

CRABBET STALLIONS REIGN SUPREME AT HOYS AND 5 OF THE TOP 6 HORSES CONTAINED A VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF CRABBET BLOOD

By Caroline Sussex

PHA Silvern Risalm (99.5%) at last picks up the one major title that had eluded him. Followers of "Ivan", winner of every major title except HOYS were well aware that this stallion deserved this title and it was an emotional return to the ridden arena for Darren Crowe that secured this coveted award and 2 out of 2 wins at HOYS.

The excitement builds after a whole season of qualifying at major shows and is brought to a climax in Birmingham in early October. Qualifiers from all over the country come together for that ultimate title, Ridden Arabian of the Year. Crabbet horses have done so well here in the past and for those of you who have never been, then surely you should try and go in 2008 and enjoy this special end of season party.

To win it once is a dream of a lifetime but this was in fact Darren's second win but this one surely so special after Darren's recovery from his battle against cancer. PHA Silvern Risalm is owned by Tiffani McCarthy, bred by Mr and Mrs D Peck and once again gave another flawless performance. 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 has won around 80 championships including British National Supreme Ridden Champion in 2004 and the first UK winner of the WAHO Trophy in 2005 where the combination will be remembered for their emotional dressage display in the mud at Malvern.

Second place to Risalm was Ikoni (100%), owned by Haley Budge, bred by Rosemary Archer, who also gave a flawless performance with rider Ben Martin and certainly gave Risalm a run for his money. The excitement grew in the main arena as the Reserve is read out and it was Ikoni. Hoops of delight abounded in the Risalm camp as this meant that Risalm had taken the top award as his name as Ridden Arabian of the Year came out over the loud speaker but celebrations had already begun!

The two stallions are related; PHA Silvern Risalm, 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. All those three horses 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 both stood quietly loving all the attention and appearing to savour this special moment of attention and celebration and promoting the Crabbet Arabian as a kind and gentle horse.

Ridden Arabian Gelding of the Year, was Elusatrius (Gai Radiant x Badoura) who has many interesting Crabbet lines in his pedigree and second to him was 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 3rd place with Tina Bennett riding. These two combinations continue to achieve at the highest level. Quite a feat for one mare to produce two such top quality geldings and for Tina Bennett to produce them for the show ring. The other Crabbet qualifier, Majestic Cavalier (Golden Cavalier x Maers Kessa) took 5th place and note should be made that Mrs Hayley Hyde Andrews, bred, owned and rode Majestic Cavalier, which is a brilliant achievement.

The stallion class was very strong this year. Other Crabbet contenders were Sorrento, another Imad son, out of Sarafina, bred by Diana Whittome who was in his first ever HOYS appearance. Sorrento is owned by Susan Murphy and ridden by Louise Maryon and placed 8th place. Another regular HOYS contender was Valletta Hunters Moon.

The mare class also of a very high standard was full of Crabbet mares. Darren Crowe rode the pretty Shayna Maydel (Zircon Nazeer x Southern Masjic) to perfection to take the winning slot with close at her heels, the exceptional free flowing moving Silver Brocade (100%) by Winged Saint out of Silver Silk. These two mares were related as well, Shayna Maydel is out of Southern Masjic, a grand-daughter of Silver Silk with Brocade being a daughter. 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 at her famous Milalaquen Stud in Norfolk. Brocade is now owned by Irene Furlong and has been ridden and produced 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 beating Silver Lil (Silver Satyr x Lilacs Fantasy), another high percentage Crabbet mare, who was placed 4th in this class having been the winner last year.

There was a 3 way tie in the mare class to add to the excitement. Making her debut at HOYS was Red House Zinderella a grey mare by Red House Faraoh out of Red House Ziona, Bred by Mrs G Webb and owned and ridden by Davina Ransley. They achieved an excellent 5th place. Much was expected of Silvern Sheena who has had an outstanding season, but although going well for the judge, perhaps looked abit tense but she surely will have her chance at HOYS another year.

The Horse of the Year Show is the show window to the ridden performance world in the UK. In the main arena in front of so many horse breeders and fans, but not necessarily arab fans, it really was an exciting moment to see 5 Crabbet horses take the stage and represent the best in the country. All the six contenders gave an exceptional performance and were a credit to the breed and their producers. Congratulations to Silvern Risalm and the Darren Crowe's team and we wish them well in his future career in dressage where he is already competing at Intermediate Level.

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