



Billy Congo is a Gold Elite stallion who made his debut with great success at Top Level Nations Cup competition this year with William Funnell.

awareness," he said. "You're never going to make a million out of a show horse and this is why it makes commercial sense to provide platforms for our sport horses to show their potential in the ring"

Will is a staunch supporter of the Equine Pathway scheme which identifies and supports future stars.

"The Equine Pathway not only supports our young horses but it brings awareness of the benefits of breeding from good mares and good stallions," he said. "There are no short cuts and yes - horses should be judged on their competitive ability.

"You only have to look at the stallion shows in Holland which attract hundreds of breeders looking to choose a stallion. They're breeding sports horses and it needs to be commercially viable to keep big numbers of these horses in work."

Will and Henk share views on the value of breeding from performance mares.

"The more commercial we become the better chance we have of retaining our top mares for breeding future generations," said Will.

Both men practise what they preach and this is

highlighted by the elite band of broodmares based at Henk's Renkum Stud Farm in Sussex.

These include the top international mare Wiston Bridget, formerly ridden by Tim Stockdale; Pebble Beach, a winner of two five star grand prix; and the international jumping mare Inish MacNevin.

It's the proof of the pudding which counts and their progeny have to do the talking.

Pebble Beach is the dam of the exciting prospect Renkum Off Centre, who represented Britain at two world championships in Lanaken. Partnered by Peter Murphy, this son of Renkum Valentino continues to impress, winning the Bramham grand prix, finishing second in Yorkshire, and posting a double clear in the grand prix at Aintree.

Henk's international Cor de la Bryere broodmare, Cordula, is responsible for Little Renkum, currently competing with Laura Renwick.



*Super Trooper De Ness is one of the first sons of the 2010 world champion stallion Vigo D'Arsouilles and recently won the HOYS Grade C title with Nicky Boulton*

"We believe that performance ability is strongly hereditary," said Henk. "We must start with the mares that have competed themselves, and consolidate their ability with that of the very best proven competition stallions."

Will Funnell added: "Performance stallions need foals on the ground and from a stallion's point of view they need good mares. It's doubled edge with performance and progeny.

"The Billy Stud always aim for the British Young Horse championships and it's also rewarding to get progeny through to HOYS national finals. Hopefully we're learning year by year and improving our breeding programme.

"As time goes by, British breeding will be recognised as a profitable concern especially as we see more and more people breeding grand prix horses in this country."