Pedigree and performance vital to the path of success

Hughes, his breeding programme began with just one mare eight years ago. When assessing a possible broodmare, Hughes will always look at the pedigree first, and if that doesn’t stack up, then he will go no further. Interestingly Hughes progressed to add that ideally he would like to see 1.60m horses appearing in the dam’s pedigree the whole way through, as well as being another good proportion of thoroughbred blood.

**World Champion**

This ethos remains weight when the Murphy family’s wonderful mare Gipsy III, dam of the recent Lanaken world six-year-old champion Columbine Gipsy, came forward to parade. Looking in top condition and belying her 27 years, Gipsy is by the thoroughbred sire Grundyman, while her maternal granddam is by Sacramento Song (TB). As regards the choice of stallions, the panel all agreed that they should be chosen to improve the mare.

The obvious cost of sourcing these well-bred mares is likely be prohibitive for many breeders, so the possibility of mare sharing between friends was also discussed.

Both Brennan and Hughes remained clear cut and commercial throughout, with both admitting that they can’t sell some horses if they are not breeding success, and if their progeny are not up to standard they are sold before being broken.

The day you choose your sire is the day you sell.” Chris Ryan meanwhile remarked that breeding choices should be based on breeding potential and performance, adding that they require both to be measured.

Farley emphasised the importance of using approved stallions, saying, “The day you choose your sire is the day you sell.”

Both Brennan and Hughes were clear that ideally they would like to see 1.60m horses appearing in the dam’s pedigree the whole way through, as well as being another good proportion of thoroughbred blood.

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