



AL SHIRAA ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



"Today we manifest the dreams that we dared yesterday"

- Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan -

3RD EDITION OF AL SHIRAA INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW (ECAHO-A)

by Urszula Łęczycka ■ photos by Urszula Łęczycka and Sunny Sassudelli

It was the third time when Al Shiraa Arabians of HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Hazza Bin Zayed Al Nahyaan with support of EAHS hosted the prestigious ECAHO-A level International Arabian Horse Show in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The show like many others in this region brings together some of the very best quality Arabian horses but like not many of them – supports the smaller breeders from outside of the Arabian Gulf to compete together in a fair-play atmosphere. In result the limited number of ECAHO shows qualified horses from Europe have

been invited to take part in the show in UAE having the costs of the return trip, travel within UAE, stay and the costs of horse caretakers travel sponsored by Her Highness. That makes the competition even more exciting as, besides the well known show stars usually residing in the Middle East, we could have seen some old- and new comers from Europe with a chance to shine at the big, international stage fulfilling the dreams of their breeders and owners – both big and the small ones.

Thanks to the generosity of the organisers over 250 competitors (including over 30 from outside ME) could also have won an interesting prize money from 10 000 AED for the 5th and 4th places in the classes and Best Handlers up to 100 000 AED for gold medals.

The touch of elegance to the splendid showground was brought by international jewellery designer Bvlgari, Rome based company that created a special collection called "Jannah", paying tribute to the heritage of late HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in cooperation and under the inspiration of Her Highness Sheikhha Fatima, Honorary President of the show Organising Committee. The precious pieces of Bvlgari collection have been displayed in the VIP area during the whole event.

The show with HE Mohamed Ahmed Alharbi as the Chairman of the Organising Committee has been judged by the panel of 7 judges as follows: Abdelouahed Maagoul (Morocco), Bruce McCrea (USA), Helen Hennekens Van Nes (Belgium), Jonas Salzman (Kuwait), Marianne Tengstedt (Denmark), Nashaat Hegazy (Egypt), Robbie Den Hartog (Netherlands), Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany), William Oppen (Argentina) and Willie Brown (South Africa). It took place for the first time at the new location of Al Ain Equestrian Club providing comfortable backstage for horses accomodation, big parkings, easy access to the VIP area as well as the good logistic connection with comfortable hotels in Al Ain district of Abu Dhabi. Looking through the champions of that show the result

of European and non-European competitors have been split fairly although the game was tough. In the young horses classes, for various reasons we could see the majority of Arab countries representatives. And so the Yearling Fillies Championship belonged to beautiful Al Aryam Harbah the filly bred and owned by Sh. Khalifa Bint Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Al Nahyyan, that was the third golden medal in a row for this SMA Magic One daughter. Silver went to Shamikhat Al Hawajer the homebred filly of Dr. Ghanem M. Alhajri and the bronze to Al Aryam Ola from Al Aryam Stud, also from UAE. But in the colts we had the first sensation coming from Europe. The highest total score of the first two days of the show (92,50) and well deserved gold medal almost unanimously (except of one vote) in Yearling Colts belonged to one of the youngest competitors of this event – tiny but beautiful Asam El Said by Exagon OS bred and owned by Axel Munz from Germany! He was also deservedly awarded with Best Head Male trophy and his handler – Rhodri Jones who had presented a line of well scored horses during the whole event – the Best Handler trophy. With silver medal ended up the paternal brother of Asam El Said - HA Excellent bred in Germany by Beluga Arabians and owned by Nayla Hayek in Switzerland and with bronze – FAM Apollo by D Seraj from UAE. In the fillies the domination of big breeding farms was seen – with AJ Fawzah by AJ Majdan bred by Ajman Stud and owned by Nayla Hayek as gold Champion Junior Filly in front of D Aserah by AJ Nofan bred and owned by Dubai Stud and SQJommarah a homebred Al Saqran Stud filly by



SQ Wasim. The total score of little Asam El Said has been beaten on the third day of the show in the junior colts by RD Rajan bred in the US, son of Polidoro FC, owned by Nayla Hayek, silver medal holder from Menton and All Nations Cup last year, scored as high as 93,00 points and gold medal in Junior Colts Championship at the end. He has beaten the spectacular black former World Reserve Champion Colt – AJ Sayer bred and owned by Ajman Stud. From third place in the class the bronze medal winner in Junior Colts Championship was selected – Widad de Catherey bred and owned in France by Chantal Rigat. It seems that both owner and breeder in one person as well as his handler - Tom Oben were happily surprised with this verdict as we had to wait quite long for the horse to join back the arena for prize giving ceremony. The quality of senior mares classes was also very high this year – 5 of the championship qualifiers were scored over 92 points and the difference in scores was tight – in the open championship any of them could go for any colour of the medal that made the competition exciting. Despite that fact, the gold medal was selected almost unanimously – it was AJ Alula by AJ Marzan bred and owned by Ajman Stud, scored 92,30 in the class finally awarded with gold medal as well as she was Best in Show later on and got the trophy for Best Head female too! The highest scored senior mare – Janow Podlaski Stud bred Estonia by Palatino, scored 92,40 and all 20 across the board for movements was the only one with one vote for gold. She was finally 4th in the championship but with Best Movement trophy that she well deserved. Silver was given to Ayat Al Muawd

by Wadee Al Shaqab – the mare also owned by Ajman Stud and bronze went to the mare bred by this UAE stud but currently owned by Sheikh Abdulla Alqassemi – AJ Afkar by Shanghai EA. Second highest scored horse of the show (the same score as little Asam El Said) was beautiful ES Prince by ES Sarab, the treasure of Sheikh Abdulla Alqassemi who successfully decided to bring him to Al Shiraa show for the class win with 92,50 total and gold medal in Senior Stallions together with special award for Best Body (scored with 5x18,5!). This championship was a real pleasure to watch as there were more stallions well known from the showrings that presented their best disposition for Al Shiraa Show. Silver medal finally went to RP Burj Al Arab by WH Justice that looks even better in the age getting this characteristic refined look of his sire and we can always count on seeing his great moving abilities. Bronze medal went to another grey, statue look a like stallion – Equiborn KA bred by Knocke Arabians and owned by Natahalie De Haes in Belgium. What a beautiful end of the show it was.

The nice atmosphere of fair play and great hospitality of Sheikha Fatima was completed by a moving presentation of horsemanship and friendship between human, dogs and Arabian horses all masterfully presented without any leads by Santi Serra.

It was a great pleasure to be there, enjoy the quality horses and experience the international friendships during the third Al Shiraa International Arabian Horse Show. And as the generous organizers are already making their plans for next edition I can't wait to experience it more! □





AL SHIRAA
ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Yearling Fillies



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION AL ARYAM HARBAH

S.M.A.MAGIC ONE X AL ARYAM HAMRA
B/O: SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN TAHOON BIN MOHAMMED AL NAHAYYAN



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION SHAMIKHAT AL HAWAJER

FARID AL HAWAJER X DURAH AL HAWAJER
B/O: GHANEM MOHAMED GHANEM MOHAMED ALHAJRI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION AL ARYAM OLA

AJ REDAN X AL ARYAM ABLA - B/O: AL ARYAM ARABIANS



Junior Fillies



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION **AJ FAWZAH**

AJ MAJDAN X FAAIZA

B: AJMAN STUD - HH SHEIKH AMMAR BIN HUMAID AL NUAIMI

O: HANAYA ARABIAN STUD - NAYLA HAYEK



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION D ASERAH

AJ NOFAN X D SHIHANAH
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION SQJOMMARAH

SQ WASIM X AZALEA LBA - B/O: ALSAQRAN ARABIAN HORSE STUD



Senior Mares



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION AJ ALULA

AJ MARZAN X AYAT ALMUAWD
B/O: AJMAN STUD - HH SHEIKH AMMAR BIN HUMAID AL NUAIMI



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION AYAT ALMUAWD

WADEE AL SHAQAB X SILVER DESIGN

B: ALI AL SUBAIE - O: AJMAN STUD - HH SHEIKH AMMAR BIN HUMAID AL NUAIMI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION BIDAYER ALBADR

AJ MARZAN X GAJA LUNA - B/O: BADR ADNAN AHMED MOHAMED AL-ALI



AL SHIRAA
ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Yearling Colts



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION ASAM EL SAID

EXAGON OS X RANIYA OS
B/O: AXEL MÜNZ



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION HA EXCELLENT

EXAGON OS X MARYSE OS
B: BELUGA ARABIANS - O: HANAYA ARABIAN STUD - NAYLA HAYEK



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION FAM APOLLO

D SERAJ X GAZIRA K.A. - B/O: FEDERICO JOSE MORALES JORDAN



AL SHIRAA
ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Junior Colts



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION RD RAJAN

POLIDORO FC X RD QUIANNA

B: MURRAY OR SHIRLEY POPPLEWELL - O: HANAYA ARABIAN STUD - NAYLA HAYEK



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION

AJ SAYER

AJ YAS X SAMA AM

B/O: AJMAN STUD - HH SHEIKH AMMAR BIN HUMAID AL NUAIMI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION

WIDAD DE CARTHEREY

FA EL RASHEEM X MAYA AS - B/O: CHANTAL RIGAT



AL SHIRAA
ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Senior Stallions



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION E.S. PRINCE

E.S. SARAB (AE) X RAGHAD AL NASSER
B/O: SHEIKH ABDULLA BIN MAJID ALQASSEMI



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION
RP BURJ AL ARAB

WH JUSTICE X PAMIRA BINT PSYTADEL
B: DI GRAZIA ARABIANS - O: AGMAL ARABIANS, LIEZL ELS



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION
EQUIBORN K.A

QR MARC X ESPADRILLA
B: NV ZOUTEKREKEN - GHEYSENS PAUL - O. NATHALIE DE HAES



Special Awards

Best Handler		RHODRI JONES
Best In Show	No 99	AJ ALULA <i>Ajman Stud - HH Sheikh Ammar Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi</i>
Best Head Male	No 125	ASAM EL SAID <i>Axel Münz</i>
Best Movement in the show	No 120	ESTONIA <i>YOUSIF AHMED ABDULLATIF AHMED AL-ALI</i>
Best Body	No 246	E.S. PRINCE <i>SHEIKH ABDULLA BIN MAJID ALQASSEMI</i>







INTERVIEW WITH

Antonia Bautista

Manager of Al Shiraa Arabians and member of Al Shiraa International Arabian Horse Show Organising Committee



by Urszula Łęczycka

UE: *What were your main goals and expectations with organising this year edition of Al Shiraa International Arabian Horse Show?*

AB: Our main goal year after year is to have a fair competition where all horses from any part of the world have the same chances and are evaluated in the most democratic way in a curated horse welfare environment. As well as to welcome everyone in a cozy atmosphere with the best hospitality. Organising the show that is enjoyable and fun is our priority.

UE: *What was the biggest challenge during this year event organization?*

AB: Probably the change of location. We've had all

our previous editions at Al Forsan Equestrian Club, in Abu Dhabi. This year we moved to Al Ain Equestrian Club and we can't be happier with the response of the management of the facilities. Quarantined horses were in perfect stables with all commodities, like AC, multiple arenas to be used for any purposes. Scaffolding the VIP tent, screens and technology, parking disposition... all our requirements have been matched at the highest level.

UE: *Al Shiraa International Arabian Horse Show is one of very few Middle Eastern ones that invite the horses and their owners from outside this part of the world covering the cost of participation. Can you explain more about the*

reasons of such decision and it's main advantages for the participants?

AB: This project was born together with the show itself. Since day one it was the wish of Sheikha Fatima to create a show open to everyone and of course, due to the expensive logistics for EU owners, she empowered this venture with sponsoring, together with EAHS, the transportation of horses and their grooms to the UAE and within it.

UE: How many participants from outside Middle East did you count this year at the show?

AB: We had 31 horses coming from Europe this year, 26 to compete at the show and 5 horses for the entertainment performed by Santi Serra. These 26 horses came from a variety of countries in Europe, but their owners came from many different parts of the world, including México and South Africa.

UE: Are you going to continue this generous idea for the next editions? Would there be any innovations to it's rules?

AB: It is definitely one of our signature initiatives and we want to perpetuate it in the upcoming years. This year we've permitted the yearlings that came from Europe to participate without qualification. It is impossible for EU contenders to qualify their yearlings before the end of January. We will strive for the same for next year as well.

UE: Have you been satisfied with the number of entries and the quality this year?

AB: We are absolutely delighted with the amount of horses entered, more than 250. When it comes to quality, we discover every edition some new superstars that make their debut at our show. This is a privilege for us, to stage these emerging sensations.

UE: What would you like to say to the breeders that may consider participating in next edition if they are not

dedided yet? Is there any particular group of breeders or any particular countries you would like to see at Al Shiraa International Arabianb Horse Show in the future?

AB: We encourage everyone to join us in such a unique event, where fairness, class and hospitality are our primary concern. We would love to have more state studs from EU countries and some representatives from Scandinavian countries that we missed this year.

UE: Personally you run a lot of projects at the same time - breeding programs at Al Shiraa Arabians, Shiodome, Bautista-Vich, part of the Arabian Futurity Team and you are also responsible for organising this international event. You are also a mom, how it is possible to combine all those roles?

AB: Honestly I don't think about it too much, I just love to be involved in projects that have an honest base, with good values and good people. But I also know I'm very lucky to have a wonderful husband and family that are there to support when it's needed.

As well our teams at the farms and our vet Marta Cárdenas are crucial to be able to continue. □