

A résumé of his 2016 season (as an 8 year old):

After three outings in 130 and 135 competitions in Belgium, Ulyss Morinda properly began his season 2016 at the GPA Jump Festival, the CSI of Cagnes sur Mer in the 140 competition. Straight away he proved his good form and confirmed that competing at his level was not going to pose him any problem at all. After the two CSI of Cagnes sur Mer and a weekend off, Ulyss Morinda took the CSI of Compiègne (April 21/24 2016) in his stride, jumping very well, and being placed in the competition on the Sunday.

In May 2016 Ulyss Morinda took part in his first CSI 4\* at Bourg en Bresse (making his mark with a very good 11th place) and at the same time debuted at his first 145 competition.... He did not seem at all bothered and jumped with strength and respect.

Ulyss continued with his 2016 season by going to the CSI of Bonheiden (in Belgium) then to Fontainebleau. Between the two he took part in a national Belgian event where he was also brilliantly placed. In August 2016, Ulyss and Rik were at the two CSI of Auvers in Normandy where they competed in competitions of 1.35, 1.40 and 1.45.

In September 2016 Ulyss returned to the Jumping at Bonheiden in Belgium, another CSI 3\*. On Saturday the tenth of September, in top form, he won the 140 event beating the other 68 competitors from many different nations. Second place went to an English competitor, third to a Dutch one.... It was his first victory at this level and we are very proud indeed of our young stallion. The course at the Jumping at Bonheiden is particularly difficult, being very spooky with enormous advertising panels and some more nervous horses would not jump well in this situation. I should add that the warm-up ring is very small. But Ulyss was always very much at ease and he and Rik make a rock solid partnership.

In October 2016, after a three week break, Ulyss returned to indoor competition. He began his run with a 1m40 class on the 'Classic Tour' at Gesvres in Belgium, where he took second place. On the weekend of the 20th of October he continued his success by coming seventh in the 1m40 on the first day of the CSI at Kronenberg (Peelbergen) in Holland, out of 154 participants. The competition having been redoubled, he went on to finish fourth out of 78. The following day he was again placed seventh.

At the beginning of November in 2016, after a weekend of rest, Ulyss returned to the famous CSI 3\* at Liege (Belgium) where he finished his season as a seven year old in 2015. He was a little bit lacking in luck on the first day where if he had been without fault in the 1m40 class he would have finished fourth. But he had one rail down. The partnership was very quick. However, Ulyss, at eight, was one of the youngest horses in the CSI. On the Sunday, in the big 1m45 class, he also managed to bring down a pole on the 2nd fence but then carried on, giving a comfortable margin to the rest of the fences. And yet, it was only his fourth time out over 1m45. We were very content with his performance.

After Liege and still in November 2016, Ulyss went back to Kronenberg in Holland (to the Equestrian Centre at Peelbergen) a competition which he seemed to particularly enjoy since he was again placed twice in three classes. As there were so many starters in the 1.40 m classes we can only congratulate Ulyss and his rider Rik Hemeryck.

At the start of December 2016, from the 1st to the 4th, Rik took Ulyss Morinday for the first time in his life to the prestigious LONGINES MASTERS in Paris. He was entered in the CSI 2\* but Ulyss at the same time took part in a 1.45m open to 5\* horses where there was prestigious opposition such as Rahotep de Toscane, gold medal winner from the Rio Olympic Games..... He jumped very well and was even placed third the day before in a 1.35m class (with a Joker final over 1.50 m).

So, a first LONGINES MASTERS for Ulyss and we are hoping not the last...