

OPEN AUSTRIAN & OPEN LOWER AUSTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Arabian Sports Championships with high prize money!

by Elisabeth Chat ■ photos by Christian Kellner

Since 1998 the Austrian and Lower Austrian Championships have been given away by the Austrian Equestrian Federation. Since 2010 these championships have also been open ones: the Open Austrian Championships (OACH) and the Open Lower Austrian Championships (OLACH)!

This year for the first time these championships were organized by the FAS (www.Friends-of-Arabian-Sporthorses.at) in collaboration with the Austrian Western Riding Association (AWA). It's quite a tradition that these championships were held on the grounds of the WTC Schulz in Wiener Neustadt, about 50 km south of Vienna, under perfect conditions for horses and riders as well as under perfect weather conditions.

We were able to welcome four nations: the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Poland and Austria. We are glad to hear that all competitors and horses have returned home safely, especially our participants from Abu Dhabi, United

Arabian Emirates, who travelled to Austria by plane from Dubai via Frankfurt am Main.

In 2014 we are very proud that we were able to give away quite a high prize money:

Euro 100 for the 1st-5th place in the Open Lower Austrian Championships in Dressage, Classic Pleasure, Traditional Arabian Riding, Reining, Trail, Western Pleasure and Ladies Side Saddle

Euro 500 for the 1st-5th place in the Open Austrian Championships in Dressage, Classic Pleasure, Traditional Arabian Riding, Reining, Trail, Western Pleasure, Ladies Side Saddle, Classic All Around as well as Western All Around.

In this tournament riders are allowed to participate with as many horses as they like, but a change of rider is not allowed. This decision has to be made on the first competing day. The title goes to the horse not to the rider because these championships are for Arabian Sport horses only. There's only one Western and one Classic All Around title per tournament per





**Line Moen, Isabell Bartlechner, Leona Dries,
Manja Höhne, Doris Pfann**
 Final Prizegiving Ceremony Austrian Champs l.to r.

adding points out of the open competitions together with the scores of Type & Conformation.

Although some of the well-trained and highly-decorated horses like Baikal have retired, there have been a remarkable increase of competitors, so that this year we could welcome 41 competing horses with 306 starts in 46 competitions in the western and classic competitions together. For example, 17 horses competed in NRHA-Reining, 11 in Classic Pleasure, 14 in Western Pleasure, 12 in the Traditional Arabian Riding class and 9 in Trail. But not only the number of competing horses has increased, a great deal of improvement was shown in the quality of the rides.

The leading horses' level has improved enormously, e.g. German rider Manja Höhne and El Samalon got 8,5 in riding the M4-dressage pattern, a never seen technical note. Sandra Wagner (AUT) and Wizard as well as Kaja Dembinska (POL) and Echo Apollo were also able to show a great performance and get better scores than last year!

Line Moen & Al Miljas Wrsan from Abu Dhabi (UAE) placed 4th in the Open Austrian Championship as well as 4th in the Open Lower Austrian Championship but riding Al Kattar Wrsan there. Both horses have been trained by Line Moen since April this year. Adil Baziz & Muteeaa Wrsan, another pair from UAE, also showed great performances especially in the Traditional Arabian Riding class. But there Line Moen and Al Miljas Wrsan were an unbeatable team. With a great ride and a fantastic costume they won the Open Austrian Championship in Traditional Arabian Riding!

A great number of competing horses and great scores were seen in the Western classes. Leading lady Doris Pfann and Muscateal's Saphir got the All Around Champion title followed closely by Baikal's offsprings like Baikal's Shangrila & Leona Dries. Sonja Dries who rode two horses, was able to

achieve one 1st and three 3rd places and finally placed 3rd in All Around.

The winner of the Open Lower Austrian Championship in Classic Pleasure, Sandra Wagner and Wizard, placed 2nd behind Manja Höhne (GER) and El Samalon in the Open Austrian Championship, who also got the All Around title. Kaja Dembinska's (POL) and Echo Apollo's training efforts were rewarded when they placed 2nd in the All Around Classic.

Freestyle Reining always is great to watch! This year nine competed and everybody – riders and audience – had a lot of fun. There even have been inquiries if Freestyle Reining could be opened for classic riders too, like this year's Horsemanship! So we are looking forward to see Classic Freestyle Reinings next year!

This year there was a revival of the Ladies Side Saddle class. Three ladies competed. 16-year-old Isabell Bartlechner (AUT) with 21-year-old Najim won the Open Austrian Ladies Side Saddle Championship and was also placed in the M-Dressage class.

A special gift from the team Wrsan from Abu Dhabi was given to all Gold medal winners this year: a fleece jacket, a T-shirt, a Polo-shirt and a Cap. This very special amicable gesture deepened contacts between participants immediately. At last we have to give a great thank you to all sponsors, officials, judges, the show office, helpers and, of course, show manager Helmut Schulz for all their assistance and help who all made it possible to hold these championships in a friendly atmosphere.

Next year's Championships will be held from June 5th – 7th same location. We do hope that all our sponsors will be willing to support us again and that we will be able to give away prize money and increase in the organization as well. □



Doris Pfann & Muscateal's Saphir
Gold ACh Trail

Manja Höhne & El Samalon
Gold Classic All Around ACh



Al Milas W'rsan & Line Moen
Gold A Ch Traditionale Arabian Riding





Manja Höhne & El Samalon
Dr. Lueger Helmut Schulz
Dr. Machmoum
 Gold Dressage NÖ LM

Manja Höhne & El Samalon
 Gold Classic Pleasure ACh



Wizard & Sandra Wagner
 Gold LACH Classic Pleasure
 & Silver ACh Dressage



Doris Pfann & Muscateal's Saphir
 Gold LACH Trail



**Barbara Kristen
& Avellana Qahira**
Gold Ladies Side Saddle LACH

Isabell Bartlechner & Najim
Gold Ladies Side Saddle Austrian Champs



**Doris Pfann, Manja Höhne, Sandra Wagner, Sonja Dries,
Gerhard Hairas, Barbara Kristen**
Gold Lower Austrian Champs



**Leona Dries &
Baikal's Shangrila**
Gold Reining ACh

Doris Pfann & Muscateal's Saphir-
Gold Traditionale Arabian Riding LACH



Sonja Dries & Pajan
Gold Western Pleasure LACH



Horsemanship C & W



Sissi Chat & Legat

Bronze Ladies Side
Saddle ACh & LACH

Muteeaa W'rsan & Adil Baziz



Andre Reitermayr & Almandin

Reining ACh 4.pl.



Team W'san & friends



Thanks to Sissi Chat for 15 years
of organizing this event



Sonja Dries & Pajan
Western Pleasure Lower Austrian Champion