

IREXANDYA
By Caroline Sussex

In September this year, Daphne Cocksedge lost her much loved friend and companion, the mare, Irexandya. Alex, as she was known, was born on the 3rd July, 1978 bred by Daphne at her Cilcoed Stud and was the last remaining Romac offspring by the famous bay straight Crabbet stallion, Romac.

Alex was an exceptional mare, talented and able to perform. She had large eyes and a good legs and was a delight to ride. She enjoyed Arab Horse racing in the 80's and is pictured in the paddock at Market Rasen where she came 3rd. Racing was at that time somewhere people could get together and test their horses and have fun. Certainly these times brought many members together and the race meetings were part of the highlight of the Arab Horse calendar. People were able to train their own horses at home and have a chance of getting placed which brought much excitement and fun for all supporters.

It is not surprising with the wonderful pedigree that Alex did well racing and was successful as she was never out of the frame over 2 miles. Sadly she never won, but gave much pleasure. Some of the happiest times of Daphne's life were spent riding Alex and getting her fit for this wonderful sport.

Alex sire, Romac was featured in Volume 8 of the Crabbet Journal. He was by the very special and influential stallion, Irex (Naseem x Rissla) out of Thyra (Shazda x Grey Thora). The tail female line goes back to Naxina through Samsie and Thorayya was by Rissalix, by Faris. Alex's pedigree goes back quickly to classic Crabbet horses with Naseem in the third generation with Rissla, Raktha, Grey Owl and Thorayya.

Thora Grey, full sister to Alex, and also bred by Daphne, also sadly died just a month later at Rose Ennik's stud where she had spent her entire life. Thora Grey's son and last daughter who were both by Ranadi (Sengoran x Wadiha) are still with Rose, a firm and long standing friend of Daphne's.

Alex eventually retired from racing to become a broodmare in 1988 and amazingly produced 10 foals (6 fillies and 4 colts all gelded).

Her first foal was Celtic Inspiration by Idris (Sadi x Dargemet), born in 1988. She was rested the following year and then had in 1990 the filly Skylic Escapade by Sky Crusader; in 1991 and 1992 she had two colt foals by the high percentage stallion, Sollum producing Sollinx and Celtic Challenger. In 1991 Zinovia by Zaiyan was born and in 1994, the colt, Swift Silver by Silver Sabre (Silver Scimitar x Rahibab). Time for a break before producing Irexinda by Idris again now with a young owner who competes in open competition. Irexanda also by Idris is retained by the stud and having competed in endurance is now on loan to Alexia Ross as a riding horse. The third daughter by Idris was Irexena Valentina who competed consistently with her young owner, Elizabeth Grange at our 2007 Crabbet Show.

Alex's last foal born in 2002 was Bint Irexandya ("Iffy") by Secret Heart who is part of the current breeding programme at the Romac Stud. Iffy will no doubt continue the wonderful lines passed down in her illustrious pedigree.

Alex ends an era being the last of the horses born at Cilcoed Stud. Her legacy will live on through her children and hopefully be out there performing and having fun.