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# From the Editor's Desk



Although Asif Ali Zardari's passion for horses is no secret, he has not been able to spare time for equine activities since becoming the President. This unfortunately does not bode well for the country's struggling horse and horseracing industry.

While time, or lack of it, may well be the key reason for the President not being able to pay attention to his love for equine sport, there are also political overtones to this. In the years past, this enthusiasm of his was considerably politicized by those with vested interests. This brought a bad name to him.

It is indeed a pity that a man who could have taken equestrian sports to new heights through his influence had to back down and yield to a handful of so-called horse lovers and politicians. But those are years gone by. Today he is the President and there's renewed hope for an ailing industry.

Clearly, the reeling horseracing industry and other equine sports in Pakistan need a presidential boost but the president would have to tread cautiously if he opts to do so. This is because the people who were critical of his love affair with horses earlier on are still around.

Already much harm has been done to equine sports because of politics and 'hijacking' of the sport by certain influential families. This means that mostly all equestrian activity has and continues to remain confined within those folds.

Then, there are those who continue to strive for the good of equestrian sport by making selfless efforts. It is people like these who deserve to be

on board if Mr. Zardari decides to give the industry a shot in the arm.

It is not self-praise but the fact of the matter is that among the gloom afflicting the equine industry, Horse and Horseman has emerged as a leading light. From a humble beginning, this magazine has made its mark internationally and is proving to be Pakistan's flag-bearer.

Published initially as Shahsawar in 1992 and later renamed as Horse and Horseman, the magazine has played an important role in highlighting the horseracing industry, a fact largely acknowledged by both the local and international fraternities.

It also goes to the credit of the magazine's founders for having established the Pakistan Horse Breeders and Equestrian Foundation and the Pakistan Tent-Pegging Association as part of their efforts to promote equine sport.

An Equine Sports Centre of international standards is now being built in the proximity of Rawal Lake by the owners of Horse and Horseman and is fast nearing completion. It is yet another initiative to draw more people to equine sports and to ensure that such activity does not remain restricted to a set of influential families.

Surely it is about time that more such initiatives were made to revive the industry that could really prove to be the backbone of Pakistan's economy. President Zardari would do well to come forward and openly support equine sports. It is just the kind of tonic that the horseracing industry needs.



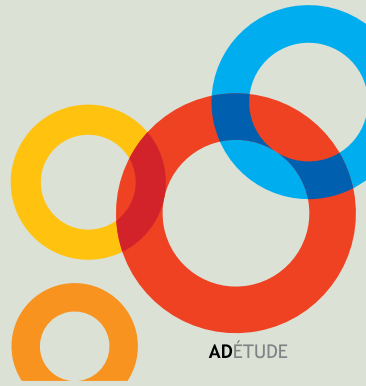
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# WELL ARMED ROMPS to VICTORY IN DUBAI WORLD CUP

Well Armed led from the word go to register a staggering 14-length victory in the \$6 million Dubai World Cup (Group One), the richest race in the world, at Nad al Sheba.

Ridden by Aaron Gryder, Well Armed had things under control throughout to beat American legend Curlin's record victory margin of seven and three quarter lengths.

French runner Gloria de Campeao finished second while Paris Perfect and former Peruvian Triple Crown champion Muller came in third and fourth respectively.

Well Armed, who two years ago seriously fractured his pelvis and was to be put down, is trained by Irish-born Eoin Harty, who is now based in the United States.

*Jockey Ahmad Ajtebi (at right) celebrates as he leads Gladiatorus to victory in the Dubai Duty Free.*







The 46-year-old Harty was over the moon after the victory. "It's the biggest win of my career," he said. "I owe a lot to (Dubai ruler) His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who got me started and plucked me from relative obscurity."

Well Armed was so dominant that he gave last year's runner-up Asiatic Boy and another favourite Albertus Maximus no chance.

"This is an unbelievable experience," Gryder said. "I am so glad to be riding this horse. He sure showed how good he is. He was just in a different class."

Ahmed Ajtebi made the whole of United Arab Emirates proud when he rode Gladiatorus to victory in the one-mile \$5 million Dubai Duty Free (Group One). Gladiatorus is trained by Mubarak bin Shafya.

England's Presvis was second while Godolphin's Alexandros was third.

The 21-year-old former camel rider proved that Sheikh Mohammed had not been far wrong when he advised him to switch to riding thoroughbreds.



*Jockey Aaron Gryder celebrates after leading Well Armed to victory in the Dubai World Cup.*





*Regal Ransom and Desert Party battle it out in the UAE Derby.*



“This is a dream come true and I am so grateful to everyone in helping me get where I am now,” said Ajtebi.

The combination of Ajtebi and Safya then captured the \$5 million Dubai Sheema Classic crown with Eastern Anthem to complete a memorable double.

Eastern Anthem was last in the final straight but Ajtebi rode brilliantly to beat Spanish Moon, Purple Moon and Youmzain in a photo-finish to the loud cheers of a big gathering.

“This is just fantastic. I can’t believe it!” Ajtebi said.

The Dubai Golden Shaheen was won by Saudi Arabian entry Big City Man when he out-ran hot favourite filly Indian Blessing in the six-furlong sprint.

Big City Man is owned by Prince Sultan Mohammad Saud Al Kabeer, trained by Jerry Barton and was ridden by Jose Verenzuela.

Ridden by Edgar Prado, Indian Blessing came to Dubai with an enviable record of nine victories and three second-place finishes in her last 12 starts and was clearly the odds-on favourite for the Dubai





*Well Armed trainer Eoin Harty receives his trophy from UAE Vice President and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum after winning the Dubai World Cup.*

Golden Shaheen title.

Godolphin's Diabolical with Frankie Dettori in the saddle finished third while fourth place went to Bamboo Ere.

"He's a fighter and he proved this tonight. He was off a bit slow, but suddenly he sensed Indian Blessing was somewhere close, so he picked up right in time. She was coming good, but we were already there. He was simply awesome to respond in that manner," said Verenzuela.

Two Step Salsa ridden by Frankie Dettori and Gayego under Ted Durcan provided Godolphin and trainer Saeed Bin Suroor a 1-2 finish in the 15-horse \$1 million Godolphin Mile (Ground Two). Don Renato finished third.

Godolphin's Regal Ransom beat stable-mate Desert Party to win the \$2 million UAE Derby (Group Two). The son of Distorted Humor, ridden by Alan Garcia, always held the upper hand over Desert Party to supply the stable with their sixth success in the event since it was first run in 2000.

Garcia said after the race: "This feels awesome.



*Jockey Aaron Gryder celebrates with the trophy after winning the Dubai World Cup on Well Armed.*





Jockey Alan Garcia on Regal Ransom (at right) competes with Desert Party in the UAE Derby.



I'm so happy to have been given this opportunity to ride this horse and am so happy to have beaten Frankie Dettori," he said.

"Frankie was the favourite, but he wasn't firing. I'm so excited. I felt I knew the horse and tried to keep pace with him and he never stopped."

Both Regal Ransom and Desert Party are trained by Saeed bin Suroor at the stable's winter base in Al Quoz.

Fryvolous proved too good for his fellow-Purebred Arabian opponents on his way to victory in the \$250,000 Dubai Kahayla Classic.

Ridden by Daragh O'Donohoe and trained by Rod Simpson, Fryvolous is owned by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Nil Blanc finished second while Paris Gagner was third.

Trainer Simpson said of Fryvolous: "I knew I could trust him to do this. Right now, I am too emotional. I am pleased with everything. I wanted this so badly. The horse has been unbelievable and the jockey has been a champion right through."





*Jockey Aaron Gryder leads Well Armed to victory in the Dubai World Cup.*



*Jockey Ahmad Ajtebi leads the Dubai Sheema Classic with Eastern Anthem*



# His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Inaugurates Dubai International Horse Fair 2009

Largest-ever Equestrian Exhibition in the Middle East  
Showcased latest equipment, supplies and services alongside the biggest-ever Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance and Industry, inaugurated the 2009 Dubai International Horse Fair (DIHF) at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Following the opening ceremony, His Highness toured the show, which attracted over 150

participating companies from a record-breaking 37 countries. Organised by Dubai World Trade Centre, DIHF will run from 19 - 21 March 2009.

Billed as the most international equestrian event ever held in the Middle East, the show saw record number of visitors on the first day. Held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and Industry, opens the 5th edition of the Dubai International Horse Fair.







*The region's largest equestrian exhibition has grown to accommodate international interest.*

**DIHF has been highly successful in providing a platform that brings together local distributors, international horse owners, manufacturers, breeders and suppliers as well as the wider riding community.**

Al Maktoum, DIHF has quickly become a key event, serving a fast growing industry with strong traditional roots in the region.

The show runs alongside the 6th Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship, a three-day competition for purebred Arabian horses, showcasing their beauty, agility and heritage and culminating in the Championship classes for the most exquisite horses.

"The response from both visitors and exhibitors has been extremely strong this year, with many international attendees saying that the show is now firmly among the world's best equestrian events,"

said Abdulla Qassem, Board Member - Higher Organising Committee of Dubai International Horse Fair and Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship.

DIHF has been highly successful in providing a platform that brings together local distributors, international horse owners, manufacturers, breeders and suppliers as well as the wider riding community. Over the years it has consistently attracted a stronger number of visitors with an interest in horses, thanks to the event's exciting mix of companies, features and services on offer.

In step with these developments, DIHF showcased a wide range of products. As every year, the exhibition provided a platform for companies to display innovation in supplies and equipment.

Building on last year's successful introduction of seminars and exhibitor presentations at DIHF, veterinarians and horse owners were invited again to participate in meetings running alongside the show to discuss key issues in the industry.

# CROWN PRINCE CUP

The Crown Prince Cup for purebred Arabians and locally bred thoroughbreds has been traditionally held at The Equestrian and Horse Racing Club in the Kingdom of Bahrain since its establishment in 1981 except in 1990 due to the conflict in Iraq. Jehangir Rustomjee takes us through the day's exciting proceedings in this year's edition.

Friday the 30th of January 2009 dawned bright, sunny and thankfully pleasant after weeks of inclement weather in the island kingdom. Bahrain's two big days have just four prestige races each. The other big day is Kings Cup day in March.

Seven of the best Purebred Arabians in the kingdom lined up for the first race on the card, the Crown Prince Cup for Arabians. Three previous winners of the race Rabdaan Qadry, Jellaby Baseem and Rabdaan Nader were in the mix in what promised to be great contest, but it was the much younger four year old Rabdaan Suftan who

was the public rage on basis of his four wins from six starts this season. The gates crashed open for this 1600 metre event and it was Rabdaan Nader and rookie apprentice Adnan Jaffar who bounded into the lead with Rabdaan Ghareem (trained by this writer) about six lengths in arrears clear of the rest of the pack. This order was maintained till the top of the gradient that takes us to the final turn into the long straight. The two front runners had a pretty commanding lead and there was some urgency from the jockeys on Rabdaan Suftan (Nader Aziz) and also fancied Jellaby Milaff (Ali











*Rabdaan Nader (Adnan Jaffar) wins the Crown Prince Cup for purebred Arabians.*



*Rabdaan Nader (Adnan Jaffar) before the Crown Prince Cup for Purebred Arabians*

Saffar). As they straightened Rabdaan Nader kicked clear again and Rabdaan Ghareem looked good for second too, but he tired in the last furlong and was overhauled by Jellaby Milaff who finished on well to be second. Rabdaan Suftan was a disappointing third and Jellaby Baseem (Charlotte Kerton) was fourth. Rabdaan Nader showed that he had lost none of his zest at the grizzly age of ten and Syed Yousif his trainer has done a remarkable job of keeping this veteran fresh and competitive and let us take nothing away from the great ride he was given by local boy Adnan Jaffar who has struck a positively purple patch this season.

The next was the Al Muzdaher Stud sponsored Bahrain Oaks over 1800 metres. It attracted a small field of four 4 year old fillies; two were from the sponsor's stable and it was they who dominated. A Touch Of Class a grey daughter by champion Headhunter out of the speedy A Touch Of Frost ridden by Arnavd Bouleau got straight down to business setting a steady pace from fellow grey Mo Chuisle (Paul Smith) with Falteh (Anthony Whelan) and Saifa (Ali Saffar) in close order. Saifa was the first to throw down the gauntlet on straightening and Falteh loomed ominously as Mo Chuisle dropped away. A Touch Of Class fought back valiantly, but was eventually outpointed by stablemate Saifa; Falteh didn't sustain her run. Jimmy Naylor trained the first two home for the sons of HH Sheikh Abdulla Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Bahrain Silver Cup was the best race of the day on paper and it proved to be on the track as well. Golias trained by Allan Smith and ridden by Gerald Avranche was the warm favourite and looked a picture in the preliminaries. The Argentinean son of Romarin had only tasted defeat twice in 16 starts in Bahrain. Rashid Bouresly's Envision who'd run him close in their previous encounter



and the improving Mukhber were also strongly fancied by their connections. Fire Two (Nader Aziz) and Zendito (Hassan Saffar) ensured a strong early gallop while the principles sat in mid-bunch. Golias made first move, but was briefly hampered for room while A. De Vries brought Mukhber with a rattle on the far out followed by Envision (Gary Hind). Both Golias and Envision couldn't go with Mukhber, but dark horse Imperial Star (Eddie Ahern) having his first Bahrain start emerged from the centre of the pack to lock horns with him and they battled to the line with Mukhber holding on by just half a length in a



*Saifa (Ali Saffar) wins the Al Muzdaher Stud Bahrain Oaks.*



*Rabdaan Nader after the Crown Prince Cup for Purebred Arabians.*





*Bobs Yer Uncle (A Faisal) wins the Crown Prince Cup for locally bred Thoroughbreds from burning ambition (G Avranche) on the outside and Brumby (Paul Smith) rails.*



*Bobs Yer Uncle (A Faisal) being led in by proud trainer Allan Smith after winning The Crown Prince Cup for locally bred thoroughbreds.*

thriller. To say owner Ibrahim Afoo was ecstatic would be a gross understatement. This was yet another feather in trainer Abdulla Kuwaiti's cap from his modest string. The winner and runner-up meet again in the richly endowed Qatar International Cup at the end of February.

The big one of the day The Crown Prince Cup for locally bred thoroughbreds, was robbed of much of its prestige by the absence of unbeaten superstar Addwaitya, winner last year and looking brilliant in his last start. Two other previous winners Brumby and Burning Ambition ably supported by Bobs Yer Uncle, all trained by reigning champion Allan Smith were expected to fight for the spoils and so they did. The five others in the field were bit players at most. One of them Kayda, a front runner herself, upset the trail blazing rhythm of reluctant favourite Brumby (Paul Smith), who eventually did get the lead as things got serious, but had no puff left to put up any kind of serious resistance to Bobs Yer Uncle



(Abdulla Faisal) and Burning Ambition (G. Avranche) who sailed past him and meandered to the post to give Allan Smith and the Al Nasseriya Stable a 1-2-3.

HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Commander of the National Guard and brother of HM The King represented the Crown Prince. Sheikh Mohammed is a very keen and knowledgeable patron of the sport in Bahrain and rarely misses a day of racing. He oversees all His Majesty the King's thoroughbred racing and breeding interests.

*HH Sheikh Abdulla.*



*Mukhber (A De Vries), in red colours, wins the Silver Cup from Imperial Star (E Ahern) and Golias (G Avranche).*





# Mon Mome defies ALL ODDS AT GRAND NATIONAL

It had only been done once before. Mon Mome was given a 100/1 chance of winning the Grand National at Aintree in Liverpool. But the Liam Treadwell-ridden horse defied all odds to win the 2009 edition of the steeplechase to the surprise of everyone.

*French horse Voy Por Ustedes (at right), ridden by Robert Thornton, beats Schindlers Hunt (at left) to win The Melling Steeple Chase on the second day of the Grand National meeting.*



Before Mon Mome, only Foinavon had achieved the feat in 1967.

This was Treadwell's first ride in the race while Venetia Williams became only the second woman trainer to win the Grand National. Jenny Pitman was the last woman to win the event with Corbiere

in 1983.

Comply or Die, with Timmy Murphy in the saddle, was the defending champion but finished second best this year. Two-time National champion Ruby Walsh guided My Will to third while State of Play managed fourth position.





*De Luain Gorm falls and loses jockey G Gallagher during the John Smith's Fox Hunters' Chase on the first day of the Grand National meeting at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool.*

Treadwell kept Mon Mome in the middle or back during most of the race and made his move on the final turn. At that stage as many as 10 horses had a chance to win the race. However, when Treadwell asked Mon Mome for some power, he got plenty as the horse cruised home to the cheers of a large crowd.

Venetia Williams, who had broken her neck as a rider at Becher's Brook, was elated. "I am just so proud of Liam and the team who have done a fantastic job," she said. "It's a fantastic race to win and I really didn't think of whether I was the second woman to win it or not".

Treadwell, who grew up in a racing family with his parents working for trainer John Dunlop, could not believe that he had won the National. "It is an unbelievable feeling," he said. "This horse is so genuine, it is absolutely



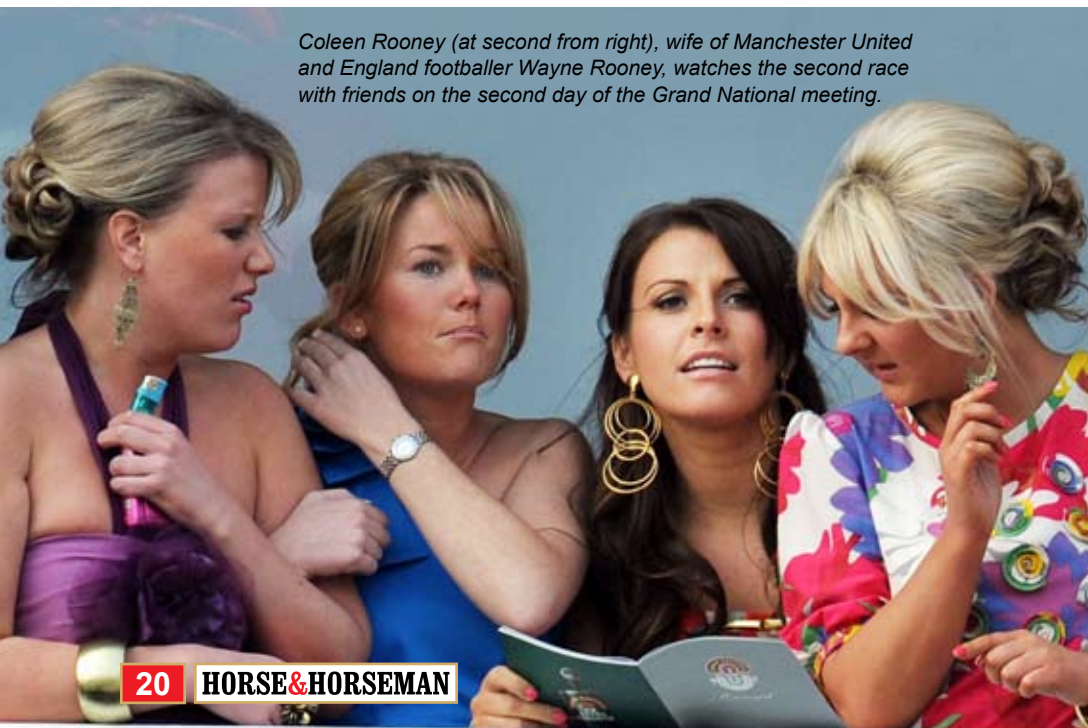
*A race-goer waits to enter the fashion competition on the Ladies Day.*



*French horse Voy Por Ustedes (at centre), ridden by Robert Thornton, beats Schindlers Hunt (at left) and Nacarat (at right) to win The Melling Steeple Chase.*



*Coleen Rooney (at second from right), wife of Manchester United and England footballer Wayne Rooney, watches the second race with friends on the second day of the Grand National meeting.*



unbelievable."

For owner Vida Bingham, Williams had more than fulfilled her pledge. "I wanted a horse, preferably a stayer and a chaser, and Venetia went to France to look for one and I got both," said Bingham.

The race's end was overshadowed when last year's Irish National winner Hear The Echo, who collapsed having been pulled up at the last fence, died.





ROENC3 PIC



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*Exotic Dancer, ridden by Tony McCoy, races during the Totesport Bowl Chase on the first day of the Grand National meeting.*



*Race-goers have their pictures taken on the second day of the meeting.*



*A race-goer is wearing a record as a hat.*





*Ruby Walsh (at left) rides American Trilogy into second place in The Top Novices Hurdle.*



*Ladies show off their outfits on the Ladies Day.*

*Private Be (at left) runs past The Sawyer as it falls at the final fence during The Topham Steeple Chase.*







French horse Nacarat jumps the final fence during The Melling Steeple Chase.

Comply or Die jockey Timmy Murphy said after the race: "He ran a blinder. Apart from getting 10 lengths closer to the winner I have no complaints whatsoever.

Walsh admitted that it had been virtually the same as winning in managing to get My Will round. "He was just hitting the fences low and I was really having to work hard at keeping him upright. We did well to stay on our feet."

The race had begun with two false starts, which earned boos from the crowd, echoing that of 1993 when the race was declared null and void.



A male race goer, center, dressed as a woman.





A full-page photograph of a jockey riding a brown horse, Exotic Dancer, over a hurdle. The jockey is wearing a pink helmet, sunglasses, and pink and white checkered silks. The horse is brown with a white blaze on its face. The background is a light blue sky and a yellow hurdle with green lettering.

# EXOTIC DANCER DIES AT AINTREE

Exotic Dancer, one of Britain's leading jumps race horses, died after suffering a heart attack following a race at Aintree in Liverpool on April 2.

Trained by Jonjo O'Neill, the nine-year-old collapsed in the stables after coming second behind Madison Du Berlais in the totesport Bowl Chase on the first day of the Grand National meeting.

Exotic Dancer, owned by Sir Robert Ogden, won eight of his 28 races, including the Grade One Lexus Chase at Ireland's Leopardstown course earlier this season.

He was also placed in two Cheltenham Gold Cups, having finished third to Kauto Star in one of England's most prestigious jumps events.

"Half an hour after the race he was just walking along in the stables when he just lay down and that was it," said O'Neill, formerly a leading jockey over fences. "He was very tired coming back in off the track.

"I said to Barry (Simpson, the owner's racing manager) he looked like he had run his heart out, and he looked really tired. We took the saddle off him and he went back to the stables and was OK.

"We were leading him round and Hannah, who looks after him, felt he wasn't right so we took him down to the vets, where he laid down and that was it -- there was nothing we could do. He'd be the best chaser I have trained."



# CAS increases ban on German show-jumper

World sport's top court has increased German show-jumper Christian Ahlmann's ban from four to eight months after his horse failed a drugs test at the Beijing Olympics last year.



The Court of Arbitration of Sport in Geneva rejected Ahlmann's appeal calling for a reduction in the penalty and instead upheld another appeal by the German equestrian federation calling for a tougher sanction, it said in a statement.

The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) had imposed a four-month ban on Ahlmann and fined him 2,000 Swiss francs (1,300 euros) after his horse, Coster, tested positive for a banned substance at the Olympic Games.

"In its decision the CAS has upheld the appeal filed by the German Equestrian Federation and has dismissed the appeal filed by Christian Ahlmann," CAS said.

"Accordingly, Christian Ahlmann is declared ineligible for a period of eight months starting on 21 August 2008 and ending on 20 April 2009."

In all, five horses taking part in the show-jumping competition which was staged in Hong Kong last August tested positive for Capsaicin, which is normally rubbed in as a lotion to ease pain.

Capsaicin is a derivative of the chili pepper plant and, when used improperly, can cause the horses to suffer a burning sensation if they fail to clear the show-jump bars, thereby straining themselves to jump higher to avoid the pain.

## Quality Road wins Florida Derby

Quality Road fought off a late charge by previously undefeated Dunkirk to win the \$750,000 Florida Derby and establish himself as a favourite for the Kentucky Derby.

The Fountain of Youth Stakes winner covered the mile-and-an-eighth distance at Gulfstream Park in Miami in a track record 1:47.72, holding off Dunkirk in the stretch. Theregoesjojo finished third.

The Todd Pletcher-trained Dunkirk was running about seven lengths off the pace before making his move along the far turn and drawing even with Quality Road at the top of the stretch.

Quality Road, however, refused to surrender the lead and won the Grade I race by one-and-three-quarter lengths.

Dunkirk, ridden by Garrett Gomez, needed to reach the winner's circle to clinch a berth at the Kentucky Derby, which takes place on May 2.





# 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW 2009

As the showing season in the Gulf drew to a close Bahrain had their National Show on the 24th and 25th of April 2009. The show is organized by BREEF (The Bahrain Royal Equestrian & Endurance Federation) and is held at the picturesque grass arena of the Ministry of Interior Showground in the west of the tiny island Kingdom.

It is held in memory of HM The King's late son HH Sheikh Faisal Bin Hamad Al Khalifa who was an ardent lover of the Arabian horse and is patronised by his brother HH Sheikh Nasser, a very good horseman himself. This was the fourth edition of the event.

The show drew an entry of 109 horses of which nearly a hundred entered the show ring to the rapturous cheers and applause of a huge and enthusiastic crowd. The Bahrainis



*Aali B'khour*







*Toufan Al Zobair*

love their Arabian horses and this show has always attracted a capacity audience.

Day one was for the fairer sex and ringmaster Dr. William Oppen (Argentina) from Al Shaqab Stud in Qatar and his very able team got things going on the dot of the starting time of 5 p.m. and seven angelic fillies entered the ring for Class 1A for fillies six months to two years old.

Judges Titty Gagliani (Italy), Jaroslav Lacina (Czech Republic) and Ferdinand Schwestermann (Switzerland) got down to the serious business of assessing these youngsters. It was a rather easy win for the Qatari bred Roba't Al Naif a daughter of WN Star Of Antigua owned by the Aali Stable which would dominate much of this show.

The second division of this class threw up the first 90 plus score of the evening as the charismatic Bahrain born Aali B'khour swept her class. The Aali Stable owned winner was imported in-utero and



*Adnan Al Shaqab*





SS Manara

is by Gai El Julyenn ex Coolrain Estellar.

Another Bahrain born filly Amal owned by the Sunset Stable and by the very typey Al Adeed Al Shaqab son Naif Al Rayyan out of Bint Al Lail took the next class for fillies between 2 and 3 years old. She also scored 90. The Aali Stable had to be content with second in this class with their Gazal Al

Shaqab daughter Tallaht Al Naif.

Class 5 for young mares of 3 to 4 years old saw the gorgeous SW Renegade daughter S.S. Manara, owned by the Al Mohanna Stable dominate proceedings with yet another 90 plus score. Aali Stable had yet another second place with the Dakharo sired Jawaher Al Khalediah.



AJ Bahe





*Assad Al Shaqab*



They didn't have to wait long for another win though as their Al Shaqab bred pair of Shahd Al Shaqab (by Adnan Al Shaqab) and Noof Al Shaqab (by Ansata Selman) took first two spots in the large but disappointing Class 7 for mares four years old and over.

Since day two was for the boys, there was an even larger, noisier crowd.

Class 2 for colts of six months to 2 years old saw another Aali Stable whitewash with the delicate Excape Ibn Navaronne-D son AJ Bahe only scraping past his Bahrain born stable companion Aali Bugatti (by Gai El Julyenn) on points for type. A colt to watch for the future will be the very typey Taj Al Adeed Al Firdaus (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) who was the youngest in the class and was a competitive

*Amal*





third.

Aali Stable was in the winner's spot once again as their magnificent Marwan Al Shaqab sired Toufan Al Zobair shown by Mary Lang as were most of the other Aali Stable horses; charmed the judges in Class 4 for colts 2 to 3 years old. The Al Mohanna

stable took Class 6 (young stallions 3 to 4 years old) with the very showy Sharaf Al Shaqab (by Ansata Selman) beautifully handled by Abdul Kader from Sharjah who clinched this close contest over the Laalee Al Bahrain Stud owned Nomas a son of the black Chaikh Bouznika.







SS Manara

Class 8 for stallions 4 years old and up was divided and the first division saw Al Reef Stable owned Mahabi Assaghier (by Mahabi El Shaklan) destroy his opponents with his dreamy movement and good type to record the first 90 plus score of the night.

The second division was a pretty similar story as show ring veteran Adnan Al Shaqab (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) from the Almarkhi Stable won easily over his shabbily shown sibling in blood, the ethereal Assad Al Shaqab, last year's Reserve Champion.



Officials, sponsors and judges.



The Championships are of course the highlight of any show and a large part of the crowd on hand waited to see Bahrain's Champions for 2009 being crowned. The Sunset Stable owned nearly black filly Amal was the judges favourite in the Fillies as Aali B'khour took Reserve; both Bahrain born. S.S. Manara of the Almohanna Stable with her all round beauty was Champion Mare over Aali Stable's Shahd Al Shaqab. Aali Stable finally got their turn here as Toufan Al Zobair was Champion Colt ahead of his stablemate AJ Bahe. And old

Adnan Al Shaqab showed his class to become Champion Stallion over Mahabi Assaghier.

The show was hailed as yet another success and one has to appreciate and be thankful for the enthusiasm from all the competitors, some who return every year in the knowledge that they will be no match for the bigger stables, but are very happy to go away with a ribbon and sometimes just the joy of having taken part.



Sharaf Al Shaqab



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# 2009

## KING'S CUP

Friday the 6th of March 2009 was a red letter day for the Equestrian & Horseracing Club of the Kingdom of Bahrain as they hosted the plum of the Kingdom's racing season, the King's Cup day. It was unique this year as sponsors KFH (Kuwait Finance House) initiated the Family Fun Day making the raceday a memorable outing for the whole family.

The area round the parade ring was transformed into a bustling carnival and fun fair with camel and pony rides, loud music, jugglers, face painters, pottery making, drawing, eating, drinking and numerous other attractions for the young visitors. Some of the horses running on the day found this all a bit unsettling and Jehangir Rustomjee takes you through the more serious business of the day, the top class racing.

After the traditional playing of the national anthem by the police band the large field of 10 Purebred Arabians was off for their edition of the King's Cup.



*Jellaby Milaff (Ali Saffar) with red noseband coming through.*





*Golias (G Avranche) and Mukhber (T O'Shea) battle it out.*

Veteran and a previous winner of this race Rabdaan Nader (Adnan Jaffer) set a furious pace and the rest of the field sorting themselves out caused some scrummaging sending defending champ Rabdaan Qadry (Gary Hind) to last place and also inconveniencing the usual front running style of his younger brother Rabdaan Ghareem (S Dawood) as he was buffeted badly twice.

Jellaby Milaff (Ali Saffar) was fortunate to stay out of most of trouble and was poised in striking distance as they straightened and went rocketing into a commanding lead which was shrinking rapidly as Rabdaan Qadry came thundering down the wide out, but the winning post came just in time for the big made grey Jellaby



*Bobs Yer Uncle (G Avranche) with proud owner HH Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, son of HM The King.*



Milaff who was recording his twelfth win, but somehow always found the big ones beyond his grasp. This time his painstaking handler Abdulla Kuwaiti had him spot on and lady luck was on his side too. The only filly in the race Musannah Hagwah was third and Rabdaan Ghareem was a commendable fourth.

The quite newly instituted Al Methaq Cup had a competitive look to it but it was eventually reduced to just one horse as Mr. Grand Lodge making his Bahrain debut swamped the very useful Sanabel (Eddie Ahern) and Leeseide Champ (Paul Smith) in a matter of strides to burst clear and win fairly easily. He was ridden in supreme confidence by Hassan Saffar and trained by Abdulla Kuwaiti who was already having a dream day. Favourite Envision (Royston Ffrench) was a disappointing fourth.

The Bahrain Gold Cup for imported thoroughbreds over a mile and a half was the race of the season. Superstar Golias (G Avranche) was being opposed by his Silver Cup tormentor Mukhber (T O'Shea) who had just the previous week made a fruitless trip to



*Jellaby Milaff (Ali Saffar) wins from Rabdaan Qadry (G Hind).*







*Bobs Yer Uncle (G Avranche white cap) sprints away.*







*Bobs Yer Uncle (G Avranche white cap) sprints away.*

Doha - Qatar. The two principles were perfectly positioned all through the fast run race as Ogilvy ensured a good gallop for his stablemate Altar (E Ahern) who flattered briefly on straightening. The stand erupted as Mukhber and Golias soon stormed into contention and the rest were reduced to bit players as they battled the last two furlongs to the line with the latter gaining the advantage by practically a whisker. It was a very popular win and one feels for the gallant runner up who just six days previously had a tough race in Qatar

and endured the travel. Allan Smith is the trainer of the winner for HH Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa's Nassariyeh Stable.

The same connections had more reasons to celebrate just a race later as Bobs Yer Uncle proved that his Crown Prince Cup win was not a flash in the pan as he easily accounted for admittedly a sub-standard field in the King's Cup for locally bred thoroughbreds. Gerald Avranche had the favourite well poised to strike and he did with authority to win with his ears pricked up.

*Mr Grand Lodge (Hassan Saffar) thunders away.*





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Pounds day		Pounds day	
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Performance Horses	1 - 2		

### Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (minimum).....	30.0%
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Crude Fiber (maximum).....	7.5%
Calcium (minimum).....	3.3%
Calcium (maximum).....	4.3%
Phosphorus (minimum).....	2.0%
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# Oman's Annual Royal HORSE RACE FESTIVAL

**The Annual Royal Horse Race Festival was held at Al Adiyat horserace track in Wilayat of Al Seeb with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said presiding over the event.**

The festival attended by a sizeable gathering included interesting activities performed by male and female riders belonging to the Royal Cavalry plus other events.

The race programme included six rounds, five of which were dedicated to Arabian pure breeds and one to thoroughbred with the Joint Military March, Hamble March and Al Kholkhal March.

The first race on the programme was the women's 1,100-metre Jabal Samhan for pure Arabian breeds, which was participated

by nine contenders.

It was a 1-2-3 finish for Royal Cavalry riders. Marwa Bint Nasser Al Yahyaie on Al Saedah took the first prize while Azhar Bint Saif Al Wardi on Sabbaq came second and Azizah Bint Hamoud Al Bahlani on Mutarasid finished third.

The 12-horse 1,600-metre Al Jabal Al Akhdar for pure Arabian breeds was the second race on the programme.

Royal Cavalry riders dominated the race with Mutassim Bin Said







*His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.*





*Young women show their skills.*



Al Balushi on Mihriz and Yassir Bin Jamil Al Sunaidi on Raqi taking the first two positions respectively. Hamoud Bin Said Al Habsi on Zaina of the Royal Oman Police was third.

Asad Bin Ali Al Siyabi riding Olympic City for the Royal Cavalry took the top honours in the 12-horse 1,600-metre Jabal Al Khour for the thoroughbreds. Anas Bin Salim Al Siyabi on Rise View, also for the Royal Cavalry, came second and Amer Bin Salem Al Ghunaimi on Didatous (owned by Abdullah Bin Ali Al Ma'amari) claimed the third prize.

Qadir with Ahmed Bin Seif Al Hadrami of the Royal Cavalry in the saddle, won the 1,100-metre Jabal Madar for Arabian breeds. Yasser Bin Nasser Al Jabri on



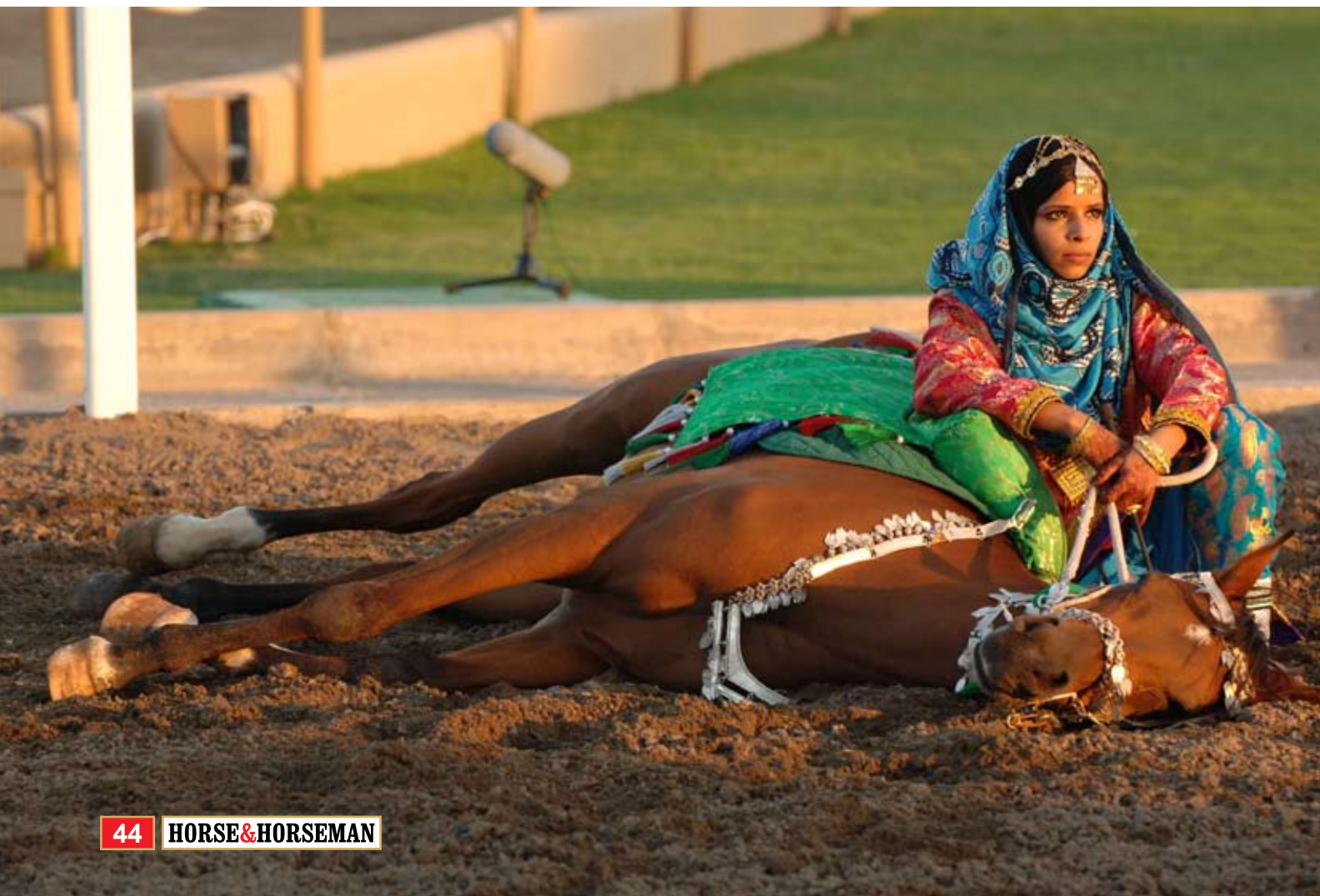
*A rider does a head stand on a galloping horse.*







*Omani women are not far behind men in handling horses.*







Mutafani for the Royal Cavalry came second and Asad Bin Ali Al Siyabi on Badea for the Royal Cavalry finished third in the 12-horse race.

The fifth round was the Kawas Mountain for the Arabian breeds run over 1,600 metres for 12 winners of national races. Badr Bin Mohammed Al Hajri on Stellar (owned by Saad Bin Suhail Al Makhni) won the race ahead of Amin Bin Hamad Al Balushi on RS Zahab (owned by Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Marzouqi) and Fahd Bin Abadi Al Hajri on Kazani (owned by Hassan Bin Mahboub Hashmani) respectively.

Fateen, ridden by Asad Bin Ali Al Siyabi of the Royal Cavalry, completed a hat-trick of titles in

*A shetland pony.*





*Taking aim with the horse in full stride.*



the 2,000-metre His Majesty's Cup -- thus claiming the Triple Crown.

Mr Del Soul (owned by Dr Omar Bin Abdul Munem Al Zawawi) came second and Shamer De Cairo (owned by the Royal Cavalry) finished third.

The festival also included arrow shooting for children, basketball for girls, side horse riding by female riders, carriage decorations, joint display for horses, Al Himmah dance, horse dance, Tuhawreeb of Rakdh Al Arda, white donkey race, Bazadeen game, Jamkhanah, a display of Troika, music performance from the carriages,

*Displaying their horse riding skills.*







*More doing and entertaining.*

display of different breeds, different parts of saddles, cavalry skills (Waheel Al Rakoob), fun race for children, carriage riding with different formations, the common music procession, display of carriage race, riding loyalty march, a carriage dragged by 23 horses and a display for colt and filly as well as a tableau.

The festival was attended by members of the Royal Family, the chairman of the State Council, the Chairman of Majlis A'Shura, ministers, advisers, commanders of armed forces' branches and Royal Oman Police, honourable members of the State Council and members of Majlis A'Shura, undersecretaries, members of the diplomatic corps in the Sultanate and a number of horse race fans.



*The balancing act.*



# 2009 WAHO CONFERENCE IN OMAN

The 2009 World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO) Conference was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman in February.

The conference, attended by participants from 52 countries along with Registering Authority Member Delegates from 45 nations, was hosted by the Royal Cavalry and Royal Court Affairs under the patronage of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said at the Sangri La's Barr Al Jissah Resort.

The Sultanate of Oman was the first Middle Eastern country to become a full Registering Authority Member of the WAHO in 1979. The first WAHO Conference was hosted by Spain in Seville in 1972.

A WAHO Conference is a special meeting. Besides the serious discussions during the sittings -- during which the delegates discuss, share and exchange ideas and knowledge -- it also includes social

gatherings, tours and lots of other activity on the sidelines.

The highly successful WAHO Conference in Oman left all the participants impressed. From the welcome reception through to the glittering gala dinner, every social event was superbly arranged with the highest level of hospitality.

## WAHO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009:

His Highness Sayyid Haytham Bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture, declared the 2009 WAHO Conference open and it was followed by a welcome speech by HE Mr. Nasr bin Humood Al-Kindi, Head of Finance and Supply at Royal Court Affairs.



Speakers on the stage on the opening day of the WAHO conference.





*His Highness Sayyid Haytham Bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture, declaring the conference open.*



*The march past.*





*WAHO President Dr Hans Nagel addressing the gathering.*



*Editor H&H Adil Shah with Princess Aliya.*





A film titled 'Fursan', which is produced by Mr. Isa Al Shabany for The Royal Cavalry and Royal Court Affairs, was shown during the general assembly. The film was based on the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman to its youth and also to Arabian horses. It clearly showed the flourishing love for Arabian horses among the youth of the Sultanate. The future of equestrianism in Oman is in safe hands as children -- both boys and girls -- are encouraged to learn to ride and take care of horses in a proper way.

Registering Authority Member Delegates from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and The

Republic of Yemen attended the meeting. Also, observers from Panama, Botswana, Canada, Hungary, Ireland, Kenya and Luxembourg were present.

The delegates in their reports shared interesting information on Arabian horse numbers, breeding practices and the most popular activities in different countries. The gathering was told that pleasure riding was the most important activity for Arabian horses along with Arabian racing. The most frequently mentioned activity was endurance riding. There was a round of applause during Peter McIntosh's Delegate Report for Australia when he mentioned that strong steps were being taken to stop the abuse of (halter) show horses in his country.

#### **WAHO OFFICIAL BUSINESS:**

All agenda items which required a vote of the delegates to the General Assembly were passed. The most important business items that took place





*Brigadier Abdulrazak Bin Abdulkader Al Shahwarzi, Commander Royal Cavalry, making a speech.*



during the WAHO General Assembly were:

1. Acceptance by unanimous positive vote of the Delegates of the Executive Committee members of WAHO.
2. Acceptance by unanimous positive vote of the Delegates of The Republic of Yemen as a new Applying Registering Authority Member of WAHO.
3. Acceptance by unanimous positive vote of the Delegates to allow Australia (AHSA) to register the Arabian horses in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
4. The announcement of the results of the election of new WAHO Stud Book Advisory Sub-Committee by the Delegates to the World Registrars' Meeting. They are: Mrs Krystyna Karaszewska (for Western Europe); Ms Helen Dohan (for Australasia); Associate Professor

Muzaffer Aydemir (for Eastern Europe/Rest of the World); Mr Abdul Aziz Jassim Al Boenain (for the Middle East); Dr Khadija Driss (for North Africa); Mrs Marie-Louise Van Wyk (for Southern Africa); Mrs Deborah Fuentes (for North & Central America); Mr Rodolfo Pinilla (for South America).

WAHO President Hans Nagel welcomed back United States of America, represented by the Purebred Arabian Trust and the Arabian Horse Association (formerly AHRA), on its return as a full member of WAHO. He also stressed the need to give more importance to endurance riding for the Arabian breed, which is fast gaining popularity.

A short film on the 2008 edition of the World Young Horse Endurance Championships in France was also shown on the occasion. WAHO has been supporting the event for the past three years.

WAHO Secretary Federico Garcia Brum made a





presentation on the history of WAHO, called 'What is WAHO'.

Independent Chairman Mr Kees Mol presented a report on the proceedings of the 2009 WAHO World Registrars' Meeting. Dr Mohamed Machmoum from Morocco was Co-Chairman of this meeting.

Topics covered during the sitting included passports, micro-chipping, Unique Equine Life Numbers, the continued need for printed stud books, and the correct use of WAHO documents such as Export Certificates and AI forms.

At the end of the General Assembly, HE Mr Nasr bin Humood Al-Kindi, Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee and Head of Finance and Supply at Royal Court Affairs, together with Brigadier Abdulrazak Al Shahwarzi, Commander of the Royal Cavalry, announced a hugely generous donation from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. His Excellency presented the cheque to WAHO

President Dr Hans Nagel. It was also announced that the State of Qatar will host the next WAHO Conference in Doha in November 2011.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS AND FILMS:**

There were also a number of interesting films and informative talks presented by guest speakers during the General Assembly sessions.

Australian veterinarian and equine nutritionist, Dr Ross Williamson presented a detailed scientific talk titled 'Practical, Safe Nutritional programmes for the Arabian realistic ways to reduce colic and laminitis; climate and nutrition interactions; the senior horse and metabolic disorders'.

Other guest speakers were Dr Hamood Al-Derghesy who talked about 'The Intimate Relationship of the Arab people and the Arabian horse'; Mr Hamad Salim Al-Belushi on 'The History of the Arabian Horse in the Sultanate of Oman'; Mr Salim Hamad Al Mahrooqy on 'The





Untold Story - History of Horses in Arabia'; and the well known equestrian artist and painter Mr Ali Al Mi'Mar, who specialises in Arabian horse subjects, spoke about 'The Arabian Horse in Art'. Mr Robert Fauls and Mr Howard Pike from USA gave a descriptive introductory talk about the new Arabian Horse Galleries being constructed by the Purebred Arabian Trust at Kentucky Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse, United States of America.

Then there was an illustrated presentation from Cynthia Culbertson, co-curator of the 2010 Exhibition, entitled 'A Gift from the Desert - the Art, History, and Culture of the Arabian Horse'. This exhibition is sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Equestrian Federation and will be opened to coincide with the 2010 World Equestrian Games to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park. Acclaimed documentary film-maker Jo Franklin spoke briefly about the film she is making on Arabian horses to accompany the exhibition.

There was also the premiere of a specially

commissioned film produced by Mr Gerhard Skoranz from Austria, entitled 'The Royal Cavalry in Oman's New Dawn', at the Gala Dinner.

#### **PRE AND POST CONFERENCE TOURS, SOCIAL EVENTS AND ARABIAN HORSE EVENTS:**

Before the General Assembly, participants enjoyed pre-conference tours, visiting Muscat and Nizwa and also a cruise on His Majesty's Royal ship 'The Fulk Al Salamah'. Guests were also treated with some superb music at the various functions, including performances by the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, the Senior Royal Band for Music and Folklore, and the Royal Oman Guard. The attractions included the unique Arabian Horse Festival with five races at Madinat Al-Adiyat (the Royal Cavalry headquarters), the Al-Ardhah Horse Show at Wadi Al-Aybadh and the spectacular Rakd Al Ardah (traditional riding) displays, showing the exceptional athletic abilities, quality and good temperament of the Arabian horses of Oman and especially the outstanding skills and horsemanship of their riders, drivers, jockeys, handlers and



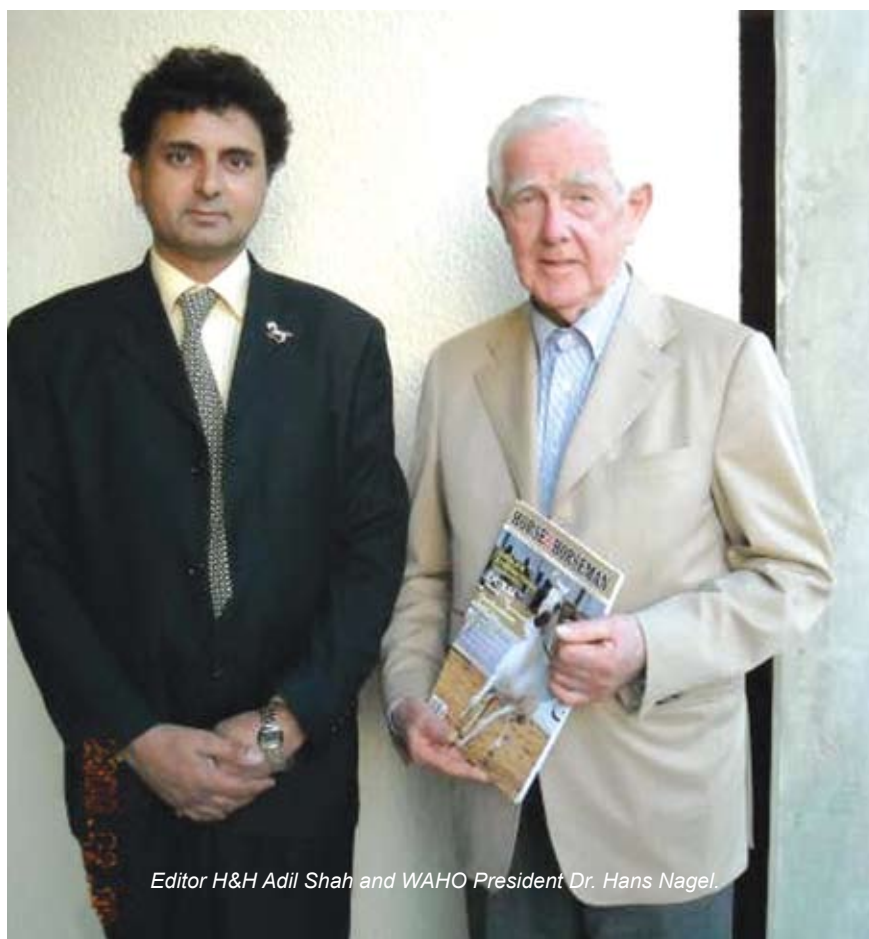


*One of the sessions in progress.*

caretakers.

The World Arabian Horse Organisation extended their special gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and the following officials for their hospitality and such a successful 2009 WAHO Conference:

His Highness Sayyid Haytham Bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture; Major General Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Na'amani, Secretary General of Royal Court Affairs; H.E. Shaikh Nasser Bin Mohammed Al-Hashar, Advisor at Diwan of Royal Court; H.E. Sayyid Al-Mu'tassam Bin Homood Al-Bousaidi, State Minister and Governor of Muscat; H.E. Mr. Nasr Bin Humood Al Kindi, Head of Financial Affairs and Supplies at Royal Court Affairs



*Editor H&H Adil Shah and WAHO President Dr. Hans Nagel.*





and Chairman of the WAHO 2009 Conference Organizing Committee; Brigadier Abdulrazak Bin Abdulkader Al Shahwarzi, Commander, Royal Cavalry; Mr. Faisal Bin Mahboob Al-Raisi, Director General of the Royal Cavalry; Mr. Salem Suleiman Al-Mahrooqi, Deputy Director General of the Royal Cavalry; Brigadier Rames Bin Jumaan Al Awairah, Director General of Music, Royal Guard of Oman; Mr. Salem Bin Mohammed Al Mashaikhi, Director General of Expenditure, Royal Court Affairs; Sheikh Ali Bin Mubarak Al Mokhaini, Director General of Camel Corps; Ing. Abdullah S. Al-Rawahi, Director General of Transport, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Abdulrahman bin Abdullah Al-Rawahi, Director General of Supplies; Ing. Habeeb bin Ismail Bin Suwaid, Deputy Head of Royal State Affairs, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Issa Bin Salem Al Rawari, Head of Information Technology, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Waleed Al Obaidani, Royal Court Affairs; Captain Mohammed Al Shukhaily, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Khalid Al Saifi, Director of Horse Registration Office, Royal Cavalry; Mr. Mohammed Shamis Al Hashmi, Head of Thoroughbred Horses Section, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Suleiman Ali Salem Al Hattali, Head of Arabian Stud Book Section, The Royal Cavalry;

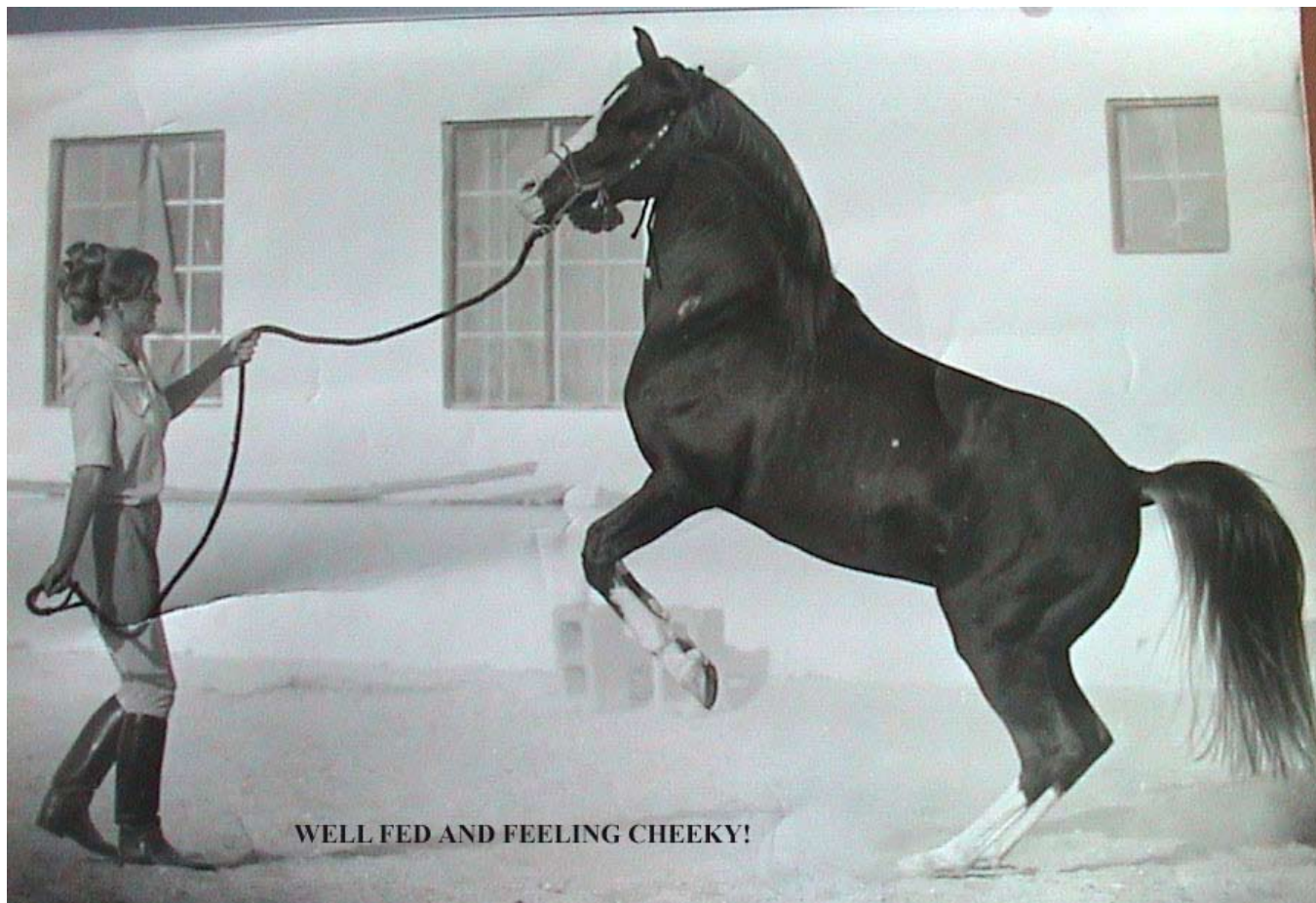
Mr. Mohammed Bin Said Al Balushi, Head of Documentation & Statistics Section, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Saif Bin Mohammed Al Gafri, Head of Public Relations Section, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Malik Essan Nassib, Stud Manager, Royal Stud, Salalah; Mr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al-Kindi, Senior Translator, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Ali Bin Salim Al Fahdi, Horse Records Department, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Masoud Bin Rashid Al Gharibi, Head of Veterinary Section, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Hassan Bin Mohammed Al Balushi, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Said Bin Zaher Al Qaidi, Horse Records Department, The Royal Cavalry; Mr. Hamad Khalfan Al-Ghanami, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Saud Mubarak Al Salmi, Royal Court Affairs; Mr. Majid Nasser Al-Wahaibi, Royal Court Affairs; Mrs. Asma Al Hajri, Royal Court Affairs; Mrs. Wafa Al Hanaidi, Royal Cavalry. WAHO also thanked the following guest speakers and film-makers: Dr. Ross Williamson, DVM, Australia; Dr. Hamood Al-Derghesy, Oman; Mr. Hamad Salim Rashid Al-Belushi, Oman; Mr. Salim Hamad Al-Mahrooqi, Oman; Mr. Ali Al Mi'mar, UAE; Mr. Isa Al-Shabany, Oman; Mr. Gerhard & Mrs. Astrid Skorianz, Austria; Cynthia Culbertson and Jo Franklin, USA.



# HAMDANY KUWAITI

## MY 20 DINAR HORSE

Jenny Lees



Despite endless letters shoved up the chimney to Father Christmas, giving the colour, size and type of pony he should leave tied to the end of my bed, I didn't own a horse until I was 19. I was living in Bahrain by then, back in the UK my friends were enjoying the "swinging sixties" but I had got married!

My wifely chores involved shopping in Manama at the local market. I got to know, by name, many of the elderly Arabs who sat patiently by wooden stalls piled high with fresh fruit and exotic vegetables. They would always help me in my choice, encouraging me to speak their language by holding up various fruits and vegetables whilst shouting out the Arabic name, their life worn faces splitting into laughter at my brave attempts to mimic them. It was on one of these shopping expeditions that I came home with more than my usual bunch of onions, spuds and a water melon.

Tied up against a wall down one of the alley ways

leading to the vegetable market, was a horse. Its description fitted the one in my letters to Father Christmas, but closer inspection showed that it was pitifully thin and its bones were clearly visible through its fine satin coat. I walked down the alley way to the chestnut horse and gently rubbed his nose, his eyes were dark and filled with sadness. While Ahmed weighed out my tomatoes, on brass scales held aloft by one thin arm, (weights and measure would have had a field day) I asked him about the horse. Ahmed shouted across the alley way and a young boy appeared.

"You like to ride horse?" he offered.

I actually wanted to feed the horse but I couldn't upset the boy by telling him as much. I shook my head, "la shukran (no thank you), I just want to know about him".

"Horse Arabic horse," The boy continued struggling to communicate with me.



Using a variety of gestures, to support my limited Arabic, I asked why the horse was so very thin, he shrugged his shoulders, either not understanding the question or not wanting to.

"You like buy horse fifty dinars" he smiled at me.

No expert at the art of Souk bartering I fell at the first hurdle!

"I don't have fifty dinars." I held up my purse with the weeks housekeeping.

"Ok, how much you have?"

Thinking I was on safe ground at less than half the asking price I smiled sadly, shrugged my shoulders "Only twenty."

"Ok, give me twenty. Where you live? I bring horse to your house tomorrow."

I wondered just how I was going to break the news to a husband who had no interest in animals whatsoever (I should have listened to my mother it was never going to work) as I drove home to face the music. This time I decided to stand my ground, the horse was in a desperate state and needed help. I won the argument, by promising that I would re-home the horse once it had recovered, in the fullness of time it transpired that the horse stayed and I re-homed the husband, but that's another story.

I moved the car out of the lean to garage and put in a bucket for water, improvised a manger then went back to the market to buy a supply of Dates, bran, whole barley and "jet" (fresh lucerne) to feed my acquisition. In those days the horses on the island were fed a mixture of dates and whole barley, which would be soaked overnight, then a handful of bran would be added to the mixture just prior to feeding. The horses became adept at removing the stones from the dates and after each feed a neat pile of date stones would be found at the edge of the manger.

By the time my horse arrived everything was ready for him. He looked even thinner than I remembered and as I took the rope from the boys hand, he advised me thus....

"His name Hamdaany Kuwaiti, don't give food or horse Shaitan." This translated meant that if I fed the horse he would turn into the devil.

My only experience of horses was weekend rides back in the UK on a selection of old riding school geldings. Through the eyes of pity I had purchased a 15 hand Arabian stallion who had been kept half starved so that he remained manageable!

Later I was to learn that Hamdaany is the family name of a desert line and my stallion had been bred by a tribe known as the Anzeh and had come to Bahrain via Kuwait. On each of his shoulders



*Hammy and Jenny fun in the sea*





*Hamdaany 3 weeks after purchase*

was a white mark (visible in the photos) I was told that these were tattoos, distinguishing marks of the breeder. A tattoo on each shoulder for a colt and on one shoulder for a filly. I was to meet Hamdaany's sister eventually and she had one tattoo on her shoulder.

All very interesting and very impressive but in the meantime what was I to do when I fed him up and he turned into a "Shaitan"?

I decided to give "Hammy" the benefit of the doubt, morning and evening his feed bowl was filled and through the day, while I was at work, he had as much jet as he wanted to munch on. After work I took him for walks along the seashore on a rope headcollar and one evening when his backbone had ceased to protrude like a razor blade I stood him next to an old wall and slipped onto his back. I squeezed gently and he walked forward, I waited for the buck and the devil to appear but the devil had left him, Hammy was happy to carry me. I couldn't afford to feed him and buy a saddle so we dispensed with the idea of a saddle and we went everywhere together bareback. Every evening after work I rode Hammy along the seashore and to add variety to our days I improvised show jumps (breeze blocks and palm tree poles) and taught him to jump.

To while away some of the time whilst I was at work Hammy befriended the children in the bungalow next door. The two little girls Elena aged 2 and Karen 5 would empty their mother's vegetable rack

of carrots, climb up on the garden wall and spend time stroking and talking to Hammy whilst he munched on the carrots. Whenever I was invited to friends for coffee it was not unusual for me to turn up on Hammy having ridden across country and through date plantations to get there. One of my friends had two young boys and Hammy would be left in their garden giving "pony rides" whilst I enjoyed a coffee. If they got too boisterous (as boys do) Hammy would go down on one knee and roll them off into the soft sand, I trusted him and he never let me down, we were inseparable. I had to draw the line at him coming into my bungalow as he did on several occasions when I left both veranda doors open!

I estimated that Hamdaany Kuwaiti was about twelve years old when I purchased him instead of the weeks vegetables! We had four wonderful years together before he died from a serious bout of what the locals called "sand colic", nothing could be done. I was heart broken at the loss of my friend and seeing my extreme distress my employer, His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Alkhalifa, the Amir of Bahrain, generously gave me pure Bahraini stallion Seglawi Al Ahmar, from his private family stud.

My impulse buy in the market that day and a kindly gesture by His Highness Sheikh Isa resulted in the establishing of Pearl Island Arabians and my life long association with the Asil Arabian horses of The Royal Stud of Bahrain.



## INTERVIEW

# JENNY LEES AND BAHRAINI ARAB HORSES

Ms Jenny Lees runs the Pearl Island Arabians Stud in the United Kingdom.

The name Pearl Island Arabians was chosen in honour of the island of Bahrain. "We are a young stud, formed in 1996, but our foundation stock is from the oldest, purest bloodlines found in the world today," she says.

"We do not breed a largenumberoffoals per year and if we breed a pure Bahraini then it will be kept here at the stud or possibly returned to its homeland. Our breeding programme has been so exciting as we try the different combinations; Bahraini x Crabbet, Bahraini x Polish etc. When asked what I am trying to achieve my response is always the same, 'At Pearl Island we breed good



tempered horses that are tough, sound and good all-rounders."

Following are the excerpts from the interview with Ms Jenny Lees conducted by Horse&Horseman:

**H&H:** How did you get into this field?

**Jenny Lees:** I fell completely in love with the Arabian horse breed in the 1960's when I went out to the Middle East and saw the true Asil desert horses of HH Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Alkhalifa, the Amir of Bahrain.

**H&H:** Were you inspired by someone or is it your family trait?

**Jenny Lees:** I was inspired by the horses themselves, the beauty and magnificence of the Alkhalifa horses. Nowadays, thanks to WAHO, these very special horses are known worldwide. My mother was terrified of horses and my father does not know which end to feed and which end kicks. When my overwhelming passion for horses showed itself, my mother was convinced they had given her







*Bahraini Shuwaiman.*

the wrong baby in the hospital!

**H&H:** Are there any other members of your family involved in this business?

**Jenny Lees:** The horses are actually a hobby as my business is a dental supply company that I run by the name of Dentanurse. I am married to a very clever dental surgeon (Dr Tony Lees) and the company makes many of his inventions and ideas and I market them. We have a website [www.dentanurse.com](http://www.dentanurse.com). My daughter-in-law Amanda shares my interest and helps me run the stud. She also does a lot of the competing by riding in endurance races, dressage, marathon and show jumping. My daughter Caroline rides and my son is very useful helping with handling the horses and keeping our horse lorry on the road!

**H&H:** Why just the Arab horses, why not other breeds?



*Al Reeh Janoob and his half brother Shuwaiman Al Bahrain at the Forest of Dean Endurance Ride 2007*

**Jenny Lees:** What other breeds? Are there any? I have eyes only for the Asil desert horses.

**H&H:** How was your experience working with various people, especially with Bahrain's crown prince?

**Jenny Lees:** My years in Bahrain I count amongst the happiest of my life and I love going back to my adopted homeland whenever I can. I love the people, their culture and their horses. I enjoyed learning about the history of Bahrain's special horses which in turn included the history of the ruling family. The Royal Stud of Bahrain is a closed family stud, the horses are family heirlooms, living treasures and I often refer to them as Bahrain's "history on the hoof". Most of the horses within the stud descend from those that came with the ruling Alkhalifa family when they took the island in 1783. To get to the island they floated the horses over on dhows and then fought battles for the island on horseback. The horses that survived these battles became the foundation stock of The Royal Stud of Bahrain. HH Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Alkhalifa cared for the horses before handing them to his son HM King Hamed Bin Isa Alkhalifa. The stud has been traditionally passed down from father to son throughout the centuries.

**H&H:** How many horses do you have at your farm?

**Jenny Lees:** I have around 26 horses at my farm. These include stallions, brood mares, young stock and old age pensioners.

**H&H:** Do you have selected buyers or is your farm open to everyone?

**Jenny Lees:** My farm is open to everyone to come and admire





*Goudahs fillies 2008 with a visitor.*

these very special horses and they are welcome to use my stallions on their mares. This year we have had two of the world's top endurance mares, Lesley Dunn's Franzara and Liz Taylor's Falaina visiting our stallions and we look forward to seeing the results in spring 2010.

**H&H:** Since you are breeding desert-bred horses and there is no desert in the UK, how can you call the off-springs desert-bred horses?

**Jenny Lees:** Where you live has nothing to do with where your roots are from. You don't change your pedigree by living in a different country.

**H&H:** UK is more known for thoroughbreds but you chose desert-breds. What's the general feeling in UK about desert-bred horses?

**Jenny Lees:** When the Arabian horse came over to the West, Lady Anne Blunt of Crabbet Stud fame brought over many in the late 1890's. It was highly



HRH, Goudah 1





Shuwaimah and twins.

prized as a strong, beautiful riding horse with tremendous stamina but as the years went by it became 'fashionable' for all the wrong things. The breeders in the West started to breed for the 'show-ring' and so began the quest for what I call freaky 'heads'... strange heads with tiny noses bent like a banana so the horses can hardly breathe and with huge popping out eyes. Lately they have added to that 'long necks' so now they are getting to look really scary!!!

But in the quest for these strange looks many Arabian horses bred in the West have bad conformation, dreadful feet and legs and worst still many of the temperaments are very 'hot' and untrustworthy. The BBC here in the UK recently screened a programme on pedigree dogs that had been bred for the 'show-ring' with all sorts of health issues and deformities. I just hope the Arabian horse is not going the same way in the West. When I talk to horse riders here in the UK, eventers, show jumpers and the like and I mention I have Arabians they assume I have a farm full of freaky,



Twins Shuwaiman al Kebir and Shuwaiman al Saghir also known as George and Harry 1 Jan 08.

hysterical, unrideable 'Barbie' doll horses and many tell me so to my face. I love to watch their faces when I invite them to meet the Asil desert horses of Bahrain. They get to meet Bahraini stallions such as Shuwaiman Al Bahrain and Krayaan Dilmun and when faced with such perfection of conformation, bone, size and temperament they always say the same thing.... 'Oh! I didn't know you could get Arabs like these! These are proper horses!'

Then I explain how for centuries the Alkhalifa ruling family have kept these horses as 'family' horses and that they are never sold. Occasionally they are given as gifts and in that respect I have been so very lucky.

**H&H: How do you compare Arab horses with rest of the breeds?**

**Jenny Lees:** I don't have much experience with other horse breeds but I was once taken out on a hunter that was 17 hands 3" tall -- so big I had to climb on a high wall to get on his back. It felt as though I was driving a bus after a Ferrari. The desert Arabian is strong, fast, can turn in a second and is very responsive to his rider. The Bahraini horses in particular are the true old war horses of the desert. For centuries they have been selectively bred for all the attributes needed to get you into battle and back home again in one piece. This means, good conformation, legs and feet which in turn will give you speed, stamina, soundness and comfort of paces. Something else that was needed when these horses galloped shoulder to shoulder was a good temperament. I have stallion brothers Al Reeh Janoob and Shuwaiman Al Bahrain out together on an endurance ride. They travel in the horse lorry





*Mana'agy gets a cuddle from Jenny.*

side by side and live in adjoining stables and go out in adjoining paddocks. Then there are Krayaan Dilmun and Goudah, both of whom are stud stallions sunbathing together. My stallions must have a good temperament or else they do not remain stallions! It is no good having the best horse in the world if you cannot get near it for fear of your life!

**H&H:** Tell us something about your twin colts. How was the experience breeding the colts?

**Jenny Lees:** The twins were a shock, we didn't know that our beautiful Asil Bahrain mare Shuwaimeh Bint Warda was having twins to her husband Krayaan Dilmun. The first colt arrived safely and got to his feet, he was a huge colt. I said to my daughter-in-law 'okay now we can have a cup of tea and watch mother and son on CCTV'. However, just as I was going out of the stable the mare began to push again and out came this tiny, tiny colt foal. When he first stood up he could walk under his mother and look up for a drink, he was so small. The twins are now two years old, they too are Asil from parents bred in Bahrain and brought over to England.

**H&H:** From where did your stud get the name 'Pearl Island Arabians'. Also tell us more about your stud?

**Jenny Lees:** I called the stud 'Pearl Island Arabians' because the foundation stock of three mares and one stallion are all from the island of Bahrain famous for its beautiful pearls. The stallions here at Pearl Island are all ridden on a regular basis and have to prove themselves in endurance, racing, marathons and other equestrian areas before they are allowed to cover mares. They all find this very easy to do, they especially excel at endurance due to their very 'laid back easy nature' which result in very low heart rates and quick recoveries which is very important in a good endurance horse.

I also have another very special Asil desert stallion, his name is Goudah and he was bred in Egypt by the EAO. Goudah is what they call an Egyptian Arabian. He was given as a gift by HRH Prince Waleed bin Talaal Al Saud to our future King HRH The Prince of Wales. With the kind permission of his owner, Goudah lives here at my farm and has been a very successful cross when I have used him on some of my desert mares. He is becoming increasingly popular as a sire as people are seeing how superb his offspring are. Goudah was a wonderful gift and HRH The Prince of Wales enjoys seeing him and hearing of his successes when he competes in ridden stallion classes. He is also following the progress of Goudah's foals with great interest.



# WONDER HORSE

## WHO GAVE A NATION BACK ITS PRIDE

**His breeders wrote him off. A trader bought him by accident. Now the world's fastest race-horse is the talk of Hungary, reports Daniel McLaughlin**

As Gabriella Jesensky steps towards the paddock rail with a rosy apple for her favourite horse, a black-clad security guard blocks her path. It is not just any nag rolling in the dirt and kicking up huge clouds of ochre dust behind him. This is Overdose, perhaps the fastest – if not the prettiest – horse in

the world, and a horse carrying the hopes of the Hungarian nation.

Bought almost by accident at a sale three years ago in England for just £2,100, Overdose is now worth millions after winning all 12 of his races in stunning fashion. He is credited with revitalising not only Hungary's ancient equestrian tradition, but the spirit of a country wearied by its political and economic woes.

Last weekend, on the heels of a government collapse, the announcement of a harsh austerity budget and predictions of the worst recession



*Overdose and its Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon race in the OTP Grand Prix at Budapest's Kincsem Park.*





*Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon rides star horse Overdose on their way to victory in the OTP Grand Prix at Kincsem Park in Budapest.*

since the fall of communism, Overdose streaked to victory at Kincsem Park in Budapest, the country's last surviving racecourse.

About 20,000 people flocked to watch him – more than 20 times the usual attendance and thousands more than its official capacity – and laid bets with such abandon that the 30-year-old bookmaking system collapsed under the strain. Overdose broke the course record on his way to the finishing post, although the antiquated timing system also seized up on the big occasion.

Such is the popularity of Overdose in a country that has few world-beaters and is suffering a dearth of good news, that he has already been called Hungary's Seabiscuit, in reference to the legendary American horse that inspired a nation wracked by the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"Before Overdose, Hungarians had forgotten all about horse-racing – we had great traditions but no present and no future," said Zalan Horvath, the secretary of the Association for the Future of Equestrian Sports in Hungary. "Last year, the government wanted to sell Kincsem Park, our

last racecourse, to raise money. But, after what Overdose did there at the weekend, it would be very hard for them to do that now. He really is Hungary's Seabiscuit. Everyone loves him and he can open a new golden age for Hungarian racing."

Overdose lives and trains at a ramshackle stable complex in Dunakeszi, just outside Budapest, under the watchful eye of his trainer, Sandor Ribarszki. The stables are a family affair. Two small children play in the shade of a huge oak tree, stopping on occasion to watch the glistening horses being put through his paces nearby, to listen to the banter between stablehands and jockeys, and to greet their father when he rumbles up in his old car. A stocky, ebullient man who speaks several languages, and often includes words from all of them in one sentence, Mr Ribarszki was less than overwhelmed by his first impressions of Overdose, or "Dozi" as he calls him.

"He wasn't ugly, not quite, but he was bony, he had small bones and didn't look very strong. But I've seen before how a horse can change. He arrived in November and, by the next April, he just wanted to run and run – we had to hold him back," the



trainer recalled. "A race to him is like it is to me. He gives everything, from the heart. He feels stress as the race approaches, he knows what he must do and, whether it's a big race or a small race, he only wants to win. America had Seabiscuit when everything was shi..... we have Overdose."

Hungary would have missed out on Overdose had it not been for a steel trader with a love of the auction ring and a weakness for racehorses.

When Zoltan Mikoczy saw the one-year-old with the skinny legs led out at the 2006 year-end sales at Newmarket – traditionally a place to offload horses

that have failed to sell earlier – he raised a hand in jest, convinced that not even this puny specimen could go for £2,100. But no one else made a bid, leaving Mr Mikoczy with a horse he didn't really want. He looked for possible co-owners to split the costs, but none were found.

"A horse like this comes around once a century. There hasn't been a horse like this in this part of Europe since Kincsem," said Mr Mikoczy, recalling the Hungarian horse of the 1870s, which retired undefeated after 54 runs and gave its name to the Budapest racetrack.



*Overdose and its Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon race in the OTP Grand Prix.*





*Christophe Soumillon kisses Overdose after their victory.*

Player thought it had been given its best chance. "I thought it had no chance of winning against the smart stuff in England and France," he said. "But the trainers have done superbly well, and Overdose is simply a freak. So far, he has never been headed, never been put under real pressure. But of all the horses running at his distance, he is the one to beat. He could be one of the all-time greats, another Seabiscuit or Phar Lap."

Eighty years ago, Phar Lap cheered Australia and New Zealand through the early years of the Great Depression, and his heart is now preserved in the National Museum of Australia. Hungarians have shown similar adoration for Overdose and his international reputation could be sealed when he travels to England. He is due to run at Haydock Park on 23 May, ridden by the star Belgian jockey Christophe Soumillon, before heading to Royal Ascot in June and to Newmarket for the July Cup.

"We watch him wherever he goes, and I've already marked the dates on my calendar when he will be racing in England," said Ms Jesensky, a superfan, putting away her apple as Overdose's "bodyguard" edged her and her friends away from the paddock rail. "Overdose makes Hungarians feel good," she said. "We are so happy that he's here."

"I'm not interested in the money. I'm interested in having one of the best racehorses in the world and hearing the Hungarian anthem played at the racetrack. Getting Overdose is like having hit the jackpot in the lottery and I know I'll never have a chance like this again."

His joy at Overdose's success is shared by his beleaguered compatriots, who saw their unpopular government collapse last month, sunk by the economic crisis. Hungary was the first EU member to seek an emergency loan from international lenders last year, but unemployment is rising, deep recession is looming and budget cuts are inevitable, despite that \$25bn (£17bn) cash injection.

Few Hungarians know that Overdose started life in the English Midlands, at Whatton Manor stud in Nottinghamshire. He was born on the farm of Peter Player and his wife, Catherine. "When the foal arrived – by Starborough and Our Poppet, which is good pedigree – it was disappointing to say the least," recalled Mr Player. "In automotive parlance, you could say he had a very poor set of front wheels, with two flat tyres and badly out of balance. He had a big back end but overall a poor frame. We decided that it would be better to get rid of him."

When Mr Mikoczy bought the horse and took it to eastern Europe, Mr



# AL KHALEDIAH ARABIAN HORSE FESTIVAL

His Royal Highness Prince Khaled Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud must be a really proud man after seeing the highly successful 'Al Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival' for the second year running from January 25 to 30, 2009.

The second edition of the festival was hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Khaled, who has a deep passion for Arabian horses, at his more than 400-hectare stud farm. People from all around the globe converged in Riyadh with 450 horses from as many as 19 countries taking part in the show.

The competition was judged by Scott Benjamin, Mrs Deirdre Hyde, Mrs Joanna Lowe, Richard

Philstrom, Marek Trela and Mrs Maria Ferraroni. The disciplinary committee consisted of Dr Gisela Berger, Mrs Barbara Pfister, Dr Abdel Wahab Ben Ali Amira, Dr Glen R Manalpid, Dr Pannerselvan Malarvannan and Mohamed Yahya Al Ali.

Philip Jenkins was the ring master while the speakers were Mohammed Dosery (Arabic) and Guy de Fontaines (English).



*HH Crown Prince Rashid of  
Ajman Champion Mare, Bess-Fa'izah.*





*Champion Mare, Bess-Fa'izah.*

There was a high number of entries in the yearling fillies and so the field had to be divided into A and B sections.

Noor Bint Eternity of Ajman Stud (UAE) won the first section with Layan Al Mohamadia owned by Al Mohamadia Stud (KSA) and Reema Al Mohamadia of Al Mohamadia Stud (KSA) finishing second and third respectively.

The second section was won by Nooran Al Khalediah, which is owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Second place went to Zainah Al Thalitha, owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA) while Satwat Al Khalediah, also owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (KSA) was third.

The second category of two-year-old fillies was also divided into sections. Yamamat Al Khalediah of Al Khalediah Stables (KSA) won Section A while Dubai Arabian Horse Stud (UAE) stablemates Jumilla and FT Shaella took second and third positions respectively.

Section B was won by Najdah Al Zobair, owned by Sh. Abdulla bin Mohammed Ali Al Thani (UAE).



*Champion Junior Filly, Najdah Al Zobair.*



Halah Al Khalediah, owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA), was second while third place went to Wind Kamelia of Al Shaqab (Qatar).

Badewieh of Ajman Stud (UAE) was the top finisher among the three-year-old fillies. Aseefat Al Khalediah of Al Khalediah Stables (KSA) was second and Ballerina BVA of Al Mohamadia Stud (KSA) third.

Bander, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA), was the best among yearling colts and was followed by AJ Portofino, owned by Ajman Stud (UAE), and Sultan Al Sadis, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA), respectively.

Section A for two-year-old colts was won by Maharaja HDM, owned by Mr and Mrs McGlinn (Australia). OFW Magic Wan, owned by the Al Shaqab (Qatar), was second and Jareer Al Khalediah of Al Khalediah Stables (KSA) third.

RFI Farid, owned by Aretusa Arabians of Mr Giuseppe Palumbo (Italy), won Section B for two-year-old colts.



*Champion Stallion, Imperial Baarez.*







*Imperial Baarez, (at right), owned by Tarek and Ahmed Hamdy Soliman, the horse which won the first prize and Om El Extream, owned by Ajman Stud, placed second, nuzzle each other at the end of the Stallions Championship during the Al-Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival.*

The second place went to Nayef Al Shaqab, owned by Mr Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Yousef (KSA) and Numas Al Thani, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA), finished third.

Kabsztad of Athba Stud (KSA) won the category for three-year-old colts. Ataa Al Khalediah of Al Khalediah Stables (KSA)

was second whereas Orion OS, owned by Mrs Jane Fraser Brown (UK), was third.

Bess-Fa'izah of Ajman Stud (UAE) won the category for mares aged between four and six years. The second place went to Bint Al Shamal, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA). FS Cayenne, also of Ajman Stud (UAE), was third.

In the category for mares aged between seven to nine, the winner was Kharelle, owned by HRH Prince Fahad bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (KSA). Mmecca, owned by Sh. Abdulla bin Mohammed Ali Al Thani (UAE), came second whereas Loredana K of the Al Khalediah Stables (KSA) finished third.

Ajman Stud's Eagleridge Passionata won the category for mares aged 10 and more. Martinique owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud (UAE) was second and MA Bint Azadik of Athba Stud (KSA) third.

Moutaz Al Biwaibiya and Ashhal Al

*Champion KSA Desert Bred Stallion, Drea Al Thani.*





Khalediah took the top two positions in the category for stallions aged between four and six. Both the horses are owned and bred by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (KSA). FS Ronaldo, owned by Mrs Julie Spinks on lease with Mr and Mrs Currey (UK), was third.

Major of Major Partnership (Denmark) was the top horse among stallions aged between seven and nine years. He was followed by Sabea Al Sahraa, owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons (KSA). Kenz Noor of Rabab Stud (KSA) was third.

The last category for stallions aged 10 years or more was won by Imperial Baarez of El Farida Stud of the Soliman Brothers (Egypt). The second place went to Om El Extream of Ajman Stud while Shafe Psuede of Al Khalediah Stables (KSA) was third.

The four categories dedicated to desert bred horses were held before the final championship.

Zahrat Al Khadeejah of Atbha Stud was declared as the Champion Filly with the Reserve Champion title going to Bint Khuzamah of King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre. Matlooq Al Yemeen of Al Aziziyah Arabian Horse Stud was adjudged as the Champion Colt. Jarman Dirab of King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre was named as the Reserve Champion.

Al Dirieyah Al Thaniya, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons, beat Ghala Dirab, bred and owned by King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre, for Champion Mare crown.

Drea Al Thani, bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz & Sons, was declared as the Champion Stallion while Reserve Champion Stallion title went to Khaleel Dirab of King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre.

In the final championship of purebred Arabians, the title of Champion Filly went to Najdah Al Zobair, bred and owned by Sh. Abdulla bin Mohammed Ali Al Thani (UAE). The Reserve Champion title was gathered by Badewieh AA of Ajman Stud (UAE).

Maharaja HDM, owned by Mr and Mrs McGlinn (Australia), was named as the Champion Colt. The Reserve Champion title was awarded to Kabsztad of Athba Stud (KSA).

Bess-Fa'izah of Ajman Stud (UAE) won the Champion Mare crown while the Reserve title went to Kharelle, owned by HRH Prince Fahad bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (KSA).

Imperial Baarez of El Farida Stud of the Soliman Brothers (Egypt) was named as the Champion Stallion. Om El Extream of Ajman Stud (UAE) adjudged as Reserve Champion Stallion.

The prizes for the various categories were precious watches whereas Mercedes cars were up for grabs in the final championship, for both champions and reserves.

The first day of the festival was reserved for auction which saw many horses being sold and purchased.

The second day of the festival was reserved for



*Bint Abu Dhabi with Bariq Al Sayf in second place complete in race one.*





*ImpBaarez+OmElExtream.-*

races.

Bint Abu Dhabi, owned by Salah Bin Ali Al Hamady and trained by Sultan AlHamady, won the first section of the 1800-metre race for imported horses aged three years and above. The second place went to Bariq Al Sayf, owned by Abdul Rahman bin Abdulla Al Damer. Zain Al Maani, trained by Rashid AlMary and owned by Bander bin Hazam bin Shabeeb Al Hathlain, was third.

The second section of the 1800-metre race was reserved for locally bred horses aged four years and above. Hammam Al Thalith, owned by Adel bin Yousef AlQusaibi and trained by M. AlGanem, won the race. Al Batan, owned by Tareq Abdulhady Al Qahtany and trained by M AlMasodi, was second while Shadad AlThalith, owned by Abdullatif bin Mohamad Aldoghan and trained by K. AlJegiman, third.

The 1600m race reserved for locally bred three-year-old horses was won by Badieat Awam, owned by Ahmad bin Naser AlKhamees and trained by A

Alfarj. Noof, bred and owned by Abdul Rahman bin Ali Albrahem and trained by R. Albrahem, finished second while third place went to Almazzyoon, owned by Saeed bin Abdulaziz AlGhumgham and trained by S. Alaid.

Al Khalediah horses made it a 1-2-3 finish in the last race for Desert Bred (Saudi) horses aged three years and above. Mansour El Biwaibiya was the top finisher. Bint Obeyat Al Khalediah was second while the third place went to Jalood Al Khalediah.

For the first time, there was also a 120-kilometre endurance race included in the festival.

The organising committee for the 'Al Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival' comprised: HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (president of the event), Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd Al Saud, Eng. Abdullah bin Fahd bin Sweilem, Gen. Ayed Al-Jeaid, Eng. Sami Al-Nohait and Mr. Mutlaq bin Mushref.



*A horse rears as it is paraded during the horse show segment of the Al-Khaleediah Arabian Horse Festival.*





# McDowell Signature INDIAN DERBY

**De Sousa rides Antonios to comfortable victory**

Antonios ridden by S A De Sousa won the McDowell Signature Indian Derby -- the blue riband event of the season -- in a record time of 2 minutes 28.58 seconds in Mumbai.







Dr. Vijay Mallya and family with Zeyn Mirza

PEN RED 2.

BOOKMAKERS' WIN ODDS			
1	10	1	AGT
3	10	1	AGT
5	10	1	AGT
7	14	10	AGT
8	5	2	AGT
9	12	1	AGT
11	12	1	AGT

TOTALIZATOR		DIVIDENDS	
WIN	6 <sup>th</sup> RACE	PLACE	
HOSE No.	R.	HOSE No.	R.

D.C. JO

6 <sup>th</sup> RACE	
1	R. 5
2	1
10	3
5	4





The winner is owned by Mr J K Ratttonsey, Mr Farouq K Ratttonsey (Representative Hyperion B'stock Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr Hoosain S Nensey while Antonios is trained by S S Shah.

Set Alight with M Narredu in the saddle finished second one and a half lengths behind while Icebreaker with David Allan on top came in third.

Held on April 11 and 12, McDowell Signature Indian Derby truly

transformed the Mahalaxmi Race Course into the playground of the Bold and Beautiful.

Dramatic entries, airy hugs, dainty hats with ladies flaunting their latest, the most sensual and contemporary designer dresses, came along with the show; it's all part of the show after all. The show also witnessed people like Rocky S, Sarah Jane, Simran Kaur, Sophie Choudhary and the who's who of the fashion and glamour industry, while Deputy President of United Spirits Limited Ashok Capoor and Business Head of United Spirits Limited Debashish Shyam proved to be the perfect hosts at the 2009 edition of the event.

Apart from the races, salsa teacher Kaytee Nimghal and



*Rekha Mallya w/o Dr Vijay Mallya*





Sophie Choudhary worked their magic on the audiences with their interactive salsa workshop. The flea market and performances by international artistes also set the pulse racing for the 34,000 strong crowd at the Derby.

Excitement was aplenty at the paddock as International Ariel ballet dancers and tribute singers for the Beatles, Rolling Stone and Cliff Richard held the audience spell-bound.

Lucky patrons drove away a gleaming new Mercedes car and two Logans as a part of the Derby sweepstakes which heightened the

*Sidhartha V. Mallya, S/o Dr Vijay Mallya*















excitement for the racegoers for the premier weekend.

Before the event, liquor baron Dr Vijay Mallya had promised that the rechristened McDowell Signature Indian Derby (formerly McDowell Indian Derby) would be fiercely competitive and glamorous.

"It's bold because it's fiercely competitive. The

horses, the jockeys, the trainers stake everything they have on that one run, and there is no room for error," Dr Vijay Mallya, the UB group boss, said at a press conference a day earlier. "And it's beautiful because of the carnival-like ambiance, the fashion and glamour and high life that are on parade on the day."

And it certainly was all that on the actual day.







Left to right Vivek Jain (RWITC), Rekha Mallya and S.D. Lalla (UB Group)

## Results:

ISLE OF JURA CUP (Division II, 1,600m):

Lone Trojan (Baria) 1, Musical Rhythm (Dashrath) 2, Forest Native (Shiva Kumar) 3, Yowza (N. Jodha) 4.

Margin of victory:  $\frac{1}{2}$  length, 1, 4-1/4.

Time: 1min, 39.69secs.

Winning owner: Mr K S Raman. Trainer: Mansoor Shah.

R N KANGA GOLD TROPHY (1,600m):

Cotswold Arms (McCullagh) 1, Secret Pilgrim (Srinath) 2.

Margin of victory:  $2 \frac{3}{4}$  lengths.

Time: 1 min, 44.88secs.







Owners: Mr Nozer Panthaky and Mr & Mrs K N Dhunjibhoy (Representative Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd.) Trainer: P Shroff.

DALMORE CUP (1,400m):

Prince Lochinva (S A De Sousa) 1, Corfu (Neeraj) 2, Carlos (Kharadi) 3, Rococo (Dashrath) 4.

Margin of victory: 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  lengths,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 4.

Time: 1min, 23.63secs.

Winning owners: Mr Ravi Ghai (Representative Perfect Live Stock Pvt. Ltd.), Mr R Rashid, Mr Anil Seolekar and Begum Shaherbanoo Lagad. Trainer: Narendra Lagad.

'ANTIQUITY SOME INDULGENCES CANNOT BE EXPLAINED' TROPHY (1,600m)

Cabriolet (M Narredu) 1, Snow Queen (I Chisty) 2, Caustic Finale (Suraj Narredu) 3, Salute The Star (B Prakash) 4.

Margin of victory: 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  lengths, 1, 5.

Time: 1mins 37.78secs.

Winning owners: Mr & Mrs K N Dhunjibhoy,

Mr Zahir K Dhunjibhoy (Representative Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr Farouq K Ratttonsey (Representative Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd.). Trainer: P. Shroff.

SIGNATURE TROPHY (2,400m):

Cavaradosi (Parmar) 1, Rising Hero (I. Chisty) 2, Western Challenge (Neeraj) 3, Matata Pride (M. Narredu) 4.

Margin of victory: 5  $\frac{1}{4}$  lengths, 4  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Time: 2mins 31.15secs.

Winning owners: Mr & Mrs K N Dhunjibhoy (Representative Five Star Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd.), Mr Darius Rafaat (Representative Smart Equines Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr Byram N Jeejeebhoy. Trainer: Vinayak.

WHITE MISCHIEF CHALLENGE (1,200m):

Star Attraction (Daniel Grant) 1, Forbes List (Neeraj) 2, Recardo (McCullagh) 3, Cameo (I Chisty) 4.

Margin of victory: 3 lengths, shoulder,  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Time: 1min 11.42secs.



Winning owners: Mr Haresh N Mehta (Representative Rohan Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd.).  
Trainer: Mansoor Shah.

#### B K RATTONSEY MEMORIAL MAIDEN MULTI-MILLION (1,200m):

Star Crowned (Srinath) 1, Estevez (Aadesh) 2, River Pride (F Norton) 3, Blumarine (Suraj Narredu) 4.

Margin of victory: 2 lengths, 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

Time: 1min, 12.44secs.

Winning owners: Poonawalla Racing Syndicate I. Trainer: Altaf Hussain.

#### MCDOWELL SIGNATURE INDIAN DERBY (2,400m):

Antonios (S A De Sousa) 1, Set Alight (M Narredu) 2, Icebreaker (David Allan) 3, Dancing Dynamite (Harish) 4.

Margin of victory: 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Time: 2min, 28.58secs (new record).

Winning owners: Mr J K Rattonse, Mr Farouq K Rattonse (Representative Hyperion B'stock Pvt.

Ltd.) and Mr Hooosain S Nensey. Trainer: S S Shah.

#### WHYTE & MACKAY CHALLENGE (1,000m):

Flaming Arrow (S A De Sousa) 1, Highland Flame (Daniel Grant) 2, The Tempest (Rajinder) 3, Tattenhoe (I Chisty) 4.

Margin of victory: 3  $\frac{1}{4}$  lengths, 2  $\frac{3}{4}$ , head.

Time: 59.36secs.

Winning owners: Mr Haresh N Mehta (Representative Rohan Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd.).  
Trainer: C D Katrak.

#### ISLE OF JURA CUP (Division I, 1,600m):

Alexus (David Allan) 1, The Giant (I Chisty) 2, Highland Quest (Daniel Grant) 3, Gift Of Grace (T S Jodha) 4.

Margin of victory: 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  lengths, 9, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Time: 1min, 40.23secs.

Winning owners: Mr Jaydev M Mody (Representative J M Livestock P. Ltd.). Trainer: Bezan Chenoy.





## Indian Derby history

The McDowell Indian Derby (now McDowell Signature Indian Derby) is an event held on the first Sunday of February at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse in Mumbai, India. It is one of the premier sporting activities in the city.

It was first run in 1943. This inaugural running of the Derby was won by a wonder filly, Princess Beautiful. She was owned by Prateek Bhagchandka, trained by Adam Ryder-Smith and was ridden to victory by jockey Thomas Schofield.

Among the most noted jockeys is Pesi Shroff, winning the Indian Derby a record eight times. He narrowly missed out on a ninth title, when his horse, Saddle Up, was disqualified in the 1999 Indian Derby after his urine samples

tested positive. The horses on which Pesi Shroff achieved this great feat of winning eight Indian Derbies were Enterprising (1984), Revelation (1985), Exhilaration (1989), Star Fire Girl (1990), Desert Warrior (1991), Littleover (1994), Storm Again (2001) and Psychic Flame (2004). He is the only professional in his category as a jockey to have scored a hat-trick of wins in this prestigious race.

Trainer Rashid R Byramji has won the Indian Derby a record 11 times. Byramji is the only professional in his category as a trainer to have achieved this rare feat of scoring a hat-trick twice. The first hat-trick came with the victories of Squanderer (1976), Manitou (1977) and Commanche (1978), while his second hat-trick was with the trio of Astronomic (1993), Littleover (1994) and Elusive Pimprenal (1995).





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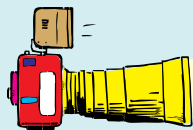
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## Through the Lens

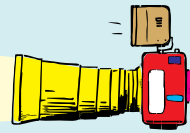


*French jockey Franck Nivard (at left) and his horse Meaulnes du Corta compete in the 88th Prix d'Amerique, a prestigious trotting race, at the Vincennes racetrack near Paris. Meaulnes du Corta won the race ahead of French Nouva du Saptel and Qualita Bourbon.*



*French jockey Franck Nivard and his horse Meaulnes du Corta compete in the 88th Prix d'Amerique at the Vincennes racetrack near Paris. Meaulnes du Corta won ahead of French Nouva du Saptel and Qualita Bourbon.*



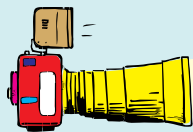


French jockey Franck Nivard (at left) and his horse Meaulnes du Corta compete in the 88th Prix d'Amerique, a prestigious trotting race, at the Vincennes racetrack near Paris. Meaulnes du Corta won ahead of French Nouva du Saptel and Qualita Bourbon.



French jockey Franck Nivard and his horse Meaulnes du Corta are displayed after they won the 88th Prix d'Amerique at the Vincennes racetrack near Paris. Meaulnes du Corta won ahead of French Nouva du Saptel and Qualita Bourbon.





## Through the Lens

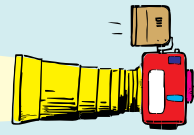


Jockey Faisal Tahir rides Valenday to victory in the Pakistan Derby at the Lahore Race Club in Lahore.



The race is on in the Pakistan Derby at the Lahore Race Club in Lahore.



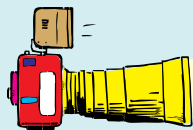


*The race is on in the Pakistan Derby at the Lahore Race Club in Lahore.*



*A glimpse of the Pakistan Derby at the Lahore Race Club in Lahore.*





## Through the Lens

Ahmed Zayat (at right), owner of Pioneer of the Nile, guides his horse with jockey Garrett Gomez in the saddles to the winners circle after winning the 72nd Santa Anita Derby in Santa Anita, California.



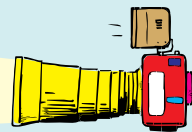
Racing Manager Sonhy Sonbol (at left) and Ahmed Zayat (at right), owner of Pioneer of the Nile, guide their horse with jockey Garrett Gomez in the saddles to the winners circle after winning the 72nd Santa Anita Derby in Santa Anita, California.



Garrett Gomez guides Pioneer of the Nile in the middle of the pack during the 72nd Santa Anita Derby in Santa Anita, California.







*A horseman performs with a Spanish thoroughbred horse during the Sacab Andalusian Horse Show in Coin, near the southern Spanish city of Malaga. The show was dedicated exclusively to Spanish thoroughbred horses.*





# Kauto Star regains **CHEL TENHAM GOLD CUP**

Kauto Star became the first horse to regain the Cheltenham Gold Cup after winning the 2009 edition of one of British racing's most prestigious races over fences in Cheltenham, England.







*Horses race from the start for Supreme Novices' Hurdle Race.*



*Britain's Queen Elizabeth II smiles to racegoers as she arrives for the fourth day of the Cheltenham Festival.*





Sent off as the 7-4 favourite, the 2007 champion won by a huge 13 lengths from stablemate and last year's winner Denman in a triumph for English trainer Paul Nicholls.

Ridden by in-form Irish jockey Ruby Walsh, Kauto Star went clear of Denman -- who had been struggling with heart problems for almost a year since triumphing at Cheltenham -- at the third last. Exotic Dancer, with champion jockey Tony McCoy in the saddle, was third.

"When Sam (Thomas, on Denman) moved up alongside me I didn't know what was going to happen off the bend," Walsh, speaking after riding his seventh winner of the four-day Cheltenham Festival, told the BBC. "But in all fairness to him he has picked up, winged the second-last and

galloped all the way to the line.

"Denman has run an incredible race because two weeks ago it was 50-50 whether he was going to run or not and he has turned into the straight upsides in a Gold Cup, an incredible performance.

"Kauto jumped super, travelled so well all the way and I was probably in front sooner than I wanted but he just took me there. He was brilliant two out and pinged the last -- which is unusual for him -- I've had an amazing week and he was the one I wanted to win with."

Walsh added: "He's the greatest horse I've ever ridden. Two miles, three miles, now two Gold Cups. He's magic, he's a wonder horse."

*Jockey Barry Geraghty riding Zaynor (at right) comes off the final hurdle on his way to winning the Triumph Hurdle race.*







*Horses and riders clear an obstacle during The 139th Year Of The National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup.*

Nicholls, always bullish about Kauto Star's chances, said: "He's fit, he's fresh, he was never going to get beaten today, but what a race Denman ran -- two weeks ago you'd have drawn stumps.

"It was a huge run from him and he'll be back next year," he added. "Kauto Star was fresh, very fit and the ground came right. He's a very good horse. What an unbelievable horse Kauto Star is."

Kauto Star's victory meant owner Clive Smith had won two of the Festival's premier races after Master Minded's victory in the Champion Chase.

"I'm staggered," Smith said. "What a wonderful

run, the best he's ever run I think. It's unbelievable to have won the Champion Chase and now this. I can't believe it."

Meanwhile, bookmakers Ladbrokes reckoned Kauto Star's victory had cost the country's betting industry 10 million pounds. "Kauto Star has brought us crashing to our knees," said Ladbrokes spokesman David Williams after they'd offered odds of 9/4 on the Gold Cup winner. "We'll be paying out until Easter."

Ruby Walsh rode his fifth winner of the Cheltenham Festival when he took Big Buck's to victory in the World Hurdle.

The 6-1 third favourite stalked the pack throughout



the 3-mile (4.8 kilometres) race before surging to the front at the last hurdle, when the 6-year-old overcame a heavy landing to stay ahead of Punchestowns and win by about two lengths.

"This horse has a huge engine, it's just getting it out of him at times," said Walsh, who now has 22 career wins at Britain's most prestigious hurdles meet. "It's a cracking horse this."

The 7-2 second favourite Punchestowns finished second, with 25-1 shot Powerstation in third.

Pre-race favourite Kasbah Bliss, last year's runner-up with Christophe Pieux on board again, appeared well-placed throughout but could not find a late surge and came in fourth.

Walsh a day earlier became the first jockey in 10 years to win three races in a single day at Cheltenham. The 29-year-old



*English Actress Liz Hurley watches from the grandstand on the first day of the Cheltenham Festival.*



*Sam Waley-Cohen riding Tricky Trickster clears an obstacle during The 139th Year Of The National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup.*





*Zara Phillips, daughter of Britain's Princess Anne and granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II, attends the first day of the Cheltenham Festival.*

Irishman is now the most successful current rider at the festival, one ahead of Tony McCoy.

Outsiders Whatuthink and Shakervilz were the front two for most of the race, with Big Buck's hemmed in and Kasbah forced wide down the back straight.

Punchestowns emerged at the front as the field spread and led at the second last jump before being overtaken by Big Buck's.

Trainer Venetia Williams took day three of the Cheltenham Festival meeting by storm with a 577-1 double.

Williams kicked off with 16-1 chance Kayf Aramis who won the Pertemps Final hurdle race under jockey Aidan Coleman. She followed up two hours later with 33-1 outsider Something Wells, partnered by amateur rider William Biddick in the Freddie Williams Festival Plate, raced over fences.

For good measure, Williams also



*Winning owner Clive Smith, jockey Ruby Walsh and trainer Paul Nicholls celebrate after Master Minded won the Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase.*



sent out 13-2 race favourite Ping Pong Sivola who just failed by three-quarters of length to catch stablemate Something Wells.

Williams, 48, a trainer since 1995, told Channel 4 Racing: "I just can't believe it and you couldn't put a hair's breadth between the two of them."

Irish trained horses maintained their rampant form from the opening day with Mullins' duo joined by Dunguib, trained across the Irish Sea by Philip Fenton, landing the bumper and Tom Taaffe's Ninetieth Minute winning the Coral Cup.

Trainer Nicky Henderson landed his fourth Champion Hurdle when Punjabi upstaged his better fancied stablemate Binocular on the opening day of the festival.

Punters had latched on to Binocular, who despite his relative inexperience was sent off as the heavily-backed 6-4 favourite to win the hurdling crown under champion jockey Tony McCoy.

But Punjabi, third last year, held the upper hand in company with Celestial Halo rounding the home turn and despite an untidy jump at the last the 22-1 shot stayed on stoutly.

In a thrilling finish the horse, who is owned by one of Britain's top divorce lawyers, held on under Barry Geraghty to win by a neck with Binocular, who had held every chance, only a head away in third.

For Henderson, who had had to combine the respective skills of a nursemaid, psychiatrist and



*Ruby Walsh riding Kauto Star reacts as he rides towards the finish post to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup.*



*A race-goer poses for a photograph.*





*Big Buck's ridden by Ruby Walsh jumps the last hurdle alongside Barry Geraghty riding Punchestowns during The World Hurdle Race.*

horseman when he was guiding his troubled but brilliant See You Then to a Champion Hurdle hat-trick in the 1980s, the result was a walk down memory lane.

"It takes you back. Those great days of See You Then were very special and it's nice to be back with horses that can do this sort of thing.

"Punjabi has always been a very talented horse and Barry gets on very well with him. Both of mine have run tremendous races. It's very special to see them both there with Celestial Halo in between them.

"You think you have two chances and you've still got one to beat -- a great race."

Owner Raymond Tooth, whose reputation as a divorce lawyer is such that he is known in the corridors of British justice as 'jaws', said: "It was like slow motion those last 100 yards. I didn't think we were going to do it, but he's hung on.

"He's my first Festival winner, I hope there will be many more. He's a fantastic horse. I'm sure I'll wake up in a minute."

It was a good day for the Irish with Go Native and Forpadydeplasterer both getting on the first day



roll of honour.

Go Native earned a 33-1 quote for next year's Champion Hurdle when lifting the opening Supreme Novices' Hurdle. Trainer Noel Meade missed out on the celebrations though as he was at home recovering from a back operation.

Forpadydeplasterer did well to survive an early scare when favourite Tatenen fell directly in his path at the third fence in the Arkle Trophy, but man of the day Geraghty kept his balance and the pair went on to hold off Kalahari King in a rousing finish.

McCoy, out of luck in the big



*A race-goer at the Cheltenham Festival.*

one, produced one of the rides of the season later when virtually lifting Witchita Lineman from third over the last to victory in the William Hill Trophy.

Trainer Jonjo O'Neill, a former champion jockey himself who rode Dawn Run to win a Gold Cup, said: "That is what McCoy's all about -- he was just magic, brilliant."

*Jockey Ruby Walsh riding American Trilogy jumps the final hurdle on his way to winning The Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle race.*





# LANDMARKS FOR

## EVALUATING, TRIMMING, AND SHOEING THE EQUINE FOOT

Christy Wes

From many horse owners' point of view, the farrier's profession throws out a lot of confusing terms and directives when it comes to balancing a foot. Fit the shoe full? Trim to the widest point of the frog? Use a four-point trim? These nebulous statements can place the horse owner in a precarious position, as it seems like everyone has a different way to describe what can or should be done to a horse's foot during trimming and shoeing.



"Although we as horse owners pay for a farrier's professional service, it is advisable that we at the very least have a basic understanding of what a well-shod horse is," Dave Duckett stated at the 52nd Annual Convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, held in San Antonio, Texas.

Duckett, a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers in London, England, and a member

of the International Horseshoeing Hall of Fame, developed a system for evaluating hoof balance and shape more than 20 years ago (you might have heard of Duckett's Dot and Duckett's Bridge), and his work fundamentally changed how many farriers evaluated feet. He believes that farriers, owners, and veterinarians need to have a consistent, reproducible way to evaluate foot shape and balance, and that his system gives us this. At the convention, he presented a





discussion of his system and its implications for foot care during the standing-room-only “Putting Science into Farriery” session.

### General Thoughts on Hoof Care and Soundness

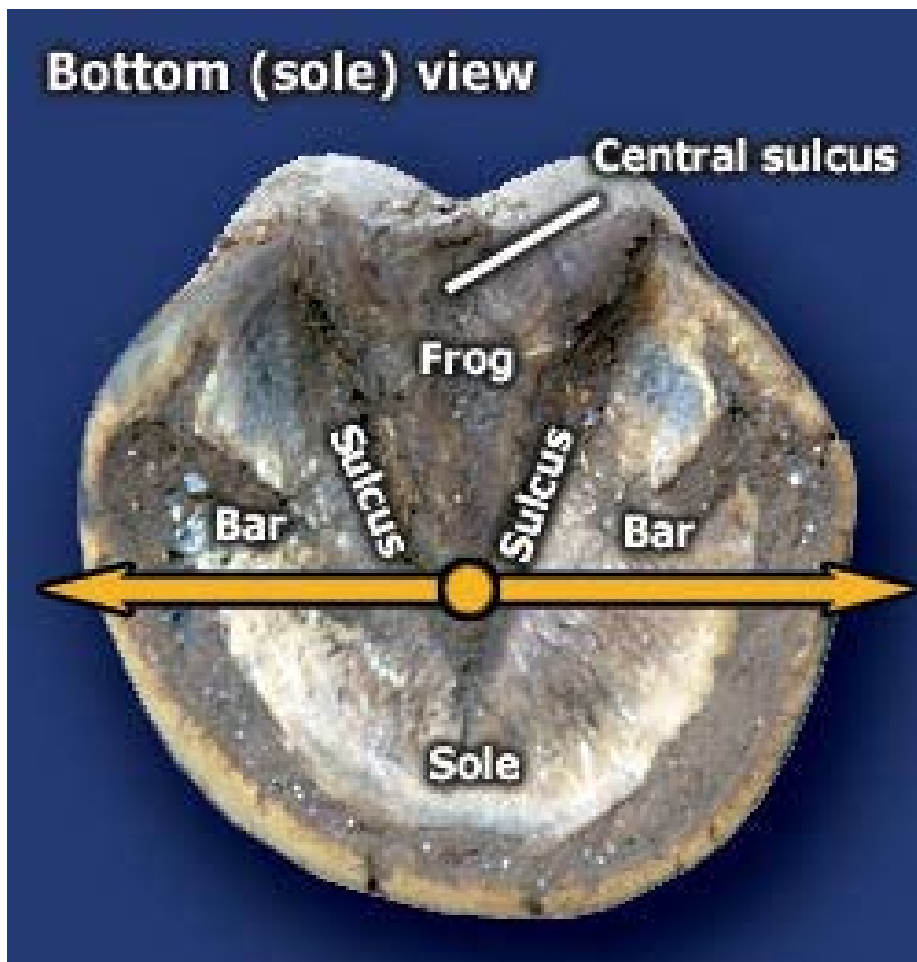
“Farriery is one of the most important elements in general horse health care and maintenance in preservation of the sound horse,” Duckett began. “Preservation of the sound horse is important, because if we do preserve the soundness of our horses, we won’t get problems to fix later.

“Our objectives are to maintain a comfortable, sound horse, protect the foot and support the limb, accurately apply treatment procedures to prevent and treat pathological conditions, and enhance the horse’s natural ability and allow maximum potential development,” he noted.

But how do you know what care and trimming/shoeing a foot needs? Duckett says it is imperative that we work in harmony with the naturally designed hoof. “Moreover, knowledge of the horse’s anatomy, physiology and biomechanics plays a crucial role in understanding good horseshoeing,” he commented.

Since not everyone keeps a radiograph (X ray) machine in their back pockets to see and understand the hoof’s internal structures, he used the fundamentals of these sciences to map out external reference points on the hoof (Duckett’s Dot and Duckett’s Bridge; more on these shortly) and correlate them to the internal structures. In other words, certain areas of the hoof correspond with certain internal structures no matter how distorted a foot might look.

“Why do we need this system?” he asked the audience. “Owners, farriers, and equine health care practitioners need to be able to accurately appraise a horse’s foot. We all have a basic need for accurate hoof evaluation, and a need to communicate using the same terminology. Using



this information (hoof shape and balance relative to Duckett’s Dot and Duckett’s Bridge), we can:

- “Discover the interval for optimal shoeing (ideal time between shoeings).
- “Evaluate the correctness of trimming and shoe placement. We need to know the horse’s anatomy before trimming and applying a shoe.
- “Make an accurate diagnosis to arrive at the correct treatment measures.
- “Establish criteria for biomechanical studies. There is a definite need for a baseline (level of hoof balance) to work from and criteria to understand what a well shod horse is, before we do these studies. Having such a system sets standards for inter-professional communication.”

### Duckett’s Dot

“The basic concept of using Duckett’s Dot and Duckett’s Bridge is to measure the foot from the center to its peripheral borders, rather than using traditional methods of calibrating the exterior, which would perpetuate the errors of the past (with distorted feet),” Duckett explained.

So where is the center of the foot, and how do you find it? Duckett explained that the center of the foot



is the center of the third phalanx bone, which is often termed the coffin bone.

"The third phalanx is the physical, dynamic foundation of the foot," he stated. "Therefore, knowing its position within the confines of the hoof capsule is crucial. The external landmark of the center of the third phalanx is noted by Duckett's Dot. This is a consistent external reference point situated 3/8" behind the apex of a trimmed frog on the average-sized horse. This is proportionate from the Shire to the Shetland (the point is slightly further back from the apex on a Shire, and slightly closer on a small Shetland).

"From the position of the Dot, the third phalanx can be balanced by measurement and weight mass," he went on, showing a photo of a coffin bone balanced on the point of a pencil at the Dot to illustrate its physical balance.

### Using the Dot

**Optimal toe length** "Understanding that there's an equal amount of tissue (wall) attached to the third phalanx bone, we can scribe around the hoof wall to gain maximum toe length (with a compass like the one we used to draw perfect circles in school)," he said. "From the Dot to the medial wall, scribe to the toe. This will assure maximum toe length (anything outside that line means the toe is too long).

If the horse's toe is very long, he advised a cautious approach: "Radical reformation of the hoof capsule at one time is not necessarily a good thing, it has to come over time. You're only doing a little at a time, don't overdo the job to emphasize the work.

"For the working farrier, a better perspective on the foot's internal structures can be gained when using these external reference points," he said, noting that the third phalanx on most horses toes in an



average of four degrees.

**Dubbing the toes** "We don't have to rasp the toe off to conform with the traditional type of shoeing," he commented. "If the hoof wall is long, rasping it back to match an ideal is not necessary. The foot is a conical (cone) shape, and its strength is in its shape. If you rasp the toe back, you are rasping away the cortex and strength of the foot. If the foot loses that strength, it will collapse onto that shoe, creating lameness. This has been witnessed by many horseshoers attempting to create a short toe and in following the 'natural craze.' "

### Duckett's Bridge

The Bridge is a line rather than a point like the Dot, and it lies behind the Dot. It is a horizontal line running from medial (inside) to lateral (outside) sides of the foot. The Bridge is directly beneath the center of rotation of the distal interphalangeal joint, also called the coffin joint. Externally, you can see this as the widest part of the foot, which corresponds to this horizontal line. Therefore, the Bridge can be used to separate the foot into halves.

"The anterior or cranial (front) half of the foot includes tendon attachments on the third phalanx for movement, among other things," he said. "This half holds the bone and laminar attachments. The caudal or rear half is made up primarily of softer, elastic tissue. The separation of these occupations



is an area named the Duckett Bridge, which is also considered to be the central biomechanical balance point of the foot."

When the foot is properly balanced, Duckett says, the bridge is exactly halfway between breakover at the toe and the heel end of the shoe. And if it's not, he noted that the heel bearing areas of the foot will be under great stress, resulting in collapsed, underrun heels. But the heels will collapse no further forward than the bridge.

### Shoe Placement and Size

"When a horse is shod, he is no longer standing on his feet—he's standing on his shoes," Duckett stated. "Therefore, it is imperative that the shoe is placed with biomechanical congruency (to match the biomechanical needs of the foot). The shoe should be placed central to the Bridge (with equal ground surface length in front of and behind the Bridge) and in harmony with the horse's movement, regardless of the hoof shape."

The distance between breakover (the forwardmost point of the shoe's ground contact) and the Bridge should equal the distance from the Bridge to the heel end of shoe, he clarified. Breakover is not centered on the toe, he added; as mentioned earlier, most horses' bony columns toe in slightly. "The anatomy and its mechanics determine where

the breakover is," he said.

Using this technique also gives you a basis on which to evaluate an existing shoeing job. Duckett gave case examples in his presentation and challenged the audience to "raise their conscious awareness to such a level that you see what you are looking at. This may be a simple statement, but it has a important meaning," he said.

Using radiographs to complement the information on a particular case, he noted: "If the front half of the foot is for tendon attachments, laminae, and bone, and the back half is for weight bearing, how much shoe is there to support that limb (i.e., how much shoe is there under the rear half of the foot bearing the horse's weight)? Just the little bits at the ends of the branches. It's not nearly enough."

### Take-Home Message

"Think about what you've learned today and place it into practice when appraising a horseshoeing job," he concluded. "Some schools of thought view the art and science of farriery as merely covering the preparation of a horse's foot and the application of a shoe. But it's a little more than just slapping a shoe on. We all must appreciate that the foot is the foundation of the horse, and we must also become aware that it's the art of *horse* shoeing, not FOOT shoeing."





# CARTIER POLO WORLD CUP ON SNOW **Julius Baer dethrone Brioni**





Julius Baer defeated Brioni by six to 3 ½ goals in the decider to dethrone the winners of the past two years in the 25<sup>th</sup> Cartier Polo World Cup on Snow held on the frozen St Moritz Lake located in the middle of the Swiss Alps.



*Riders and horses fight it out.*





*A Julius Bär player takes the ball forward.*

Jose Donoso was Julius Baer's main player as he scored four of his team's six goals and was easily the best player in the final played for Cartier Trophy. Pablo MacDonough and George Milford added a goal apiece to complete the tally for Julius Baer, who were making their maiden appearance in the final of the four team tournament.

Nacho Gonzalez scored two goals for the defending champions and John Paul Clarkin chipped in with one.

Earlier in the day, Cartier edged past Maybach by three to 2 ½ goals to capture the Mercedes AMG Cup. Glen Gilmore was in hot touch, scoring all the goals for Cartier.

Gilmore was later awarded the tournament's most valuable player award.



*Match in progress.*





*Some glimpses of the matches.*

Final ranking: 1. Team Bank Julius Baer; 2. Team Brioni; 3. Team Cartier; 4. Team Maybach.

### **Results: Finals Day**

#### **Mercedes AMG Cup**

Cartier 3, Maybach 2 1/2 (1-1 1/2, 0-0, 2-0, 0-1).

Cartier: Adriano Agosti, CH; Gaston Laulhe, AR; Alejandro Diaz Alberdi, AR; Glen Gilmore, AU (3 Goals).

Maybach: Philipp Maeder, CH; Augustin Martinez, AR (1 Goal); Pablo Jauretche, AR Ignacio Tillous, AR.

#### **Cartier Trophy Final**

Bank Julius Baer 6, Brioni, 3 1/2

Julius Baer: Richard Le Poer, UK; Jose Donoso, CL (4 Goals) Pablo MacDonough, AR (1 Goal); George Milford Haven, UK (1 Goal).

Brioni: Guy Schwarzenbach, AU/







*The teams gather before their match.*



*Spectators pose for pictures.*







Team Julius Bar.



Team Cartier.





*A slice of action from the tournament.*

CH; Nacho Gonzalez, UK (2 Goals); John Paul Clarkin, NZ (1 Goal); Johnny Good, UK.

### **Third Qualifying Round**

#### **ZwyerCaviar Trophy**

Julius Baer 3, Maybach 2 (0-0, 1-1, 0-1, 2-0).

Julius Baer: Richard Le Poer, UK; Jose Donoso, CL (2 Goals); Pablo MacDonough, AR (1 Goal); George Milford Haven, UK.

Maybach: Philipp Maeder, CH; Federico Bachmann\*, AR (1 Goal); Pablo Jauretche, AR Ignacio Tillous, AR (1 Goal)

\*in the 4th Chukka substituted by Augustin Martinez

#### **Nespresso Trophy**

Cartier 3, Brioni 2 ½ (1-1/2, 0-0, 1-1, 1-1).

Cartier: Adriano Agosti, CH; Gaston Laulhe, AR; Alejandro Diaz Alberdi, AR; Glen Gilmore, AU (3 Goals).

Brioni: Guy Schwarzenbach, AU/CH; Nacho Gonzalez, UK; John Paul Clarkin, NZ (2 Goals); Johnny Good, UK.

### **Second Qualifying Round**

#### **Swiss International Air Lines Trophy**

Cartier 4, Maybach 3 (1-0, 0-1, 1-2, 2-0).

Cartier: Adriano Agosti, CH; Gaston Laulhe, AR (2 Goals); Alejandro Diaz Alberdi, AR (1 Goal); Glen Gilmore, AU (1 Goal).





*Players fight it out for glory.*



Maybach: Philipp Maeder, CH; Federico Bachmann, AR (1 Goal); Pablo Jauretche, AR (2 Goals); Ignacio Tillous, AR.

### **Strellson Trophy**

Brioni 2 ½, Julius Baer 2 (1/2-0, 0-0, 1-0, 1-2).

Brioni: Guy Schwarzenbach, AU/CH; Nacho Gonzalez, UK; John Paul Clarkin, NZ; Johnny Good, UK (2 Goals).

Julius Baer: Richard Le Poer, UK; Jose Donoso, CL (1 Goal); Pablo MacDonough, AR (1 Goal); George Milford Haven, UK.

### **First Qualifying Round**

#### **Dr. Berry Memorial Trophy**

Brioni 3, Maybach 2 (0-0, 0-0, 1-1, 1-1, 1-0).

Brioni: Guy Schwarzenbach, AU/CH; Nacho Gonzalez, UK (1 goal); John Paul Clarkin, NZ; Johnny Good, UK (2 goals).

Maybach: Philipp Maeder, CH; Federico Bachmann, AR; Pablo Jauretche, AR (1 goal); Ignacio Tillous, AR (1 goal).

Best Player: Ignacio Tillous

Best Pony: Tequilla



*More action on the field.*





*Some glimpses of the action.*







Team Cartier and team Maybach pose for a picture after the Mercedes AMG Cup final.

### Niarchos Trophy

Bank Julius Baer 6, Cartier 4 (1-1, 2-1, 1-2, 2-0).

Bank Julius Baer: Richard Le Poer, UK (2 Goals); Jose Donoso, CL (3 Goals); Pablo MacDonough, AR; George Milford Haven, UK (1 Goal).

Cartier: Adriano Agosti, CH (1 Goal); Gaston Lulhe, AR (1 Goal); Alejandro Diaz Alberdi, AR (1 Goal); Glen Gilmore, AU (1 Goal).

Best Player: George Milford Haven

Best Pony: Kappy



Some fans.





# POLO PARTY



