

DUBAI

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN
HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP





by Deirdre Hyde ■ photos by Paola Drera

The year 2020 is going to be unforgettable! A benchmark for common memory. One day we will look back and say, “do you remember 2020?” A myriad of memories will come flooding back and some of us will say “yes of course 2020 the year of the virus, the lockdown and how lucky we were to enjoy the Dubai International Championship.

As the opening day of the Championship drew closer, we were not sure what would happen, many events in UAE had been cancelled and in the all-important lead up to the Dubai World Cup flat race, all racing was taking place without spectators, then we learnt it too would go ahead also without an audience. Finally, it was announced DIAHC was definitely on, but attendance would be very restricted only to organisers, owners, their staff and media. Needless to say, policing of entry to the Exhibition Hall was very strict, reassuring hand sanitiser was everywhere, and a cleaner was seen to be on permanent duty cleaning handles and railings.

Arriving at the show it felt most strange, just a handful of people, and they were security. In the arena the atmosphere was hushed, everyone was quiet and calm, but I must say I think the horses appreciated it, many showed much better than I have seen throughout the season! Needless to say, a number of horses did not come, the main casualties from the international entries and of course they were much missed.

DIAHC is not an ECAHO show but its Rules are based on that organisation and are familiar to all, as is the qualification system for such an important event. The show is held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and the prize money pot contains a very generous \$4,000,000. General Manager and Member of the Higher Organising Committee, Mr Qusai Obaidalla, Organising Executive Manager Mr Adel Al Falasi and their tireless super-efficient secretary Mrs Albina Tapyka are to be congratulated on going ahead with the event under very trying

circumstances. Needless to say, it ran like clockwork and as ever the hospitality was superb.

The international panel of judges came from far and wide and consisted of Mr Jerzy Bialobok (Poland) Mr Jay Constanti (USA) Mr Koenrad Detaillieur (Belgium), Mr Santiago Fornieles (Argentina), Mr Murilo Kammer (Brazil) Mrs Renata Schibler (Switzerland) Mr Graham Smith (Australia) and Mr Marc Veray (France) supported by Ringmaster Mr Jean-Bernard Kupaj (France).

Dubai show is unique in the UAE holding foal classes and we will be watching to see how many of these will become stars of the future. Judging these classes is difficult, like most baby animals they are all enchanting, however the judges made their selections and the Gold filly was JA Mazyouna Al Jazeera (R Prince Karat – AJ Amanwara) for Al Jazeera Stud, whilst Gold colt was Duryab Al Hawajer (Exxalt – Durah Al Hawajer) for Dr Ghanem al Hajri who also took the Silver colt award with Batal Al Hawajer (D Seraj – Joharat Al Hawajer)

After the foals the rest of the day was devoted to all the female classes, day two was for the males and finally on Saturday the six championships. If there was any doubt about the dominance and influence of the two leading studs in UAE, it would surely be dispelled by their results at this show. Of the fourteen classes Ajman was the winner of five, and Dubai four, whilst together they had a further nine in the top three of various classes to take to the Championships, they each took two Golds. Both studs have developed their own distinctive type, and both have extraordinary depth in the quality of the youngstock they are breeding thanks to a base of outstanding mares. The long-term challenge must be to keep finding or producing suitable stallions to retain their high standards when the fashionable gene pool is getting smaller and smaller. It must be said that AJ Marzan and D Seraj seem to be doing just that, AJ Marzan sired Gold Yearling colt D Shaheer and

Bronze Arjuwan Al Bidayer as well as Championship qualifiers AJ Barakah second in her class and JS Oscar third in his. Meanwhile D Seraj was responsible for the first three yearling fillies in section A. These included The Silver and Bronze fillies D Sireen (D Ra'afah) and D Farehan (Elle Flamenca) as well as Ward Al Bidayer (Juri Al Bidayer) third in the class.

We knew the Junior Filly Championship would be a tough and exciting contest between Dubai and Ajman, three contestants had scored 93 points. In the two year old class AJ Samara (AJ Mardan – Sama AM) and D Judi (AJ Azzam – Elle Flamenca) had tied the win going to Samara on type, whilst a very close third had been another daughter of Elle Flamenca, D Fannanah by Excalibur EA on 92.80. It is worth noting that Elle Flamenca was also dam of D Farehan the Bronze Yearling Filly, what a treasure she must be! Meanwhile the qualifiers from the three year old class, D Shihanah (FA El Rasheem – D Shahla), AJ Barakah (FA Al Rasheem – Princess of Justice) and D Gharam (FA El Rasheem – FT Shaella) are all champions in their own right, and it was a feast for the eyes to see these six fillies together in the ring. In the end perhaps not surprisingly AJ Samara was chosen for Gold, she had received straight 20's for Type and Head and Neck in her class, D Judi took Silver, although she was selected for Gold by three judges, whilst D Shihanah who had also received 93 in her class was Bronze. All the fillies in that Championship were outstanding and one can only dream about what beautiful mares they will make.

Nine mares contested their championship and they demonstrated the development of type in the breed especially in the concentration on the head. Mozn Al Bidayer (S.M.A. Magic One – Mattaharii) and AJ Tarim (Emerald J – Espinilla) had both received seven out of seven 20s for head and neck in their class and they took the Gold and the Silver. International interests were represented by Baviera HVP (Marwan Al Shaqab – HB Bessolea) who took Bronze for

Abhaa Arabians of Kuwait, whilst fourteen year old El Sanadika IA (Sanadik El Shaklan – Magnalina) owned by Abdullah Bin Fahad Al Haqbani flew the flag for Saudi Arabia with her win in the senior class.

Moving on to the colts Dubai Stud produced both the Yearling Gold D Shaheer (AJ Marzan – D Shahla) half brother of D Shihanah and the Junior Gold Colt D Sheimaz (FA El Rasheem – Ladi Veronika). Meanwhile Al Hawajer Stud produced the Yearling Silver, Ghaly Al Hawajer (Dominic M – Ghalyah Al Hawajer) and the Junior Silver with Mutabahi Al Hawajer (FA El Rasheem – ZT Magrumi). Whilst Bronze Yearling was Arjuwan Al Bidayer and Bronze Junior Colt was Admiraal (Emerald J – Haniyyah) a former Gold winner.

Then came the Stallion Championship with a number of very familiar names forward from the classes. It was no surprise that Excalibur EA (Shanghai EA – Essence of Marwan) with the highest score of the show 94.30 was selected for Gold, he was looking particularly well, and his maturity carried the day over AJ Kafu who has such lovely expression. Kafu is also by Shanghai EA out of AJ Kahyala who also has Marwan Al Shaqab in her dam line. Bronze went to the much-travelled Eden C (Enzo – Silken Sable) who at fifteen is just beginning to show his age but with his illustrious breeding record he surely has little to prove.

Due to the various restrictions the Dubai Stud Open Day was cancelled but we had seen so many of their lovely youngsters we could only feel slightly sad. Whilst the show was running, we had put behind us thoughts of the season ahead and what might actually be going to happen. The unspoken thought was to remain positive and to enjoy the moment! Everyone was aware the important thing was to take all sensible precautions to ensure the welfare of all our precious horses and the hard-working staff. For everyone it is an extraordinary time and to all who are suffering the consequences we send heartfelt thoughts and greetings. □

FILLY FOALS



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION JA MAZYOUNA AL JAZEERA

R PRINCE KARAT X AJ AMANWANA
B/O: AL JAZEERA ARABIAN HORSE STUD



COLT FOALS



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION DURYAB AL HAWAJER

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



YEARLING FILLIES



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION AJ AL BRRAQAH 5

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



YEARLING COLTS



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION D SHAHEER

AJ MARZAN X D SHAHLA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



JUNIOR FILLIES



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION AJ SAMARA

AJ MARDAN X SAMA AM
B/O: AJMAN STUD



JUNIOR COLTS



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION D SHEIMAZ

FA EL RASHEEM X LADI VERONIKA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



SENIOR MARES



GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION MOZN AL BIDAYER

S.M.A. MAGIC ONE X MATTAHARII
B/O: SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN SAUD AL QASIMI



SENIOR STALLIONS



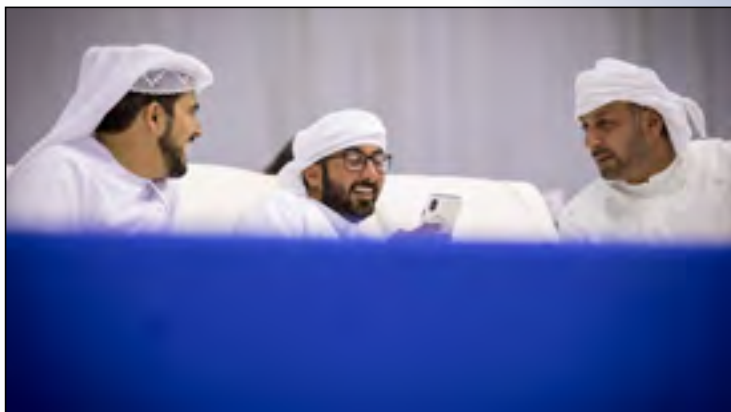
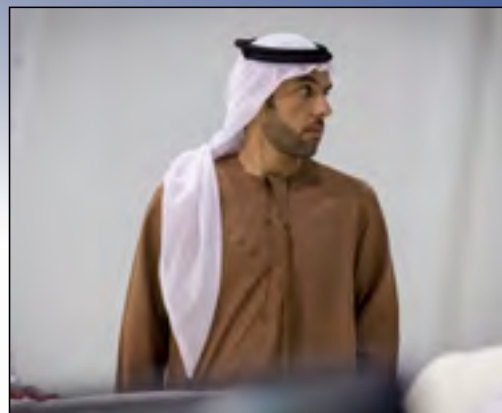
GOLD MEDAL CHAMPION EXCALIBUR EA

SHANGHAI EA X ESSENCE OF MARWAN EA
B: EQUUS ARABIANS - O: AL SAQRAN ARABIAN HORSE STUD



DUBAI PEOPLE











SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION FILLY FOALS TALYAH AL HAWAJER

KANZ ALBIDAYER X FARAH AL HAWAJER
B/O: RASHID GHAEM MOHAMED ALHAJRI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION FILLY FOALS A.H.M SHAMMA

AJ MARZAM X SWF EMPRESS OF MARWAN
B/O: AHMED HAMAD SULAIMAN ALYAMMAHAI



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION COLT FOALS BATAL AL HAWAJER

D SERAJ X JOHARAT AL HAWAJER
B/O: DR GHANEM MOHAMED OBAID AL HAJRI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION COLT FOALS A.L.R TAHADY

BARAJASS AL ZOBAIR X PSYCHE KYBELE
B/O: MOHAMED YOUSIF AL RASHEED



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION YEARLING FILLIES D SIREEN

D SERAJ X D RA'FAH
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION YEARLING FILLIES D FAREHAN

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



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION YEARLING COLTS GHALY AL HAWAJER

DOMINIC M X GHALYAH AL HAWAJER
B/O: DR GHANEM MOHAMED OBAID AL HAJRI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION YEARLING COLTS ARJUWAN AL BIDAYER

AJ MARZAN X ALLEZANDRA ALBIDAYER
B/O: SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN SAUD AL QASIMI



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION JUNIOR FILLIES D JUDI

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



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION JUNIOR FILLIES D SHIHANAH

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



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION JUNIOR COLTS MUTHABAHI AL HAWAJER

FA EL RASHEEM X ZT MAGRUMI
B/O: DR. GHANEM MOHAMED OBAID AL HAJRI



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION JUNIOR COLTS ADMIRAAL

EMERALD J X HANIYYAH
B: M A AL SUBAIE, U.K - O: AJMAN STUD



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION SENIOR MARES AJ TARIM

EMERALD X ESPINILLA
B/O: AJMAN STUD



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION SENIOR MARES BAVIERA HVP

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X HB BESSOLEA
B: NELSON DE OLIVEIRA PRATA PINTO MOREIRA - O: ABHAA ARABIANS



SILVER MEDAL CHAMPION SENIOR STALLIONS AJ KAFU

SHANGHAI EA X AJ KAHAYLA
B/O: AJMAN STUD



BRONZE MEDAL CHAMPION SENIOR STALLIONS EDEN C

ENZO X SILKEN SABLE
B: RHONDA L AND RHODA COLEAL - O: ABDULWAHAB SAEED ALSAYED