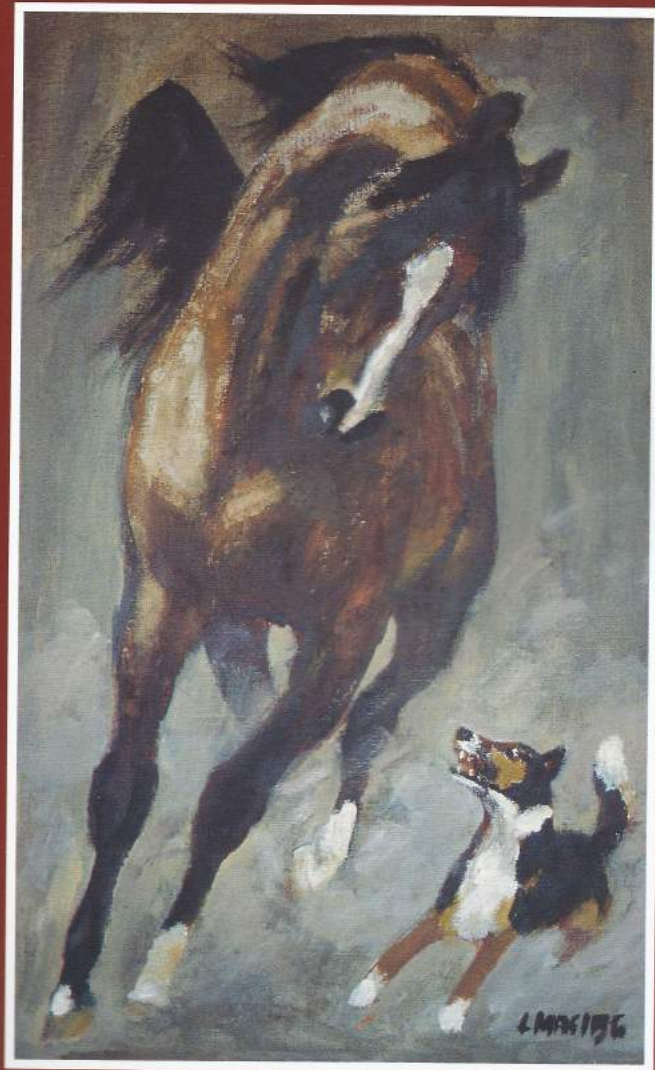


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Mary Ann Wragg presents the Young Handler Award to winner Nicola Smith.

The Gelding classes, now so well filled, are slowly getting more recognition of their importance, and it would be nice to see the Championship judged in the main ring. There could be seen a mixture of well made, good moving animals that are or will make excellent riding horses, some of which were better than many of the colts, and some that looked as if they were bred specifically for the show-ring, but missed the grade. The Champion was TA Rodansk, imported from America by his breeders who gelded him. Reserve to him was the yearling, Silvern Enchanter, a particularly fine mover who caught the eye in the Sire-Produce group class. Both of these were fine examples of the fact that gelding a colt does not make him second rate.

The winner of the Sam Simmonds award for the Leading Sire of the Show was Maleik el Kheil, who beat Zircon Nazeer by 18 points to 12. These two stallions, both of the Kazra line, are outstanding sires of show winners.



PLEASURE PRINTS

Dick and Christine Reed with their National Champion Gelding TA Rodansk shown by Mark Gamlin.



PLEASURE PRINTS

Peter and Beverley Gamlin receiving the Small Stud Owners Award from President Mary Ann Wragg.

Anglo-Arab and Part-bred Arab In-hand Classes

by Mrs A King Smith

Michael Harris commenced judging on Thursday with the Part-bred Arab classes, which were well supported. There was a diversity of type and it was interesting to have the percentage of Arabian blood printed in the catalogue which ranged from 93% to 12.5%, the minimum allowed. The small Yearling class was won by Starlyte Paper Moon (by Saran Rising Star) and the over 14.2hh class by the grey Weirton Delfino, a June foal, who had the least Arab blood in the class. The Starlyte Stud had another success in the under 14.2hh two-year-olds won by Starlyte May Fayre. This class was not well supported, but there were twelve entries in the larger class won by the 50% Pricklegate Andante, a full sister to the foal winner Pricklegate Snow Waltz, both by Imad.

From the strong three-year-olds, the winner (stepping up a place from last year) was Tamarillo by Tarnik, who also won the Gelding Championship from Tanard Tomboy, a 12-year-old from the Senior Gelding class. The mature gelding class is a conundrum, by its very nature the participants should be doing things under saddle, yet some in their prime years, are so gross that they are either being kept for the sole purpose of showing in hand or are no longer suitable for saddle work.

The Male Champion and Reserve both came from the strong stallion class which produced a diversity of types. Strinesdale Mastermind by Twylands Troubadour, took the honours with the Reserve going to last year's Overall In-hand Champion Saran Rising Star. The Female Champion Weirton Fleur de Lune needs no introduction, she is a fine brood mare, Champion at the Northern Show this year and Reserve Champion here last year. She went on to take Reserve in the Overall In-hand Championship on Saturday afternoon. Reserve Female Champion was the winner of the 14.2hh and under Senior Mares, the versatile Strinesdale Serenade, a full sister to Strinesdale Mastermind.

The two Palomino classes were judged by Ronald Kydd, the youngsters being the stronger, won by the filly Mountedgcumbe Saffron.

The family produce groups were in many ways the most interesting of the classes, there being three matriarchal entries and one stallion. Whilst showing much of a likeness among themselves, each group was of a different type. The question is, should a matriarch breed her like or allow the sire of her foal to 'stamp his stock'? The winning group consisted of six animals including two foals, the progeny of Bychan Flower Girl, by Small-land Mambrino, followed home by another fine group, the progeny of Gredington Natalia. In fact all four groups were a joy to watch.

Anglo-Arab youngster was thin on the ground (25 entries) for Michael Harris on Friday morning, but the quality was high. The excellent yearling class produced both the Junior Champions. El Primero the winner, by Somerset Morn, beat Litigation, who had been Female Champion at the Northern Show earlier this year. The latter took the Female Junior Championship over

Paradelles Scelebration by Sunray Scelebrity, winner of the small Two and Three-year-old-class.

The three colts forward looked fairly even, unfortunately they were distracted from giving a good run up by a fractious filly in ring one. The winner was the solitary two-year-old, Sunray Superstar who went on to give his sire, Somerset Morn, Champion and Reserve Junior Male titles, when he stood below El Primero in the Championship.

I would comment that senior animals with the size and scope to produce the eventers and show jumpers etc. required today are usually too unfurnished and leggy to be presented in the youngstock classes. These are dominated by early maturing smaller types, unlikely to hold their own outside the Anglo-Arab world. Where are the medium sized exhibits that join the two together?

The senior gelding class, often one of the strongest was disappointing this year with only five forward, the winner being Cymond Tristan (by Michael's Revenge) who was Reserve Champion to the two-year-old Mayway Master Benson (by Mayway Merganser) in the Championship, reversing the placings at the show last year.



SWEET

Daws Morrana – Female Anglo Champion In Hand and Reserve Anglo Ridden Champion.

While a glance across to the Pure-bred youngstock in the main ring revealed fit looking athletic animals able to fully use their limbs, many of the Part-bred and Anglo youngstock were over-burdened with too many kilos and scuttled along like old gentlemen wearing bedroom slippers. It is ironic that most of the former will probably spend their lives doing nothing very strenuous while the majority of the latter will be expected to compete in competitions where fitness is of the essence.

The Senior classes were well supported and produced some of the best Anglos likely to be seen, going right down the line.

Daws Morrana, by Saturan, has the size, bone and presence par excellence and was an outstanding Female Champion, also taking the Reserve Ridden title. Top mare in the Veteran class was the ever sprightly Starrock Orchania, by Hassani of Fairfield who took the Reserve award. The Male Champion, Accolon by Thesauros is also of exceptional quality, home-bred and handled by Helen Hunt, he stood over the many times Champion Theobalds Flying Colours. Third in the stallion class was El Prendero, another of great size and scope who I had watched jumping really well the previous afternoon, he was Ridden Champion here last year. For those seeking potential sires for next year, there were also two excellent smaller types in this class offering a variety of choice for all.

A word of praise for the ring stewards who with true British grit worked on, sometimes in tropical humidity and heat, immaculately attired with no sign of wilt!



SWEET

Gelding Champion – Tamarillo.



PLEASURE PRINTS

Alan Charlesworth receives the Part-bred Male Championship for Strinesdale Mastermind from Michael Harris.



SWEET

Weirton Fleur de Lune – Reserve Overall In hand Champion



SWEET

El Primero – Junior Male Anglo Arab Champion.



SWEET

Mayway Master Benson.



PLEASURE PRINTS

The exuberant Accolon.