

INSIGHTS

MARCH 2019

EVENTING SIRES THAT SHAPED TEAM GBR

CAVALIER ROYALE



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The stallion Cavalier Royale

THE LEGEND CAVALIER ROYALE: THE IRISH BASED CONTINENTAL JUMPING SIRE WHO HELPED SHAPE GREAT BRITAIN'S EVENTING TEAM FROM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TO THE OLYMPICS.

Cavalier Royale's origins

Foaled in 1978 the 17hh brown stallion was originally born in the Netherlands but

eventually moved to Ireland. Nicholas O'Hare of the Irish Horse magazine described Cavalier Royale, as "*the most successful Continental stallion to stand in Ireland*".

Cavalier Royale was indeed one of the most successful sires of competition horses at the 2008 Olympic Games, where he was represented by Call Again Cavalier ridden by Mary King in the British Eventing team, Kilkishen and Capt Geoffrey Curran in the Irish team, Ben Along Time and Clayton Fredericks

CAVALIER ROYALE
WAS 51.76%
THOROUGHBRED

Cavalier Royale's Pedigree:

COR DE LA BRYÈRE SF-FR-68-DBR	RANTZAU TB-46-CH	FOXLIGHT TB-35	FOXHUNTER
		RANCUNE TB-40	CHOUIA
	QUENOTTE SF-FRA-69-BR	LURISO SF-55	CAVALIERE D'ARPINO
		VESTALE DU BOIS MARGOT SF-42	ROCKELLA XX
LIGUSTRA HOL-74-BR	LIGUSTER HOL-DE-70-BR	LANDSTURM HOL-66	FURISO
		AUMINA HOL-64	RIQUETTE
	DAMIRA HOL-DE-67-DBR	COLOMBO HOL-60	LANDAU
		ZAMORA HOL-63	KRISTINE DU BOIS MARGOT
			LADYKILLER
			OMALFIA
			ROMAN
			UDE
			COTTAGE SON XX
			NONNE
			ALDATO
			PAMINA

in Australia's silver medal winning eventing team and the showjumper, Calibra II and Lotta Schultz in the Swedish team.

By Cor de la Bryère, Cavalier Royale was out of Ligustra, the dam of several successful showjumpers, including the stallion Cicero, who stood at the Holstein Stud in Elmshorn. In Ligustra's veins flows the blood of three of the great Thoroughbreds to come to Schleswig-Holstein: Ladykiller, Cottage Son and Anblick, along with that other great refiner, the Anglo Arab, Ramzes,

through his son, Roman. That being said, Cavalier Royale is just over half thoroughbred with a total of 51.76% TB blood.

The stallion from the Netherlands who became a legend in Ireland

Cavalier Royale was brought over to Ireland by Seamus Hughes, a well-known figure in the Irish horse industry, in partnership with the Swiss dealer, Max Hauri. Whilst the breeders trusted the judgement of the stallion's owners, the Irish Horse Board was harder

to impress, and refused to give the horse fully approved status, and classified him initially just as a Supplementary Sire.

Cavalier Royale's first crop of foals performed absolutely brilliantly as three-year-olds in the loose jumping class at Millstreet. His three-year old's success at Millstreet undoubtedly was the trigger to his eventual success as a sire.

In all he produced over 1,000 foals before he was tragically killed in a fight with another stallion at John Hughes' yard in 1999.

The struggle for Irish approval

Cavalier Royale show jumped himself internationally and was a Puissance winner at 7'3" before a hock injury curtailed his sporting career.

Following agitation from breeders who had used him as a sire, the Irish Horse Board finally upgraded him in 1997 after blood

tests proved that he was the sire of François Mathy's European show jumping star, Amos. Amos won the West Coast Grand Prix with Rich Fellers before returning to Europe.

Cavalier Royale has yet to produce a top-class stallion son. One likely candidate is Chippison, who jumped with distinction for Ireland at the 2006 WEG in Aachen. This stallion is homebred by his rider,

Marie Burk and was an embryo transfer product out of a Flagmount Boy mare, Chipmount. The Irish Horse Board has refused to accept his breeder's word of mouth verification of the dam's pedigree, and the stallion is classified as a Supplementary 1 Sire.

Cavalier Royale was in fifth place on the 2012 World Breeding Federation of Sport Horse Rankings for sires.



CAVALIER ROYALE'S SONS WHO INFLUENCED EVENTING TEAM GBR

Call Again Cavalier

Out of the mare My Woodlands Lady VII, this 16.2hh son of Cavalier Royale was foaled in Ireland in 1992 and then registered as an Irish Sport Horse. His dam line isn't fully complete, but his dam's sire was the full Thoroughbred stallion Aristocracy who was by Lord Gayle. The Lord Gayle piece is key in that he is the sire of the stallion Strong Gayle whose most famous son Katabatic

won over £350,000 as a Hunter Chaser including winning the 1991 Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham. In all He is recorded as having 46% Thoroughbred blood in his pedigree.

Nicknamed Cavvy but known as Call Again Cavalier accrued 1438 British Eventing points in his career. The foundation of his career was shaped by Vicky Brake who took him from pre-novice to a very credible 15th place at Burghley before being put

on a provisional long list for the Athens Olympics at the end of 2003. At this point Vicky knew what an incredibly valuable horse Cavvy horse was and put him on the market; at this time Yogi Bresiner telephoned Mary to see if she had any owners who could buy him as he was such a credible team prospect. Mary didn't have the funds to buy Cavvy and he was subsequently sold to Sue and Eddie Davies and Janette Chinn. Eddie was owner of the football Club Bolton Wanderers at



Call Again Cavalier and Mary King at Aachen in 2006

that time and in buying Cavvy it appealed to his competitive sporting streak.

Caroline Pratt took over the ride on Call Again Cavalier in 2004, she quickly had success on him coming 8th in the CIC3* at Fontainebleau in France. The pair unfortunately fell at their first Badminton in 2004 but went on to take 20th place at the British Open Championships at Gatcombe. They were entered for Burghley, this wasn't just any Burghley, this was Caroline Pratt's very **first Burghley** and one that she had worked incredibly hard for.

Caroline and Cavvy had a clear cross country which set her up well for her second ride of the day. All was going well with Caroline on her second ride until she had a terrible rotational fall at a water fence and Caroline very tragically lost her life.

In 2005 after the death of Caroline, Mary King took over the ride on Call Again Cavalier. She was initially nervous that he wouldn't make the time at Championship level as his previous form had shown a lot of time penalties; he very quickly proved to Mary that speed XC was not an issue in their new partnership.

Mary and Cavvy were fourth in their first Open Intermediate together at Tweseldown.

Their next run was at Belton; not a great one as Mary had an issue with her 'brakes' XC and was as she describes it 'dislodged' only for the jockey-less Cavvy to be caught by Vicky Brake!

In March the pair headed for their first Badminton together and were 29th at Badminton. Mary admitted that her 'brakes' issue was still not fixed and hence explaining why the pair had a run out; but they did a cracking clear round show jumping the next day.





Call Again Cavalier at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 with Mary King in the show jumping phase

Burghley showed first team level promise

In July 2005 Mary and Cavvy were eighth at Barbury Castle in the CIC3* set the pair up very well for their first Burghley together; interestingly Burghley 2005 was the last year in the long format to include the roads and tracks and the Steeplechase.

Mary chastised herself rather than her horse for picking up four time penalties on the

Steeplechase; however the pair were clear XC and Show Jumping and eventually finished in fourth place. Mary and Cavvy's performance impressed the selectors so much that they asked Mary not to run him at Badminton the following spring as they were in contention for a team place at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in Germany.

Marys and Cavvy's final run before Aachen was in the beginning of August

at Gatcombe in the British Open Championships. They did a great dressage test in the 20's, clear show jumping and then withdrew from the XC to save Cavvy for Aachen.

Call Again Cavalier's represents Team GBR at Aachen

At the end of August 2006 Mary and Call Again Cavalier secured their first team appearance together at Aachen in the World Equestrian Games (WEG).





Her team mates were Daisy Dick on Springalong, Zara Phillips on Toytown and William Fox-Pitt on Tamarillo. Team GBR won team silver, with Mary and Cavy coming 24th individually.

Mary and Cavy scored 56 in their championship dressage test at Aachen, a far cry from their mark in the 20s a few weeks earlier at Gatcombe. Mary made it clear that she didn't feel that such a high mark was justified from the judges.

Interestingly another son of Cavalier Royale took both the individual silver and team bronze medals at the

WEG in Aachen; this was Ben Along Time partnered by Clayton Fredericks for Australia.

The following year in 2007, was the year that Mary and Call Again Cavalier reaped the rewards from their earlier work and headed for Badminton. Sadly, they didn't get their Badminton run as the ground was hard, so Mary withdrew Cavy. They re-routed to the World Cup Qualifier at Chatsworth CIC3* which was in fact incredibly wet and pulled off a double clear to win.

Next, they were third at Barbury Castle CIC3*,

and then went on to The Festival of Eventing British Open Championships at Gatcombe in order to have a high profile run before The European Championships. Cavy led after the first two phases, flew round the XC and won - giving Mary her fifth national title.

The European Championships at Pratoni

In September 2007

Team GBR flew out to the European Eventing Championships in Italy at Pratoni, for the CCI3* Championship Three-Day



Call Again Cavalier at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 with Mary King having just finished the show jumping

Event. Mary King and Call Again Cavalier's other team members were Daisy Dick and Spring along, Oli Townend and Flint Curtis and Zara Phillips on Toytown. Mary and Cavvy jumped a double clear to take the individual silver medal and team gold for Team GBR.

In 2008 Mary and Call Again Cavalier repeated their success of the previous year and got off to a great start by coming third in the CIC3* World Cup Qualifier at Burnham Market International Horse Trials - having led after dressage.

2008 and selected for the Hong Kong Olympics

They were then eighth in the CIC3* at Barbury Castle and were selected to represent Team GBR at the Hong Kong Olympics. The heat and humidity was a concern for all of the Team GBR members, however Mary and Call Again Cavalier helped Team GBR to win team bronze at Hong Kong.

Mary King and Call Again Cavalier were immensely popular with the public in Britain. When King entered the arena on Cavvy for her

final round in Cardiff, the building erupted into a resounding ovation before they even began.

They total career medal and international three-day event winning tally included: **Winning Team Silver World Equestrian Games 2006, Chatsworth CIC3* and British Open CIC3* 2007, Won Team Gold & Individual Silver at the 2007 European Championships, Olympic Team Bronze at Beijing 2008.**



Call Again Cavalier and Mary King at the Hong Kong Olympics in their dressage test







Call Again Cavalier and Mary King at the Hong Kong Olympics in 2008 in the show jumping phase



Call Again Cavalier and Mary King after their dressage test at the 2008 Hong Kong Olympics



Call Again Cavalier and Mary King at the Hong Kong Olympics in 2008 on the XC jumping a large table



Call Again Cavalier and Mary King at the Hong Kong Olympics 2008 after finishing her dressage test

Imperial Cavalier

Foaled in 1997, Imperial Cavalier the 16.2hh Irish Sport Horse gelding was out of an Irish Sport Horse mare called Gene Pool who was by the Thoroughbred stallion Imperius. Imperial Cavalier or Archie as he was known was bred in Ireland by John Brennan at Ballyscanlon, Tramore, Co Waterford.

He had a career total of 1764 British Eventing points won with three jockeys, but

Mary King was to be his Team and Olympic medal partner. He had a total 21 International starts and a phenomenal 5 wins at International level. Vicky Brake commendably took Imperial Cavalier all the way from Pre Novice in 2003 right up to Bramham CCI*** in 2007 where the pair were 12th.

In August 2007 Mary King took over the ride after making several failed attempts trying to

persuade Vicky to sell him. It was to be Call Again Cavaliers owners whom made the successful and instrumental attempts to buy Imperial Cavalier off Vicky. The two horses by Cavalier Royale, now had the same jockey and were based at the same yard in Devon.

Once at Mary's yard, she then took Imperial Cavalier from CCI3* through to CCI4*. Their first three-day event together was in



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Burghley in 2008 in the show jumping phase

October 2007 at Pau in France, and the pair were second to Nicolas Touzaint on Hidalgo D'Ile. Mary felt at this point she had a medal winning prospect in Imperial Cavalier.

Mary and Imperial Cavaliers 2008 was centred around heading for their first Badminton together. They headed for Belton in their pre-Badminton programme and finished second behind Ruth Edge on Mr Dumbledore. Their Badminton didn't go to plan as they had a silly fall

on the XC; but pulled their socks up to jump a clear in the show jumping the next day.

In June after a disappointing Badminton Mary was asked by the selectors for Team GBR for Hong Kong to compete in a low-key event at Salperton. Mary was 5th on Imperial Cavalier, and third on Call Again Cavalier.

September 2008 and Mary and Imperial Cavalier headed for Burghley which was incredibly wet that

year and despite doing their test in a very muddy arena more akin to hunting than dressage, they finished in third place after the three days.

Imperial Cavalier's European team selection

2009 and Mary and Archie were third at Tattersalls in the CIC3* which was good enough to earn a listing for the European Championships at Fontainebleau in France where the pair were fourth.



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Badminton on the XC

Spring 2010 and Mary had Badminton in her sights for Imperial Cavalier. The pair were seventh in the CIC3* at Burnham Market in April, and then set off for Badminton in May. They had a great Badminton and came fourth.

World Equestrian Games - Kentucky

The highlight of 2010 was being part of Team GBR at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky; where they were sixth placed and helped Team GBR to take team Gold!

2012 and the London Olympics

2011 was to be a key year for Mary and Imperial Cavalier, it was the run-up year to London 2012 Olympics and also the year of the European Championships. Mary. The season started well coming second, in the advanced intermediate at Aldon, and then they headed to Badminton where they improved upon 2010 Badminton result by coming third. In the July the pair were fourth at the European Championships

at Aachen and took the team bronze medal, and then in the October were fourth at Pau in the CCI4*.

2012 arrived, it was the year of the London Olympics and by now Imperial Cavalier had been with Mary for five years. Mary had five Olympics under her belt and was desperately looking to beat Ian Stark's record of the same number and pip him to six Olympics.

Mary and Imperial Cavalier were selected for Team GBR at the London



Mary King and Imperial Cavalier at Badminton



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Aachen in July 2011 jumping a big log into the water



2012 Olympics where the pair were fifth placed individually. They also took the team silver medal in front of an exuberant home crowd.

The rest of the London 2012 team included Nicola Wilson on Opposition Buzz, Zara Phillips on High Kingdom, Kristina Cook on Miners Frolic and William Fox-Pitt on Lionheart.

In all, Archie **completed nine CCI4* events in his career**, finishing in the top six in seven of them. Highlights of his prolific

career included coming 13th at Badminton in 2013, fourth at Pau in 2012, **fifth individually at the 2012 London Olympics**, third at Badminton in 2011, **sixth individually at the 2010 World Equestrian Games**, fourth at Badminton in 2010, third at Burghley in 2008 and second at Pau in 2007.

Mary retired Imperial Cavalier from four star runs after his last Badminton expressing concerns that he had lost his usual feistiness cross country, but ultimately that

he didn't owe her anything and she owed it to him to stop campaigning at that level.

Mary described him as having an *"Enthusiasm for sport and life in general. There was a real aura about him, you knew he was a world class horse," she said. "Every day when you tacked him up he wanted to work. He always had his ears forward - he was very happy and a real gentleman."*

Imperial Cavalier is listed in the Irish Sport Horse Hall of Fame.



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Aachen in July 2011 jumping into the water on the XC



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Pau jumping out of the water on the XC in 2011



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at Pau jumping out of the water on the XC in 2011



Mary King on Imperial Cavalier at the London 2012 Olympics during their dressage test



Mary King on Imperial Cavalier at the London 2012 Olympics in the XC Phase



Mary King on Imperial Cavalier at the London 2012 Olympics in the XC Phase



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at the London 2012 Olympics on the XC phase



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King at the London 2012 Olympics with the City of London in the background



Mary King on Imperial Cavalier at the London 2012 Olympics in the XC Phase





Imperial Cavalier and Mary King after their dressage at the London 2012 Olympics



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King saluting the crowd after their dressage at the London 2012 Olympics



Imperial Cavalier and Mary King after their show jumping round at London 2012 Olympics



Imperial Cavalier and the rest of Team GB at the London 2012 Olympics





Mary King on the podium after winning team silver at the London 2012 Olympics

Summary

These two sons of Cavalier Royale were foaled in Ireland and with Continental (rather than Irish) show jumping sire lines and thoroughbred dam lines.

They were both registered as Irish Sport Horses and it would be fair to say that they both had circa 50% Thoroughbred Blood.

Cavalier Royale and Imperial Cavalier both contributed to the Team GBR medal tally on a range of continents; some under greater heat and humidity than their home country - but their half bred bloodlines proved perfect for medal winning performances.

Both these sons of Cavalier Royale will be remembered in both English and Irish hearts, and are an absolute credit to both Vicky Brake and Mary King for their impact on Team GBR's performances.





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About the Author

Georgie Belton comes from a family of eventing, racing and showing breeders in the Midlands. Her grandfather has bred a 5-star horse and she has bred horses up to CCI**** and B.E Advanced Level.

Her own stud Gemini Stud has won the British Eventing Breeding In Hand Championship with a grandson of Primitive Rising under the judging of Henrietta Knight along with the British Equestrian Federation Futurity National Championship.

Georgie has had multiple Badminton CCI5* and Burghley CCI5* mare owners as customers, Gemini Stud stands a stallion grandson of the Holstein Jump stallion Chicos Boy who won a BE Event as a five-year old on his dressage score and was a Horse of the Year Show Cuddy In Hand Finalist as a three year old.

Georgie has written articles on breeding and more specifically event horse breeding for Eventing Worldwide and British Breeding.

Georgie also has a BSc Hons from the department of Agriculture at Newcastle University and is a Director of several property related businesses.



Classic Opera



Gemini Stud's stallion Classic Opera in the Cuddy In Hand Final at HOYS