

Grassroots Sparks

Step by Step User Guide

Sparks is a tool which can be used to help find potential mates. It is based on pedigrees and calculates the degree of relationship between animals.

It is designed to help maintain genetic diversity within the breed, without increasing inbreeding.

It uses the kinship between every possible pairing in the population, and suggests those mating which are recommend, or to be avoided.

Log into the Grassroots Farmers Online <https://farmers.grassroots.co.uk/Home>

Or via the link on your breed Society website, <https://eriskaypony.org/services-2/> (bottom of page) using your member number and a password you can set up yourself. If you don't yet have a password, or have forgotten it, click on the **forgot password button** and you will be sent an email link to reset.

By logging into this site you agree to the following terms and conditions:
All data provided on this site remains in the ownership of the Breed Society and is accessed for the purpose of personal research, and to make application to add or change the records of animals owned.


This data may not be copied or used for any other purpose.

Herd Letters / Member Number

Password

[Click to Reset Password](#)

Login



Online System
Grassroots System Ltd

To use Grassroots Sparks

Once you have logged in, Click on the menu icon – top right



Select Sparks

A list of the females in your registered ownership will be displayed.

Showing: 2 of 2 Records										<input type="text" value="Type text to filter"/>		
Reg. No	Animal Name	Passport	Inspect No	Gender	Owner	Breeder	Status	Reg. Status	DoB*	Colour	Breed	Microchip
28471	Top Meadow Victoria	826043000028471		Female	02784	00607	Alive	Registered	21 May 2001	Bright chesnut		
28679	Holbeache Lexy	826043000028679		Female	02784	00128	Alive	Registered	08 May 2012	Dark Liver Chesnut	Suffolk	941000014172347

If it is a big list, sort by clicking on the column headings, or type part of the name of the female you are interested in, into the filter box top right.

Select one female, the record will go pale orange

Showing: 2 of 2 Records										<input type="text" value="Type text to filter"/>		
Reg. No	Animal Name	Passport	Inspect No	Gender	Owner	Breeder	Status	Reg. Status	DoB*	Colour	Breed	Microchip
28471	Top Meadow Victoria	826043000028471		Female	02784	00607	Alive	Registered	21 May 2001	Bright chesnut		
28679	Holbeache Lexy	826043000028679		Female	02784	00128	Alive	Registered	08 May 2012	Dark Liver Chesnut	Suffolk	941000014172347

Click on **Next** – bottom right

That takes you to a screen to filter the possible males.

The first option is **what colour of recommendation** do you want

Colour Bands:

☒ Green

☐ Yellow

☐ Orange

☐ Red

- **Green** – Recommended matings
- **Yellow** – Best of the Rest
- **Orange** - Not Recommended
- **Red** – Definitely Avoid

Or tick them all for a full list

The next question for equines is stallions with a licence, or colts which have not yet been licenced

Stallions with a Licence:

☐ No

☒ Yes

Then for the breeds with large populations, you might want to filter on the age of the male

Date of Birth

From:

To:

otherwise you can leave this blank

Finally you might want to filter only males which have been flagged as available to Hire, that is to say are at standing at stud, or available as AI

For Sale, Hire or AI:

☐ Select All

☐ Sale

☐ Hire

☐ AI

You might want to leave that blank for the first search

Click on **Next**

A screen will be displayed with :

The details of the selected female (top left) eg:

My Female			
Animal Name:	Holbeache Lexy	IBC:	0.0986
Date of Birth:	08/05/2012	Mean Kinship:	0.1287
Registration Number:	28679	Total Offspring:	Males: 2 (2) Female: 1 (1)

With her name, date of birth and registration number in the first column

- and her Inbreeding coefficient
- her mean kinship to all the potential breeding males in the population. For equines that is to say licenced stallions and colts under 10 years of age.
- Plus the summary of the foals she has produced, and the number still alive in brackets.

Then the details of the Sparks calculation top right for comparison

Sparks Breed Calculations			
Date Calculated:	24/01/2025	Mean IBC:	0.1058
Number of Males:	109	Mean Kinship for Males:	0.1256
Number of Females:	279	Mean Kinship for Females:	0.1224

On the left

- The date the calculation was run
- the number of males
- and the number of females
- ie the included in the calculations as the 'potential breeding population'

On the right

- the mean inbreeding coefficient for the whole of that population
- the mean kinship of all the males, to all the females
- and the corresponding mean of all the females, to all the males.

Then beneath that is a list of all the males you selected on the previous screen

Flag	Pair Kinship	Animal Name	Male Offspring	Female Offspring	Registration Number	UEN	DoB	Colour	Owner
	0.0846	Shotleyfield Dazzling Duke	15	8	9096	826043000009096	13/04/2012	Whole-Coloured Dark Chesnut	00969
	0.0875	Grane Valley Henry	0	1	9169	826043000009169	01/05/2016	Bright Chestnut	02918
	0.0875	Hercules of Halstead	0	0	9266	826043000009266	21/03/2020	Lemon Chesnut	02772
	0.0889	Dawley Duke of Foy	0	0	9119	826043000009119	12/05/2013	Whole-Coloured Bright Chesnut	01788
	0.0924	Grane Valley Elton	1	4	9236	826043000009236	19/06/2020	Chesnut	00128

The first column are the Sparks colour recommendation

- **Green** – Recommended matings
- **Yellow** – Best of the Rest
- **Orange** - Not Recommended
- **Red** – Definitely Avoid

The Grid also includes:

- The kinship of the pairing for this male and your selected female
- The details of the male itself
- The number of offspring of that male
- Its date of birth and body colour

Click on a column heading to resort into any order, click again to resort into reverse order, or a third time to remove the sort.

Type something into the filter box at the top to filter the list, for example a body colour.

Showing: 5 of 34 Records										golden
Flag	Pair Kinship	Animal Name	Male Offspring	Female Offspring	Registration Number	UEN	DoB	Colour	Owner	
	0.0970	Gateridge Kelso	4	3	9165	826043000009165	08/04/2016	Golden Chesnut	50000	
	0.1183	Trinity Albert	1	4	9049	826043000009049	17/02/2010	Golden Chesnut	02330	
	0.1266	Easton General	0	1	9205	826043000009205	27/04/2019	Golden Chesnut	00224	
	0.1361	Colony Eli	1	2	9186	826043000009186	22/02/2018	Golden Chesnut	01666	
	0.1683	Pickworth Golden Thistle	AI 7	6	9067	826043000009067	02/06/2010	Chesnut	02235	

Double click on any male in the list to go to its record

Bemborough Braveheart - 9242 - Male		
Information	Pedigree	Offspring
Registration Number: 9242 Passport: Inspect No:		
Breed: Suffolk Colour: Light Chesnut Description: Record To The 11th Dam		
Status: Alive Registration Type: Register Male		
Sire: 9033 - Holbeache Iggy 826043000009033, Red Chesnut, Suffolk Dam: 26679 - Holbeache Lexy 826043000026679, Dark Liver Chesnut, Suffolk		
UEN: 826043000009242 Microchip: 958000010956871		

If the owner has given permission, their contact details will be displayed.

Click on the **pedigree** tab on the male record to see its four generation pedigree

Bemborough Braveheart - 9242 - Male		
Information	Pedigree	Offspring
<div><div><div>Holbeache Iggy 9033 (826043000009033) Red Chesnut (Suffolk)</div><div>Holbeache Lexy 26679 (826043000026679) Dark Liver Chesnut (Suffolk)</div><div>Holbeache Ball 28476 (826043000028476) Red Chesnut</div></div><div><div>Margate of Bramscote 8880 (826043000008880) Red Chesnut</div><div>Lindsey Josephine 28481 (826043000028481) White Coloured dark chesnut</div><div>Shirleywood Rupert 8778 Woodmans June 28736 (826043000028736) Golden Chesnut</div><div>Golden Granchfield 8810 (826043000008810) White Coloured Bright Chesnut</div><div>Farmhand Whips Gold 28393 (826043000028393) Bright Chesnut</div><div>Shirleywood Rupert 8778 Colony Barley 28772</div></div><div><div>Westwood Delmar 8577 Colony Ted 21117 Red Chesnut</div><div>Kingland Morning Star 8895 (826043000008895) Red chesnut</div><div>Lindsey Magic 26399 (826043000026399) White Coloured bright chesnut</div><div>Parham Rupert 8936 Chesnut</div><div>Shirleywood Ivy 26150 White Coloured red chesnut</div><div>Hoppy Valley Jagger 8938 Woodstock Fatima 28175</div><div>Eyle Harriet King 8688 Bright Chesnut</div><div>Golden Gemma 26245 (826043000026245) Bright Chesnut</div><div>Colony Windsor 8896 Bright Chesnut</div><div>Colony Candy 28263 (826043000028263) Bright Chesnut</div><div>Parham Rupert 8936 Chesnut</div><div>Shirleywood Ivy 26150 White Coloured red chesnut</div><div>Eyle Harriet King 8688 Bright Chesnut</div><div>Stake Hammond Princess 28205 Red Chesnut</div></div></div>		

Click on **offspring** to see a list of offspring.

Holbeache Iggy - 9033 - (82604300009033) - Male

Information		Pedigree		Offspring			
Status	Gender	Registration Status		Females	Males	Castrates	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered		22	19	10	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Dead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notified					
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Castrate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed					

Showing: 47 of 47 Records

Type text to filter

Reg No	Animal Name	Passport	Microchip	Gender	Owner	Breeder	Reg. Status	Status	DoB	Colour	Breed
28709	Penisar Glyn Seren Haf	826043000028709	960011000184714	Female	90236	02514	Registered	Alive	10 Apr 2013	Golden Chesnut	Suffolk
28713	Holbeache Melody	826043000028713	941000014173037	Female	00128	00128	Registered	Alive	10 May 2013	Whole-Coloured Red Chesnut	Suffolk
9126	Holbeache Nimrod	82604300009126	941000016891114	Castrate	90172	00128	Registered	Alive	15 Apr 2014	Chesnut	Suffolk

If the breed has given permission for the Grassroots mobile app to be used, and the male owner has uploaded **images from the mobile app**, those images can also be seen here.

Click on any animal in a pedigree or offspring list to go to that animal's record.

Click on the x top right to go back to the sparks screen

Create a Report

Use the tick boxes on the left of the grid to select those males you think you might be interested in, or tick the top left of the grid to select them all.

Flag	Pair Kinship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.0846
<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0875
<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0875
<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0889
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.0924
<input type="checkbox"/>	0.0929
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.0970

Click on **Report** bottom right to create a mare sheet for this mare and this group of stallions.

Grassroots

Sparks Report

Report Date

06/03/2025

Suffolk Horse Society

My Female

Animal Name:

Holbeache Lexy

IBC:

0.0986

Date Of Birth:

08/05/2012

Mean Kinship:

0.1287

Reg No:

28679

Offspring:

Male 2 (2)

Female 1 (1)

Sparks Breed Calculations

Date Calculated

Mean IBC

No

Mean Kinship

24/01/2025

0.1058

Males: 109

0.1256

Females: 279

0.1224

Pair

Offspring

Flag

Kinship

Animal Name

M

F

Reg No

DoB

Colour

Owner

G

0.0924

Grane Valley Elton

1

4

9236

19/06/2020

Chesnut

00128

G

0.0970

Gateridge Kelso

4

3

9165

08/04/2016

Golden Chesnut

50000

Y

0.0846

Shotleyfield Dazzling Duke

15

8

9096

13/04/2012

Whole-Coloured Dark Chesnut

00969

We do hope you find the Grassroots Sparks module a helpful tool to assist you in making breeding decisions.

