

CRABBETS COMPETING IN ENGLAND - 2004

By Caroline Sussex

The 2004 season has finally come to a close in the UK with the Arab Horse Society Marathon being the final and most testing event. This specialized competition which is open to all breeds, is dominated by the Arabian and its derivatives. The Crabbet Organisation gives a rosette to the highest placed 75% + Crabbet Arabian and out of 27 entries there were 6 contenders this year with Thia (Eaglescliffe x Philantha) achieving that accolade in a racing finish for 5th place. The remaining contenders were Khairho, one of our top endurance horses, Clutha, by Khairho, Shia Khan, Sahirrah Silver Moon and Ramhaan. These horses all compete in endurance in the UK and it is a credit that so many high percentage Crabbets take part in this grueling competition.

It is of course in endurance that Crabbet horses excel and it is the bloodlines of Ludo and Bright Shadow that dominate. Ahmoun, son of Ludomino (by Ludo) has no fewer than seven horses competing in endurance with Lutandorvici (Eaglescliffe x Tandoora Kiywali) also having Dargee and Indian King in the pedigree being one of the advanced horses. Ridden by Gemma Parkin, one of a group of promising young riders, they won the 120K Young Riders class at Haywood Oaks in Robin Hood country beating Yamavar (Yahmur x Kalika) bred by Rohaise Thomas-Everard, who now concentrates on breeding endurance horses having been one of the top breeders in the show ring back in the 80's. Yamavar tops the list of Crabbet related endurance horses and he traces back to the Blunts riding mare Hagar.

Seen at the Crabbet Convention in the UK were Khairho, now 19 and competing in his last 160K ride at Berkshire Downs. Khairho will now concentrate on shorter distances. He traces to the famous Maxwell Kasra line through his dam Kasbana who was by Indian Silver, the son of Indian Magic.

100% Crabbets competing at advanced level are The Silver Gambler who sadly went lame early in the year. The Silver Gambler raced successfully when run by the Arab Horse Society but turned to endurance to help compete in the AHS Marathon their speciality, where they came 4th in 2002 on Salisbury Plain. Tigre, who has competed at the top level of competition for many years with owner/rider John Hudson was bred by Carol Carpenter. Tigre was 2nd at the Berkshire Downs, Ridgeway Ride before being eliminated a couple of times for lameness at later events. Despite this, Tigre stormed back to finish 4th in the 160K ride at the tough Red Dragon Ride in Wales.

Other top performers were Mellow Jazz (Jazmir x Mellway Princess Royal) who achieved advanced level this year and was then picked for the Intermediate British Team, Vlacq Teleri by AHS Premium Stallion Shah Shadow who achieved a Gold Award together with Best Mare, Best Pure Bred and rider, Sue Bostelman achieving best lady rider at the Golden Horseshoe ride over Exmoor, one of the toughest courses in the world. Vlacq Khamul, grandson of Shah Shadow, won the 120K Haywood Oaks FEI and finished within the qualifying time for the World Championships at Alfreds Tower, venue for next year's European Championships.

It is, however, in the ridden show ring that we can be truly proud of our Crabbet Arabians this year. In England, we all compete in open competition, there are no Crabbet Shows. It is therefore something to really cheer about (and cheer we did) when PHA Silvern Risalm owned by Tiffani McCarthy and ridden and produced by Darren Crowe at last got the reward they wanted and richly deserved. They took, not only British National Champion Ridden Pure Bred but went one further and took the Supreme Ridden Championship of the Show at the British National Championships. Amazingly, Risalm's breeders David and Jean Peck had come to England for the first time since he was a foal, and were at the National Show to witness and enjoy his win.

Having to follow in the footsteps of Risalm is Ikoni a 100% Crabbet Arabian by AHS Premium Stallion, Prince Sadik out of Silvern Image and bred by Mrs. Rosemary Archer. This young horse, took top honours at the Wessex Summer Show and earned his Horse of the Year Show qualifier. At his first attempt at the Horse of the Year Show, a perfect performance gained him 4th place. Storm Gold (Imad x Starlite Rose) ridden and owned by Tina Bennett, bred by Mrs. T. Sherwood took the overall Championship at the British Arabian Championships and also winner of the Ridden Gelding Class at the Towerlands International Show.

A young rider who has really come to the fore this year is Charlotte Dabbs, owner and rider of Ramilla (Gaymet x Radsilla) who gained seven victories at Regional Group Shows and earned their HOYS ticket at the Midlands C Show. At Malvern, the lovely son of Rusleem, Hasleem ridden and owned by Mandy Burr won their Gelding Division and were Reserve National Champion Ridden Gelding.

Numerous other horses with Crabbet blood compete in the ridden classes and it is not possible to mention them all but taking retirement from the ring (for the moment) after many good wins is Sa'ira 100% Crabbet successfully produced by Sheila Fleming for Binley Arabian Stud. Sa'ira (Indian Idyll x Sa'lilah) won the Mare class at the Midnight Gold Championships early in the season before leaving the limelight to her $\frac{3}{4}$ sister, Sefina, also 100% (Silvern Idyll x Sa'lilah) for her owner and breeder to ride to victory at the Wessex Summer Show novice section and take the Reserve Novice Championship. Sefina then went lame and was unable to complete the season. Rosaliah Gold, also 100% (Golden Silver x Siala (out of Sa'lilah) owned and bred by Trevor and Tina Mattocks and ridden by Stephanie Turner, represented the family at HOYS attaining 6th place at their first attempt.

In the world of racing, Crabbet can boast some brilliant horses of the past but today with the influence of the French horses in racehorse breeding, we have not surveyed the scene suffice to say that Mellway Gold Charm by the 100% Crabbet stallion, Naresh (Prince Sadik x Rose of Bediya) has won at least two races and been placed. It would be hoped that more horses would return to the race track but sadly the number of meetings is dwindling. Let's hope for stronger competition in 2005.