



NEWSLETTER// DECEMBER 2014

## WELCOME!

Dear Friends,

2014 has again been a fantastic year for the sport with the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games which were, on the sport side, an amazing event showcasing the highest level of our sport.



Most of us will be in Geneva for the CHI 5\* from December 10th-14th where we are organizing, with the help of Rolex, an exclusive visit of their factory, as well as a meeting and a lunch to facilitate the communication amongst our members. You have received in a separate email all the information about our activities and I do hope that many of you will join us in Geneva, one of the best indoor shows in the world.

The sponsorship contract with Rolex is ending at the end of 2014. Rolex was very keen to continue our collaboration and proposed to extend it for another three years with the same benefits but with an increased fee. At the same time, we had been solicited by Longines to potentially enter into a sponsorship with them, largely because they have developed a very strong relationship with the FEI. It was a difficult and sensitive decision and I have solicited your advice to make the right decision. I must say that most of you warmly recommended to continue with Rolex because of the quality of our relationship and their loyalty since the beginning of the club. In consequence, I have therefore signed the renewal with Rolex and I have tried to keep a good relationship with Longines, who contributes hugely to our sport.

Thanks to the efforts of Magali Dubois we are being more active and more present in our sport, but she can only be really effective if you help her in that process. Please, do not hesitate to contact new potential members and to inform Magali of any new leads or initiatives the club should take.

December 2014 will be very important as a new President of the FEI will be elected. Obviously on behalf of the club I will congratulate the new chairman for his election and I will organize a meeting with him for the beginning of 2015. I will ask the members of our Executive Committee to join me for that meeting.

It is not always easy for us to meet during the year as we have many occupations and travel requirements, but a meeting in person is always better than any written communication and so, I hope that many of you will be in Geneva and that we can catch up on all those issues.

I will only end up by hoping that 2015 will be as exciting as 2014 in our sport and our passion for horses.

Christian Baillet - Chairman



Photo caption: Christian Baillet, Chairman Jumping Owners Club and Arnaud Boetsch, Director Communication & Image Rolex SA ©Rolex/Eddy Mottaz

## ROLEX AND THE JUMPING OWNERS CLUB RENEW THEIR PARTNERSHIP

After 6 years of a successful partnership, the Jumping Owners Club with the FEI is proud to announce the renewal of its collaboration with Rolex.

The prestigious Swiss watchmaking brand has been supporting the club in its various activities since 2009 and has recently reinforced its commitment toward one of the driving forces of Show-Jumping.

Christian Baillet, Chairman of the Jumping Owners Club expressed his satisfaction: "Rolex has been an important supporter of the Jumping Owners Club for many years. Their experience in sponsoring has been very valuable to us. They have helped us with our communication, events and awards ceremonies. When the time came to renew our collaboration, our members expressed their gratitude to Rolex who has hosted them in many occasions on the major events. I am very grateful to Rolex for their support and their trust".





## INTERVIEW: GENEVIÈVE MÉGRET GUIDED BY PASSION

Normandy-based owner and breeder Geneviève Mégret plays a vital role in the success of Pénélope Leprévost, currently the world's best female rider. After spending 25 years as a doctor, she decided to give up her profession and devote herself entirely to her passion, with the support of her husband and daughter.

### **Where did your desire to become an owner of high-level horses come from?**

I used to be a competitive rider, and I didn't start entrusting my horses to other people until I stopped competing. It was a natural progression for me, though. My work with very high-level horses began when I bought Nayana when she was three years old in 2004. It didn't take long for her to prove that she was different from the others, although it wasn't until Eric Levallois started riding her when she was eight that she really came into her own. When Pénélope started riding her, we wanted to take it even further and become more involved in the high-level competitions.

### **Nayana's story is quite incredible. Can you tell us about her?**

Our daughter Elise used to play the lottery when she was younger, and once, she was lucky enough to win. She decided to spend her winnings to buy a filly, La Perouse, who was Nayana's sister. We became friendly with her breeder, Jacques Féron, who really loves his work, and started visiting him regularly. He knew how much we liked Elise's mare, which performed well in 1m45 classes, and he recommended that we buy Nayana. We have never looked back: she's a very special horse which is very dear to our hearts.

### **The Haras de Clarbec is primarily a breeding farm: could you give us a brief description of it?**

The Haras de Clarbec has several functions. Breeding: the foals we produce are either from broodmares or from competition mares by embryo transfer. Competitions, firstly with the young horses bought from elsewhere and trained at the farm, and secondly with our high-level horses. We are hoping to establish a succession of leading horses in order to retain a high standard for our competitive stables in the long run. Lastly, we have been developing the stud for the past two years with our sport stallions.

### **How does it work when you buy a horse for Pénélope ? Does she suggest it to you?**

#### **Do you scout out a horse first ?**

Sometimes the initiative comes from our side—usually from Elise, who goes to a lot of competitions and has a keen eye—and sometimes it comes from Pénélope. Often, we are contacted directly as well, because a lot of people know that we are always on the lookout for top horses. However it comes about, we always discuss each purchase together and come to a joint decision beforehand.

### **When you buy a mare, do you already have plans to use it for breeding after its sports career ?**

Our primary focus when buying a mare is her sports career. At the moment, we have some very successful high-level mares in our stables with which we have not yet carried out any embryo transfers. High-level training is so demanding

and complicated that we find it very hard to tackle other things at the same time. Nevertheless, when Dame Blanche was injured before the WEG, we took the opportunity to do a transfer with Armitages Boy.

**Is there a breed or a lineage for which you have a particular preference or affinity, or are you more like Hugo Simon, who said that a good horse can be of any breed, sex and color?**

I definitely think that a good horse is a good horse regardless of its background; quality is the driving force behind our choice of horses and our breeding practices. As far as possible, we try to produce and buy fast, modern horses with Thoroughbred influences that have a great mindset. The psychological aspect is essential to be successful today. The more I progress, the more I believe that a horse's mentality is the most important quality to look for.

**What are your stables' objectives? Which title or Grand Prix would you most like to see Pénélope win?**

Our main objective has always been to take each horse to the highest level possible, while respecting its physical and mental wellbeing. Naturally, there are iconic competitions that we dream about winning, like the Aachen Grand Prix and indoor events such as Paris and Geneva. Winning an Olympic medal would obviously bring us a great deal of pride and happiness.

**As an owner, what is your view of the international circuit and the way it has developed over the past few years?**

The sport has changed a lot over the past years. We receive more media coverage, and we have more sponsors to raise the sport's profile. But the increase in the number of circuits has made managing horses' careers more difficult—there's a risk of asking too much of them. We strive to preserve the horses and Pénélope shares this attitude. I really like the format of the Nations Cup. I think that team competitions are the best ones, so I believe that we should continue to give them priority. —

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## GENEVA PROGRAMME

Dear all,

As is the tradition, the Jumping Owners Club is organising different exciting activities in Geneva with the help of his partners, and amongst them Rolex. This year will be no different if not better with a unique opportunity not to be missed:

### Our programme:

#### Friday Dec. 12th

**14h00** **Exclusive Rolex Factory visit** 14h-17h30 (approx.) Transportation provided from the showground and back. An opportunity not to be missed.

**18h00** **Selle Français** is expressing his support to the JOC through an informal get-together on their stand: A short presentation on breeding's current challenges followed by a cocktail. We hope that you will join us on this 1st invitational.

#### Saturday Dec. 13th

**11h15** **Informal meeting** at the conference room in the official village, located next door to the credential office.

**12h30** **VIP lunch at Rolex** hospitality unit.

**A separate email will be sent to you to enable you to confirm your attendance.**



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