

ABU DHABI

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

by Deirdre Hyde ■ photos by Ewa Imielska-Hebda

The 2020 Abu Dhabi International Arabian Horse Championship took place during one of the busiest times of the Middle Eastern show calendar. Nevertheless, it remains a highly successful event, with over one and a half million dollars in prize money which draws top class entries from some of the biggest studs of the region. There were slightly fewer international entries than in previous years as owners and trainers juggle their entries between four international shows in UAE between 12 Feb and 12 March! There are limits to energy levels of horses and humans, and a review of the show calendar would seem to be in order. Also, to take into account the other countries in the region for the benefit of all!

Along with the usual qualifications all horses had to have maintained an average score of 90.50% and above since 01/01/2018, a very tall order which resulted in much lower entries in the juniors and for once no divisions of their classes. Whilst this qualification is acceptable for the senior classes, there is a very strong case that such a high score is unfair to yearlings who can change dramatically from one month to the next or maybe only have one chance to qualify for a variety of reasons. It could also encourage owners to over show their youngsters to chase a qualifying score which could even become a welfare issue with the amount of stress put on them if they are pushed too hard! Furthermore, at this event, a quick glance at results of the Yearling filly class shows that of the 14 entries 7 received scores less than the qualifying figure, surely illustrating the danger of relying on

scores at this young age. Yearlings should have no minimum score, but limits could be put on the number a stud can enter.

Ten judges from nine countries had the pleasure of assessing the classes. They were Mr Urs Aeschbacher (Switzerland), Mr James Constanti (USA), Ms Claudia Darius (Germany), Mr Greg Gallun (USA), Mr Robbie Den Hartog (Netherlands), Mrs Christine Jamar (Belgium), Mr Luiz Rocco (Brazil), Mrs Marianne Tengstedt (Denmark) and Mrs Cristina Valdes (Spain). Dr Laura Mascagna (Italy) and Ms Line Brunsgaard (Denmark) headed the DC team. The show commenced at 4pm which was just as well as temperatures rose daily, even reaching 35 degrees on the last day, unusually high for the time of year.

Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club provides excellent facilities, and judges and competitors spoke very highly of the new surface. The few changes to the seating in the grandstand and the large competitor warm up area were greatly appreciated. Mr Mohammed Al Harbi, Director of EAHS and Vice Chairman of the Higher Organising Committee and Mr Kim Elliott, Director of Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club had pulled out all the stops to ensure an exciting Championship day at which HE Sheikh Zayed bin Hamed Al Nahyan welcomed various guests including HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad Al Saud who does so much to support the Arabian horse in all its activities.

Five horses from each class had qualified for the six



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Championships making a total of sixty five horses for the final day. Of these twenty were stallions for their championship, almost another class! In an Open Championship Judges each select their own choice for Gold, Silver and Bronze plus two others, points are then awarded according to the selections, and scores are totalled to work out the ranking. Not surprisingly with ten judges, only one Gold Champion was unanimous, the Yearling Colt D Shaheer (AJ Marzan – D Shabla) for Dubai Stud with KA Nishan (Shanghai EA – AJ Nazwa) and E.S. Salah (D Mshary – Laminka) taking Silver and Bronze, the ranking remained as in the class. However, the Yearling Filly Championship was rather less straightforward as the class winner and Ajman Show Gold Champion Al Aryam Atab, did not feature at all! Gold went to class second place D Jooreyyah (D Seraj – D Nawal) whilst the 5th placed MDS Hind (Excalibur E.A. – MDS Sheikha) moved up to Silver and 4th placed AJ Al Brraqah 3 (AJ Marzan – AJ Assala) took Bronze. Of course, the class points had been very close the winner on 91.67 and the 5th on 91.25 and it illustrates just how tough these championships can be.

The Junior Filly Championship brought more success for Dubai Stud breeding with D Shu'alah (FA El Rasbeem – FT Shaella) now owned by Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Bin Juma Al Maktoum winning Gold, whilst her three year old full sister D Gharam, who had been Gold Champion in the recent UAE Championships took bronze. Meanwhile AJ Barakah (AJ Marzan – Princess of Justice) winner of the three year old class took Silver for Ajman Stud, she had also been Silver at the UAE Championships. This beautiful filly took home the Sheikh Zayed Award for the highest owned and bred horse of the show, her score of 93.17 was also the highest of the show.

Two year old Mutabahi Al Harwajer (FA El Rasbeem – ZT Magrumi) owned and bred by Dr Ghanem Al Hajri recently Gold at Al Shiraa International Arabian Show repeated the success and was the worthy Gold Junior Colt Champion, he had received a 20 score across the board for Head and Neck. D Shakhaf (D Khattaf – D Shireen) took Silver and Bashir Al Bashir (Gallardo J – Nastya OS) winner of the three year old class took the Bronze.

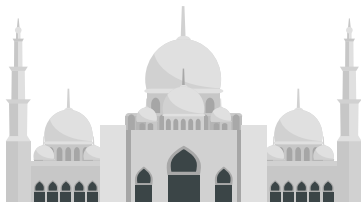
Three sections of mares as usual provided some of the best classes of the show and it proved outstanding for Ajman Stud with AJ Tarim (Emerald J – Espinilla) and AJ Asyad (Marwan Al Shaqab – AJA Angelica) each winning their section then taking the Gold and Bronze respectively, they were separated by Dubai Stud's D Seeneyyah who is by FA El Rasbeem out of one of their most consistent broodmares the straight Egyptian Royal Amira. AJ Tarim had received a very liberal sprinkling of ten 20's in her class and only one of the ten judges did not choose her for Gold. What a pleasure to judge this fabulous championship.

The final championship is always the stallions and it was certainly impressive, most of the 'boys' gave an impeccable show, cheered on by the enthusiastic audience. There are not many Arabians that do not look magnificent when they are given the chance to dance and fly round the arena and we were given that treat twenty times before the stallions all returned to the arena for a close comparative inspection. Of course, for the judges it is a huge responsibility selecting these champions, they are setting the standard for the breed. Balancing exceptional type with correct conformation is of such importance, but so too is movement and charisma and this looked a very open "Open Championship". The wait was nail bitingly long, then finally after judges and officials had been thanked, the results were announced. Gold went to AJ Marzan (AJ Portofino – Hed Ab Maria) a young

stallion already having a considerable influence as a sire, his offspring have been a talking point throughout the season. Ajman Stud also played a part in the Silver Champion Masroor Al Bidayer, who is by AJ Dinar out of Mayasab Al Bidayer owned and bred by Sheikh Mohammed Saoud Al Qassimi. These two stallions had tied on 92.25 points for second and third place in their class and were also equal on type and movement points so the call judge was obliged to split them, AJ Marzan won the day. The Bronze Champion was another homebred horse Moharib Al Khazna (AB Jamil La Piana – Caterina FM) for Mr Ali Ghanem Al Mazrouei and his Bin Humaila Stud. He had even been picked for Gold by one judge, whilst Saudi bred Hatem Athbah (EKS Alihandro – Esperanza Al Ventur) from Athbah Stud of HRH Prince Abulaziz Bin Ahmad Al Saud also had a Gold nomination and came fourth in this very competitive Championship.

And so the last event of February in UAE came to a close, it is always difficult to know how successful changes will be but it is safe to say that Abu Dhabi International returning to its old venue with a strong Organising Committee and the hard working experienced team from EAHS have done a great job, this was an excellent show that ran like clockwork. Thanks must go to the staff of ADEC and Arabian Essence for their work too, it is a pleasure for TuttoArabi to be associated with these highly professional teams. □





GOLD MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES

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D JOOREYYAH

D SERAJ X D NAWAL
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD





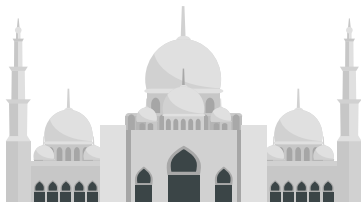
GOLD MEDAL YEARLING COLTS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



D SHAHEER

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



GOLD MEDAL JUNIOR FILLIES

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D SHU'ALAH

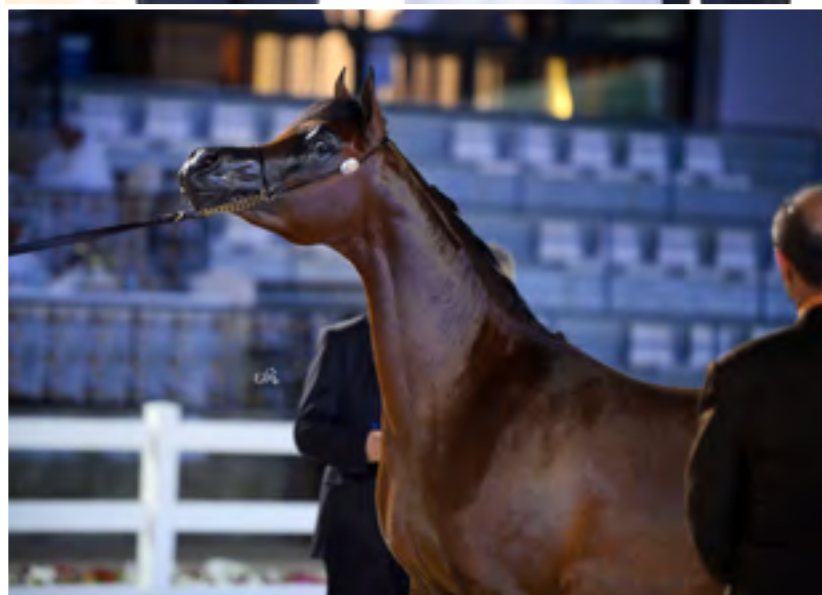
FA EL RASHEEM X FT SHAELLA
B: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD
O: SHAIKH SAEED BIN MAKTOUM
BIN JUMA AL-MAKTOUM





GOLD MEDAL JUNIOR COLTS

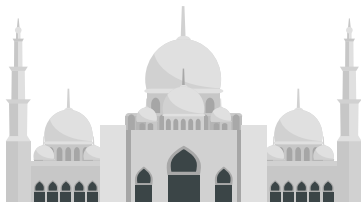
ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



MUTABAHI AL HAWAJER

FA EL RASHEEM X ZT MAGRUMI

B/O: DR. GHANEM MOHAMED OBAID ALHAJRI



GOLD MEDAL SENIOR MARES

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



AJ TARIM

EMERALD J X ESPINILLA
B/O: AJMAN STUD



GOLD MEDAL SENIOR STALLIONS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



AJ MARZAN

AJ PORTOFINO X HED AB MARIA
B/O: AJMAN STUD





SILVER MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES

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MDS HIND

EXCALIBUR E.A. X MDS SHEIKHA
B/O: QUSAI MOHD SAEED
ALI OBAIDALLA

BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



AJ AL BRRAQAH 3

AJ MARZAN X AJ ASSALA
B/O: AJMAN STUD

SILVER MEDAL YEARLING COLTS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



KA NISHAN

SHANGHAI EA X AJ NAZWA
B/O: KHALED GHANEM
MUBARAK ALOMAIRI

BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING COLTS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



E.S. SALAH

D MSHARY X LAMINKA
B/O: DSHEIKH ABDULLA
BIN MAJID ALQASSEMI

SILVER MEDAL JUNIOR FILLIES

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



AJ BARAKAH

AJ MARZAN X PRINCESS
OF JUSTICE
B/O: AJMAN STUD

BRONZE MEDAL JUNIOR FILLIES

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D GHARAM

FA EL RASHEEM X FT SHAELLA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

SILVER MEDAL JUNIOR COLTS

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D SHAKHAT

D KHATTAF X D SHIREEN
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

BRONZE MEDAL JUNIOR COLTS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



BASHIR AL BASHIR

GALLARDO J X NASTYA OS
B: AJMAN STUD
O: ABDULLATEEF BASHEER
REJA ALRASHEEDI

SILVER MEDAL SENIOR MARES

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



D SEENEYYAH

FA EL RASHEEM X ROYAL EMIRA
B/O: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD

BRONZE MEDAL SENIOR MARES

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



AJ ASYAD

MARWAN AL SHAQAB X AJA
ANGELICA
B/O: AJMAN STUD

SILVER MEDAL SENIOR STALLIONS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



MASROOR ALBIDAYER

AJ DINAR X MAYASAH ALBIDAYER
B/O: SHEIKH MOHAMMED SAOUD
SULTAN S ALQASSIMI

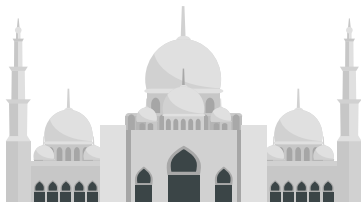
BRONZE MEDAL SENIOR STALLIONS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020



MOHARIB AL KHAZNA

AB JAMIL LA PIANA X CATERINA FM
O/B: ALI GHANEM ALI HUMAILA
ALMAZROUEI



SPECIAL AWARDS

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

SHEIKH ZAYED AWARD

AJ BARAKAH

AJMAN STUD



BEST LOCAL HANDLER

MOHAMED MOHANED MANADILI



**BEST INTERNATIONAL
HANDLER**

PAOLO CAPECCI

