

Demystifying the Naming of Stallions at Drachten

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The question of which stallion or former stallion actually went to the test at Drachten or completed the tests to be either Approved or not Approved has come up several times recently. In order to find out the history of a particular horse, one needs to understand the naming process of these candidates. And this can be confusing, indeed. When a horse is chosen to attend Drachten, the owner can choose a name from a list that hasn't already been used for an Approved Stallion before. Sometimes this name is the same as the horse's real name, or very, very close - especially if his real registered name is simple, unique, and Friesian. Sometimes this name is totally different. If one particular horse fails to complete the Drachten test, or is not Approved, then that name can be used in another year for another horse. If the same horse is readmitted in the next year to Drachten, he will be given a different name than the one he had at Drachten before. This helps eliminate some bias that may be present among trainers who might remember the horse because of the name. Once a stallion has actually been Approved that name is his unique and different name - not to be used again at Drachten. For instance, consider the former stallion Hylke ut 'e Mieden, the champion show driving horse recently sold to the states. This Hylke (Olof x Theuntje ster) was accepted to Drachten at the Stallion Show in 1998. Upon arrival at Drachten he was given the name "Harke." Hylke, now Harke, did not complete the test that year. In 2000 Hylke ut 'e Mieden was again presented to the jury at the Stallion Show. This time he didn't make it to Drachten. But another Hylke (Nykle x Imkje ster) did. His name for the test was "Hylke," but he left on March 16.

Another example is the Approved Stallion Teunis 332. Teunis' original name was Valko (Gerlof x Gertruda ster). Valko was accepted to Drachten in

1993 and received the name "Ulrik" for the tests. He left Drachten on April 9. In 1994 Valko was again accepted to Drachten and this time he was assigned the name "Teunis" and he passed to achieve Approved Stallion status. In 1994, the name "Ulrik" was again used for one of the other stallions attending Drachten (Gerlof x Hara ster). Since this Ulrik didn't achieve Approved Stallion status, the name "Ulrik" may be used again at some point for another horse attending Drachten. It is necessary to verify the parentage and tongue/chip numbers printed in the Phryso in order to follow the history of a particular horse. Since many of the horses who attended the tests, but were not approved, are being sold around the world, this becomes important as it can all be a little bit confusing.

Let's take another quick look at the first horse mentioned above - Hylke ut 'e Mieden. Even people positioned in the Friesian world closer to the source can quickly mistake some of these stallions one for the other. The Winter 2000 issue of *The Friesian* includes Hylke ut 'e Mieden in the list of stallions receiving the green light to Drachten this year. Since Hylke ut 'e Mieden was gelded and imported to the United States in April 2000, it is unlikely that he will be showing up at Drachten! Hylke ut 'e Mieden's owners may well have been surprised to see their gelding's name on the list! The horse who will be again attending Drachten is Hylke, the Nykle son who left last year before the end of the test due to a lameness. While at Drachten in 2001, Hylke may very well take on another name, as he was simply "Hylke" last year!

The ultimate reason for the name changes are to allow each Approved Stallion exclusive right to his very own unique Friesian name and to limit some bias during the tests.