

Emirates Breeders Challenge 2020

by Deirdre Hyde ■ photos by Morhaf

With the UAE show season well underway, the latest event, the Emirates Arabian Horse Breeders Championship 2020, took place in Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club between 20-22 November. Abu Dhabi was hosting a feast of equestrian events throughout the week with the world's richest Arabian race, the international Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Jewel Crown, the 100km CEN HH Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Ladies Cup for Private Owners and a qualifier of the Emirates Longines Show Jumping League, so there was something on the menu for everyone to enjoy.

The Emirates Breeders Championship originally started in Boudheib Equestrian Academy, under the sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan through Emirates Heritage Club and Emirates Arabian Horse Society in association with AHO. Three years ago, when upgrading and renovation work was being undertaken at Boudheib the championship moved to ADEC and EAHS took over the organisation and sponsorship. Nevertheless, it was always envisaged it would eventually return to Boudheib so it was with great sadness that the untimely death of His Highness Sheikh Sultan was announced the day before the show started.

HH Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed al Nahyan will always be remembered for the support he gave to local people, and his efforts for the welfare of horses especially in endurance through his Boudheib Protocol. Also, His love of the Arabian horse which he believed should be functional as

well as beautiful which led to the formation of HARC (the Heritage Arabian Racing Club) which supports the preservation of certain classic bloodlines through racing. His quiet and thoughtful presence will be greatly missed.

The Breeders Championship is restricted to horses which have achieved an average score of 89.50% and above since October 2017 they should be bred by the exhibitor or an immediate family member, no major Title winners may take part. Of course, yearlings are not included in these tough conditions and 87 yearling fillies in five sections were part of the 278 entries received, the majority taking part. Whilst obviously the top stars of the UAE were not competing, the competition was still very tough illustrating the strength of breeding in UAE. Judges for the Championships were Mahmood Mohammed Faraj (Bahrain), Mr Eric Gear (France), Mr Mark Ismer (Germany), Mrs Christine Jamar (Belgium), Mr Pekka Paakkonen (Sweden) and Mrs Marianne Tengstedt (Denmark), Ringmaster was Dr Sameh Bedair (Egypt)

The first day of the show saw rain with light showers giving way to a substantial but short lived downpour, the judges and officials became unrecognisable in brightly coloured plastic macs, fortunately the audience seating was all undercover so it was only the handlers and horses who had a soaking, however it did not seem to dampen the judges scores as a considerable number of fillies gained 90 or more points. The highest score of the show 92.83 going to the yearling, D Farehan (D Seraj – Elle Flamenca)

for Dubai Stud. She was also Yearling Filly Champion whilst her half sister D Judi by AJ Azzam made it a double winning Gold Filly Champion.

Ajman Stud's Felicia RLC also provided two superior half-sisters; the yearling section winner and Silver Champion AJ Brraqa 5 giving FA El Rasheed, the dominant sire of last year, his first winner of the show, whilst AJ Falak who had been second to D Judi and like her, is by AJ Azzam took the Silver Filly Champion. Another mare with two daughters which had qualified for the championships was Aroos owned by the Ahmed Khalaf Al Otaiba family, their M.O. Mazyouna by Marajj won the three-year-old class whilst M.O. Ghalia by D Khattaf was second to D Farehan. These wonderful consistent broodmares are worth their weight in gold and must be treasured.

A clean sweep of the Yearling Filly and Filly championships by Dubai and Ajman Studs was broken by Joreyyat Al Bustan (FA El Rasheed – BS Narjes) who was Bronze Filly Champion for Al Bustan Stables, she had been winner of her two-year-old section.

Day two started with sunshine and lovely three-year-old fillies, followed by mares and the first sections of yearling colts. As the temperature rose to that which brings tourists to enjoy winter in UAE, the atmosphere of the show rose to match. Nevertheless, out of respect for the mourning period for HH Sheikh Sultan no music was played throughout the show, but it did not seem to be missed and the relative silence seemed to help some of the youngsters in their performance, as there were with plenty of high scores for movement!

There were two sections of mares and in the first, all but one had in excess of 90 points and there were three ties. The winner was D Wasayef (Wadee Al Shaqab – Royal Emira) for Dubai Stud from E.S. Rasheeda (FA El Rasheed – Vitorio Secret TO) for Sheikh Abdulla Bin Majid Al Qassemi, these two eventually took the Silver and Bronze Championship from AJ Asyad (Marwan Al Shaqab – AJA Angelica) Gold Champion and winner of the second section, a beautiful feminine mare, but I wish she had shown some more movement maybe she will show herself better next time.

The Yearling colt championship went to KA Nishan (Shanghai EA – AJ Nazwa) for Khaled Ghanem Mubarak Alomairi with the Silver going to Meydan Arabian Horse Stud's Ameer Al Meydan (D Mshary – Gilla Galaa) from AJ Sabran (AJ Kafu – AJA Caprice) from Ajman Stud which reversed the class form.

An interesting situation arose in the Colt Championship as each judge chose a different colt for champion so the result

was decided by the class scores of the colts selected. With 92 points, Gold went to Al Aryam Mundher (Emerald J – Al Aryam Ballora) he had won another of the classes where all but one of the thirteen two-year-old colts had 90 or more points, notably he had a unanimous 16 for legs! Silver went to Yousif Mohamed Al Rasheed's tall, elegant three-year-old chestnut A.L.R. Rasheed (FA El Rasheed – Aria Marquesa), with 91.50 and Bronze was D Khateb (D Khattaf – Ladi Veronika) 91.33, half-brother to up and coming young sire D Seraj.

Needless to say the stallion classes were considerably smaller than the other classes there were 9 stallions in each of the two sections. Breeders tend not to keep too many homebred stallions, and adult males not used in breeding need to find other jobs. This is something that demands attention in countries where large numbers of foals are bred compared to the size of the market! Both classes were won by sons of Kanz Al Bidayer; Section A went to E.S. Emityaz out of Delilah BHF for Sheikh Abdulla Bin Majid Al Qassemi, whilst section B was won by AJ Bttal ex Eagleridge Passionata, quite a small horse but with a lovely head and neck, he also received good leg scores and became gold champion with SQ Nato (RFI Farid – Parysada PS) for Rashid Saif Al Zaabi taking Silver and R.A.K. Alwaleed (Al Sa'eedi – Mashhoura Al Zobair) Ras Al Khaimah Stud in Bronze.

Sitting on the side-lines watching the final championships it was a pleasure to see how many horses gave an excellent trot display making a complete circuit of the arena with no circling, congratulations to the handlers! It greatly adds to the atmosphere and excitement of the show, it would be even better if this was also seen in the classes, after all good movement is an important feature of the Arabian and at times it can be guess work.

Another point to consider, which has been mentioned before, is that too many youngsters were excused for lameness, the hard circling of horses to wake them up before going into the ring is very risky and really should be kept to a minimum, young joints can be spoilt forever!

Finally all judges and officials must be thanked for their hard work, big classes demand concentration! Essam Abdulla, Director of EAHS and his invaluable assistant Mohammed Al Harbi with the team from EAHS run shows like clockwork. Judges always comment on the pleasure they have coming to Abu Dhabi and such well organised events. TuttoArabi also enjoys being represented in UAE, our aim is to provide up to the minute coverage around the world which we hope is enjoyed by our readers. We look forward to seeing our many friends at the next events. □

Gold Medal **YEARLING FILLIES**

D FAREHAN

D SERAJ X ELLE FLAMENCA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Gold Medal **YEARLING COLTS**



KA NISHAN

SHANGHAI EA x AJ NAZWA
B/O: KHALED GHANEM MUBARAK
ALOMAIRI



Gold Medal **JUNIOR FILLIES**



D JUDI

AJ AZZAM X ELLE FLAMENCA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Gold Medal **JUNIOR COLTS**

AL ARYAM MUNDHER

EMERALD J X AL ARYAM BALLORA
B/O: AL ARYAM ARABIANS



Gold Medal **SENIOR MARES**



AJ ASYAD

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X AJA
ANGELICA
B/O: AJMAN STUD



Gold Medal **SENIOR STALLIONS**



AJ BTAL

KANZ AL BIDAYER x EAGLERIDGE
PASSIONATA
B/O: AJMAN STUD

Silver Medal **YEARLING FILLIES**



AJ AL BRRAQAH 5

FA EL RASHEEM X FELICIA RLC
B/O: AJMAN STUD



D JOOREYYAH

D SERAJ X D NAWAL
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

Bronze Medal **YEARLING FILLIES**

Silver Medal **YEARLING COLTS**

AMEER AL MEYDAN

D MSHARY X GILLY GALAA
B/O: AL MEYDAN
ARABIAN HORSE STUD



AJ SABRAN

AJ KAFU X AJA CAPRICE
B/O: AJMAN STUD



Bronze Medal **YEARLING COLTS**

Silver Medal **JUNIOR FILLIES**



AJ FALAK

AJ AZZAM X FELICIA RLC
B/O: AJMAN STUD



JOREYYAT AL BUSTAN

FA EL RASHEEM X BS NARJES
B/O: AL BUSTAN STABLES

Bronze Medal **JUNIOR FILLIES**

Silver Medal **JUNIOR COLTS**

A.L.R. ALRASHEED

FA EL RASHEEM X ARIA MARQUESA
B/O: YOUSIF MOHAMED
ALI MOHAMED ALRASHEED



D KHATEB

D KHATTAF X LADI VERONIKA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Bronze Medal **JUNIOR COLTS**

Silver Medal **SENIOR MARES**



D WASAYEF

WADEE AL SHAQAB X ROYAL EMIRA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



E.S. RASHEEDA

FA EL RASHEEM X VITORIO SECRET TO
B/O: SHEIKH ABDULLA BIN MAJID
ALQASSEMI

Bronze Medal **SENIOR MARES**

Silver Medal **SENIOR STALLIONS**

SQ AL NATO

RFI FARID X PARYSADA PS
B/O: RASHID SAIF SAEED
HAMMAD ALZAABI



R.A.K ALWALEED

AL SA'EEDI X MASHHOURA AL ZOB AIR
B: AHMED MOHAMED JAAFAR
MOHAMED ABDULLA ALZAABI
O: RAS AL KHAIMAH ARABIAN
HORSE STUD



Bronze Medal **SENIOR STALLIONS**



ة الإمارات لـ



جمعية الإم
rse Society



عربية
Emirat

