



*"It seems the Arabian horse is now a creator of lasting friendships and a universal peacemaker".*



*Jellabieh Soroog and colt by Rabdaan Sary Al Leil*



# WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL CONFERENCE FEATURE



*Hamdaany Zaizoom*



*Obeyaan Shamet*



*Kuheila't Aladiyat Wasamah's filly by Shuwaimaan Sadeq*



*Shuwaimah Al Zubarah*



*Rabdaan Baher*



# WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Based on a report by Sharon Meyers, adapted for WAHO Newsletter by Katrina Murray. Photographs copyright Sharon Meyers, Gideon Reisel, Ali Alawadhi, Matthias Oster, Monika Savier and Hans-Juergen Gottet.

Attended by WAHO Delegates and Observers from all over the world, the very successful WAHO Bahrain Conference took place from 6th to 15th February. The central events were the WAHO General Assembly and World Registrars Meeting, followed by the Pearls of Bahrain Days. A wealth of social events, parades of horses and the additional guided tours on offer gave everyone the chance to soak up the traditions and cultures of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Opening Ceremony

## WAHO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Conference was formally opened on February 9th by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince. The ceremony began with a fascinating film highlighting the history of Bahrain's Arabian horses. Mrs. Jenny Lees of Pearl Island Arabians in the UK gave an excellent talk about the Royal Stud's unique group of horses. Everyone agreed with her when she said, "Throughout the centuries the Arabian has been a formidable warhorse. From the number of countries represented in this room today. It seems the Arabian horse is now a creator of lasting friendships and a universal peacemaker".



Mrs. Jenny Lees

WAHO's President, Peter Pond, on behalf of all WAHO members, then formally thanked HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HH Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa for so generously hosting the 22nd WAHO Conference. He also thanked HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for attending the opening ceremony, as well as HH Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa and the High Committee members at the Royal and Crown Prince Courts for their warm welcome. He emphasised one of the most important reasons the WAHO members enjoy attending these unique events - to appreciate not only the Conference days with the many excellent guest speakers and diverse social events, but also to have the chance to see and learn more about the horses and culture of the host country.



Peter Pond & HH Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa

The main WAHO General Assembly business started with Peter Pond's opening address, in which he spoke on several important subjects. Something he touched on held great merit and is definitely food for thought for anyone involved with the breed.

*"We live in a very fast-moving internet age of social media, instant communication and sometimes unrealistic expectations of instant answers and instant results. Most of us cannot imagine modern life without these useful tools. But any involvement with horses requires time and patience, whether that is in the handling or training or riding of them, or in planning your breeding programmes for the years ahead. Sometimes we need to take a breath, sit back and return to older values, to appreciate the importance of real face-to-face communication, of taking the time to listen to each other, of allowing something to hold our attention for longer than it takes to read a tweet or to send off a quick text. In some ways it is perhaps an anachronism for us all to fly half way round the world just to get together for a few days, but I hope that by socialising together, meeting new people from every corner of the globe who all share one common passion – the Arabian horse – you will leave here feeling enriched and invigorated by new friendships and with a greater understanding of what WAHO is all about."*



Peter Pond



China delegates

To warm applause, China was unanimously approved as the latest Applying Registering Authority Member of WAHO.



Izabella Pawelec-Zawadzka

As at every WAHO Conference, those Members who have passed away since the last meeting were remembered in a short but dignified memorial ceremony. This year it included a special film and tribute in honour of WAHO's distinguished Executive Committee Member for over 30 years, Mrs. Izabella Pawelec-Zawadzka from Poland, who sadly passed away in 2015.







## WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017

LEFT:  
Conference Room  
ABOVE: Traditional  
Coffee and Tea

The WAHO Executive Committee were then unanimously re-elected. Further to the commitment made at the 2014 WAHO Conference in Qatar to take a fresh look at how Consultants to the Executive Committee are elected, the WAHO Constitution had been amended and updated, requiring a formal vote to confirm its acceptance, which was unanimously passed in a paper ballot. Peter Pond later stated,

*"We can now move forward with a stronger and better Constitution and also with what we hope will be seen as a more democratic way of finding new people to serve on the Executive Committee in the future. We look forward to the WAHO Conference in Australia in 2019, which will be the first time to enact the protocol for the nomination and election of new Consultants."*



Xavier Guibert

Xavier Guibert reported on the proceedings of the WAHO World Registrars Meeting of which he is Chairman. Several issues of importance to the smooth running of the world's Arabian studbooks had been discussed, and recommendations for updating some registration rules were made, to be brought forward to the next Conference in Australia.

As always, the Delegates presented their reports



WAHO World Registrars Meeting Delegates

with information about the Arabian horse affairs in their country. Some reported a marked increase in foal registrations, notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt, others remained at about the same level, and a few had seen a drop in numbers. It was good to note newer WAHO Members such as Croatia and Estonia were present, along with others who have not attended a Conference for some years, such as Algeria and Applying Member Cuba. Sitting and listening to all the delegates from all over the world, it brings home just how multi-cultural the WAHO family really is. It was distressing to hear about the countries affected by war, such as Syria and Iraq, but encouraging to learn they are still continuing their Arabian

*horse activities - something Peter Pond had highlighted in his earlier speech: "Unfortunately we live in an age of instability, political unrest and turmoil, and it is unfortunately clear that several of our Member countries have been very badly affected. This of course has not only caused much human suffering, but has also had a detrimental effect on the Arabian horses in those countries. Yet it is very apparent to me, looking round the room, how very highly our Delegates from some of those affected countries value their Arabian horses, so much so that they have taken the time and trouble to be here with us today. For that strong commitment to WAHO and to their horses, I both thank them and applaud them."*

In his closing speech, Peter made a number of important points. Of particular note, he mentioned that the issue of equine welfare has become increasingly important to WAHO. Referring to the recent deaths of several horses competing in endurance, he said, *"It is increasingly clear that our Arabian horses are suffering and indeed dying in the name of sport... It is deeply shocking and it simply cannot be allowed to continue without our voices being raised in defense of these horses, who have no voice of their own and no choice but to go at the speeds dictated by their riders. Arabian horses have tremendous heart, tremendous courage, and tremendous bravery which is why they are the chosen breed for endurance. To stay silent and effectively abandon them to their fate would be to go against our core values and objectives. I can now assure you the Executive Committee will be writing a strong letter to the FEI very soon to put pressure on them to find a solution, and quickly, to this serious situation."*

He also outlined the Executive Committee's plans for the next two years, saying that WAHO will continue to work with a number of Member countries to resolve problems, emphasizing that WAHO will always act in the best interest of the Arabian horses. Peter also expressed his hopes of restarting a project that was the dream of the late President Jay Stream, to establish a permanent Headquarters of WAHO in the UK. He explained that this would require raising the necessary funds to purchase a suitable property but that he believed this would be a wise move for the organization, to invest in bricks and mortar rather than having the reserves sat in the bank earning minimal interest. He concluded by reiterating that WAHO is a totally non-political organization, and that every registry, regardless of size, regardless of country, is equal.

***"As Jay Stream often repeated - it is not the horses that bring their problems to WAHO, it is the people. We have always tried, and will always try in future, to resolve all these issues the best way we can as and when they arise, in the best interests of WAHO, of our members, and of the purebred Arabian horse".***

### GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Ali Hassan Follad PhD

We were treated to a wealth of outstanding Guest Speakers at this WAHO Conference. The first was **Dr. Ali Hassan Follad PhD**, Advisor to the Bahrain Tourism and Museums Authority whose subject was "A Brief History of Bahrain" although as he said, the history is so extensive and rich that it was impossible to condense it all into a short talk. Strategically situated between two continents, this maritime nation has been an important trading hub for over 4,000 years.

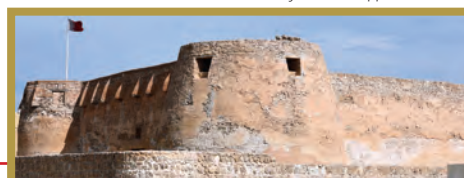
Blessed with natural fresh water springs, and formerly dependent on pearling, fishing and agriculture, since the discovery of oil in 1932 the country's economy has evolved rapidly, and today Bahrain is also a busy financial and business centre.

During the Pre-Conference Tours, guests had the opportunity to visit many of the historic sites in Bahrain that brought to life the subjects Dr. Follad spoke about. At the height of its power, the intriguing Dilmun civilization (2300 BC - 500 BC) controlled the Gulf trading routes. Ancient Sumerian legends told of the islands as a garden paradise,

promising eternal life, so people even brought their dead from far away to be interred here, creating the thousands of ancient Dilmun burial mounds that dominate the landscape in parts of northern Bahrain. A visit to the ancient harbour and Qal'at al Bahrain (Bahrain Fort), the former capital of Dilmun, was extremely interesting as the fort is an exceptional example of unbroken continuity of occupation over a period of almost 4500 years.

Dr. Follad also recounted the history of the Al Khalifa dynasty, rulers of the country since 1783, providing significant background information about how the Al Khalifa Family have preserved and bred their Arabians for over 200 years, which made our later visits to the Royal Studs all the more fascinating.

BELOW: Arad Fort RIGHT: Early Dilmun copper bull's head





# WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Edouard Al-Dahdah

The next Guest Speaker, renowned breed historian **Edouard Al-Dahdah**, gave two talks which due to some unexpected time constraints had to be combined: "Arabian Strains: Origins, Meanings And Relevance Today" and "The Golden Thread – Connecting Our Arabian Horse Heritage From The Past To The 21st Century". He gave much food for thought, explaining many aspects of strains and preservation breeding, with little-known documented facts about the origin of some strains, for example the Hadban strain was known to exist as far back as 1670, the Kuhailan Ajuz strain could be traced back to the Sharif of Mecca who ruled in the first half of the 16th century, and he had recently found evidence that the Dahman Shahwan strain could date back over 800 years.



Dhahmaan Hooheishi

He also said that the Tuwaisan strain, which is still present in Bahrain, was mentioned by a French traveller in 1685. This history of strains and their meanings was certainly enlightening.



Tuwaisaan Talleb

He also gave his view that no strain is 'better' than another: "They are all equally good and it is actually a matter of preference and of taste and of personal choice among individuals or among tribes. Within a tribe, stallions are always chosen from a few homebred strains, the strains that have been around for a long time and they were well known to everyone in the tribe and they had made their marks in raids



Ma'anaghieh Maysa



Jellaby Balsam

and tribal wars, but that preference may not be shared by other tribes or in other areas, and these would have had other preferred strains.... first of all it depends on what 'better' means but it mostly means that they are favoured by tribes, by individuals, by people, by groups, because people have their own tastes."

On the relationship between strains and type, Edouard said, "My opinion is that there is no relationship between the strain and the type, but that one can actually be created by line-breeding horses from the same strain that look like each other, and then you fix a certain type which is associated with a certain strain. There is no single classic Arabian type, there are 200, 300 Arabian types not just one. In the west we have converged too fast towards one type of Arabian horse and so they all end up looking like each other, which is pretty much the show standard and everything that doesn't look like that is 'off type'. But I would like to say that among Bedouins there is this notion that there are different types of horses and they are all equally valuable. Some are tall, some are long, some are powerful, some are feminine, some are masculine, so there is not just one classic Arabian type."



Kuhailaan Aladiyat Dami

In his talk on preservation breeding, in which he gave several examples of Bedouin breeding programmes which have lasted for up to 300 years, he said: "The point that I am trying to get across today is that horses are not just an industry, or just a pet, or just a friend. In these societies and for many of us, horses are heirlooms that are transmitted from father to son and they are deeply linked to intimate events of your life. Preserving them - as we have seen for 280 years, 230 years, 100 years, whether by the same family or outside - is more than just ownership of a horse. It is history, it is heritage, it is culture. Go out and find the strains of your horses if you do not know them already. Find the ancestral mare, try to find as much as possible about her, what she was and how many generations are between her and your current horses today. Try to find out about her, try to read about what their history is and try to associate yourself with that history and take pride in what you own. These horses have been transmitted to us generation after generation by people who have fought for them, battled for them, risked their lives for them. So there is something about the relationship between Arabian horses and humans that goes beyond just owning a horse, goes beyond the price or the value of a horse, even the sentimental value. It's about a relationship between an animal and a man that goes over generations. And this is what preservation is about."



Musannaan Al Sabah



Obeyaan Azheer



Saqlaawy Ghazi





Deirdre Hyde

Our next Guest Speaker was **Deirdre Hyde**, the highly respected international judge, published author and acknowledged pedigree expert, who gave us an enthralling "Short Gallop through the Story of Arabian Racing". Her lavishly illustrated talk covered racing in many countries, from the distant past right through to modern times. Deirdre began with, *"The racing of Arab horses of recognisable type and beauty has been an integral part of the breed which reaches back over hundreds of years, to a time long before any Arab Breed Societies were thought of and very few exclusively Arab horse studbooks were kept, and even those were generally only kept by rulers or leaders. Pedigree was a matter of tribal pride. ... The importance of the horse and racing as a vital part of Arab culture cannot be underestimated. Testing the athletic ability was such an important part of Arab horse tradition, it is to be hoped it will never be lost."*



Bedouin racing, Egypt, 1938

Deirdre conveyed how the coming of Islam did not stop racing, rather the contrary. The horses were raced as a means of keeping them fit for use as cavalry horses. She said, *"Not only was the horse a vital tool of battle but it was also a source of wealth, status and security. Naturally this led the Arab people to invest much time in understanding the horse and how to raise and look after him. The depths of this interest and the sophistication of the times can*



A Roman jockey tomb

*be found in many ancient books and texts."* She told us how an Egyptian author from 1285 AD, Imam Al-Hafez Abdul-Mu-hen Al-Dumyati, described a particular condition of the races, whereby if one or two horses were known to be superior or more qualified to win the race than the opposition, i.e. much faster, then their participation would be considered as gambling and therefore forbidden so the unequal horses should be removed from the race. The racing of unequal horses made a race meaningless. The same applied to fitness and purity of pedigree; like should race with like or it constituted a wager which was prohibited.



Traditional Bedouin Racing

## WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Crosbie

Deirdre also referred to the hundreds of Arabians exported annually from the Middle-East to Asia and in particular to India, used as much for racing as for military purposes. They were mainly colts acquired by dealers from the Bedouin tribes, and once arrived in India they could cost anything from £30 for an untried youngster to £3,000 for a good performer. Officers' horses of many types, but especially Arabians, performed military duty one day and raced the next. She illustrated this with examples of the most influential horses of the time such as Greyleg, Dwarka, **Crosbie**, Mootrub and **Volonel** many of whom ended up in England as well as Australia and the U.S.A. She then briefly outlined the history of Arab racing in various countries, especially from the 18th and 19th centuries onwards as Arabians became an important part of the world equestrian scene.



Volonel

Deirdre concluded her talk with, *"Mankind, by selective breeding, can completely change the appearance of an animal in a very few generations, as has happened with the look of the modern show horse or the speed of the modern racehorse. If we care about preserving not only the genetic breadth of the breed but also the whole unique identity of the classic Arab horse as has been described by many experts over the past centuries, the racing of all our horses should be encouraged not just for speed or winning but for the joy of seeing beauty that can perform."*



Modern Racing

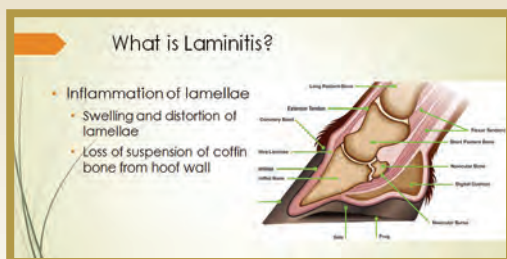


The next Guest Speaker was **Assistant Professor Dr. Samantha Brooks PhD**, a leading specialist in Equine Genetics from the University of Florida Genetics Institute. Dr. Brooks began by saying "... the WAHO Conference is such a remarkable tapestry of cultures drawn into one common goal with a thread of good will and love for the horse drawing it together. As experienced horse people, I think you are probably all familiar with the remarkable skill the horse has for reminding us to be humble in their presence and I'd like to think that perhaps the horse has particularly given us the skill that enables us to deal with the difficulties that sometimes come with dealing with one another."

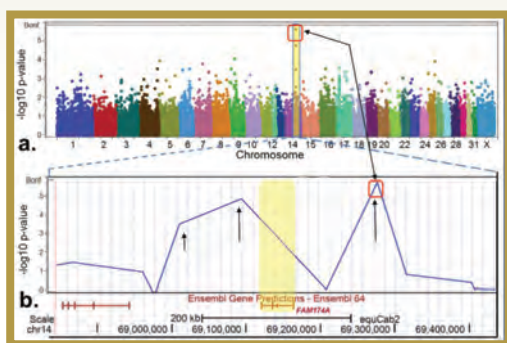


Assistant Professor  
Dr. Samantha Brooks PhD

Her first talk was, "How Science is Helping us to Help our horses" which covered the latest findings on laminitis susceptibility and Equine Metabolic Syndrome in Arabian horses. Dr. Brooks explained that laminitis has been known for some 2,000 years and it was fascinating to learn that the ancient remedy of cooling the feet by standing the horse in running water has in fact been found, by recent controlled research studies, to be very effective as a first aid measure to prevent further damage to the hoof. She explained that applying ice to the feet and lower legs for periods varying from 4-6 hours and 24-48 hours has shown remarkable effectiveness, in fact some equine hospitals in America are beginning to use this therapy for horses at risk of laminitis for various reasons. The search is on for possible genetic markers linked to laminitis susceptibility and potential candidate genes have already been found.

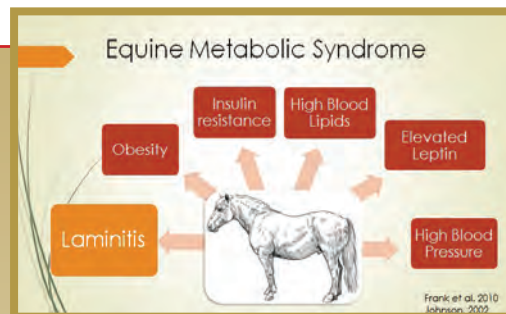


What is Laminitis?

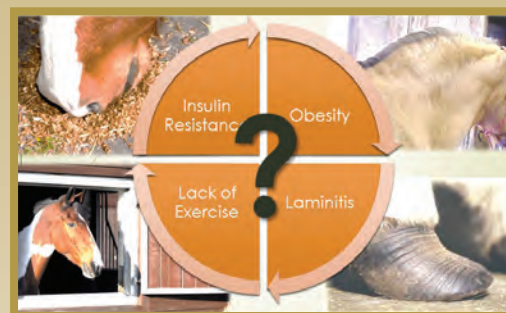


Search for Laminitis Gene

Dr. Brooks also told us about the latest research into Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS), which is often linked to obesity. It is thought the Arabian may be more susceptible to this condition because, as Dr. Brooks explained, "For the horse, you can imagine that they were originally shaped by their environment and by the usages common many hundreds of years ago. The modern horse of today has experienced influences from modern breeding practices for only a fairly short period of time. We must remember that for many thousands of years they had more pressing priorities to meet biologically, and you can certainly consider that for a desert horse the ability to quickly lay on fat and to save those nutritional resources for lean times was an enormous advantage for survival. So it is only with the advent of improved pastures and modern balanced diets that this unique skill has become a liability and a resulting disease."

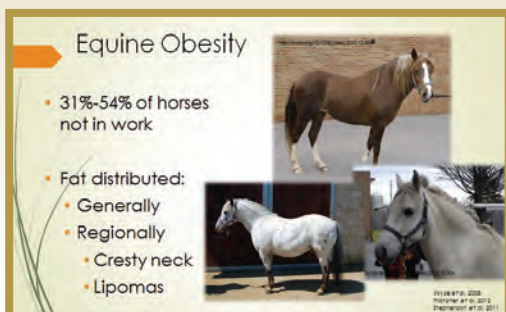


Equine Metabolic Syndrome



EMS Links

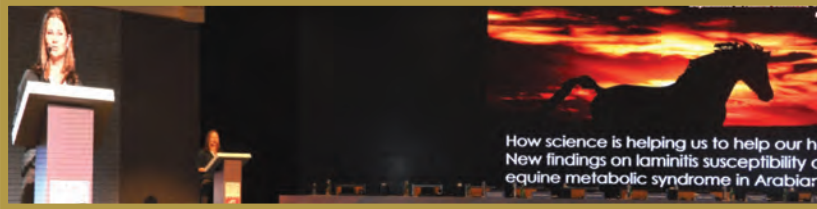
One interesting finding from a recent study showed that owners seem to underestimate the body condition of their horse by about 10%. Dr. Brooks emphasised that using a more accurate and objective measure such as a simple weight-tape was important when devising suitable diets and exercise programmes for weight loss. Other research has shown that whilst EMS may be linked with insulin resistance, these horses have been found to have elevated levels of blood lipids, cholesterol and triglycerides, as well as increased levels of leptin, a hormone that helps to regulate the formation of fat. A little-studied gene has also been identified, with some very promising results which hopefully will save many horses in future from these extremely distressing conditions.



Equine Obesity

Dr. Brooks' second talk was titled "Genomics – the Door to the Future: Analysing the Population Structure and Ancestry of the Arabian Horse." Whilst this topic is rather complex Dr. Brooks used charts and graphs to illustrate how interpreting a horse's pedigree on paper compared to knowing what genes that horse has actually inherited can be very different in reality, and how this knowledge and the latest genetic tools can help breeders. She explained that the way genes are inherited means that even full siblings will be very different in their genomes, even though they are identical on paper.

Dr. Brooks also explained that equids are one of the most successful species and can be traced back about 55 million years. Having the full genome from various periods and places has meant the researchers can see how natural selection enabled them to survive and thrive in the climate in which they lived, and how this was then adapted further after domestication by human selection for specific traits. "Genomes don't all come in the same order, cover to cover... Within the natural history of the horse and their interaction with humans, breeders from the very beginning of our relationship with the horse have carefully selected animals for the traits they have deemed valuable. We have heard over and over again today qualities like stamina, strength and speed, as well as docility and conformation, mentioned as valuable



Assistant Professor Dr. Samantha Brooks PhD with her presentation

within the Arabian horse. Each time these changes are made to the original wild stock through the action of breeders, there is a complementary change of the genome of that horse. When we are looking at genomes we call that a 'signature of selection'. Within the genome somewhere there will be a little characteristic pattern that will identify the variation, that here is something that is important for athletic ability or that here is something that is important for disease resistance, and therefore under strong selection in the horse".

Dr. Brooks also mentioned a current study into examining how genes might influence equine behaviour. She also emphasised the dangers of too much inbreeding, saying "...in general all animals are healthier if their inbreeding numbers are lower, they have stronger immune systems, they tend to grow better and they tend to have better conformation when their inbreeding is kept a bit lower... I encourage you to think a bit more in the long term in that by maintaining genetic diversity today you are putting an investment in the bank so that future generations have more alleles on which to draw and are likely to be sustainable going into the future."



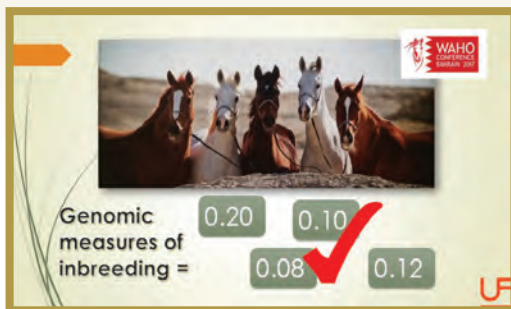
Dam (on left) & her 4 full sibling daughters with different genomes, one most resembling the dam

She also explained that one of the unfortunate consequences of a loss of genetic diversity was that horses might be more likely to develop diseases that are inherited in a recessive manner. For conditions such as SCID, CA and LFS the responsible genes have been identified, and tests made available to identify carriers. They are currently studying the distressing condition Juvenile Idiopathic Epilepsy (JIE) with the aim of developing a diagnostic test to assist owners and breeders in identifying carrier breeding stock. Juvenile idiopathic epilepsy is a seizure disorder, affected foals usually begin exhibiting clinical signs between two days and six months of age. The seizures, which can last from only a few seconds up to about five minutes, generally begin with muscle stiffness all over the body and the foal might fall over. After the stiffening ceases, rapid muscle contractions then begin all over the body. During this time the foal could lose consciousness, and injure itself either falling over or while convulsing on the ground. Once the episode has ended the foal usually exhibits some temporary post-seizure signs including blindness, lethargy, and disorientation. Once the horse has outgrown the seizures it can usually go on to live a normal healthy life. Anti-seizure medications have been effective in reducing frequency and severity of the seizures and are helpful in decreasing risk of injury during an episode, but for some foals this very distressing condition proves fatal.

Dr. Brooks said DNA samples are needed from horses that have been previously diagnosed with JIE, as well as horses that have had an offspring with JIE, and it would help progress the research if owners would submit hair samples. All studies are confidential, so participant and horse identity will not be released. Interested Arabian owners can contact the Brooks Equine Genetics Laboratory, Department of Animal Sciences, PO Box 110910, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A. for more information on participating in this study. Telephone number: +1-352-273-8080; email: equinegenetics@ifas.ufl.edu



Pedigree estimates of inbreeding



Genomic measures of inbreeding



The next Guest Speakers were the distinguished Polish experts **Anna Stojanowska** and **Jerzy Białobok**, for so long associated with the famous State Studs of Poland. Their linked talks were entitled "Polish Arabian Horse Breeding - a brief history" and "The Kuhailan Afas Story: His influence on the Arabian horses of Poland and worldwide".

First to speak was **Anna Stojanowska**, well known internationally as a judge and Vice-President of ECAHO, whose distinguished career includes 21 years as Horse Breeding Chief Specialist, Inspector of Horse Breeding and Advisor to the State Studs of Poland, following in the footsteps of the late Mrs. Izabella Zawadzka.





Painting by Juliusz Kossack, 1838



Anna Stojanowska

Anna told us a bit about the long history of Polish Arabian horse breeding. *"Poland, due to our location and geographic position, has always had easy and constant access to Arabian horses coming from the East to the West. Actually Poland was always a battlefield, for three centuries of war, and the cavalry needed brave horses, so that was the easiest way to get the Arabian horses, especially when our borders were reaching from the Black Sea at one side to the Baltic Sea at the other. So all the wars, as well as the merchants and the amber traders, were crossing the Polish borders into the Polish area. It was really in two parts how Arabian horses appeared in Poland: first as war trophies and secondly of course as a treasure, brought to Poland by the merchants, mostly to the rich people, to the aristocracy in their castles and manor houses... Serious breeding really started a few centuries later, the biggest bloom was in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Then finally peace came and the stud farms of these Polish magnates bred their own horses instead of collecting them as battle trophies. They quite quickly realised that the best way to improve the breeding was to source the horses in their original homelands, the Middle East."*



Mlecha

Probably one of the oldest Arabian breeding programmes anywhere in the world was that of the Sanguszko family's Slawuta Stud, which lasted from 1506 to 1918. Anna described some of the most famous expeditions of the 19th century, and how horses descended from those original imports can still be found in the Polish State Studs today, such as Sahara, Gazella and Mlecha. The last expedition to the Middle East was

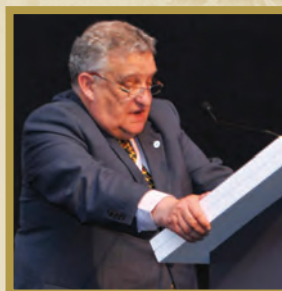


Kuhailan Zaid

organised in 1930 by Prince Roman Sanguszko to obtain new horses for his Gumniska Stud, when he sent his stud manager, Bogdan Zietarski together with well-known expert Carl Raswan. They returned to Poland a year later, bringing four stallions and four mares." The stallions were Kuhailan Haifi, Kuhailan Zaid, Kuhailan Adjuz and, of special interest for this conference, the famous Kuhailan Afas from Bahrain. Bringing the story up to date, Anna explained the history of the Polish State Studs, with Janów Podlaski the oldest, founded in 1817, and on how in the past few decades the number of broodmares in the hands of private breeders has increased enormously. She summed up by saying that the Polish Arabians were always bred to be both beautiful and athletic, a philosophy still continued in the State Studs today.



Kuhailan Afas in Bahrain



Jerzy Białobok

**Jerzy Białobok** followed Anna onto the stage. He is of course the world-renowned master breeder and former Director of Michałow Stud where he worked for 40 years, also a highly respected judge and now a much-in-demand breeding consultant. Jerzy took up the story of Kuhailan Afas and expanded on the great influence one stallion from Bahrain has exerted around the world.

Bred by HH Sheikh Hamad bin Eissa Al Khalifa, Kuhailan Afas was only a yearling when he was purchased for Gumniska Stud. As Jerzy explained, it was in many ways a lucky purchase.



Kuhailan Afas in Poland





Kuheila't Afas

"In fact, Zietarski wanted to buy the parents of Kuhailan Afas, the mare Kuheila't Afas and the stallion Kuhailan Wadhnan, but it was impossible to buy them as the Sheikh did not sell his favourite horses. It was the opinion of Zietarski that the mother of Kuhailan Afas was one of the most beautiful mares of all that he saw in the desert, in Egypt and in Bahrain.



Bad Afas

So Zietarski, for this reason, bought their son from the Sheikh's servants, who had received the colt earlier as a gift from the Sheikh. ... Kuhailan Afas began his breeding career in 1938, right before the Second World War. At this time it was the tradition for all the breeders not to use a stallion before he reached 6 or 7 years of age. We know today there has been a bit of a change in this regard, that breeders now start to use the stallions when they are sometimes two years old using artificial insemination, but in my opinion and the opinion of other older breeders, that it is a little too early, but times are changing, I am sorry to say."



Abu Afas

With many excellent photos to illustrate his enlightening talk, Jerzy took us down the generations from Kuhailan Afas to the present day. Regrettably Kuhailan Afas himself was lost in 1939 and only one of his sons, Bad Afas, survived World War II. He in turn left two excellent sons – Arcus and Abu Afas. It was mainly through Abu Afas' son Comet that the Kuhailan Afas sireline became world renowned and is still cherished by breeders today.



Comet

As Jerzy explained, "Comet is one of the best Polish stallions, from a historical point of view, born after the Second World War. This beautiful flea-bitten grey was a small but athletic horse, and he was the sire of exquisite daughters of great beauty with big black eyes, and of very good moving horses. There was so much genetic potential in this family, especially of the family of his daughters."

Among the best Comet daughters and their renowned descendants were Eunice, Engraja, Arba and Warmia. From his 26 sons, among the most important were Grójec, Badr Bedur, Elaborat, Ego, Carycyn and Pohaniec. In turn Pohaniec was the sire of the important stallion Probat, who was to carry on the Kuhailan Afas sire line with great success. Leased from his breeder in Sweden, he had 154 foals in Poland. As Jerzy explained "Out of this number, after the selection took place, the quality of these foals was so high that 80 mares and 32 stallions were used for breeding. I think that is a very high number of mares and stallions by Probat that were used for breeding. Many were very successful at the race track." Of course many went on to success on the racecourse, in the show ring and in the breeding barns, with countless champions among them. His sons and grand-sons such as Fawor and Pilot, Pamir and Batyskaf, Gil, Wermut to name but a few have proved themselves in turn as excellent sires.

Among other notable descendants of Kuhailan Afas one must not forget those on the distaff side of the pedigrees, such as the Arcus daughter Bigotka, later sold to USA where she became grand-dam of Negatraz, sire of the influential stallion Monogramm. Others mentioned were Naganka by Bad Afas - exported to USA where she was to produce the famous stallion, Bay El Bey, sire of Bey Shah, and the important broodmare Sabellina by Abu Afas, found in so many racing pedigrees to this day.

Jerzy concluded by saying "I think that the sire line of the original Kuhailan Afas had a very strong influence on Arabian horse breeding in Poland and worldwide, giving many excellent horses that contributed wonderfully to the breed. This sire line is very strong genetically. It survived the second world war through only one son, Bad Afas, and later grew through Comet and his wonderful grandson, Probat, and then through the many excellent sons of Probat. I think that it continues today, still in a very good way. There are many super breeding, racing and show horses, both brave and beautiful, which have found their way to the breeding programmes of studs all over the world. I think the Kuhailan Afas family is very typical of the ones with a sire line which continues with good stallions, but it is sometimes very difficult to find one as good as this one".



Probat

Both Anna and Jerzy thanked HH Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa for the most generous gift made to Poland in 2014 of the handsome dark bay stallion Kuhailaan Aafas Maidaan, who hails from exactly the same female line and strain as the 'original' Kuhailan Afas. Who knows, maybe one of his descendants will prove to be the 'Comet of the 21st Century'.



Kuhailaan Aafas Maidaan



Kuhailaan Aafas Maidaan



# WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Pauline Du Plessis

Our next Guest Speaker was **Pauline Du Plessis**, an experienced endurance rider from Saruk Arabians in South Africa who spoke on *"The History of the Tuwaisan Sire Line in South Africa"*. She told the story of how Dr. Valerie Noli-Marais, a medical doctor who ran a small Arabian Stud near Capetown, had become interested in the origin of the Arabian horse. On a visit to Bahrain in 1968, searching for the qualities of vitality, presence, and great toughness which she thought were being lost in the western-bred Arabians, she found them

in the 13 year old dark bay stallion Tuwaisan, bred by the Royal Amiri Stud, who had won over 50 races in ten seasons of racing. On her return home, to her surprise and joy a telegram arrived, stating she would receive Tuwaisan as a gift from his breeder, HH Emir Sheikh Eissa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The stallion spent the entire 7-week sea journey standing in a wooden crate, in all weathers, including a typhoon, on the open deck of the ship "Die Oranje". Despite this, on arrival Tuwaisan was looking well and he soon settled into his new home.



Tuwaisan in Bahrain



Tuwaisan having fun in South Africa

**Emma Maxwell**, the eminent British writer, international judge and photographer was the last official Guest Speaker, taking as her theme *"Precious Pearls: The Importance of Bahraini Foundation Horses in Breeding Programmes Worldwide."* Her well-researched talk, richly illustrated with over 100 photographs, gave us a unique insight into the extraordinary worldwide legacy of three mares who left Bahrain prior to 1940, as well as underlining how the breed has evolved and changed in different countries over the generations. As Emma said, *"I have decided to illustrate the main mare families with photos of horses only descended in female line. However, I have included a lot of pictures because I think it is very important for the modern breeder to have a historical perspective on how much we have changed the outward appearance of the breed over the years. It allows us to absorb the changes we have made to their phenotype, as we focused on a more specialist rather than a generalist versatile horse."*



Emma Maxwell



The Three Ferraris

Tuwaisan had only seven pure-bred offspring in South Africa, 1 stallion, 3 mares and 3 geldings. With excellent temperaments, they excelled at endurance, in fact in one ride three of his offspring were nicknamed "The Three Ferraris" because they were so fast.

The stallion Sahiby Shaikh Hamed was the only one of Tuwaisan's sons that was to perpetuate his bloodline further on down the generations. He had 10 foals, of which the mare Sahiby Zeyna, out of his own paternal half-sister Sahiby Sebekka, and therefore with two close lines to Tuwaisan himself, was to become the most important.

Tuwaisan is an example of the Bahraini Arabians' impact worldwide as he has spread their influence by leaving an important legacy in South Africa, most specifically with top class endurance horses. Through his influence and her own connection with his descendants, Pauline has forged a close contact with the Royal Studs of Bahrain. On one visit she met 92-year old Hassan bin Saleh Al Rowaie, who looked after and rode the original Tuwaisan in Bahrain all those years ago. As she said *"It was my privilege to meet him and it really brought home to me the importance of that unbroken thread of history that connects people and horses all over the world."*



Tuwaisan in South Africa

by Lady Anne Blunt, who bought no less than 7 members of her direct family, which she clearly regarded very highly, the mare Kasida being one of her favourite riding horses. The line mainly continued through the mare Makbula (1886) and her daughter Kibla by Feysul, who was himself a great-grandson of Jellabiet Feysul. As Emma explained, *"The family has been selected by a century's worth of some of the world's most significant breeders"*. Roger Selby of USA selected the yearling Kareyma (born 1927) for his breeding programme, and through her the family became very influential in America, with several descendants becoming foundation broodmares for well known breeders. Modern descendants have spread worldwide now, and include such famous horses as World Champions Abha Qatar and Fadi Al Shaqab.

As Emma concluded, *"The Jellabiet Feysul family has had a very long and very successful and actually very easy to follow transition though the generations, through some of the very best breeders of Arabian horses that the world has known"*.

The second mare referenced was the bay Bint El Bahreyn, of the Dahmah strain, born in 1898 and presented by Sheikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa to the Khedive Abbas Pasha II in 1903. As Emma said, *"I feel a little sorry for horses who are immortalised in just one photograph, in a terrible pose and that is how they are known for perpetuity. But she was a bright bay and was purchased by Lady Anne Blunt in 1907*



Bint El Bahreyn

*for £60. Her only defect being described as 'ears like bats' ... She has founded a family that continues to this day in almost every country possible that breeds straight Egyptians ... Bint El Bahreyn's blood is interwoven through every Egyptian horse through her daughters Dalal and grand-daughters Bint Dalal and Durra."*



Kasida



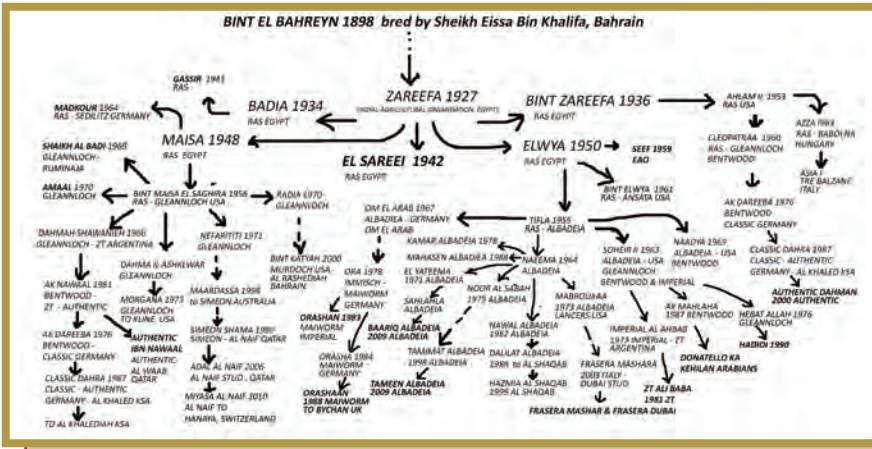
Kibla

The first mare Emma discussed was Jellabiet Feysul, of the Kehaileh Jellabieh strain - still present in Bahrain to this day. Bred by the Emir of Bahrain and acquired circa 1846 by Abbas Pasha I, Viceroy of Egypt, Jellabiet Feysul's female line was continued by Ali Pasha Sherif, and later



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LEFT: Bint El Bahreyn Diagram RIGHT: Kazra



In fact Bint El Bahreyn appears somewhere, often multiple times, in just about every straight Egyptian pedigree. This was a very large and complex family to follow, as different strands spread around the globe, and Emma produced an extraordinary diagram to help explain it, which must have taken her a long time to prepare. Just as with Jellabiet Feysul, many of the prominent breeders of their time incorporated her line into their programmes and it's also been a very successful family for many smaller breeders with clusters of noteworthy stallions all over the world, in different places at different times. Her line has also been treasured for some 60 years at the famous AlBadeia Stud in Egypt.



Tameen AlBadeia



Bint Maisa Al Saghira

Among her most notable direct descendants are the influential broodmares Bint Maisa El Saghira, dam of Shaikh Al Badi, World Champion stallion Hadidi, and the outstanding racehorse ZT Ali Baba, to mention just a few. Emma also mentioned that Al Rashediah Stud in Bahrain has recently acquired Bint Katyah, a mare of this family, and we saw her lovely colt foal at their parade later.



colt by Jamil Al Rayyan out of Bint Katyah

The third mare Emma talked about was the little bay Nuhra, sired by a Kehailan Jellabi and through her dam she inherited the rare strain Kehaillet Al Wadhnieh Khursanieh. Born in 1936, Nuhra was gifted by her breeder Sheikh Hamad bin Eissa Al Khalifa (who also bred Kuhailan Afas) to the Earl of Athlone who imported her to the UK as in 1938. She was given by the Earl of Athlone to his daughter Lady May Abel Smith who, with her husband Sir Henry, founded their Barton Lodge Stud based on this one mare, which ran for 50 years. In total she had 7 foals, all fillies, and her immediate family were much in demand, from the first two generations there were exports to Prince Frederick of Prussia, to America, Sweden, Israel, Thailand, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand. As Emma explained, "It became quite in fashion to line breed to Nuhra, which produced a very recognisable sort of horse. They were often dark, dark chestnut and very elegant, and while not particularly big, they were suitable for any of the show ring pursuits of the UK." Among her widespread and famous descendants are notable stallions such as Rajmek and Darjeel, significant broodmares such as Zehraa and her daughter Kazra, World Champions such as Maleik El Kheil and countless successful performance horses including 2 of the UK's WAHO Trophy winners.



Nuhra

Emma also talked briefly about Thorayyah a 1946 bay mare of the Tuwaisah strain who was presented in 1950 by Sheikh Khalifa Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa to US breeder John Rogers. Her most notable son was the great performance horse Meteor, who appears, quite unusually, in pedigrees of both race and show horses. His descendants include World and US National Champion Mare, VP Kahlua as well as the two times Darley champion Shawna Dew and By Golly, US Racehorse of the Year. Finally, Emma mentioned Sawannah, a chestnut mare of the Dahmah strain who first went to Saudi Arabia and then to the USA and finally to Canada. She only had one filly, Hadriya, sired by a Saudi stallion shipped at the same time. Hadriya and her daughters were bred on exclusively with stallions of Saudi bloodlines and this rare female line has recently returned to Bahrain via Germany.



Thorayyah



Sawannah

Finally, Emma turned to the more recent exports from Bahrain, in particular the group at Pearl Island Arabians UK, where they have not just been preserved, but also brought to the attention of the Arabian world as a whole, impressing with their temperaments and excelling in particular as performance horses in racing and endurance. Among them is yet another UK WAHO Trophy winner, making almost 25% from Bahraini damlines which is an impressive achievement. The most recent residents at Pearl Island are the 2 stallions, Mlolshaan Mahrous and Tuwaisaan Tha'atha'a, royal gifts from H.M. The King of Bahrain to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II a few years ago. A lovely son of Tuwaisaan Tha'atha'a, Jellaby Janah, was to impress us all at the visit to the Royal Stud, echoing Emma's final thoughts when she said "You can see what changes have been wrought in the appearance of the Arabian by the chronological arrangement of pictures from the exported families, but close observation of a more recently bred Arabian horse from its ancestral lands gives us an impression of what else we might have changed, whether intentionally or unintentionally."



Tuwaisaan Tha'atha'a



Jellaby Janah





Kuheila't Aladiyat Wasamah with filly by Shuwaimaan Sadeq



L-R: Shuwaimaan Sadeq & Hamdaany Mesud



Dhahmaan Hoobeishi



Saidan Toofaan



Krush Hayfa



Mlolesh Samra with filly by Jellaby Balsam



Krayaan Kuhraman



Rabdaan Alawsaj

## THE ROYAL ARABIAN STUDS OF BAHRAIN

The absolute highlight of the week's events was of course the unique opportunity to visit in turn the Royal Stud of H.M. The King of Bahrain at Al Roudha, and the Royal Stud of the late H.R.H. Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Al Khalifa at Umm Jidr. Here we were given an insight into the exceptional qualities of the precious strains so carefully preserved and treasured by the Al Khalifa family for so long. As Jenny Lees had explained earlier during the Conference opening ceremony: *"The horses in these studs are a window to the past, they look today much as they did centuries ago. The criteria for breeding within the studs has not changed: conformation, temperament, soundness, speed – you had to get away from your enemy pretty quickly, and from years of riding bareback comfort was essential."* She also told us how H.H. Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, now in charge of the Royal Stud at Al Roudha,

had explained the preservation program to her: *"Throughout the centuries the war horse was needed for our family's very survival, now they need us for their survival. They took care of us and now it is our turn to take care of them."*

Both these horse presentations, with their accompanying detailed and excellent commentaries, were exceptionally well organized. At both studs beautiful pavilions had been specially built as seating areas for the guests to enjoy both the parades and lavish lunches. The wet and windy conditions cleared just in time for both presentations, giving us the chance to appreciate whole families from the 20 different strains and sub-strains, some of them now specific to Bahrain. Strains are considered so important here that all horses are named first with their



Musannah Bint Al Bahrain



Shuwaimaan Saary



Hamdaany Ra'an



Mloishaan Al Ward



Rabda Eshtahar



Krayaan Nashwaan



Shawaf Azraq



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Rabdaan Sary Al Leil



Jellabieh Ghabra



Ma'anaghieh Tabasheer and filly by Mlolshaan Wesam



Hamdanieh Khawla



Musannan Awaad



Kuheila't Aafas Nood's filly



Kuheila't Umm Zorayr Alia & Colt by Hamdaany Ra'an

### THE ROYAL ARABIAN STUDS OF BAHRAIN

strain, with the masculine or feminine version as appropriate, followed by their given names. Some of the strains are now known only in Bahrain. Between the two studs, we were shown horses from the Musannah, Ma'anaghieh, Obeyah, Tuwaisah, Mlolesh, Jellabieh, Kuheila't Afas, Kuheila't Aladiyat, Kuheila't Umm Zorayr, Shuwaimah, Saqlawieh, Hamdanieh, Rabda, Dhahma, Shawafah, Krush, Suwaitieh, Saida, and Kray strains.

The horses presented ranged from powerful masculine stallions to matronly broodmares, on down the generations to the younger horses in race training and of course many charming foals. Sympathetically presented, the horses were curious about their unfamiliar audience, but

seemed unperturbed by this unexpected intrusion of several hundred people into their normally quiet surroundings. The experienced staff from the studs were supported by 3 skilful handlers from the United Kingdom, who really brought out the best in every horse. We were all especially impressed by the horses' great freedom of movement, along with their naturally proud demeanour combined with calm and kind temperaments. We honestly felt as if we were seeing living, breathing history in front of our eyes as these superb descendants of the original Arabian war-horses showed us just how special they are. We were all left with the best possible impression of the Arabian horses of the Royal Studs of Bahrain and an understanding of their importance as the Kingdom's most precious heritage.



Obeyah Kiyara



Mlolshaan Wesam



Kuheila't Aafas Nood



Suwaitieh Maymana



Tuwaisah Ajla



Saqlawieh Dhabya



Krushaan Bader



## WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Zaki Al Rashediah



ZT Faa'iq



Nadirah Al Rashediah



### AL RASHEDIAH STUD

Another unforgettable evening was Al Rashediah Stud's horse presentation and dinner, most generously hosted by the owner Mr. Rashid A. Rahman Al Jasmi. We were all captivated by the exquisite blue-lit avenue of horse-head fountains, created by the American sculptor Karen Kasper, lining a pathway to the impressive show barn.

We were treated to a floodlit display of ethereally beautiful mares, many accompanied by their foals, as well as several homebred youngsters highlighting Mr. Al Jasmi's already successful breeding program, which is mainly focused on Straight Egyptian bloodlines.

The last to be presented were the internationally renowned stallions Jamil Al Rayyan (2005, Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan), whose progeny were noted as being "most impressive throughout, in type as well as in quality". His stable mate ZT Faa'iq (1997, Anaza El Farid x ZT Jamdusah) who was looking wonderful for his age, also gave visitors a cheerful display showing he was in top form. We were then invited into a magnificent tent decorated with thousands of twinkling lights, where we enjoyed a superb meal while watching an enthralling new film about Bahrain and its horses.



Al Rashediah Stud



Desha Nile Queen with filly by Jamil Al Rayyan



Peter Pond with Mr Rashid Al Jasmi



Jamil Al Rayyan



Hala Al Rashediah





Jay Stream Cup Race



WAHO Cup Race

## WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



Jay Stream Cup Race Winner



WAHO Cup Presentation

### RACING, SOCIAL EVENTS & HORSE SHOW

Friday 10th February in particular was a busy day. There was an exciting afternoon at the Rashid Equestrian & Horseracing Club, home to Bahrain's very attractive racecourse with both sand and grass tracks. The featured race of the day was the 1,400 metres WAHO Cup with seven runners. The pretty grey mare Tuwaisah Muneera (2011, Obeyaan Barakat x Tuwaisah Nevaadir) just caught the front running stallion Jellaby Sareeh (2006, Hamdaany Wadhah x Jellabieh Agdaam) in a photo finish, with the mare Hamdanieh Huboob (2011, Kuheilan Umm Zorayr Mabrouk Al Bahrain x Hamdanieh Raawa'h) a close third. The special race for the Jay W. Stream Traditional Arabian Horse Cup was a fun finale to a great afternoon, with both riders and horses in traditional attire. A jubilant Ahmed Riyadh riding Zaizoom Al Uraiq romped across the finish first, standing in his stirrups and waving to the crowd. We were also treated to displays of traditional desert sports such as Saluqi races and

falconry, proof that the modern cosmopolitan Bahrain is striving to preserve its history and culture, through encouraging the youth to participate in the traditions and pursuits of their forefathers.

A sensational moonlit evening then unfolded for us at Riffa Fort, originally built in 1812, where we were greeted by the Police Band playing rousing bagpipe music. We were spellbound as we had our second glimpse of the day of the Bahraini Arabians, which are also used by the mounted police and for ceremonial purposes. We were then entertained by a charming rendition of an ancient ceremony, once used by the Bedouins before setting off on ghazus (raids), as young Sheikh Khalid Bin Saqr Al Khalifa stood proudly reciting the names of all the strains of the horses in a gloriously rhythmic poem. It was an astonishing and delightful evening!





## WAHO CONFERENCE BAHRAIN 2017



LF Khasala



Shahab Al Shaqab



Zahra Al Jabour and Ameen Al Naif



Ameen Al Naif

### RACING, SOCIAL EVENTS & HORSE SHOW

We all thoroughly enjoyed the many splendid events arranged specially for us at a variety of spectacular venues. In recent years, the number of private owners and breeders in Bahrain has increased considerably, and many excellent horses from diverse bloodlines have been imported. As it was not possible to visit their farms individually, at almost all the dinners a special and unexpected treat was the presentation of some of their best Arabian horses, and we thank all the owners for taking so much time and trouble to arrange

this for our additional enjoyment. They included Mr. Alaa Abduljabbar Hammad, Mr. Sami Hasan Al Rayes, Mr. Ali Abdulla Al Aali, Mr. Fadhel Abbas Al Jamri, Dr. Bashar Mustafa Al Sayed, Mr. Mahmood Abdulqader Ali Dawood Salman, Sh Salman Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Mr. Sherafuddin Abdulla Al Qaoud, Mr. Khail Ebrahim Al Sendi, Mr. Abdulameer Aljaboori, Mr. Ali Jaffar Al Maheshi and Mr. Mohammed Al Tamimi.



Ibtihaj Al Shaqab



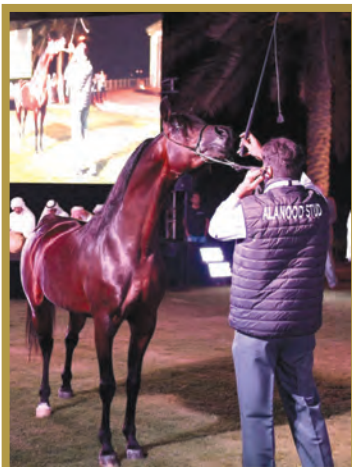
RRA Marriana



Naif By Naadiah



S.S. Zlizzal



D Favez



Shihab Al Shakhourah





D Mastura Al Aqeed



Mahabi Assaghier



D Jad



Not all the weather was clear blue skies

## RACING, SOCIAL EVENTS & HORSE SHOW

Our last equestrian event was The Late HH Shaikh Faisal bin Hamad Al Khalifa – First International Arabian Horse Show organised by the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation. Showing is very popular with the private breeders, the ECAHO-affiliated National Show has been held annually for many years. This first International Show was well supported, with 135 entries forward for judging, the whole event broadcast live on Bahraini television and the internet. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind, being unseasonably cold and rainy, but despite the conditions we admired the excellent horses, which came from a most interesting cross section of international bloodlines. The Junior Colt Champion owned

by Mr. Abdulrahman Al Jasmi from Al Rashediah Stud, was the 3-year-old grey Hermes (EKS Alihandro / Sanadina). Mr. Saeed Jaffar Almaheshi's Champion Mare, H Perdita (2012, Kunar T / Exotic Pearl) was imported from the UK, and all the other Champions came from the UAE. Yearling Filly Champion: D Mastura Al Aqeed (Wadee Al Shaqab / DF Yasirah), owner Mr. Hamad Al Hajri; Yearling Colt Champion: Saadoun Al Zobair (SMA Magic One / Najdiya Al Zobair), owner Mr. Fadhel Abbas Al Jamri; Junior Filly Champion: Alia Al-Ameer (2015, AJ Portofino / Ava), owner Mr. Alaa Abduljabbar Hammad; and Senior Stallion Champion: D Jad (2013, Frasera Mashar / Muranas Je Taime), owner Mr. Khalil Ebrahim Mukhtar.



Kray Nada



Shawafah Aneesah



Saidan Rajwaan



Saqlaawy Badraan



Tuwaisan Al Jamur



Ma'anaghieh Shagrah



Shuwaimaan colt out of Shuwaimah Al Zubarah by Mlolsaan Wesam

## THANKS

WAHO would like to convey our sincere thanks to our gracious hosts at the various social events including The Royal Court; Crown Prince Court; Royal Arabian Studs of Bahrain; Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation; Rashid Equestrian & Horseracing Club; H.E. Sheikh Mai bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities; and Mr. Al Jasmi of Al Rashediah Stud. Special thanks also go to Dr. Khalid Hassan, Jehangir Rustomjee, Jean-Marie and Hélène Lascelles-Lloyd and Mr. Husain Alsakrane and their respective teams from the Royal Stables, Etiquette and Howar Seasons as well as to our guides from Farhat Tours, who all worked so hard to ensure such a successful event.