



INTERVIEW WITH WARD BEMONG

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by TuttoArabi Archive

During the World Championships in Paris, we had the opportunity to speak with Ward Bemong, who already has a long history in the Arabian Horse World and for the past years is managing the successful Atbhah Stud of His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdulaziz in Saudi Arabia. We asked him a few questions.

TA: When did your passion for Arabian horses start?

WB: I started riding horses since I was 5 years old and during my time at the riding school I fell in love with the character of the Arabian Horses at the riding school and after begging for years my parents finally decided to buy me an Arabian Horse when I was 13 years old.

TA: What makes for you the Arabian Horse so special and what qualities do you prefer in an Arabian Horse?



EL SAYYEDA
LANAKEN 2012



bian Horse?

WB: Without a doubt their character, charisma and expression!

TA: When did you decided that the Arabian horse was more than just a hobby?

WB: I still see the Arabian Horse as a hobby and I think all of us who work with the Arabian Horse can call it still a hobby as it has been a childhood dream to one day make from your passionate hobby your living! My first job was working

as a groom with the Belgian trainer Paul Lamers in '95.

TA: Can you tell us some of your biggest achievements you have reached over the past years?

WB: :) I can probably not pick one but for me personally still so far the biggest achievement is to be part of the deal that made it possible to get El Dorada to Athbah Stud. El Dorada has always been one of my favourite horses and for me she is still an absolute queen! Of course the great results we achieved with AJA Justified in 2010 becoming Triple



RASHIDAH AL ZOBAIR - LANAKEN 2012



EL DORADA - AACHEN 2012

EL DORADA - MOORSELE 2012



SHIRIN BY AISHA - AACHEN 2012



EL DORADA
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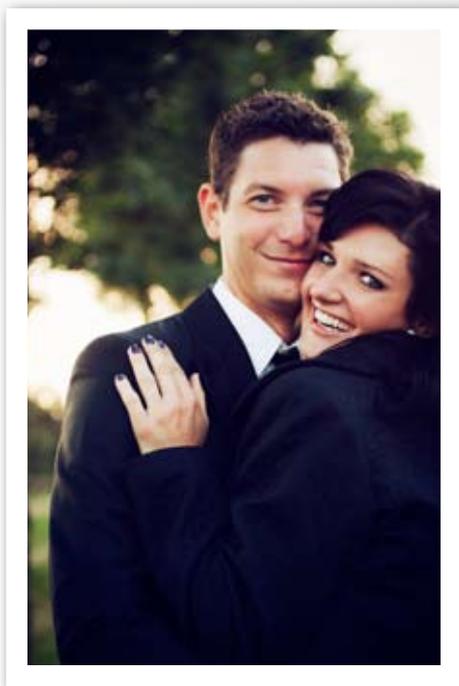
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TA: You have lived in the Middle Eastern countries for qui-



WARD AND MARIAJODLOWSKA

te some years now. Being from Europe, it is quite a change of environment. What is your secret to keep motivated and continuing the upwards line of success?

WB: Well I think you just have to change your mind set. Things don't go in the same line as in Europe and you have to adjust to that. I think if you can't then you will not stay long in the Middle East. I never really had a big problem to adjust to any of the countries as I think coming from Belgium we are quite easy to adjust to changes...

TA: What are your plans for the future? Will you continue to live and work in the middle east?

WB: Time will tell ;)

TA: We have also seen you judging at the Futurity show in Belgium. Is this something you want to extend in the future?

WB: Honestly, with the current ECAHO judging system for sure not! I liked judging a show like the futurity as you judge with people you respect as breeders, handlers etc... But to make a career of judging at the moment absolutely no interest in..

TA: What does an Arabian horse should have nowadays to make It to the top in the show ring?

WB: Basically the whole package! But I have the feeling times are changing again as opposite to a few years ago when you had a pretty face and showy attitude you won quit easily but nowadays you need the body, a good neck and very good movement! So to my feeling it is like the complete horse is getting a small edge at the moment

TA: What do you think of the Arabian horse shows of today? Is it much different than in the old days?

WB: Well without a doubt! It became for sure more professional over the years... Some people might think it was better in the old days and some might say it is better now but for sure times change and you have to go with the time I believe... In the good and bad ways ;)

TA: Are there any things you would like to change at the shows?

WB: For sure the judging pool has to be broadened ... Let's use more judges instead of always the same ones...

TA: How do you think our future Arabian horse world would look like, ten years from now?

WB: I honestly think that on the level we are now not much can change. □