

2008 British Nationals

By Liz Salmon

After last years cancellation of this three day show due to flooding, expectations were running high for this year. The weather managed to behave itself for the most part. The classes were well filled and the Gelding classes in particular were outstanding, but there were some lovely youngsters too, full of potential. There was quite a lot of American bloodline influence among the winners.

The judges were HRH Princess Alia (Colts and Geldings) Michael Harris (Fillies) Sue Woodhouse (Mares) and Peter Upton (Stallions). The performance classes were well filled with dressage, jumping, western and the usual ridden classes.

The first day saw the fillies on parade. The yearling fillies were split into two sections. Section A contained some lovely entries and was won by Xotic Design (Master Design GA x Yoksuka) a very typey , good moving filly who deserved her place. Equally good in quality was section B won by the aptly named Glamorous, another stunning filly by Master Design GA out of Snow Dove. She went on to win best yearling filly with Xotic Design in Reserve.

The first section of two year old fillies was an excellent class with very little tail to it. Winning this one was Inyesta (Psynergy x Inyka) an outstanding, typey , good bodied filly with great movement. Section B was again a lovely class won by Lana Bint Laman (Laman HVP x Espanna Estopa). The best two year old went to Inyesta with Rianna (Master Design GA x Yannah) in Reserve.

I thought that the three year old filly class was a little disappointing, but certainly not the winner ZK Psyrenity (Psynergy x Jola) with her good type and movement. The Junior Female Championship went to the yearling Glamorous with ZK Psyrenity in Reserve.

The next day was the turn for the colts. These classes had their usual share of potential geldings, but there were some outstanding stallion prospects too. Winning section A of the yearling colts was Roe Lateef (Gazal Al Shaqab x ZT Ludjbrosiaa) a big, outstanding quality colt with everything it takes for a winner. In section B the successful sire Master Design prevailed again with his beautiful, good moving son Designed out of Haniyyah. The best two year old went to Roe Lateef with Designed in Reserve.

There was only one class for the two year old colts—a fairly nice class won by Pikasso Kossack (Kubinec x Popova) a typey colt taking after his sire with

movement. A fairly small but good class of three year olds colts was next. The winner here was the striking and good moving Psy Dream (Psytadel x La Diva). The Champion Junior Male was the well deserved yearling Roe Lateef.

The afternoon saw some good classes of mares without foals. The excellent class of mares aged four and five year old was won by the exquisite, ethereal Zeezeetop (Assad x Snow Dove). For me she had everything an Arabian mare should be with her type, great body and movement, as well as a lovely expression.

The class for mares aged six to nine years was won by the US import Falcon Song (Falcon BHF x HT Soraya) another lovely mare very deserving of her win. Winning the Senior mares aged ten to sixteen was Satin Lady (Fawor x Lady D'Esprit) this beautiful mare gave Blackbridge Arabians from Wales their second win in the mare classes in addition to owning the Junior Female Champion—quite a feat for a small breeder. The best mare without foal went to Zeezeetop with Falcon Song in Reserve.

The Veteran mares of seventeen and over were in next, it was lovely to see these old ladies performing. Winning here was the lovely twenty one year old Bint Cometera (Marsianin x Cometera).

The final day of the show was the mares and with foals in the morning followed by three Senior stallions. The first of the mares classes was for Junior Mares aged four to eight years old—a very small class but with some good entries. The winner was Muranas Nani (Psytadel x Baranka) an attractive mare with good movement. The Senior mare class was also small and was won by the lovely big, showy, good mover Mirwana 11 (Mir Wan x Nialla-Tu). She also won the best mare with foal.

The Veteran mares with foals only had three entries, and was won by the US bred OML Camila Estopa (Carmargue x Bint Estopa). She could still put on a show with her movement and is such a lovely mare. The foals were judged following these classes. It's always fun to watch as you are not sure if the foals are showing the handlers at times !! The Champion foal was the outstanding, unnamed filly by Marwan Al Shaqab out of Roe Lahab with the colt Mirv (Psadisho Ibn Esstashan x Mirwana 11) another super exhibit in Reserve.

Finally, the crowds gathered for the stallion Classes. The judge Peter Upton asked for them to be walked in, so they did not show their presence and movement until they had walked a circle around him, then they were stopped at the lower corner of the ring to trot out one by one. The first class of Junior Stallions aged four to nine years was a fabulous class of snorting typey great movers. Taking the class was Master Design GA (Versace x Bea Society Belle) looking incredible and the epitome of a great example of the breed. In second

place was also an outstanding stallion with some big wins under his belt. This was LVA Maximus (Españo Estopa x Challon Salana).

In my opinion the Senior Stallions aged nine to sixteen was not such a strong class, but still some eye catching entries. The Brazilian bred stallion Ruger (Tallyen El Jamaal x HE Jiajna) won here, he's a big strong stallion with good type and movement. In second place was the beautiful, ethereal Ali Kamsin (Camargue x Liana El Shaklan). The Veteran stallions was a fun class with the incredible twenty five year old stallion Vodelej (Mashuk x Machta) taking the class with his amazing athletic ability, plus he is a natural show off and plays to the crowd. In second place was Sisyrinchium (Dhruv x Sakuntala) another lovely stallion, but only seventeen.

The In Hand Championships were held next with the mares in first. The Champion was Zeezeetop with Falcon Song in Reserve. The Veteran Championship went to Vodelej with Sisyrinchium in Reserve.

The Stallion Championship was almost a foregone conclusion with Master Design with LVA Maximus in Reserve. The Supreme overall Championship also went to Master Design.

I have been attending this show since 1963 and have seen many changes, but it's great to go back each year to see old friends and make new ones. I highly recommend this show for a more leisurely pace and a happier, natural way of showing.