

**EMOTIONAL WIN AT HOYS AS PHA SILVERN RISALM  
(RIDDEN BY DARREN CROWE)  
CLAIMS THE ONLY MAJOR TITLE TO ELUDE HIM  
AHS YEARBOOK 2007**

**By Caroline Sussex**

PHA Silvern Risalm at last took the one major title that had eluded him. No one can complain that Risalm did not deserve to win the Ridden Arabian of the Year and more importantly, it seems very fitting that Darren Crowe, who produced Risalm to yet another flawless performance, achieved this just one year after successfully fighting cancer. Darren's recovery to win with Risalm, for owner Tiffani McCarthy, the title they so badly wanted just added to the magic of the occasion. Described by Darren as "his horse of a lifetime" speaks volumes for this kind and beautiful stallion and says so much for the Arabian as Darren was originally into show jumping, and still performs in this arena. Risalm took the British National Supreme Ridden title in 2004 and became the winner of the first ever WAHO Trophy in 2005 where the team will be remembered for their emotional dressage display in the mud at the National Show prior to presentation of this award.

The stallions were supreme at HOYS this year as second placed stallion, Ikoni (100% Crabbet), owned by Haley Budge and bred by Rosemary Archer, also gave a flawless performance with rider Ben Martin and certainly gave Risalm a run for his money. Ikoni took the Reserve slot to make it a clean sweep for the boys and Essex! In fact the two stallions are related; PHA Silvern Risalm (100% GSB breeding), bred by Mr and Mrs Peck, is by Silvern Sceptre out of Rislina and Silvern Sceptre is by Silvern Idyll. Ikoni is out of Silvern Image who is a full sister to Silvern Idyll and by AHS Premium Stallion, Prince Sadik. Silvern Idyll and Silvern Image were also bred by Rosemary Archer of Worth Arabian Stud. After their win, the two stallions stood quietly outside in the sunshine, with reporters, owners and many admirers, milling around. They seemed to be loving the moment, enjoying the attention and soaking up the atmosphere; they knew they had achieved something special. What a tribute to our lovely Arabian breed.

The gelding class set the standard as the beautiful grey, Elustarius, (Gai Radiant ex Badoura), owned by Miss C Trigg and bred by Ms K Upton produced an exceptional performance. Elustarius has an interesting pedigree being bred in America at the Gainey Stud which has lines predominately imported from the UK. Gai Radiant Star is out of Gaishea, by the very famous American stallion Bey Shah out of Gai Dream. His dam, Al Badoura is by the famous stallion Pandoer HT with polish and russian lines and the bottom line again Old English. Beautifully ridden by Frances Atkinson, Elustarius gave an exceptional ride for Judge, John Conifey and was no surprise when the team were awarded Ridden Arabian Gelding of the Year.

Second was the high percentage Crabbet gelding Storm Gold by 2007 WAHO winner, **Imad** and out of Starlite Rose, bred by Teresa Sheward and owned by Tina Bennett. Ridden this year by Kirsty Brown, they had already walked off with the Ridden Championship at Towerlands in August and also won at the British Arabian Championships. Half brother, Al Shahrani by Istfahan out of the same mare, and still owned as well as bred by Teresa Sheward took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Tina Bennett riding. This combination continue to achieve at the highest level. Quite a feat for one mare to produce two such top quality geldings. [The quality bay gelding, Dreamcatcher took a well deserved 4<sup>th</sup> place with Majestic Cavalier in 5<sup>th</sup>. This class had some outstanding horses in it but one or two were not totally happy in this arena but the experience will surely stand them in good stead for the future.]

The stallion class was strong this year and it was pleasing to see judges John Conifey (ride) and Joan Bishop (conformation) conferring with one another during the initial presentation of the horses. The classes were split in two and apart from the first walk round, the horses do not appear in the ring at the same time until the prize giving. Marking is given for ride and conformation judged at the same time and then the points are added up. These are then available immediately after the classes for everyone to see. The Championship is judged under AHS Championship Rules but which state that the ride given to the judge is taken into account as well as the performance in the championship.

3<sup>rd</sup> in the stallion class was Al Galero, bred by Major and Mrs Maxwell by the Spanish stallion, Borneo out of the top in hand show mare, Ayat, from the famous Maxwell Alia family and her winning female line. Ayat was herself a winner at the World Championships in hand. Al Galero is owned by Mr and Mrs E Duggan and ridden by Emma Duggan. It is wonderful to see this breeding doing so well under saddle. There were some good stallions down the line who have performed well around the country but on the day it was two faultless performances that set the standard and the obvious comfort they gave to the judge when ridden.

The mare class also of a very high standard resulted in Darren's second win of the day when Susan Rose's pretty grey mare, Shayna Maydel (Zircon Nazeer x Southern Masjic) was produced to perfection to take the winning slot. Shayna Maydel, is also of predominantly Crabbet bloodlines. Second, pushing hard at Maydel's heels was the exceptional free flowing moving Silver Brocade (100% Crabbet) by Winged Saint out of Silver Silk. In fact, again there was a relationship in breeding between the two top mares as Shayna Maydel is out of Southern Masjic, a grand-daughter of Silver Silk. Time and again the outstanding stallions and mares of the past, appear in the pedigrees of the winning ridden horses.

Silver Brocade was bred by Maureen de Popp, owned by Irene Furlong and ridden by Stephanie Turner. [This mare had stormed into the headlines in 2006 by taking the Overall Novice Ridden Mare Championship at the National Show and this year she took the Supreme Ridden Championship at the Crabbet Show held at Belvoir Castle.] The mare Eastworth Ahmshini, by Moashira out of Ahmalia has an English bred dam with Spanish and Egyptian lines from the sire, including Bint Estasha (El Shaklan x Estasha) gave John Conifey an excellent ride to take 3<sup>rd</sup> slot [and the mare Silver Lil, last year's winner, came in 4<sup>th</sup>. Sadly the mare Silvern Sheena who has had an outstanding season, although going well for the judge, perhaps looked abit tense but this is a mare to look out for in future years.]

It is imperative that the Arabian performs well at the Horse of the Year Show. In the main arena in front of so many horse breeders and fans, but not necessarily arab fans, the six contenders all gave an exceptional performance and were a credit to the breed and their producers. Congratulations to Silvern Risalm and the Darren Crowe team and we wish them well in his future career in dressage where he is already competing at Intermediate Level.

The Arab Hose Society is very grateful to Wastesolve Limited for their very generous and kind sponsorship for the Arabian Ridden Classes at the Horse of the Year Show over the last three years. I know I would be talking on behalf of all ridden owners in thanking them and next year's sponsors, Hutchinson Recruitment very much for supporting the HOYS classes. The qualifying classes throughout the country are well supported and very popular. It is a rider's dream to win at the National Show and at HOYS. Long may this dream remain available for the future.

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