

In depth

*“Little Janów”
- The Swedish Stud with the Antique Polish Bloodlines*

Blommeröd

Arabian Stud

The mares, fillies and foals that are let out as they are in Poland.
First is the last Probat daughter at the stud, Regina.

“The main room in our gallery of horse breeds will unconditionally belong to the Arabian horse, which is standing on the border between nature- and culture-breeds praised by the naturalist, the horseman and the poet as the most interesting representative of all breeds. But for the Arabian there is no longer a major place in modern society, in the ‘specialists’ era’, for he has no other specialty than being the source of nobleness. But this single feature sets him high, and that his disappearance would add the horse culture an irreplaceable loss, the likely consequences for the present eludes all calculation. May therefore friendly forces keeping a protective hand over her noble Nedschedi and his stamförvanter in the Orient. His time has been - his time can come back.”

C G Wrangel 1913

Those words can be found in the book *Guide for Horse Lovers* by C G Wrangel from 1913 and you will find them in the foreword of the Blommeröd stud books.

The Danish Consul General Erik Philip-Sørensen was the founder of the security company Securitas AB in 1934. He did not have a horse background but a childhood dream about a farm in the country with horses. That dream came through when he moved to a farm in the southern part of Sweden in 1964. It was a beautiful old house with several barns built in red brick with half-timbering and straw-covered roofs. The famous Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf once lived at this farm when she wrote the book *The Wonderful Journey of Nils Holgersson*. Erik had always loved the nature and as his daily work did not allow

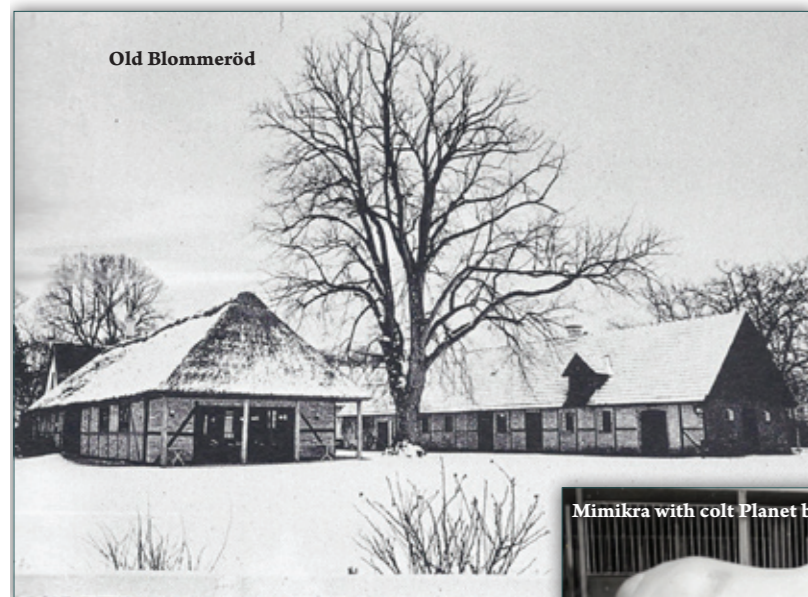
him to live with the nature, he was seeking a hobby that would give him that. By coincidence he read an article in the local newspaper about a Swedish breeder that went down to Poland to buy Arabian horses. He went to visit Erik Erlandsson, later the breeder of Aladdinn, and Erik Philip-Sørensen was thrilled by the beauty and elegance of these noble creatures. They reminded him of the pictures of the white stallion on which the prince rode in childhood fairytales. It was then decided – he wanted to fill his barns with Arabian horses. This would turn out to be the best thing that could happen for the Arabian horse breeding worldwide and we can all be very thankful that it was Arabians and not orchids that Erik chose to dedicate his life to.

Erik bought his first mare, the bay Pietuszok-daughter Edessa (out

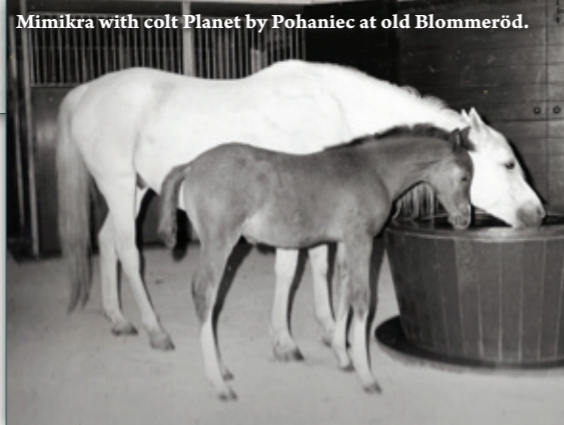
Words and photography unless stated by Anette Mattsson www.fotografmattsson.com



Old Blommeröd



Mimikra with colt Planet by Pohaniec at old Blommeröd.



of the legendary Ellora/Witraz) in 1964 with her colt Edus (by Czort) at side. Edessa was bred by Albigowa Stud farm and she would stay at Blommeröd until 1967 when Erik Erlandsson bought her and not long after, she would be the foundation mare at Wilkesbacka where she had the Exelsjor daughter Edjora, the dam of US National Champion Mare Kajora, who was in her turn the dam of the great Gazal Al Shaqab. Erik never did anything half-hearted, so in 1965 he brought Major Kjellander, Chief of the Swedish State Stud Flyinge, as an advisor along with the veterinarian Herbert Dahlgren and went down to visit the Polish State Studs. This first trip to Poland was the beginning of a long friendship with the Polish breeders and eventually the Polish breeders themselves called Blommeröd 'little Janów'. And the slogan for Blommeröd would be fitting: *Blommeröd Arabian Stud – the Swedish stud with the antique Polish bloodlines.*

Erik bought nine mares and the Polish chief sire Dardir (Nabor x Darda by Amurath Sahib), although it took two weeks of negotiation before the Polish Government agreed to sell Dardir. Dardir would stay at Blommeröd until his death in April 1986 and he was invaluable

Erik at the Polish auction



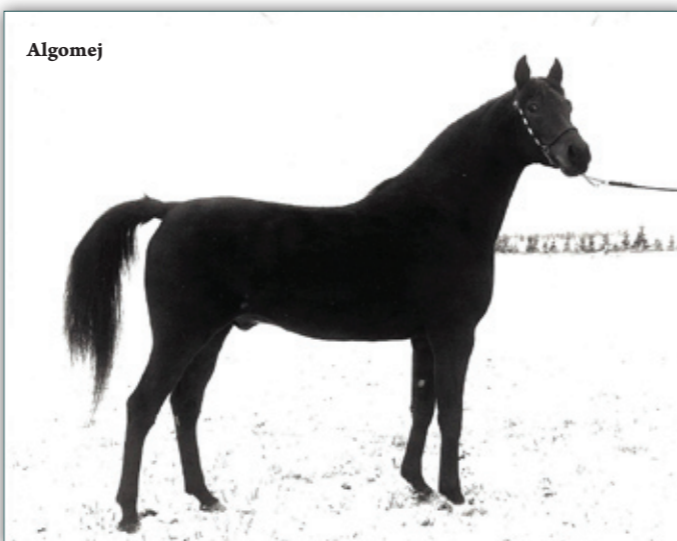
to Blommeröd and gathered a huge fan club in his new country with his beauty, his special charm and boyish mischievousness. If you ever visit the trophy room at Michalów, be sure to look at the big painting of Dardir hanging on the wall.

The impressive group of mares that would be the foundation of Blommeröd's breeding programme were: Alfa (Wielki Szlem x Alhambra by Kaszmir), Bogoria (Laur x Bulgotka by Witraz), Rusznica (Trypolis x Rozeta by Almanzor), Fuksja (Anarchista x Forsycja by Como), Tryfolia (Negativ x Tryncza by Trypolis), Wielka Kometa (Comet x Wielka Zorza by Wielki Szlem), Cela (Pietuszok x Celia by Witraz), Rutyna (Negativ x

Algier



Algomej



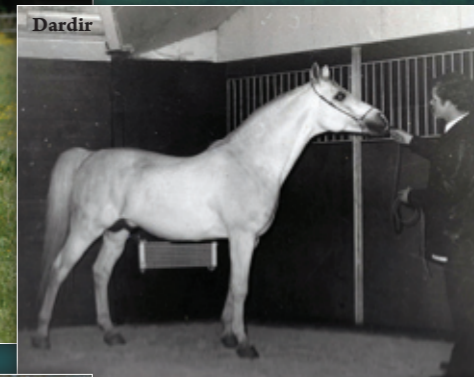
Rusznica by Trypolis) and Aleksota (Negativ x Alfa by Wielki Szlem). Erik also bought the Polish-bred mares Mimikra (Comet x Mimika by Ali Said), Mimoza (Negativ x Mimonka by My Kismet) and Workuta (Aquino x Worskla by Laur) from Erik Erlandsson, but Mimoza and Workuta were sold in 1966 and 1968 respectively and do not have any offspring at Blommeröd.

With the growing number of horses Erik needed someone reliable to manage the farm and he would find his future stud manager in the beginning of 1968 when he visited the Royal Stables in Copenhagen. Jörgen Fredriksen was working there as a cavalryman and Erik was very impressed by his way with the horses and told him about his farm and wondered if Jörgen would consider coming to work for him as the

Regina by Probat out of Rucasja by Exelsjor, fullsister to Pruzja. Regina is here with her 2006 colt by Kulak.



Dardir



Royal visitors at old Blommeröd. Swedish King Carl XIV Gustaf and his fiancée Silvia. This chestnut was given to the future Swedish Queen.

stud manager. As Jörgen was about to end his time at the Royal Stables, he went to visit Blommeröd and was very excited about what he saw. He and his wife Susanne moved to Blommeröd and Jörgen started his new job on 4 March of the same year. At this point, the stud consisted of 24 pure-bred Polish Arabian horses.

The first thing that happened was that the first born colt at Blommeröd, the three-year-old Abu Ali (Gwarny x Mimikra by Comet) got licensed for breeding. And Abu Ali would be the first of many Blommeröd-bred stallions that would pass the hard Swedish licensing committee.

In 1969 a new barn was built, Vinkelstallet, a well-known barn

Probat



for everyone that has been to the Scandinavian Open Championships at Blommeröd as it is the main show barn. The Vinkelstallet was inaugurated on 16 November 1969 and the great breeder Dr Arvid Aaby-Ericsson was supposed to be the one who put up the silver sign with an inscription on the wall, but as he was ill they got Mary Stephens to do the honour

instead. Mary, like Arvid, was one of the first breeders with Arabian horses in Sweden. The impressive new barn was built after an Oriental model and totally unique for Scandinavia. This angular barn was built in mahogany with four stallion stalls in the middle and 40 stalls for mares. The old barns were still used with one part as a reception area for guests and the other for young horses. There were also two small barns used for colts.

With time, the stud grew out of the old Blommeröd at Bjärsjölagård and moved to the current location at Lillö in 1977, next to the beautiful Ringsjön Lake near the small town of Höör. The Vinkelstallet was dismantled and rebuilt at the new farm and an indoor arena was built with a stallion barn on one side with 12 large stallion stalls and another barn on the other side with 42 stalls. Research facilities and a laboratory were also built with 10 stalls for outside mares. Another two mares stables as well as a stable used for yearling and two-year-old fillies were at this 1,200 acres property, creating a total of 146 stalls.

1968 was a great year for Blommeröd with their new stud manager. At the Swedish National Show, Dardir was named Champion Stallion and Best in Show and the Tersk-bred mare Panorama (Negativ x Privilegia by Piolun), owned by Blommeröd, was named Champion Mare.

In 1970 another stallion was imported from Poland, the great-moving Comet son Pohaniec (ex Planeta by Nabor) came directly from the racetrack and was licensed for breeding. His paternal sister Mimikra (ex Mimika by Ali Said) was the 1970 Swedish National Champion

Mare and two years later, Pohaniec was shown and claimed the 1972 Swedish National Champion Stallion title.

In 1971 Blommeröd was the largest privately-owned Arabian horse stud in Europe with over 60 horses. There were around 300 Arabian horses in Sweden at that time. On 6 December 1971, a press conference was held at Blommeröd where the President of the Swedish Arab Horse Society, Count Claes Lewenhaupt, read a telegram from WAHO to inform them that the Swedish Arab Horse Registry was approved. This meant that horses from Sweden could be exported to other countries and this marked a new beginning in Swedish Arabian horse breeding and especially at Blommeröd. When looking at pedigrees of horses with Polish bloodlines in USA or Brazil, many carry the blood of Blommeröd-bred horses.

Erik Erlandsson imported his large group of circus stallions from Circus Knie in Switzerland in 1972 and Blommeröd bought the 19 year old Alger (Wielki Szlem x Alga by Witraz). He would become a great asset to the programme with his valuable, old pedigree. Alger was licensed in 1973 and bred 12 mares his first year in breeding and everyone was in foal. Alger died in 1980 leaving 35 offspring at Blommeröd, and a total of 53 in Sweden.

In 1973 Dardir was shown at the Salon du Cheval in Paris and was named European Champion Stallion. This was the great start for Blommeröd in the international show-ring. During the following years, Pohaniec was European Reserve Champion Stallion in Verden 1976 and Alrex (Exelsjor x Alfa by Wielki Szlem) was exported to France and was named European Champion Stallion at the Salon du Cheval.



Migracja

Another stallion that was sold to France was El Borr (Espartero x Borexia by Exelsjor), sold to Mme Cantrel in 1981. El Borr was the 1979 European Junior Champion Stallion at the Salon du Cheval. The stallion Engano (Eleuzis x Engracja by Comet) was sold to Crown Point Arabians in USA at the annual Polish auction but was leased by Blommeröd directly after the sale. Blommeröd showed him to the 1977 European Champion Stallion title. Engano was put into breeding in 1978 but died unfortunately the same year leaving 16 offspring born in 1979, among them the breeding stallions Rousseau (ex Rucasja by Exelsjor) and Primo (ex Polka by Pohaniec). Rousseau was standing

at stud at Blommeröd until 1992 when he was sold to Holger Ismer in Germany. Primo was sold as a weanling to the Freme family and they, in turn, sold him to Arvak Nord in 1991. Primo was named Swedish National Champion and was leased to Janów Podlaski in 1998-1999 where he sired the Polish National Junior Champion Stallion Esculap (ex Esparceta by Fawor) and the beautiful Hekla (ex Harpia by Ernal), sold to Halsdon Arabians.

The legendary stallion Amurath Sahib (Amurath II x Sahiba by Nana Sahib I) has been very influential in the breeding programme and he was mainly represented through his offspring: Darda, dam of Dardir; Arax, sire of the great mare Maritsa; Gwarny, sire of Abu Ali and the mares Wilcza Jagoda and Boliwia; Equifor, sire to the stallion Cedr;



Comtessa

Marwan by CE Magnum out of Margotka
current chief sire at Blommeröd.

and Balalajka, dam of Bask, Bandola and Arfa and represented at Blommeröd through the Bask son Bomarc, the Bandos daughter Pika, and the Aranda daughter Ata. But the most valuable representative of Amurath Sahib at Blommeröd has been his daughter Sakla, bred by Michalów Stud in 1953 and out of the beautiful mare Saga (Hardy x Jaga II by Kohejlan I). The bay Sakla was a full sister to the grey Estokada, the founder of the great E-line at Michalów with horses such as Emandoria, El Dorada, Estebna, Eskapada, Emanda and so on. Sakla raced at the racetrack for two seasons with 19

Carioka by El Amin out of Chatanooga by Furiat
with her 2012 filly Carmina by WH Justice.

starts and then went to Michalów where she had two foals. She was then transferred to Janów Podlaski and exported in 1962 to Dr Aaby-Ericsson in Sweden together with her weanling filly Sake (by El Trypoli). Blommeröd bought Sakla with the colt Salomon (by Bilbao) and Sake with the filly Salexja (by Exelsjor) at side in 1967. This damline has without question been the most successful



Early in the morning out in the mare pasture.

at Blommeröd, the same as Estokada's family has been superior at Michalów. Sakla's daughter Cesa (by Cedr) was a great-producing mare and the dam of: Cesarzowa (by Madar), exported to the USA; Amurathia (by Abu Ali,) champion-producing mare at Blommeröd; and Cesanne (by Engano), exported to Denmark and the dam of the Etat son Chopin and the great producing mare Ceremona (by Algomej), dam of Swedish National Champions Preference and Certina. But it would be the Cesa daughter Marcessa (by Madar) who produced the most successful family. Marcessa was a strikingly beautiful chestnut mare with, for her time, an extremely pretty head and a great Arabian type. She was named Swedish National Champion Mare in 1983. Her daughter Maskarada (by Partner) was a pretty, bay mare and she was awarded with the WAHO trophy



Edek

in 2008 for her great produce. She is the dam of the great Margotka (by Algortym), herself a champion but foremost the dam of three amazing Gazal Al Shaqab daughters Magora, Marylla and Maranta. Magora is owned by Al Khalediah Stables and has an impressive show record, with her last wins as the Gold Champion mare at the 2012 UK International Show and 2011 All Nations Cup. Marylla was also exported to Saudi Arabia and at the end of 2012, Maranta was sold to Albidayer Stud in UAE. Margotka is also the dam of the Blommeröd chief sire Marwan (by CE Magnum). Margotka is currently owned by Knocke Arabians in Belgium.

Maskarada's daughter Mandala (by Fynt) had two fillies at Blommeröd before she was sold to Charlotte Pedersen in Denmark. Magnolika (by Emrod) is owned by Sinus Arabian Stud and she produced the great-moving champion filly Magnuszka (by Emiliusz), and Migracja (by Gazal Al Shaqab) was retained by Blommeröd. Migracja has a great show record herself and she had three foals to this date, the colt Malagant (by Turki Al Rayyan) Swedish National Junior Champion Colt and exported to Kuwait and the QR Marc fillies Magenta KA and Morgana, both born in 2011. Magenta KA is bred and owned by

Knocke Arabians, who leased Migracja for one year and returned her in foal to QR Marc, producing Morgana in August 2011 for Blommeröd. In November 2012 Migracja was sold to Knocke Arabians and Morgana was sold to Albidayer Stud in UAE.

Another stallion that has been very influential for the Blommeröd breeding programme is Exelsjor (Aquino x Eleonora by Witraz). He was bred by Janów Podlaski in 1963 and was sold to Erik Erlandsson



Sedria by Bobars out of Serenada exported to Saudi Arabia.

as a yearling. Blommeröd leased him in 1967 but they also bred to him in 1966 and 1968. He sired 14 offspring at Blommeröd, among them the great-producing mares Borexix (ex Bogoria by Laur), Forexia (ex Fuksja by Anarchista), Ruxia (ex Rutyna by Negatiw), Aleksja (ex Aleksota by Negatiw) and Rucasja (ex Rusznica by Trypolis).

Borexix would be the queen of Blommeröd and her produce were invaluable. Her daughters were great producers and she had several sons that carried on her name. The most famous of all her offspring is the stallion Probat (by Pohaniec). He was licensed for breeding in 1979 and bred a handful of mares. The Polish breeders had some difficulties to find a representative of the Kuhailan Afas d.b. sireline. They came to Blommeröd to look

at the produce of Pohaniec and found what they were looking for in the young Probat. Arrangements were made that Probat would be leased by Poland for four years in exchange for Algomej (Celebes x Algonkina by Pietuszok) and Partner (Eleuzis x Parma by Aswan) while Probat began his Polish adventure at Michalów Stud in 1980. The same year, Probat's first offspring were born at Blommeröd and the results were nothing less than spectacular. The two fillies Pruszja (ex Rucasja by Exelsjor) and Prusznega (ex Rusnaga by Negatiw) were both amazing. Prusznega was Swedish National Junior Champion in 1982 with Pruszja claiming the same title in 1983. In 1985, Pruszja was named Champion Mare in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Probat would turn out to be an equally success in Poland producing great sons and daughters and when he returned to Sweden, the interest in him was huge among the Scandinavian breeders. This led to the development of the breeding facilities at Blommeröd and as the first breeders of Arabian horses through with artificial insemination in Europe, Blommeröd would use collected semen. On 22 February

1985, Blommeröd opened the doors of the newly-built insemination centre with 300 people all keen to find out more. Visitors were treated with a beautiful showcase of the Blommeröd stallions including Abu Ali, Dardir, Pepi (Celebes x Pemba by Czort), Rusnir (Dardir x Rusnaga by Negatiw) and, of course, Probat himself. More than a hundred mares were booked to Probat, which was a record in those days. After two seasons at Blommeröd, Probat returned to Poland for one-and-a-half seasons between 1986 and 1987 before he went to Lasma Arabians in USA.

Erik Philip-Sørensen was a man with a strong vision and he had a huge interest in genetics in both animals and humans as well as how the environment and our genetic mass would influence us into what we are. The great interest in genetics came with the Arabian horse. "When you learn about the breed you start to wonder why it has been so important for all the breeds. We know that there is Arabian blood in the thoroughbred, well in all warmblood horses as a matter of fact. And how come?" Erik says.

In January 1980 there would be a big change for Blommeröd when it stopped being a hobby activity and turned into a foundation. The Erik Philip-Sørensen's Foundation for Genetic Research was founded in



Vikke receives the 'Best Breeder' award.

Maskarada



The famous lunch buffet at the show where Vikke is always supervising.



Belissa by WH Justice out of Bogini Filly Foal Champion at 2012 Scandinavian Open Championships at Blommeröd here with Vikke and Edek.



Vikke with Migracja.



Magora



The Garibaldi barn.

1976 and the unusual combination of 'research in genetics and the humanities' had its origin in Erik's own philosophy. This foundation distributes funds every year to researchers, and it made the stud a self-owned institution with Jörgen still as the stud manager. Erik's idea was also that it would benefit the Arabian horse as a breed and funds were given to the research for SCID with Professor Karl Fredga at the Genetic Institution in Lund. Erik also had a great interest in the research of cancer and why it is so rare with cancer in horses but not in humans. The horses still were a part of Erik's daily life and he continued to be a big part of the stud.

When Erik retired in 1975, his sons Jorgen and Sven bought out the latter from Securitas AB for several million; they inherited nothing as Erik was against inheritance. Meanwhile, Erik's daughter Vibeke, 'Vicke', lived in Denmark with her family and she was a successful speech therapist. Vicke had always had a love for the horses and in November 1990, she bought the horses from the foundation and continued the management and care of the breeding programme at Blommeröd, so she moved with her family to Sweden. It was a tough time for breeders with the recession, so it was not an easy task. Vicke started up the Scandinavian Open Championships in 1991, a show that would turn into one of the best shows in the world with participants from all over Europe and even from the Middle East. Horses such as El Dorada, Ganges, Pearlie Mae, Esklawa all won championships there. To honour the great mares at Blommeröd, the beautiful Garibaldi-barn was built in 1986. This magnificent barn is today not only where the horses live, but during the summer time Vicke host weddings and other big occasions, and the Breeders' dinner during the Scandinavian Open Championships was famous for the great location and amazing food, all supervised and done by Vicke.

Vicke introduced the US-bred World Champion Emperor (Menes x Ellavia by Stargard) into the Blommeröd breeding programme and his produce would consistently get his amazing movement and great substance. His daughter Comtessa (ex Certina by Pionier) was National Champion and the Maskarada daughter Modesty has also been a valuable mare in the breeding programme. Modesty is currently in foal to Marwan (CE Magnum x Margotka by Algorytm) for a January 2013 foal, and the foal will be double Maskarada. Baronna (Emperor x Bona by Pionier) is herself a champion and the dam of Bacarolla (by Khidar), the newly crowned Saudi National Gold Champion Mare. Both Baronna and Bacarolla have been exported to the Middle East, gaining success for their new owners.

In 2002 Vicke used the World Champion Gazal Al Shaqab (Anaza El Farid x Kajora by Kaborr) and the result was a match made in heaven. The result was the fillies Magora and Migracja and the colts Brokat and

Ceper. Ceper was sold to Ann Britt Persson and Jessica Andersson, but has been used by Blommeröd and there are several of his daughters in the breeding programme. Like the Polish State Studs, Blommeröd has always brought new stallions into the breeding programme and with the use of frozen semen as well as leasing stallions, Vicke has used some of the best-producing stallions of today with a great result. Stallions such as Endel (Palas x Elwira by Elf), Eldon (Penitent x Erotyka by Eufrat), Furiat (Monogramm x Furora by Pepton), Emrod (Emigrant x Empressa by Probat) and Metropolis NA (Consensus x NDL Martinique by Muscat) have all been used from Poland. WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea by El Sher-Mann), Turki Al Rayyan (Ashhal Al Rayyan x Turkiya Al Rayyan by Safir), QR Marc (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams by Magic Dream CAHR), Khidar (Ansata Sinan x Elizja by Esta-Ghalil), CA Magnum (Magnum Psyche x RA Cool Elygance by



Jocool) and El Amin (Psytdel x RA Cool Elygance by Jocool) include the outside stallions that have been used.

At the 2012 Swedish National Show, once again Vicke was awarded with the prestigious prize of Best Breeder of the Show, and as any breeder knows, that is the best appreciation you can get. Her horses were, as always, shown to perfection by Edward 'Edek' Jazwinski, who worked at Blommeröd for more than 15 years.

This was also the year that Vicke arranged her famous show for the last time, with the same crew that she had for more than 20 years. This has been a continually well-organised show and the most well-attended in Scandinavia when it comes to horses and the audience.

As none of Vicke's family wants to carry on the legacy of the breeding, Vicke must face the reality to close the doors to Blommeröd's breeding programme. But the horses and the bloodlines of Blommeröd will live on through all the horses worldwide, and we will still see great Blommeröd-bred horses winning in the show-ring. 🐾

