



ECAHO

The **New** Direction

Interview with **Jaroslav Lacina** – the ECAHO President



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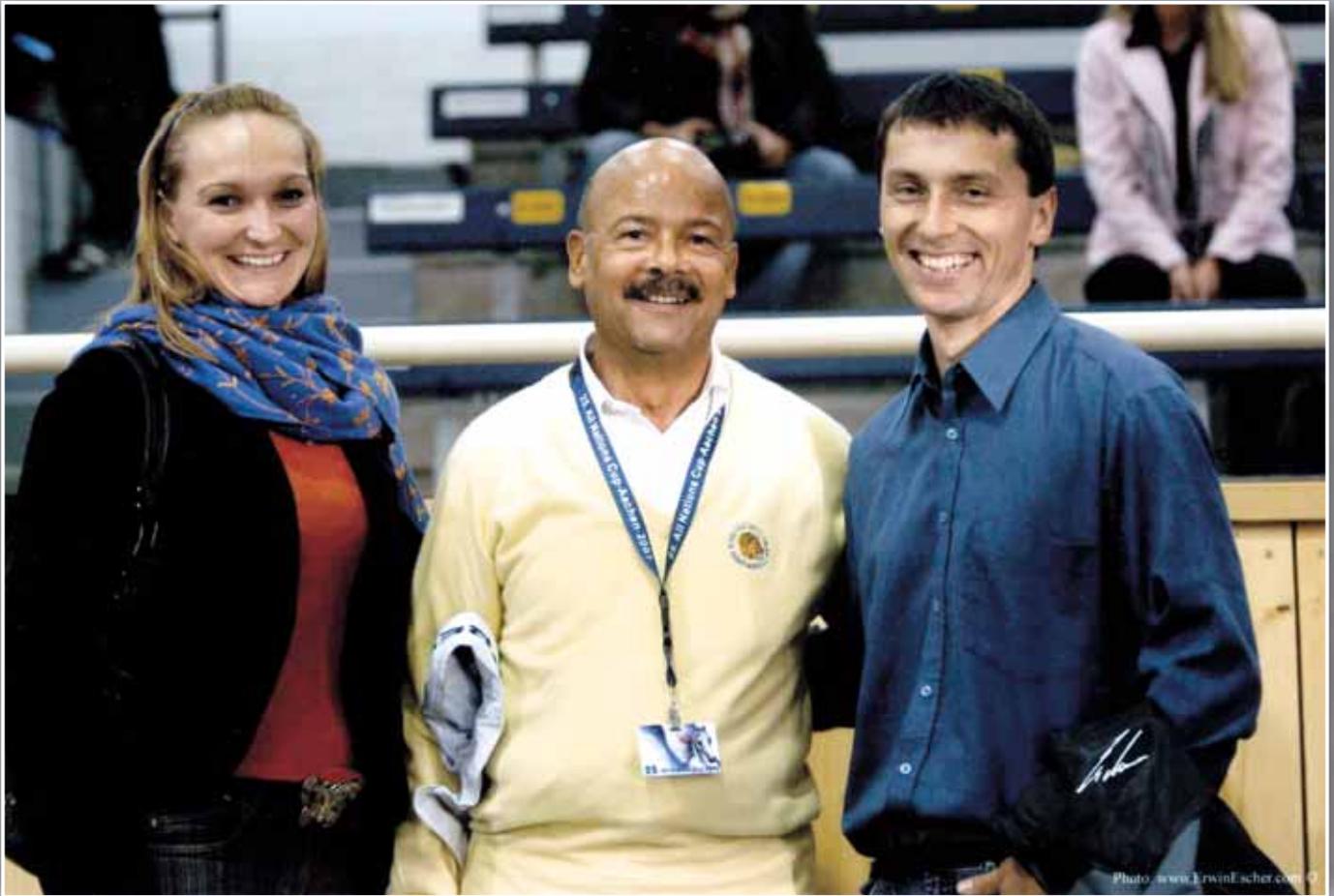
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In the previous *Tutto Arabi* issue our readers could have made a closer look on the person of Jaroslav Lacina – experienced ECAHO B-judge, President of Czech Republic Arabian Horse Society (ACHPAK) well known also as active show organizer. Our last publication seemed to be kind of prophetic word as on the following pages we can now introduce Jaroslav as the new elected President of European Conference of Arab Horse Organization for the next four years. Let's give him a first word to speak out his impressions about the 2011 ECAHO General Meeting, its conclusions and at last but not least – the future vision of ECAHO by the eye of its new President.

Tutto Arabi: Dear Jaroslav, first of all we would like to congratulate you the great success with which your consequent and hard work results – being elected as ECAHO President. Can you briefly let us know your impression from the last ECAHO General Meeting -was it difficult, or as you have expected? Did it bring you any conclusions about the current shape of ECAHO, its needs and the atmosphere amongst the members?

Jaroslav Lacina: Thank you very much for your congratulation, however I hope there will be much better reason to congratulate to all of us after four years period. I know that it will be very difficult time, but I see that a lot of people are willing now to help ECAHO again.

Back to the Annual General Meeting, all preparations for the elections maintained more than



Jaroslav Lacina and wife with William Richardot

four months and I was in nearly daily contact with all member countries which supported me. We also established our whole program and nominated new people for other elections. With all our efforts we focused only on better future of ECAHO and solution of his current and possible future problems. I was finally very happy for that, because I think that this really helped us to change opinion of some other member countries' delegates who voted for me at the end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their trust! Nevertheless, the way to win was not so easy. After my arrival to Brussels I early recognized ECAHO as two camps divisions. The most visible it was during the election of the Show Commission Chairman where both candidates - H.R.H. Princess Alia Al Hussein and Dr Francesco Santoro received two times the same amount of votes and finally new Chairman Dr Santoro was elected by

ballot. This paradoxically made the problem during the President election, because Dr Santoro was nominated, instead of me, to represent Czech Republic during the Show Commission (I was not sure to be able to attend the Show Commission meeting because of my private business), that is why he was later on considered as a Czech representative of the Executive Committee. As written in the Constitution of ECAHO - in its Executive Committee cannot serve two representatives from the same Member country in the same term so before the President's election we declared stepping down of one of us in case of my win. After announcing the result, Dr Santoro decided to resign to give the chance for the new leadership of ECAHO. I very much appreciate him for such a decision! To do not leave Show Commission without any chairman the General Meeting decided by an overwhelming



majority that Princess Alia, as the only other candidate in the preceding Show Commission election, which received the same number of votes as the now resigning ex-chairman, should act as Chairman of the Show Commission for the next term. As you can see the win was not only difficult but also very complicated. This all showed us weakness points of the Constitution and will be one of my first interests to prevent us from such problems in the future.

TA: *Those who followed Tutto Arabi publications just before the last annual ECAHO General Meeting might have been introduced to some of your points of view and intentions to be realized if you would become the new ECAHO President. Now it seems the time has come to start working ...*

JL: *Sure and I hope we already started! For me personally it's very important to improve our communication. This should make ECAHO more transparent and could help to unify it again. Very good example I found on the discussion which was*

organized during the Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon. Even the atmosphere of the beginning was quite aggressive and in fighting mood, present people after all found the same language and were able to talk to each other without any emotions. Something new should be improved in communication with handlers and show organizers. They can bring us a lot of new ideas and practical suggestions. Very helpful for better information of all members should be also the publication of basic minutes of the Executive Committee. They will find there the reasons which led to some decisions that before stayed unknown for them. As shows are the main activity of ECAHO we have to focus also on this activity. We still have to think first about horses' protection and their welfare but without horses we have no job to do. That is why we should find the way how to support the interest of small breeders at shows. It is not an easy task and as always we would not be able to satisfy everybody but I think we should start somehow. One of those helping instruments could be for example simplification of certain rules, improvement of the pyramid system or some kind of



Jaroslav Lacina with The Maxwell Family

ECAHO Cup (two sections: A+title shows and C+B shows). The next topic is ECAHO website – this should be innovated as soon as possible. We already asked for the new proposal of the website graphic and also its utility. If we will succeed the website should be used for all ECAHO purposes and save this way a lot of work. Finally we cannot forget all ECAHO officials. We have to go on with judges and DC courses and improve their system. It would not be organized just to eliminate people interested in, but it should be able to support them and improve their knowledge. I am sure that in such a big organization as ECAHO is, it will be not an easy job to push through a lot of new changes, however, I will make my best for it.

TA: *No ambitious plans are able to become true without a good support of experienced team. As we know also most of the Members Board of ECAHO has changed now as follows: Essam Abdulla Vice-President, Pr. Alia Al Hussein - Chairman of EAHSC, Toto Modderman-van Dorssen - Chairman of EAHSpC, Winand Bijmens - Chairman of*

EAHRIC, Dr. Marek Trela - Treasurer and Executive Committee: Christianne Chazel, Claudia Darius, Christine Jamar and Anna Stojanowska. **How do you find your new team - did you already discuss the most important tasks and next steps to do that you can share with us?**

JL: *I totally agree with you, team work is very important. As our new Executive Committee had still not time enough to really work, it is too early for me to make any suggestions about our team. Anyhow I am really very happy for all members of current Executive Committee. The situation before EC election was quite complicated and most of us were supporting opposite team, but during our first short meeting after the Annual General Meeting we all agreed to focused only on the future and to cooperate for the profit of ECAHO without any internal fights. That is for me very good sign! Much more we will see after our first Executive Committee meeting that should take place in May when we will discuss some fundamental topics for the first time.*



Jaroslav Lacina and wife with Polish trainer Mariusz Liškiewicz

TA: *Your biggest dream plan how ECAHO would work now during your presidency and how would you like to leave it for the next cadency?*

JL: *Well, I think I already announced some of my impressions about the work of ECAHO during my presidency so let's make a target on the final days. As you can see I am sometimes too idealistic and I hope I will stay also in the future (smile). The most important for me is to restart the whole show scene and peoples interest in Arabian horse. We have to keep all conditions the same for everybody and with the help of those stronger support those frailer. The last but not least would be for me restored credibility of ECAHO and the respect from everybody. This would be for me the biggest satisfaction.*

TA: *It seems the following years will be extremely busy time for you. Does it mean you are still going to take care on the Czech Republic Arabian Horse Society (ACHPAK) and the next editions of Prague Intercup that is awaited to take place in September?*

JL: *Yes, true! I will be a "bit" more busy then usually; however, our organization supported me and asked me to stay also as a President of ACHPAK CR. We re-established its function of the Executive Committee last year and we have got really good and active members so all the work in our association is now easier. Thanks to this I was also able to accept my nomination for ECAHO President function, but I*

was sure I would need even more time. Actually this brought me to think about resigning from my judge career, which could keep me away from the possible conflict of interest too. After difficult reconsideration I realized the possible loss of contact with horses and judges so I finally came to the conclusion to try to judge, since the next year, just about three small shows per year (this year I would like to only fulfil my present commitments to judge to do not make any troubles to those awaiting me show organizers). Concerning Prague Intercup and Czech National show I would like to still keep their organization for myself. I like that job very much because it gives me a lot of necessary knowledge about rules and the whole system. It is very important for me now to know real problems of the show scene, because it can help during our meetings to find better solutions and to accept new ideas. From the position of the show organizer you have always very good overview about all technical and human needs in the show. You can talk to all judges, DC's, handlers, breeders, sponsors and spectators and you would get the best feedback from all of them. That is sometimes very motivating. For these reasons I hope I will still have enough time to organize shows proper way. This year will check it up absolutely. Looking forward meeting you in Prague then!

TA: *We wish you the successful show and of course the fruitful presidency – for all ECAHO members.*