

## **CRACOW ARABIAN HORSE PICNIC**

### **The 1st Arabian Horse Show at the Cracow Racecourse**

9-10<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016

*press release*

The small village of Buczków, lost somewhere between Cracow and Tarnów, has high aspirations. Its grounds are home to the Cracow Racecourse, owned by Małgorzata and Ryszard Szpar, which for several years now has been a place where racing, the Sport of Kings, has been held. So far the events organized on its premises were of a local character and scale. This year, however, a truly international atmosphere was felt in the air.

On a beautiful, sunny weekend during September 9-10th the Cracow Racecourse became a place where the representatives of the most noble of horse breeds – the Arabian – competed for the titles of champions at the 1st Arabian Horse Show, part of the Cracow Arabian Horse Picnic.

The already well equipped facility was further complemented with a visual setting of the highest standard with great attention to detail – provided by POLTURF company of Barbara Mazur – the many year organizer of the Pride of Poland Sale in Janów Podlaski. An air of world-class standard could be felt, without an artificially built atmosphere, but in a friendly aura of general understanding.

The event was organized by Anna Stojanowska, Jerzy Białobok and Marek Trela, dismissed from their posts at the state studs at the beginning of the year and currently acting as private entrepreneurs.

The responsibility for the organization was huge, both with regard to expectations and a highly set bar, a new and unknown territory, breeders and exhibitors with a desire to participate in this event and who brought close to 90 horses, finally with regard to a superb, international jury panel in the shape of Claudia Darius (Germany), Christina Jamar-Demeersseman (Belgium), Jaroslav Lacina (Czechia) and Gianmarco Aragno (Italy), as well as national and foreign sponsors and spectators from all over the country.

But as it shows it is not the fame of the place that makes an event, but the people that are responsible for it: this made the 1st Arabian Horse Show a success. A colourful scenery, picturesque landscapes, friendliness and efficient organization, as well as a beautiful music setting provided by Romek Koszper created an unforgettable atmosphere and pleasant background for the presentation of Arabian mares and stallions. A tried and proven in the most difficult conditions team of people, rich in knowledge and experience, was a guarantee of quality.

An absolute novelty on the Polish show scene were the classes of amateur-presenters, geldings and foals born this year. The biggest emotions and joy were stirred by the first of them. A well-deserved applause and title of the First Amateur Presenter Champion went to Barbara Demczuk, who in her every day training work supports her husband, Marek Demczuk in their training centre near Warsaw.

The foal class was dedicated mainly to those breeders who wanted to present and have the effects of their work evaluated in the year that the foals were born. So far the first verification of the quality came not before the age of one. This time the youngest participants could present their charisma bouncing safely next to their dams. The winner of the class was the four month old PANTERAS (by Vitorio TO out of Perkillia by Al Maraam), bred and owned by Czesław Gołaszewski.

The championship finals saw a true "crème de la crème" of the Arabian breed, observed at Polish and international championships. The best mares and stallions battled it out in their age groups for the medals and the podium. The quality of the presented horses was very high, attesting to the excellent condition of private breeding in Poland.

For some it was a debut performance, but the majority of them had already won at other shows.

The Junior Champion Mare title went to the silver champion from Białka, the grey yearling PLATYNA NA (by Shanghai E.A. out of Pantera by Ekstern), bred and owned by Alicja Najmowicz. Behind her on the podium stood the three year old EMLA K.A. (by QR Marc out of Elerina by Ekstern), bred by Knocke Arabians and owned by Piotr Podgórny – who the judges awarded a silver medal, and the petite yet very beautiful MIRJJANA AL KANZ (by Kanz Al Bidayer out of Marjjana VA by Marwan Al Shaqab), bred and owned by Silvatica Black Arabians, who took the bronze.

The leader of the Junior Stallion Championship was the athletic PETRARCA (by Kahil Al Shaqab out of Poezja by Enzo), bred and owned by PPH Parys, before MARVEL PSYCHE (by Magnum Psyche out of Marjjana VA by Marwan Al Shaqab), bred by Silvatica Arabians and owned by Reza Al Hadadi and NAYEF AL KHALEDIAH (by WH Justice out of Athenaa by Ashhal Al Rayyan), exhibited by Polska AKF.

The finals in the senior mares category always cause the greatest emotions. It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful and refined picture than the class winners, all gathered in one place, at the same time. Calm, focused, confident and knowing their value, Arabian mares are simply magical.

The title of Senior Champion Mare was awarded unanimously to the grey, lovely UNIC ALL JP (by Laddin BA out of Sherezade JP by Naadir), exhibited by Lutetia Arabians from France. A successful performance was delivered by the recently seldom seen chestnut KALAHARI (by Ajman Moniscione out of Kashira by Magnum Psyche), owned by PPH Parys. Kalahari ended her showing with a silver medal. The bronze went to the incredibly feminine PAEMA (by Ekstern out of Pasyma by Piaff), whose breeder is Lech Błaszczuk.

The senior stallion championships marked the triumphant return of the athletic GOTICO (by WH Justice out of Ginga by Galba), bred and owned by M Arabians. Gotico reminded everyone about his quality and potential, winning the gold medal before the correct WIRON (by Kabsztad out of Wirka by Emigrant), owned by Janusz Lech and NAJM AL KHALEDIAH (by ZT Maghossny out of Nada Al Khalidiah by Abha Ifni), exhibited by Polska AKF.

The state studs were not present, which we shall leave without comments. Similarly to the fact that the Agricultural Property Agency refused to support the Cracow Show in receiving

an affiliation from ECAHO, submitted by the organizers more than three months ago. The reason for the refusal was "the organizers' lack of experience, required to manage such an event".

What is left though is satisfaction stemming from the higher than anticipated number of entries and the quality of the horses, which was often emphasized by the judges. And this was not a courteous gesture, but sincere recognition.

However no event, even the most planned and thought out, could take place without the support of the sponsors. The 1st Arabian Horse Show at the Cracow Racecourse took place only due to the involvement of a slew of companies and organizations, which honoured the initiators of the event with their trust and support: **THE MAIN SPONSOR – AL THUMAMA STUD** (Qatar), **FOREIGN SPONSORS – H.E. Sheikh Abdulla Bin Mohammed Ali Al Thani & AL ZOBAIR STUD** (UAE), **Mrs. Shirley Watts & HALSDON ARABIANS** (UK), **Mrs. Helene Zaleski & LUTETIA ARABIANS** (France), **Mrs. Nina Suskevicova & SUWECO STUD** (Czechia), **SPONSORS & PARTNERS – Raffaello, Aaron PB, M Arabians, Silvatica Black Arabians, M2 Nieruchomości Magdalena Sawicka, FORD Auto Motive Tarnów, Art Cafe, Amazis.net Ltd. with the Praga brand, Coca Cola HBC Polska Ltd., A.A. Bober Riding Agency, Tree and Decorative Shrub Nursery "Bór", and the Małopolska Horse Breeders Association and the Folk Riding Club "Krakowski Tor Wyścigów Konnych"**. It is hard to find words to express our recognition and gratitude for their kindness.

The organizers, encouraged by the positive feedback after the show's debut, hope to make the Cracow Picnic a permanent event in the Arabian horse show calendar in Poland.

We invite you next year to witness a one of a kind event, combining sport rivalry with beauty and the inimitable charisma of Arabian horses. This is a show where attendance is simply a must.