

# Cedes Bakker

## Judge profile



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## Judge profile - Cedés Bakker



**S**ince some time Cedés became one of the most popular amongst young, new coming sympathetic faces in the international jury panel travelling to judge different level shows across Europe and Middle East. But his story with the horses began with the career of high level dressage and show jumping rider...of ponies! He is not only a good proof on the right idea of ECAHO direction welcoming the young judges having some “fresh look” on the show scene, but he also made an important step into popularizing of successful sport competitions on pure bred Arabians.

**Cedés Bakker:** I am involved with horses since I was six, I started with riding ponies. I was riding both dressage and jumping on a very high level. Also I was riding pony stallions for stallion owners. The ponies that I was riding had most of the time 50-75% Arabian blood. So my parents where getting more interested in the purebred Arabian horses. In 1980 they bought their first Arabian purebred mares from the well known Van Roosmalen family. They had mainly Crabbet / Russian lines. They were the

owners of Bora who was a son of Abdullah. Later we also bought him and I rode him to the highest level of dressage and jumping, which was very unusual at that time, because the opinion of the traditional riders and judges was, that on a purebred Arabian horse, you could not ride, too difficult and hot! After one year their opinion was completely changed, because I was winning every time riding the Arabians. Then I was showing the horses of my parents on the shores in Holland. After this period my attention was made to be become a judge. In Holland you have to do an government exam to be allowed to become a judge. My teacher who had a lot of faith in me (Mrs. Toto Modderman ) was guiding me to the whole process – I’m still thankful for that.

**Tutto Arabi:** You started your career with horse riding, also on pure bred horses. What is your opinion on modern show horse breeding that is strongly focused on the shape of the head and expressive movements that in consequence pushes a lot of breeders to run for the pretty heads only. How in your opinion the future show horse breeding will look like?



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**CB:** I think at this moment we are losing the vision of breeding a complete horse. Every horse is the same and you can judge them on the same way either its warmblood, welsh or Shetland pony, but you have to know their typical breed features. In my opinion a lot of not very experienced breeders or new breeders are only looking for the head and losing the rest of the horse. Also we can see that there will be more special directions of breeding like show, endurance, riding or race horses, mostly total different type of horses. I think we have reached at this moment the max about the extreme heads. We have to keep the standard and that's a complete Arabian horse with the type, not only head, good, strong body and legs, so that we can use them various ways - showing or riding.

**TA:** And how about the current show scene condition? During the past few years we can observe that a lot of smaller and lower level shows are cancelled due to the lack of entries. On the other hand it is difficult especially for young or small breeders to compete against the world leaders on the big and prestigious events. How do you think the show scene should evolve nowadays?

**CB:** I think that a lot of small breeders are not able to spend so much money to have a horse shown on a professional way. The first question is: can I get a professional trainer to show my horse? Some of the trainers are exclusively showing for one or two owners on the major shows. And let's be honest they have normally also the best horses. I hear a lot of breeders who don't want to compete against such good horses on the smaller shows, there is no fun then for them to be somewhere in the middle or end. So there is also a big problem with the amount of good trainers, there are only a few of them and everybody wants them to get their horses. So I think that, if we want the small breeders really back in the showing, then we have to split the show scene. It's easy said, but I realize that it is very difficult.

**TA:** As a young judge, representing the fresh look on the work – let's talk honestly - what is the hardest point of judgment for show horse judge?

**CB:** The hardest point is to judge the legs, because there are four of them and you really have to have the knowledge about legs to



BB Sadiq El Than (Raffael El Than x Sivnesse by Menes)

*value some faults with points. I have a lot of experience because of my riding background and then you know how to value some faults, because you will or get troubles now or in the future, when you are asking the maximum of the legs in jumping or dressage. Also the body is very difficult, because it just depends where you want the horse to use for. A show body can be terrible for riding. On the other hand a lot of satisfaction you can have in judging type and movement because to me that's where the excitement lays down for both the judges and spectators. I can get goose bumps when I see a horse that's catching me with his presence and movement.*

**TA:** *If you could point 3 most important features describing a good judge nowadays it would be ...*

**CB:** *Honest, integrity and knowledge of horses*

**TA:** *And what are the particular horses that impressed you the most?*

**CB:** *I have several favourites: these are not the horses I judged myself yet, but horses that I have seen in real around the world. Mares: El Dorada, Ejrene, the complete E- line of Poland. Stallions: great producers as Padrons Psyche, Ali Jamaal, Menes, Gazal Al Shaqab and Marwan Al Shaqab*

**TA:** *Despite your career as a judge is not yet so long you used to travel a lot for various show events. What was your best show experience by now?*



BB Jhadenz ( Enzo x FA Jada )

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**CB:** *Wels, because it was very well organized by Ferdinand Huemer gathering the high quality of horses, the other pick is Iran, because they have their traditional Arabian horse type originating from the old tribes and they are now importing horses from outside Iran as well. The people are very friendly and you may have an impression that breeding brings a lot of fun for the horse owners in this country. I do not judge the shows long enough that I have a favorite show besides the above-mentioned. As long as I see good horses and can explain to the owners what I have seen, every show is good for me. Sometimes you have to teach the owners to look very close and sharp at their own horses, so that they improve some faults of their horses with their breeding program in the future. I also had a fantastic time at the show in Marina Di Pietrasanta with very friendly people and fantastic*

*treatment of all the people which were involved with that show.*

**TA:** *You have recently been judging the 1st Arabia-Polska Arabian Horse Festival in Warsaw, Poland. What is your impression about it?*

**CB:** *Nice atmosphere, very good place to organize a show and many private breeders were attending this show with very good horses. The quality of the junior fillies was excellent, junior colts good, mares excellent and the stallions also good. Very impressed of the junior fillies at this show as they are the future. Its good to see that some people are taking the risk to organize a new show. I can everybody advise in Poland to send their horses to this show next year.*

BB Jhardelle El Than (Raffael El Than x FA Jada by Padrons Psyche)



Judges - Wels International



Amalfi ( Padrons Psyche x Bey Champagne ) full brother of US National Champion Enzo pictured with Cedes mother and handler Tom Oben as Dutch National Champion