

by Mr. Jehangir Rustomjee (Trainer for Racehorse & Supervisor, Registry young Stock)
 ■ photos by Royal Arabian Stud of Bahrain

As the showing season in the Gulf drew to a close Bahrain had their National Show on the 24th and 25th of April 2009. The show is organized by the writer and BREEF (The Bahrain Royal Equestrian & Endurance Federation) and is held at the picturesque grass arena of the Ministry of Interior Showground in the west of the tiny island Kingdom. It is held in memory of HM The Kings late son HH Sheikh Faisal Bin Hamad Al Khalifa who was an ardent lover of the Arabian horse and is patronized by his brother HH Sheikh Nasser, a very good horseman himself. This was the fourth edition of the event.



The show drew an entry of 109 horses of which nearly a hundred entered the show ring to the rapturous cheers and applause of a huge and enthusiastic crowd. The Bahrainis love their Arabian horses and this show has always attracted a capacity audience. Day one was for the fairer sex and ringmaster Dr. William Oppen (Argentina) from Al Shaqab Stud in Qatar and his very able team got things going on the dot of the starting time of 5 p.m. and seven angelic fillies entered the ring for Class 1A for fillies 6 months to two years old. Judges Titty Gagliani (Italy), Jaroslav Lacina (Czech Republic) and Ferdinand Schwestermann (Switzerland) got down to the serious bu-



4TH NATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW 2009



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AMAL
CHAMPION FILLIES



S.S. manara
CHAMPION mares

siness of assessing these youngsters. It was a rather easy win for the Qatari bred Roba't Al Naif a daughter of WN Star Of Antigua owned by the Aali Stable which would dominate much of this show. The second division of this class threw up the first 90 plus score of the evening as the charismatic Bahrain born Aali B'khour swept her class. The Aali Stable owned winner was imported in-utero and is by Gai El Julyenn ex Coolrain Estellar. Another Bahrain born filly Amal owned by the Sunset Stable and by the very typey Al Adeed Al Shaqab son Naif Al Rayyan out of Bint Al Lail took the next class for fillies between 2 and 3 years old. She also scored 90. The Aali Stable had to be content with second in this class with their Gazzal Al Shaqab daughter Tallaht Al Naif. Class 5 for young mares of 3 to 4 years old saw the gorgeous SW Renegade daughter S.S. Manara owned by the Al Mohanna Stable dominate proceedings with yet another 90 plus score. Aali Stable had yet another second place with the Dakharo sired Jawaher Al Khalidiah. They didn't have to wait long for another win though as their Al Shaqab bred pair of Shahd Al Shaqab (by Adnan Al Shaqab) and Noof Al Shaqab (by Ansata Selman) took first two spots in the large but disappointing Class 7 for mares four years old and over. Since day two was for the boys, there was an even larger, noisier crowd. Class 2 for colts of six months to 2 years old saw another Aali Stable whitewash with the delicate Escape

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Ibn Navaronne-D son AJ Bahe only scraping past his Bahrain born stable companion Aali Bugatti (by Gai El Julyenn) on points for type. A colt to watch for the future will be the very typey Taj Al Adeed Al Firdaus (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) who was the youngest in the class and was a competitive third. Aali Stable was in the winner's spot once again as their magnificent Marwan Al Shaqab sired Toufan Al Zobair shown by Mary Lang as were most of the other Aali Stable horses; charmed the judges in Class 4 for colts 2 to 3 years old. The Al Mohanna stable took Class 6 (young stallions 3 to 4 years old) with the very showy Sharaf Al Shaqab (by Ansa-ta Selman) beautifully handled by Abdul Kader from Sharjah who clinched this close contest over the Laalee Al Bahrain Stud owned Nomas a son of the black Chaikh Bouznika. Class 8 for stallions 4 years old and up was divided and the first division saw Al Reef Stable owned Mahabi Assaghier (by Mahabi El Shaktan) destroy his opponents with his dreamy movement and good type to record the first 90 plus score of the night. The second division was a pretty similar story as show ring veteran Adnan Al Shaqab (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) from the Almarkhi Stable won easily over his shabbily shown sibling in blood, the ethereal Assad Al Shaqab, last years Reserve Champion. The Championships are of course the hi-



toufan al zobair
CHAMPION colts



best
head
male

adnan al shaqab
CHAMPION stallions

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aal i b'khour
reserve FILLies



shahd al shaqab
reserve mares best head female

ghlight of any show and a large part of the crowd on hand waited to see Bahrain's Champions for 2009 being crowned. The Sunset Stable owned nearly black filly Amal was the judges favourite in the Fillies as Aali B'khour took Reserve; both Bahrain born. S.S. Manara of the Almohanna Stable with her all round beauty was Champion Mare over Aali Stable's Shahd Al Shaqab. Aali Stable finally got their turn here as Toufan Al Zobair was Champion Colt ahead of his stablemate AJ Bahe. And old Adnan Al Shaqab showed his class to become Champion Stallion over Mahabi Assaghier. The show was hailed as yet another success and one has to appreciate and be thankful for the enthusiasm from all the competitors, some who return every year in the knowledge that they will be no match for the bigger stables, but are very happy to go away with a ribbon and sometimes just the joy of having taken part and had his horse compete. □



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"I had only heard of Bahrain because of the F1 Grand Prix, but I did not even know where it was! I only knew that it was a very rich Sultanate, which had built a huge racing course in the desert.

Upon my arrival I was pleasantly surprised with the atmosphere that you could feel around you – these were the days of the Grand Prix and everything revolved around this event.

The airport was packed with people from all over the world, and there were many Ferrari lovers wearing red from head to toe. Unfortunately, though, the results of the most famous red car were not good!

The warm welcome given to us by the show co-ordinator Mr. Jehangir Rustomjee; the excellent hotel, where we also met our fellow judges Mr. Ferdinand Schwestermann and Mr. Jaroslav Lacina as well as Mr. William Oppen, who turned out to be a talented Ring Master: all this contributed to create a pleasant, friendly atmosphere that continued throughout our time there.

I now have very fond memories of Bahrain and of the Organizing Committee, and I hope I will be able to go back there as a tourist".

Titty Gagliani (Judge - Italy)



aj bahe

reserve colts



mahabi assaghier

reserve stallions