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ARABIAN HORSE SHOW Sopot



The third edition of Sopot Arabian Horse Show, organized by Ward Bemong at one of the oldest hippodromes in Poland on 23rd and 24th July, was about quality rather than quantity when it comes to both the show arrangements and its participants. The qualifying classes were not particularly crowded but still featured some high-quality horses whose evaluation was entrusted to a carefully selected group of judges: Christine Valette, Eric Gear and Franck Boetto from France, Christian Moschini from Italy, Glenn Jacobs from Belgium and Eli Khaloon from Israel. An interesting addition to the scoring system was the detailed division of evaluated elements. Instead of the standard differentiation into: type, head and neck, body, legs and movement, the organizers decided to separate head and neck and combine the assessment of neck with shoulder. Moreover, front and hind legs were also marked independently. It certainly allowed for a more detailed evaluation of each contender.

The show started sharply at 9 a.m. and continued till the late afternoon with a short unplanned break caused by unfavourable weather conditions. The competition commenced with two classes of yearling colts of which six contenders qualified for the Sunday championships. The first winner of the day was the elegantly moving bay Wadee Al

Shaqab son, CB REMBRANDT (x Gypsy Love NA / Ever After NA) bred and owned by Brugman Arabians of Belgium and shown by Nicolas Frere to the score of 91.70 points. Second place in the class belonged to SAAD DE NESMA, the classy chestnut son of Shiraz De Lafon and Emanolla (Vitorio TO x Emandoria / Gazal Al Shaqab), the pride and joy of Nesma Stud. With Frederik Van Sas on the lead, SAAD scored 91.10 points. The bay FOGGIRO (Morion x Fogira / Gaspar), bred and owned by Stanisław Sławiński and presented by Marek Demczuk scored 90 points exactly, which gave him third place on the class podium. 91.45 points, including 3x20 for movement, was the highest score of class 4B and it belonged to the beautifully moving bay ILIAD (Shadi Al Khalediah x Ilinora MAF / Abha Mahdi), shown by Marek Demczuk. Iliad was bred by Idris Hassan and currently belongs to Kurozweki Stud. In second position with the score of 91.10 points we saw the typy bay NISSER BABEL (Sinharib Babel x AJ Nasheeda / AJ Portofino), bred and owned by Hekmet Al Shareif. The last finalist of the Yearling Colts Championship was the grey son of Morion, bred and owned by Klikowa Arabians of Poland and presented by Tomasz Jakubowski. LARGO KL (x Lilli PS / Ekstern) finished the competition in the third place with a score of 90.45 points.



The judges gradually increased the excitement and in the two categories of junior colts we saw some pretty high scores. The first section of two- and three-year-old colts was the triumph of the refined bay NAHIL AL KHALEDIAH (Ghaith Al Zobair x Nawal Al Khalediah / Forteynas Magic), the 2021 Polish National Gold Yearling Colt and the winner of a few other important titles. Bred and owned by Polska AKF and presented by Pawel Kozikowski, this frequent show contender scored 92.20 points and secured the top of the class podium. Another two-year-old bay colt, equally as exotic as NAHIL placed right after him with a total score of 91.90 points. Presented by Mike Meyer, PRESTIGE RC (Fa El Rasheem x Pristina LD / Vegas DPA) won the second place for his breeder and owner, Royal Cavalry of Oman. The last qualifying place in the class was occupied by the chestnut son of Excalibur EA, CB GALAXY, who happens to be the maternal halfbrother to CB REMBRANDT, the winner of class 4A. CB GALAXY, who also represents Brugman Arabians and was presented by Nicolas Frere, scored exactly 91.00 points. In the second category of junior colts, the class podium belonged to the three-year-old impressive grey ABHA EJAR (Abha Zanzibar x Abha Yiti / Abha Peshawar). Bred by Ganaderia Ses Planes and owned by Bayoumi El Khatib, this striking young colt scored 91.90 points in the hands of Tom Oben. Marek Demczuk presented

another beautifully moving grey colt that at some point decided to show off in front of the crowd by himself. The two-year-old tyy PERLAF ZALIA (AJ Elaf x Perwillla / Ascot DD), bred and owned by Zalia Arabians, can obviously move both with and without his handler, and thus he scored 91.40 points and secured the second position in the class. The three-year-old bay PANDEROS (Morion x Pretty Woman / The Minstril), bred by Jan Głowacki and shown by his current owner, Bogdan Maślanka, was the third qualifying contender with the final score of 90.10 points.

The first section of senior stallions featured only four participants, of whom the four-year-old bay Ekstern son, PETRUS PA (x Piwonia / Karami), was the class ranking leader with 91.15 points. Bred and owned by PPH Parys and presented by Nicolas Frere, Petrus PA overhauled the Janów Podlaski-bred PRINS (Pogrom x Pinga / Gazal Al Shaqab) as well as KOLORADO PRINCE (RFI Farid x Karbona / Ekstern), bred by Krzysztof Falba and owned by Damian Jackowiak. There was only 0.05 points difference in the final scores of these two four-year-old bay stallions but in the end PRINS shown by Piotr Dwojak finished the qualifying class ahead of KOLORADO PRINCE presented by Bogdan Maślanka. The second class of senior stallions



brought much more quality and excitement into the arena. The nine-year-old charismatic bay WADI KAHIL (Kahil Al Shaqab x Wadi Halfa / Ekstern) was the unquestionable crowd favourite. The judges also highly appreciated his prodigious performance in the hands of Tom Oben, awarding him with the highest score of the show among all the male participants; 92.45 points, including 2x20 for type and 3x20 for movement. This masculine “moving machine” was bred by Michałów State Stud and is currently owned by Just Arabians of the Netherlands. Second and third places were claimed by two grey Fa El Rasheem sons, SHAREEM RC (x EKS Shakira / Shakir El Marwan) and D ZEIDAN (x Renza El Yllan / Yllan El Jamaal). A year younger SHAREEM RC, bred and owned by Royal Cavalry of Oman, finished the competition with 92.05 points ahead of D ZEIDAN whose total score was 90.30 points. The latter was bred by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud and is now owned by Meshal Almesbah and Mohammed Alsafi.

After all the handsome boys and a short lunch break, there came a time for all the lovely ladies. The show restarted with two yearling fillies’ sections. Unfortunately, due to the absence of three participants, the first class featured only two fillies. The decisive win in this section belonged to the exotically refined grey ALMANDA O, the daughter of Shanghai EA and Alma Al Tiglio (by Ajman Moniscione), who represents Sweden Arabian Stud. Led to victory by Daniel Fontan, ALMANDA O received the final mark of 91.70 points and placed ahead of PROSA KL (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pustynia PS / Marwan Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Klikowa Arabians. The second class of yearling fillies was not particularly crowded either and it finished

with the triumph of the flying-in-the-air bay ERI STARRA (Star Farid x Espanolita / Shanghai EA), bred and owned by Petroniusz Frejlich and presented by Marek Demczuk. This delicate feminine filly with a powerful trot received 92.30 points, including a full set of 20’s for movement! The second place in the class belonged to the grey BELLA LUNA SW (EKS Faraji x Binduga / Kahil Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Suweco Stud and shown by Paweł Kozikowski, who scored 3.25 points less than her rival! The last yearling filly contender to qualify for the championships was POEMA PALADIA (Paladid x Psyche Lejla / Pogrom), bred by Mirosław Rogowski, owned by Evopegasus Stud and presented by Yurii Samoilenko.

The weather conditions worsened significantly for the first section of junior fillies and to some extent it might have influenced the marks, especially when it comes to the movement. Having in mind the safety of horses, the handlers were extra cautious not to cause an accident on the slippery ground. The differences in marks between the three qualifying fillies were not significant, and thus 91.40 points and the first place were awarded to ESELAJA M (AJ Elaf x Espanera / Kabsztad), bred and owned by Piotr Podgórný and shown by Paweł Kozikowski. The second place with 91.30 points was the result of OCTAVIA O (Magic Magnifique x GM Marwan Al Shakira / Marwan Al Shaqab), representing Sweden Arabian Stud with Daniel Fontan on the lead. Last but not least, SABA DA (Fa El Rasheem x Savannah OS / RFI Farid), bred and owned by Danubius Arabians and presented by Tom Oben, scored 90.95 points, which resulted in the third position in the class ranking and qualification for the Sunday championships. After the class,



the organizers made the right decision to stop the show for around half an hour because of the pouring rain. It surely helped the horses in the next class to perform more confidently in the showring. The classy chestnut NAIFAT AL OWAIDAH (Excalibur EA x LR Expected Beauty / Shael Dream Desert) in the hands of Tom Oben had no issues with reaching for the top position in the class ranking. With a 20 for type and another 4x20 for head, this three-year-old exquisite filly, bred and owned by the Saudi Arabian Al Owaidah Stud, received the final score of 92.15 points. The second position with 91.80 points was occupied by the three-year-old elegant bay representative of Bouche Arabians from Germany, CBA INDIYANA (Wadee Al Shaqab x Ilena El Aryes / Aryes El Ludjin), while another chestnut, the two-year-old Zaretusa (RFI Farid x Zafiree /Ajman Moniscione), bred and owned by Tomasz Tarczyński, finished the competition with 91.30 points and third place in the ranking.

Before we moved to the *crème de la crème* of the show, the senior mare classes, the sun was shining again. Those of us who were hoping for some great performances were definitely not disappointed. In the first section, the winner barely touched the ground when she moved. Shown by her breeder and owner, Jessika Johansson from Sweden, the charismatic chestnut JL BEVERLIE (Magic Magnifique x Artic Believe / Rohara Bacara) received 92.50 points, including 3x20 for type and 4x20 for movement. Not far behind the winner, with the final score of 92.15 points, was the four-year-old grey GHAARAM AF (Mouheb x Razal Al Zaman / Sinjabi), bred and owned by Afifi Arabians of Israel and shown by Tom Oben. The third place in the class belonged to the six-year-old grey representative of Suweco

Stud, DELLMARA SW (Gzavi x Dellzyra SA / Nuzyr HCF), presented by Paweł Kozikowski to the final score of 92.05 points. The last qualifying class of the day featured some magnificent mares of whom the three gorgeous greys made the top of the class ranking. Led to victory by Frederik Van Sas, the eight-year-old MARRAKECH J (Emerald J x JA Ultima / Besson Carol) made her breeder and owner, Christine Jamar- Demeersseman of Jadem Arabians, both happy and proud as the highest scored horse of the show with 93.20 points, including 4x20 for type, 2x20 for head and a 20 for neck. Another happy and proud owner, Royal Cavalry of Oman, collected the prize for EKS SHAKIRA (Shakir El Marwan x Poetica B / Besson Carol) who in the hands of Mike Meyer received 92.70 points, including 2x20 for type. The last mare qualifying for the championships was bred by Andrzej Wójtowicz and is now owned by Aldeem Arabians of Kuwait. With Nicolas Frere on the lead, the nine-year-old FUTURE (Kahil Al Shaqab x Fortycja / Pegasus) managed to collect 92.10 points from the judges, which resulted in the third place in the class.

The championships started at 1 p.m. on Sunday but it does not mean that nothing happened in the show arena earlier on. The organizers thought about the youngest generation of horse enthusiast and prepared a jumping competition where the participants had to complete the course on a toy horse. It was great fun for both contestants and spectators and a much-needed entertainment before the serious competition took place.

Just after 1 p.m. we welcomed the real horses in the ring and the exciting contest for the champion titles began. In the



Yearling Fillies Championship, the judges made their decisions unanimously, at least when it comes to the gold and silver medalists. The two class winners divided the medals between themselves. Exotic type surpassed powerful movement and ALMANDA O became Unanimous Gold Champion Yearling Filly for Sweden Arabian Stud, while ERI STARRA, bred and owned by Pertoniusz Frejlich, won the Unanimous Silver Champion title. The jury were less consistent when it comes to the bronze medal which in the end was awarded to POEMA PALADIA representing Evopegasus Stud.

There were no major surprises in the Yearling Colts Championship either, although the judges did not vote with such a consistency as they did with regards to the fillies. With majority of votes, the winner of class 4A, CB REMBRANDT representing Brugman Arabians, reached for the gold medal, while the Silver Champion Yearling Colt title was awarded to SAAD DE NESMA. Last but not least, the bronze medal went to NISSER BABEL, bred and owned by Hekmet Al Shareif.

The exotically refined NAIFAT AL OWAIIDAH managed to maintain her leading position also in the Junior Fillies Championships where she collected the gold medal for her breeder and owner, Al Owaidah Stud of Saudi Arabia. Her title was the only unanimous one in this championship as the judges' opinions were divided regarding the other fillies. Two remaining places on the podium were shared between the stunning SABA DA of Danubius Arabians, who performed significantly better in the championships, and thus became Silver Champion Junior Filly and the beautiful

bay representative of Bouche Arabians, CBA INDIYANA who this time had to settle for the bronze medal.

The results of the Junior Colts Championship were also quite predictable with the exotic bay NAHIL AL KHALEDIAH, bred and owned by Polska AKF, reaching for gold. Even though it was not a unanimous decision, majority (4 out of 5) of the jury chose him as the Gold Champion. The silver medal was awarded to another typy bay representative of Royal Cavalry of Oman, PRESTIGE RC, while the only grey colt on the podium, the extremely showy ABHA EJAR, added a bronze medal to the trophy collection of his owner, Bayoumi El Khatib.

To increase the apprehension and anxiety before the two most awaited championships of the day, the organizers decided to hold two additional contests before the senior mares and senior stallions appeared in the arena. The championships for geldings are not very widespread in Poland which makes the Sopot Show one of few places where the geldings' owners can present their horses. After the presentation of five contenders, the Unanimous Gold Champion Gelding title was awarded to the five-year-old bay PARILLUS (Ascot DD x Parilla / Enzo), bred and owned by Bialka Stud and shown by Artur Kaczmarek, while the ten-year-old Michalów-bred grey KORAB (Pegasus x Karbala / Emigrant), presented by Kamil Kulczyński, became Unanimous Silver Champion Gelding for his current owner, Magdalena Helak-Kulczyńska. St Roch Arabians collected the bronze medal for their three-year-old grey Wadee Al Shaqab son, PARSIFAL ST ROCH (x Prasheila / Prado), shown by Piotr Stańczuk. Another interesting



addition to the show was the Amateur Championship, where young unexperienced horse trainers could try their hand as handlers while showing the horse of their choice that did not qualify for any of the championships. The gold medal was awarded to Bartosz Tokarski with the two-year-old bay CENDOZA (EKS Alihandro x Cedora / Kahil Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Janów Podlaski Stud, the silver medal went to Eliza Tarczyńska who showed the three-year-old chestnut AJ Areej (AJ Kafu x Ania Moniscione / WH Justice), bred by Ajman Stud and owned by Tomasz Tarczyński, while Marta Kulczyńska claimed the Bronze Champion Amateur title with the representative of Dąbrówka Stud, the four-year-old chestnut Khalida PA (EKS Alihandro x Kalahari / Ajman Moniscione).

In the Senior Mares Championship, the judges shared their opinion on who the gold and silver champion titles should be awarded to, and thus the Unanimous Gold Champion Senior Mare title went to the highest scoring horse of the show, the gorgeous grey MARRAKECH J, bred and owned by Jadem Arabians, while Royal Cavalry of Oman collected the trophy for EKS SHAKIRA who became Unanimous Silver Champion Senior Mare. Another grey beauty, the four-year-old GHAARAM AF, bred and owned by Afifi Arabians, claimed the last place on the podium and the Bronze Champion Senior Mare title.

In the last championship of the show, the podium looked very much like the top three in class 6B with a slightly reversed order. The wonderfully moving WADI KAHIL repeated his crowdpleasing performance from the previous day and maintained his top position in the ranking,

becoming Gold Champion Senior Stallion for his current owner, Just Arabians of the Netherlands. The two grey Fa El Rasheem sons swapped places and this time the older D ZEIDAN came ahead of the five-year-old SHAREEM RC and was named Silver Champion Senior Stallion. Nevertheless, Royal Cavalry of Oman had a double reason to celebrate SHAREEM's bronze medal as earlier on they collected the silver trophy for his dam, EKS SHAKIRA.

The competition for the Best in Show title was the last moment to admire amazing Arabian horses, as all six gold medalists returned into the showring. The magnificent MARRAKECH J repeated her spectacular success as a senior mare contender and was unanimously chosen as the best horse of the entire show. What is more, she did it in the hands of her breeder and owner, Christine Jamar-Demeersseman, which was a truly touching moment. When it comes to professional handlers, the Best Handler title was awarded to Nicolas Frere.

Overall, the Sopot Show is all about promoting the Arabian breed in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. However, it does not mean that the assessment of horses is taken lightly. On the contrary, the judges did their best to carefully evaluate each contender and it must be said that they were consistent with no dramatic differences between particular members of the jury.

With great organization and increasing quality of horses, the show can aspire to become a must-go-to event. To me, it already has. It was my first but definitely not last Sopot Arabian Horse Show.

YEARLING FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

ALMANDA O

(SHANGHAI EA X ALMA AL TIGLIO)

BREEDER: K. OHLSSON, SWEDEN ARABIAN STUD

OWNER: K. OHLSSON, SWEDEN ARABIAN STUD



YEARLING FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

ERI STARRA

(STAR FARID X ESPANOLITA)
BREEDER: PETRONIUSZ FREJLICH
OWNER: PETRONIUSZ FREJLICH



BRONZE

POEMA PALADIA

(PALADID X PSYCHE LEJLA)
BREEDER:
MIROSŁAW KRZYSZTOF ROGOWSKI
OWNER: EVOPEGASUS STUD



YEARLING COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

CB REMBRANDT

(WADEE AL SHAQAB X GYPSY LOVE NA)

BREEDER: BRUGMAN ARABIANS

OWNER: BRUGMAN ARABIANS



YEARLING COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

SAAD DE NESMA
(SHIRAZ DE LAFON X EMANOLLA)
BREEDER: NESMA STUD
OWNER: NESMA STUD



BRONZE

NISSER BABEL
(SINHARIB BABEL X AJ NASHEEDA)
BREEDER: HEKMET AL SHAREIF
OWNER: HEKMET AL SHAREIF



JUNIOR FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

NAIFAT AL OWAIDAH

(EXCALIBUR EA X LR EXPECTED BEAUTY)

BREEDER: AL OWAIDAH STUD

OWNER: AL OWAIDAH STUD



JUNIOR FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

SABA DA

(FA EL RASHEEM X SAVANNAH OS)
BREEDER: SC DANUBIUS ARABIANS SRL
OWNER: SC DANUBIUS ARABIANS SRL



BRONZE

CBA INDIYANA

(WADEE AL SHAQAB X ILENA EL ARYES)
BREEDER: BOUCHE ARABIANS
OWNER: BOUCHE ARABIANS



JUNIOR COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

NAHIL AL KHALEDIAH
(GHAITH AL ZOB AIR X NAWAL AL KHALEDIAH)
BREEDER: POLSKA AKF
OWNER: POLSKA AKF



JUNIOR COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

PRESTIGE RC

(FA EL RASHEEM X PRISTINA LD)
BREEDER: ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN
OWNER: ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN



BRONZE

ABHA EJAR

(ABHA ZANZYBAR X ABHA YITI)
BREEDER: GANADERIA GANADERIA
SES PLANES S.L.U
OWNER: BAYOUMI EL KHATIB



GELDINGS CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

PARILLUS

(ASCOT DD X PARILLA)

BREEDER: SK BIAŁKA

OWNER: SK BIAŁKA



GELDINGS CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

KORAB

(PEGASUS X KARBALA)

BREEDER: SK MICHAŁÓW

OWNER: MAGDALENA HELAK-KULCZYNSKA



BRONZE

PARSIFAL ST ROCH

(WADEE AL SHAQAB X PRASHEILA)

BREEDER: ST ROCH ARTABIANS

OWNER: ST ROCH ARTABIANS



SENIOR MARES CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

MARRAKECH J

(EMERALD J X JA ULTIMA)

BREEDER: JADEM ARABIANS BVBA

OWNER: JADEM ARABIANS BV



SENIOR MARES CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

EKS SHAKIRA

(SHAKIR EL MARWAN X POETICA B)

BREEDER: WILLIE BROWN

OWNER: ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN



BRONZE

GHAARAM AF

(MOUHEB X RAZAL AL ZAMAN)

BREEDER: AFIFI ARABIANS LTD.

OWNER: AFIFI ARABIANS LTD.



SENIOR STALLIONS CHAMPIONSHIP



GOLD

WADI KAHIL

(KAHIL AL SHAQAB X WADI HALFA)

BREEDER: SK MICHAŁÓW

OWNER: JUST ARABIANS



SENIOR STALLIONS CHAMPIONSHIP



SILVER

D ZEIDAN

(FA EL RASHEEM X RENZA EL YLLAN)
BREEDER: DUBAI ARABIAN HORSE STUD
OWNER: MESHAL ALMESBAH AND
MOHAMMED ALSAFI



BRONZE

SHAREEM RC

(FA EL RASHEEM X EKS SHAKIRA)
BREEDER: ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN
OWNER: ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN

