

Approved under EU and Irish law as Ireland's modern and progressive sport horse studbook focused on all three Olympic disciplines

STUDBOOK OFFICIAL

Dawn Kelly, Ph.D.
(Studbook Administrator)

BREEDING COUNCIL

Luke Cafolla (Showjumping)
Louise Doherty (Dressage)
Mandy Driesch (Eventing)

LANAKEN REPRESENTATIVE

Nicole Galbraith

LION D'ANGERS REPRESENTATIVE

Mandy Driesch

WSI MEMBERS IN

Ireland
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Dubai, UAE
Finland
France
Germany
Great Britain
Italy
Northern Ireland
Poland
Spain
Uruguay
USA

HOMEPAGE

www.irish-warmblood.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

FB: WarmbloodStudbookOfIreland
Twitter: @irish_warmblood

EMAIL

admin@irish-warmblood.com

WBFSH

WSI is a Full Member of the WBFSH



Warmblood Studbook of Ireland

International Showjumpers with an Irish Accent

MEET A BREEDER: MANDY DRIESCH

WSI: Mandy, when and how did you get involved in horses and breeding eventing horses?

Mandy: I got involved in horses at the age of 12. My family is not horsey at all, but one day the zoo in Chemnitz (East Germany) put an ad in the newspapers looking for homes for donkey and pony foals. Without my parent's knowledge I wrote an application letter. A few weeks later I received a letter in the post saying that I could collect my donkey foal! Needless to say, my parents weren't impressed at all! I couldn't take the foal, but my great late grandfather stepped in and convinced my parents to let me become involved with horses. He knew the manager of a riding yard, and the agreement was that I would muck out-, groom, and build stables but no riding. Nobody drove me there: I walked 4 km in the snow and rain. One day the yard manager told my grandfather that I worked harder than most adults, and he wanted to teach me to ride. We all kept it a secret.

WSI: Does horse breeding run in your family?

Mandy: No, not at all. Most of the horses in Eastern Germany were state-owned. We basically had nothing for them, no feed, no tack, no fancy things. I dreamed of becoming a jockey. The wall between East Germany and the West was crumbling, and after many tests I signed my apprenticeship contract in Hoppegarten (near East Berlin) the day Germany was reunited. We made it over to West Berlin. A year later everything was gone. My mother insisted that I study something "useful", saying "Girl, you now have your chance." I ended up working in the court system and finance. It wasn't what I had dreamed but it did pay for my horses.

WSI: You now live in Ireland. You own an 8-year-old WSI Approved Stallion that is competing at CCI3* level. You purchased him as a very young colt and you've guided his sport and breeding career very well. Tell us about Grand Marnier.

Mandy: After my old stallion passed away I wanted one more time to find something special. I saw Grand Marnier in the US advertised by his breeder, Lori Whitley. I knew instantly that I had to buy him. As a native German I am attached to the world's oldest warmblood breed, the Trakehner, and Grand Marnier is a Trakehner. He has outcross bloodlines (he is by Steinburg and out of an Anglo Arab dam), and the breed urgently needs such bloodlines to survive. Grand Marnier is a true pleasure to have, a

gentlemen of a stallion -- credits to his breeder. We brought him on slowly and carefully, presented him for approval and performance testing, and he passed with flying colours. After carefully searching for the right rider we decided to give him to international rider Declan Cullen in Northern Ireland, and this was the road to success. Grand Marnier was last year ridden successfully by the junior rider Caitie Slater (under Declan's watchful eye), and this is just a testament to his temperament. Now Declan is back in the saddle, winning the EI115 class in Lisgarvan on a 19.6 dressage score. We are aiming for 4* next year, and to date Grand Marnier has 49 EI points.

WSI: What is your breeding philosophy or strategy?

Mandy: I want to preserve the rare outcross bloodlines in the Trakehner breed and I'm glad that WSI is supporting me. The Trakehner was bred as a hardy cavalry horse and they're an ideal eventer. I might be a small hobby breeder but I am passionate about it. I want blood, blood, and more blood. All my mares are Thoroughbreds but I would add a purebred Arab or Anglo Arab anytime. The mares are all proven in sport or racing, all WFFS1 negative, inspected, and Approved Mares in the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland.

WSI: Tell us about Grand Marnier's foals. At what age do you sell them?

Mandy: Grand Marnier is stamping his foals. He's had foals from a variety of mares including warmbloods, Thoroughbreds, sport horses, and even Connemara Ponies. They all have his nice temperament, and they're very athletic. We usually sell them as foals, some in utero, and it's been easy to sell them. All breeders and new owners are delighted with their foals and plan to repeat the breedings.

WSI: What advice would you give a person who is breeding for the sport of eventing or has an eventing stallion?

Mandy: You need to be patient. You need to have time, and you need to be prepared to invest money. Don't rush your horses. Buy good Thoroughbred mares or mares with enough blood.

WSI: Breeders have a lot of options where to present their stallions for approval and where to register their foals. Why do you choose WSI?

Mandy: Simply, WSI is a full member of WBFSH. WSI is very supportive in every way, giving breeders advice 24/7. I am very grateful for all the advice and guidance over the years, and I wouldn't choose another studbook.