

Bahrain

NATIONAL SHOW

by Jehangir Rustomjee ■ photos by Mahmood Hasan

An early onset of summer with heat wave conditions in late March gave the organisers of the 5th Bahrain National Show some cause for concern with visions of profusely sweating horses and judges fainting in the mid-forty degree temperatures. Thankfully the weather gods smiled and we couldn't have asked for pleasanter conditions on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2010 as the show organized by the writer and BREEF (The Bahrain Royal Equestrian & Endurance Federation) affiliated to ECAHO for the first time and held at the picturesque grass arena of the Ministry of Interior Showground in the west of the tiny island kingdom got off to a dream start.



The Bahrain National Show is always in memory of HM The King's late son HH Sheikh Faisal Bin Hamad Al Khalifa who was an ardent lover of the Arabian horse and is patronized by his brother HH Sheikh Khalid, a very good horseman himself.

The ECAHO 'N' Show drew a healthy entry of 134 horses of which 122 entered the attractively decorated show ring to the rapturous cheers and applause of a huge and enthusiastic crowd. The Bahrainis love their Arabian horses and this show has always attracted a knowledgeable capacity audience.

In a break from tradition at shows the male and female championships were held on separate days effectively creating completely segregated female and male days.

We had an elite panel of judges to do the honours; Christianne Chazel (France), Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany), Christine Jamar (Belgium) and Dr. Nasr Marei (Egypt). The ever capable Barbara Pfistner was our ECAHO DC and Bart Van Buggenhout (Belgium) from the Al Rayyan Stud in Qatar made his debut as ringmaster ably assisted by our local team.

They had the parade for the first class on day one in the ring on the dot of starting time. These were the yearling fillies, a large class of 15 angelic young ladies who pranced round the arena as the appreciative crowd booted and clapped. Plastic bag waving was severely restricted. The competitive nature of the show was apparent from this class



The judges

itself as the result was only decided after a tie in points for first place. The doll like Naif Al Rayyan daughter Reem Al Shakhoura edged out the American import Miss Valentina PPA (by DA Valentino) by one point in type.

The first division of the two year old filly class saw the first score of 90 of the show as the magnificent Marwan Al Shaqab get FA El Markita strutted her stuff to outpoint another gorgeous US import RRA Marriana by Marajj. The Ansata Nile Echo daughter Khailaa Al Naif clinched the honours in the second division to give the well represented A'ali Stud their first silverware of the evening. The defending Champion Junior filly, the nearly black Amal (by Naif Al Rayyan ex Bint Al Lail) was back to defend her crown and swept her three year old filly class with some ease over RHR Maragold another fine chestnut Marwan Al Shaqab filly.

There were two divisions for senior mares four years old and up and the first one saw another score of 90 by Nabaweyyah Ezzain (by Ansata Almurtajjiz) imported from Kuwait by an enthusiastic newcomer to the showing the Al Rashediah Farm. Shabd Al Shaqab (by Adnan Al Shaqab) from A'ali Stud took second and Heiress DH (by Gazal Al Shaqab) was third. The second division of this class threw up a unique one-two in BF Khadja Nin and Anania for the Al Firdaus Stud. These two charmingly unusual mares were both recent imports from Denmark and are both sired by the renowned Psytafel and for the record the former got the first 90+ score of the show.

The female championships threw up a few surprises as Amal had to settle for Silver champion as she lost her Gold Junior fillies crown to FA El Markita of Almarkhi Stable with RRA Marriana decorated Bronze champion. Mustafa Almarkhi of the Al Markhi stable was suitably elated as he took his champion on several victory laps of the arena. Al Rashediah Stable, the owners of Gold Champion mare Nabaweyyah Ezzain were more sedate in their celebrations as their wonderful mare charmed the judges once again to take honours from A'ali Stable's Shabd Al Shaqab (Silver Champion) and BF Khadja Nin (Bronze Champion).

The colts and stallions always attract a larger and noisier crowd and sure enough day two saw a massive turnout

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GOLD MEDAL FILLIES FA EL MARKITA

Marwan Al Shaqab x Foxbriar Shakita
O: Almarkhi Stable - B: Marlene Ann Rieder



GOLD MEDAL COLTS AJ BAHE

Escape Ibn Navarrone-D x PA Pryme Times Legacy
O: A'ali Stud - B: Ajman Stud



GOLD MEDAL MARES NABAWEYYAH EZZAIN

Ansata Almurtajiz x NK Nakeebya
O: Al Rashediah Farm - B: Ezzain Arabians



GOLD MEDAL STALLIONS MAHABI ASSAGHIER

Mahabi El Shaklan x Al Patra
O: Mr. Jamal Ali Ahmed Mohamed - B: H.H. Sh. Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Alqassemi

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SILVER MEDAL FILLIES AMAL

**Naif Al Rayyan x Bint Al Lail
O&B: Sh. Ali Bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa
(Kingdom Of Bahrain)**

with barely standing room available in the public galleries and the owner's section. The Shakhoura Farm with their amazing stallion the Al Adeed Al Shaqab son Naif Al Rayyan took the first class as they had done the previous day with the amazing Ameer Al Shakhoura by the aforementioned Naif Al Rayyan with an outstanding score of 90 from Enad Alkindi (by SW Renagade) and Taj Al Adeed Al Firdaus (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab). The two year old colts class saw the highest score of the show as the dreamy Escape Ibn Navarrone D son AJ Babe from the A'ali Stud scored 91.33 to see off Rashdan Al Rasbediah from the Al Rasbediah Stable who also got a 90+ score. It just got hotter in the next class as the first three all scored 90 or more. The A'ali Stud took the first two spots with 2009 Champion Colt Toufan Al Zobair (by Marwan Al Shaqab) and Firerock PPA (by Foxfire BHF) and snapping at the heels of these two masculine colts was the fine and even tempered Mountassar Al Zobair (by Khidar) from the Naseem Stud.

The two well represented divisions of the senior stallion classes saw contrasting results. The five year old Mahabi Assaghier (by Mahabi El Shaklan) continued to thrill the connoisseurs with his dreamy movement as he has in previous years and he brought much joy to his owner Jamal Mohamed as he swept his class with yet another flawless



SILVER MEDAL MARES SHAHD AL SHAQAB

**Ansata Almurtajjiz x NK Nakeebya
O&B: Al Rasbediah Farm x Ezzain Arabians**

display. A'ali Stud's Austrian import Tabaque (by Laman HVP) promised much, but failed to deliver on the night and was a tame second. Division two saw the exotic Suror Ezzain (by Ansata Almurtajjiz) of the Al Rasbediah Stable give them some more joy as he beat defending Champion Stallion Adnan Al Shaqab (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) who was distinctively off colour.

The A'ali Stud took both Gold and Silver in the Colts championship as AJ Babe dethroned defending champion Toufan Al Zobair. Rashdan Al Rasbediah was Bronze Champion. There was no contest for Gold Champion stallion as Mahabi Assaghier erased the disappointment of the previous year as he was decorated best stallion in Bahrain ahead of Tabaque (Silver Champion) and Suror Ezzain (Bronze Champion).

The show could be hailed as yet another success as one sees a better quality of horses every year and more importantly more professional handlers to show the horses. One always has to appreciate and be thankful for the enthusiasm from all the competitors, some who return every year in the knowledge that they will be no match for the bigger stables, but are very happy to go away with a ribbon and sometimes just the joy of having taken part and seeing his horse compete. □