

ABU DHABI

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

9-12 FEBRUARY 2019

by Deirdre Hyde ■ photos by Morhaf Al Assaf

Abu Dhabi International Arabian Horse Championship, with 395 entries, was held in Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club over four days from 09-12 February. Strict entry qualifications had been applied but nevertheless classes were large with between 17 and 24 horses in the various class divisions. As with the earlier shows this season the show-ring was in one of the outer arenas which has a very pleasant intimate feel with views across trees to the Abu Dhabi skyline. The VIP stand was given a tented covering, which was just as well given the weather, which ranged from unusually hot to extremely windy with flying sand and dust. There were also sharp rain showers one morning fortunately missing the classes. The arena works well for the smaller classes, but it was a tight squeeze for the large stallion classes and the collecting ring was definitely rather too restricted adding to the work of the DC's. Nevertheless, it was a spectacular sight to see

more than twenty stallions in the ring on the preliminary walk round. The handlers did a great job presenting their horses yet maintaining safety. Good manners and kind temperament are features of 'Arabian type' too often overlooked in the show ring, something the judges took quite seriously!

The highly experienced international judges' panel consisted of Mr Urs Aeschbacher (Switzerland) who now lives in France, Dr Gianmarco Aragno (Italy), Mr Doug Dahmen (USA) Mrs Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany), Mr Eric Gear (France), Mr Robbie Den Hartog (Netherlands) Mrs Ann Norden (Sweden) and Mrs Marianne Tengstedt (Denmark). They all remarked on the high quality of the exhibits which was obvious in the closeness of their scores and the number of ties; 11 classes out of the 20 had ties for the top five places. Unfortunately, when horses are of relatively equal quality, this is when the weakness of the points system becomes apparent. When there is a tie it is broken by referring to the points in the class, first the type mark then if there is still a tie by movement. This can mean the difference between qualifying for a championship or

not, a hard situation for the owner who loses out, especially when it generally comes down to the taste of one judge and a half point in the original type or movement score. It can even leave the judges wondering "how did that happen!" when they see the final line up! Mr Dahmen pointed out that US Nationals had moved back to the comparative system as it avoids this problem and is considered to give a fairer result! When horses are judged comparatively each judge is responsible for his or her own ranking and the judge stands forward whilst the horses he or she chose are lined up and can be easily seen. The final result comes from the average of these placings and there can be no hiding in a system where the range of points being used has become so small it is unfair to the best horses. A further comment from several of the judges was the need for ECAHO to consider separating head from neck so that outstanding heads on short straight necks or long shapely necks with plainer heads etc. can be rewarded accordingly.

The Sheikh Zayed Award, presented in grateful memory



of The Late President of UAE H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to the horse with highest score owned and bred by the exhibitor is a very prestigious award and encourages breeders to keep their best horses. It was given to D Shihanah 2017 (FA El Rasheem – D Shahla) winner of her section of two-year old fillies with a score of 93.13.

At each of the recent shows, judges have commented on the efficiency of EAHS Director Mr Essam Abdulla and his team. All these hard-working officials deserve a special mention, they are on duty throughout the show making sure that all runs smoothly. This year a special award for 'Dedicated Veterinarian' gave well deserved recognition to Dr Abdel Wahab Ben Ali Amira who has been with EAHS for many years and serves as DC at shows throughout the region and in Europe. Best Horse Media Award went to Arabian Vogue working with Arabian Essence. These awards as well as special trophies to give thanks and recognition to those who support the show were presented by HE Sheikh Zayed Bin Hamed Al Nahyan, under whose umbrella EAHS is run. His Excellency shows much interest in the work of the Society

and his involvement is greatly appreciated.

The show was preceded on Friday 8th by the annual auction. Thirty-Three horses had been entered with the condition they would also have an entry in the show, an added incentive for purchasers. In the end eighteen horses sold for a total of Dh904,000. The highest price paid was Dh130,000 for Farashah Al Bidayer 2017 (AJ Marzan – Faridah Al Bidayer) who went to Mr Mohamed Awaida Allah Abdel Galil, we congratulate him and wish him luck with this lovely, well-bred filly. Two thirds of the horses in the auction were colts and stallions and it is becoming increasingly obvious a job needs to be found for these boys to do. Even very good stallions cover a limited number of mares as breeders tend to follow the fashionable sires and of course frozen semen means they are available from all corners of the world.

There are three shows left in the busy UAE season, the 20th Sharjah International Arabian Horse Festival 07-09 March, Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship 21-23 March and EAHS National Championships 26 – 29 March. We hope to see you there to enjoy the beautiful horses and the UAE welcome. □



Yearling FILLIES

GOLD CHAMPION



FAM DONATELLA

DOMINIC M X D CRYSTAL MOON

B: FEDERICO JOSE MORALES JORDAN
O: AL JUWAHER ARABIAN HORSE STUD

Junior FILLIES GOLD CHAMPION



AJ NORAH

AJ MARDAN X INSPIRED NAJLA

B/O: AJMAN STUD



Yearling COLTS

GOLD CHAMPION



D MEZYAN

FA EL RASHEEM X D MAZAIA

B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

Junior COLTS GOLD CHAMPION



D SAMED

FA EL RASHEEM X D FITOON

B: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD
O: MOHAMED HUSSAIN EISA
YOUSIF ALDARMAK



Senior MARES GOLD CHAMPION



AJ SAWARI

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X SIBERIA SA

B/O: AJMAN STUD

Senior STALLIONS

GOLD CHAMPION



SUNDOWN K.A.

QR MARC X L SERENELLA

B: NV ZOUTEKREKEN
O: ALSAQRAN
ARABIAN HORSE STUD







Yearling FILLIES



SILVER CHAMPION - D FANNANAH

EXCALIBUR E.A. X ELLE FLAMENCA - B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE CHAMPION - D SHAMKHAH

FA EL RASHEEM X FT SHAELLA - B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

Junior FILLIES



SILVER CHAMPION - D SHIHANAH

FA EL RASHEEM X D SHAHLA - B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE CHAMPION - SS LA BELLA

CALYPSO OS X EF BELLA CONTESSA
B: OTTOMAN ARABIANS, U.S.A. - O: ALSAQRAN ARABIAN HORSE STUD

Yearling COLTS



SILVER CHAMPION - D SHAKHAT
D KHATTAF X D SHIREEN - B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE CHAMPION - AL ARYAM SHABAB
AJ MARDAN X AL ARYAM SHAMMOGH - B/O: AL ARYAM ARABIANS

Junior COLTS



SILVER CHAMPION - D MASHJI

SHANGHAI EA X D JOWAN

B: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD - O: RAS AL KHAIMAH ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE CHAMPION - KA NABRAS

SHANGHAI EA X AJ NAZWA

B/O: KHALED GHANEM MUBARAK ALOMAIRI

Senior MARES



SILVER CHAMPION - AL ARYAM HAMRA

MARAJJ X AL ARYAM HANNA

B: AL ARYAM ARABIANS - O: SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN TAHNOON BIN MOHAMMED AL NAHAYYAN



BRONZE CHAMPION - FS VENEZUELA

VERVALDEE X FS MADELINE

B: FRANK SPONLE - O: KHALED GHANEM MUBARAK ALOMAIRI

Senior STALLIONS



SILVER CHAMPION - MEMPHIS 27

EL AMIN X SA MISHA APAL
B: SWAENEPOEL J. - O: AJMAN STUD



BRONZE CHAMPION - OMEJAR AL HAWAJER

SH-HAB AL HAWAJER X GHARSHOUB AL HAWAJER
B/O: DR. GHANEM MOHAMED OBAID ALHAJRI



