



Master Craftsman by Master Spiritus, and ridden by Ginny Leng, is a good example of a top class event horse bred in Britain.

THE THEORY AND FACTS OF BREEDING POLICIES

The subject of the British Sporting horse has been raised from several quarters, and while many people show concern about the future, no national co-ordinated actions have been taken, in spite of the urgency of the matter, and misguidance and false confidence is apparent.

When assessing the success of a National breeding policy, one should not only take account of the few specimens

at the top of the sport as the indication of its achievement, because in any group of animals there are always some which are better than others, and stars will emerge in any environment from time to time. The importance of a co-ordinated breeding policy can be seen from the Irish experience and the Belgian example.

The effectiveness of a breeding policy is measured by

the following criterion. First of all there is the quality of the average specimen within a large group of animals; then

by David Pincus

the statistical occurrence within this group of especially good specimens who are looked upon as being stars; what contribution the planned policy had towards this statistical occurrence, and in

what environment this breeding policy is taking place.

In Britain at the moment, there is not a recognised, laid down breeding policy with an aim and conception. Although Britain is the most influential producer of event horses, this must be evaluated realistically. Eventing, with all that it is associated with, is unique to this country.

No other country has the volume or the structure of the