

Białka

JUNIOR SPRING SHOW 2014 - AT THE JUNCTION OF DREAMS AND REALITY

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Thank you Anna Damman from Titanium Arabians for supporting this show coverage

A breeder of horses, especially Arabian horses, should be a dreamer. People who dream, whose imagination constantly offers them new, often abstract images, eventually attempt to make at least some of these visions come true. If this imagination is combined with consistency, perseverance and patience, then this explosive mixture may be a starting point for breeding triumphs. And if that breeder's ambition is to not only possess a beautiful animal, but also to have him evaluated by expert judges, then we have the perfect situation. It is difficult to be objective towards your own achievements, especially towards your own children and animals (possibly cars as well...). Of course the hardest moment for every horse owner is the first performance of their charge. For Polish breeders such a proving ground is the Junior Spring Show in Białka.

The Junior Spring Show in Białka is one of the most numerous entered and hardest events in Europe. Difficult for both the judges, as well as the exhibitors, requiring a constant focus and good physical condition. It is two days of hard work. It inaugurates the show season in Poland not just because of its calendar date, but mainly because of the horses competing in it. Nowhere else in the world did organizers dedicate an entire event solely to youngsters – yearlings, two and three year olds. For 24 years the blooming Spring has been welcoming the favourite children of Allah at Białka. For the organizers it is a huge challenge to make their show not just a place of fierce competition, but also that of a homely atmosphere that everyone wants to return to. Without a pompous entourage, with an acceptable dose of pressure, friendly, held precisely with breeders in mind.

Of course like every championship, this one should also be a true spectacle, that everyone waits for after a winter's hibernation. A spectacle with drama, favourites and a crowd of fans. However the core of this event is the inspection of get by sires that had been used in Polish breeding in the past season. The concept of the initiators of the show almost a quarter of a century ago was to create conditions that would allow to evaluate sons and daughters of various sires – on the same terms, in one place, by the same jury panel. There is no other breeding show like

Białka and no other that would give such a direct, sometimes cruel answer to where each breeder is currently at in his work. Even if we don't agree with every verdict, even if some hurt us or cause objections, they usually give us food for thought.

And because last year several new sires were used in Polish breeding – sires that had shined brightly at the most prestigious world shows, but nothing was known about their get – this year's championship, held on June 7–8th, promised to be an extremely exciting one.

The show saw a line-up of nearly 120 horses, which were evaluated by a jury panel made up of experienced and valued judges: Sylvie Eberhardt from Germany, Christine Jamar-Demeerseman from Belgium, Jaroslav Lacina from the Czech Republic and Mohamed Machmoum from Morocco.

It has to be said that Białka is a place where it really shows that separating the yearling championships from the two and three year olds is a good decision. When the yearling classes are very numerous and usually present a higher quality than the other age categories, this allows the good and excellent horses to be better seen and not to be lost among the larger crowd.

And it is exactly the year old horses that best attest to the breeding value of their sires. This time the most numerous represented was the get of two "giants", both of which made headlines in 2012 due to their duel for the gold during the World Championships in Paris. The bred in Qatar Kabil Al Shaqab (QA) (Marwan Al Shaqab (QA) – OFW Mishaabl (US) / Mishaab (US)) spent two intensive seasons at Janów Podlaski. Whereas the Spanish born Shanghai E.A. (ES) (WH Justice (US) – Salymah (BE) / Khidar (BE)) was in turn widely used at Michałow and several private studs. As a result Białka saw the debut of 8 yearlings by Shanghai and 23 by Kabil Al Shaqab.

Just as the two stallions are different, so different are their foals. Kabil's get is very uniform in type and similar to each other. Very balanced, with strong, well coupled bodies, beautifully carved, highly set necks, good eyes and very dry, elegant heads, sometimes very resemblant of their grandsire, Marwan Al Shaqab. Their refinement, elegance and quality definitely turn heads, as well as does their movement. Regardless

of which mares they were out of, whether they were born in Janów, Michałów or another stud, Kabil's get is instantly recognizable. The lovely, elegant Morion out of Mesalina by Ekstern took home the titles of Yearling Champion Stallion and Best in Show. The strong and dynamic Pitawal out of Pepita by Ekstern from Janów Podlaski won the silver medal and the typey Peon out of Penta by Ecaho (also from Janów) ended up as a Top Five. In the yearling fillies championship the silver, bronze and remaining Top Fives also belonged to the daughters of Kabil. The silver medal was awarded to the ethereal Prometida out of Panonia by Eukaliptus. The bronze went to Ceranova out of Cerinola by Ecaho, the fourth spot to Al Jazeera out of Albasa by Ganges and the fifth – to Burza out of Bursa by Aslan. All four fillies were bred at Janów Podlaski. Whereas the gold medal among the yearling fillies belonged to the daughter of Shanghai E.A. – Galeriada out of Galilea by Laheeb (IL) from Michałów Stud. Shanghai's get is less uniform, perhaps needing longer to mature and to achieve conformational balance. With short heads and wide foreheads, very quickly turning white, appealing to fans of Straight Egyptian lines and horses of that type. They can make the heart beat stronger, but can also pass without being noticed. We have to wait a bit longer to give a general opinion about them.

Another show debut was made by foals of El Omari (Enzo (US) – Embra / Monogramm (US)), born in 2008 at Michałów. The foals looked promising when with their dams and did not disappoint as yearlings. Impressive, with great movement, elegant. We saw one colt and four fillies, which placed in the middle of the field. Similarly to the first time shown get of the US-bred Vitorio TO (US) (DA Valentino (US) – Sol Natique (US) / Solstice (US)), currently leased by Michałów Stud. Last year Vitorio's semen was used by Michałów, Białka and several private breeders. At the show we were able to see one colt and two fillies, very different from their peers. High-legged, with fantastically long necks, very effective, they appeared to be needing more time and patience.

In the two and three year old classes successful were the get of

sires that have proven their breeding potential many times before. The high marks of the daughters of Esparto (Ekstern – Ekspozycja/Eukaliptus) or Eden C (Enzo (US) – Silken Sable (US)/Genesis C (US)) were the final proof of their value. After last year's successes of Białka's graduates: Perfinka out of Perfirka by Gazal Al Shaqab (QA) and this year's stellar performance of Egiria out of Egira by Emigrant, who first won her class and several hours later claimed the bronze medal in the junior mare championship, Esparto's position as a sire is fully established. The winning of the Junior Champion Mare title by Anawera (Piaff – Altamira/Ekstern) from Janów Podlaski, correct, typey and full of expression, reminded us about Polish sires, which when trusted can pay back over the years. And when everyone thought that Piaff's greatness was already over, his daughter showed us her talents.

The chestnut Eurogrant OZ (IL) (Ajman Moniscione (IT) – Ekspiacja/Emigrant), bred in Israel, last year's bronze medalist in the yearling stallion championships, has developed and become more masculine, making a triumphant return to the podium. His winning the gold proves that Polish mares are like wonderful moulds, within which you can create various shapes via different sires, foreign pedigrees and breeding concepts. We are only be limited by our own imagination. The effect is often surprising even for the "artists" themselves. That's what you call a "rewarding" raw material.

For many horses the show in Białka is the bulwark of a further career, for others a one time performance and a pass to an easier, calmer life on the pastures. For breeders, a clash of visions and hopes with an often brutal reality. But as Director Białobok says: "breeding doesn't like sentiments". It is up to us whether we shall draw conclusions from our own and someone else's experiences or remain on the path we have previously set on. Whether such shows as Białka will enrich our knowledge and way of evaluating or will they only be a pleasant way to spend a warm June weekend, after which all impressions and memories fade away soon after leaving the stud's gates. □



Galerida



GOLD MEDAL YEARLING FEMALE

(Shanghai E.A. x Galilea)
O: Michałów Stud

Prometida



SILVER MEDAL YEARLING FEMALE

(Kahil Al Shaqab x Panonia) - O: Janów Podlaski Stud

Ceranova



BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING FEMALE

(Kahil Al Shaqab x Cerinola) - O: Janów Podlaski Stud

Anawera



GOLD MEDAL FILLIES

(Piaff x Altamira)

O: Janów Podlaski Stud

Piacolla



photo by Lidia Pawłowska

SILVER MEDAL FILLIES

(Enzo x Polonica) - O: Michałów Stud

Egira



BRONZE MEDAL FILLIES

(Esparto x Egira) - O: Białka Stud

Morion



**GOLD MEDAL YEARLING MALE
BEST IN SHOW**

(Kahil Al Shaqab x Mesalina)
O: Michałów Stud

Pitawal



SILVER MEDAL YEARLING MALE

(Kahil Al Shaqab x Pepita) - O: Janów Podlaski Stud

Lord El Shawan



BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING MALE

(FA El Shawan x Lady Serenada) - O: Małgorzata & Józef Pietrzak

Eurogrant OZ



GOLD MEDAL COLTS

(Ajman Moniscione x Ekspiacja)

O: O. Meiri, Y. Dror, SO Białka

Złoty Medal



SILVER MEDAL COLTS

(QR Marc x Złota Orda) - O: Michałów Stud

Gentelman



SILVER MEDAL COLTS

(Madras Kossack x Greka) - O: Agnieszka Wójtowicz