

# MIDDLE EAST CHAMPIONSHIP *Amman - Jordan*



This year due to the ridiculous photographer's rules at US Nationals, where we could not take any photos inside the coliseum at all, I decided that I would rather go to the Middle East Championships in Jordan. I had been there four years ago to judge and loved it. I then invited Carol Maginn and Diana Cantey—two of the photographers that provide me with wonderful photos for my articles to join me. Carol took a little persuading, but eventually she agreed. So we all set off from Chicago on the long thirteen hour flight to Amman aboard a Royal Jordanian plane.



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When we arrived we were met by an official, who had our passports stamped with VIP in Arabic, then ushered us to our vehicle and driver who transported us to the hotel, to the show and anywhere else for the next three days. The hospitality and organisation in the capable hands of Ghalia Nooreddin was absolutely wonderful. We were all made to feel very special. The show was held on October 16th-18th at the Royal Stables in Amman— a beautiful setting with a very green arena surrounded by trees.



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*Municipality Group*



One of the whole long sides of the arena was set up with tables and umbrellas for the VIP guests, where we were constantly supplied with drinks and munchies. The weather was absolute perfection all three days—not too hot and with a lovely breeze. We all agreed that this was much more fun than going to US Nationals. Carol and Diana took all the photos they wanted from the ringside, and then went into the arena for winning shots. The judges came from all over the world. Patricia Lindsay from the UK, Dr. Toon Hulshof from Holland, Dr. Mohammad Machmoum from Morocco, Dr. Thomas Stohler from Switzerland and Dr Marek Trela from Poland. They did a great job and were fair and mostly very close in scores. Princess Alia was observed unwrapping the beautiful glass trophies and taking a very active part in the proceedings as well as welcoming the many guests. She hosted a wonderful lunch at her house for all the judges and VIPs on the final day of the show. We met so many interesting people and made numerous new friends. First into the ring on the first day were the yearling fillies—a lovely class of eight typey young ladies. Many of the top horses were bred in the USA, so it was interesting to see what bloodlines had been imported. The first two placed fillies were very close in scores by .40, but it was the very typey, good bodied US bred Cinnamon N Spice (First Cyte x Cinnamon Candy V) owned by Mr. Nofal Kahook from



*Princess Alia Al-Hussein*





*The Judges*

Jordan who just squeezed past another really outstanding, German bred filly Juwanda OS ( WH Justice x Shak Lavanda) owned by Dubai Arabian Stud to win the class. Both had everything it takes to win in Halter. Another eight fillies came under the judges for the two year old class. Again there were several US bred fillies and this was also a nice class. The final scores for the top two were identical of 89.5, but the deciding factor of type made RAH Fantasy (Rahere x Magnums Caress



*Champion Filly: Showmel  
(Showkayce x WR Jullane)  
Owned by the Dubai Arabian Stud*





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*Reserve Champion Filly:  
Cinnamon N Spice  
(First Cyle x Cinnamon Candy V)  
owned by Mr. Nofal Kahook*

IA) owned by Mr. Nofal Kahook the winner with her excellent type and great hip. In second place was another US import—the pretty, excellent moving Ballerina BVA (Ames Charisma x LC Pirouette) owned by Al Mohamadia Stud of Saudi Arabia. The class for three years olds was an excellent one and probably the best of the morning. The winner here has been a favourite of mine since I saw her at US Nationals a couple of years ago. This was the wonderful Shownel (Showkayce x WR Jullane). She has everything going for her and scored a high 92.2 having scored the first 20 for type. She is owned by the Dubai Arabian Stud. In second place was Mostly Roses SSA (ML Mostly Padron x Desert Rose SSA) owned by Mr. Nofal Kahook—a very attractive and typey dark liver chestnut mare. We then had a two hour lunch break and were kindly invited to join the judges for lunch. It was fun wandering round the Royal stables

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or looking at the camels, before the afternoon classes started at 2 pm. In fact during one lunch break, we went and sat in a black tent and joined some of the staff for coffee or tea. Carol and Diana had their first camel ride down there too. First in during the afternoon was a small, but good class of six yearling colts. The winner here with a score of 90.80 was Naif Al Mohamadia ( Marwan Al Shaqab x Maria Al Besson) a good moving and typey colt with lots to like about him. He is owned by Al Mohamadia Stud. In second place was the very typey, showy Moetaz Al Aseel (Nibrass x Crystal Almenesia) owned and bred by Muwafaq Al Khadra from Syria with a score of 88.9. Winning the small class of five two year old colts was the stunning grey Premium (WH

Justice x Priscilla) bred in Belgium and owned by the Dubai Arabian Stud. Coming in a close second with 90.4 was another excellent colt, but with in my opinion a prettier head, but with not such good movement. This was Al Bourak (El Thay Mansour x Al Yamaamah) owned and bred by Said Khair Stables of Jordan. The final colt class for three year olds had some pretty flashy entries. These boys were full of themselves. The top two scores were very close indeed with the winner emerging with a score of 91.8, this was Matrix LL (Magnum Chall HPV x Estancia LL) bred in the US and owned by Nofal Kahook, a lovely masculine, but very typey colt. Scoring the very close 91.5 was another exquisite colt Khidaro (Khidar x

*Champion Colt: Matrix LL  
(Magnum Chall HPV x Estancia LL)  
bred in the US and owned by Nofal  
Kahook*





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*Reserve Champion Colt: Najf Al Mohamadia  
(Marwan Al Shaqab x Maria Al Besson)  
owned by Al Mohamadia Stud*

Crown Muscosa) bred in Germany and owned by the Amman Stables Jordan. I was invited to present the awards in this class and just missed a good back hander from both barrels from the the winner who was still very full of himself !! The last class of the day was the Junior Liberty class—always fun to watch. The winner was Ibn Anmenes (Laman HPV x Anmenes) with Shumookh (Hlayyil Ramadan x Shaafi'ah) in secondplace. Then it was back to the hotel for a good dinner



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*Best Female Head: Hoore  
(Monarcos DD x Hasanaat Al Haneefah)  
owned by Al Mohamadia Stud*





*Champion Mare: Saida Bint Shahlia  
(Classic Shadwan x Ansata Shahlia)  
bred by Birkhof Stud and owned by  
Al Mohamadia Stud*

and discussing the day with many nationalities. Friday began with the first of the four mare classes, with a fairly good class of eight four year olds. There seemed to be a few plainish heads, but also some good movers. TS Madeleine (Ansata Sinan x Thee Sharaq) prevailed here with a good score of 91.80. A lovely feminine mare with a beautiful head and a great body, she was bred in the USA and is owned by Al Mohamadia Stud. Coming in second with 90.4 was another very typey mare with enormous presence, this was the US bred Psymply Satin (TF Psymreekhe x Satin Fire) owned by Mr. Nofal Kahook. An impressive class of seven five and six year olds were up next. I loved the winner of this one, this was Sheikha (Scudsky x

Minstrils Grace) owned and bred by Said Khair Stables. She scored 91.1 and was very ethereal with great type and an excellent body. Malak (Hlayyil Ramadan x Malekia) was second with 90.3, another very pretty mare with great presence and movement, owned by Mr. Talal Al Saleh of Jordan. In my opinion the best class was the one for mares aged nine to seven years of age, although there were only five mares forward. It was lovely to watch. The very high score of 93.6 was achieved and well deserved by the winner Saida Bint Shahlia (Classic Shadwan x Ansata Shahlia) she was outstanding in every way and is owned by Al Mohamadia Stud and bred by Birkhof Stud. Another high score of 92.3 was awarded to the second



*Reserve Champion Mare: TS Madeleine  
(Ansata Sinan x Thee  
Sharaqa)  
owned by Al Mohamadia Stud*

placed mare Yusra (Sattam x Al Yamaamah) with her excellent type, body and topline, owned and bred by The Royal Stables. The final mare class born in 1998 and before was another small but not such a good class. However, the winner was very impressive with her great presence and movement. This was Goleh Gola (Abakan x Grojka) scoring 92.6 bred in France and owned by H.R.H Prince Hussein Mirza of the Royal Stables. A score of 91.4 was achieved by the second place mare—Gho Gha (Nadir 1 x Grojka) in fact a half sister to the winner, she was also a very attractive and pleasing mare. She was bred in France and owned by The Royal Stables. After another great lunch, we all settled down to watch the three classes of stallions. The crowds in the stands opposite were

pretty full by then, Friday being a religious holiday. The class for four to six year old came bursting in to the ring with much encouragement from the spectators. It was to be a hard decision between the top three stallions. In fact the scores were very, very close. Savio (Dreamcatcher x Om El Shadina) emerged as the winner with a score of 92.7—an impression stallion with great type, conformation and movement with very strange markings. He is owned by Al Mohamadia Stud. The second placed score of 92.6 and was given to Insh Allah (Ashal Al Rayyan x India) a very ethereal stallion with a great body, topline and hip. He is owned by King Abdullah 11. The next class seven to nine year old stallions was not as impressive, but the winner scored a good 92.5. This was Hamras Akid (Ali Valentino x Aktysha Moon) a very ethereal and typey stallion with excellent movement. Bred in Germany, he is owned by Al Mohamadia Stud. Sulayman (Zaa'ir x Saba) a very attractive and athletic horse scored 88.1 to come in second for his



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*Champion Stallion: Savio  
(Dreamcatcher x Om El Shadina)  
owned by Al Mohamadia Stud*



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owner Mr. Barakat Al Natour of Jordan. Only four stallions were forward for the class for those born in 1998 and before. The winner with a score of 90.1 was a fabulous mover with wonderful type. This was Shamekh Al Shaqab (Ansata Sinan x Malaka) bred in Qatar and owned by The Royal Stables. The second placed horse with a score of 89.1 was SS Barabas (Simeon Shemini x SS Barzani) he had a great topline as well as good type and movement. He was bred in New Zealand and is owned by H.E. Mr. Abd El Hamid Al Saleh of The Royal Stables. The last class of the day was the Senior Liberty deservedly won by Katira AAsa (Abakan x Kasraa) she gave a great

performance and is owned by The Royal Stables. In Reserve was Sulayman, owned by Mr. Barakat Al Natour of Jordan. It was a sad thought that we were once again on the showground, but for the last time on this final day. The first Championship was the Junior Females. It looked to be a tough decision, but finally Shownel won this coveted award with Cinnamon N Spice in Reserve. The Junior Male Championship followed with some explosive young colts showing off. Matrix LL prevailed here with the yearling Naif Al Mohamadia in Reserve. There was much clapping and celebrating from the Champion's owner and his entourage in the ring! We had some wonderful displays in the ring in between Championships of tent pegging, dancers to pipes and drums and a camel corps. The last class before lunch was the best female head. This was won by an enchanting grey filly foal with an incredibly exotic head, her name was Hoore (Monarcos DD x Hasanaat Al Haneefah) owned and bred by Mrs. Muna Al Saleh of Jordan. In second place was Al Yamaamah (Abakan x Al Hamaama) owned by HRH



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*Reserve Champion Stallion: Insh Allah  
(Ashal Al Rayyan x India)  
owned by King Abdullah II*

Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein of Jordan. Lunch by kind invitation of Princess Alia at her home was next. This was wonderful as her house sits on top of a hill among beautiful trees, and the food was incredible with so many great Jordanian dishes to try. Back to the showground for the rest of the Championships. First were the mares, a lovely array of these feminine beauties. After much deliberation Saida Bint Shahlia prevailed with TS Madeleine in Reserve. Following this Championship we had the first of the two foal Championships. Some of these filly foals were loose and some were led. The eventual Champion was Radiyyah (Monarcos DD x Rahaf) a very pretty filly owned and bred by The Royal Stables, who gave a great display with her tail straight up. Reserve was the beautiful Hoore. The colt foals were very cocky and pleased with themselves. There were some very



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promising entries. The Champion was Salman Al Mohamadia (GR Amaretto x Thee Scheherezade) a very typey little guy with super movement, owned by Al Mohamadia Stud. Reserve went to Al Saqir (Kyro Ka x Salma) bred and owned by HM King Abdullah II. It was very entertaining as he lost sight of his mother for a short while and gave quite a show. We then went on to the Stallion Championship, which was won by Savio with Insh Allah in Reserve. The best Male head was awarded to the very popular and beautiful Hlayyil Ramadan (Kamar El Zaman x Haboub) owned and bred by The Royal Stables. With those huge dark eyes, how could he miss. In my opinion he is



*Champion Foals Filly: Radiyyah  
(Monarcos DD x Rahaf)  
owned and bred by The Royal Stables*



*Reserve Champion Foals Filly: Hoore  
(Monarcos DD x Hasamaat Al Haneefah)  
owned by Al Mohamadiah Stud*



*Champion Foals Colt: Salman Al Mohamadiah  
(GR Amaretto x Thee Scheherezade)  
owned by Al Mohamadiah Stud*



*Reserve Champion Foals Colt: Al Saqir  
(Kyro Ka x Salma)  
bred and owned by HM King Abdullah II*





*Champion Best Male Head: Hlayyil Ramadan  
(Kamar El Zaman x Haboub)  
owned and bred by The Royal Stables*

the epitome of a classic Arabian head. In Reserve was Monarcos LL (Psytadel x Monogrammed Lady) another beautiful head, he was bred in Belgium and is owned by The Royal Stables. It had been a wonderful three days and sad to think it was over. After many goodbyes to new found friends, we went back to the hotel for a final dinner before we set off the next day for a two day sight seeing tour. I can't stress enough what a fabulous country Jordan is—so friendly and welcoming. We all decided that we wanted to come back next year and once again ignore US Nationals.

*Reserve Champion Best Male Head: Monarcos LL  
(Psytadel x Monogrammed Lady)  
owned by The Royal Stables*

