

## **2008 SHOWING ROUND UP**

### **By Caroline Sussex**

The end of the season Ridden Arabian of the Year at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) is a fitting end to a year of hard work, frustrations, ups and downs but above all FUN!

Crabbet bred or related horses are always there in the top 14 or so horses in each category that have qualified throughout the season at selected shows up and down the country. It is not easy to qualify with the improvement of the ridden classes and the outstanding quality that goes down the line.

Taking part and achieving success at the Arab Horse Society National Show is the other main accolade which people want to win in the UK. After these two top awards, the British Arabian Championships (BAC), also organised by the Arab Horse Society come third. However, qualification for the BAC is much easier than HOYS, as far more shows are eligible throughout the season.

In the gelding class at HOYS Al Shahrani (Istfahan x Starlite Rose) bred and owned by Teresa Sheward and ridden by Kirsty Brown took 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the 75% Old English (so nearly 75% Crabbet!), Majestic Cavalier. Sadly, Storm Gold (Imad x Starlite Rose) were unable to compete.

Majestic Cavalier has hit the showing scene by storm this year winning 7 out of 7 classes and championships with Ridden Arabian of the Year being the highlight. The gelding just oozed presence and style in the main international arena and undoubtedly deserved the top award. He qualified at the Bath and West Show. Majestic Cavalier is by Golden Cavalier out of Maer's Kessa owned and bred by Hayley Hyde-Andrews and ridden by Wendy Gibson. Golden Cavalier was by General Gold out of the lovely Crystal Gold and bred by Caroline Murray of Foxbury Stud. Maer's Kessa is by Dryl out of Karmin and so goes back to Fafika in the tail female and thus Harwood breeding. Dryl is Polish but does have a line to Crabbet through Negativ and so Naseem.

Al Shahrani qualified at the North Western Arab Show and then took Supreme Ridden Champion, the 3 Generations British Bred and Owner/Breeder titles. Al Shahrani's pedigree combines the imported Crabbet Maynesboro Kellogg (CMK) bloodlines with the lovely lines of Starlite Rose who go back to Fanfara and Gold Roseires in the tail female from Coed-y-Foel Stud.

Was this to be Ikoni's year in the absence of PHA Silvern Risalm, now competing in dressage, or was it to be Toman out of the Crabbet mare Queens Topaz (and by the Russian stallion Grand), back on the show circuit in 2008 with rider Ann Hooley. Ikoni (Prince Sadik x Silvern Image) was the first of this successful cross and bred by Rosemary Archer, now owned and trained by Haley Budge and ridden by Ben Martin. Ikoni qualified for HOYS at HOCON show and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Wales and West Summer Show. Hayley does most of her training out hacking and going on Pleasure Rides so Ikoni does not go to many shows. At Malvern, Toman won the Junior

Stallion class and Ikoni the senior. In the head to head, it was Toman who took the Stallion title with Ikoni reserve. Ikoni's full brother, Silvern Prince, bred, owned and ridden by Caroline Sussex was back in the ridden ring following a year off when Silvern Prince was ill. For the first time in HOYS classes, in just 3 outings, Silvern Prince took 2<sup>nd</sup> at South East Region, just missing a HOYS ticket and then 4<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Ridden Stallions at the Nationals.

The other Crabbet contender at HOYS was Sorrento, another Imad son out of Sarafina and bred by Diana Whittome, owned by Susan Murphy and ridden by Louise Maryon. Sorrento qualified by winning at the North West Regional Group Arab Show and also took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the UK International Show at Towerlands. At HOYS it was Toman who took the ridden honours with a flawless performance with Ikoni only managing 5<sup>th</sup> place.

It was in the ridden mare class that Crabbet mares were in contention all the way. Silvern Sheena (Silvern Sceptre x Crystal Sheen), Red House Zinderella (Red House Faraoh x Red House Ziona), Shayna Maydel (Zircon Nazeer x Southern Masjic), Mi-Dhahling (Abu Dhahi x Mirtala) and Silver Lil (Silver Satyr x Lilac's Fantasy) were up against the lovely quality mare Shamzarah who contains a mixture of Crabbet, Old English, Polish and Egyptian bloodlines. Shamzarah had an amazing season and stole the awards nearly everywhere she went ridden by Liz Needham.

Silver Lil took the mare title at UKIAHS, Towerlands after equal points were given to the three top mares with Shayna Maydel in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Ridden by Darren Crowe, Shayna Maydel took her HOYS ticket at HOCON show and was 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Nationals in the Junior Mares with the Senior mares going to Silver Lil with Mi-Dahling 2<sup>nd</sup>. Then Silver Lil was put into 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Placings were turned upside down at the Midland Festival with Silvern Sheena winning from Mi-Dahling. Silvern Sheena followed on from her successes in 2007 by winning at the North Western Regional Group and taking 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Wales and West. Sadly Sheena was injured and was unable to compete at HOYS.

Mi-Dhahling returned to the show circuit this year with rider Joanne Woodward who with her partner, D Ash, also bred and owns this lovely mare. They won at the UK Gold Show and took the overall Ridden Championship, also winning at the Wessex Show and qualifying there for HOYS.

A newcomer to Ridden Showing was Marcus Aurelius (Aurelian x Fiesta Magica) bred by Diana Whittome and owned by Rowena Bertram with Ann Hooley on board. At the North Staffordshire Summer Show, he won the Novice Ridden Stallions and went on to take the Novice Championship. He also won the Novice class at the Midland show and at Malvern in the Restricted (non HOYS Open) Ridden took 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marcus Aurelius was entered for the Na StA Performance Testing and passed so is offered Premium Status with the Arab Horse Society, what an exceptional season.

Two ridden geldings with continuing success are Silvern Magnus (Silvern Ghaalib x Suhan) bred by Mrs Curtis and owned and ridden by Celina Singh. 4<sup>th</sup> at the Nationals and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Wales and West, and Storm Gold was 2<sup>nd</sup> overall Open Ridden Geldings.

Red House Zinderella continues to make excellent progress in ridden mares classes, qualifying for HOYS at the Royal Show and taking 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nationals. One to look out for in the future is, another Silvern Sceptre daughter, Silvern Moonlight (out of PHA Silver Heart) bred by Mrs O'Rourke and Mr and Mrs D Peck, and ridden by Stephanie Turner who was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Novice Mares at Malvern.

It seems that the lines of Imad, Prince Sadik, Silvern Sceptre and Aurelian come out strongly in ridden horses. The pedigrees of these horses have been discussed before through PHA Silvern Risalm, also by Sceptre, and Imad as WAHO winner in 2007. There are many other Crabbet bred horses out there competing at the shows this year but sadly there is no room to mention them all. Congratulations to everyone and here's to more success and fun riding your horses in 2009.