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HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival

Hazim Al Khalediah winner in Poland
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Amyr du Soleil wins Prix Nefta - Dormane
Joud Al Cham wins with ease
Sihrano du Cayrou wins at Jägersro Galopp
Abbes, exciting maiden winner for HH Sheikh Abdulahh
Hilal Al Cham, in the way of the strong
Tadhg O’Shea dominates Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only in Abu Dhabi 2019-2020

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The second race of the Wathba Stallions Bonanza series run at Golden Gate Fields on tapeta and California Sand JS (Burning Sand x Summer Reign CS) was ridden with precision by David Martin and ended in a sweeping home run by an impressive six lengths. The Terri Eaton - trained colt by Burning Sand is owned by N. Forbes Robinson and J. Schleimer and leased by PARC Racing Club. This makes three wins for three races for this talented Burning Sand JS colt and second consecutive win at the Wathba Stallions Bonanza Stakes Series.

The connections also had third place Sand Canyon JS. Coming in second place was Djudju Seq.

The winner's share of the $15,000 prize money sponsored by the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival and the winning time was 1:19:81.

The third and final race of the Wathba Stallions Bonanza Stakes Series is set for 17 October at Pleasanton, California.

Source and photo: Arabian Racing Association of California

In the race for the Trafà Award, held as part of the Wathba Stallions Cup, on August 16 at Tor Służewiec racecourse in Warsaw for young Polish-bred Arabians, two favorites, Hazim Al Khalediah (Kasir Al Khalediah x WFA Harmony by Djebbel) and Hefira Grand, drove off their rivals.

The 1800 m race for 3-year-old Arabian horses was attended by 13 animals.

The stallion led by Szczepan Mazur imposed a strong and steady pace.

The mare left the group of horses and set off in pursuit, but the mare ridden by Daria Pantchev did not manage to defeat her most dangerous rival.

Ridden by K. Grzybowski, Kenjiy finished in third place.

Hazim Al Khalediah trains in Służewiec Maciej Kacprzyk.

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Source and photo: http://torsluzewiec.pl/
Mountasir (Tabarak x Basilic d’Elios) landed a second victory in the Premio Wathba Stallion Cup at San Sebastián, Spain on Sunday, 9 August.

Bred and owned by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani, he was the hot favorite of this race. It was his first attempt over the distance of 1,500m.

Trained by Thomas Fourcy, Mountasir won a nice race earlier this year in France and has proven to be a very consistent competitor in all of his four starts. Ridden by Jerome Cabre, he jumped well to take the lead before the first bend, followed by Gaby de Faust (Dahess).

In the straight, Mountasir was headed by Gaby de Faust, but Mountasir showed he is not only talented but also tough. When Jerome Cabre asked him, he stormed to the retake the lead and win comfortably. Natalma Al Maury (Dahess) finished in second, just in front of Gaby de Faust.

Mountasir is a son of Tabarak, champion racehorse for H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani. He is a grandson of the famous French mare Bergeronnette (Djouran), the origin of numerous top-class Purebred Arabian racehorses, including the Gr1 PA winners Amyr du Soleil (Amer), Mahess du Soleil (Dahess), Dahor de Brugère (Dahess).

Source: QREC/JDG. Photo: Hipódromo de San Sebastián
Maghamir des Forges (Mahabb x Djezabel des Forges by Al Sakbe) landed a first victory in the Prix Danbik – Wathba Stallions Cup at Pompadour, France, on Sunday, 9 August, evening. This was a first success in France for the colours of Nasser Bin Saeed Al-Eida. It was also a first run on the fibre-sand for the David Morisson-trained gelding.

Maghamir des Forges had a good start, close to the pacesetter Ijaba V (Jalnar Al Khalidiah). Ridden by Damien Morin, the future winner was third at the end of the bend. The Pompadour track is a very challenging one, with a climbing straight and Maghamir des Forges was headed by Ijaba V and Almaajid (No Risk Al Maury). However, he proved to be the strongest and he quite easily took the lead. Ghassan de Montamel (Al Mamun Monlau) finished second thanks to a very pleasant effort in the last furlong. Gebreel de Montamel (Nieshan) was third.

Maghamir des Forges was bred by Catherine de Robert Labarthe and Stéphane Dubois. His dam is the sister for the champion mare Djainka des Forges (Kerbella), winner of the Qatar Arabian World Cup (Gr1 PA), the Hatta International Stakes (Gr1 PA) and the Qatar Arabian Trophy des Pouliches (Gr1 PA).

Source: JDG/QREC. Photos: AFAC.

Kabeer records first victory

The 4-year-old Purebred Arabian Kabeer (Mared Al Sahra x Nisaae by Dormane) landed his first victory by a nose in the Prix Arca – Wathba Stallions Cup (maiden) at La Teste-de-Buch, France, on August 5.

He is owned by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani and this race was his seasonal comeback and also his first attempt over a mile. The last time out, in September, the Julian Smart-trained colt had finished third over 10 furlongs.

Under the saddle of Olivier Peslier, Miss Boum Al Maury (Boum de Ghazal x Melody Al Maury by Maneira de Ir) led the race with a very steady pace while Kabeer, ridden by Clément Cadel, sat in fourth position. Wearing blinkers, he showed a nice turn of foot in the straight. He had to battle with Nayar Athbah (AF Albahar x Sifflet Al Maury by Akbar) and Zalej Al Cham (Azadi x Al Kahira by Akbar) before taking the lead. The Al Shaqab Racing-owned colt Zalej Al Cham, trained by Thomas Fourcy and ridden by Julien Auge, finished in second.

Bred by Al Shahania Stud, Kabeer is the brother of Nimr ASF (Amer) winner of The Heir Apparent Sword, Mkea (Amer) winner of three Gr1s (PA) including the Qatar Arabian World Cup and Chaddad (Mared Al Sahra) winner of the Qatar Arabian Trophy des Poulains (Gr1 PA).

His sire Mared Al Sahra (Amer x Massamarie by Tidjani) is standing for HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

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Source: JDG/QREC. Photo: Robert Polin.
Congratulations to HH Sh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Shadwell Stud, trainer James Owen for the great win of Alameen, ridden by Stephan Breux, in first place and Emiraaty, ridden by Stephen Hellyn, for second place at Wathba Stallions Cup held on August 3, in Waregem, Belgium.

Emiraaty seeks the title of the round for HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Governor of Dubai and Minister of Finance, competing with his stablemate Alameen, who wins the race.

Mme Jean-François Bernard wins third and fourth places for owner Marcel Mezy with Mishwane de Piboul, led by jockey Tracy Menuet and Halwica de Bozouls with Gary Sanchez. The Purebre Arabian race over 1,600 m for 3yo+ with 12 runners, builds the start of the raceday in Belgium. Today; with a total prize of 5,000 euros, the race attracted 10 horses from Belgium, Holland, France and the UK and was full of excitement and parity.

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Source: Cidinha Franzão / Photos: Supplied

Emberator (Munjiz x Zenhobie by Dormane), broke his maiden for Al Shaqab Racing at Dax, France, on Tuesday, 4 August, in Dax, France, and was champion of the 23rd round of the Al Wathba Stallions Cup series, in which 12 horses participated with a prize of 15,000 Euros.

This 3-year-old Purebred Arabian, who is trained in Pau by Charles Gourdain, won by a short head in front of Nafe’ Eh (No Risk Al Maury x Mangadore by Manganate), trained by Thomas Fourcy and ridden by Jerome Cabre with Sarhan (Mared Al Sahra x Alghasa by Arawak d’Aroco), trained by Francois Rohaut and ridden by Valentine Seguy just over a length further back in third.

Both the second and third run in the colours of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani, who also bred both colts.

Emberator was ridden here by Ioritz Mendizabal and is trained by Charles Gourdain. It was his first attempt at this distance of 2,300m, having run twice before over shorter trips finishing fourth on his previous start over 1,900m.

Emberator was bred by Mathieu de Watrigant and comes from the most successful bloodline of French Purebred Arabian breeders Haras de Mandore. His third dam is none other than French Champion mare Cherifa.

Source: AFAC/JDG with inputs Cidinha Franzão.

Photo: Robert Polin

Double win for James Owen in Waregem

Source: Cidinha Franzão / Photos: Supplied
Lucas Armand won the Prix des Sables-Wathba Stallions Cup with Alsayyad, a mare trained by Philippe Sogorb on behalf of the Royal Cavalry of Oman, on July 26 at Pompadour. The race with 1,700 m was for horses 4 years old and above with a purse of 12,000 €.

Alsayyad (Josco du Cayrou x Frida de Faust by Tidjani) bred and owned by Royal Cavalry of Oman finished first and was followed by Madja du Loup (Majd Al Arab x Fee du Loup by Akbar) ridden by Emilien Revolte and trained by Tierry Lemmer and Ijaba V(Jalnar Al Khalidiah x Matmata by Chahata) conducted by Clement Merille and trained by Charles Gourdain in second and third places respectively.

Source: AFAC – Association Française du Cheval Arabe de Course / Photos provided by Maxime Dupuy

The first stage of Wathba Stallions Cup in Romania was held on August 2 where six runners fought for the victory at Ploiesti racetrack over 1,800m. The next race will be on September 13.

The race was won by Valentin Atanasov (BG) aboard the stallion Zorab, Syo (RO), trained and owned by Viorel Dabija (RO).

The race was on 1,800m with stargate on Hippodrome Ploiesti, near Bucharest, the capital city of Romania.

At the stargate were seven horses and on the half of race Zorab was on 4th after that he earned step by step until winning the race; and due to pandemic, the race was behind closed doors.

Only a limited number of persons apart from the trainers and grooms were allowed on the track.

"I am very proud of my stallion. Zorab. I would like to thank you to HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Festival for sponsoring the races in Romania and, also, many thanks to Lara Sawaya for her continuous support", said Dabija who also won third place with Uthifa ridden by Octavian Sandu.

Second place went to trainer Constantin Anca-
ta’s Nedjarli XIII that was conducted by Dan Tu-
fanoiu.

The race is carried out according to the guide-
lines of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahi-
yan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Pres-
idential Affairs, in line with the festival’s strate-
gy of supporting owners and breeders in most coun-
tries in the world and motivating them to increase interest in the Arabian horse.

Source: Viorel Dabija and Cidinha Franzão / Photos: Courtesy Viorel Dabija
An imposing type, Kanaan (Sarrab x Shamayl by Kesberoy) needed to get back in the groove after a lengthy absence. Tackling a mile for the first time, the Yas Horse Racing runner scored an easy success in the Prix Burkeguy-Wathba Stallions Cup, which was held on July 24, at the French Racecourse in Mont-de-Marsan.

After initially occupying a mid-division berth in this small field, Kanaan patiently bided his time as Hilal Al Cham (Hilal Al Zaman) tried to make all. In mid-stretch, Ioritz Mendizabal had yet to ask Kanaan a serious question. However, an effective ability to quicken soon settled the issue as the latter easily pulled clear of Askar (Munjiz x Abigaille by Dormane), ridden by Valentin Seguy. It was a close run thing for minor honours as Barada Al Cham (AF Albahar x Al Ryma by Akbar) shaded third.

Granted the good to soft ground, the final time (1'42''60) is remarkable because the winner was given a hands and heels ride.

Didier Guillemin, the winning trainer, said: “He did it easily. He’s a somewhat heavy-topped horse, and his previous races have done him a power of good. He has stepped up markedly on previous form. Last season, he was sidelined for almost a year. It has taken time for him to reach peak fitness. Besides, Kanaan is a very straightforward, honest type. He really gives his all and it’s a great feeling of satisfaction. I thought that the 1,600m (1m) trip would be on the sharp side for him, but no. He’s adapted very well. He may prove very effective over distances ranging from 1,600 (1m) to 2,000m (10f). I haven’t really given his future assignments much thought.”

Source: AFAC/JDG. Photo: Robert Polin
On Friday 24 July, the Emirati sponsor Wathba Stallions Cup gave his name to a 3-year PSA race at the Sassari racecourse. The maiden took place on 1,500 meters.

In the final, the winning shot was that of Bellagioia (Filindeu x Missamba), ridden by Michael Rossini, bred by Antonio Conti son and heir of that great, far-sighted character of the Sardinan gallop that corresponds to the name of Franceschino Conti. In her 3rd race the filly, trained by Cosimo Congiu for owner Gianluca Taccori, won with 1.25 length.

In second place went Bantu de Zamaglia (Saasha x Elena di Zamaglia), ridden by Maikol Araras, homebred of the partner Luigi Filippo Cossidda. The podium was completed by Bidunelle di Barbagia (L'Indagatto x Olga de Gavoi), ridden by Andrea Fele, with the jacket of partner Alfiero Mereu, bred by partner Domenico Soru.

The Sassari conference opened with another race for the Purebre Arabians, this time for 4 years or more, again on 1,500 meters in which Aquila Nera (Ameretto x Toeris) was the first to cross the finish line. Manuela Daverio’s standard bearer has been in training for some time in Sardinia in the stable of Mariatina Floris.

Returning to the Wathba Stallions Cup Circuit, the Sassari race was the third in the series (after Rome and Florence) and will continue in September with the double appointment on September 19 in Chilivani with the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Cup (Listed Race) and the Wathba Stallions Cup, while in autumn it will end with the Roman appointment on 18 October and the Milanese one on 25 October.

Source: Associazione Nazione Italiana Cavallo Arabo / Photo di Monica Scano

Fiorente debut in the Wathba Stallions Cup

On Thursday 23 July, the Visarno racecourse in Florence hosted the first races for the Purebred Arabian Horses in its long and glorious history: just think that the Corsa dell’Arno is the oldest race in Italy, even more so than the Italian Derby.

The Florentine debut was in great style because the two races both had high level Emirati sponsors.

Let’s start with the three-year-old horse race sponsored by the Wathba Stallions Cup. ANICA has always played an important role in connecting between the Italian racecourses and the HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival in Abu Dhabi and its general manager Lara Sawaya.

The 1,800-meter race was dominated by rookie Gandalf de Pompadour (Hilal Al Zaman x Ghaiadaa), ridden by Antonio Fresu, owned by Iraqi Mohammad Al Nujaifi and Englishwoman Val Bunting who have become ANICA members since this year. The two have several horses in training in Italy. In second place Belshatsar (Da-hess x Win Taouy), ridden by Alberto Sanna, who preceded a still immature Conan by Luelle (Lodigorese x Luelle), first of the Italians, bred by Marta Balducci and belonging to the partner Massimiliano Narduzzi.

Both Gandalf de Pompadour and Belshatsar are trained by Endo Botti Galoppo Snc.

The other race, reserved for horses aged 4 and over, was sponsored by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Emirates Breeders Program. On the 2,000 meters, the undefeated Octopus Premier (Ameretto x MakLeo-patre) confirmed himself and now has five victories out of as many races disputed.

The Florentine one suffered more than the others due to the reaction of Forgehill Chico (Hilal Al Zaman x Change of Scent) with third place Flore des Vialettes (Hilal Al Zaman x Usa des Vi-alletes). The first of the Italians was Abu di Gallura (Abu Aleramat x Elettra de Nulvi), bred by his partner Giovanna Picconi, trained and owned by Simone Fiorentini.

Source: Associazione Nazione Italiana Cavallo Arabo
California Sand JS (Burning Sand x Summer Reign CS by Kador de Blaziet) wins in Pleasanton

California Sand JS wins in Pleasanton

California Sand JS (Burning Sand x Summer Reign CS by Kador de Blaziet) is the winner in the first of the Triple Series races for the California Wathba Stallions Cup Bonanza Stakes.

The first race of the Triple Series was held on July 18, at Pleasanton, California; disputed on five and one half furlongs, on the dirty, for 3-years-old and more and had a purse of $15,000.00.

Trained by Terri Eaton, California Sand JS (Burning Sand x Summer Reign CS) was ridden by David Martin and is owned by N. Forbes-Robinson and J. Schleimer.

Djudju SEQ (Baseq Al Khalediah x Djewell by Calin du Loop) under Cristobal Herrera crossed second and AA Rich Whiskey (TH Richie x Salsa Dancer CS by Line Dancer) with Leonel Camacho-Flores crossed third.

The Wathba Stallions Bonanza Stakes is sponsored by the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival.

2020 California Wathba Stallions Bonanza Stakes
A program designed for the Stars of the Future Featuring Our 2020 Maid
First Race: 18 July, Cal Expo at Pleasanton, California - Estimated Purse $15,000.00, 5 1/2 furlongs, 3-year-old and up.
Second Race: 9 August, Sonoma County Fair, Santa Rosa, at Golden Gate Fields, California - Estimated Purse $15,000.00, 6 furlongs, 3-year-old and up.
Final Race: 17 October, Fresno, California - Estimated Purse $20,000.00, 6 furlongs Allowance Race: Horses 3 years and up.

Source: Arabian Racing Association of California / Vasser Photography

Mayar Al Khalediya wins in Warsaw

The half-brother of Fazzy Al Khalediah - Mayar Al Khaledia (Nashwan Al Khalidiah x Assma Al Khalediah by Amer) made a phenomenal impression in the race for the Bork Prize (Nagroda Borka), stage in Poland of Wathba Stallions Cup series, on July 18, at Tor Służewiec, Warsaw.

In the competition for the Bork Prize, Szczepean Mazur challenged the opponents, riding the favored Mayar Al Khalediah. The stallion, galloping "in hand", led at an extremely strong pace.

Meanwhile, Szczepean Mazur, at the exit to the straight, "asked" Mayar for more. It became clear that the competitors would only fight for second place.

Mayar Al Khalediah won arbitrarily, with an advantage of 11 lengths, in a very good time on 1800 m - 2'03.3". Hazim Al Khalediah quickly finished from a far position, overtaking the tired Hadjar in the end.

In the fight for fourth place, Pressus slightly defeated Celebryk. The tremendous progress that Mayar Al Khalediah is making from start to start allows him to see him as a horse that, like Fazzy Al Khalediah, will count in major international races.

Trained by Michał Borkowski, Mayar Al Khalediah is the half-brother of one of the best Arabs in the world - Fazzy Al Khalediaha (by Jalnar Al Khalidiah).


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Marcel Mézy’s Mysshwan De Piboul mare, under the supervision of Elizabeth Bernard and under the leadership of Tracy Menuet, won the thirteenth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup series, held on the night of Monday, July 6, in Waregem Koerse, Belgium, in the activities of the 12th edition of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival.

The 1,600-meter turf race is dedicated to purebred Arabian horses aged three or more, with a total cash prize of 5,000 euros, attracted nine horses from Belgium, the Netherlands, France and the UK.

The victory of Nashwan Al Khalidiya’s descending heroine came in a surprise entrance from the inner path and a difference of 0.75 length, ahead of two animals from HH Sh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and trained by James Owens: Alameen, in second place conducted by Stephan Breux and Emiraaty, ridden by Stephen Hellyn.

Photo: Courtesy of the OC

The three-year-old Purebred Arabian Sayaad (Dahees x Al Shahania Aseala by Arawak D’Arco), a homebred for H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, won the Prix De Bournazel – Wathba Stallions Cup on his debut at Pompadoour, France on Sunday 5 July. Sayaad is trained by Thomas Fourcy and was ridden by Mile. Laurie Foulard.

The Prix De Bournazel was the twelfth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup under the guidance of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to the festival’s strategy, with the aim of supporting owners and breeders in most countries in the world and motivating them to increase interest in the Arabian horse.

The black colt broke out well of the starting stalls and sat in fourth position, with the runners very strung out on the sand track, with the pace-setter Heros Des Vialettes (Seraphin Du Paon x Star Des Vialettes by Dormane) running very free.

Coming up the middle of the straight, Sayaad was very green and received two smacks of the whip, but ultimately he was the best horse in the six-furlong race for three-year-old maidens.

Despite his inexperience, he went two lengths in front of his nearest rival, Zulfaa (Rabbah de Carerre x Bluedream by Akbar), trained by D. Morisson, was the runner-up under Maxime Foulon.

Trainer E. Dell’Ova’s ward Rahi UAE (Nieshan x Barasti by Robbie) was further 4½ lengths behind in third under Gary Sanchez.

Source: QREC/JDG with inputs of Cidinha Franzão / Photo: Maxime Dupuis
Tuesday 23 June, after those already played in Sardinia, the races for the Pure Arabian Bred returned to the Roman Ippodromo delle Capannelle.

Astral del Sol, ridden by Antonio Fresu and trained by Christiana and Endo Botti, crowned owner Al Nujaifi Racing LTD, champion of the tenth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup.

Two races on the bill, the most important of which was the Wathba Stallions Cup, first of eight races for which ANICA (Associazione Nazionale Italiana Cavallo Arabo) got sponsorship for this year of HH Sheikh Mansoor Festival.

The race was reserved for 3-year-old horses over the distance of 1,500 meters and many of the starters were making their debut. It was just a debutant to win, Astral del Sol (Hilal Al Zaman x A l'Envolee del Sol by Kesberoy) belonging to a foreign ANICA associate: the Al Nujaifi Racing Ldt team.

The race, held on the turf track, was characterized by strength and challenge, mainly because these horses were trying to write their name in the champions’ records to go to stardom in Italy and later in Europe.

Astral del Sol preceded three horses born and bred in Italy. Second came Conan by Luelle (Logudorese x Luelle) trained by Massimiliano Narduzzi and ridden by Germano Marcelli, just ahead of Ballad (Damis x Qatarh - breeder the partner Pietro Putzu) of the T.S.A. S.R.L., partner.

The marker was completed by Francesco Dettori ridden-Borello Dibarbagi (Filindeu x Ombretta de Gavoi - breeder by the partner Domenico Soru) belonging to Alfiero Mereu and trained by Fabrizio Pinna., winner of his debut in Chilivani.

Rasmi Al Khalidiyah proved way too good for his rivals in the Group 1 Wathba Stallions Cup race at Sluzewiec Racecourse in Warsaw, Poland, on June 28, winning the 1600m turf contest by a massive 15 lengths.

The race was part of the 12th edition of the Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival and run under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs.

Trained by Janusz Kozłowski, the 3yo Nayef Al Khalediah colt was always in control and stormed clear to win with minimal fuss under rider V Popov with a time of 1:50.60s.

Finishing second was Sidane, while Pilargo took third a further length and a quarter behind. Toulose hosted a Wathba Stallions Cup double header, both of which were won by Thomas Fourcy-trained horses.

Source: https://www.aladiyat.ae/ Photo: Monika Metza-Jodłowska / Mateusz Blaszczak
The first two places of the 2,100 meters Prix Fernand Flottes – Wathba Stallions Cup were brilliantly secured by Namira Al Cham and Gohar Du Breuil on June 21 at Toulouse. Owned in partnership with Nada Mousalli and trained by Thomas Fourcy, Namira Al Cham opened her winning account in style while the son of Al Mumon Monlau trained by Charles Gourdain, Gohar Du Breuil, displayed a terrific turn of foot to finish a strong second.

Toulouse Racetrack hosted the activities of the eighth and ninth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup Series (Prix Fernand Flottes) on the afternoon of Sunday, June 21, with the participation of 23 horses, within the activities of the twelfth edition of the International Arabian Horse Festival of Mansour Bin Zayed.

Namira Al Cham (Azadi x Al Mazina by Dormaine) landed her first victory in the colours of Al Shaqab Racing. Having run in a highly competitive company on her first three starts, the chestnut filly lined up in the Prix Fernand Flottes – Wathba Stallions Cup (eighth round), run over 2,100m for four-year-old and older Purebred Arabians, wearing blinkers for the first time.

Octopus Premier (Ameretto x Mak Leopatre by Dormane) won his 4th consecutive race. Exactly one year to the day after his debut, Octopus Premier (Ameretto x Mak Leopatre by Dormane) won his 4th consecutive race, the Premio Klarnet Ex Sheikh Mansoor Cup, in Rome on 23 June. The four-year-old son of the Amer stallion Ameretto thus started his 2020 racing season as he finished it last year: as winner and under Italian jockey Antonio Fresu, who forms a winning team over all four rides with Octopus Premier.

A total of 4 victories in four starts with Octopus Premier makes one think a little bit of his successful sire, who among other races won the Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan Triple Crown four times in a row, which no other Purebred Arabian achieved.

Octopus Premier confidently left his competitors behind him on the Roman racecourse Capannelle in the last furlong. Until then he consistently held his position in second place behind the top speeding 5-year-old Zoe di Gallura (Ulumu x Elettra de Nulvi) under jockey Carlo Fiocchi; followed by Amour, who was kept in position for the next run to the top under Jockey A. Migeli.

The winning streak of his strong opponent Amour (Filindeu x Tadasuni), who dared to attack with nine starts and five wins, ended Octopus Premier with a shift forward on the last meters and won by two and a half lengths ahead of his attacking rival.

We are delighted with the performance of the Ameretto son. He not only looks like his sire as a young stallion. He also shows the calm head and the power in the race," said breeder and owner Manuela Daverio-Scharfenberg and added: "Now he has to show that he can also really fight head-to-head. So far no attacker has been able to put him in trouble."

Source: ANICA, with inputs of Cidinha Franzão / Photo Domenico Savi
Sir Monlau wins the 7th race of the Wathba Stallions Cup

As of June 6, Thomas Fourcy ran three representatives of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani in 2020 (in four races) and the three of them won! The new Sir Monlau (Al Mamun Monlau) is the latest. Still in the lead group, he was unapproachable in the final phase and won with a head start on his training companion Alhareth (Al Mamun Monlau x Tameemah by Amer).

This 3-year-old Purebred Arabian was making his racing debut on Saturday, June 6, at Toulouse, France, in the Prix Quitaine - Wathba Stallions Cup, a highly regarded maiden for Purebred Arabs.

Seven three-year-old Arabian horses competed in the 15,000 Euro prize round, held on the turf track for a distance of 2000 meters. Sir Monlau jumped well before sitting in second place, very relaxed with a nice action for the early stages. In the final turn, jockey Jerome Cabre switched him to the inside and he came into the straight in the lead. The Thomas Fourcy-trained bay colt kept accelerating throughout the long home straight, winning by a comfortable length.

Sir Monlau is by Al Mamun Monlau, the exciting young Purebred Arabian sire at Haras du Grand Courgeon, who also sired the second in the race the Laurie Foulard-ridden, Alhareth, running in the colours of Al Shaqab Racing and is also trained by Thomas Fourcy. The X. Thomas Demeaulte-trained Dakiss (Dahedd x Tikis French Kiss by Esmet Arbi), was a further length behind in third under Guillaume Guedj-Gay.

Sir Monlau is out of Al Anqa, the Group 1 PA placed mare by Amer. She is already a dam of winners and a sister to Group 1 winners, who are now sires; namely, Tabarak and Al Tair.

Source: QREC/AFAC with inputs of Cidinha Franzão. Photo: Robert Polin
Best 3yrs of the 2019 season, Amyr du Soleil confirmed that he survived his generation, since he very easily dominated the opposition for his return at the Sheikh Mansoor Festival – Prix Nefta-Dormane (Gr2 PA), at Hippodrome Bordeaux-Le Bouscat on May 23.

The race was disputed in 1,900m, for horses of 4 years and had a purse of 30,000 euros.

The representative of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani, trained by Thomas Fourcy, has everything to become a champion.

As he likes to do it, Amyr du Soleil, ridden by Julien Augé, took the lead, taking the small squad at his own pace, escorted inside by Jarif and outside by Zalej Al Cham. But, as soon as the final turn came out, Amyr du Soleil was irresistibly detached, encountering no opposition.

The filly Artemis finishes second, providing a double for Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani. She is trained by Mme. JF. Bernard and was ridden by Olivier Peslier. Jarif also trained by Mme. JF. Bernard and ridden by Jean-Bernard Eyquem, finished third.

Thomas Fourcy, the winner’s trainer, said: “Julien Augé told me that the horse had moved up a level compared to last year. He is much calmer when he leaves. We’re going to go on the 4yr Derby. He wasn’t 100% today but we don’t ask him more. The only thing is that nobody comes to face him and it can be annoying for the rest of his career. It has hardened over the year, and this winter it has gained mass. So he has a lot more strength and that can make him a champion, if we take our time well. He has not yet faced the “old” horses including Ebraz, which belongs to the same owner. But it will be at the end of the year.”

Source: AFAC/JDG. Photo: Robert Polin
Sihrano du Cayrou became the first Pattern Race winner of the Swedish 2020 season, at Jägersro Galopp on May 15. The Mahabb son is one of the contingents of horses Faisal Al Rahmani graciously has sent in training in the country.

The 4-y-o raced but once last year on Sicily, where the ex-Italian Frenchman finished a close second to a stablemate. Now trained by Camilla Nilsson, Sihrano du Cayrou made his seasonal bow on dirt. Meeting seasoned warriors with already a race or two under their belts this year. Not deterred he made short work of it in the 1730 m long Gr3 race for the fifth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup sponsored by HH Sheikh Mansour and his partners’ Global Festival.

Sihrano du Cayrou dictated the pace from early on and when asked by the mare Top Medina, he slipped her easily and alone down the straight he won as he pleased by a handful of lengths under just educational pressure from his jockey Elione Chaves.

Top Medina finished second from last year’s DIAR Stockholm Cup (Gr3) victor Ayman with another 4-y-o newcomer Mohaymin in fourth place and multiple pattern race winner Macallan fifth.

“There are always question marks when you race a horse for the ‘first’ time”, Camilla Nilsson said. “Especially in a Group race as the Wathba Stallions Cup we are so grateful the Festival continues to sponsor along with its other pattern races. I’m also very lucky indeed Mr Al Rahmani has this horse in training with me and I won’t be afraid of racing him abroad once the traveling restrictions are lifted. I also have a 3-y-o which could bring Mr Al Rahmani a lot of fun, once those are allowed to race.”

Source: IFHAR / Photo: Stefan Olsson (Svensk Galopp)

Joud Al Cham wins with ease

Joud Al Cham, from Al Shaqab Racing and Nada Mousalli, trained by Thomas Fourcy and led by Julian Oge, was crowned champion of the sixth round of the Wathba Stallions Cup - Prix Aicha - series, on Wednesday 20 May, at Hippodrome La Teste de Buch, under the umbrella of the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival. He was discreet along the way. But in the finals he didn’t give his opponents a chance. A single touch of his jockey was enough to increase the distance.

No and No Al Maury, who carried 3.5 kg more than the winner, crossed in second place. Owned by HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, trained by Damien Watrigant and ridden by Anthony Crastus, No and No Al Maury entered a strong competition in the final stretch with winner Joud Al Cham.

The debutante Midrass won an interesting third place. Trained by Elizabeth Bernard and led by Antoine Werle, he is owned by HE Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Also trained by Elizabeth Bernard, King Monlau (owned by HH Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Zayed Al Nahyan), ridden by Jean-Bernard Eyquem, won fourth place with a difference of just one nose. In addition to first place, trainer Thomas Fourcy took fifth place with Murbeh, ridden by Alexandre Gavilan and owned by Royal Cavalry of Oman.

Source: AFAC (Association Française du Cheval Arabe de Course).

Sihrano du Cayrou wins at Jägersro Galopp

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Source: IFHAR / Photo: Stefan Olsson (Svensk Galopp)
Hilal Al Cham, crowned champion of the third round of the Wathba Stallions Cup series. Owned by Al Shaqab Racing, he is trained by Thomas Forsey and was led masterfully by Julien Augé.

In the wake of his promising debut in July, Hilal Al Cham made his reappearance in the Wathba Stallions Cup - Prix Djouras Tu at Toulouse, on March 14.

Julien Augé wasted no time in making a beeline for the lead on the winner, and the Al Shaqab Racing runner was never headed. Maleha was two and half lengths away in second, as the experienced Al Mahbooba was left to collect third.

The race, with a purse of 14,000 euros and disputed in 1,400 meters, had 10 horses registered for 4 years and up.

In second place and after a strong competition in the final stretch, Maleha, in the colors of the Royal Cavalry of Oman, under the supervision of Philip Sogorb and ridden by Julien Grosjean.

Third place went to the experienced Al Mahbooba, owned by HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, trained by François Rohaut and ridden by Valentin Seguy.

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Source: Source: AFAC (Association Française du Cheval Arab de Course). Text: Cidinha Franzão. Photo: JDG

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Abbes, exciting maiden winner for HH Sheikh Abdullah

France held its first day of racing in nearly two months on Monday, May 11, with three meetings across the day and the colours of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani were in the spotlight at Toulouse when his colt Abbes won the Prix Djelfor – Wathba Stallions Cup, a high-class maiden for 3-year-old Purebred Arabians.

Trained by Thomas Fourcy, Abbes dropped in behind the leaders in a slow run race in the early stages. He then sat patiently under Olivier Peslier, waiting for the opening at the top of the straight, and once he had a clear path through, he came with a strong run on the inside to post an imperative win.

Hadi de Carrere, owned by Guy Dell’Ova, who was making his racecourse debut, came with a strong challenge at the end but was never a danger to Abbes. On the saddle of Antoine Werle, he is trained by Eric Dell’Ova.

Third Majd’Or, owned by Haras Du Bosquet, is trained by Didier Guillemin and was ridden by Emilien Revolte.

In the race that had a prize of 15,000 euros and played in 1,600 meters, 12 three-year-old horses competed, who had never participated in races before.

This resumption of the calendar occurs after racing stops in most parts of the world due to the Corona virus pandemic, where races are held behind closed doors (without an audience).

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Source: Qatar Tribune, with inputs of Cidinha Franzão. Photo: Robert Polin

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The first round was held on the Pooh French Track, while the second round was held in Houston, Texas.

The Wathba Stallions Cup races will be held according to the festival’s strategy and the implementation of the guidelines of HH Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with the aim of supporting small breeders in much of the world and motivating them to increase interest in the Arabian horse.

1° HILAL AL CHAM (Hilal Al Zaman & Ya Hala, by Azadi) / Owner: Al Shaqab Racing / Breeder: F. Al Elweet / Trainer: Thomas Fourcy Jockey: Julien Augé

2° MALEHA (Munjiz & Tell Arca, by Tidjani) / Owner & Breeder: Royal Cavalry of Oman / Trainer: Philip Sogorb / Jockey: Julien Grosjean


Source: Source: AFAC (Association Française du Cheval Arab de Course). Text: Cidinha Franzão. Photo: JDG
Tadhg O’Shea on AF Al Bairaq

On March 14, a 1600m conditions race Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only was dominated by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda whose first colours were carried to a smooth victory by Tadhg O’Shea AF on Al Bairaq, trained by Ernst Oertel and chased home by the same owner’s AF Momtaz who was saddled by Antonio Fresu and trained by Musabbeh Al Mheiri.

Homebred, the 6-year-old entire was having just his ninth outing and was winning for the second time having won 2018 Emirates the Colts Classic, a Prestige contest, over this Abu Dhabi 1600m.

Al Nabooda said: “That was very pleasing as I bred both horses as well, so it is a particularly good result for my whole operation.”

Shakir Al Balushi and Thulbaseera Al Jasra

Racing at Abu Dhabi on Sunday, March 8, evening was a low key affair, but a memorable one for trainer Ibrahim Al Hadhrami, as well as for Omani apprentice Shakir Al Balushi, who partnered his first winner in the UAE.

Al Hadhrami completed his brace in a 2200m handicap, restricted to horses in private ownership, in which Shakir Al Balushi and Thulbaseera Al Jasra just held on to deny Hawafez and Burj Al Reef, both of whom were closing fast having been held up a long way off the early pace.

Second throughout the first half of the race, Al Balushi’s mount then took the lead with about 900m remaining and the jockey committed for home leaving the home turn in what was proba-
bly a race winning move. They opened up a lead of about four lengths, but the line only just came in time with Hawafez a neck behind, himself a short-head in front of Burj Al Reef.

A 5-year-old entire owned by Hamad Abdul Rahman Mohd Kayed, the horse was recording a first victory having mustered a third, over this course and distance, as his best previous effort in 12 starts.

Al Hadhrami said: “It has been another very satisfying evening and our horses remain in good form, which is very gratifying.”

Al Balushi said: “I knew my horse stays, so I was happy to be positive on him. Luckily we just held on and I am very grateful to connections for the ride on this horse.”

Richard Mullen on SS Jalmod

For horses in private ownership, a 1600m handicap may have attracted the maximum allowed field of 16, on March 1, but very of the runners ever threatened with AF Hakeem, owned and bred by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, making a bold bid to lead all the way under Brazilian jockey Bernardo Pinheiro, but unable, despite battling back, to deny SS Jalmod who gained the initiative entering the final 250m before keeping on strongly.

Sporting the silks of Nasir Askar, Richard Mullen was in the saddle for Satish Seemar and had his mount in second or third throughout the majority of the contest before asked for an effort by his jockey, responding well and gaining a deserved success.

It was a second career win for the 5-year-old gelding, but first on turf having previously landed a 1400m at Al Ain last March when trained by Younis Al Kalbani.

Mullen said: “I am delighted for the owner and whole team to win on this horse who has run plenty of good races in defeat and is a fun little horse to have in the yard. He takes his racing well, so we were happy to run him again after he finished third at Jebel Ali just nine days ago.”

Richard Mullen on SS Jalmod

Tadhg O’Shea, victorious aboard AF Ashras

On February 16, five of the 16 runners in the 1600m handicap for horses in private ownership were saddled by Ernst Oertel for his main patron, Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda. They combined to provide first and second with the owner’s re-
tained jockey, Tadhg O’Shea, victorious aboard AF Ashras, chased home by AF Akeem who had tried, valiantly to make all under Brazilian jockey Bernardo Pinheiro. Settled behind the leaders, the homebred 9-year-old entire eased into contention leaving the back straight before committing for home as the leaders departed the home turn and soon went clear with the race in safe-keeping. It was a fifth career victory for the horse.

O’Shea said: “Ernst has his horses in great form still and this is a lovely, genuine, old horse that has been running consistently well all season. As I always say, I am privileged to be riding these horses for Mr Al Nabooda, Ernst and his team. They make my job easy providing with good chances on a regular basis.”

**Tadhg O’Shea on Noof KB**

For horses Wathba Stallions Cup For Private Owners Only, the 1200m handicap, on February 9, went to the powerful team of owner Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, his main trainer Ernst Oertel and retained jockey Tadhg O’Shea courtesy of Noof KB. Settled well off the early pace among the 12 runners, the 7-year-old mare closed stylishly at the top of the straight before sprinting to the front inside the final 100m.

It was a fifth career victory for the mare, third over course and distance and O’Shea said: “The yards are in good form and everything went to plan with the race contested at a fast pace which she really likes. To be fair, she is an easy mare to ride and one of those that makes my job easy on the racecourse.”

**Apprentice Sean Kirrane and AF Makerah**

Restricted to horses in private ownership, a 1400m handicap provided the perfect opportunity for Irish apprentice Sean Kirrane to continue his fine recent run, landing the spoils on top weight AF Makerah for Ernst Oertel and Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda who also bred the 7-year-old mare, on February 2.

Having tracked the leaders throughout the first half of the race, Kirrane asked his mount to challenge early in the straight, the pair hitting the front 300m out and never looking likely to be caught. It was a first Abu Dhabi victory for Kirrane, about 23 hours after his breakthrough winner at Meydan having also opened his Al Ain account at Al Ain on Friday when registering the first double of his fledgling career.

For AF Makerah it was a fifth career victory, all in Abu Dhabi and a second over this course and distance.

Kirrane, based with Satish Seemar at Zabeel Stables, said: “It has just been a brilliant three days and I cannot thank Mr Oertel and Mr Al Nabooda enough for this opportunity; you always know you have a definite chance riding for them in these races. She travelled well throughout the race and I was always pretty happy. When I asked her to go win her race she did just that and has won nicely.”

**Dahess D’Arabe under Connor Beasley**

Connor Beasley was back in the winner’s enclosure, on January 19, combining with Helal Al Alawi to take the 1200m handicap, restricted to horses in private ownership, with Dahess D’Arabe who ran out a relatively comfortable victor for Saleh Omar Al bin Haidar.

Having chased the leaders throughout the first half of the race, Beasley drove the 6-year-old gelding to the front leaving the home turn and they never looked likely to be denied, the horse registering a fourth career success and second over course and distance having won a maiden under these conditions in March 2018.

Beasley said: “He has done that nicely in what had appeared a competitive race, but I was always pretty confident throughout and he quickened nicely when I asked him.”
**Fernando Jara and Dahess D’Arabe**

Champion UAE jockey 11 seasons ago when based with Doug Watson at Red Stables, Fernando Jara, who won the 2007 Dubai World Cup on Sheikh Hamdan’s Invasor, completed a treble with the ultra-smooth victory of Dahess D’Arabe in a 1600m handicap restricted to horses in private ownership, on December 22.

Saddled by Helal Al Alawi for Saleh Omar Ali bin Haidar, the 5-year-old gelding was registering a third career and UAE success on his 16th career start. Victorious over 1400m on the Al Ain dirt in February, his other winning note was hit in a 1200m maiden here in the capital in March 2018.

“That was a good win and I was always travelling well throughout the race,” Jara said. “When I asked him to win his race, he responded well. That was quite impressive in what had looked a competitive race.”

**Tadhg O’Shea aboard AF Taraha**

A positive move from Tadhg O’Shea at the 450m pole, committing for home aboard AF Taraha, secured the 2200m handicap for horses in private ownership, on December 15.

Said 6-year-old mare had most of her 11 rivals immediately in trouble and powered all the way to the line to register her fourth career victory and second on turf. A course and distance winner on her penultimate start in November she was then, a week later, second over 1800m on the dirt at Al Ain. Homebred by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda she, like the vast majority of the owner’s string, is trained by Ernst Oertel.

O’Shea said: “Driving here this evening, I thought this was my best chance, so I am glad she has won again. I know she stays the trip well so was happy to be positive from a long way out and I had a very willing partner.”

Al Nabooda added: “I have a great trainer and top jockey, so the team is strong behind me and that was a very good ride from Tadhg.”

**Tadhg O’Shea on AF Ashras**

For horses in private ownership, on December 8, the 1400m handicap was won convincingly by the reigning champions, owner Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, trainer Ernst Oertel and jockey Tadhg O’Shea who was happy to track the early speed aboard AF Ashras before committing for home exiting the home turn.

A homebred 8-year-old entire, it was a fourth career victory for the horse, all bar one on turf, but first since November 2017 when he landed a 1600m handicap here at Abu Dhabi.

O’Shea said: “That was a competitive little race, so we have to be happy with that. This is a horse who rarely runs a bad race, so it is great he has put his head back in front.”

Owner and trainer completed a homebred double in the finale, a 1600m handicap, but this time it was Antonio Fresu in the saddle aboard Noof KB, a 6-year-old mare who recorded her fourth career victory.

Tadhg O’Shea aboard AF Taraha

Dahess D’Arabe under Connor Beasley

Fernando Jara and Dahess D’Arabe
Come to a beautiful nineteenth-century plantation’s coffee, completely preserved and turned into a hotel, recently renovated with the finest hospitality:

♦ High gastronomy headed by Cordon Bleu Chef
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