

EKS Farajj

A Fascinating Force of Nature

by Kamila Kozłowska

photos: Alessio Azzali,
Ewa Imielska-Hebda

For centuries, forces of nature have had the power to evoke fear and fascination at the same time. Despite the fact that natural powers like tornadoes, volcanoes and hurricanes often bring death and destruction, there is something captivating and awe-inspiring in the way that nature rules the world. Occasionally, an individual with a strong personality or character can also be compared to a force of nature. Like the massive energy of a hurricane heading in a certain direction with no regards for what stands in its way, such individuals are unstoppable and unforgettable. Once in a while, a remarkable representative of the Arabian breed is brought to the world that resembles an unstoppable force. This is the story of such an individual, the electrifying EKS Farajj (Ibn Farid – EKS Bint Helwah / Laheeb) – a force of nature in its own right.

The story has begun on a cold and stormy night of 15th June 2017, when a grey colt was welcomed into the world at Elkasun Arabians of South Africa. The stud comprises of around ten to fifteen high-quality mares and except for well-known sires, Willie Brown, the owner and founder of Elkasun Arabians, occasionally gives a chance to unknown and unproven stallions. When Willie paid a visit to Giacomo Capacci Training

Centre in Italy, he fell in love with a stunning Straight Egyptian mare Helwah AA (Al Ayad – Al Halah AA / Laheeb) who soon after gave birth to a beautiful grey filly by Laheeb (Imperial Imdal – AK Latifa / Ibn Moniet El Nefous), later named EKS Bint Helwah in honour of her delightful dam. Shortly after, both the dam and her daughter were travelling to their new home in South Africa. In 2015, Willie purchased a three-year-old bay RFI Farid son named Ibn Farid (out of Asawir / Marajj). It took great courage to breed all of his mares to the unknown and unproven stallion, including EKS Bint Helwah. When the first foal by Ibn Farid was welcomed to the world, he was named EKS Farajj which among many translations from Arabic means 'fortune'. From the very start, Willie knew how fortunate he was yet little did he expect how successful this newborn dark-grey colt foal would soon become.

EKS Farajj, purchased by the well-known Al Khashab Stud of Kuwait, debuted in the show ring at Sharjah International Arabian Horse Show in 2019 in the hands of Glenn Schoukens with whom he had an amazing connection from the very start. As a dark-grey two-year-old colt, he made a great impression on the judges, winning his class among sixteen high-quality colts with a high



HARAS ROYAL
DE BOUZNIKA



Ag

EKS Faraj (Ibn Farid x EKS Bint Helwah)

			RFI MAKTUB b 1998	ALTAM YSHMAYL blk/br 1995	RSD DARK VICTORY YAMINA
	RFI FARID b 2007			RFI CYNTHILATION gr 1994	NINJAH EL JAMAAL C CYNADRA
			RFI FAYARA EL SHIRAZ gr 2002	SHIRAZ EL JAMAAL b 1996	ALI JAMAAL SATYNA
IBN FARID b 2013				FIRE GLORY gr 1995	NV SURE FIRE KEY OF GLORY JP
			MARAJJ b 1.55 N/CA 2004 AHR 609025 PASB, RASB	MARWAN AL SHAQAB b 1.60m 2000	GAZAL AL SHAQAB LITTLE LIZA FAME
	ASAWIR b 2009 N/CA CARRIER			RGA KOURESS b N/CA 1995	KOUVAY BEY ANGOPHORA
			NURJIS gr 2001 N/CA CARRIER	CRUSADER gr 16.0H 1990	SALAA EL DINE AK KASTANA
EKS Farajj				SADISHA 1992	EDYKT SADIKHA
2017 grey stallion			IMPERIAL IMDAL gr 1982 AHR*249645	ANSATA IMPERIAL gr 1976	ANSATA IBN SUDAN ANSATA DELILAH
	LAHEEB gr 1996 AHR*620320		AK LATIFA gr 1977 AHR*158635 IASB*1014	DALIA gr 1968	MORAFIC ROMANAA II
			AL AYAD gr 1999	IBN MONIET EL NEFOUS gr 1964	MORAFIC MONIET EL NEFOUS
EKS BINT HELWAH gr 2013				SIRALIMA gr 1971	ANSATA IBN HALIMA ASAL SIRABBA
			AL HALAH AA gr 2003	MOHEEB gr 1991	EL SHAHWAN MAHAMEH
	HELWAH AA gr 2008			AL MAMUNAH gr 1991	MAYSOUN AMINAH BINT AQABA
				LAHEEB gr 1996	IMPERIAL IMDAL AK LATIFA
				THE VISION HG blk 1994	THEE DESPERADO BELLE STAAR

score of 92.50 points. At that point, he did not fully come out of his shell yet, however a perfect stand-up exposed his beautiful head and neck, for which he received two twenties. On the day of the finals, Farajj clearly stood out from eight excellent contenders of the junior colts' competition so much so that three judges voted for him to become gold medallist. Finally, Farajj took the second place on

the podium and the Silver Champion title, a great success nonetheless for a debuting young colt. Just two weeks later, Farajj appeared in another Middle Eastern arena at Dubai International Arabian Horse Show, where he placed second in his class after a tie with Admiraal (Emerald J – Haniyyah / Psytadel), who received a slightly higher score for type. The impressive score of

93.00 points was the highest among junior colts, as the winner of three-year-old class AJ Kafu (Shanghai EA – AJ Kahayla / QR Marc) received the same final mark. The three junior colts with the score of 93.00 points had an even chance of winning in the championships and after a fair fight in the finals, the medals were divided among the highest scorers. Getting more and more used to



the show arena, Farajj received two votes for gold and repeated his success from Sharjah, becoming Silver Champion Junior Colt, giving the highest place on the podium to the older and more developed AJ Kafu yet outdistancing his main rival in the class, Admiraal, who eventually became bronze medallist. After these two major accomplishments in the Middle East, there came a time

for the young colt to enter some of the most serious contests in Europe. The first tough test for the young colt was the Mediterranean and Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championship in Menton, France, where Farajj came face to face with very strong competitors. In the heat of the French Riviera, he finished the only class of two-year-old colts in the second position with 91.75 points

and a twenty for movement. The junior male championship was dominated by the three-year-old colts and Farajj had to settle for the bronze medal, still an impressive accomplishment at such a prestigious show. From then on, it was obvious that EKS Farajj is the force to be reckoned with. It became even more apparent at All Nations Cup in Aachen, considered one of the most

RESULTS

- **SILVER CHAMPION SENIOR STALLION**
All Nations Cup - Aachen 2023
- **SILVER CHAMPION SENIOR STALLION**
Mediterranean and Arab Countries AHC - Menton 2023
- **GOLD CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT**
All Nations Cup - Aachen 2019
- **GOLD CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT**
World Arabian Horse Championship - Paris 2019
- **SILVER CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT**
Dubai International AHC - Dubai 2019
- **SILVER CHAMPION JUNIOR COLT**
Sharjah International AHS - Sharjah 2019



EKS Farajj - Silver Champion Senior Stallion, All Nations Cup - Aachen 2023



EKS Farajj - Silver Champion Senior Stallion, Mediterranean & Arab Countries AHC - Menton 2023

difficult shows not only in Europe but in the world. After an easy victory in the two-year-old colts' division with 92.55 points, including two twenties for type and two more for head, Farajj reached the top of the podium and became All Nations Cup Gold Champion Junior Colt, outdistancing HL EL Ganador (HP Shakir-Tè - Lonco Baby Maria / HP Emir), the 2019 Menton Gold Champion Junior Colt and his main rival, as well as D Ibn Rasheem (FA El Rasheem - Angelicah / Marwan Al Shaqab), another international multi-champion. It was yet another prestigious title to be added to Farajj's fast-growing collection of trophies. After this spectacular success in Aachen, the beautifully developing colt that was feeling more and more at ease in the show ring did not rest on the laurels, having one more major test

ahead of him, the 2019 World Arabian Horse Championships in Paris. The enthusiasm and apprehension among his team reached their peak and the pressure on his upcoming performance in the Parisian ring was on. After a perfect presentation in the class with his good friend Glenn Schoukens on the lead, Farajj was awarded with the well-deserved first place and a total score of 92.57 points, including seven twenties: four for type, two for head and neck and one for movement. It was clear as day that he was one of the strongest contenders for the coveted title of World Gold Champion Junior Colt and he did not disappoint either his team or his most avid admirers. In the finals, Farajj stormed into the ring like a tornado, leaving no doubts as to who should reach for gold. Actually, the podium in Paris mirrored the one in Aachen where

EKS Farajj took the gold, while HL EL Ganador and D Ibn Rasheem had to settle for the silver and bronze medals respectively. Without a doubt, 2019 was the year of EKS Farajj.

After such a successful year, Farajj had nothing more to prove as a junior colt and thus he did not make an appearance in any shown arena as a three-year-old. Instead, he started fulfilling his duties in the breeding barn at the Schoukens Training Center, one of the best centers in the world, and had not returned to the show ring for another three and a half years. For this reason, his comeback as a six-year-old stallion was eagerly anticipated by anyone curious about his further development.

The year 2022 is marked with golden letters for EKS Farajj. Indeed, thanks to



EKS Farajj - Gold Champion Junior Colt, All Nations Cup - Aachen 2019

the vision of excellence of His Majesty the King of Morocco this one-of-a-kind stallion has been purchased by one of the most prestigious studs in the history of the Arabian horse world: the one and only Haras Royal de Bouznika. With no surprise, Farajj has found the best place from where to shine again in the world show arenas. And so it is, Farajj was one of the participants of the prestigious Mediterranean and Arab Countries Arabian Horse Championship in Menton in June 2023, representing Haras Royal the Bouznika and the Kingdom of Morocco. It was worth waiting so long to witness Farajj's transformation into a superb senior stallion full of show attitude and charisma. Abundant in type and literally flying in the air, he did not fail to amaze the audience in Menton performing at his best again in the hands of Glenn. Faced with the fierce competition, he left other highly-decorated show champions

far behind and won his class with an impressive score of 93.83 points with a full set of twenties for type, additional five for head and neck and another four for his ground-covering trot. The Senior Stallion Championship was like the clash of Titans! It was evident that the two winners of senior stallions' classes, EKS Farajj and D Seraj (FA El Rasheem - Lady Veronika / Versace), were aiming for gold. As a matter of fact, all the judges' votes for gold and silver were equally divided between the young debuting Farajj and the older, yet very accomplished D Seraj. The tie between the two was resolved by taking the class score into consideration. The difference of just 0.17 points in favour of D Seraj tipped the scale of victory to his side. Nevertheless, EKS Farajj was very close in reaching for gold while he also outdistanced another highly-decorated show horse, the 2021 World Bronze Champion Senior Stallion,



EKS Farajj - Gold Champion Junior Colt, World Arabian Horse Championship - Paris 2019

Harbi Al Adwan (Asfoor Al Waab – Wadha Al Adwan / Fayad Alfayyad), who eventually took the third place on the podium. As the 2023 All Nations Cup contender, Farajj repeated his phenomenal performance from Menton and again took the class podium with the incredible score of 93.08 points, including twelve twenties (three for type, four for head and five for movement). Just a few hours later, he was proudly wearing the well-deserved silver medal on his chest, adding another historical win to his rapidly growing collection of trophies, much to the unconcealed delight of his new owner, Haras Royal the Bouznika. It is more than obvious that the Silver Champion titles for Farajj in both Menton and Aachen indicate his readiness to dominate the podium of the most significant show this year, the World Championships in Doha, Qatar. At the end of the day, he already did it as a junior colt, starting his career with

silver and bronze medals and working all the way to the top to reach for gold at this immensely important event.

Despite the fact that Farajj is still a very young stallion, he already proved to be a superb sire of outstanding offspring. His first foal crops comprise of some very promising show progeny. It is enough to mention that his foals dominated the yearling fillies' and colts' finals of the prestigious Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Arabian Horse Festival in 2023. Five out of six medals for yearlings were awarded to Farajj's offspring! Gold Champion title in the fillies' section went to SF Nora (out of SF Ghazalah / Besson Carol), silver medal was awarded to Loulwah Raghwan (out of Daina Almuawd / Psytadel), while Katara BK (out of Shalfa Almuawd / Sabea Almuawd) became Bronze Champion Yearling Filly. In the yearling colts' contest, the



EKS Faraj - Silver Champion Junior Colt, Dubai International AHC - Dubai 2019

Gold and Silver Champion titles were divided between Sari Ajmal (out of Bint Bessolea / Marwan Al Shaqab) and Sahn Sarm (out of Bandahleeza ZB / Emerlad J). Additionally, Faraj's daughter Bint Rshediah Alkhashab (out of Rshediah Alkhashab / EKS Alihandro) took the third place on the podium and the bronze medal in the Junior Fillies' Championship. Faraj's progeny made their mark at the significant A-show, the 2022 and 2023 Katara International Arabian Horse Festival. Last year, his son Amos SH (out of Thalita KA / QR Marc) became Silver Champion Junior Colt, while this year another two yearlings by Faraj, Sarab Ajmal (out of Meqbilat Athbah / QR Marc) and the above-mentioned SF Nora, won two bronze medals in their respective categories. Also in the European show arenas Faraj stood out as a sire. Two of his offspring from the first crop were shown as foals. The 2021 bay filly Feuer Tatjana (out of

JCJ Feuer Lady / Feuer Jade) became European Bronze Champion Filly Foal, while the 2021 grey colt Majd Alkhashab (out of Jude MS / Abha Ubangui) was named Erlan Cup Gold Champion Colt Foal. Another filly foal, the 2022 grey BG Nabilla (out of Najma / Ajman Moniscione) reached for the gold medal at the first edition of United Crown Cup, while the 2023 bay colt foal Saif Al Awamrh (out of Sima AH) became Unanimous Gold Champion at this year's edition of Arabian Futurity Europe in Aachen. Also in Aachen, at one of the most significant shows in the world, two yearling colts sired by Faraj, Nesj El Jameel (out of Nesj El Yuliah / Ajman Moniscione) and the aforementioned Sahn Sarm, won the coveted titles of the 2023 All Nations Cup Silver and Bronze Champion Yearling Colt respectively. Furthermore, two grey yearlings sired by Faraj for Knocke Arabians of Belgium, Jolanta



KA (out of Jasmine KA / QR Marc) and Sire KA (out of Safiya KA / QR Marc) were presented at the 2022 Erlan Cup in Belgium and both finished the competition on the podium. They became Bronze Champion Yearling Filly and Bronze Champion Yearling Colt respectively. What is more, Sire KA secured the second place on the podium as well as the silver medal at the 2022 European Championships in Lier, Belgium. Last but not least, this year at the Arabian Horse Event in Bruges, Farajj's 2021 grey colt Roe Raheeb (out of ZT Ludjbrosiaa / Ludjin EL Jamaal) won the bronze medal in the Junior Colts' Championship. Surely, being only six-years-old, EKS Farajj has not said his last word as a sire and his future offspring is awaited with great apprehension by many Arabian horse breeders.

Approaching the show arena like a hurricane or a tornado, showing off

like an exploding volcano, energetic, charismatic and full of confidence, EKS Farajj resembles a natural phenomenon that evokes fear in his competitors and fascination among his admirers. No matter whether you fall in love with him at first sight or you simply feel overwhelmed by his presence, this superb young stallion is a force never to be ignored. Bewitchingly beautiful and profoundly powerful in the show arena, EKS Farajj comes like a tidal wave to crush his competition and, at the same time, to captivate the audience with his unforgettable performance. In the breeding barn, he has fuelled the engine of growth and progress with his producing powers from the very first moment that he became a breeding stallion. No doubt that his future is bright and he will continue to amaze us all. Unstoppable, unpredictable and captivating – EKS Farajj – the fascinating force of nature. □

*EKS Farajj – Silver Champion Junior Colt,
International AHS – Sharjah 2019*