

## **All the way from Hawaii to the Academy Bartels Training Week!**

The training weeks in Hooge Mierde at Academy Bartels are well-known in the Netherlands. Many enthusiastic, eager to learn riders from the Netherlands and Belgium find their way to a training week and mini-holiday with horse under the guidance of Imke Schellekens-Bartels and/or Mischa Koot. Taking her horse was not that easy for participant Magen Moren, as she came all the way from Hawaii to Hooge Mierde to participate in the training week. So for this week she has been given loan horse Mega Mindy from the Academy. Magen joined the training week with Imke.

Thanks to Magen's love for Frisian horses, she met Jenny Veenstra, now a good friend and trainer of Magen. Jenny has been a loyal guest at the training-weeks for many years and Jenny likes to share her acquired knowledge with many clients and horse lovers all over the world. This is how Magen came into contact with the Academy, on Jenny's recommendation. Magen's wish was to improve her dressage skills and to be able to transfer everything she had learned to Hawaii. "I work mainly with young horses and I think it is important to take the next step now and to feel for myself what I still need to work on. I think it is important to do the right things with young horses in a relaxed way and to know what I should be working towards. The mare I rode during the training week was also a perfect teacher. The mare had much more experience than me, but did the exercises perfectly if I gave the right help. She wouldn't give it to me if I did not guide her correctly so that was super helpful to work on with Imke."

"The dressage community in Hawaii is small, so it is interesting to take the knowledge from this week home with me. We organize various dressage events and clinics, so everything I have learned here in addition to riding, for example about the stable management and training planning etc., is something we can certainly use further in Hawaii. I have also been incredibly inspired by watching the lessons of others and the clinics with Imke and Tineke. We were allowed to watch all the lessons that were given during those days and also the training of the stable riders. The entire Academy works with so much knowledge, care and love with their horses, you can really see that everything here revolves around the horses. The passion of Tineke and Imke is also admirable and after each lesson I was even more enthusiastic for the next one! The pieces of the puzzle for the rest of my dressage career fell into place here."

During the training week, all participants stay in a hotel room on the Academy grounds. Magen was pleasantly surprised about her stay and her husband Nick also enjoyed himself immensely, despite the fact that he does not ride horses himself: "I had no expectations about the week and the stay before we arrived. From the moment we checked in we were received so warmly and we immediately felt at home. Everything was nice, clean and very nice that we were close to the horses. The group had a great time and we ate together all week and used all the vouchers we received from the Academy at the kick-off meeting. I personally loved the voucher from the tackingshop was fantastic, because there are no such shops like that in Hawaii. Normally I have to order everything online and now I could see it, feel it and try it on! The entire group process is a nice extra element of your training week, it is a wonderful experience. It is much more than just a week of horse riding. We really felt part of the Bartels family, even those who didn't ride like my husband!"

We are extremely grateful that we were able to experience this week and that the entire Academy has been so open to sharing their knowledge. It was absolutely worth the trip and I would love to come back again as soon as possible!