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# SAO

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*Early March in Egypt  
has become  
established as the time Arabian  
horse lovers look forward to the  
Egyptian National Arabian Horse Championships,  
which are held at the Saqqara Country Club  
at the edge of the desert close  
to the Pyramids.*



SAQQARA  
EGYPTIAN  
EVENT 2007

*This year's event took place March 9 and 10 to a large attendance of both Egyptians and foreign visitors. In a setting that relies on the stark beauty of the desert for a backdrop, the show is different from what happens in many other countries where they feature spectacular special effects and dramatic pre-*

*sentations. Here, the horse is what is important and is shown in a natural venue.*

*The Event is organized by the Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association under the lead of Omar Sakr and this year's show was the best ordered to date. Over 130 horses were entered in the two-day competition.*

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JAMILA EL CHAMSIN  
CHAMPION FILLY



MAHALA  
CHAMPION MARE

*which is under ECAHO affiliation unlike the EAO show held in November that was non-affiliated. This has been the case for a number of years and seems to be the status quo for the situation here.*

*The Judges Panel for the Show was comprised of: Mrs. Elizabeth Chat - Austria, Dr. Marek Trela - Poland and Dr. Mohamed Machmoun - Morocco. Behind the scenes, the Disciplinary Committee was headed by Dr. Malak Benamar - Morocco. The Ring Steward was Mr. Koenraad Detaillleur - Belgium.*

*Many felt that an important addition to the Show organization was in the publication and stressing of the following conditions on regulation of the show as announced by Omar Sakr:*

*"The first has to do with the Championships.*

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*No Senior or Junior National or higher (i.e. A and B shows or any higher title shows) Champion from the previous three years will be allowed to participate in the Nationals*

*Another major decision has to do with clipping the face and specifically around the eye.*

*The rule is simple no horse will be allowed to participate and the owner fined heavily if there is a variance in clipping grade between the body and the face.*

*Finally, whip marks on horses will be handled as usual with the added penalty of \$500 which the handler will have to pay if he wishes to show horses again at the Nationals. Owners who fail to settle their handler's penalty will not be allowed to compete at future Nationals with any of their horses unless they settle any outstanding amount. If there is a change of horse ownership the penalty until paid will be the liability of the new owner and the same restrictions will apply."*

*An interesting approach at this year's show is that it began on time, which was a bit of a shock to the audience who is used to a later morning start on the weekly Friday holiday. The first day was a full one with 80 mares and fillies scheduled to show but 9 were scratched. First class: sixteen yearling fillies presented in the class for yearling fillies born in 2006 The winner of the class Anwaar Al Kaherah (Makhnificent KA x Muzdalifah) was a sprightly little bay with a very nice head and movement that brought her three 19's. She is owned and bred by Al Kaherah Stud. She went on to the Reserve Junior Championship. In second place Khorafa Al Gabry (Ajmal Sinan x Gawharet Aal Hanafy) bred and owned by Al Gabry, is a more*



**MIRAJH RCA**  
**CHAMPION COLT**



**AUTHENTIC SHAMANI**  
**CHAMPION STALLION**

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ANWAAR EL KAHERAH  
RES. CHAMPION FILLY



SIMEON SAFIR  
RES. CHAMPION MARE

*substantial filly but with a nice hesitation in her trot. These two fillies had the same placement in the EAO Internationals last fall.*

*The second class, also a large group with 16 entries provided the Junior Champion filly: Jamila El Chamsin (Authentic Shamani x Jahlilah El Chamsin) owned by Alforsan Stud. A really lovely feminine grey filly with two 20's and a 19 in type, she brought out a spirited crowd-pleasing appearance. Her owner, Samy Al Hasson, was delighted with the results. He said that he entered the competition because he wanted to understand the dynamics of showing first hand. He wanted to have a learning experience and went in with not much thought of winning. "However," he said, "when I saw her come into the ring, I saw that her inner beauty caught the attention of the people sitting near*

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me. I felt they really saw her and winning the championship made it even more special". *Shahd Al Gabry (El Basha Sakr x Bint Montasir Rahim) won second place and continues to improve with each appearance on the show circuit in Egypt. The animated grey filly has an elegant look, which adds to her strong presence. She is bred and owned by Al Gabry Stud. The third class: Fillies born 2004, LV Asmarra one of several Al Lahab get here in Egypt won the class. The light bay filly out of Ariell was bred in Germany and is now owned by Al Farida Stud. Both she and the second place filly have improved substantially since their appearance last year. Second place went to Layaly Al Najdiah; a locally bred filly by Ibn El Basha A out of Nawwaret Hamdan A. Layaly is a*

*powerful and graceful young black mare from the Rabab - Najdiah program.*

*Class 4 was the strongest class of a very exciting day.*

*The crowd had been eagerly anticipating the appearance of the eventual Senior Champion mare, Mahala (Al Lahab x Mahasen II). The remarkable grey filly comes to Egypt with an impressive list of show wins including: several European championships and Reserves. She had the highest score in the Show with three 20's in type. Sh. Khaled bin Laden, owner of Rabab Stud said that he was extremely pleased with her performance. "She came here as an established champion," he said, "And now she has proven herself on her new ground". Mahala also won the Most Classic Head for Females class. In second place was a truly lovely daughter of Imperial Baarez, El Sayyeda. The dark dappled grey filly was a different type from Mahala and strongly represented the look of her sire who has won championships and pro-*



**SALADIN AL QUSAR**  
RES. CHAMPION COLT



**HAMRA ALIGANCE**  
RES. CHAMPION  
STALLION

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MAHALA  
MOST CLASSIC HEAD



SHEIKH MAHBOUB  
MOST CLASSIC HEAD

*duced winners internationally. She is owned and bred by Al Kaherah Stud.*

*The last class of the day for mares born 2001 and older went to Simeon Safir (Asfour x Simeon Safanad). The very feminine flea-bitten mare is a keystone of the Albadeia breeding program and has been the dam of a number of striking foals. She was Reserve Champion mare here as she was at the EAO International show in November 06. She is more impressive with each appearance. Second place was won by another mare who is familiar to the audience with wins at EAO including Reserve Champion in '05. Mogha Sakr, a very typey bay daughter of Imperial Madori out of SES Marah, was bred by Sakr Stud and is owned by Khattab & Tahani Stud.*

*The second day belonged to colts and stallions.*

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*There were 53 entered and 8 were withdrawn prior to the show. This resulted in a shorter show but due to a three-hour break, the day was longer than the previous day. The winners of the first class, which had 9 entries: Colts born 2006 were separated by only one point. Farouk Al Sharbatly (Gamal Sakr x Fayrouz Sakr) was a very self-assured young grey colt who pranced brightly around the show ring. He is owned and bred by Al Sharbatly Stud. Second place went to another of the German imports in the Al Gabry program. El Thay Amun is by Ansata Selman out of El Thay Amuna and shows great promise in his looks and overall performance.*

*The second class was won by Saladin Al Qusar (NK Hafid Jamil x 241 Tisrina B). The classic grey colt has a typey sculptured head and a strong shoulder that allows him to move with a powerful trot. He went on to take Reserve Junior Champion and was bred in Germany and is also part of the program at Al Gabry Stud. In second place was Montasir Al Hamd, an Ayser son out of Negma Al Gabry who also shows consistent development.*

*The next two classes were interesting because in addition to the excitement of colts in the show ring, the first and second place winners reversed their positions from the EAO show in November. Class #8: Colts born in 2004 was won by a striking young black stallion who also took the Junior Championship. Mirajh RCA by Alixir out of Rhapsody In Black is an outstanding example of the breeding program at El Sheruk Stud where they have been focusing on imports from America as evidenced in their show entries. Second place went to Haytham Albadeia who continues to gain in type and presence as he combines the best of Simeon Sharav and Galagel Albadeia for Nasr Marei. It was a close class with only one point separating the winner from a tie for second/third.*

*Again, the next class winners were separated by one point. As we viewed the more mature stallions, the presentations were stronger. The class winner, Ahmus was a good example of the strong stamp that Imperial Baarez places on his get. A highly refined stallion out of Fayzah, Ahmus presented himself in a highly spirited trot with nice*

*extension. He is bred and owned by Al Kaherah Stud. In second place, Al Ameer Hedayah was an excellent example of why his sire, Nabil II and his dam, Dhimaara are such outstanding producers. He is now owned by Khattab & Tahani Stud.*

*The last class of the day: Stallions born 2001 and before, provided the two Senior Champions. Following the pattern of the day, the first place was separated by one point over the second place tie. Authentic Shamani, the Maysoun son out of Sajida came to an expectant crowd and pleased the group with his compact substantial body and strong full jaw. His musculature and movement showed the results of his training in dressage and riding. He then won the Championship. Second place and Reserve went to Hamra Aligance by Ali Valentino out of Sonbohlas Magic, a Ruminaja Bahiat daughter. A very typey stallion with a well chiseled head and lovely eye, the stallion made an excellent presentation of himself. Most Classic Head for males was won by Sheikh Mahboub (Sheikh El Araby x Bint Mahbouba) a very pretty stallion who clearly showed his type of breeding. He came from Germany and is now owned by Al Sharbatly Stud and Al Bawady Stud who are anticipating great results from him.*

*One of the most noticeable aspects of the show was the dominance of imported horses almost to the exclusion of horses with local origins. It reinforced the trend, which has been building for the past few years that focuses on bringing in new blood from Germany, U.S. and most currently Italy. While many of the local breeders applaud the initiative but are cautious that it may be overdone to the detriment of the locally bred lines.*

*Although he travels extensively, Marty Garrett of Garret Arabians always makes a point of being in Cairo for the shows. He felt that this show was great with many quality horses. However, his caution was that there might have been too many imports with no history of produce yet in Egypt and too little showcase for the local horses. Ali Shaarawi of Shaarawi Arabians is another long time breeder in Egypt who is carefully developing his own type of look. He remarked that while each family has its own qualities, now all the horses have the same look. "We must remember to treasure the differences," he said, "and make sure to preserve the origins."*

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Paolo Capecci after the Championships



Left: Prince Saud, Tarek, Salem Bin Laden



The Judges



Simone Leo with Tarek



Left: Sh. Khaled Bin Laden, Christiane Chazel, Dr. Nasr Marei



Salem Bin Laden during the show

*The judging for the show was very close in a number of cases. In the first three female classes, there was a tie for second place. On the second day with the males, there were not only three classes with ties for second but also only one point difference between first and second place. As with every show in the world, there were two camps of opinion on the judging. Over all it was agreed that these judges were new to Egypt and brought the experience of their own history to the event. At the end of the day, spectators and breeders from Egypt and abroad were impressed with the quality and the enthusiasm of those who entered the show and are looking forward to future developments in all of the programs among both the newer and the established farms in Egypt.* □

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