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For the third year, ACA Normandie (Regional Arab Horse Society of Normandy) organized the "Normandie Arabian Festival". This year, like in 2010, two shows were held, an ECAHO C International show and a D Regional show, as well as a foal championship, a liberty class, a ridden class and a Freestyle ridden with music with one ambition for a really versatile schedule: promoting the versatility and the beauty of the Arabian horses.

The Normandie Arabian Festival 2011 was dedicated to Major Pat Maxwell, who was president of ACA Normandie. His experience and his knowledge of arabian horses gave a dynamic foresite to this young association. The Normandie Arabian Festival is an example of it.

The shows took place on the 16th and 17th of April in the "Centre de Promotion de l'Elevage" in Saint-Lô, Normandy, an equestrian complex that extends over about twenty hectares only dedicated to the promotion of horses. This complex is today one of the biggest one in France, even in Europe: Olympic covered inside arena, 4 outside sand rings, 160 permanent stables, several paddocks, a parking lot of 300 places for horse trailers and trucks, and 600 places for visitors

Organising the D Regional show and the C international show together is an occasion for professionals, breeders, owners and every Arabian horse enthusiasts to meet each other's and to exchange experiences and passion. Breeders, owners and handlers came from France, Belgium, England, Switzerland... to take part in the competition with about 70 horses. With more than 11000 euros in prizes, all the exhibitors were rewarded: Equus Eyes trophies for the three medallists of each championship (regional and international show), show halters for each class witners (regional and international show), free stud fees from Felton J (Felton J Partenaires) and Finn El Luval (Tebessa Arabia), gift certificates from Izzea (Cleaning and ecological treatment of the equestrian textiles), drawings, blankets, accessories, grooming products ... Without forgetting traditional plaques and rosettes.

A large number of sponsors attended the event, without which all this would not have happened and which contributed to the success of this event, amongst them: Lutetia Arabians, Normandy Region, Clestra Stabi, DBS, Lodge Farm Stud, Elevage de Guerlain, Izzea, MAES, Haras de Polletins, Groupama, Tebessa Arabia, Felton J Partners, Equicer, Agrial, Mercure, Etap Hotel, SDSR, Bricomarché, Shah Arabians, ...

On the Saturday evening, a cocktail was organised during which, HS Pirandelo, European jumping champion, owned by Lutetia Arabians, proved one more time his dexterity and jump up to 1,35m under the saddle of Séverine Jaulent. This was

followed by a breeder's diner with a blues concert of Tiny Legs Tim, who warms up everybody there.

With the lowest entry fees on the French show circuit, The Normandie Arabian Festival wants to incite both breeders and owners to promote their horses and to encourage the public to discover the arabian horses. With this event, ACA Normandie tries to increase the links between professional and "less experienced" public and to facilitate the meetings around the arabian horse. Won bet, the 2011 edition of the Normandie Arabian Festival made the unanimity amongst both exhibitors and public for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere, the quality of its competition and its great accommodations.

D regional Show

The event started on the Saturday morning with the D regional show which was judged by Dr Mary Bancroft (Great Britain) and Mr Daniel Souppat (France). Exhibitors, mostly amateurs, from Normandy, Britanny, Pays de La Loire and North of France took the challenge to show their horses, and for some of them, to make their debut in the show ring.

The Filly championship was won by the expressive Shah Wadela (Shah Adel X Shah Wahida), bred and owned by Shah Arabians, who also won the Best in show prize. The Silver went to another yearling filly, Mandalay (Ecaho X Mandolinn), bred by the Maxwell Family and owned by Mrs Carole Artur, while Bronze went to the two years old Visa de Gargassan (Na Colt X Myra de Gargassan), bred by Domaine de Gargassan and owned by Mrs Nadine Collet.

Next was the Colt championship, the Gold medal was won by Avalon Namdaar (Avalon Mirage X Shamilah Mauna), a promising bay yearling bred by Avalon 2 and owned by Garraud. The impressive 2 years old colts, Vicomte Frederic (Cielito VL X Shahdaisy) got the Siver medal, owned by Mrs Vivien Morris who also bred him. The Bronze was won by a 3 years old chestnut colt, Avalon Sadi (Avalon Impakt X Avalon Magnum Touch), bred by Avalon 2 and owned by Julien Lecocq. Among Mares, the beautiful Shahdaisy (MI. Flamboyant X Shahfira) won the Gold medal and was the source of great joy for her owner, Mrs Vivien Morris, who was also awarded Best amateur Handler of the regional following their really nice presentation. The Silver went to an Ekstern daughter, Replica, showned by the youngest handler of the show, Quentin Jehenne, aged 13 years old. She was bred by Mr Bernard Van de Putte and is owned by Mr Laurent Jehenne. In the third place was the Spanish mare Badilla (Basra X Pardilla) bred in Sweden by Dan Arabe and owned by Mrs Suzanna Havward.

The much awaited stallion championship was won for the second consecutive year by Malik El Saintonge (Esta Esplanan X Chem's Sablista) bred by Mrs Karine Pineaux and owned by Mrs Diane Allen. The Silver medal went to the Spanish stallion Amoroso de Salvatora (Arabian Beauty X Salvadora), owned by Mrs Suzanna Hayward and the Bronze medal to the Egyptian Jahim (Ibn Barrada X Husnia) bred by Mr Bernard Fischer and owned by Mrs Barbara Ouesada.

It is to notice that most of the breeders decided to show their horses themselves and that they did it with lots of success.

C International Show

Mrs Anna Stojanowska (Poland), Mrs Mary Bancroft (Great Britain), Mr Cristian Moschini (Italy) and Mr Guy De Fontaines (France) were officiated as judges in the C International Show on the Saturday afternoon and the Sunday. The quality of the horses has increased again since the last edition for the pleasure of both public and exhibitors.

Traditionally, the championships started with the Fillies. Amongst them the typey and refined Shah Mashougha (Shah Adel X Shah Maliha) unanimously won the Gold medal and also the Best in Show for her owner and breeder Shah Arabians of France. The Silver medal went to an energetic 3 years old filly Fidji des Aubues (Shamilah Vassili X Lareva) with a strong movement. She was bred by Haras de La Chataignière in France and is owned by Mr Jérôme Carayon. The Bronze medal awarded another 3 years old filly, Joseph's Fadilah (Edin X Bess Fantasy), bred by Joseph Arabians and owned by Lutetia Arabians.

The Colt championship was won by the exotic Largo de Sarjevane (MF Aryan El Thessa X Nasiriyya de Lam), a colt not even aged one year with a lovely head and impressive eyes, bred and owned by Mrs Christie Galibert from France. The Silver medal came to Ainhoa Nureyev (Wh Justice X Ainhoa Ali Cea) a 3 years old colt with beautiful type, bred and owned by Ainhoa Arabians. The Bronze medal went to another son of Wh Justice, Pristice Kossack, bred by Kossack Stud and owned by Flaxman Arabians from Belgium.

The Gold champion mare, Flaxman Carmen (FA Wisznu X Princess Odessa) bred and owned by Flaxman Arabians from Belgium, warmed up the crowd with her impressive movement and her charisma. She also won the Best Movement prize, being the only horse to be awarded the maximum 10 points by all judges. The beautiful Polish mare, Grenadyne (Ekstern X Grenlandia), bred and owned by the Maxwell Family, won the Silver medal and was also rewarded Best Normandie Horse, a prize that was awarded to the horse with the highest points belonging to a breeder from Normandie. The Bronze medal came to GH NALA (Mudassir B Mehamam x Nhaaba), a black mare aged 4, bred by Mr Franck Dill and owned by Flaxman Arabians.

The last but not least championship awarded the young charismatic grey stallion Raswan de Gargassan (Vladimir de Falgas X Must de Gargassan) who impressed the public by his movement and his showy attitude. His breeder and owner is Mrs Marianne Capdeville from Haras de Gargassan in France. The Silver medal went to an experienced stallion, Finn El Luval (Lm Luval X MSA Forgetmenot) bred in Austria by La Movida Arabians and owned by Steeve Desmet from France. The third place went to the father of both Regional and International best in show winners, Shah Adel (Wh Justice X Astara), a chestnut 5 years old stallion, bred and owned by Shah Arabians.

Ridden class, Dressage and Liberty class

With the ambition to value the versatility of the arabian horse, ACA Normandie held on Saturday early afternoon, before the C International Show, a ridden class created by the CPCAS, a delegation of the national organisation (ACA France) dedicated to the promotion of Arabian horses in sport. This class is judged in two parts. Horses and riders are first presented all together in the ring, showing off their different gaits according to the commands of the chief steward, and are then unsaddled and assessed according to their type and conformation. Afterwards, each horse and rider return to the ring one after the other to freely demonstrate their abilities in front of the judges. This class was beautifully won by Arnelle Acapulco (JS Marrak X Platinum Fantasie), a grey stallion owned and ride by Mrs Christina de Kragh. The second place went to a stallion that was several times rewarded as a junior in the show competitions, Vadronn des Aubus (Shamilah Vassili X Lareva) owned by Haras de Djoonam and ridden by Rozenn Cayric.

On Sunday, the Freestyle ridden with music, conceived by ACA Normandie and judged by a judge of dressage, showed, again during this weekend, the capacities of the arabian horses under saddle. This class is comparable to equestrian art, where the horse moves in the ring, showing off its different paces to the judges. Riders are free to compose their own program adapted to their own choice of music. This class was won by Sihab Ibn Shahnan (Meranti Shahnan X Es Tariifa), a young dark bay stallion owned by Haras d'Oz under the saddle of Cécile Forest

The liberty class, with 10 entries was one of the upbeat of the event where the complicity between handlers and horses was emphasis. The polish mare, Eustomia (Poganin X Eumenida) owned by Lutetia Management, get the first place, showing a powerful movement and great disposals. The second place went to a beautiful two years old filly, bred and owned by The Maxwell Family, Azemeh (Om el Barheyn X Ayat). The title of foal champion came to the only contender of the class, Hh Afrikan Bella Swan (TF Afrikan Shah X Avalon Evanah), bred and owned by Hasmilah Arabians, who took the heart of everybody on the show place.



Champion ridden class: ARNELLE ACAPULCO

(JS Marrak x Platinum Fantasie)

Breeder: Arnelle Arabians

Owner and rider: Christina de Kragh

Champion dressage: SIHAB IBN SHAHNAN

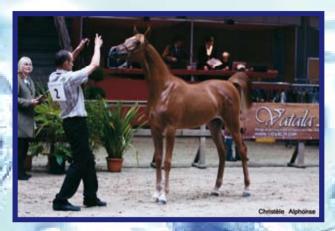
(Meranti Shahnan x ES Tariifa)

Breeder: Catherine Roger

Owner: Haras d'Oz / Rider: Cécile Forest



Regional Show - gold champions



Junior filly and Best in Show Regional: SHAH WADELA

(Shah Adel x Shah Wahida)

Breeder and Owner: Shah Arabians



(ML Flamboyant x Shahfira)

Breeder: Candace S. Tompkins / Owner: Vivien Morris





Junior colt: AVALON NAMDAAR

(Avalon Mirage x Shamilah Muuna)

Breeder: Sandrine Hervieu / Owner: Madame Garraud

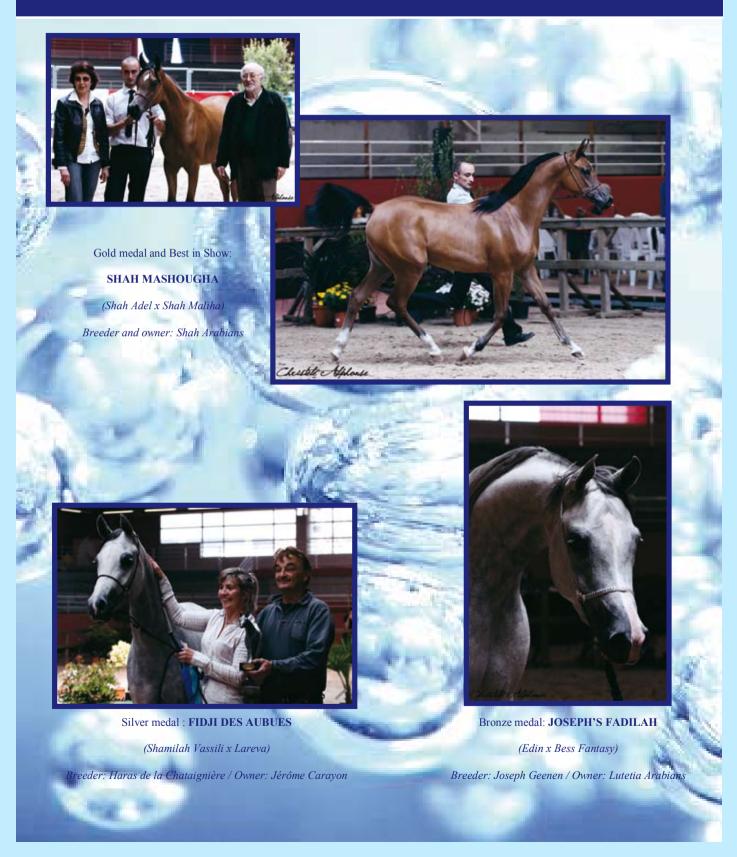
Senior stallion: MALIK EL SAINTONGE

(Esta Esplanan x Chem's Sablista)

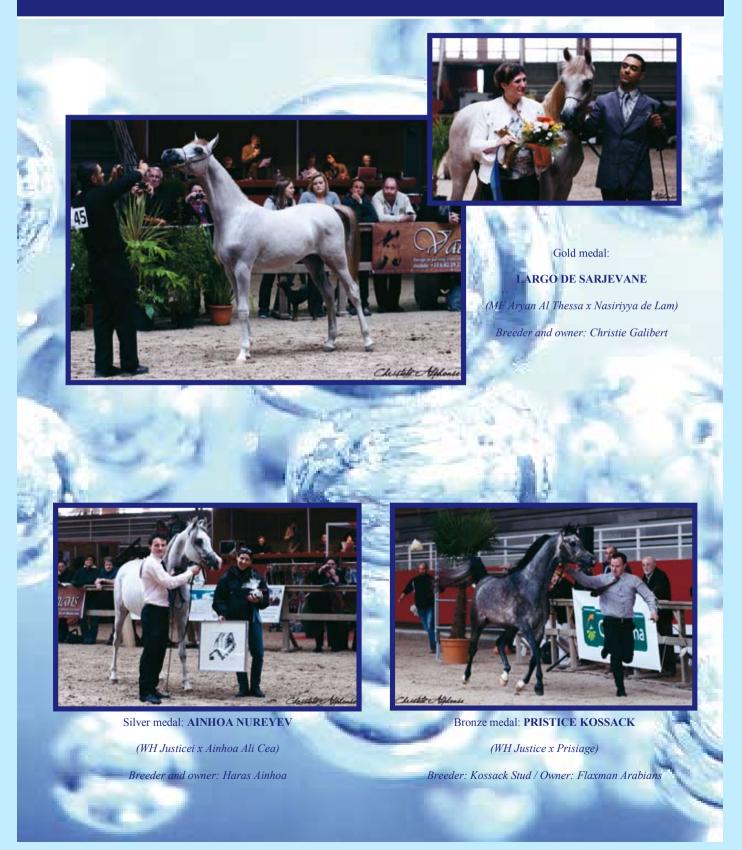
Breeder: Karine Pineaux / Owner: Diane Allen



C International – junior fillies



C International – junior colts



C International – senior mares



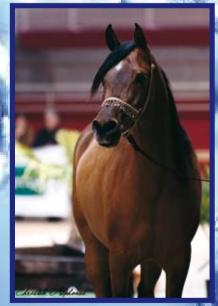
Gold medal and Best Movement:

FLAXMAN CARMEN

(FA Wisznus x Princess Odessa)

Breeder and owner: Flaxman Arabians





Silver medal and Best Normandy Horse: GRENADYNE

(Ekstern x Grenlandia)

Breeder and owner: Joanna Maxwell



Bronze medal: GH NALA

(Mudassir B Mehamam x Nhaaba)

Breeder: Gestüt Hägerhof / Owner: Flaxman Arabians

C International – senior stallions

