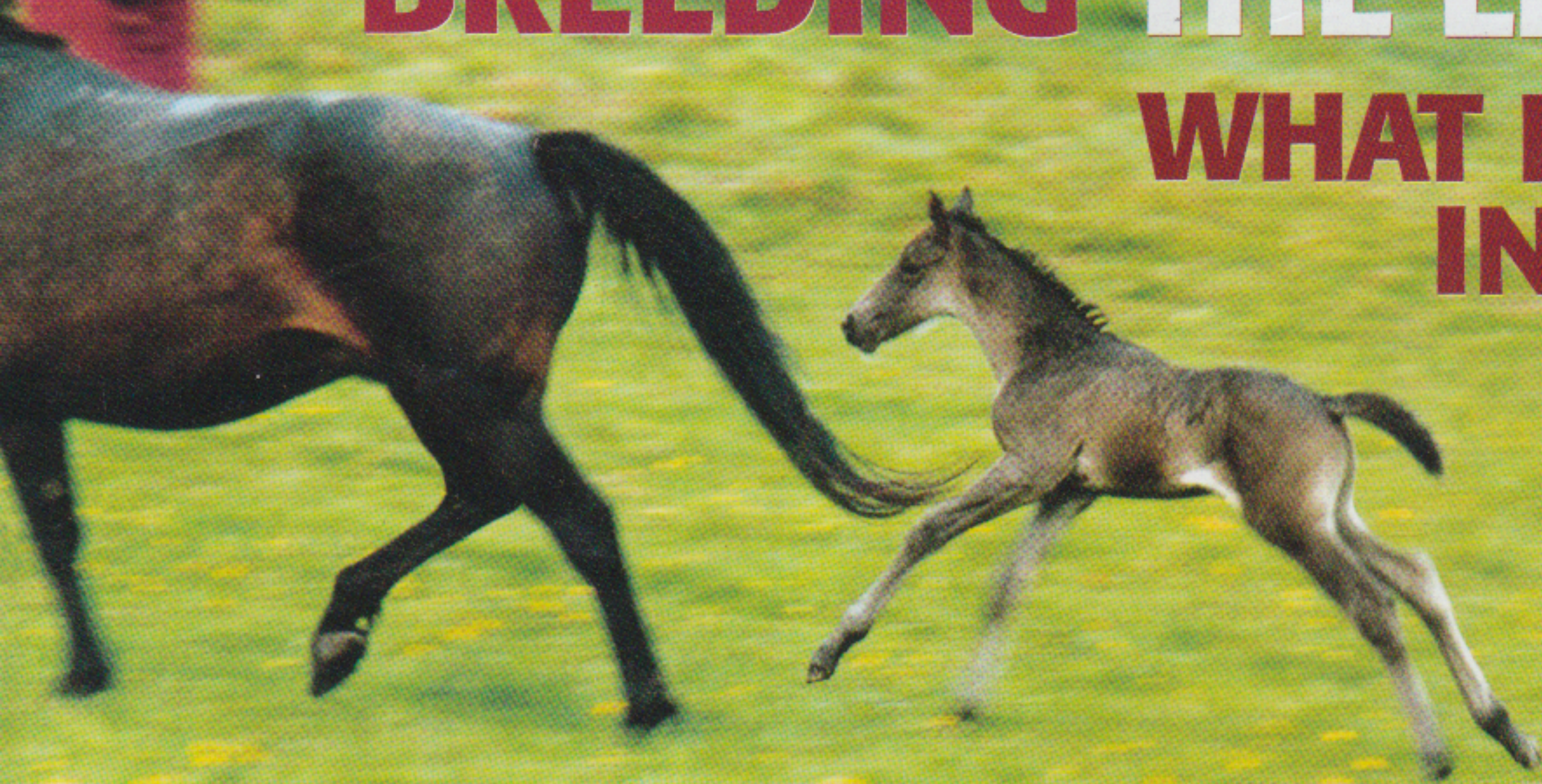


# BREEDING THE LEGACY

## WHAT DO YOU INHERIT?



*Wurlitzer as a foal with his dam Calista who won twice the British Breeding award for the results of her offspring.*

MADELEINE HILL TALKED TO RIDER AND TRAINER DAVID PINCUS AND HIS WIFE SERENA ABOUT TRAINING AND PRODUCING HOME BRED HORSES.

**D**avid Pincus moved to Sheepcote Stud just outside Hereford in 1980. He was a rider and trainer of many years experience and decided to try his hand at breeding as well; "I knew by then that if I was going to get a half decent horse to ride I was going to have to breed it myself because I couldn't afford to buy one. I was interested in the breeding, but always alongside the riding and training, breeding is all part of the challenge."

### DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE

David qualified as a BHSI in 1973, worked with an Irish dealer, and trained in Germany and Switzerland before going to the top Classical Riding Schools in Europe – the Cadre Noir and the Spanish Riding School. He also worked with the great German master Dr. Reiner Klimke. He trained in Newmarket in Stud Management and is a certified A.I. Technician.

When he came back to the UK he was based for a time near Cardiff before moving to Sheepcote. Serena went with him: "Serena came to Hereford with me for two weeks as a working pupil and she hasn't gone back yet!" jokes David. Serena came from a typical British equestrian background of breeding, showing, hunting etc and has immersed herself thoroughly in the breeding and training at Sheepcote.

### FOUNDATION STOCK

The first two horses they acquired for breeding were a mare and a stallion that David bought for an owner in Germany. The mare went on to event, eventually to David's student Graham Law who

took her to Advanced. The stallion was Dalibor and David rode him to Grand Prix. Dalibor was the sire of Sheepcote Diorissima a mare competed Serena competed at Advanced levels.

Today, as well as competing his homebred stallion Wurlitzer at Grand Prix, David produces, rides and trains the progeny from Sheepcote, including those of stallions Wurlitzer and Cassander (who died last year). Cassander was a stallion that won several National Championship titles with Serena, and his progeny still feature at top-level competitions.

### COMPLEMENTARY BREEDING

"Riding the stallion and knowing the mare gives you the information that you need to breed a better horse. It serves the purpose that grading is supposed to. When you know the qualities or limitations of your stallion and your mare, you try to match and complement their strengths and weaknesses."

Wurlitzer was bred by David seventeen years ago from a batch of frozen semen when this was just being pioneered. He was out of a Dutch bred mare called Calista by Lucky Boy XX out of a Euphrat mare and semen from Weltmeyer. Calista was Reserve Champion at



*An example of the Pincus pony breeding program - Tyn-y-Cae Sandmartin (by Wurlitzer) who won the Evaluation Series for dressage as a four year old and is here jumping as a five year old.*

her mare grading and winner of Horse and Hound trophy for the best dressage mare (for her progeny) several times.

David is currently competing both Wurlitzer and his son Whistle at Grand Prix while other riders have progeny of Wurlitzer competing at Advanced level.

### PONY BREEDING

The Pincus's have also had a lot of success breeding competition ponies from Wurlitzer and a pony mare called Tyn-Y-Cae Goldfinch who came from a mother line of ponies that Serena rode as a child in Wales (Samau Gold Falcon). Both Sheepcote Dancer and Sheepcote Red Lady were pony champions at the British Dressage Young Horse Breeding Championships.