

POLAND

ATTRACTIVE OFFER FOR ARABIAN HORSE RACE INDUSTRY

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Dragon



Han Rastaban

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For many years, Polish Arabian horses were associated with the slogan "brave and beautiful".

This was due to the fact that horses bred mainly in state studs, in addition to selection for conformation and beauty, in the vast majority had their performance abilities test during flat race training. Currently, Arabian horse breeding, also in Poland, has gone towards specific specializations. Arabian horses are bred now particular for shows, endurance and flat racing. Despite the changes in breeding trends, Arabian horse races in Poland are still a very important element of selection and play an important role in Polish breeding of purebred horses, not only bred exclusively for racing purposes. Poland also happened – in the past and recently - to be a first step to the big racing word for some future racing super stars – both talented riders and horses.

Currently, there are three racetracks in Poland, and races for Arabian horses are held on all of them. We have more than 190 races for pure bred Arabian horses each year with more than 300 horses competing in flat races with a total of more than 1,400 starts between them.

In the 2023 racing season, over 130 races for Arabian horses are planned on the main Polish track Służewiec located close to the center of capital city of Warsaw, with the culmination of the season during the Arabian Horse Day on August 20th with the most important races held amongst which are: **Europa Cup Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan G3 PA** (2600m, 4-yo and up horses) and **Traf Warsaw Mile Listed PA** (1600m, 4-yo and up horses). The third key race in the Polish calendar also included in the international Pattern classification is the **Porównawcza**



Fazza Al Khalediah

Cup Listed PA (2400m, 3-yo and up horses) held in October.

A quite new race in our calendar is the **President of UAE Cup series** race for 4 year old horses, the **Central European Arabian Derby** over a distance of 2000m. Last year, in the first edition of the Derby, a great fight was fought between the French **Zenhaf** and the Polish-bred **Han Rastaban**, who later triumphed in the 3000m Polish Derby, closed only to horses born in Poland. This year Han Rastaban is being trained in France by Charles Gourdain. He has already shown very well, taking 3rd place in the G2 race on the racecourse in Toulouse.

We can hope that the Polish champion will follow in the footsteps of **Fazza Al Khalediah**, who, in 2018 had an

amazing success winning the **Qatar Arabian World Cup G1 PA** held at the Longchamp track in Paris. It is one of the most prestigious races for Arabian horses, with a prize money pool of 1 million euros. This gray representative of Polska AKF Sp. z o.o. - the Polish located branch of world famous Al Khalediah Stud, trained by Wrocław racecourse based trainer Michał Borkowski, also won the **Prix Dragon G1 PA** and took second places in the **Jewel Crown G1 PA** in Abu Dhabi and the **Dubai Kahayla Classic G1 PA** on the Meydan racecourse.

In recent years, the Polish branch of Al Khalediah Stud played a dominant role in Arabian horse racing in Poland. Not only having many successes, but also sponsoring races. The horses of Polska AKF stud traveled extensively around Europe, taking part in many international races not



Amwaj Al Khalediah

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only in France, but also in Italy, Belgium, Germany and Sweden. The most successful races in the Pattern series were achieved by such horses as **Amwaj Al Khalediah**, **Salam Al Khalediah** and **Rasmy Al Khalediah**.

Another representative of Al Khalediah Stud, partly associated with Polish Arabian horse breeding is **Mashhur Al Khalediah**. That numerous group races performer and winner of the prestigious Jewel Crown GIPA race in Abu Dhabi comes from Polish dam line of Sabellina from world-renowned “S” family of indomitable racers from Janów Podlaski Stud’s.

Mashhur’s grand dam is a phenomenal mare **Savannah**, bred by Janów Podlaski Stud and born in the US where her dam **Sarmacja** was sent specifically to breed to Pure

Polish stallion **Monarch AH** – son of **Wiking** – born in Poland, leading racing sire in US and Polish Derby winner - **Sasanka** who also represents Sabellina line. Savannah won 18 races in 3 seasons, 13 wins and 5 places. Her wins included: Sambor Stakes, Bialka Stakes, Koheilan I Stakes, Porównawcza Stakes, The Oaks, Ofir Stakes (twice), Michałow Stakes, Europa Cup, Figaro Stakes, Kabaret Stakes and also 2nd places in Europa Cup and Derby. She was the most successful race mare in Polish history, exported in 2004 to Saudi Arabia later on.

The blood of Sabellina S-line is also present in the pedigree of 2022 Dubai Kahayla Classic GIPA winner **First Class** who has in his pedigree Monarch AH and also **Sambor** - another all-time sire of race-winners representing Sabellina’s line.



Fazza Al Khalediah

A rich program of races and relatively low training costs are an attractive offer for breeders and owners not only from Poland. For several years, racing in Poland has also attracted owners from the Middle East, becoming an international arena for competing with better quality horses every year. It is Poland where young and talented riders are taking their first steps into their professional jockey careers and some of them are happening to be the newcomers to the international arena – just like young and talented Szczepan Mazur, the Polish jockey who was fourth most popular jockey during 2023 Amir Sword Festival in Qatar and won G1 Qatar International Cup with half million USD prize money pool.

The Polish races program is very rich, including maiden races exclusively for 3-year-old horses at various distances

from 1400m to 2000m, also races for fillies only. Maiden races also complemented by handicap races for 4-yo and up horses, as well as rich program of stakes and classics racers which makes our program exceptionally complementary for individual age groups and genders.

For the last few years Polish flat races program for pure bred Arabian horses offered also the races dedicated for horses bred in show lines. Starting from 2023 season we are introducing a new program with prize money donated by Polish government called “KOWR races” (the name taken after its key sponsor - National Support Centre for Agriculture) for heritage horses with its rules based on former HARC (Heritage Arabian Racing Club) – the organization established by HH Sh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2016 idea and its main goal is to preserve the



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Arabian horses that are bred for both type and stamina as well as preserving as big gene pool of original bloodlines as possible in this world's oldest breed of horses. Although HARC is not existing anymore Poland is bringing its brilliant idea back to life from 2023 having a heritage races being a whole season cycle planned for horses from any purebred Arabian registered and WAHO accepted stud book which not contain the blood of the following stallions in any generation of its pedigree: Amer, Baroud III, Burning Sand, Dragon, St Laurent, Tiwaiq. The heritage races will be an addition to the current 2023 race schedule in Poland with a special prize money pool and there are some interesting domestic Arabian horses entered and qualified to this program, including some international show champion horses!



About the author:

Maciej Kacprzyk is a race trainer at Warsaw Racecourse since 2016, specializing in Arabian horse race training. On his account he has the wins in some biggest stakes in Poland as well as abroad. Horses trained by his MK Racing stable are often competing at the racetracks around Europe.

Key Races

IN POLAND

2023



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**UAE President Cup
Central European Arabian Derby (kat. A)**
2000m, 2nd of July

209 025 PLN

(119000- 49000-24000- 12000- 6025)
4 year olds

Nagroda EUROPY - G3 PA (kat. A)
2600m, 20th of August

157 500 PLN

(90000-36000-8000-9000-4500)
4 year olds & up

Traf Warsaw Mile - LISTED PA (kat. A)
1600m, 20th of August

70 000 PLN

(40000-16000-8000-4000-2000)
4 year olds & up

Porównawcza Cup - LISTED PA (kat. A)
2400m, 21st of October

52 500 PLN

(30000-12000-6000-3000-1500)
3 year olds & up