



*Lawrence Bonnet*

# FRANCK CIBOIS

by Talitha Bakker ■ photos by Franck Cibois Archive

**O**ctober of '69! That's the birth date of Franck Cibois. The start of a life that would become completely devoted to horses. It really started when he was 5 years old when his grandmother took him riding for the first time. From that day Franck could only think about horses, riding as much as he could and competing in jumping. He spent most of his time when he was a child in the equestrian centre close to his home. At the age of 14 he made a decision that would change his life. In the summer of 1984 he left home and went to Normandy where he would spend 15 days to test his aptitude for this job. After his application got accepted to pass the exam it pushed the door open to the National School of Haras

du Pin. Between 400 and 500 children had the same dream and were fighting for the 17 places in the school. And a few months later he started that new chapter in his life. Three full years with horses 24/7, learning and fulfilling all tasks to do with horses. This school was based under the military methods and for years it was the main training centre for those who wanted to be involved in all horse activities. Three years to learn a lifestyle (of horses), from breeding to jumping, from race training to military, from farm management to riding teaching, it was all covered. Three years that Franck says he will never forget and that changed his life forever. Franck stayed very nostalgic at that time and after so many years





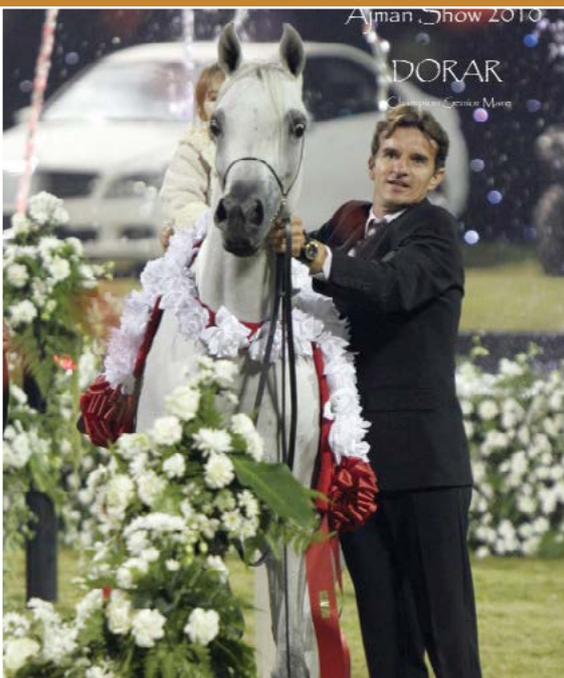
**IM BAYARD CATHARE, SUMMER 2013**



**IM BAYARD CATHARE, PARIS 2012**



**MENTON 2013 AJA EUROPA AND BRIGADIER ABDULLRAZAK AL SHAWARZI FROM THE ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN**



**DORAR FOR THE ROYAL CAVALRY OF OMAN**

he still has close contact with his teachers and some students. June of '87, the exam in the pocket, it was time for Franck to step into his professional life.

In '87 Military Obligations took Franck to the CSEM (Military Equestrian Sport Centre) of Fontainebleau. It was one year to use his equestrian education and show his potential, putting more of a focus on jumping.

When his obligations came to an end, he moved to a breeding farm. One of his more favored decisions as he continues to love this part of the job. He continued to ride and enter jumping competitions in his spare time and through this in the spring of 1988

he made a development in professional life. He started riding an Arabian mare and from then on he never went back to working with other blood lines. He went back to his roots in his hometown, working for Mr Valerio, and after doing all other horse sports activities he came to his first Show competition in the summer of 1988 and it was there he showed his first horse. Naskoa owned by Mr and Mrs Valerio, at the Montauban international Show. This

is a vivid memory and he has photos of that memorable and what now was obviously a life changing moment. From that instant he had no other interest but to learn and show Arabian horses. Going from Mrs Bourasse - Haras de Nautiac to Mr and Mrs Sardar - Shah Arabians, he passed by most of the farms in France to gain knowledge and sharpen his skills. November of '91 he stopped in a farm that confirmed his ideas and increased his potential in the industry.

Shamilah Arabians, the world renowned farm owned by the Calvet family, gave Franck the opportunity to capture his potential and make a career of it. At 21 years of age he became farm manager and given a career out of it the opportunity to show horses at top level competitions all over Europe. From there he built his career and life within the Arabian horse industry. After much success and experience Franck left the farm in May 1997.

As many do, he went to America a few times to complete training and then moved to Germany to Mr Niko Jung and then onto a new step in Austria with the Huemer Family at la Movida Arabian Farm from 1999 to 2003.

The memory of great emotion comes from when Reza El Bri became Gold champion at the All Nations Cup in 2003. But Franck had a dream and desire, he wanted the chance to make

his own story, and as he continued his work with passion and enthusiasm, that chance came in November 2006.

Franck became trainer and manager of the Show section of the Royal Cavalry of Oman.

Over the years he has built a team of people and horses, making continual progress, the team have gained some great results throughout Europe and the Middle East.

Franck continues his work with great passion, he shares his story with one factor in mind. For him, life is an eternal circle and his story with IM Bayard Cathare is just that. After many years of hard work his goal and dream may be achieved

alongside a horse that comes from where it all began for him.

IM Bayard Cathare was bred by Mr Richard Roque and owned by Mr and Mrs Bonnet until 2012. But it stays a pure breeding from Shamilah Arabians. So for Franck showing Bayard all these years later, it is more than just showing a horse. It's a piece of history that comes back to the ring, and which is now representing a nation of the Sultanate of Oman.

It was in 2005 that Franck saw Bayard as a yearling and from then could not get him out of his head. He was given the opportunity from then on to lease him in 2008 for the Royal Cavalry of Oman for one year, and from then on he tried to keep Bayard close. It was 2012 that they were brought together again as a team in Oman and they went from show to show together both enjoying the relationship they have and the show ring, and Bayard has shown to be a real crowd pleaser! The support over the last few seasons has been really appreciated by the team and they hope to continue the great results.

This success will continue, the power and desire is there for Bayard and the team, and there are hopes of a dream soon becoming a reality for Franck and the Royal Cavalry of Oman. "I do my job with passion, from my very first day to today and will continue in the future. Bayard represents my 'professional Me'! I love that horse and to get a medal in Paris with him will be not just something! An incredible way to end the season, and an achievement for my 25 years of passion and commitment to the industry. It would be a great step for the Royal Cavalry of Oman as well, they have trusted me in this role for 7 years and a great homage to a big part of my life and history. Get ready to see me crying if it does happen!" □



**FRANCK CIBOIS, HIS WIFE AND ALEXANDRA**





VICHY 2013 THE OMAN TEAM GETTING 4 GOLD CHAMPION



FRANCK WITH HIS MY GRAND MUM



REZA EL BRI AACHEN GOLD CHAMPION 2003



Phone France: +33 680929040 - Oman: +96 899162012

email: franck-cibois@orange.fr

FACEBOOK: Franck Cibois

