

**CRABBETS RISE TO THE TOP OF ENDURANCE
AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND
ONCE AGAIN TAKE THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2007**

By Caroline Sussex

The rise to international fame for Jade Rani ridden and owned by Susan Hawes (member of the Crabbet Organisation Committee) and Shimmering Blue Jasmine bred, ridden and owned by Nicky Sherry was the highlight of the British Endurance season and to have two predominantly Crabbet horses in the British team and completing to ensure the team were placed in the European Championships is a real turn around for Endurance in the UK and renewed hopes will be placed on the next World Championships in Kentucky in 2009.

Jade Rani was bred by the late Emma Bennett and is by the AHS Premium Stallion, Dhruv (El Shaklan x Despina) out of Silver Sheba (Fari II x Silver Sheen). This mare was purchased by the late Marcy Pavord and Susan is very grateful to her for letting her have this mare. Susan says, "we knew she was good but now we know just how good". Susan is supported by her husband, Kevin and twin children, David and Caroline who are just starting out on their endurance careers. With a job that takes her all over the world and commuting to London during the week, Susan has incredible dedication to produce her horses at the top level of endurance and keep herself so trim!

In the soaring heat and over a flat, fast course on sand tracks in Portugal, it was the french team who excelled but the fact that the British team completed and came in a creditable 5th was highly successful. If Susan Hawes had been part of the team, the British would almost definitely have captured the bronze medal. Susan rode as an individual and took Jade Rani round completing the best of the British. Out of 88 starters and 36 finishers, Susan finished 11th in the European Championships and 18th overall. They clocked up a personal best of 9 hours and 31 minutes (16.8 kph).

Shimmering Blue Jasmine (Blue Lucius x Lavanda) and Nicky Sherry deserve great credit. Not only did Nicky breed Jasmine but she owns and rides her and has taken her to the top of the sport. They managed to keep team hopes alive by completing 34th and ensuring a result and so much credit to them.

On looking at the pedigrees of the two horses, once again, famous names appear in the pedigrees. Dhruv is bred by the Guinness family, so successful in breeding sports horses and comes from their famous Dafina line and through Despina's dam, Zebadi from the highly successful Ziree El Wada. Ziree El Wada undoubtedly represents one of the finest endurance lines in the world. Lines of this breeding are successful in Australian endurance horses through Zanzibar at the Cameo Stud and we found many of this breeding in France this summer. The other lines that come through in both horses are Bright Shadow renowned for his wonderful temperament and Silver Sheen. Jade Rani's mother was out of Silver Sheen and by Fari II. It is interesting that the stallion Faris comes through strongly in Fari and Faris was renowned for great speed.

Shimmering Blue Jasmine was by Blue Lucius, by a son of Silver Sheen, the famous Silver Blue and out of Ludovici, bringing in the Ludo blood found so frequently in the top ridden horses in the show ring and in endurance. She also contains double Bright Shadow, Indian

King and a three crosses to Dargee. Blue Domino also comes into the pedigree on both sides. In fact Shimmering Blue Jasmine is very high percentage Crabbet.

Unfortunately, the UK endurance season was decimated by the weather and the resurgence of foot and mouth. The weather caused some rides to be cancelled and latterly when foot and mouth was announced in Surrey, it was up to the landowners to allow events to continue and many did not. The Arab Horse Society Marathon also suffered on account of this with Salisbury Plain closed to horses and hunting has still not started at the time of writing this report.

The season started well and with enthusiasm and of the 100% Crabbets, Crystal Eyas (Indian Idyll x Crystal Treasure) continues his progress at advanced level taking first place at 40 km rides but not yet up into the higher mileage. Grey Faro (Silver Domino x Pearl Silva) bred by Carol Carpenter from her famous endurance lines, continues to progress and completed at the Cirencester British National Championships at 80 km.

Magic Banner (Indian Banner x Star Bint Aurora) is still sticking at the 40 k rides but hopefully he can progress next year whilst Magic Fire (Hachim x Nishtar) continues to make steady progress completing at Breamore in the 80 k. John Hudson rode earlier in the season the mare Silver Blue Pearl (Silver Blue Ludo x Pearl Silva), that dam cropping up again in endurance pedigrees, and was progressing well up the grades when tragedy hit and she suffered colic and sadly had to be put down. This is so sad as this mare was specially bred for the Hudsons for endurance. Pearl Silva is currently on lease to Llain Arabians.

The first main ride of the season, Harling Drove was the final selection ride for the senior development squad. An up and coming star in this section was the beautiful chestnut gelding Ryu (Ahmoun x Crystal Belladonna). Ryu was bred by Denise Nancarrow and was only the third foal bred by Denise. I saw him early on and he was a beautiful foal and now stands at 15.3hh despite his dam being only 14 hh. Denise broke her leg and whilst in plaster, decided to sell Ryu to Sue Box to someone who could take him to the top of endurance. Starting his endurance career in 2004 with pleasure rides, in 2005, he competed at Novice Level and finished the season with 3 Intermediate Rides. In 2006, Sue took him to Advanced level with his first 80k ride at Cirencester. It was here that Sue was approached to take him onto the Development Squad and he was selected that year after completing under his first FEI Rules Ride at Red Dragon in the 80 km category finishing 4th. 2007 saw Ryu really achieve being placed 2nd in the 100km at Cirencester and this success story must surely continue in the future.

Of the five selected horses for the Development Squad chosen at Harling Drove, three are predominantly Crabbet. Apart from Ryu, the others were Carol Fricker on Silver Linnet (Spirit of Silver x Linet) and Gilly Payton on Simeric Showman (Manichee x Mouna Gold).

Silver Linnet was bred by Mrs. Veronica Tobin (daughter of the late Mrs. Mathias). Spirit of Silver is shared between Hazel Crowle in Cornwall and Veronica (Ba) Tobin alternatively. They also own another stallion recently imported from Carol Carpenter's stud in France, Lufti Pasha (Silver Blue Ludo x Lusarah). Spirit of Silver was also sire of the well know Tigre ridden by John Hudson. Silver Linnet therefore has proven endurance lines, with the Ludo and Bright Shadow blood in full force.

The toughest event in the UK, the Golden Horseshoe on Exmoor proved more difficult than

usual with deep, muddy, sticky and clinging conditions on the final day (to put it politely!). I would hasten to add that having seen a film of the Shahzada event in Australia, I wonder what on earth we are complaining about. If you want a challenge, a real one, go to Australia and tackle this event in the Blue Mountains near Sydney!

Despite the appalling weather, Silver Linnet went to the Golden Horseshoe and competed in the new "Exmoor Experience" two day 80km ride. She achieved a silver award in a time of 11.76 kph and was awarded the special award of Handling and Presentation. In the two day "Exmoor Stag" event, over 120k Libby Whittome successfully completed at an average speed of 10.96kph on her gelding Imagine by AHS Premium Stallion Imad (2007 WAHO Winner) out of Fiesta Magica. Imagine was bred by Libby's sister, Diana. Imagine also took the highest placed Arabian award in memory of the late Cheryl Logan, the Saillard Fuller Silver Trophy for the best time for silver medals winners, the SW Arab Horse Group award for the Pure Bred with the best recovery rate throughout and the Dunlop Heywood Veteran (Rider) trophy.

In the main event, the 160k ride, Candy Cameron from Scotland was in her first competitive outing on the 11 year old King of Darkness (Prince of Darkness x Jambaretta). Candy decided to try for gold and in so doing clocked up one heart rate penalty and so had to be satisfied with bronze. To make up for this, they took the awards for highest pure bred and best recovery rate throughout and the award for the best gelding. Two other predominantly Crabbet horses in the Exmoor Experience category completed with a silver award, Totem Blue (Imad x Blue Moon of Leaves) and Siyah (Militaire x Charming Shadows).

Gilly Payton on Simeric Shoman, bred by Mrs. Thay Jones, carefully avoided Exmoor and had great success winning at Haywood Oaks and the Southdown Festival as well as being placed 2nd and 3rd at other rides this season.

The Dukeries Endurance event which takes place at Thoresby Park near Nottingham and is an FEI sponsored occasion was won by Sheikh Abdullah bin Faisal Al Qasimi riding across the line on the Australian horse, Castlebar Sobeia from the famous Castlebar Endurance Stud.

Hard on the heels of the first two horses came Susan Hawes on Jade Rani to take 3rd place.

Cirencester Park in Gloucestershire was once again the setting for the Summer Solstice and the National Championships. However, the weather was set to decimate the entrants in the longer distance events but the predominantly Crabbet grey stallion, Summer Place Jumanji (Ganemede x Winter Persephone) proved Crabbet breeding to the fore again. This fascinating pedigree a mixture of the Gai Rainey Arabians in America and mainly Old English lines with the addition of the Egyptian lines in the Shah whilst on the dam side again brings in the racing line of Faris through Risseefa on tail female with similar bloodlines on the sire side from America to the winning gelding, Elastarius at the Horse of the Year Show.

Laura Short at just 17 years old and her horse was one of two combinations who managed to complete the course and claim their place as British National Champions, the youngest ever. Laura was contesting her first 160 km event and congratulations to her, one to watch for the future.

Bitterwell Spirit (El Crysto x Shadeeka) followed on from his successes last year to achieve excellent results this season, including third place at Cirencester Park in the 100 km Denbigh Slate class, third place again at Berkshire Downs and a win at Forest of Dean March Hares.

Lutandorvici (Eaglescliffe x Tandoora Kiywali) ridden by Gemma Parkin had a good start to the season but suffered latterly in the heavy going. CJ's Gai Forest (Ganemede x Gold Sahri) ridden by Christine Yeoman took first place at Tilford and Lulworth Castle rides. Cardinal Panache (Manichee x Ashmary) with rider J Harman continues to achieve high results with many wins and placings to their credit.

Magica's Minstrel, another Imad offspring, out of Fiesta Magica, ridden by L. Spark clocked up an excellent result at the Lindum Spirit event coming 2nd and 3rd and also taking 3rd at the Northern Championships. Ptolemaeus (Imad x Sunlights Song) continues with rider C Jones with amazing success at advanced level with wins at Forest of Dean, Ludlow and the Lions Trail. Solitaire's Star (Star of the Seasons x Firefly Solitaire) ridden by J Martin had a brilliant season and must be pushing for top places in 2008 and helped to win the Lindum Spirit team competition. Yakamin another of the brilliant combinations of Yahmur x Klorinda won at Berkshire Downs, and at Cirencester. Next year they are expected to move up into higher events and are ones to look out for.

Other horses who achieved good success in the season and ones to keep an eye on in 2008 were Aden Silver Moonlight (Crystal Monarch x Silver Magnolia); Ali Ibn Dream (Diamond Star x Border Dream); Crown Prince of Silver Blue (Silver Satyr x Coronet of Kismet); Dancing Ruzala (Manzala x Dancing Nizzorah); Eaglespring (Eaglescliffe x Joys of Spring); Guisburn Szaleem (Zalim x Shimsha); Ishcol Chardyll (Grecian Idyll x Ishcoll Charisse); Koyote ((Kamihlo x Yva); MAS Khadambah (Manichee x Milleasha); Macsen (Manichee x Star Queen); Marlak Romance (Ben Marlak x Sirdar Flyer); Midnight Forester (Dorian x A Dawn's Dream); Moon Magician (Lugan Magic x Crystals Opal Moon); Nasita (Imman x Medhihah); Shazirre (Zircon Nazeer x Shahleah); Simeric Shaman (Manichee x Sunset Gold). There are many others, too many to mention here but perhaps they will be part of next year's write up.

Overall, the successful bloodlines of Ludo, Bright Shadow, Blue Domino, Dargee and Indian King continue to come through and the successful sires Manichee and Imad continue to dominate the endurance scene. Mention must be made of Imad, now 23 years young, and owned by Diana Whittome of Coed-y-Foel Stud in Wales. Not only did Imad win the top ridden awards a few years ago, but he has also sired top class ridden show winners and endurance horses. With racing taking a different course now it is run by the Arabian Racing Organisation, we look to ridden showing and endurance for the performance sires in England. Imad takes the WAHO Trophy for 2007, richly deserved for the important part he has played and it should be noted that he was Performance Tested by the National Stallion Association open to all breeds to prove his performance ability thus achieving AHS Premium Stallion status. The successes of his offspring underline the qualifications achieved at that test and we congratulate Diana on winning this award.

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