

# BAIT AL ARAB

## and the Breeders of Kuwait: Celebrating Tradition and Beauty

### All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians

16-17 February 2018



**K**UWAIT did it again: the third All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians demonstrated once more that Kuwait is in a pole position for global leadership in breeding and promoting the Straight Egyptians in the world. Today's state stud Bait Al Arab, a present of the Emir of Kuwait to the breeders of his country, makes it all possible. Just as high, however, is the contribution made by the high-end breeders of the Al Wafra oasis bordering on Saudi Arabia, and of the other studs, for achieving this international success. Kuwait used to be a nation of fishermen and traders. The country has evolved into one of the wealthiest and most developed nations of the world, offering her population the most modern conveniences, a safe reliable infrastructure, and technical excellence, and is respected world-wide for these achievements.

Modern **Bait Al Arab** state stud also represents this guiding culture. Behind the almost monumental, impressive opulence of the show ring, the buildings, and the stables, there is this profound sense for traditional values and heartfelt Arabic hospitality.

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The Straight Egyptians are a breeding group of their own within the frame of the big family of Purebred Arabian horses. They signify two aspects of horse breeding and cast a special light on the main characters involved in that:

In the first place, they represent an active and caring attitude towards preserving the cultural history of the country and the Bedouin traditions. As one might say: the centuries changed the country, but the traditions remained. The residents have kept up strong ties to their history up to today, not just because of their religion, but also in planning their own lives and those of their horses.

As to **Bait Al Arab**, this is how they define their *vision*: “Preserving the Arabian horse breed and to reestablish excellent representatives from different historical strains and families of Arabian horses of true descent from the Arabian Peninsula, the land of its forefathers, and further protect Kuwait’s horse related cultural heritage for future generations to come.”

As a state stud, Bait Al Arab is actively breeding horses on their premises. For that, their *mission* is: “To develop and continue its own Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding program in order to preserve the historical breed and maintain excellent representatives of different strains and families.”

It’s often claimed that breeders of Straight Egyptians cultivate a very conscious relationship with history, tradition, and the arts. So more often than not, their horses are a combination of historic conservation breeding with the emphasis on their genetic heritage, carried out by using modern sustainable breeding methods. Breeding is usually about creating and further developing the beauty of the horses according to the artistic visions and models of the painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Which brings us to the second aspect of this Straight Egyptian line breeding. The beauty



of these Arabian horses is what saved the breed quite a few times, particularly in times of crisis. Just think of the Egyptian pashas who, almost 200 years ago, were more or less obsessed with importing the beautiful Arabian horses from the Nejd region on the Arabian peninsula to Cairo, and to go on maintaining them for future generations by breeding them on. These original Arabians have their places in the pedigrees of the Egyptians among the Arabian horses until today. They signify authenticity, elegance, and Arabian noblesse. If they had not been so very impressive, they would hardly have survived the times of hunger and crises, and ever since cars took over in the world, they would probably have become extinct. Of course, beauty is not everything there is, but still, beauty is more important than we commonly assume. Everything else aside, it is what carries the breeders on and makes them forget about all their efforts.



### Kuwait, a Happy Place for Arabian Horses

Arabian breeding in Kuwait is a perfect example for the claim that the luck of the future has its root in the beginnings or, to put it differently, what starts well will normally succeed.

Kuwaitis are known in the whole Middle East to be very smart businessmen. Instead of forking out money, they first study things and stay reasonable, and this is exactly what happened concerning Arabian breeding in their country. A few people got excited about Egyptian horses about 20 years ago, inspired by visiting Egypt and Qatar. After that, they thoroughly studied what they had seen and visited farms in Germany and in the US. They exchanged opinions among each other and, in the following time, each one of them purchased what he considered to be his best choice. This took time.

It also happened that an oasis about 100 km south of Kuwait City called Wafra was considered to be an ideal location to build their studs. Again, well-designed stables in a beautiful style, impressive homes for their first-class Arabians. Both definitely express their artistic sense: The quality of their horses and of their studs. Quite obviously, the Kuwaiti society and their business activities are used to cooperating perfectly, the important families and the ruling family included. Such a way of cooperation has existed until today and is still the backbone of the Arabian horse community.

They engaged in middle-sized farms from 10 to 50 horses and were not tempted to start large-scale farms of several hundred horses which is contrary to their heritage and far away from the Arabian horses’ mentality which tends to be close to their masters. They jointly advocated the idea to develop the old governmental horse farm into the new impressive Bait El Arab as a center for breeding and support.

Under these conditions, so many new studs emerged. Arabian horse shows were established to offer their breeders a place and an opportunity to show their horses and enjoy an attractive event where breeders, their families, and visitors could come together. In contrast to the sober situation of Arabian horse breeding in many countries where the number of studs is going down, Kuwait is, in fact, a happy place and an encouraging highlight according to the opinions of people who have visited Kuwait.

*Hans J. Nagel*



## ARABIAN HORSE SHOWS IN KUWAIT

The Arabian Horse Center Bait Al Arab and their Event Management department are a highlight in the Arabian horse industry, as with their organizational skills and technological capabilities, they can meet even the most sophisticated requirements of their audience, of journalists and exhibitors, and what is more, they can get them all enthusiastic. The ambience, the elegant and functional top-level show arena, all the buildings and premises lined up along the new stud grounds of Bait Al Arab – all of that forms the setting for presentations in Bait Al Arab.

Meanwhile, there are a number of big shows offered in Kuwait, generally open to WAHO horses and every kind of line breeding. It's usually the "show horse Arabians" who win there, those who are today specifically bred to win according to international show criteria. Morphologically speaking – their shape and build – they are just as much specialized as are Arabians who are bred for racing or for endurance. In comparison, the Straight Egyptians as a family with a rather small gene pool present themselves more as "natural state" horses with different types. That's something the breeders usually desire and welcome, expressively so, for after all, they want beauty and functionality in their horses, but at the same time, they want them to authentically embody their history as rooted in their pedigrees.

However, even breeders of Straight Egyptians enjoy presenting their horses to an audience and what is more, to win titles on shows with them. To make that possible, there have been shows all over the world for many years that are restricted to Straight Egyptians participating. The "Pyramid Society" in the USA created the "Egyptian Event", which triggered a wave of similar events under their patronage during the last 30 years.

Arabian horse shows in Kuwait are a public festival. The classes are normally well stocked, particularly those for the junior horses. Every horse



is celebrated exuberantly, and the winners often collect clusters of people around them big enough to completely hide the horse. Most of the horses will just accept the hubbub with a serene attitude. The fact that they are so much attached to people makes it possible that even in all that turmoil and excitement, they will keep their cool, beautiful head.

The Bait Al Arab organizational team recognized this demand for shows, so they imported the name and the procedures of the world-famous "All Nations Cup" show of Aachen to Kuwait where they beamed the concept into Straight Egyptian dimensions and are realizing an exceedingly well organized show once a year.

## THE ALL NATIONS CUP FOR STRAIGHT EGYPTIANS 2018 IN KUWAIT

This year, more than 170 horses were registered for the All Nations Cup for Straight Egyptians. The organizer was the one who does it every year: the Arabian Horse Center, Bait Al Arab with their Chief Director and Assistant Under-secretary of the Amiri Diwan, Sheikha Sarah Fahad Al Sabah, the granddaughter of HH Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the state of Kuwait, who had taken over the patronage for the event.

The Head of the Show Organizing Committee was Alaa Hamad Al Roumi, Chairman of the Board of Trustess of BAA and owner of Al Rayah

Stud. He was supported by the General Director, Abdullah Albraihi. The Event Manager for the ANC Show project and for the subsequent stud tour for the national and international guests, all of it just as perfectly organized as has become customary, was Klaus Beste with his team from Bait Al Arab.

For judging the horses in the arena, a great international team of judges had been won, this year consisting of the ECAHO judges Holger Ismer, Germany, Julie Maden, Belgium/GB, Christian Moschini, Italy, Pekka Paakkonen, Sweden, Marco Pittaluga, Italy, Luiz Rocco, Brazil, Ali Shaarawi, Egypt, and Graham Smith, Australia. Judging was carried out according to the new



system, where the lowest and the highest score given for a criterion by the panel of judges are cancelled. For whatever reason, not every judge is keen on making a brave judgment that will subsequently be discarded. Supporters of the system say that this way, misjudgments will not have a negative impact on the horse.

“All in all, the mood in the group of judges was very good, and the level of the horses was encouragingly high”, Julie Maden reported, who was the only lady judge for the ANC. The results were created mostly harmoniously. After all, it was a considerable amount of prize money that was decided on.

Apart from Kuwait, where 160 of the horses enrolled for the show came from, only a few horses had arrived from the Gulf States. So of course, the question was asked of why the show is called

“All Nations Cup” when it was so obvious that the political fallout between the Gulf States had repercussions on the cooperation and participation for the Arabian horse shows. Kuwait took a neutral stand in that, but generally, the impact of isolating Qatar could be observed even within that micro cosmos that is Arabian horse breeding. The Kuwaitis did not seem to mind. Just like in the two years before, they brought their best Straight Egyptians to the state stud to compete for the victory with them. There were also some representatives of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, but no horses from Europe or the USA, which is understandable in the latter two, as the cost of transport is enormous and the horses quite certainly would not have been amused. Instead, Arabian horse breeders from all over the world had come to see the show and take part in the stud tour.







## THE WINNERS

In the junior classes of the 1 to 3 year-olds, the results of the breeding strategies of the recent eight to ten years became apparent. Those famous imports from the USA and Europe have now receded to the second or third generations. No doubt, horses tailing from the well-known SE show lines dominated the scene, but still: not all breeders of Straight Egyptians had relied on modern show horse Arabians for their mating decisions. Some had put their emphasis on pedigree-oriented conservation breeding and were able to present good results.

The yearling fillies squeezed into four classes of top quality. With a total of 58 foals, they formed the strongest group and provided an interesting overview of the female future in Kuwait's SE Arabian horse breeding.

As successful sires, there were three "foreigners" that drew the eye: Asfour Al Waab, the type inheritor, actually bred in Qatar but meanwhile owned by Hayrat Al Hilaliyah Farm in Kuwait; Royal Colours owned by Dubai Stud, who had impressive offspring starting in the show; and PSE Al Rakhan bred in Belgium by Prestige Arabians but now owned for a long time by Khaled Al Nughemshe in Kuwait.

There were some other sires presenting a number of their successful progeny on the occasion of the show, such as Shamek Al Danat and his son Ezz Al Danat, both multiple champions home-bred in Kuwait; Waseem El Kuwait bred and owned by Bait Al Arab state stud; and Ajmal Talal bred

by Mohammed Al Marzouq of Ajmal Stud. And of course, there was a whole number of other interesting sires represented by their foals.

The winner of the yearling fillies – that category that had four classes – was Bosmat AA, of the breeding of Ariela in Israel and owned by Al Shaha stud. Silver was awarded to AB Muhra of Al Babtain Stud, Kuwait, who had been given the highest score but still came in second in the championships. Dhay Al Hilaliya, bred and owned by Barrak Al Hajri of Hayrat Al Hilaliya Farm in Kuwait, won herself the Bronze medal. For the yearling colts, it was SH Saif who won the Gold laurels. This interesting young stallion is bred and owned by Al Shaha Stud. With him, this Kuwaiti stud brought a double win home: the best colt as well as the best filly of the yearling classes.

With their colt SH Sarab who won the Silver laurels, they were even able to bring home a third medal. Bronze went to AB Saif bred in Italy and was another prize under the belt of Al Babtain stud. In this category, it was definitely Royal Colours who had given proof of his qualities as an inheritor.





### Championship Yearling Fillies

Gold BOSMAT AA

Silver AB MUHRA

Bronze DHAY AL HILALIYA

In the Junior Filly category, AB Faridah became the winner – another trophy and some more prize money for Al Babtain Stud. The Shamekh Al Danat daughter Azeezah Al Danat, owned by Danat Stud, received the title of Junior Mare Silver Champion in front of the bay NK Nabhan daughter Rayyanah Al Maale who is bred and owned by Khaled Al Enezi of Al Maale Stud.

With the Junior Colts, the Royal Colours son D Raouf brought home a clear victory, which was another one for Al Babtain stud. Nashme Al Zobair, imported from the UAE and owned by Hassan Mubarak Al Hindal in Kuwait, became the Silver Champion. And Bronze was awarded to the two-year-old Jarrah Al Wafi, a son of Dahes Al Rayyan and now owned by Abdullah M. Al Methin in Kuwait.

The Senior Mares class was of outstanding quality. The unanimous winner was a mare who is 14 years old already: CF Shamilia, a Moroc daughter bred in Italy. She is owned by Abdullah Hussain Sadah in Kuwait who was now taking home this ANC Trophy and the prize money for CS Shamila for the second time.

The Silver Champion title went to Qatar, to Al



Rayyan Farm. It was Nawaal Al Rayyan, a noble grey mare by Ansata Sokar out of Nadrah Al Rayyanm, who was chalking up this win for herself. Fotna Al Baidaa, bred in Egypt, had to contend herself with the Bronze laurels. She is a daughter of Al Shaikh Obaied Al Moghazy, out of DHS Suriah and owned by Al Babtain Stud in Kuwait.

For the Gold Champion of the Senior Stallion class, there was a unanimous vote for PSE Al Rakhan, a much-decorated grey out of Belgian citizen Pierre Groenen's breeding at Prestige Arabians. Khaled Al Nughemshe imported the stallion to Kuwait, proving his knack for horses that way. Al Rakhan tails back to the best Imperial lines and is also successful as a sire.

Naseem Al Nakeep by Murtajab Al Nakeeb out of Nessma, bred and also owned by Khaled Al Nughemshe of Asayel Stud, was elected second. The Bronze winner D Monaf, bred by Dubai Stud, belongs to Ali Matar Al Wawan in Kuwait.



### Championship Yearling Colts

Gold SH SAIF

Silver SH SARAB

Bronze AB SAIF



### Championship Junior Fillies

Gold AB FARIDAH

Silver ZAINAH AL NAWASI

Bronze RAYYANAH AL MAALE







### Championship Junior Colts

Gold D RAOUF

Silver NASHME AL ZOBAIR

Bronze JARRAH AL WAF



### Championship Senior Stallions

Gold PSE AL RAKHAN

Silver NASEEM AL NAKKEEB

Bronze D MONAF



### Championship Senior Mares

Gold CF SHAMILA

Silver NAWAAL AL RAYYAN

Bronze FOTNA AL BAIDAA



The “Most Successful Kuwait SE Arabian Horse Breeders Award” was collected by Mr.Mohammed Al Omar, the owner of Al Danat Stud.

All results can be accessed at the following website: <https://arabianhorseresults.com/kuwait-all-nations-cup-straight-egyptians-02-2018>





## BAIT AL ARAB GOES AHEAD: A MEETING OF STATE STUDS TO DISCUSS MUTUAL COOPERATION

With a meeting taking place on the sidelines of the Kuwait show, major representatives of the state studs of

- Babolna in Hungary, represented by Tamas Rombauer,
- Bait al Arab in Kuwait, represented by Klaus Beste, and
- Marbach in Germany, represented by Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, made an idea into a tangible beginning. Their starting point is a plan to have state studs that breed Straight Egyptian Arabians cooperate internationally so as to make their respective functions transparent, to exchange experiences, and to analyze and optimize their didactic programs as well as their breeding goals.

In the words of Dr. von Velsen-Zerweck: „From my point of view, this new cooperation offers a lot of chances. The focus of this initial meeting was to get to know each other, and to exchange



Dr. Astrid von Velsen-Zerweck, director of Marbach State Stud and Mahmood Al Zubaid, member of the board of Bait Al Arab State Stud

information on the activities of the respective state studs. We talked about different approaches towards a possible cooperation that may span some common task fields such as breeding, culture, research, and ongoing professional training. We aim to continue these talks, if possible, in a larger circle including some more state studs. Further transnational visits are planned for this year.”



## BAIT AL ARAB - THE ARABIAN HORSE CENTER-OPENING THEIR GATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The state stud of Kuwait is more than just an architecturally well-made and elegant facility incorporating lots of know-how and experience on horsemanship, and on horses' natural needs and interests. It is also just beautiful, as well as functional, with every detail taken into consideration. There are the spacious box stalls and the shaded paddocks, the library, the mosque, the modern horse hospital, the registry offices and the training rooms, the presentation ring and the big arena featuring every appliance from laser canons to jumbo screens – for they have a mission at Bait Al Arab:

- to continue its own Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding program in order to preserve the historical breed and maintain excellent representatives of different strains and families.







- support private farms by offering carefully selected stallions
- developing an educational program about the history of the Arabian horse, its culture and heritage as well as horse management, judging, handling, and veterinary medicine and art through exhibitions, seminars and lectures with international authorities.
- organizing and supporting National and International Championships
- managing the records of the purebred Arabian horse in Kuwait through a modern registry office, publishing studbooks and communicating with international Arabian horse organizations

In addition, the state stud supports and sponsors the sport of racing Purebred Arabians and Straight

Egyptians, with separate races organized for the latter. The sport of endurance racing is also supported financially. Horse sales take place once a year, with a selected collection of horses offered to the breeders on the occasion of this auction, exclusively.

In the words of Klaus Beste: „We generally support the breeding of Purebred Arabian horses, not just by the measures described above – our newsletter, for example, will contain information on, to name a few, Polish and Spanish sire lines. We also „place at the disposition“ of our breeders so-called modern sires that are show-oriented, such as Fadi Al Shaqab, Wadee Al Shaqab, Hadidy Al Shaqab, and others; via frozen semen or by stabling them with us for some time, and we don't charge Kuwaiti breeders a covering fee. As to our own



breeding, however, we clearly put the emphasis on conducting a breeding program for Straight Egyptians".

During one of the event days, the international guests had the opportunity to visit the stables and a selection of the breeding horses, with Stable Manager Jonas Salzman presenting and commenting on the horses. Offspring of the stud-owned stallions and mares could be looked at – and the results of the breeding of recent years are doubtlessly impressive. After all, Bait Al Arab has been a role model, the world over, for breeding and keeping Arabian horses, and particularly Straight Egyptians, for a long time.

The next night, the stud presented their horse stock as part of a “Open Door Night” with a gala dinner afterwards, in a Bedouin tent

and with a romantic campfire background included.

The individual mares with their offspring were presented in divisions according to strains, and commented on by Klaus Beste (in English) and Fahad Alazmi (in Arabic). After the mares, the stage belonged to the stud's sires, who are also at the disposal of the breeders of Kuwait for their own breeding – free of charge. In the grandstands, not only the international guests were seated, but the local breeders were also there, hundreds of them all squeezing in to see the products of THEIR state stud this year. So it's definitely apparent that Bait Al Arab is not just a useful adviser, but also part of their identity for the breeders in Kuwait.