

CRABBET CONVENTION STUD TOUR: PART 1: WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY BETTY FINKE

Gadebrook Arabian Stud, Northamptonshire

The post conference tour got off to an interesting start with a visit to the most unique collection of pure Crabbet horses in Britain. Anne Brown has been breeding Crabbet, and Russian, Arabians since the 1970s, but more recently imported three bay mares of pure Crabbet bloodlines from Australia. Two of these have already produced pure Crabbet offspring, making this the biggest collection of Australian Crabbet horses outside Australia. Australian breeders have arguably made a better job of preserving what one might term “Blunt type” horses as opposed to the “Wentworth type” usually found in Britain, and it was high time some of this was brought back to Britain, where the bay colour in Crabbet Arabians (at the time of the Blunts, the most prominent colour in the stud) has been all but lost. Anne Brown bred the bay pure Crabbet stallion Hachim born in 1994. He had been the last British bay Crabbet stallion until the birth of Zobeyni Nurani (owned and bred by Alexia Ross) in 2012 (see part 2 of the stud tour). Hachim (1994), left far too few offspring before departing to a successful career as an endurance gelding in Abu Dhabi winning three international 100 mile races.

Following snacks in the stable yard and a good look at some of Lady Wentworth’s handwritten and illuminated pedigrees owned by Anne, the crowd headed enthusiastically out into the pasture to visit Australian immigrants Palma Benay and Inshallah Signature and their foals. Back in 2007, Palma – then 2 years old – was the spearhead of the Australian invasion and now has her third foal at foot. Her oldest son Kaalif (by Silver Zenif), now three years old, has been awarded a Higher First Premium at the BEF Futurity in the last two years. Palma is very much a deep-bodied, old-fashioned type of broodmare, and one can see a lot of her in her first two foals, who were shown at the Convention. She now has a bay foal at foot by Erin Park Excel (who journeyed with her from Australia) and was owned by Llain Arabians until his recent premature demise. Accordingly, little Palermo will be the only offspring of this particular mating, and being the only bay son of Excel makes him doubly precious. Inshallah Signature, imported in 2012, is



Inshallah Signature



Palmyra

a different, more refined and flamboyant type with a particularly lovely head; one can imagine that presented properly, she could do well in the British show ring having already won many times in Australia! Her colt foal, Bismillah, attracted particular attention; imported in utero, he is by the Australian stallion Monarch Lodge Ambition (by the Banderol son Tommie). A dark bay with little

white, he already promises to be a tall and impressive stallion and a valuable addition to British Crabbet breeding. Both mares and foals were also very friendly and obviously enjoyed having visitors.

Further up in another field, we saw the other 2012 Australian arrival, the glamorous Pevensey Zariffia, who was also shown in the Convention parade. She shared a pasture with Palma’s 2-year-old daughter Palmyra, (x Klinta Sultan) who is turning grey, but still has much of her dam about her. Both Zariffia and Palma are now in foal to Marbon Masadi – quite a contrast pairing of the bay Australians with the flashy British chestnut, and it will be interesting to see who gets the upper hoof!

Of course it was not possible to leave Gadebrook without paying court to the resident superstar, 26-year-old Russian racing champion Sambist. He is of course not a Crabbet horse, but being Russian, carries a good percentage of Crabbet blood. Pedigree aside, he is certainly a magnificent individual who doesn’t show his age at all. His two three-year-old daughters and 2013 filly Mariska were also much admired. Binley Prince Salim, seen at the Convention was away competing in endurance and Silver Sunbeam (Binley Prince Salim x PHA Silver Heart) is on loan to Spirit Arabians so were not present.

Moonlight Arabians, Leicestershire

After lunch at Gadebrook, the next stop was at Mark and Natalie Tindall's Moonlight Arabians at Leire Mill in Leicester, a much more recent addition to the Crabbet breeding fraternity. The presentation, complete with commentator and background music, was opened by 22-year-old El Zara Qamar (Zarastar / Delvita), Natalie's former riding horse, the first foal she ever bred, and the beginning of her interest in Arabians and specifically Crabbet Arabians. Zara is 7/8 Crabbet/Old English, with a Russian great-granddam. In her active days, she was a very versatile horse who could do anything, but she has never had a foal, and the stud itself was only founded as recently as 2010.

Two mares under saddle were shown next, the Crabbet/OE Darees (Spearmint x Dallua) and the high percentage Crabbet Rizaari (Aazari x Riyala), who had both been shown at the Convention. Darees is Zara's successor as Natalie's riding horse and gave a particularly impressive display ridden bridleless, with just a neck ring. Hopefully, as opposed to Zara she will eventually have foals, as she is a very well-bred mare and definitely breeding quality. Rizaari is a flashy Farette-style bay with an ultra-pretty head, very reminiscent of her British National Champion sire, Aazari out of Riyaala.

Besides these two mares, Natalie has now acquired a fine selection of largely pure Crabbet mares and fillies. Four-year-old Silver Snowdrop is by the Silver Blue Ludo son, Lutfi Pasha, who is also the sire of Silver Zenif (shown at the Convention), and grandsire of Anne Brown's Kaalif. Snowdrop's dam is the pure Crabbet Seretta by Spirit of Silver. Two fillies from Llain Arabians have been added, both pure Crabbet and both by the recently deceased imported Australian stallion Erin Park Excel. The 2-year-old bay Llain Murjanah is out of the Carol Carpenter-bred Veletta Pearl (Silver Blue Ludo). Murjanah clearly shows the influence of her sire. The yearling Llain Samina, also out of a Carpenter mare, Pearl Silva, is more the "regular" Crabbet type, being chestnut with generous helpings of white. Carol Carpenter is also the breeder of the stud's at this point only pure Crabbet broodmare, Dominita (Silver Blue Ludo / Domino Rose by Ludomino). Now 12 years old, Dominita was bred in and imported from France, a small, compact grey mare with a lovely face and a good trot. She is the dam of Moonlight's first homebred foal, the Pure Crabbet yearling colt Moonlight Domino, sired by the Crabbet Champion stallion Klinta Sultan.

Last not least was Moonlight Arabians' first resident stallion African Bey King, a bay



Llain Samina



Darees (left) and Rizaari

4-year-old GSB stallion by African Emir out of Zahlina's Glimmer. He takes his colour from Misery, tracing back to Queen of Sheba, and is a horse with overall good conformation and a particularly well laid-back shoulder. I am sure there are some very interesting foals in the future for this stud farm! Snacks, drinks, and ice-cream in the afternoon sunshine, with a chance to take a walk around the beautiful grounds, completed a perfect first day of the tour.

Worth Arabian Stud, Hampshire

The second day began with a morning visit to Rosemary, Dick, and Elizabeth Archer's Worth Arabian Stud near Andover, which needs little introduction in the world of Crabbet Arabians. Originally located on the Cricket Park in Sussex, part of the original Crabbet Park grounds, the family and the stud moved to Hampshire quite a few years ago, where the breeding programme continues on a much reduced scale. The five resident horses were shown on the lawn behind the house after morning coffee, led in by the homebred resident senior stallion Indian Idyll (Silvern Idyll x Indian Golddust), now 23 years old. Indian Idyll a very successful

racehorse in the days when Arab racing was run under the auspices of the Arab Horse Society, is a tall and well-conformed horse who takes a great deal after his dam in colour and type. He was very laid back about all the attention and happy to associate with the visitors.

The four mares shown were closely related to him. Seven-year-old Soleyma is his daughter and very similar in type; out of Star Solitaire, tracing twice to Indian King, she is also pure Crabbet. The 1998 liver chestnut Indian Shimmer is out of Indian Idyll's full sister, Indian Moondust, who was seen here during the 2002 post Convention stud tour. She is much like her dam, though darker in colour and without any roaning. Her sire was



Summertime Blues



Indian Idyll with the crowd at Worth Stud

the last stallion bred at Courthouse, Shabako (Shammar x Salome IV), which makes her quite a rarity. The next two mares were also Courthouse-Crabbet breeding, being daughters of Spearmint (Shammar x Sappho), both born in 2008 and both already familiar from the Convention parade. Rosa Bettina is a scopey, rather more angular grey out of the Indian Idyll daughter Summertime Blues, and quite reminiscent of her dam. Summertime Blues herself was not in residence, but we were to see her a little later at Binley. Finally, Roselle, owned in partnership with the Duchess of Rutland, was a different type again, more like her sire with a smoother outline and prettier face. Her dam is Silvern Princess, (Silvern Idyll x Princess Rubi'a) bringing together two of the original foundation mares of the stud, Silver Ripple and Princess Alia.

The horses themselves were not the only highlight, however. In the house, various Crabbet-related artefacts such as a reshme (Arabic halter) used by the Blunts and a plaque created by Lady Wentworth excited much interest, and in particular the collection of historic photographs and the hand-written stud books of Crabbet Park and Sheykh Obeyd, containing detailed records of the original foundation horses and their breeding careers. I am sure I am not the only one who would have happily stayed on for a few days in order to spend more time perusing their pages!

Binley Arabian Stud, Hampshire

From Worth it was only a short drive to Binley, owned by the Archers' daughter Caroline Sussex-Archer who has created her own Pure Crabbet breeding programme mainly based on Worth Arabian Stud horses but with some interesting additions. After a delicious salad lunch in the garden, everyone flocked up to

the arena for a parade of horses. Shown first was the senior resident stallion Grecian Idyll (Silvern Idyll x Grecian Gilt). He is paternal half-brother to Indian Idyll, but very different, more refined and compact and with a striking golden chestnut coat that is surely a legacy of his double Bright Shadow breeding. He was followed by two of his junior offspring, including a pretty two-year-old Part Bred bay pony filly named Artemis, owned by Vicky Ford who helped show horses all afternoon. The Pure Bred yearling colt Binley Grecian Spring (out of Summertime Blues), now owned by Shelley Brinxworth and Max Weston, was very full of himself and at his first show in public. While he has inherited his sire's golden chestnut colour, he has more white and promise to be more scopey like his dam.

Grecian Spring's dam, the very regal 19-year-old Summertime Blues, was next. She was the first foal sired by Indian Idyll and the only pure Crabbet daughter of Rose of Bediya, so it is good to see that she has produced quite a few foals, including two daughters shown at the Convention. She is owned by Rosemary and Elizabeth Archer but remained at Binley to produce a foal for Samantha Raikes by Binley's other stallion, Silvern Prince, who was seen at the Convention but not present at the Open Day as he was being prepared for the National Arab Championships. This colt foal is very reminiscent of his sire with the same flaboyant action and is named Prince Raheesh, who will apparently remain chestnut.

Two more Grecian Idyll daughters followed, the very correct eight year old Binley Rose Gold (x Rose Star) and the more refined two year old Binley Silvern Isis; the latter out of Ismala (Nefeuret x Silvern Image), who is also still owned by Binley, but was away in Sussex at the time.

Next in line were the two veteran mares: 24 year old Rose Star (El Santo x Rose Flame) and the glorious 26-year-old Silvern Image (Masjid x Silvern Dream). Silvern Image, every inch the regal matriarch, is a full sister to Silvern Idyll and of course the dam of the three full brothers shown at the Convention, Ikoni, Silvern Prince, and Binley Prince Salim, as well as their full sister Binley Golden Reverie and the last one of that cross not so far seen, Binley Silvern Grace. Visitors who were here back in 2002 may have remembered seeing Grace as a foal. There was also a younger mare from this family, Binley Silvern Sapphire, by Grecian Idyll out of Silvern Dream's daughter Silvern Pearl (by Prince



Binley Ronaldo



Binley Grecian Spring

Sadik). At four years, she is a very dark grey who still needs some time to mature.

The stud's foundation mares from Worth were Princess Gaila and Sa'lilah, who sadly died not very long ago. She was represented by her 19-year-old daughter Sefina, by Silvern Idyll. A lovely dark chestnut, unfortunately she has only had one daughter who was exported to Germany. Binley also owns her three-quarter sister Sa'ira, who was away on lease to Seren Arabians, and a Sa'lilah granddaughter, Simana, who was in Sussex.

In addition to the stud's own mares, we also got to see a visitor, the pretty 4-year-old grey Bella Mia, by Imad out of the Australian import Wentworth Estate Bellissima. She is bred and owned by Diana and Libby Whittome.

For a grand finale, junior stallion Binley Ronaldo was turned loose in the ring to everyone's delight, including Ronaldo's! This spirited five year old grey was bred by Caroline in Australia of all Crabbet bloodlines. He is quite closely inbred, his sire Arfaja Robard and second dam Arfaja Rashma being full siblings by Rasham (by Greylight) out of Wellworth Leilani. His dam Arfaja Silver Mist is by the Somerled son Silver Somerio. He is an interesting stallion, but unfortunately has not yet sired any foals.

Imperial Arabian Stud, Wiltshire

The final stop before Malvern was Geoffrey Plaister's Imperial Arabian Stud, which proved a nostalgic and slightly melancholy occasion. Now well into his 80s, Geoffrey Plaister has not been breeding horses for quite a few years. He still owns a considerable number of Crabbet Arabians, however, the majority of which are also getting on. Peter Upton, whose association

with the Plaisters goes back a long way right to the beginning of the stud, was on hand to provide some decorations by displaying his original watercolours of Crabbet foundation horses to illustrate the pedigree of the late, great Hanif, the Crabbet-bred foundation sire of the stud. Hanif's photograph and pedigree were also on display, as was Peter's lovely watercolour of Hanif himself. And, of course, all but three of the horses are descended from Hanif, a living monument to his influence.

Instead of watching a parade like 2002, the visitors were let into the field with the mares and spent a good while associating with friendly elderly (mostly) grey ladies. The majority of the 16 mares were well over 20 years of age, the two oldest 28. These included Zafinah, the last daughter of Hanif out of Zahri, and Magic Heart by Magic Sun

(by Indian Magic) out of Sheriyah by Hanif. Magic Sun's daughter PHA Silver Heart and top ridden granddaughters Silvern Moonlight and Silvern Starlight had been in the Convention Parade. There were also two daughters of Ludomino, Lunifah and Zarinah, both aged 25, and no less than five Nefeuret daughters, aged between 18 and 21. The youngest mares in the field were Imperial Zanitah and Imperial Silver Spring, who had been foals back in 2002, and I believe have not any foals themselves. This seems rather a shame, especially in the case of Silver Spring, who is a rare daughter of Indian Banner and a very nice mare.

It took some effort to persuade people to part with the gracious company of the old ladies and move on to the yard, where the four resident stallions were shown. Imperial Shadow and Imperial Zar, both aged 23, had also been here 11 years ago; by Kasadi and by Spearmint, respectively, they brought some new blood to the stud. They have not been used much, however; Zar is the sire of the mare Imperial Zanitah, who was shown at the Convention, and Shadow has one son at the stud, the five-year-old stallion Imperial Sovereign out of the pure Crabbet mare Luretta. The pick of the stallions was the horse that had been at the Convention, the beautiful grey Imperial Silver Star, a rare son of the pure Crabbet Shabash. Now 16 years old, he has never sired a foal and should really go on lease to someone who would use him before it is too late.

Besides the horses, Geoffrey Plaister's collection of vintage cars was also much admired. To everyone's amazement (and delight), a 1902 model that stood parked in the yard turned out to be in perfect working order, and Geoffrey took one of the Australian visitors on a ride down the lane.



Mares at pasture at Imperial Stud

CRABBET CONVENTION STUD TOUR:

PART 2:

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE BROWN UNLESS STATED

Romac Stud, Carmarthenshire

Over to west Wales after the break for the Arab Horse Society National Show for the Crabbet Championships and a search for purple balloons at the gates of Romac Stud. Long-time breeder, Daphne Cocksedge named her stud after her bay Crabbet stallion Romac, born in 1951 from whom many of her mares descend.

Her current stallion Crystal Romance (Ibn Silver x Crystal Treasure), was running out with four of his mares; Bint Arishma by Idris; Bint Magnetta by Celtic Shadow; Bint Irexandya by Secret Heart; and Crystal Shadowlight by Indian Banner (100% Crabbet). I had just seen her dam, the lovely Crystal Stardrift (Astar x Crystal Sunset), with her filly foal by Crystal Romance, at Llain Arabians, where she had been covered by pure Crabbet Klinta Sultan.

Daphne was keen to show visitors the filly's two year old full brother, Crystal Red Drift, a grey who still has some growing to do. In another of Daphne's fields two of Crystal Romance's colt foals, one out of Shades of Tessra, the other from Irexandya, greeted visitors in the usual friendly manner.

Daphne is the proud owner and carer of the grand old Ibn Silver by the famous Indian Silver, by Indian Magic, sire of some of the horses seen at the Convention, including Shadowfly whom we were to see again at Lisa Adshead's.

Talk by Harri Adshead on a 6,000 km ride to Red Sea

As a precursor to the Crabbet studs in Wales, Harri Adshead gave an absorbing evening talk with slides on the epic journey he and his wife Lisa, made on horseback over 18 months, from Llandeilo to the Red Sea. Their adventures met with delights and disaster, the most tragic being the loss through colic of Lisa's adored stallion Audin, laid to rest in Turkey.

Bryndyfan Stud, Carmarthenshire

The following morning, we squeezed in a visit to Bryndyfan Stud nearby to see Mandy Thomas's two impressive Hispano Arab stallions, from the Arab mare Bint Amazima of Babson/Crabbet breeding. The full brothers run out together but as yet have had no offspring. What a treat to see the lovely Alize bint Azeme (1989 by Istfahan x Azeme



Foals and yearlings

bint Gleam by Silver Flame). "Sadly, we have never had a foal from Azeme," says Mandy. "She is of course half-sister to Aboud and Aureme on the dam side. Alize was out with the Fabberge daughter, Cacherel. Cacherel's son, Dark Prince by Imad, was the first Pure Bred Arab ever to be evaluated at the BEF gradings in the Dressage section where he earned a First Premium.

The third mare, Augusta, (1989 by the Courthouse stallion Rheingolde) is also part Crabbet and dam of April Fairy by Wermut, now competing at International level Endurance. Mandy has retained Augusta's four-year old gelding Gabriel Oak, by Imad, a really impressive bay, who should do well when he comes out under saddle next season.

Pant-y-dderwen, Carmarthenshire

First of the three stallions invited to appear in Lisa and Harri Adshead's large outdoor arena was Ariosto led by owner Keith Richards, both looking exceedingly well for their years! When Ariosto appeared at the 2002 Crabbet Convention, he was exhibited by his owner and breeder, John Blundell, who had bred him from Imad out of Anselma, a granddaughter of both Indian Magic and Ludomino. Diana Whittome, owner of Ariosto's sire, Imad, described him as a "pretty little Raffles type" when she leased him for her mares at Coed-y-foel.



Shadowfly at Lisa Adshead's

Next to show was the lively four-year old, Shadowfly, an impressive rose grey stallion bred at Romac Stud, and bought as a yearling by doting owner, Debbie Crothers. Her 'pocket rocket' is by Ibn Silver from an impressive endurance line (95% Crabbet). 'Fly' gained a Higher First Premium with the top score for a three-year old in the Endurance section at the BEF Futurity gradings in 2012.

Last in the arena was Gunilla Hamer's typey Klinta Sultan, presented by Pam Flower of Llain Arabians where he stands at stud. Newly bathed and sparkling white, he looked every inch the epitome of the pure Crabbet Arabian that Gunilla has aimed to breed. He already has winning stock on the ground, including 2-year old Palmyra seen at Gadebrook Stud, but seeks a new home



Ariosto

as Llain is reducing its Crabbet breeding programme and Gunilla winds up the Klinta Stud.

Lisa kindly provided a sumptuous Welsh/Arabic feast, surely the first of its kind, which we enjoyed in glorious sunshine.

Coed-y-Foel, Carmarthenshire (by Diana Whittome)

The horses at Coed-y-Foel are almost all descendants of the original foundation mare and it still comes as something of a shock that Tarentella (Indian King x Dancing Sunlight), bred by the late Ronald and Rachael Kydd, was purchased as a yearling in 1966, almost fifty years ago. Of her seven daughters who bred on, three have descendants at Coed-y-foel today.

The other major influence was the purchase of Imad (Golden Cavalier x Ivory Wings) from his breeder, Jane Kadri, in 1985. The name 'Imad' means 'pillar' or 'foundation stone' and could not have been more appropriate. Imad more than fulfilled expectations by becoming an AHS performance tested Premium stallion, a WAHO Trophy winner and the ultimate show horse, his ridden career culminating in becoming HOYS 'Ridden Arab of the Year' in the year 2000. It is as a sire that his impact has most been seen and the stud has seven of his daughters.

The horses were presented in Family Groups. The first group were descendants of Tarentella's Indian Magic daughter, Fanfara, through her only daughter, Fiesta Magica (by Dargee Star). This branch of the family has both size and scope and has produced a number of Advanced endurance horses.

First was Marcus Aurelius (Aurelian x Fiesta Magica), bred at Coed-y-foel, but owned by Rowena Bertram. He is an AHS Premium stallion and an Advanced endurance horse and has also competed with much success in show ridden classes, eventing and showjumping. Ridden by Rowena's 14 year old daughter, Katherine, the pair gave a lovely ridden display, including jumping. The distaff side of the family was represented by Festoon (Imad x Fiesta Magica) and her double Imad daughter, Farfalla, the latter Reserve Overall Champion at the Crabbet Championships at Malvern 2012.

The second group were the descendants of Tarentella's Argos daughter, Extravaganza,

through her daughter, Illaria (by Imad). The influence of Argos was obvious here, both in the smaller size and dark chocolate liver chestnut colour, both evident in the 19 year old mare, Illaria, who led her group into the arena. She was followed by her son, Illustre (by Imad), a gelding owned by Lynne Humphreys, who was at the Crabbet Convention. His full sister, Illuminate, a grey with an exotic head, was accompanied by her filly foal, Illiana (by Psalm). The latter, turned loose, proved beyond doubt that she had inherited her share of the family's extravagant movement. Last member was Illaria's son, Incandescent (by Psalm), a grey four year old stallion, who thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to show off.

The third branch of Tarentella's family shown were the descendants of her last daughter, Sarafina (by Rodanich Silver Sarafan). She had just one daughter, the 20 year old, Sarafiah (by Imad), who was led into the arena by Diana's nine year old granddaughter, Sophie. She was accompanied by her two offspring by Psalm (Psynergy x Maiad), the four year old gelding, Sarafan, owned by Yasmin Salam and the two year old filly, Sarafinah. This branch of the family has strong show ridden credentials,



Rose in Ivory on show at Coed-Y-Foel Stud
Photo: Anthony Reynolds



Filly foal Illiana

Photo: Anthony Reynolds

including the HOYS qualifiers, Sorrento and Sarafiah, as well as Sarafian, Solero and Saranzo, all successful at local and County level.

The other female line represented at Coed-y-foel is that of Gold Roseiries (Gold Rex x Bint Roxana), purchased in 1979 specifically to breed to Fire Song (Banat x Fanfara), a grandson of Tarentella's. The best daughter from this cross was the lovely bay mare, Danse De Feu and it was her daughter, Rose in Ivory (by Imad), a beautiful white 15 year old mare, who came into the arena next, accompanied by her four year old daughter, Celestial Rose (by Psalm), owned by Dela Astbury.

Bringing proceedings to a close was the most recent addition to the breeding stock at Coed-y-foel, the lovely Australian import, Wentworth Estate Bellissima (Arfaja Robard x Eveeta). Imported as a yearling in 2006, she is owned in partnership with Diana's sister, Libby. Her first daughter, Bella Mia had been seen at Binley Open Day. "Bella" was accompanied by her foal, Bellflower (by Psalm), a strapping grey filly with extrovert tendencies!

The day concluded with tea and cakes and the opportunity to talk! The weather had been perfect and there was a feeling of satisfaction that all the hard work that goes into an Open Day had been worthwhile. None of it would have been possible without the help of staff, family and friends and particular thanks are due to those who were kind enough to bring horses bred at Coed-y-foel back for the occasion.

On the trip up north to Seren Arabians, a few lucky visitors took a detour to **Zobeyni Stud**, Herefordshire to see Alexia Ross' impressive bay yearling Zobeyni Nurani. This unique colt, by Binley's Grecian Idyll, is out of the gracious mare, Narishka, of the Naufal bloodline. Sadly, she has been a difficult breeder, and this will be her last foal, but what a swan song – "Echo" is tall, elegant, friendly and athletic, in the very rare bay colour with no white on his legs and just



Zobeyni Nurani, the bay son of Grecian Idyll
Photo: Ivy Media Productions



Winged Saint sons from Saira, Hanita, and Silihah

Photo: Alexia Ross



Western display

Photo: Alexia Ross

a small star. He livened up the dreary weather with his gay attitude and elevated trot.

Seren Arabian Stud, Cumbria by Dominick Atkinson

The glorious weather continued at Seren Open Day although starting in the mist. The programme was to "Meet the Herds, Meet the Horses, Endurance and Western riding: some of "our owners" bringing their horses back for the day and a grabbed lunch".

At Seren Dom and Jan Atkinson do things slightly differently to most studs but many do some things similarly. It was really interesting to mingle with the herds and see how Dom and Jan manage their place on top the world of the Lakes with dramatic views all round. First we were introduced to the first herd, the "bachelors", all of them entire, all 100% Crabbet. They live as a herd, and were seen running down the mountain to come and say hello. They were Seren Hanau (Hanson x Shadowed Gold), five year old liver chestnut

stallion who improves every year; Seren Hanag (Hanson x Silihah), five year old grey stallion more like his sire, and Seren Winged Shadow (Winged Saint x Shadowed Gold), the baby of the pack at three years old.

Seren Vega (Hanson x Blue Bandaila), a 13 year old liver chestnut gelding stands an amazing 16hh and is 88.25% Crabbet with the remainder Polish. Vega is usually a member of the bachelor herd, as he raises all of the colt foals once they are pushed out of the mare herd. However, he was in isolation on field rest following a stifle injury sustained in a fall under saddle.

Next came the nursery herd (all 100% Crabbet) in the bottom field, which is educationally steep but sheltered. Here the senior stallion, Winged Saint (El Santo x Silver Blue Wings), 23 year old, bright chestnut stallion was with his 2013 foals and their dams. Seren Hanita (Hanson x Dominita), a well put together five year old chestnut mare with her colt foal, Seren Altair. Next was Silihah (Silver Fahd x Malihah), who at 21 years old, had an elegant moving chestnut colt, Seren Sadrh and lastly, Sa'ira (Indian Idyll x Salilah), the 16 year old chestnut grand-daughter of Silver Flame, on lease from Caroline Sussex, with Seren Shadek who has an amazing "kite" marking on his face, reminiscent of El Santo. He was very much the baby of the field but did manage to show off his lovely movement. Dom then led Winged Saint away from his mares to show him off in the arena. He was much relieved, however, when that outing was over and he could rejoin his mares and foals!

Returning for coffee via the American barn, we saw and discussed the situation of Winged Saint's only 2013 filly foal Zahri Maffy Faloose (x Pink Nugget), 50% Crabbet Arab/Appaloosa Part Bred. (Zahri is Arabic for pink). Rejected by her Appaloosa advanced endurance dam, she is now at Seren for her upbringing. An extremely low level

of immunity means that she has been on the brink of death, and her integration into the nursery herd had to be halted after just three days. At 14 weeks old she has both survived and recommenced her integration. She now lives with Seren Sadrh as a pair during the weaning of all of the foals.) All of the foals are turned out daily with the three dams and Seren Bellatrix Malika (Hanson x Winter Queen) a five year old grey mare who was not present at the Seren open day. Having been at the convention parade, Bellatrix was in Wendover, Bucks, with Rebecca Kinnarney for August. Next back to the school to see a western training session with Midnight Silver Mistral, (Hanson x Bibi Masoon), a five year old grey mare, GSB

After lunch we moved to the west field and met the mare herd, with which we were going to do a demo of equine assisted psychotherapy led by Dr. Stuart McNab who is director of the Centre for Research and Education in Psychological Trauma at the University of Chester. Here we saw the ever young 24 year old Winter Queen (Silvern Idyll x Queen of Diamonds), who is GSB; the 9 year old well made chestnut mare, Klinta Salma (Klinta Bashir x Grey Sparkle), 100% Crabbet, also on lease from Caroline Sussex. She had sadly lost her foal earlier in the year after a shortened cord ruptured before birth; Silver Serendipity (Winged Saint x Silver Ingot), a small 7 year old grey mare who has sadly not bred on (100% Crabbet). The well maturing two year old chestnut filly, Seren Golden Wings (by Winged Saint), is the last foal of Shadowed Gold and also 100% Crabbet. She is a beautiful filly and it will be interesting to see how she breeds on. Another Winged Saint daughter was the yearling chestnut filly Seren Sanita (x Seren Hanita), also 100% Crabbet. This interesting breeding programme at Seren now has several youngsters by Winged Saint which is definitely good news for breeders. Dom comments that "It is interesting to note that all of Saint's 2013 colt foals are SCID, CA and LFS clear, in spite of the fact that two of their dams are LFS carriers. A clearer example of the wisdom of breeding LFS carriers, albeit always with a clear other-parent, cannot be given in our opinion. It is safe, economic and prevents bloodlines being lost unnecessarily".

Spirit Arabians in Suffolk put on an impressive display of horses led in by co-owner Alan Theobald for the well-attended and enthusiastic band of visitors. Alan and partner Gina Hunt acquired the important pure Crabbet stallion, Marbon Masadi, on the closure of Diane Ellis' Marbon stud, and were proud to parade him at the Crabbet Convention.



Crystal Magic at Spirit Arabians Open Day



PHA Magic Dream and her filly SA Blissful Spirit at Spirit Arabians Open Day

Masadi has successfully covered many of their mares including the Imad daughter Cameo Rose, PHA Magic Dream (on loan from Suzanne Patrick) who paraded with her impressive filly foal SA Blissful Spirit by Masadi), and the Pure Crabbet, Silver Sunbeam (on loan from Gadebrook Stud). They were followed by two lovely yearlings by Spirit Arabians' senior stallion Crystal Magic (Silvern Sceptre x Crystal Lazuli), bred at Gadebrook Stud: SA Magical Spirit (x PHA Magic Dream) and SA Muzical Spirit (x Muzicarla). It was a delight to see the 22-year old pure Crabbet mare bred at Worth Stud, Copper Fantasy, "lost" for so many years until Gina and Alan located her and were fortunately able to acquire her for her retirement at their stud. After the parade of mares, Claire Seaward

gave a ridden display to music on her gelding, Marbon Tir Nan Og.

This was followed by a tasty lunch and then the Spirit and visiting stallions paraded – Bey Noah (1995), bred and owned by Pat Grant of Legacy Stud; the lovely ever young, Silmalia Blue (1994), owned and bred by Paulette Weir of Church Farm Arabians; then Crystal Magic strode in followed by his son, SA Eternal Spirit (2007); and the other homebred stallion, Ibn Spirit (2000) by Silvern Spirit who Gina lost in an accident when he was three and in whose memory the stud is named.

Ivy Arabians, Norfolk

Tina, Trevor and Samantha Mattocks at Ivy Arabians near Norwich put on a very well organised display of their own and other local Crabbet owners' horses in glorious sunshine. Mark Gamlin showed the horses in hand with his usual flair, starting with the doyenne of the stud, Siala (1990) by Shiffal x Sa'lilah, the only mare that we know about to survive a C-section on foaling. Next was her elegant nine year old pure Crabbet daughter Saraphina Sunset by Grecian Idyll.

Then the visiting pure Crabbet gelding, Silver Cognac (2008) Silvesta Blue x Marbon Moet, owned and ridden by Angie Craven in endurance gear, flashed round in his dramatic chestnut and white. Mike and Wendy Carr brought over their beautiful pure Crabbet mare Crystal Sapphire (2008) Ibn Silver x Crystal Treasure - of incredibly valuable bloodlines - to enchant visitors.

Then two more visitors rode in, both owned by Rosie Fearnley. First came Hubbab, bred by Beeston Hall Arabians, whom we were about to visit that afternoon. This



Rosaliah Gold with her colt foal by Vivegas

Photo: Ivy Media Productions



Tina Mattocks and international guests

Photo: Ivy Media Productions

2003 chestnut mare is by the Indian Magic grandson, Aisht, out of the old English mare Hesure II. She was accompanied in the arena by Binley Shuja, a five year old pure Crabbet mare bred by Caroline Sussex and by Multi Ridden Champion Silvern Prince out of Simana, who readers may remember was the orphan foal at Binley, and subject of a separate article five years ago.

Then what a treat – the dazzling champion ridden mare, Silvern Moonlight (Silvern Sceptre x PHA Silver Heart), impeccably turned out and ridden by Stephanie Turner strutted in. Bred and owned by David and Jean Peck and Mary O'Rourke, 15-year old "Millie" is now on lease to Stephanie who has taken her to the very top in ridden showing with British and European titles.

And a final delight – Ivy Arabians' outstanding ridden champion, Rosaliah Gold, with her cheeky, six week old show colt, Saachi Gold, by Vivegas at foot – an outstanding pair. "Rosie" is another Siala daughter by Golden Silver, an influential Crabbet stallion who appeared at the 1985 Crabbet Convention.

Away at stud were Crystal Silvern Aphrodite and Shams al Thahabiyya, Rosaliah Gold's five year old daughter.

Visitors were then treated to refreshments and an invitation to meet three charming home-bred geldings in the paddocks; the Grecian Idyll son Spirit of Dreams, the C-section foal from Siala; Masha'allah (x Crystal Silvern Aphrodite); and Midnight Shadow (x the Crabbet/Old English mare Golden Fawn), who are all available for sale.

Beeston Hall Arabian Stud, Norfolk

Last call on the purple balloon-spotting tour was to the Beeston Hall Arabian Stud on the edge of the Norfolk Broads, owned by Vicki

and Bill Dorsey, Americans who settled for the English country way of life some years ago.

Bill took us over to meet their grey straight Crabbet stallion Klinta Bashir (Nefeuret x Star Solitaire) who runs out with some of his mares in one of the extensive paddocks which surround their lovely country house and Orangery. Their other stallion, the high percentage Crabbet, Beeston Hakim, was away, following his busy racing career – he had appeared at the Convention partnered by Imogen Budd, in racing colours.

Vicki accompanied us as we wandered through the paddock with the mares and foals, all pure or high percentage Crabbet and most of the youngstock were by Klinta Bashir. The Dorseys acquired their adult horses from Maureen de Popp on the closure of her Milla Lauquen Stud some years ago, so many mares are by the imported pure Blunt bred, Kildimo, the most senior being 23-year old Moongleam out of Magic's Moonlight and now pure white. Her 6-year old daughter Mohtarma by Bashir had a Bashir filly on her, Beeston Mostafah.

An even older mare at 25, Rabiah, had a striking five day old chestnut Bashir colt at foot with loads of white. Rabiah has a close link to Indian Magic, being by his son Rafid who lived to a great age at Milla Lauquen. These three are the only 100% Crabbet mares.

And so a great tour ended, with visitors eager to see these horses out competing and carrying the great name of Crabbet into ridden performance.

Good luck to all and a thousand thanks to generous hosts for sharing your horses with us and all the wonderful food. ■



Klinta Bashir, Crabbet stallion, meets the public at Beeston Hall