



20 years celebration of Arabian Horse Weekend The Netherlands!

by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Jan Kan, Paola Drera, Ronahi Juanes

The Arabian Horse Weekend in the Netherlands is organized by The Stoop family, which consists of Pieter, Ine, their daughter Annelieke Stoop-Hesen and her husband Ralf Hesen. Usually organised in May, the Arabian Horse Weekend is the kick-off to the outdoor season and provides for a great experience for young horses that are new to the showring. The Stoop family has a great passion for the Arabian horse, and animal welfare has always been very important to them. They strive to make their show a great first experience for young horses, by providing ample rest in the safely set up stables and by creating a show ring in which the horses have enough room to get acquainted with the many new impressions. And not for nothing: many horses and

especially yearlings that claimed their first medals on the lucky Brabantse showground have found their way to the winners circle at big shows such as Menton, Paris and Aachen!

The Arabian Horse Weekend always has been, and still is, a family affair! Annelieke is responsible for admin, show office and marketing (and much more). Pieter and Ralf are responsible for facilitation. With her catering and hospitality experience, Ine is responsible for the VIP area and the catering so guests can relax and enjoy a lovely show with great food. In 2001 the Stoop family bought their first Arabian purebred: Paroeska (1992, Paraguay x Knitova), who still is with Annelieke. With



**Wadad Zamani - Best of Show
AHW International 2022**

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Paroeska their journey in the Arabian horse world was started, and they never looked back! After successfully competing in dressage competitions, the family first organized a dressage competition for Arabian Purebreds in 2003, followed by the first show in 2004 and two dressage competitions yearly. They also quickly found their way to breeding under the name Lazize Arabians, and Paroeska gave them no less than five beautiful daughters of which two are still with the Stoop family. Currently the family has seven horses at their small farm in Veghel.



Avicii Lazize AHW 2021

Pieter started the national C-show South in 2004 after being asked to organize a show in the south of the Netherlands with the AVS board. They decided to organize the show in the hometown of the Stoop family, Sint-Oedenrode. The location at Manege de Pijnhorst was practically in their backyard! After the success of that very first edition, dressage classes were added on Saturday for

a full weekend in the welcoming atmosphere North Brabant is known for. The Stoop family has always held the versatile Arabian horse in high regard, with daughter Annelieke partaking in many under saddle competitions. Combining show with sports was a small, logical step and has attracted lovers of the breed from all over the

**Garlands that are handmade
by Ine en Pieter AHW 2022**

country to friendly North Brabant. As the attention for the show grew, so did the number of entries.

The Stoop family has always tried to keep matters in their own hands, and it is no surprise that they did just that with the winners' garlands in 2007: they started making them themselves. Seven garlands for the medalists and one for the Best of Show quickly grew into no less than 65 for the medalists, special awards and three Best of Show garlands in 2022. Each and every one hand made by Pieter and Ine Stoop. A massive task that is started months in advance. And every year they try to be as original as possible, creating something new, keeping a bit of an element of surprise to the prizes!

The International C-show was first organized in 2012, dividing the weekend in a National show on Saturday and the International show on Sunday. With an astounding 100 entries they were off to a great start, attracting international attention. Trying to attract newcomers to the show scene, Amateur classes were added in 2014, being replaced by the Aljassimya Amateur Challenge



in 2016 which was combined with the International C-show. In recent years there was simply no more time for the under saddle classes, but the Stoop family is still actively involved in the organization of all-round events as well as competing in them.

In 2016, when the 5th International C-Show took place, the idea arose to perpetuate the Best of Shows on a



Kashmira Lazize ridden by Annelieke AHW 2019



large banner in the VIP area. This quickly grew into the famous Wall of Fame for which the handlers compete for years to be on the Wall of Fame next year.

2018 marked the 15th anniversary of the Arabian Horse Weekend. Of course, there were beautiful big trophies for the winners as well as the handmade flower garlands. In celebration of this special anniversary there was a

lottery as well in which breedings to world renowned stallions could be won. Some of the resulting foals have been showed at the Arabian Horse Weekend since! An in depth aftermovie made by Arabian Insider completed the festivities, and is still very dear to the Stoop family. In 2020 Covid-19 turned the world upside down. Many shows were canceled, the season seemed lost, people had to stay home. Yet, the Stoop family insisted on bringing some joy and fun during this challenging year and



Pieter with friends Chantal and Antoine Rigat AHW 2019



Pieter with friends Dick and Francina Besseling AHW



Amaryllis Lazize AHW 2019



Pieter AHW 2019

decided their show just had to be organized, one way or another! After having to move the date from May to August a new location was found that provided for more space, so rules and regulations set by the government could be abided. This went so well, that the show has been permanently moved to the Dutch Equestrian

Estate in Schaijk. This spacious, luxurious location provides everything needed to take even bigger strides towards making the Arabian Horse Weekend the best International show in the world! In 2022 the Arabian Horse Weekend was back on its regular date in May and could reclaim its status as one of the best experiences for



Meshael al Khalediah - Best of show AHW International 2017



Femke, Rianne, Ine and Johan AHW 2015



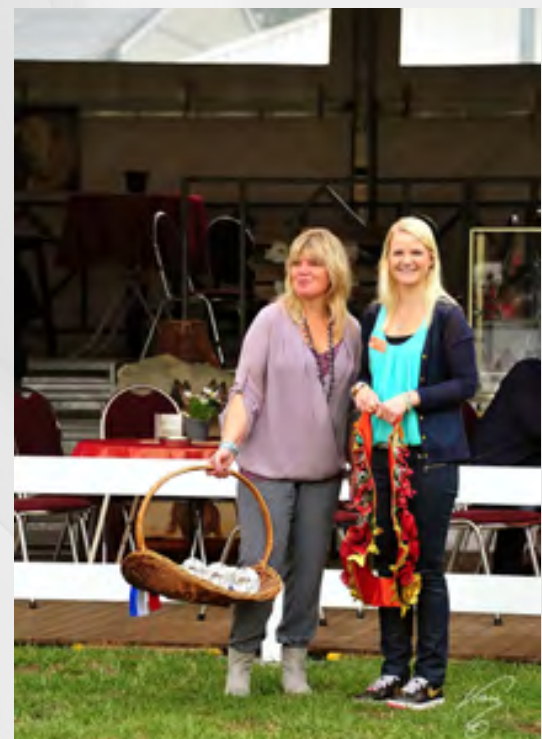
Annelieke, Anouk, Debby and Els AHW 2018

young horses. With over 67,000 livestream views worldwide and visitors, owners and judges from all over the world, the Arabian Horse Weekend surely may be called world famous!

And now it is time to take the next step for The Stoop Family. On Saturday 20 May the European C show will take place and on Sunday 21 May the International B show! Because of the anniversary, they will add more surprises for the weekend. The goal is to offer a great weekend for everyone with Brabant hospitality and a great atmosphere. The Stoop Family are very grateful to all sponsors, friends, owners, trainers, judges who helped make the Arabian Horse Weekend what it is today! □



Family Stoop AHW 2022



Debby and Annelieke AHW 2015



Team of judges and Ine and Pieter AHW 2011



Dalia J - Best of show AHW International 2015