

# AL ZAHRAA STUD

## 15TH NATIONAL SHOW & EGYPT'S 11TH INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dr. Nasr Marei  
International Breeder,  
International Judge  
& Chairman of the Organising  
Committee



AL ZAHRAA IS A STATE-OWNED STUD FARM THAT IS DEDICATED TO THE BREEDING AND PRESERVATION OF THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN HORSE IN EGYPT. HISTORICALLY AND TO THIS DATE IT REMAINS THE BLOODLINE SOURCE FOR MANY INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL BREEDING PROGRAMMES. AL ZAHRAA AS WE KNOW IT TODAY HAS GONE THROUGH MANY PHASES IN THE LAST 4 DECADES; IT TRACES BACK TO 1898 WHEN THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WAS FORMED AND LATER ESTABLISHED A DIVISION THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN WITHIN EGYPT. THE SOCIETY WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHO BRED AND ACQUIRED SPECIAL BLOODLINES. IN 1952, THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BECAME THE EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION (EAO) AND AL ZAHRAA WAS ESTABLISHED.

# CAIRO NOVEMBER 13TH – 16TH 2008

◀ *Kharelle*

## THE 2008 11TH SHOW COMPARED TO THE ONES IN THE PAST:

This is the first time that I receive the responsibility of organising Al Zahraa show; it was a huge challenge and I was rather reluctant at the beginning. Yet I thought that by organising a good show I would prove several points one of which that all breeders can get along better as this would add to the chances of the show's professionalism. Secondly I had a goal which was promoting the show to become more "international" and by that I mean receiving more entries from outside Egypt. It was almost possible to receive 2 whole new entries from 2 different countries with each entering with 6 horses, but due to the equine flu in Egypt, they were unable to make it. Those entries were the United Arab Emirates represented by Al-Aryan Stud and Qatar represented by Al-Shaqab Stud. Luckily we had entries from Saudi Arabia represented by Al Khalediah Stud. Thus making the show more international will help gain more exposure for Al Zahraa and its status would come to a better stand amongst the shows in the Middle East.

For the first time in 2 shows we had 374 entries which was nearly the double of any entries in shows in the past; our maximum entries would be 150 horses at the maximum. One of the signs of success is having a great number entry. With my experience as a judge, a show organiser, and a breeder of course, breeders had more confidence in having more horses compete. It was a blessing but it was still a big responsibility to manage 400 horses plus 374 entries at Al Zahraa farm. That means that the total number of horses in the stabling premises nearly doubled in a few days time.

On the technical part I think the event was very professionally prepared under the support of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee Barbara Pfistner, the Chairman of the ECAHO Show Commission Dr. Francesco Santoro, and the President of the ECAHO Mr.

## IN MY PERSONAL VIEW I BELIEVE THE QUALITY OF HORSES HAS BECOME LESS GLAMOROUS THAN IT USED TO BE

Willy Luder whom are the parties which can really give a solid assessment to the quality of the show. They testified to that and mentioned that this was the best show conducted in Egypt. They also added that it can compare favourably with some of the important shows in Europe. The breeders testimony of the show was also as positive if not more.

## THE RATE OF PROGRESS OF AL ZAHRAA:

In a nutshell if you take all state-owned farms all over the world, most of them were either dispersed or do not have much contribution to the Arabian horse industries. For example Marbach in Germany, Babolna of Hungary, and Tersk in Russia. But on the other hand we have 3 major state owned farms which have kept their names and rate of progress through their contributions and those are the ones of Poland.

When it comes to Al Zahraa which has gone through many phases in the last few decades, in my personal view I believe the quality of horses has become less glamorous than it used to be. They do have very good mares and their stallions need to be reviewed. Moreover, other genetic tools are required to be used. The genetic pool of the Egyptian Agricultural Organisation (EAO) has become smaller due the use of limited numbers traced to certain bloodlines. It is difficult for a state-owned entity to undergo drastic changes but if it were my farm I would probably get rid of more than half of the 400 horses that are there. They all come from original valuable and irreplaceable pedigrees but their quality is very low. That would be the most logical step to take in order to revive Al Zahraa. Having said so, there is a new management now run by Mr. Ahmed Hamza; for the first time in the history of Al Zahraa the Chairman is also a breeder. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ameen



▲ *Kenz Noor & Imperial Baalanah*

Abaza is very keen to improve the EAO and Al Zahraa. It is a golden opportunity to make the change needed.

Another factor that would help is that I was appointed as the Head of the Board of Trustees by the Ministry of Agriculture. The task is to study the stud and present

a report of how Al Zahraa can be improved in regards to management, finances and breeding. The Board is already working on this and I think there will be some good changes. Do not expect results of these changes once applied before a number of years.



▲ *Anessat Al Khalediah*

## THE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN HORSE; WHERE IT STANDS, ITS RECOGNITION & ITS PROMOTION:

What is known internationally, the Straight Egyptian, is still maintaining its position. The EAO, Al Zahraa and Egypt will still remain the source of all straight lines. We would like to enrich this and keep its reputation since it is a national treasure. We have competition from other parts of the world so we have to be very pragmatic about it. At one point in the 50's and 60's, Europe and America bought some of the best horses in the EAO and they carried on a very intelligent breeding programme. Today they may have better horses. However in the last 10 years we have improved and are able to compete internationally and even prevail over international Egyptian Arabians and non Egyptian. The dip came while the Egyptian society underwent a 20 year political, social and economical structural change while the rest of the world carried on. We are regaining our positions as you have

witnessed in these 2 shows we had attendees from Australia, America and Italy whom were really happy to see that there is a revival of the Egyptian horse. Four years ago we had 4 major breeders; today there are 280 breeders; this says a lot. Egypt will still be the source. Implementing major changes, importing genetic tools, and increasing the size of our gene pool will bring progress.

## THE COOPERATION LEVELS BETWEEN AL ZAHRAA & PRIVATE BREEDERS:

Al Zahraa is the official registry of Arabian horses in Egypt so the relationship is very close. All private breeders bloodlines' trace back to Al Zahraa. Al Zahraa still provides horses to private breeders either by selling them or allowing its breeding stallions to the private breeder's mares, so there is always good contact. They are notified by breeders about the breedings of their mares and inform them when the foal is on the ground. Al Zahraa inspects the newly born, conducts DNA tests to verify parentage, and then brands the

horses. They have the official stud book for their own horses and for those of private breeders. So really...we all add to each other.

## MR. FERDINAND SCHWESTERMANN

*International Breeder, President of the Pyramid Society Europe & Al Zahraa National Show Judge:*

"The breeding programme in Egypt has had a great revival and the quality of the horses has increased over the years.

It was a pleasure to be invited to judge the National shows; all the results have been fantastic. The horses are highly maintained compared to what I have seen in past.

I have been coming to attend Al Zahraa shows for many years and I have to say that this year's organisation has been put outstandingly by Dr. Nasr Marei, Mr. Ahmed Hamza and all the sponsors. It is just such a step forward for Al Zahraa & the EAO and many compliments to them...I am an organiser myself and I understand what it takes."



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▲ *Shammaa Al Khalediah*

**DR. FRANCESCO SANTORO**  
*International Breeder, Chairman of the ECAHO Show Commission & Al Zahraa National Show Judge:*

"I have been attending Al Zahraa for more than 15 years; what I see this year is completely different and changed in all aspects; the organisation is very professional and the quality of horses is very much developed.

During the National show we judged many beautiful horses and I was surprised because several years ago the conditions of horses were very poor. Now they are well bred and well preserved.

Al Zahraa is a very big organisation and I would like to see them employ new breeding programmes in the future. Having said so, all I can say right now is simple: "look...look around you!" It has changed and it will continue on changing to the better." **HT**

*Pictures courtesy of Ayman Hammad  
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**RESULTS**

**Senior Stallions Reserve Champion**  
 SHAFE PSUUDE

(PADRONS PSYCHE x FOCUS SHALIA)

**Breeder:** U.S.A

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Most Classical Head, Males**

KENZ NOOR (ET)

(IMPERIAL MADORI x NAKSH EL KOLOOB)

**Breeder:** Noor Stud - Egypt

**Owner:** Rabab Stud – Egypt

**Most Classical Head, Females**

IMPERIAL BAALANAH

(IMPERIAL BAAREZ x IMPERIAL ORRAPHA)

**Breeder:** U.S.A

**Owner:** Al Farida Stud – Egypt

**Junior Fillies Reserve Champion**

ANESSAT AL KHALEDIAH

(F SHAMAAL x FS PREMIRRA)

**Breeder:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Junior Fillies Champion**

SHAMMAA AL KHALEDIAH

(F SHAMAAL x WIEZA WIATROW)

**Breeder:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Senior Mares Reserve Champion**

KHARELLE (DAKAR EL JAMAAL x KHEMOSELLE)

**Breeder:** U.S.A

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Senior Stallions Champion**

F SHAMAAL

(MAYOUN x SARAMEENA)

**Breeder:** Germany

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Junior Colts Champion**

EL PALACIO VO

(AL LAHAB x EL DORADA)

**Breeder:** U.S.A

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Junior Colts Reserve Champion**

JAREER AL KHALEDIAH

(PADRONS IMAGE x BARAH AL KHALEDIAH)

**Breeder:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.

**Owner:** Al Khalediah Farm K.S.A.