I also believe what I said with the stallions: more than athleticism, though this is naturally impor-



tant because we breed for sport uses, but the versatility is also very important. In the show I always say there are different breeds of horses for different usages: there are baroque horses, like Lipizzaners or Andalusians for baroque styles of riding, there are Arabians for long distance rides, imprecise but fast and a little crazy. There are trotters that are meant only to trot on the race track and have otherwise no duties, there are pure dressage horses and show jumpers that are specialised warmbloods, there are special horses to drive, the Kladruber, for example, a classic old Austrian horse breed. There are ponies for the children and coldbloods for working. Why do we need seven, ten, or fifteen different breeds when we can have one breed that combines all these characteristics – that is the Haflinger.



One can do with the Haflinger everything they want to, perhaps not all to absolute perfection, but for 99% of horse users, the Haflinger is the ideal horse. For this reason, we want horses like Alexandria, who radiate charm and femininity, simultaneously modern, with well-defined withers, a lovely saddle bearing, oval ribbing that is both sufficiently long and with a fine fundament, dry, clear with a an elastic movement with a swinging back. Even the connection between individual body parts is tight and harmonious with a sloping shoulder: this is what a true champion horse should look like. A long length of stride is only possible with the correct limbs and a good angle in the hind quarters, which she demonstrates even while in the ring by reaching three horse owners. There is also ideal ground cover in her stride, ladies and gentlemen. Such horses, such models, will conquer the world even more in the future.

But also Akropolis behind her, the third mare of the Berchtold family in this lineage and the sister of the world champion mare; she is also a very similar model. Perhaps a little more harmonious, rounder and not quite as modern, but they are both equally wonderful examples. And look at the heads, beginning at mare 161 to 315, then 473 to 559. Just look at the head and you will see that Astra has handed down this dominant quality to her progeny year after year, and year after year has produced top-level horses, which is just what we want to see.

The second mare family from Gut Hochreit demonstrates this dominant, modern high quality passed through generations in the same way. Gut Hochreit is in Salzburg and is a breeder of the Tyrolean Association and one of the most beautiful Haflinger farms I know. It consists of two stables, one of which is Winterstellgut. If you ever want to see a Haflinger paradise, you should visit them in Annaberg. It is both a Haflinger stud farm and a wonderful guesthouse with paddocks as far as the eye can see, all built in traditional Austrian style from wood; Winterstellgut in Annaberg is a lovely day trip destination. Now we would like to welcome the mare Naomi to the ring from Gut Hochreit in Saalfelden with her daughters Namira and Nebula. You see only three mares here, but oftentimes it's quality rather than quantity that is most important. And here we have three very lovely horses, all three of whom are equally modern and upon closer examination, you can see that the differences between the families are really nuances. There is not actually a huge difference to observe, and that is exactly what the commission has noticed in the last few days; there is a density of quality that has spread enormously wide. Today, it is no longer the case that there is a vast difference between the horse in first place and the horse in fifth. It is no longer so that one can know who the winner will be from the outside; it has become extremely difficult to determine and yesterday even the commission widened the number of champion nominations. Many different elements came into question to filter out the best of the best and it was not an easy decision. This family, despite consisting only of three mares, was selected as second best Produce of Dam because the mare is herself so incredible, it is difficult to keep quality for the next generations.

I want to extend my gratitude to the breeding farm here, because they are proof that a lot can be accomplished in a fairly short time in terms of breeding. There must not always be an enormous investment in the initial purchase. Granted, at some point one must invest some money, but then one needs patience and time; one may need

two generations of horses, or perhaps three, before they achieve success. But when one strives for greatness, they will certainly achieve it. Haflingers are a guarantee as far as that goes, and we want to remain so in the future.

Congratulations to the Berchtold family, Andersson-Thorné, and the stud farm Wiesing with Johann Meier, and Ried Norbert, who I apologise for nearly forgetting, and of course the wonderful yearling Ajumeirah should not be overlooked. As the youngest here in the ring, she is the same type and model as the others, though she was overlooked at first by many and undervalued at her purchase, today her breeder has proven that he has a good eye and she is a superlative breeding model from a family of champions.

As we said earlier, we have done an incredible amount of developing recently, illustrated above all in the permanent shift of dominance in the bloodlines. We have a similar number of breedings taking place now in comparison to 1985. 1985 marks the date of my first big show as breeding director; at the international show that year, the A-line was absolutely dominant. If one looks at the history of breeding according to the lines, 2009 (the foals born that year) is turning point, because for the first time the N-line was expanded larger in Tyrol than the A-line. There was only a difference of four more foals, but it is a turning point nonetheless, as it was the first time that the A-line had been overtaken. The lines are better apportioned when one takes a closer look at 1985, a somewhat sad truth is that the M-line had nearly 250 breedings and was second in dominance to the A-line, whereas last year this line had only 6



breedings. It dropped from second place to dead last, and the N-line rose from fifth place to first. So, very serious changes in bloodline dominance. This is also proof that breeders constantly change their focus to where the champion horses are, the successful progeny, the lines going in the direction we want to go.

And that is what we wish to show here, with our largest presentation of this show summary. We will now present (and we'll need a little more room to do so) 65 horses in a single Sire collection. 65 horses are coming in the ring now, of which 14 are stallions. This is a presentation the likes of which is very rare; not to say it is entirely unique, as it was Amadeus that has presented the largest family at one time, but today this is a new Sire champion collection to be



presented as a symbol for all others. This is the stallion Nordtirol with his progeny that have been chosen as best in the world. I think it's really something special when a stallion with 65 offspring is presented in a world show; 65 horses that are good enough to be at the largest horse show in the world and for nearly all of them to be considered class Ia.

As I said, a stallion with that many quality offspring is certainly something special. Altogether there were 25 entries that we saw. This collection is an example for the others. There were many groups that could have been named the winner; there were many groups that could have been named reserve winner or third place. There were very few groups who had no chance at going home with a ribbon. That is also the sign of a good family of mares and the breedability; one realises that there is no end in sight when one sees all the horses in the arena, all the sons and daughters of the first stallion above in the exit. That they all belong to one family is confirmation that the success of the breed is genetically ensured with this purebred Haflinger stallion. There is still no end in sight, still more countless mares are coming in, not just from Tyrol but from the whole world. Among them are, for example, Robert Glauser from Switzerland with Northwest, Frank Smeltink with the stallion Nordsee from the Netherlands, Donny Verkammen from Belgium with his stallion Noreia, Jean Stockemer from Luxembourg with Newlook, Andersson Thorné from Sweden with the stallion Nachtmann, Neidhart from the Netherlands, Gerhard Berger from Monaco with the mare Relie, Norb Schumacher from Luxembourg with his mare Pascal, and many more from various regions in Austria... So the progeny of this stallion are really spread all over Europe and they will bear his name out into the world and throughout the Haflinger world. Nomen est omen: North Tyrol won't just be considered the cradle

of Haflinger breeding and Fohlenhof Ebbs in North Tyrol won't just be the world center of Haflingers, but Nordtirol (in English North Tyrol) is also the name of the stallion who won World Champion Get of Sire with 65 offspring. I think that each of the 65 horses here can feel a little like a world champion in their own right, since they belong to the collection headed by the stallion, as father, that is here presented to the world as the overall champion. In total, Nordtirol has 65 horses, two best of class winners, four reserve winners for best of class, two third place winners, four fourth place winners and only 6 horses who were categorised in class 1b. That means that over 90 percent were placed in class 1a, from which there were 8 horses that are going home with special awards.

This presentation, for me, is the most beautiful of the show review. Seeing all the progeny of the stallion and looking down the line at them; simply taking the time to look at each individual animal and look at their type – the horses are nearly all the same. One hears so often from laymen “how can you tell the horses apart, they all look the same,” because for a layman, all they see are a chestnut horse standing 1.47 m tall with a white mane. But here we are all experts, and as experts we look at the heads, examine the coat color, look at the fundament: you will see that Nordtirol can be distinguished from the others. One can oftentimes see the father, even when the mare's line is the dominant influence, but there are also dominant fathers and these dominant fathers are also the future of our breed.

Thanks to all the breeders who have brought their mares and stallions to take part in this huge collection of Get of Sire. I believe that this is one of the most beautiful presentations and when we really reflect on this, then we will realise that it is exactly this on which we can count worldwide; namely, the dominant father animal with an overall excellent progeny that has expanded throughout the world.



Very quickly I want to return to the bloodline allocations; I have described for you the bloodlines as developed in Tyrol, but the picture changes slightly when considering the whole world.

In terms of worldwide Haflinger breeding, the N-line hasn't seen much of a change. 1988 had 313 stallions, 1995 was 312 and 2004 was 306. Internationally, therefore, the N-line is very constant. A reversed picture is seen with the A-line where it trended upwards internationally: 1980 saw 133 A-line stallions, then 304, 395 and today 465; nearly three times as many today while the N-line simply remained the same. Internationally, it should be our goal to preserve and sustain all seven bloodlines as much as possible with absolute purebreeding.

My deepest thanks to all the exhibitors for this beautiful presentation that is shown to us here. I haven't mentioned all of them, but rather just a few of our international guests, but of course our own Tyrolean breeders and owners are very important and dominant in this collection of progeny. Among them is the stallion Noweit from Lienz from the Winkler barn: thanks to him as well. Maier Hansi was also here with another stallion in the ring, and now is here with Newstyle in this Get of Sire. The stud farm Nauders is also represented by Siegfried Spöttl and his stallion Nemo, along with Nihilist from Längenfeld stud farm with Reinhold Hausegger and Nikora from Reutte stud farm with Klaus Kurz. Our Tyroleans here are representatives for all breeders who wish to propagate the N-line further and show the next generation after Nordtirol, acknowledgment for their efforts.

That brings us to our next presentation: the youth stallion championship. We will now see all the youth stallion champions from the following categories: yearlings, two year olds and three years olds. We have said that we aren't just presenting the winners but also the reserve winners, so in the row you will see now winners and runners-up; above all with the three year olds this overall result is important. This here is our next generation of breeding stallions, our next generation of perhaps future champions and reserve winners at world shows that must first prove themselves at breeding. Without proving that they are the best stallions for breeding, these horses will naturally not appear at the next show. They have to first undertake breeding, and in breeding they must demonstrate, they must show, that they have earned a championship position and show in the future what older stallions have shown and proven today. The development to become a breeding stallion still waits to be seen.

Right in front is the yearling stallion champion, Novemberschnee. I've thought a little that Novemberschnee in english translation his name would be Novembersnow is a symbol for this Haflinger World Show: when we began on Wednesday, it was only 7 degrees Celsius and the May snow came down from the mountains to us. We had a horrible start, but that only made today more beautiful. This stallion is here from Michael Gurschler from Sölden – a ski destination, hence the name Novemberschnee – that may also act as a symbolic name for the breeder. Names aren't always arbitrary with breeders; sometimes they have a meaning behind them. The November snow in Ötztal is very important since ski season begins in November, for which they need snowfall in November. We need a stallion like Novemberschnee for the future of Haflinger breeding and I believe that it is also very, very important that we have Novembernebel, a

son of the stallion Nordtirol that was recently seen as one of the third generation of this champion stallion that stands for world champion quality throughout generations. Here we are already advanced four generations: not just Nabucco as grandfather, then Nordtirol as the dominator with his progeny, not Novembernebel, shown to be the second best Get of Sire, but one generation further with Novemberschnee.

One can already see with this yearling the wonderful effortlessness that this horse radiates, and yet also possesses enough body. As we've already said many times, a horse may not be too light; a Haflinger should not look like a greyhound, thin and under-nurtured, but rather in beautiful physical harmony, with a lovely physical build. This young stallion is a very promising model and I'm happy to have had this yearling bred by Michael Gurschler of Sölden here with us in the yearling stallion herd. In the second position, born and bred here at Fohlenhof, is the champion of the two year old stallions, a stallion who may very well be one of the last of Amadeus' sons. Amadeus unfortunately passed away two years ago, but though he is not himself with us today, we have his 78 offspring and Amedi is of his last generation, his last progeny that we see here today. Born



from the mare Ravella, his head is perhaps a bit too arabian, but the rest of his body, his neck, his long withers are superb; see here the close confirmation, and the long, muscular croup, here is the appropriate mechanics one should see in a two year old. All together a very charming horse and an appealing young stallion with a lot of hope for the future.

As a spectator, one should also observe the following: that is the difference in expression of sex between stallion and mare!

With the young animals this is not yet as dominant as it must be later. Naturally one should be able to discern a masculine expression, but a young Haflinger stallion won't appear to be a full-blown typical



model for a stallion until he is at least four years old. Stallions who are four or older develop their masculine appearance and a stronger physique due to hormones. These young stallions currently in the ring appear to be young rather than masculine and dominant like the older stallions we saw earlier, but they will develop more with each passing year.

I would like to acknowledge once again in this context that I'm proud that we're here in Tyrol and these stallions both come from the Tyrolean Association, raised in the old style, as they were 100 years ago or even 10,000 years ago – naturally and in their herd.

Not kept separately or fed individually, no training, no preparation, but kept within the herd itself. Even during the show these two stallions were kept behind in the stable with their herd. We don't want to make them feed individually in the shows environment, so instead we allow them to continue their natural upbringing. We want to leave them with the herd, discover who the lead stallion is, which horse asserts itself best against nature. A horse that cannot assert themselves in the herd is not a champion.

A loser within the herd will never have the strength to bring our next generation of horses where we want to go. Only stallions that prevail within the herd, stallions that develop beyond that, that grow and then flourish when trained for tasks – only these can give us a respected progeny line.

Let us not be distracted by a pretty face, let us not allow the beauty of nature to cloud our judgement; we must see through the make up and select the horse that will become a champion out of nature. And those are naturally raised young stallions.

The last two are the champion and reserve champion in the category of three year old stallions. Here we have true breeding stallions with some more masculinity, though they still appear young, and still haven't developed to where they likely will in time.

The horse that has been selected for champion stallion as well as overall youth champion is the stallion Walzertraum, here seen as number 80.

This stallion, as I said yesterday, is simply phenomenal! At one and a half years of age, this stallion broke two of his cervical vertebrae; he was lame and couldn't stand on his own. But despite this setback, we didn't give up on him. We brought the horse to a clinic in Munich and tried to heal him for two months; it worked. There is a cervical vertebra a hand's width away from the spinal column, protruding under the mane; one can see a vertebra completely off to the side, but the horse doesn't have any indicators of lameness, doesn't show any handicap, and has even gone so far as to be selected champion here. He is living proof that one can't just give up, but must believe in the impossible. Often a little too much medicine is better than too little, but only when dealing with the health of the horse and not unfair competition. This belief paid off for the stallion Walzertraum, bred by Hermann Gruber from Kolsassberg. Best wishes to Hermann Gruber for your best of class stallion! You were probably not thrilled in February during the stallion inspections, when this stallion placed third, but today or yesterday he was named champion, not just of his category but of all youth stallions. One realises that in a short time, small changes are possible. But that is also a good sign that not just a single ideal stallion exists, but rather several. The Tyrolean inspection winner placed third, the inspection second place

winner remained in second place, and the inspection third place winner became the champion; an internal shift within just a few months. I believe that this shows successful breeding, not yielding single products but rather several different ideal models.

In second place is the youth reserve winner Stilton. This stallion was bred by the Pfausler family from Roppen and he stands at stud in Imst at the stallion station of Engelbert Posch; he just may be Nabucco's successor. His progeny must first be proven. But when one also examines the mare families, who are counted among the world's best, when one looks at the charm, the facility of his ancestry, then one realises that this stallion has a successful future in breeding, even if or better because of he was named second place winner here. Abba and Davos, the mothers of these two young stallion champions, are also success stories.

Thank you for presenting these young stallions to us; I now invite them to exit the ring. It is also interesting, ladies and gentlemen, when one sees that in 1970 (forty years ago), the Haflinger was in the public meaning the number one horse breed in Austria. But this was probably just public perception and not actual fact, since our statistics show that in 1970 there were 3000 Haflingers in Austria and 5000 Noriker horses. Today we are about equal in strength of numbers; in 1990 there were more Haflingers than Noriker horses. Only one breed, that has been the strongest breed in Austria for the last 50 years, the breed that was thought to be threatened by extinction, and the smaller breed – this is the world horse breed.

Sometimes attitudes, opinions or perceptions aren't exactly correct, especially when government support occur as a result of them.

And with that we come to the next category: stallions.

Here one can see the full force of championship horses – the future, the present, but naturally also with these older stallions, the past.

We have here in the ring all four categories of champions and





reserve winners. Let's begin with the oldest and work our way down to the youngest of them. The oldest, and I will come back to them again later, are definitely not and by no means the worst, but their ideal quality of the past is the basis for their championship today. The first champion stallion, Abendstern, followed by Nordtirol. Two stallions whose story has already been told at this show: Abendstern, because he has once again been selected as overall world champion stallion, and Nordtirol, because he is the sire of the best offspring in the world as presented here.

These older stallions have proven here that they are still forces to be reckoned with, and as I said earlier with the stallions, this personally gives me hope. Success in breeding doesn't end after a few years, but continues long-term.

Abendstern has been at every single world show since his birth in 1995 as a three month old colt with his mother Dorlis in the show and not only that year an individual horse. Simply to be at every world show is a success, but every single show since his first one, Abendstern has also won the honor of overall champion stallion – this is really something very special. Since 1995 he has consistently been the most beautiful stallion in the world and he has also claimed multiple European titles and all the awards in Tyrolean stallion shows for overall champion stallion.

In other words, to date, this horse has yet to compete at a world show and *not* win; this is truly something unique.

That is definitely something special, and when one looks at him closer – he has right now for those of us observing him in the middle of the ring his mane on the wrong side, unfortunately – but for those of you in the grandstands, you can see why this dream stallion has been a champion for the last 15 years as nothing blocks the view of the neck and the whole horse.

This harmony, this wonderfully harmonious conformation: there is no corner, no edge. This horse shows when one starts at the eye, moves over the beautiful arabian head, the always-attentive ear, the beautiful neckline and the well-defined and dominant withers that stretches far into the back. Then the beautiful, close upper line and the gently dipping back that appears to be the height of comfort offered by any horse. Then this beautiful croup, something which always is critiqued in Haflinger breeding; this horse has it, the perfect long, muscular croup that we're looking for.

And the entire conformation is an upwards-forwards structure; when you look at the withers, they are noticeably higher than the croup. In many horses, the croup and withers are on par with one another, but here the withers are higher than the croup because this horse is a model of an upwards conformation. Then the beautifully angled hindquarters (which are naturally a part of the close line conformation), with the straight front limb placement and thereby extending the harmony downwards: this is what makes this horse so special. Apart from that, his progeny have won the overall youth mare championship and third place in Get of Sire, indicating that his progeny have also had success. He is also the star in terms of riding in this show. Beauty, outstanding progeny, aptitude for sportiness, and above all charm, character and temperament – these belong to the world champion described above.

I have already described Nordtirol for you; he is naturally also a fabulous model: light, wiry, he is now perhaps more an extreme sport

athlete. He looks like a triathlete: trained, wiry, not an extra ounce of weight – that is Nordtirol, a proper extreme sport star.

The next age category is led by Novembernebel, a son of Nordtirol. I can still remember it clearly – when this foal was born in 2001 here at Fohlenhof Ebbs to the mare Rijana, who was herself European champion and class champion at the world show the previous year, everyone stood gaping in front of the new foal. He was probably the most beautiful foal that we had seen here at Fohlenhof Ebbs up until that point. He was over a meter tall with excellent conformation: he was light, he was beautiful, and in the euphoria of that first look that every breeder feels, something was overlooked – two white feet. Two weeks later came the first shock: the first white foot was discovered, and then a few days later the second one was found as well. Everyone said, "Oh no, a Haflinger with two white feet! The most beautiful foal and now suddenly two white feet – no one wants that. No breeder will allow him to stand at stud... what should we do with our beautiful stallion foal now?"

Then came the stallion candidacy selection and the commission debated, I can still imagine it as though it were happening today, and asked themselves, "What do we do now? The most beautiful foal, but with two white feet. If it were only one... but two white feet, no, that will never work."

The foal was not selected as stallion candidate, but the stubborn Tyrolean breeding director thought, we need a good riding gelding anyway, let's add him to the herd. That was the only horse that was ever added to the herd as a young stallion with the idea that he would be a riding horse only someday, and today he is the best of class, and reserve winner with his progeny. Breeders, and I, have accepted his two white legs, and for that I thank the breeders. A horse has no colours – that doesn't fully apply for Haflingers, but we must let a little slide if the horse is otherwise a perfect model and type for our breeding goals.

He has developed into a wonderful jumping horse, as you saw in the show. He is harnessed in a single-horse carriage, jumps, quadrilles, and is a dynamic all-around horse, very sporty, enormous size and good dominant genes in breeding. If you have a mare that is slightly too small, breed her with Novembernebel and the proper size for the next generation is almost guaranteed. He has shown us time and time again that his progeny tend to grow to about 1.50 m tall; we don't want the breed to become much taller than that. 1.55 m is actually the height limit what we are going to establish very soon.

I want to say here clearly and with certainty: Haflingers may not stand higher than 1.55 m, this definitely should be our height limit. Behind him is the reserve winner, the stallion Wolfgang. Wolfgang is a stallion with a moving face and comes from the stud farm Weer, which by the way is the only station owned by a local association. The association, chaired by Romed Posch, is the only local Tyrolean association with its own stud farm. It isn't easy to find someone who is hardworking and shows commitment that can care for the stallions on a daily basis who doesn't have their own farm already, but is content to work for the stud farm, the stallions, the association and the breeders in the region. The past wasn't always easy. I must say that the stallion Wolfgang was always a bit of a problem child. One of the most beautiful stallions that we have and not in perfect position, but as fortune would have it the Kirchmair family moved to Weer



and since then our stallion Wolfgang has become a success story. And when I say he is a success story, I mean that this stallion is proof that demeanor, feeding, care and above all the aura of contentment that a stallion has, is what makes him what he is: a beautiful stallion. Without the proper preparation, without affection and daily work, it is rare that you will produce a champion.

Wolfgang has come into his own nicely and has a wonderful group of offspring; many, many mares from far away are lining up for him, also because he can prove that he is successful despite being somewhat up and down with breeding. But he is really a stallion that has pushed through to success; perhaps he hasn't always had luck with breeding with the right mares, but when he is bred to a mare with a respectively high level of quality, he has passed quality along to his progeny.

One champion, two reserve champions, two third places and a fourth place: from his progeny that are presented here at this world show in his group of offspring.

Behind them is the stallion Stainz, another stallion that fills me with much joy.

I can still remember when the ST-line was still in its infancy with the stallion Stürmer during the time of Midas and a little before, so at some point in the 70s; this stallion was actually the first modern stallion. At that time he was much more modern than the stallion Afghan. He was the first stallion of enormous size, very well-defined withers and a light neckline. He was the first stallion that was light and fine, but this stallion unfortunately died from poisoning only a few years after he began to stand at stud. Two stallions came in contact with poison simultaneously; was it an accident, something in the food, but at any rate this stallion was taken from breeding far too early.



But now we are four generations down the line and we have Stainz as overall reserve champion stallion standing in front of us. Stainz is perhaps not an only sporty stallion, but he is a very harmonious horse; very similar in his model and aura to the stallion Abendstern: a very similar closeness, harmony, close lines and lots of movement, not just sportiness, but also charm and expression. He is also sporty, however, because we've seen him in the show: if you had the opportunity to see him in the arena on the long reins, or observed him with a sulky, you will know that Leiter August from Niederthai has bred a stallion with all-around quality that promises much for the future.

Once again we come back to Ötztal. The former chairman from Ötztal, ÖR Erich Scheiber will be happy to see the name Ötztal come up so often; not just because there was almost only a single family (the Scheiber family) who was in the association 20 years ago, whereas today there are over a hundred members, but also because this region has become one of the most successful breeding areas. This is how Stainz came to be from Ötztal, along with the stallion Nihilist, the reserve winner, who is from the stallion station Längenfeld by Reinhold Hausegger. Congratulations to this horse as well, bred by Annemarie Rauch in Kelchsau, one of the most famous breeders in the country.

He is also kept at an exemplary stud farm which holds sport activities all year round. Riding in the summertime, and you should also come to Längenfeld for Haflinger Winter on January 6th so that you can experience Haflingers in winter sport activities.

From Skijoring, single or pairs, sleighs, expert riding and horse racing, Haflinger Winter features everything that the Haflinger can do in wintertime. Right there on the stud farm, you can see Haflingers with their winter coats, and you will see that a Haflinger with full winter coat is just as beautiful pulling a sleigh as he is here today in the arena.



Now we return to Annemarie Rauch whom we just spoke of, because she is the breeder of the next stallion, Alphonso, winner among the four and five year old stallions. Also bred by Annemarie Rauch, he is an offspring of Abendstern. Father and son are here together in the ring as champion stallions and the son demonstrates a very similar model to the father. The young stallion perhaps doesn't have as strong a stallion expression yet, but he may develop in this direction and due to the extreme feeding necessary at Fohlenhof in winter, his ground color may not be as bright as usual. But you can probably imagine: stallions that stand at stud must service 60 to 70 mares, the mares are in foal, give birth and are then in foal again. At the same time all the horses must do show training for 2-3 hours per day, training in various disciplines, and must be fed accordingly. Lots of protein and pellets make the horses a little darker, which is probably what happened with Alphonso which likely cost him a point or two from his chances at a higher placement. But overall he is a great stallion, frequently used in breeding with over 70 covers, fine, light, elegant, and his first year of producing offspring has been very, very promising. Congratulations to breeder Annemarie Rauch and of course the Tyrol Association as owner of all champion stallions.



And last but not least, from the B-line, which is a great joy for me as breeding director, to see an example from such a rare bloodline making it to the final ring: the stallion Bergdorf.

This stallion, born to the mare Delina here at Fohlenhof, is a symbol for what breeders can accomplish when supported by breeding associations: support of rare bloodlines by going to stallions that may not be exceedingly popular at the moment but who possess good genes and crossing them with quality mares to ensure that the rare bloodlines gain popularity. Bergdorf (mountain village in English): a beautiful name for a beautiful stallion and I wish the best to all the mares who were bred to him this season and I've heard there were many of them, the very best success with breeding and we expect many beautiful foals next year along with a rebound in the B-line.

While the stallions exit the ring, I want to return to something that we've already touched on, namely the desired size. Over the last several decades this was a dominant theme in breeding debates, and now we've finally reached the ultimate size that we want. In 1897, Major Graf Huyn wrote that the Haflinger should be between 150 and 160 cm tall, so before 1900 the Haflinger was about 145 cm to 155 cm large, since the height was taken in tape measurement rather than the stick. In 1963 at the beginning of the international expansion of the Haflinger breed, the average height as notated in the stud book was 134.8 cm. In 1972, ten years later, it was 135.4 cm and in 1985 at the beginning of my position as breeding director, it was 138.3 cm. Twenty-five years ago the Haflinger was on average about 2 centimeters smaller than today's minimum measurement and more than 15 centimeters smaller than the horse at the beginning of the breed's definition. As we reach an average of 147 cm in 2010, we are actually at exactly the same spot that the breed began back when it was first established in 1900. This is a part of our success and an achievement of one of our long-term goals, that via purebreeding we've returned to the sizes that we hold as ideal.

The next presentation of our captivating Haflinger World Show 2010 are the young mare champions. Since we've just been discussing height measurements, perhaps I should tell you more about the sizes of yearlings. Yearlings measure on average 133.5 cm in March, which has remained fairly constant. In 2007, the average was 133.5 cm, the same in 2008, 10 mm more in 2009 and this year the average was 133.7 cm. Points also remain approximately the same and fairly constant each year as well (73.5). In 2007, the 200 yearlings reached 73.88 points on average, in 2008 the average was 73.71 points, 2009 was 73.83 and this year was 73.82 points; remaining within a 0.15 point range over four years as an average taken from thousands of judged yearlings, means consistently each year. Breeders don't have to worry that year to year will be more difficult or easy, or that last year was very easy or next year nearly impossible; they can depend each year on the exact same appraisal and maintenance of judging. This year the appraisals were under extreme conditions since the preselections occurred simultaneously; in one day 60 yearlings in the morning and 90 in the afternoon (a total of 150) were appraised, measured, branded, described, photographed, and given a chip. Even this is possible and still alongside a constant estimation with equal points.

Now joining us are the yearlings, two year olds and three year olds, beginning with the yearlings. The Jordan family with the champion

yearling Helianne demonstrates the exemplary Newstyle progeny with lots of charm and glamour, with a wonderful light forehead. Look at the line of this young filly, the front and back legs, how dry the fundament is not just in the champion, but throughout the ring: one sees the joint bones and the tendons and a shadow between them. Not an ounce of overhang, not the slightest indicator of a heavy fundament, but dry, light and fine: exactly what we're hoping for the Haflinger breed of the future. Congratulations to the Jordan family for their champion yearling.

But also look at the second place filly, Frijana from Rabl Sebastian from Wörgl in Tyrol, offspring of Novembernebel. She is also a beautiful model: see the lightness here as well, perhaps lacking a more expression-filled face but that may still develop in this yearling. Thank God, that in the presentations of the young horses, their development is not yet realised; they are still young. Frijana is a very modern, glamorous, fine horse.

Then we come to my tongue-twister of the last three days, the young mare Nobile. I think I've said the name Nobile about 20 times over the last three days, though I will be sure to make note of this name for the future since we will almost certainly see and hear more from a young reserve winner of this quality. Nobile has a very bright future ahead of her; she hails from Gut Hochreit and is an offspring of Aghai, a line seen very seldom at this world show because the stallion Aghai was not entered with his progeny, but rather has been seen only through this mare he bred. I don't think one could possibly want for a better forehead, neck, shoulder and withers line. The fundament is also fine: dry and elegant. She also demonstrates much promise and hope that she continues to develop in the way that the judges anticipate. A two year old, still developing, is exactly the ideal champion horse for me personally, because all of the possibilities in the world remain open.

The proportions do not yet line up together quite right – namely, the rounding and harmony have to come together and the femininity has to still develop – but there is still time for that and this horse will still improve. I am willing to bet on this, because this horse is not yet fully developed and shows much potential. Congratulations to Gut Hochreit.

Then behind them from Dietmar Schneider hailing from Höchst in Vorarlberg is the young mare Mandela, who we nearly forgot or rated incorrectly according to the list for today's presentation, who is also an offspring of Novembernebel. Congratulations to him. I'm fairly certain that when he purchased this foal, he didn't expect this run of success; the foal wasn't even allowed to be entered for the Ebbs auction because she was such a late born filly in May which excuses her a little. Too under-developed, she was a small foal with slight visual imperfections which will be less noticeable in the future. To protect the foal, that did not look properly that time as it could and to be sold therefore at a low price the foal was not allowed in the auction. But the filly has made her way and is now reserve winner and for that I wish to sincerely congratulate Dietmar Schneider, one of the most motivated breeders in Vorarlberg. We are happy to see Salzburg and Vorarlberg represented as the first and second place winners in the ring, representing two breeding regions that have long belonged to the Tyrolean association. Congratulations to both breeders.



Then comes the three year old mare class champion Athena, belonging to the Berchtold family from Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol. She is another daughter of Abendstern, the overall champion stallion who will come back again later. In addition to winning the three year old championship, Athena has also been named overall champion youth mare. We will come back to her later as well; this mare was bred by the Berchtold family themselves and I want to bring your attention to the incredible femininity, charm and harmony that this young mare already shows and also the enormous drive from the hindquarters. A few more words on Akropolis, the reserve winner. If we had known in 2007 what a disaster we would be experiencing with Greece, I don't know if we would have chosen the names of Athena and Akropolis. At any rate, Athena and Akropolis live together in the same barn with the Berchtold family – one an offspring of Abendstern, the other one of Nordtirol. Two world champions are the fathers of these two horses. Akropolis was the most expensive filly of the sale, and while the highest price doesn't always mean everything, this young mare has maintained her peak position over her three years. Though she's the reserve winner here, she was already class winner at the European show and was the winner this year at the stood book registration in Kematen. Now the two three year olds, Athena and Akropolis have traded places. Athena, a beautiful horse, a very good forehead, the same charm, the eye, fine fundament; there is nothing negative to say.

We come now to the high point – the last two presentations.

When I say "high point," this is not an indicator that we care less about the stallions, but rather than we had 100 stallions and 600 mares. With six times as many, it's only natural that the competition among the mares is very high, because to select the most perfect horses from 600 applicants is very strenuous work that as you saw, was completed by a jury of 15 members from 10 nations, a judging panel that represented Europe and the world.

From the USA, Great Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, and all over Europe the judges came here. Judges who have trained together under the World Haflinger Federation for the last 15 years, who have all completed a training course, who judge collectively and have also developed proficiency tests and breed standards collectively.

The education of a judge is an exemplar and very, very important for the breed as a whole. Only when we can judge collectively, when we select the same horses as models, when we have the same breed standards and ideals in mind, only then can the breed be successful long-term. Now let's take a look at the champions selected by the judges. There are a hundred others horses that also earned the right to stand here in this final presentation, but for the sake of brevity we will only be presenting the class winners.

With the older horses, the groups have horses of different age. That is something special, being named the best horse from an age group, of more years of bith, to be selected from thousands of horses birthed in the same year. And that begins with the ten year olds, followed by the nine, eight, seven, six, five and four year olds who have given birth.

And then there are the mares who haven't had foals this year, the maiden mares in the ring. This is a little smaller class, but to be fair these mares cannot be compared with the mares that have foals by

their sides. Mares with newborns by their sides look somewhat different: in the months between February and May, they give birth to their foal and keep it by their side, nursing up to 35 liters of milk a day. The mare practically produce the same amount of milk as a milking cow; in 6 months a newborn foal is already living independently. So it is not fair to compare nursing mares with foals at their side to mares who have been focusing on their training for the entire year. Therefore, there is a separation between maiden mares and broodmares.



There are many familiar faces among the broodmares, including the mare Astra, already described multiple times, here named champion of class and winner until the best offspring. Beautiful in her own right with a successful progeny, behind whom is the class champion mare Delina, also from Fohlenhof Ebbs and who we have described already. She is the mother of the stallion Bergdorf, one of the stallions we've described during this show commentary already; she is also a very successful mare with a past: she was overall champion mare of Europe and two-time champion at previous world shows. She is also, incidentally, the full sister of world champion stallion Abendstern.

Behind her is Relie, another mare we have seen already in the Produce of Dam competition, owned by Gerhard Berger from Monaco. Then there is the mare Soraia-Sissy, and naturally I also have to congratulate the Hauserwirt, as Johann Wagner from Münster is known to everyone as owner of hotel Hauserwirt. Soraia-Sissy is also a horse with a history. The breeder was disappointed very often, and frequently didn't reach the heights that he had imagined. But, as I've already mentioned, you should never give up. I have never given up and neither has Johann Wagner. Today he has finally succeeded for the first time to come out on top with this mare, at ten years of age; congratulations to Hauserwirt and his really very beautiful Alpenstein mare.

Behind her is Gut Hochreit's mare Namira – different horses, not the same animals, but the same breeding farm, both just with similar names. Namira is a daughter of Wegbereiter and was also bred by Gut Hochreit – a best of class champion from their own breeding. See here again the sporty type: the length in this horse, the neck length, the enormously long withers, the fine fundament and also the drive from the hindquarters that certainly makes this horse a special



mare and must also affect her riding abilities and bring her success. Behind her is the mare Daurela, a Winterstein mare who was already champion. She was three years old at the last world show and was named overall youth mare champion; now five years later this mare from the Fohlenhof is once more best of class. Her dominant qualities have remained constant over many years.

Behind them is the next category, seven year old broodmares with the mare Decolores. I have already spoken of her; she was born from the same cross (Davos and Straden) as the three year old stallion reserve winner Stilton. Here is the same breeding from the Pfausler family from Roppen: very similar in type and model, the same eye, the same harmony, the same closeness of line. Behind her is Melena who has also already had much success in the European show, where I believe she won. She belongs to Victoria and Helena Rauch from Schwendau im Zillertal. Here too is a horse with a history, as so many in the ring are; congratulations to Neuner family.



Then is the mare Alexandria, who we've already seen and will see once more, from the Berchtold family: champion of the five year olds.

Behind her is Desina from Fohlenhof, a Novembernebel mare who is the daughter of the last world champion mare who has unfortunately passed on. We needed to put her down after an accident, but today the mare Dematteo is represented here by her daughter. The daughter of the world champion mare and almost just as successful in the next generation as her mother. I am also personally very proud that my son Matthäus is presenting his horse completely on his own at 11 years of age.

With that we move on to the maiden mares, beginning with the champion Rimalda from Fohlenhof who was previously overall world champion mare, and has won every class she has entered excluding her first world show. In that show in 1990 she was entered as a yearling in the youth class, one of nine in her class. She was placed seventh that day, third to last, and from third to last she rose to world champion mare. Behind her is Monalisa-Marietta from the

Reinprecht family from Schwarzenberg, in the Bregenzerwald of Vorarlberg. A few words about the Reinprecht family. I don't think you can find more fantastic, enthusiastic, or true Haflinger breeders than Hadwig and Othmar Reinprecht. Truly enthusiastic breeders that push enthusiasm to its very limits, but I think these are exactly the kind of breeders we need; breeders that publicly support our organisations. When one is alone, one remains alone; it is only in an organisation that one finds a family, and for that I want to extend my sincere thanks for the Reinprecht family.

The mare, an Amadeus offspring, is also a very lovely model who represents our desired breed standards in modernity and type.

Then comes the mare Nataschka from Klaus Adamer from Breitenbach, a breeder who has survived many setbacks; often judged well, but never completely happy, but today the scales have balanced and he can be proud of his success. Klaus Adamer shows here a Straden mare in the ring, bred himself, and he can be very proud of this lovely model – very modern, harmonious, very light – congratulations to Breitenbach and the Angerberg association!

With that we come to the last presentation and the high point of the show commentary – the presentation of the overall world champions.

“There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics”, is an old expression that pokes fun at statistics being lies.

Everyone always believes that he is the best, he is the biggest, he is the most famous, he is the most beautiful, he is the most important association or breed. But there are also commendably objective numbers.

I want to share a few of these objective numbers with you today, since all of them can be proven and verified right away.

All of us use Google when we want to find something on the internet. If I want to find out who Norbert Rier is, then I google him and immediately discover the Kastelruther Spatzen. When I search for Haflingers, I can find them right away in the internet when I search in Google. And when I argue that we are the most popular breed of horse in Austria, then I can also go and search Google for this. Type in “Noriker” and you will receive 75,700 hits, or listings where the name or term “Noriker” is mentioned – approximately 75,000. Then type in: “Warmblut” [warmblood] and you will get 202,000. Then type: “Lipizzaner” the Austrian breed of horse and you will find 378,000 hits. Noriker, Warmbloods and Lipizzaners together yield a total of 655,700 hits. Now enter Haflinger and you will see 1,330,000 hits – you can't ask for more proof that Haflingers are the most important, famous and well-known breed!

The term Haflinger appears throughout the internet twice as often as the names of all three other Austrian horse breeds combined. I believe that is sufficient proof.

And if we want to add another few terms, like Icelandic, for example, even when Icelandic is associated with other things (like volcanic ash), we find it appears just as often: 265,000 hits.

There are 7 million hits for the word “horse,” so the Haflinger has about 20% in comparison to the term horse. So internationally renowned, the Haflinger has risen to such a world horse breed; I want to thank everyone from around the world who have made this possible. All the media who are responsible for this, all the breeders, all of you that have made the Haflinger name the global term in



horse breeding that it is today. And to those who think that the Tyrolean Haflinger costs too much money, I want to say that we could convince you over the last years and in the last few days that every penny of investment capital that was put into Fohlenhof was merited, that we have a world center here the likes of which doesn't exist anywhere else. That we've built a horse breeding facility that is a gem for the public hand, a gem for the public as well that has earned your support.

An a few more hits here as well. The stud farm Piber has 16,000 hits, the breeding center Stadl Paura 21,000 and Fohlenhof 33,000.

Fohlenhof Ebbs, therefore, has nearly as many hits as Piber and Stadl Paura combined. When one totals the sponsorship received, it accounts for about ten percent. So we needn't apologise for a single cent; believe me, every cent is perfectly invested here and applied exactly where it ought to be, in advertisements for the Haflinger as Tyrol's breed and in the breeders of the Tyrolean association, and not in the pockets of some official or operative – that I can guarantee you.

With that, let's get back to the horses – we now have in front of us the most beautiful of the beautiful, the champions of 2010.

We begin with the young colts that we first saw, but they should be mentioned once again: Walzertraum and Stilton.

These two were already in the ring once with the young champions and Walzertraum, as stated earlier, represents together with Wolfgang the future of the W-line.

Similarly, Stilton is the hope for the future of the ST-line together with proven stallions like Straden and Standschütz, but also with the stallion Stainz, a member of the ST-line who is on the way to future successes.

Abendstern, and this of course I am happy to repeat now, is a phenomenon: a stallion with fifteen years of constant placement at world champion level is truly unique. The jury did not have an easy time making a selection, I want to say that this was not an easy decision to reach. Does one move on to the young ones or remain with the old stallion; one hears people on the outside say "we probably haven't managed to breed anything better in the last ten years," or one can say in all honesty, that beauty remains beautiful even with age.

And exactly this decision is what the jury came to and they reached it with a large majority, making Abendstern the champion third time running. And this naturally brings me much joy, since all three components are found in this stallion, as was said earlier: successful breeding, beauty and usefulness. From this perspective, Abendstern is the worthy 2010 world champion. Best wishes once again to Abendstern and to all those who were responsible in part for his success.

Stainz is the reserve winner, who I have also already described; born in Ötztal, standing stud here at Fohlenhof and also used in riding and driving, since beautiful stallions must also be presented. Beautiful stallions and mares must be presented to the public all year round. Five days of world show are wonderful, five days of show are a hit for all of us, but we need to present our horses every day of the year; we need them to be friendly with children and prove this on a daily basis. Fohlenhof Ebbs has 150 riding members, of whom 120 are children, and is the largest riding club in Tyrol.

120 children, mostly young girls, join us year round to ride and are supported by the Tyrolean association. And that is also a part of breeding Haflingers: not just breeding, not just propagating, but running a breeding operation not just for quantity, not just for money, but so that the future of the breed is ensured. This is what we work for day after day and what we will continue to work for in the future.

Stainz is just such an example of an advertisement: he has been reared so that he will accomplish in the future much of what Abendstern has accomplished. He will be ridden dressage and prepared; how far along he will go is something we will only be able to tell in the future. But congratulations to the champion stallions and with that we come to the last presentation of the Haflinger breed show and world show 2010.

Before we come to the mares, ladies and gentlemen, let me first thank you. Thanks, not just joy, must have a place in my show comments; I want extend thanks now to the endless list that I have tried to shorten as much as possible.



Above all, I want to thank Chairman Hans Strobl, chairman of the Tyrolean Association and along with him, the Tyrolean Haflinger Breeders Association for organizing this show as a window for the world. Thank you very, very much for also supporting the breeding director of the Tyrolean Association, who occasionally goes his own way without asking questions or having much discussion. There is seldom time during our long days for discussion but this collaborative understanding, the support of the association and the belief of the board that the small town of Ebbs, the small Fohlenhof, the Haflinger association with its fifteen employees can fully produce a world show, this belief has made us all stronger. Thank you very, very much, my dear Hans Strobl, for your personal commitment throughout the whole year and above all for your trust in the direction of the association. Without international judges, this show could obviously not exist, so I want to thank all of our friends, and I believe that we've all become friends by now, for your support and your efforts which go uncompensated and often unrecognized throughout the year. Whenever someone is criticized at events like this, it is always the judges. So it is not always a joy to be a judge because the critique stops with them. For this I want to thank you for your efforts and your tireless fight for a unified breed standard. I also want to thank the employees here at Fohlenhof, especially Robert Mair, Anni Schwaiger at the office, Reini Gappmeier, Carina Koidl



and Magdalena Auer, Sabrina Stöckl, Gerhard Blassnigg, Caroline Böck, for the entire office team, Annemarie Wendlinger and all the other employees, especially the new employees.

It may have escaped some of you that in the last month the Fohlenhof team has been reduced by half of its numbers. A month before the world show we had many new employees at orientation; I wish the very best to all of those who have moved on in their future endeavors. And Fohlenhof will certainly replenish their ranks with employees. Special thanks especially to all the breeders in the Tyrolean Association, most of whom are unfortunately not here but who have helped for weeks with the set up and break down of this show and without whom we certainly would not have been able to organize the Haflinger World Show 2010. It rained for four weeks and we built the entire site in steady rains, and still managed to finish it on schedule. They will also help break it down. They worked through the night and cared for all the horses; as assistants they heard the occasional harsh word from me and for that I honestly apologise, not because I was incorrect, not because it was undeserved, but because it may have come out a little more harshly than I meant for it to after a long and hectic day. My very deepest thanks to all the organizers and helpers who are also responsible for this success. This show was a combined effort of Tyrolean breeders – thank you so much.

Next I would like to thank the national and international presenters – without international stars, without the entire world taking part in our show and bringing together over 200 horses from throughout Europe and even the USA, the Haflinger World Show wouldn't be possible. The number of visitors in attendance speaks for itself and I would also like to thank all of our international spectators for joining us. Thanks to all the fans who have come here and created this great atmosphere – thanks so much.

The kitchen staff has earned a thank you as well, headed by Ernesto and the St. Johann College of Tourism; the young ladies cheered us with their smiles on the driest day as well as the wettest and rainiest. Thanks to St. Johann College of Tourism for their help.

Thanks as well to the team of doctors, both Drs. Pötsch that cared for us here and the Red Cross, who were thankfully not often utilized in our show. Thank you to our team of doctors.

Naturally I would also like to thank our sponsors, the state of Tyrol and the republic of Austria – without their support, this show could not have taken place. Thank goodness we have very, very generous private sponsors who I will personally thank rather than publicly, but they have my thanks and all of our gratitude.

My thanks as well to the community, the fire and rescue services and security, who stood behind us during the stormy days and helped us build and break down in the middle of the night, evacuating horses and moving them elsewhere – thank you so very much.

Special thanks to the federal armed forces as well for their presentation and above all for their extensive assistance not just during Wednesday's rain catastrophe, but throughout the show. Thank you to Major Hager and your pack animal center Hochfilzen. And also to the community who helped us during our parking space emergency; thanks to Mayor Ritzer for his constant assistance over the last few days.

A special thanks to the media as well. Without television reports, the many newspaper articles, photography taken and shown throughout the world, without these media this success would have been much

smaller: a short 5 day success rather than a long-term achievement for the reputation of the Haflinger. Also our deepest thanks to the media representatives, especially Astrid Stadler and Thomas Ziegler, our media representatives who have assisted us over the last weeks and months and taken care to show the Haflinger in the right light. Thanks as well to the photographers here in the ring, and naturally to Westreicher Productions who give us these beautiful pictures on the screen – thanks very much.

Before I finish my thank-yous, I promise I'm almost done, another few critical words: You saw at first when we had problems with the media. Not all of the media made problems for us, just unfair comments from a small contingent of unimportant media from Tyrol that wanted to glean some political influence at the expense of the breeders and their success. We want to prevent this and have no part in it. You may be thinking that somebody is missing, and I wanted to save them until the very last: I want to thank my family from the bottom of my heart. You have seen that Fohlenhof belongs to the Tyrolean Association, that it belongs to all Tyrolean breeders, but also the Schweisgut family is an important part of it.

And to my wife, who for months hasn't just tinkered with the show, but has been in full service: thank you, my dear Moni, for all your efforts. You have impressed all of us, thank you. And thanks too to my youngest part of our family, my 11 year old son who already has 5 show points, was leading and preparing horses, was lifting hay bales and much more: thank you as well, my dear Matthäus. Someone else missing from the employee list of names is Hans-Lothar Holas, who doesn't seem like an employee to me but rather a part of my family. He was also hard at work with his family, Magdalena with the evening shows and Maximilian with the music at the show. Without Hans-Lothar who was always in the background, this show wouldn't have been possible, since someone must always keep working behind the scenes. My deepest thanks for this, Hans-Lothar.

And last but not least thank you to my parents, who made the start of my career here in Ebbs possible. To my father who brought the Haflinger to today's international standard, who pushed the Haflinger to where it is today; I want to thank him for his efforts, without who there wouldn't even be a Haflinger World Show today. And also my mother, in the background, who always made sure that family support was essential for the working person, both of whom have unfortunately passed on. Family – including the Haflinger family – receives my biggest thank you today, and that includes all of us.

Thank you to all the spectators who came to this show and to all the breeders. The Haflinger family has proven that they are alive and well – and not just alive, but a star of Tyrol.

And before the breeders suffer from a heat stroke, since they never thought they'd be in here this long, we arrive at the end and review the horses for one last time.

We haven't yet spoken about the mare champions.

And here we have the champion youth mares from the Berchtold family from Innsbruck-Hötting in Tyrol and Hansi Berchtold leading his horse himself, whether he should or not.

His Athena, from Abendstern and Aspirina, bred by himself, raised like a member of the family – a little spoiled, but that's only right. Dear Hansi, I congratulate you on a beautiful, great horse and a great success.



Charm, femininity, elegance and ease – there are those that are envious of you, but hopefully you will mute their criticisms when they see you here in the ring, since you really have shown the most beautiful young Haflinger mare in the world seen during the last few days. Thank you very much.

The youth reserve winning mare we have already seen here, the mare Nobile from Gut Hochreit, who presented herself very, very well and constantly appeared in the ring. I believe that one can't buy good breeding, and you can't acquire it – one must have the enthusiasm, the ardor, a decent amount of luck and a lot of persistence.

One breeds, breeds and breeds with little success. I always say that one must persevere, one must think long-term, one can't think in years or decades but rather in generations of horses. Gut Hochreit had success so quickly, I think ten years of breeding and now very, very successful with a beautiful, elegant young horse. Congratulations.

With that, we come to the overall champions.

The most beautiful mares, and now perhaps let's stand all the mares here in the center of the ring in a line. The stallions can be led out, or perhaps just brought to the back to allow for another photo opportunity and the chance to photograph all the horses together in the ring. Everyone who wants to take pictures is welcome to come into the ring at the end and take a picture of the horses; the world champions are here for you to see, since the photos are nicer when the horses are posed. And I would also like to describe the overall champions while they are posing.

Alexandria, overall world champion mare of the Haflinger World Show 2010 – a fantastic five year old mare, large-framed, beautiful color, lovely feminine expression, very, very dry fundament. Just

look at her legs. You will see that one can observe the bone, then the tendon behind without one hair too many – not one bone that is too thick or wide, no fluids in the joints, but rather dry, fine, exacting and good for high-impact limbs.

A sincere thank you and congratulations to the Berchtold family, owners of two overall winners – Christmas and Easter in one weekend. The Berchtold family, extremely successful this year: best wishes to you.

And finally I come to the overall world reserve champion mare Desina. Matthäus, your horse that you've dreamed of; your teacher will be having nightmares soon because she can't handle hearing the word Haflinger anymore. Matthäus incorporates the Haflinger into every assignment, picture and crafts project, showing just how much love and soul he has for the breed. He was more excited about this show than we all were, and now he stands in the final ring – this makes me very happy. The reserve win goes to a Novembernebel mare born to the last overall world champion mare Dematteo – top-chic, top-modern, perhaps not with the most beautiful head but otherwise a lovely horse. Dear Matthäus, I congratulate you with my whole heart, and tonight you may dance with Bettina Berchtold to the song "Dem Land Tirol die Treue", which means "remain faithful to the Tyrol", a modern anthem.

"Remain faithful to the Tyrol", those are my closing words. I want to thank all the spectators, all the stakeholders, all the organizers, the helpers and I want to wish you all a beautiful, sunny summer's day – the second of 2010, and rest this world show at the feet of the Emperor as this is the name of the mountains behind us.

The Emperor in Tyrol has a new name: Haflinger. This was the Haflinger World Show 2010.

