

Skógarrönd Newsletter

www.vikinghorse.co.nz

Issue 3 2013



Back home again

I am back from a long but very nice trip to the Netherland, Germany and Iceland. Many thanks to my boys here, accompanied by Hilla from Germany who is spending her sabbatical Down Under, and some friends who all helped out looking after the animals and made it possible for me to 'abandon ship' for a couple of weeks! So much appreciated!

It was great to see family and friends in the Netherlands after 6 years.

After a little more then a week I left warm and very hot Holland for the last couple of days of the WC Icelandic horses in Berlin, Germany. I was kindly offered a lift from some friends I knew from the Icelandic horse world back in NL. From the Northern part of the Netherland we went all the way to Berlin where they dropped me off at the campsite where my friends and breeders of our frá Wetsinghe horses, Ineke and Anno Boersma stayed. The campsite was only two train stations away from the competition grounds in Berlin, Karlshorst. There we watched the finals from Friday till Sunday. What an amazing horses, riders and atmosphere.

After that I flew to Iceland where I was going to spend a week at the Icelandic horse farm of Trausti Þór Guðmundsson in Kirkjuferjuháleiga, near Selfoss, South Iceland.

In this newsletter more of my visit to the WC in Berlin and my course in Iceland.

Picture below; meeting the legendary stallion Stáli frá Kjarri (F: Galsi frá Sauðárkróki) and his herd near Selfoss, Iceland

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- Small scale breeding with excellent pedigree horses
- Stunning Stallions at Stud, fully tested on spavin
- Benni's Harmony Stübben range gear special for Icelandic Horses
- book and DVD's on training Icelandic Horses
- Pre-purchase advice
- **ESNZ Coach**
- **NEW: Karlslund Riding Equipment**

WC Berlin 2013



of campervans on a partly concrete area with cracks all over the place. But at least it was clean and easy distance from there to the WC grounds; only two train stops away via the 'S-Bahn'.

Friday was an exciting day with B-finals and some A-finals and more over amazing horses and a nice atmosphere. Although we had allocated seats we hardly left them and watched most finals, cheered for good riders and took



Kongur frá Wetsinghe 22 years old, presented by Nicole Kempf. Kongur is Sire to our gelding Biskup. The horses were accompanied by the breeders, owners and fans. Of course I took part as a fan of these horses!



many many pics! Saturday at noon there was the 'Old Hero's' parade, presenting older horses which had been participating at previous WC's, in front of packed tribunes. The eldest 'Old Hero' was 32 years old and still up and running!

Stud Frá Wetsinghe had two horses participating; Trúr frá Wetsinghe (half brother to our stallion Thótti), 18 years old and still a stallion at stud, (on the picture left Trúr presented by Karly Zingsheim in the breeding show, held later that day) and



All horses had their names displayed on signs, see picture on the right; Anno and Ineke, the proud breeders of these 'Old Hero's'!

Saturday and Sunday we were mostly spend watching amazing A-finals (finals for place 1-5). One of the highlights I found the combination Hnokki frá Fellskoti - Jóhann Rúnar Skúlason, see picture on the left, with the unbelievable score of 9.61 in total and even a couple of 10's from some of the judges! See YouTube for a video of this combination: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H54aniLC6uo>

Then there was the good old Jarl frá Miðkrika, 18 years already and still going strong. Jarl has been to several WC's before with different riders. Stian Pederssen from Norway rode him to several first places in the finals of different WC's. This time his rider was Steffi Svendsen for Germany and although she only has had him in training for about six months, they were again in the finals. Everybody got up and cheered when they performed his famous fast tempo tölt, see picture.

In Berlin I also met with Trausti for the first time and already received some useful information on bits! After Berlin I would fly to Iceland on Tuesday 13 August for a course at his farm.

It was a great couple of days, seeing all those good horses, fantastic to spend time with my friends Anno and Ineke and meeting some other 'Icy' friends!



Eiðfaxi (advertisement)

Eiðfaxi is THE international magazine for anyone interested in the Icelandic horse. Whether you are a breeder, trainer, competition– or leisure rider, there are interesting articles catering for all; training, breeding, trekking and many more. Very useful information, especially for us

down under and far away from where it all happens!!

EIÐFAXI

Eiðfaxi also offers an online subscription. Visit their website for more information: www.eidfaxi.is

For a subscription on Eiðfaxi magazine, email isf@eidfaxi.is or ingibjörg@eidfaxi.is

Breeding at Skógarrönd: Þótti and Dökkvi

Þótti (Thótti) is a pure bred 5-gaited brown black stallion. Imported in 2003 from the Netherlands, he presents very good bloodlines from famous Icelandic stallions like Hrafn frá Holtsmúla and Sörli frá Sauðárkróki.

His half-brother [Trúr frá Wetsinghe](#) is one of the highest assessed four gaited stallions in the world. Their mother, Hrefna von Wiesenhof has showed she is a really good broodmare and produced several highly assessed stallions. Þótti's father is the friendly Pruður frá Wetsinghe. Pruður is praised for his high movements and supple back, which he consequently passes on to his offspring. Several of Pruður's daughters received awards for their confirmation and offspring.

Þótti's offspring in New Zealand already shows he passes on his steady four-beat tölt, and easy going character.

Breeding season will start soon!



This year Dökkvi, (see picture on the left, together with Þótti) our rising two year old colt which we share-own with another breeder on the South Island, will be serving for his first year. We first will put him in with our experienced mare Hugför. She will show him all there is to know for a stallion! Dökkvi carries very interesting genes. From his father's side Dynur frá Hvammi, son of Orri frá Þúfu and from his mothers side twice Galsi frá Sauðárkróki (Sire to her dam as well as her sire). Galsi is a son of Ófeigur frá Flugumýri.

At Skógarrönd we do the serving the natural way; in the herd.

The stallion is then able to sort out the right time and moment for serving. He will not interfere with a mare when she is not ready.

If for some reason you are not able to bring your mare to our stallion, please contact us and we will try to find a solution.

If you are interested in the stallions or would like to know more about our breeding, please feel free to [contact](#) us!



Lífland (advertisement)

The web shop of Lífland in Iceland has a good selection of gear and gifts related to Icelandic Horses. Check out their website www.lifland.is with an interesting range of products.

Lífland was the main sponsor of the [Landsmót](#) in Reykjavík, Iceland.

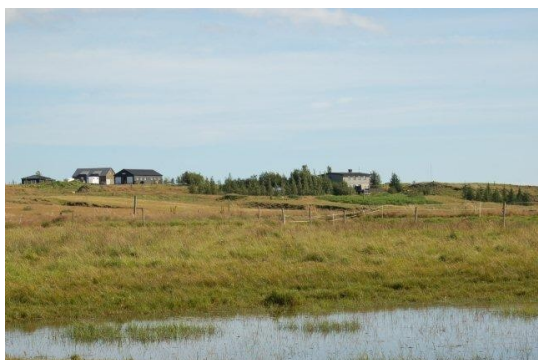


Iceland August 2013

Since it was quite a while ago I had lessons from a specialised Icelandic Horse coach, I decided to go to Iceland to brush up my riding and get an idea or two for training in general and coaching. I was lucky to get in touch with the very well know teacher, trainer and breeder Trausti Þór Guðmundsson in Kirkjuferjuháleiga, near Selfoss, Iceland. I was offered the chance of staying a week at his place and of course I did not hesitate to accept this offer!

Kirkjuferjuháleigu

On Tuesday 13 August I landed on Keflavik airport where I was welcomed by Anna, Trausti's wife. On the way to their farm, I was asking myself whether the horses I saw in the paddocks we passed would be Icelandic horses.....Of course all horses in Iceland are Icelandic horses. That is what traveling does with you, you get a bit confused every now and then...Anyway, I was really going to indulge completely in my passion for the next 7 days; being with, riding, learning and talking about Icelandic horses!



Apart from the stallions in the stables, which were fed the most rough tasty looking and smelling haylage I have ever seen, I also met with their two lovely dogs Þjakkur and Tinni and 4 nice cats. Trausti was going to come home later that night from Berlin.

The farm (about 300ha.), named after the area Kirkjuferjuháleiga, is beautifully located on the bank of the Ölfusá river (see pictures) in South Iceland, 35 km

from the capital Reykjavik. The river is full of salmon so if you are not into horses, you can spend your time emptying the river of salmon....

In the far distance magic views on the mighty volcano's Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla (see picture). Amazing views from about everywhere around the house and stable area. I could not stop enjoying the view and taking pictures!



Trausti's Riding School

Wednesday was day one at Trausti's Riding School (see <http://traustisridingschool.weebly.com>). I was introduced to the horses in training in the stables (came in during the day and are grazing during night) and had my first ride on Viðja frá Kirkjuferjuháleigu (see picture). She is a wonderful horse to ride. It is always quite exciting to ride horses



you do not know! She also has a high breeding value (117). She was the first of the very nice horses I was able to ride, watch and work with. I had daily riding lessons, on the round track/oval track and out and about.

Trausti has a round track integrated with the oval track so you were able to make a sort of figure of eights coming from both sides of the oval

track, which creates more possibilities for training (see picture right). The inside of the round track also has enough room for riding and working otherwise. Out and about we rode on the great

tracks which are all over the farm and country side. We often stopped at some other famous trainer's place to say hello or somewhere in the country side and give the horses a break.

It is amazing how many nice riding possibilities they have there, endless tracks!

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We are on the web;
www.vikinghorse.co.nz

At Skógarrönd Ltd we have a passion for Icelandic horse. We are breeding and selling quality horses on a small scale, promoting the breed Down Under, selling tack, training DVDs and books related to Icelandic Horses. We are also available for coaching you and your Icelandic horse on location.

If you have any questions regarding the Icelandic horse, on managing and training or would like to visit us, please feel free to contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you and share our passion.

Find us on Facebook

Like us on our Facebook Page '[Icelandic Horses Skógarrönd](#)'. We update it on a regular base with news from our horses, horses for sale and interesting news on Icelandic horses in general.

NEW NEW; Karlslund Riding Equipment!!!!

We are very excited to let you know we are going to be dealer of a selection of quality products from the company Karlslund!

At the World Championships for Icelandic Horses in Berlin I visited their site and placed our first order. It will be here within a few weeks. We will have in stock (catch) halters, whips, aluminium stirrups, stirrup straps, girths, gel pads and a trial saddle. See pictures below. Please contact us if you would like to have more information.



Trainings-stages

One of the first things Trausti told me was to always keep in your mind the training stages while working with your horses, no matter what work you do with them. Through my coaching course I learned a slightly different one but there are more ways leading to Rome, in this case collection, and the one below is actually very logic. The last stage is always collection. There is no way to get there as to go through all other stages first!

Below the training stages:

1. *Trust and respect*

Without trust and respect from your horse you are not able to work with him. It works both ways. Problems are often caused by a lack of trust and respect. The horse should want to work for you, it has to be nice to work for you. Sort problems out from the basis onwards. The horse should be relaxed and free of any tension.

2. *Rhythm and forwardness*

The horse has to move forwards in a steady rhythm, and has a will to go forwards.

3. *Contact*

There is a light and soft rein contact, equal on both sides, the horse accepts the bit. The horses outline and steps will be round and not hollow. The hindquarters and the forehead will be connected.

4. *Straightness*

The horse is equally strong on both sides, is able to go round in a circle on both reins in a steady rhythm. Working on straightness is a constant process since horses are just like humans born one sided.

5. *Collection*

Through the training the horse is taught how to carry more weight on the hindquarters which lightens the forehead and thus the horse is able to move the shoulders more freely and higher movements are possible.

When working with your horse take it step by step and if there is a problem, try to sort out at the base. You often find that you go backwards and forwards through the stages. Often problems are created by moving too fast forwards over the training stages. Patience is very important with everything you do with the horses. Take one small step at the time! No matter what discipline you do, whether it is leisure riding or training for competitions, you can use these stages. As leisure rider you might not be so interested in collection but sure you will enjoy your rides more with horses which show respect and trust, wanting to go forwards and are straight and supple!

It does not need further explanation that it is important to have a correct seat while riding and a correct order of the aids (seat, legs, reins, voice, whip)!

On the right I am riding Ösp frá Kirkjuferjuháleiga. She is a great horse. I cannot describe the feeling she gives you when riding in tölt and change tempo. She is so eager to do everything for you. You feel like you are flying and never want to dismount her again! Such a fantastic experience.



Friends

It is very important to create a good bond with your horse, take your time for a ride, never be in a hurry. If you do not have at least an hour for a ride, you are often better off to not work with him instead of making it into an hasty job. It is not a bike which you get out of the shed, ride and put back again. Take time for brushing, look for his favourite spots for rubbing, be friends with him.



When you make a longer ride, dismount and take time to relax both and let your horses know you appreciate all he does for you. You will find that if you create a bond with your horse, he will trust you, respect you and accepts you as a leader. He will be waiting for your what the next step will be, pays attention and is pleased to working for you.

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Cupboard

I have learned many things from my stay in Iceland which I now integrate in my own training and looking forward to using it when teaching other riders. Before I went to Iceland I had a cupboard full of information, not always stored properly. Now slowly but surely I am organising my cupboard, the shelves are the training stages and I am putting everything now on the right shelves; the position, the aids, the exercises, the tools.

Over the years every rider gathers a lot of information from either courses they do, magazines they read, video's they watch and talking to various people. Every rider has such a cupboard and it becomes fuller and fuller over the years and if you do not watch out the cupboard is overflowing and your loose overview. If you organise your cupboard and adjust everything you know to the training stages, life as a rider and trainer becomes much more simple and more over, your horse will love you for it!

Riding does not have to be complicated, we often make it too complicated. 'Keep it simple stupid' and that counts for riding as well!

Never ending story

You will never stop learning as a rider, trainer, teacher and it is great to be able to every now and then train with great teachers like Trausti! I have had many clinics over the years but this one in Iceland has cleared so many things for me that I can confidently say Trausti is one of the best teachers I have ever had. I hope in future to be able to go back to Iceland on a regular base and have lessons from Trausti!

Cooking & Culture

My stay in Iceland was not only wonderful due to horses and courses but also due to the great hospitality of Anna and Trausti. I felt at home from the first moment. Anna also is a great cook and I enjoyed the Icelandic food very much. No, have not had the 'famous' testicle soup or sheep eyes or whatever terrible food people seem to link to Iceland.....But what about delicious lobster soup; skyr (cultured dairy product, a bit like quark), yummy with a bit of cooked oats, sugar and runny cream ; cooked haddock, served with nice traditional rúgbrauð (dense and dark, sweet rye bread!



I also enjoyed a taste of Icelandic culture. We went to Hveragerði for ice tasting in the afternoon and watching amazing fireworks at night.

The area around Hveragerði is geothermal active; smoke comes from out of various places in the ground (where have I seen that before; in Central North Island, New Zealand!). There are various greenhouses which use this energy.



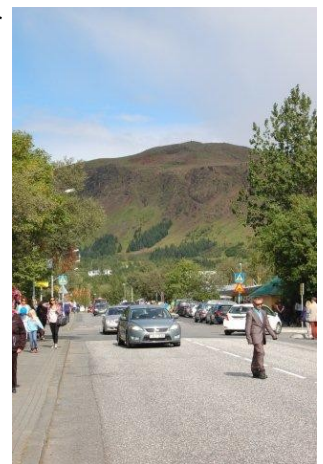
Later we went for a sight seeing tour to the middle of nowhere from where we had a beautiful sunset view over Þingvallavatn the largest natural lake in Iceland in Þingvellir National Park.

"Parliament or Alþingi was established at Þingvellir in 930 and remained there until 1798. Þingvellir National Park was founded in 1930 to protect the remains of the parliament site and was later expanded to protect natural phenomena in

the surrounding area" (source Wikipedia)

Thank you Trausti and Anna and also the other very nice people I met, you have made this into an unforgettable week!

Iceland: great country, great horses and great people!! I will sure come back again!



Benni's Harmony



At Skógarrönd we also sell the high quality Stübben range of Icelandic saddles and bridles, stirrups and bits: Benni's Harmony is especially designed for the Icelandic horse.

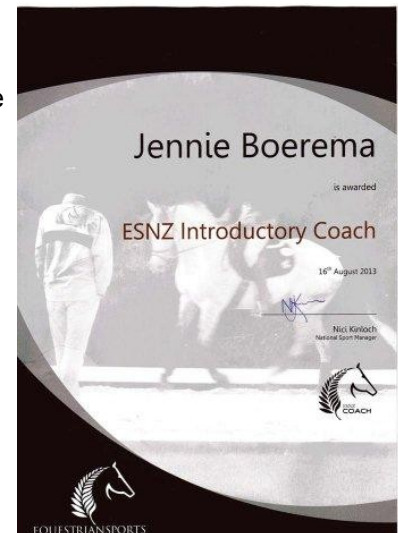
Please [contact us](#) for more information

ESNZ Coach

It is now official. In August I received my certificate for Introductory coach of the ESNZ and am now official qualified. I am looking forward to share my passion and help riders and their horses!

I will be available for coaching nation wide on request.

I am in Christchurch from 25 till 27 October for coaching and a clinic. There are still some places available if you are interested. Please feel free to contact me for more details.



Picture below; horses coming in, Kirkjuferjuháleiga, Iceland

