

A Year of Horses, Friends, Deadlines & Airports – *The Year that was 2015*

The Paris issue has just gone to print and I am pausing before I leap into the Collectors' Edition. But pausing when there are features to write is never something that comes naturally – and so, I shall begin. Looking back, I think that 2015 has been quieter than previous years – whether I feel the same when I get to the end of this review remains to be seen! So I suggest you pour yourself a coffee or a glass of wine, and sit back and relax, so you can read about the Arabian world as seen through my eyes over the past 11 months.

January – celebrating 10 years of *The Arabian Magazine*

It was time to welcome another new year – and a huge milestone in the life of *The Arabian Magazine* as this saw us celebrate 10 years of publication. In October 2004, when the idea for the magazine first came about, I dreamed that we would make it to 10 years – and then 100 editions. To reach these goals seemed like a lifetime away and in many ways, it was. The magazine almost perfectly reflects my 30s and January 2016 will see me turn 40 and the 100th edition go to print. Who on earth would have thought that from the original mono/colour mix 50-odd page publication, a magazine such as this has grown. But grow it did and January marked a year of celebrations for the team and myself.



I will be honest – the year didn't quite start as planned as I became ill late on New Year's Day and ended up going to the doctor's the following week and referred for blood tests. I had that slightly alarming moment when they call you immediately that the results are in and ask you to come back to the surgery as soon as possible. It transpired that I had a virus – one I never knew that I even had – and over 11 months on, the effects are still lingering. My GP described it as post-viral fatigue syndrome and to rest. Well – as those of us active in this

industry know, rest is never an option! I had no idea what the virus was – the doctor suggested a sore throat or a cold, but I wasn't aware of having one – and I guess that it does go to prove that we do need to put ourselves first. If only we could clone ourselves, that would be the perfect solution!

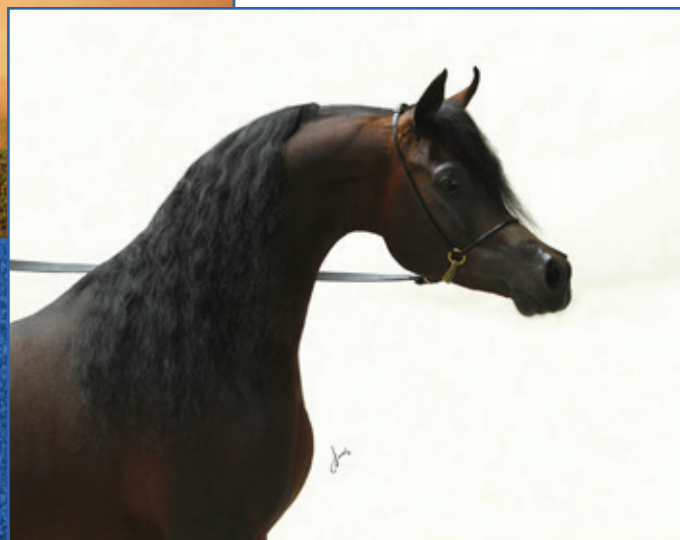


Clockwise from left: Stuart Vesty is one of the icons of the Arabian industry and it was great to feature him in the February edition; Emerald J was the cover star for our 10-year anniversary edition; Barzan Al Shahanian is one of many stars standing at Michael Byatt Arabians

Aside from feeling poorly and sleeping for well over 10 or even 12 hours some nights, we had a magazine to do. This was the 10-year anniversary edition and

I was touched how many people advertised in support of this milestone – thank you. We also featured all the covers that we have had so far and included some statistics, which were great fun to compile!

The issue was also the Americas Edition and we featured an in-depth feature on the stallions of Michael Byatt Arabians. Michael's farm in New Ulm, Texas, is one of the most favourite places in the world to visit for many – a true sanctuary for Arabian horses and full



of history. Michael has always stood an impressive selection of stallions at his farm and in this first edition of the year, we shared the current collection through the pages of the magazine.

Our annual calendar hosted Ghallab (Rizkallah x Shameya), head sire of Paraskevas Arabians, Dahshur, Egypt, for January in a tranquil image captured by Stuart Vesty. Stuart is one of the true dudes of the Arabian industry and it was fitting that our February edition also featured a profile on this amazing photographer, and his experiences within the Arabian horse industry.

The cover featured one of my favourite horses – Emerald J (QR Marc x Emandoria), bred by Jadem Arabians in Belgium and owned by Al Muawd Stud in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This stallion has taken titles across Europe and the Middle East and it was fitting that a son of two of my favourite Arabians was the cover for this special edition. The edition itself celebrated the achievements of Excalibur EA (Shanghai EA x Essence of Marwan EA), the classy colt that had taken the European Triple Crown title with his Gold Junior Male Championship win in Paris the previous November. Bred by Equus



Clockwise from right: Our new kitten, Sheeba, was settling in well!; sunset over Scottsdale; Betty Finke reported that Master Design GA was British National Champion the year that the magazine began; sunset over Norfolk, February 2015.

Arabians in Spain, Excalibur is owned by Las Rosas Arabians of Uruguay and he has excelled on both sides of the Atlantic.

In December, we had a new arrival at Ivy Arabians in the form of Sheeba, who was one of the kittens born to the feral cat at our stables. She is just adorable and Merlin Cat is completely in love with her!

The month ended with a visit from Alicia Bratby of Azeen Arabians, who has been a supporter of *The Arabian Magazine* since the very beginning, and then my birthday. Writing this on a day full of sleet the week before Paris, there is not long to go now until the big one!

February - a return to Scottsdale

The shortest month of the year and, for many in the northern hemisphere, the gloomiest; its short, dark days, persistent cold, and rain coming down

makes for a grey and muddy month that few relish. However, with a beautiful photograph of Casanova GA (Da Vinci FM x NBW Angels Kiss), as captured by Nancy Pierce, welcoming us on our *The Arabian Magazine Calendar*, February could not be all that gloomy!

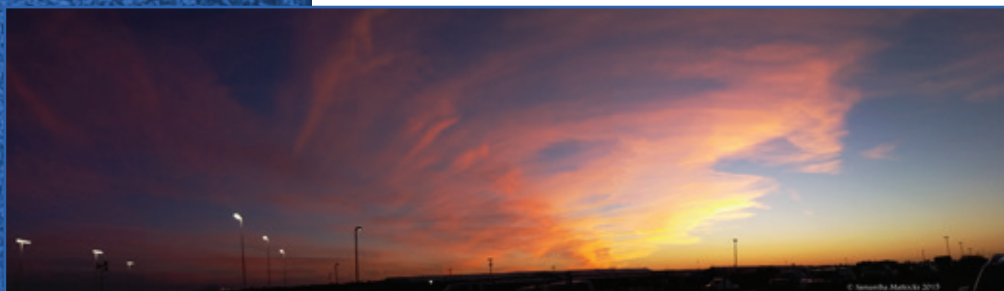
The month began with me attending an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Eastern Arabian Group, formerly the Norfolk



and Suffolk Group of the Arab Horse Society, of which I have been a member for many years. This is my local Arabian horse group and the one that I grew up in. The EGM was regarding the future of the group and suffice to say that, by the end of the evening, I was back on the committee and would end up as Chairwoman. The group's name was changed back to the Norfolk and Suffolk Arabian Horse Group and you can expect to see more from this region in the magazine as the months go by!

It is always a challenge when the deadline goes across a visit overseas and the March edition very definitely did that – beginning the day before I flew to Scottsdale, Arizona, and going to print a matter of days after I returned! However, if running this magazine for the past 10 years has taught me anything, it is that anything is possible, and that I do love a challenge! Ours is possibly the smallest team out of all the Arabian horse magazines, being just myself, my Deputy Editor Laura, my Artistic Editor Claire, a handful of proof-readers around the world, and a very small Admin team. I always think that is quite amazing how such a small group of us can put this magazine together through all kind of circumstances, and this always fascinates me. We all have a deep-rooted passion for the Arabian horse and also belief in this magazine. So with that in mind – anything really is possible!

I had only been to Scottsdale once before for the All Arabian Horse Show, back in 2010, and I was very much looking forward to returning. I was flying from Heathrow direct to Phoenix, Arizona, where I would be met by Sue



and Emrys Jones of Bychan Arabians in Wales, who had gone out to the show earlier, and Aad Kuijf and Wendy Delvalle from Forelock's Arabians, The Netherlands. The five of us would spend the next nine full days enjoying the very best of Scottsdale as well as the Show, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them all.

Scottsdale is so unique – it is such a vast show and covers every discipline imaginable across pure, Anglo and part-bred Arabian horses. The classes are deep, competition is strong, and being in the winner's circle means so much to those who make it there. From the excitement of the indoor arena to the scorching heat of the outdoor Wendell



Clockwise from right: Shannon Lawlor's incredible portrait of Merlin Cat; the dramatic skyline of Scottsdale at night; Sue and I fell in love with RD Alayna at Rae-Dawn Arabians; the Scottsdale Show is renowned the world over for covering all disciplines for the Arabian horse; Ted Carson with Exxalt in the Scottsdale desert in a special photoshoot for The Arabian Magazine's March cover.



Arena, with all the rings and rides in between, there is so much to enjoy.

I was able to catch up with my good friend, Shannon Lawlor, while I was there. She is a world-renowned artist and, following her visit to me last summer, she had done a painting of



Merlin Cat for me, which was just beautiful. Thank you Shannon! New this year to Scottsdale were the Aljassmya Farm sponsored Egyptian and Egyptian-related classes, and these ran alongside the

international classes that debuted in Scottsdale the year of my first visit. It was these international classes that would provide our March cover star – Exxalt. Sired by Excalibur EA, Exxalt is out of Vesperra (SF Veraz x LF Triumphant Star), and this super grey yearling is owned and bred by Francis Butler, Sybil and Jeff Collins, and Kay and James Smith. Shown by Ted Carson, who also handled Excalibur to his titles in the United States, Exxalt was the Gold International Champion Colt and he was a great cover star. With the time constraints involved with the magazine deadline, Ted and his team, along with photographers Javan and Carmine, had to get up in the early hours and take Exxalt up to one of the many picturesque locations nearby to get 'the shot'. Mission



accomplished, Ted returned to the showground to be interviewed by myself for one of several special features from Scottsdale for our March World Edition. The focus of the interview was on Exxalt, but we also talked about Ted Carson & Butler Farms Training Center. Ted is one of the easiest people to talk to in the industry, and he is highly respected by many. I very much enjoyed our interview, which was open, frank and honest, and it made for a great feature for the March edition – that handily went to the Arabian Breeders' World Cup in Las Vegas!

I also did a feature on the beautiful horses of Rae-Dawn Arabians, who split their time between Scottsdale and Saskatoon, Canada. Owned by Murray and Shirley Popplewell, we visited Rae-Dawn's Scottsdale farm several times during our trip. Sue and I were particularly enchanted by RD Alayna (Ever After NA x Bey Shahs Lady), an exquisite and dainty bay yearling filly that topped the line up in Scottsdale and would go on to do the same in Vegas. Also of note is the Popplewell's stallion, Bey Ambition (Regal Actor JP x Bey Shahs Lady), a maternal half-brother to Alayna. Bey Ambition will be 10 years old next year and he is already a sire of note in North America. I am one of many that just love this stallion – his power, his charisma, his versatility – and it was an honour to be able to write a feature on his influence at Rae-Dawn Arabians.

It was while in Scottsdale that I was able to put faces to names, people I have only spoken with over e-mail, and this including meeting Maureen Horton of Thirteen Oaks Arabians and her lovely group of ladies, including Traci D Haga, Clara Yaba and Martha Beverly. We went to a private party hosted by Maureen, which was a lovely evening, and then, by pure chance, ended up at the Cave Creek Rodeo on the last Friday of the visit – a thoroughly entertaining evening!

While I was away enjoying an unseasonably warm Scottsdale, I sent my mum, Tina, to Qatar to attend the International Festival there. This annual event combines an International Show, an Egyptian Show, and three days of racing and it is always a great event to visit. She also enjoyed visits to some of the farms out there, including Al Shahania Stud, who always put on a wonderful open house every year. Tina provided a very detailed report that ran in the June edition and it is always well worth revisiting such features to get inspiration for the coming year.

I arrived back in England to continue with a flurry of features from my trip – the Scottsdale Show, Ted Carson & Butler Farms Training Center, and Rae-Dawn Arabians – and spent the end of February watching an early spring begin to emerge outside my window.

March - seeking the stars of Dubai

I loved the calendar image for this month – three riders out on the Red Dragon Ride, as captured by David Saunders. It showed the beautiful Welsh scenery around them, being at one with their horse, and early morning mist; stunning.

The March edition went to print on the 4th of the month and my attention immediately turned to my next trip – Dubai. Around further doctor's tests, the first meeting of the Norfolk & Suffolk Arabian Horse Group and trying to catch up with family, I packed my case and headed to the sultry warmth of the Middle East for two weeks.

This is a month with no deadline – a blessing after the flurry of signing off a magazine over a not altogether brilliant internet connection, and a seven-hour time difference – to be able to go off and travel without



Clockwise from left: In the ring with Al Aryam Bare'e; the feminine multiple-champion yearling filly, Mozn Albidayer; Emerald J and Gallardo J helped to make the Dubai Show a memorable one; with Charlotte in Dubai.



those constraints was a wonderful thing. My trip would be split into three sections – firstly staying with Charlotte Barr, a very dear friend and Arabian horse breeder and founder/organiser of the UK In-hand Awards who has relocated to Dubai with her daughter, Amberley; then to the World Trade Centre for the Dubai International Arabian Horse Championships; and then finally to Albidayer Stud's open day before staying with their head trainer, Barry Shepherd, for a few days.

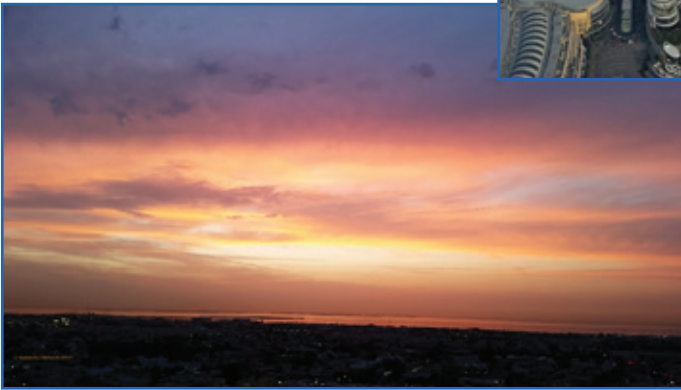
There is nothing quite like arriving into the balmy Middle Eastern night – the scents in the air, the lingering warmth, even at night, and the evocative sounds that are so unique to this part of the world such as the call to prayer; put simply, I love it! Meeting me at the airport – and running through the barriers so that we could have a hug that bit quicker – were Charlotte and Amberley, and it was great





Clockwise from above: The magic of Dubai; the view from the top of the Burj Khalifa; EKS Mansour graced the cover of the May edition; sunset on my last night in Dubai.

to see them. This part of my trip was definitely non-horsey – the closest we got was seeing the horses on the big screen as we went to the opening of *Cinderella* – and it was great to catch up with them, work on my ongoing novel and also take some time out to relax.



Come the Wednesday, after five days with Charlotte and Amberley, it was time to check into the Novotel World Trade Centre and enjoy the glittering spectacle that is the Dubai International Arabian Horse Championships. This three-day show marks the end of the Middle Eastern showing season and this is where the winners from Ajman, Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Sharjah converge to vie for this most coveted of titles. For the show, I was a guest of Al Aryam Arabians, located in Abu Dhabi, and most of you will know that I have strong connections to this beautiful farm.

It was here in Dubai that I got to see Mozn Albidayer (SMA Magic One x Mattaharii), whose titles this year include Gold Yearling Filly Champion in Ajman, Dubai and Chantilly, as well as Silver at the All Nations' Cup. This filly truly is enchanting and she captivated many – and she has just been named as *The Arabian Magazine Arabian of the Year* in this very magazine. She is such a feminine and tranquil beauty.

I also made it into the show-ring in Dubai as Al Aryam Bar'e (Al Bilal x Al Aryam Balkeas) won his two-year-old colt class in powerful style, scoring 20s for movement and beating the eventual Gold Junior Male Champion

Gallardo J (Emerald J x Gomera J) in the process. Marion Wichmann, Manager at Al Aryam Arabians, kindly invited me into the ring to be part of the presentation in acknowledgement of the deep connection between *The Arabian Magazine* and Al Aryam Arabians. It was a lovely moment – thank you Marion.

Saturday's championships were very exciting – not least as our February cover star, Emerald J, was taking to the ring having won his class. I don't think I have ever heard as much cheering as there was when Rod Jones came into the arena with Emerald for his championship. Gallardo J, at that time still leased by Al Muawd Stud, had just taken the Gold Junior Male title and for Emerald to achieve Gold Senior Male would be something very special indeed. I like to think that all the cheering gave Emerald and Rod wings as they positively flew around the arena – and into the golden placing as Dubai Champion Stallion! It was a remarkable moment, so very special, and there were a few tears shed by many. To see Gallardo and his sire, Emerald, in the ring together was a magical moment and one that Christine Jamar of Jadem Arabians, who bred both horses, must have been

exceptionally proud of.

That evening, we celebrated – Sue, Emrys, Ryan and Rod Jones, along with Rod's wife, Kimberley, Stacey Howarth, Mark Hardcastle, Seamus McCormick, all part of Al Muawd's team, and a few others as well. Making this even more interesting was that it was the final of the Six Nations Rugby with Ireland, Wales or England all in with a chance of winning! There was plenty of friendly banter and good-natured British insults as the scores came in, and it was a very enjoyable evening. For the record, Ireland won, but all three teams played like Trojans and helped make the night more memorable.

The next day, the Dubai Stud Open Day took place in the morning, and was adversely affected by a *haboob* or sandstorm. With this in



mind, and being such a grey and dusty day, Albidayer Stud decided to host their open house inside the Sharjah Equestrian Club. I was very much looking forward to their presentation as they truly do have some beautiful horses here. While this was covered in full in the June edition, I have to say that the highlight was seeing Marajj (Marwan Al Shaqab x RGA Kouress) come out at the end under saddle. This 11-year-old bay stallion has done it all in the show-ring, as well as the breeding barn, and he is so well put together. Powerful, typey, smooth, charismatic, he is the complete package and to see him ridden western around the ring was a memory that will stay with all those that saw it for a long time to come.

Clockwise from right: Sue Jones, Doug Rutherford and Beth Hunziker in Las Vegas; the beautiful Gold Junior Female Champion, Elle Flamenca; the Opening Ceremony for the Arabian Breeders' World Cup.

With the presentation over, it was off to dinner with Dawn Martin and Barry Shepherd, Manager and Trainer at Albidayer Stud respectively. I would spend my final two days in Dubai with Barry, enjoying a good catch up, relaxing lunches, lots of giggles and, the highlight, high tea at the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world. The views from there were incredible and it felt quite surreal to be up so high. When Barry booked, we might have pretended that it was my birthday, so it was rather difficult to keep a straight face when they brought out some sorbet with a candle in it; being gluten and lactose-free, they couldn't just bring me a cake! It was lots of fun, however, and a great ending to my two weeks in the warmth of Dubai.

April – Viva Las Vegas!

April began with an immediate deadline for the May Egyptian/black edition, and a lovely foal image on our calendar to mark the arrival of the warmer weather. This was SJ Magnifique (Magic Magnifique x Lakkana), as photographed by our Artistic Editor, Claire Moore. Easter came early this year and once more, the team worked over the long weekend to ensure that the magazine didn't fall behind its deadline. One thing that the TAM team does not do is 9-5, Monday-

Friday! I did, however, enjoy time off on Easter Sunday for a family lunch and then settled down to enjoy a *Bond* film in the afternoon, with Merlin Cat curled up on my lap. You have to enjoy some time off!

Our May edition focused on the Egyptian Arabian and it is timed to arrive at the US Egyptian Event in Lexington, Kentucky. This year, we opted to go down the historical route. One thing about print publications is that you can pick them up and go back to them time and time again and they are great sources of reference material. The internet is only as good as its signal while magazines can be filed, archived, and referred to time and time again. As such, we opted to celebrate the history of the Egyptian Arabian with pieces written by Dr Hans Nagel, Cynthia Culbertson and Judith Forbis. Who better to impart their knowledge than these stalwarts of the breed?

Gracing our cover for the May edition was EKS Mansour (EKS Alihandro x EKS

Phateena), owned by Al Shahania Stud, Qatar. This three-year-old colt was making his European debut this summer and he has already made it to the champions' circle, taking Silver in Menton behind Gallardo J. A contender for the Paris World Championships at the end of November, there is much to come from this future star.

With the magazine almost finished, it was time to board the plane to Las Vegas for the Arabian Breeders' World Cup. This year, I was going alone but Ted Carson and his team kindly said that I could be part of their gang, and they were true to their word and looked after



me very well. Thank you again to everyone for their wonderful hospitality. I was also spoiled by a new client who arranged for a hamper to be delivered to me in my room as an 'escape' from the chaos that is Las Vegas; it was incredibly thoughtful of you, thank you.

On every trip I had made thus far this year, Sue and Emrys Jones had been there and Las Vegas was no



exception! Emrys was judging after Cedés Bakker, who was down to judge, was taken ill following a judging appointment in Brazil. With Cedés restricted to box rest, I interviewed him for the magazine instead! This year's World Cup was magical. The championships were deep and full of quality, and there were so many sensational moments. Elle Flamenca (Ajman Moniscione x Allamara MA) was the horse of the show for me. A beautiful, big-moving two-year-old chestnut filly, she won her class in style and, against incredibly strong competition, she took the Junior Female Championship. It was an honour to be in her 'win shot', and this filly has since been sold to the Dubai Arabian Stud in United Arab Emirates. She is such a star.

Again, I got to meet many interesting people at the show, and this event is probably one of the best shows outside of Aachen. It is full of the razzmatazz that one would expect from being in Las Vegas, the city that never sleeps. A truly international group of visitors flock to the South Point Arena & Equestrian Center every year, and it is always good fun to be here.

2016 will see the 10th running of this show, and I very much look forward to seeing what the Board will have up their sleeve for this anniversary. Viva Las Vegas!

Arriving back to England, it was time for my annual trip to Ragdale Hall with my mum. This time is so precious and these are always days that I treasure.

May – heading to the Baltic Sea

Moatasim Al Sahliyah (Bahr Al Rayyan x Amaal Al Rayyan), photographed by Gigi Grasso, was the black and white star of our calendar for this month. Owned by the late Count Federico Zichy-Thyseen of Argentina, this striking image was one of my favourites of the year.

May began with my making a trip down to London to get my fingerprints done. No, I had not robbed a bank – instead, I had been invited to the 1st St

Petersburg Show and in order to obtain a Russian visa, visitors from the UK have to have their fingerprints taken. I used this trip as an excuse to meet up with my friend, Clare, for lunch; we met when I flew to Sydney last year and we remain firm friends. Definitely one of the best things about travelling is the people you meet and the way that your horizons are, quite literally, broadened.

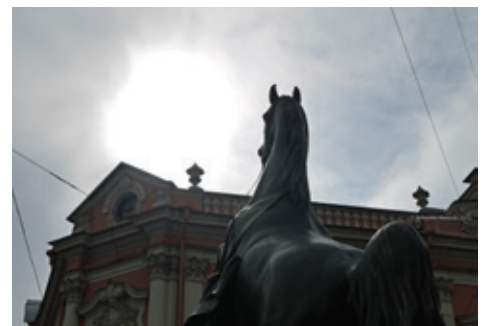
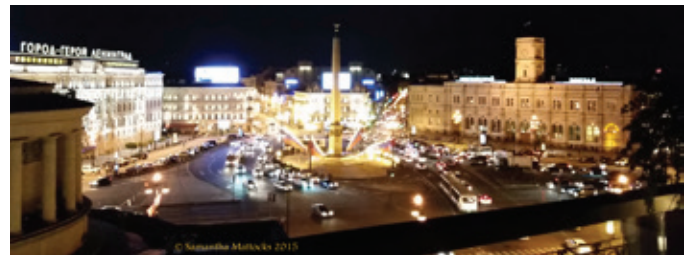
Those that follow me on Facebook or know me well are aware that I very much enjoy cooking and, that since 2012 when I was diagnosed wheat and lactose intolerant, I have very much gone back to proper home cooking from scratch, using local, seasonal produce. In May, I

had the opportunity to attend a gluten-free baking course and it was a brilliant day. I am now a master, well, mistress, of gluten-free focaccia and pastry and, come December, I hope to be able to fill the freezer with items for the festive season ahead.

Fun over, it was time to concentrate on the next edition of *The Arabian*



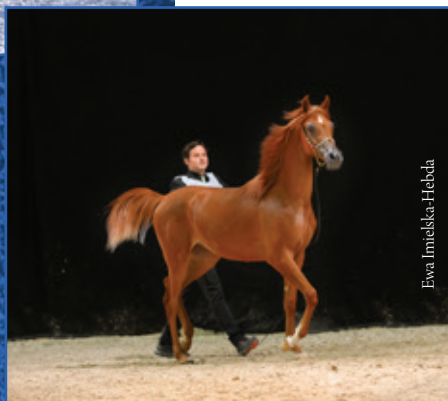
Clockwise from top right: June cover star, Raoud Albidayer; Insurrection square at midnight; the Horse Tamers; statue of Tsar Nicholas I with the Isaac Cathedral; the next generation at Taylor Ranch Arabians, a 2015 filly by JJ Bellagio out of TR Scarlet Ginger, a full sister to IJ Bellatore.



Magazine. This was our all important Menton issue and one that celebrates the Crabbet and Russian bloodlines. While these lines are still so important today, and are preserved by many, the support is just not there when it comes to promoting them. Therefore, I made the

x TR Scarlet Ginger) was Las Vegas World Cup Reserve Champion Yearling Colt. It was lovely to feature this family in the magazine and to share their bloodlines with the world.

The highlight of May, undoubtedly, was the chance to visit Russia for the first time; somewhat appropriate given that I was working on the Russian edition! This was for the inaugural Saint Petersburg International Arabian Cup, organised by Irina Stigler and Igor Bochkarev. Held just outside the historic Russian town of Saint Petersburg, the show was timetabled to give visitors plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful city as well as visiting the International Arabian Cup – which was part of a bigger show and there was much to watch and enjoy. My report for this show did go into the June edition – which took some doing on our part from myself and Polish photographer Ewa Imielska-Hebda, who covered the event. Almost 6,000 words and 14 pages later, the report was done and you can read it in all its beautiful detail in the June issue.



decision that this will be the last Crabbet/Russian edition and, instead, next June's magazine will be the *Bloodlines Edition*, thus encompassing Crabbet, Russian, Polish and Spanish.

The cover for the June issue was Mozn Albidayer's paternal half-brother, Raoud Albidayer, who is out of Marajj's full sister, DL Marielle. Raoud is also no stranger to success this season, placing Silver Yearling Male Champion at shows across the Middle East. With the Albidayer Stud feature story inside the June edition, it was great to share Raoud on the cover. Like Mozn, he has been a great advert for his sire this season and I look forward to seeing him out again in 2016.

Also featured in our June edition was a feature on Taylor Ranch Arabians, located in Utah, USA. While in Scottsdale, I had admired the new generation of their Russian-based breeding programme and in Vegas, I had a chance to interview Isaac and his wife, Jessica, while in Las Vegas. From the Russian foundations of names such as Muscat (Aswan x Malutka), Nariadni (Nabeg x Nariadnaia) and Aladdinn (Nureddin x Lalage), the family has gone on to great success. This year's Scottsdale saw TR Poseidon (Pogrom x TR Aladdinn Angel) win the Signature Champion Yearling Colt, owned and bred by Isaac's father, Rick, while Isaac and Jessica's IJ Bellatore (JJ Bellagio

For my own part, visiting Saint Petersburg was undoubtedly a highlight of the year for me. As a child, I was fascinated with the ballet, the Tsars and Tsarinas and the incredible architecture of Russia, so to visit this famous city really was a dream come true. None of us wanted to leave and every person that went to Saint Petersburg was touched by the people, the architecture, the city, and the horses. Thank you again to Irina and Igor for enabling my visit to happen – it was truly magical!

Finally, the month ended with a visit to the Bruges Arabian Horse Event, located in another beautiful city, Bruges, in Belgium. Organised by Tim de Jonghe and Jurgen Lievrouw, I was invited this year to do the show commentary. While I have presented at open houses before, this was a new experience for me and, once I got over my initial nerves, something that I enjoyed very much. The show itself was a lovely event – in spite of the torrential rain that came down – and set in beautiful parkland. Very definitely worth a visit.

June – a lucky escape

Monday 1 June saw me awaken in Belgium, with the Bruges Arabian Horse Event having finished the day before. Today was an open day for Schoukens Training Center and at the last minute, I was asked to commentate. Graham Smith from Australia, who had been judging the Bruges Show, promptly found me some hot water and honey as my voice was rather tired to say the least. Graham is an international judge and I would see him a lot this month as he would also be in Menton for the show there.

Clockwise from above right: One of the competitors at the Saint Petersburg International Cup, Alba; the beautiful city of Saint Petersburg; The lucky visitors to the inaugural Saint Petersburg International Cup at the Smolny Cathedral; one of the trophies from the Bruges Arabian Horse Event.

Tom, Cathy, Glenn Schoukens and the whole of their team always put on a wonderful event. Today's was based around an English afternoon tea – although I could only eat the macaroons and drink the champagne due to my intolerances; not being able to eat wheat is not always a hardship! The parade of horses was beautiful and culminated in the presentation of some wonderful stallions, including MCA Magnum Gold (Magnum Psyche x Litique) and Padrons Psyche (Padron x Kilika). One day, I will be able to talk about Psyche without crying – today was not that day!

Rather than rushing off back to England, I chose to stay nearby in Maldegem, where Schoukens Training Center is based. Also staying was Miloslava Khamis of Bebo Stud, Egypt, and as the weather was so good, we spent the evening relaxing outside by the fire pit. This team works so hard and it was great to spend this time with them all.

After the brilliant sunshine of Monday, the rains returned once more, along with strong winds, and it was an interesting drive back to England! On arriving back in the office, I

(El Shaklan x Muneera), a 36-year-old stallion loved by so many, especially me, had passed away just days before Menton. Marion has always kept me updated with Maleik's progress at Al Aryam Arabians, and she also arranged for a private photoshoot for myself with this legend in 2014. Tears were shed, tea was drunk, and then we celebrated the amazing life that this Maxwell-bred stallion lived, and the legacy that he has left behind.

The show itself is one that many love for its relaxed atmosphere; indeed, when the classes first began, it seemed that more people were interested in talking to each other than watching the horses, and the noise of chatter inside the VIP tent was loud! This year, they introduced an optional dress code of *black and white* and while many observed it, I went in glorious technicolour. Wearing muted tones on the beaches of Southern France in June seems wrong to me, somehow.

On Sunday, the thunderstorms that had circulated all weekend opened the show in style, causing a delay of over an hour



Clockwise from above: The coastline of Menton; Norma showing her usual flair in Menton; with Graham and Marion in Menton; enjoying time at Schoukens Training Center on a June evening; the legendary stallion Maleik El Kheil passed away this year.

turned the calendar over to the new month to see Fairview Ibn Shakla Khan (SK Shakla Khan x Winderlla Silver Shadow), photographed by Sharon Meyers, as the beautiful image for the month ahead.

Just over a week later, it was time to head to Stansted Airport and on to Menton for the Mediterranean and Arab Countries Championships. I

flew out with Jayne and James Howell, of Howell Arabians, and Sue Hatch and her friend, Phil Piper. However, I was staying in the same hotel as Graham Smith and Marion Wichmann, and I was looking forward to catching up with everyone.

Unfortunately, Marion had some sad news to share: Maleik El Kheil

before the classes began. The handlers did a great job, running through the sand, and there was only one that ended up falling over! A risk of the job but they all did well.

This show was covered in the July edition, but the highlight has to be the lovely Norma (Gazal Al Shaqab x Nina), owned by Al Muawd Stud. She did a stunning entrance into her class with handler Ryan Jones – and she kept on going, leaving him behind as her halter broke! Norma did an amazing trot, true to her Polish roots, and the judges just stood there and smiled as this lovely mare powered around them



before coming to a natural stop. Quite the superstar! Norma went on to take the Silver Senior Female Championship title behind Klassical Dream MI (Klass x Mustangs Magnum) - who incidentally went on to be our July cover star.

Before I became busy with the next deadline, I enjoyed a trip down to London to stay with my friend, Clare, and we enjoyed the best of the summer weather, sitting outside until midnight with her husband, Paul, and Labrador, Billie, chatting, catching up, and sharing our dreams for the future.

On arriving home, it was straight into the July European edition, with the beautiful Klassical Dream MI on the cover. Naturally, a full memorial dedicated to Maleik El Kheil went into this edition, along with show reports from the world over.

The part of my job that I like the best – aside from visiting farms and finding out more about horses, breeding programmes and the characters contained within this all – is writing features. A blank page on



Above: The beautiful Klassical Dream MI was our cover star for the July edition.

Right: The rains came down in Malvern - but everyone carried on smiling!

a computer screen never daunts me; indeed, when I write my editorial, I just sit there and write it. I never know what I am going to say, or in what direction the words will go, but the words just flow. For this July edition, I did a piece previewing the upcoming shows in Europe for the summer, as a follow on from my March feature, *Around the World* – where we could go in this fantastic world of Arabian horses were money and travelling no object!



It was while on this edition that we had the moment no horse owner ever wants. My 'Princess', Shams Al Thahabiyya (Psadisho Ibn Esstashan x Rosaliah Gold) was scared by something in the middle of the night and she broke through the gate, out on to the road. The nearest neighbour heard all the horses calling but didn't contact us, so it was only when my dad went down to do the horses in the morning that he saw the gate, hanging off its hinges. We were so incredibly lucky – Psyanara (Psynergy x Martina Nareena) had stayed **in** the paddock, while Shamsi had trotted off towards the main stable yard; if she had gone the other way, she would have been on the main road through, and out of the village, and that does not bear thinking about. As the main yard was all locked, Shamsi headed off down the leafy lane and waited for my dad. We think she was there for around six hours, just waiting; thank heavens for her incredible temperament and Arabian intelligence!

Shamsi had suffered a huge gash to the front of her back leg and we had to get her to the vets as a matter of urgency. The x-ray showed that the metal of the gate had missed her pastern by 1mm; so lucky. She spent the next four months on box rest and is still on a restricted area. Truly, a worse nightmare but she has handled it so incredibly well. Naturally, this did impact on the printing of the magazine. We always try our best but we are only human; if the magazine is late, it is generally as one member of our tiny team is having personal problems. We hope that you can forgive us that.

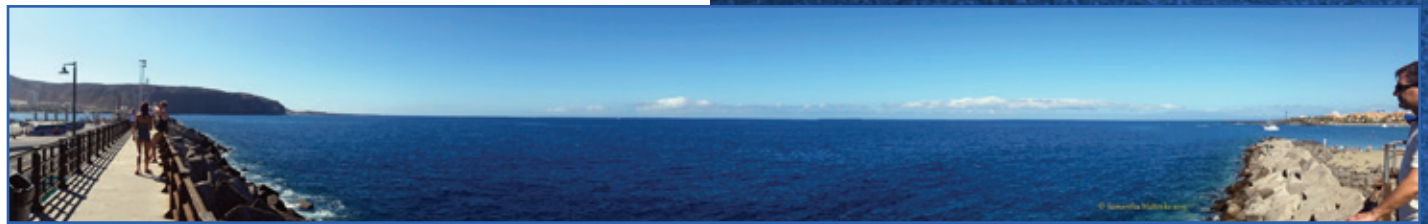
July - Malvern rains to Tenerife sunshine

Enchantress (Enzo x Star Chance) with her colt foal by TF Royal Shahbaz (Falcon BHF x TH Maya Naufali) was our calendar image for July, as captured by Kelly Campbell. A perfect mare and foal photograph for this time of year, and they are owned by Jayne and James Howell of Howell Arabians in the UK.

The month began with my visiting the Royal Norfolk Show, something that I have not done for years. It is always great to attend the bustling county shows and to catch up with the local Arabian horse scene, old friends, and spend time with my mum and dad. This was the hottest day of the year – pushing 40°C – so our jug of Pimms at lunchtime was very welcome indeed!

Much of July is spent with family and friends, and this was especially true this month. Days out with friends, a family party, and then by good friend Diane Bell coming down to Norfolk to spend five days with me and to explore the beautiful countryside that we have around here. Then, there was the 40th anniversary party for the Norfolk & Suffolk Arabian Horse Group, which was a great evening. I have to say that it is great to be involved in a grassroots level group once more – especially as I have grown up with them and this group means a lot to me personally. Before I knew it, it was time to load up the vans and head down to Malvern once more for the British Nationals. This is the only place where we have a tradestand and thank you to all that came to visit, to





Clockwise from top: Gold British National Champion Stallion TLC Enejino; the blue skies and seas of Tenerife made a welcome change from the British summer!; Pepita; Pianissima.

browse, to buy, to spend time, to share news; it means a lot, always. Malvern was great but for the Friday – that weather! The rain lashed down and it was incredibly cold as well. Thanks to Natalie and Mark Tindall, who saw my shivering and brought me a cup of tea and a baked potato!

As always, I presented the British National Foal Championship at the show and it was very much a case of straight in, straight out, as the weather was so inclement. The winner this year was Diamond Xtreme (Psy Dream x Xotic Design), another classy colt bred by Armada Arabians, this time in partnership with Katie Gore of Europa Arabians. Congratulations once more!

With the show over, we headed home and I had one day to turn everything around before I went on a family holiday. The day was actually meant to be at a BBQ – but the great British weather intervened and we ended up having casseroles, which definitely tells you how cold it was! At 2am the following morning, my cousin Steph picked me up and we headed down to Stansted Airport for a week in Tenerife with her parents, brother and his girlfriend. Wonderful times, a chance to relax, catch some sun, and enjoy family time.

August – Poland, Knocke and UKIAHS

I landed back from Tenerife on 3 August and turned over my calendar - to one of my own photographs of Crabbet mares at the famed Fenwick

Stud in Australia, as captured last year on my trip Down Under. After such a busy July, it was good to be home for a short while. My diary for the second half of the month was packed, with the first stop being Arabian Horse Days, Poland.

I love arriving into Warsaw and to the Polonia Palace Hotel, where so many gather the night before the event begins. For those of you that have never been, I cannot express enough that you **have** to put this on your bucket list. The whole event is an experience like no other – from the show to the auction to the stud tours, there is so much to love and enjoy, and to reignite your passion for the Arabian breed, should it need it.

This year was a stellar year. From the sale of Pepita (Ekstern x Pepesza) for €1,400,000 to the brilliant results for Bialka Stud during the show,



when Cefir (Eryks x Celina) took home the Senior Male Championship, there was much to enjoy. Of course, seeing Pianissima in the breeding parade at Janów Podlaski with her filly foal, Pamina (by Pogrom) at foot was a special moment; none of us there would know that, for many of us, this would be the last time that we ever saw her...

Poland was also great this year as, once again, I was lucky enough to meet some new people including Rhonda Coleal who, with her mother Rhoda, bred Eden C (Enzo x Silken Sable). It was a very special moment for Rhonda, and her husband Jim, when Piniata (Eden C x Pinga) won her class, the Senior Female Championship, and then went Best in Show. It was a very emotional moment for Rhonda and it was lovely to be able to share that with her.

My report for Arabian Horse Days has only been published recently,

in the October and Paris editions, so I will keep this part brief. Suffice to say, this is one date that is already in my diary for 2016 – and I hope to see you there!



Leaving Warsaw – and I should add, I am lucky enough to fly direct from my local airport in Norwich, via Amsterdam, to Warsaw – I was home for just one day before it was time to head down to Ebbsfleet, leave my car and head on by Eurostar to Lille. There, the Knocke Arabians Open



Day awaited me, an annual highlight of my year. Once again, I was commentating the event, along with Erik Blaak from The Netherlands. Paul and Ria Gheysens own Knocke Arabians, and it was a true pleasure to see the next generation of their breeding programme. Of course, there was also Padrons Psyche and QR Marc (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams) to talk about as well, and it was very definitely a wonderful trip. Thank you again to the Gheysens family and the whole Knocke Arabians team for such a memorable weekend. I hope to run my report from this event in the February edition next year.

The deadline for the September edition began while I was in Poland, but I only really had time to start working on it once I got back from Belgium. Our cover star was the incredibly beautiful straight Egyptian stallion, KA Damascus (Makhnificent KA x Rahimah KA). Bred by Kehilan Arabians in Texas, USA, Damascus is owned by Colleen Jackson and



Clockwise from above: The incredible KA Damascus; my photograph of the year!; Paul and Ria with Marius Madonna KA in Menton earlier this year; Piniata with Rhoda.

John Cranston of Azizah Arabians International, located in Perth, Western Australia, but they also have horses with Kehilan Arabians.

As September was the *Breeders' Edition*, I ran a feature on the incredible cross of QR Marc with FS Magnums Madonna (Magnum Psyche x Tai Bey Brittney) at Knocke Arabians. This cross has proved to be beautiful and successful, and each new full sibling that is born has so much to offer.

With the magazine deadline well underway, I made a mad dash across country to Addington, Buckinghamshire, where the UK International



Arabian Horse Show has been held for some years now. This was the first time that I have visited the event here and it worked very well. I was there in my role as sponsor of the Ridden Arabian Star Series

Finals (RASS), which were taking place that evening. This event provided my undoubted highlight of the year – when 11-year-old Amelia Zebedee took the Gold RASS Championship, in a moment



Clockwise from above: With OAS Plashaal and Kirsty after judging the Veteran Championship; Eriska Jawharah Nadirah; Dad enjoying his birthday; Mimi NK put on a beautiful show in Aachen and then at the Jadem Arabians open day.

beautifully captured by Marilyn Sweet. The *You've Won!* photograph has been seen across all social media, but I will never tire of looking at it. It just goes to show that anything is possible, regardless of your age, and I wish Amelia the best of luck for the future. You can read more about the *Highlight of the Year* on page 96.



September – all eyes on Aachen

With the September edition gone to print, and straight Egyptian mares at Al Rashediah Stud, as captured by Gregor Aymar, gracing our calendar, it was time to look ahead to a new month – even if there was no time to pause!



The first weekend, I attended the British Arabian Championships and the British Amateur/Home-produced Arabian Championships (BAHPAC). I had been invited to judge at the latter show, with Kirsty Nelson judging the ridden, and I was very much looking forward to it. First, however, I got to enjoy watching the British Arabian Championships, where everyone dresses up in their finery for the evening championships, and all the riders wear top hat and tails. There really is no sight quite like it.

The BAHPAC was a great event – very relaxed and quiet, and therefore a superb opportunity for handlers and riders of all ages to show their horses. The venue at Kings Equestrian Centre was wonderful, and hats off to Jayne Armstrong and Sally Etchells for organising these two great events. I was able to judge some lovely horses, and the stand out for me was Eriska Jawharah Nadirah (Master Design GA x KFA Love Affair), a beautifully shown chestnut yearling filly that moved like the wind. Eriska Jawharah Nadirah went on to be my Junior In-hand Pure-bred Champion.

Also noteworthy was the lovely ridden gelding, OAS Plashaal (Pladykt x Shiffalia), who had a very successful day, culminating in winning the



Veteran Championship, a class decided by both judges. It was as we were presenting the prizes to Claire Doxey that she announced that today was his last show as she was retiring him. This certainly made seeing him one last time even more special. Also showing this weekend for the last time was Khaazari (Aazari x Khatifa), owned and bred by Lisa Phillips. Lisa is emigrating to Australia shortly and this outing was the final hurrah for 'Khaz' and his many fans; little did any of us now just how final this outing would be.

With the show over, it was back to Norfolk and time to get ready for dad's birthday. He – and I – are huge fans of Elvis Presley and there was an exhibition on in London at the O2. The exhibit showcased many of Elvis' own pieces from his home in Graceland, in Memphis, USA, and they had been brought over specifically to celebrate what would have been Elvis' 80th birthday. Dad, mum and I all had a great day out in London – with dad having no clue where he was going or what he was doing until we walked right up to the entrance! It really was a fun day. Next on my calendar was an Intermediate Judging Course, run by the Arab Horse Society. It was held at Silverdale Arabians on a glorious late September day and consisted of judging two classes and then a written



paper. Nerves truly got the better of me and I completely went to pot! Everything that I knew went clean out of my head and, needless to say, I failed. Better luck, and calmer nerves, next year ...

The October deadline opened on 22 September, with EKS Mansour gracing the cover once more. This was our annual Australasian/Performance Edition which, next year, will be the Southern Hemisphere Edition. We also focused on the Polish Arabian – which will join our

to seeing how these changes settle and grow over the coming years. With Aachen over, it was straight to Jadem Arabians for their annual open day. Christine Jamar always puts on a wonderful display and, once more, I was the commentator for the event. Christine is clever to blend a mix of her own horses with those of her clients, always culminating in the presentation of new foals in front of her house. Opening the show this year, however, was the newly crowned All Nations' Cup Gold



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Clockwise from above: Georgia and Nico; Monika with Padrons Psyche (and below).

June Bloodlines Edition, so there are slight changes taking place! The October edition also featured a report from the first Arabian horse show in Central Park, New York, an event that is a brilliant addition to the calendar. However, once again, the deadline had to take a back seat



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to travelling – with Aachen being the focus this time. The 33rd All Nations' Cup took place at the end of the month, with many changes made, as reported in the Paris edition. The gelding classes were a huge success, as was the interactive voting from the audience. I look forward

Yearling Filly Champion, Mimi NK (ex Cinnamon N Spice VLA), who was presented with her sire Nofal NK (Ever After NA x Adjora), a four-year-old stallion standing at Jadem Arabians. Both Mimi and Nofal are owned and bred by NK Arabians, Jordan, and owners Mimi and Nick Kahook were there to see their two star horses together. It was a very special moment for them and I am sure that the memories of winning in Aachen will last a lifetime.

With the Jadem Arabians open house over, it was straight down the road to Schoukens Training Center for their open afternoon. Once more, I commented; and once more, I cried during Padrons Psyche's show. But the one that moved so many of us was seeing Georgia (Monogramm x Gizela), who was sold from the Michalów State Stud of Poland during the Pride of Poland Sale to Athbah Stud in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At 21

years of age, many were concerned just where Georgia – who was *The Arabian Magazine Arabian of the Year 2014* – would end up. The answer is – Belgium! Georgia had arrived just days before and she came out to the sound of *Georgia on my Mind* and was presented to us. As if that was not emotional enough, Tom then suggested that Georgia be turned loose before us, and they did. With Athbah handler Nico Frere by her side, he and Georgia showed off and Georgia put on a wonderful show. Even writing this,

I have tears in my eyes – it truly was such a special moment. My dad, Trevor, videoed the whole thing and if you go to YouTube and search for user *ivymedia1*, you can view this, and other, clips. And yes – Amelia Zebedee is there as well!

The day finally came to a close and many of us were staying nearby. The hotel managed to rustle up some cheese and wine, and Pam Flower, Debbie Fuentes, Lisa Abraham, Caroline Reid, my parents and I enjoyed some wonderful chill out time, just sitting and chatting about the amazing weekend that had just passed. This provided the perfect end to this particular trip to Europe.

October - the calm before the storm

Rose Gum Goldrush (River Oak Imprint x River Oak Illusive Girl), captured by Jodi Di Nucci, was the calendar image for this month, another great shot. I love how all the photographers are willing to



donate an image every month to us for the calendar – thank you.

October was – chaotic, to start with at least. But finally, the magazine went to print and I'm afraid to say that the chronic fatigue, or whatever it is I have, returned once more. I did manage to get an appointment with my doctor eventually – she just shrugged and said "that's life". Not the most helpful answer I have ever heard in my life! With exhaustion set in, compounded by factors that I cannot go into here, I was spent. My flight to Morocco for the Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida had not yet come through, so I contacted them and said that as they had not issued it yet, I would not go. A welcome week at home with no deadlines loomed, and I was able to recharge my batteries once more.

In the middle of the month, the inaugural Arabian Horse Supporters Ball took place in Cheshire. I drove up to Madeleine Sutherland's Grange Farm Arabians in Derbyshire, with Madeleine driving on from there. The whole event was wonderful – as reported on in the Paris edition – and I was honoured to be up for the Arabian Ambassador 2015 Award. I was, however, up against Alec Knott, who is the ridden ring steward at shows across the UK and, rightly so, he took the prize. Thank you to everyone that voted for me – it meant a lot.

It was arriving back into Norfolk that the news reached the world that Pianissima had passed away. Over one month on, it is still so difficult to accept that 'Penny' is no longer with us. She was just the most incredible mare and one that I had the privilege of seeing so many times around the world – up close and personal. The loss of this mare will be felt for so long, and on those dark October days, many of us that knew her so well talked and comforted each other. Our Arabian circle is a very close one, and the loss of such a mare has hit us all hard.

With my quieter month now in place, I was able to spend some time working on other creative projects, such as my novel. I also enjoyed a quick visit to London to see Clare, and then there was the inaugural Norfolk Gluten Freedom Expo in Norwich. As part of the team, I was there to cover the event and I have to say – for someone that is gluten-free, to just be able to go and order any food from anywhere in that venue and not have to worry was an amazing experience. It was also great to try my hand to a different style of writing – before the madness that is November came along! This was also the month that I started my gym rehabilitation sessions following my accident last summer when we lost our foal. It has been a long road to get to this point and I am looking forward to finally being able to be active properly in 2016. We all get so injured with our horses but if the same situation occurred again, I am sure that we would put ourselves in the firing line once more, all to help protect our precious Arabians.

November – the deadline month

As a team, November is always the most challenging! We do two magazines in just 3.5 weeks, with everything wrapped up by the Wednesday before the Paris World Championships. Today is that Wednesday and I am speeding towards the end of my *Editor's Year* so that the magazine can be signed off.

Thankfully, we have enjoyed the most beautiful and calming image on our calendar this month – Tamara LL (Gris El Jamaal x Sweet Alladina), photographed by April Visel. This grey mare is owned by Johanna Ullström and Tamara is surrounded by bubbles from a bubble machine – just magical.

No matter how crazy life is, we all do well to remember our family and friends. Hence why I always start November with a day out locally with my friend, Paula. We take it easy, enjoy the beauty of Norfolk, and finish the day with drinks and nibbles. The perfect springboard into days spent working on the Paris edition and this Collectors' issue.

Our cover for Paris was the lovely Om El Aisha Aljassimya (WH Justice x Om El Aliha), owned by Aljassimya Farm and competing for the title of World Champion Filly at the end of November. With this edition still fresh in your minds, I will not go into detail, but it certainly was a lovely issue and thank you to all that contributed.

With the Paris magazine printing, there was another Norfolk & Suffolk Arabian Horse Group event to enjoy – an archive night with a talk by FEI World



Left: With my runners-up award at the Arabian Horse Supporters Ball. Below: Om El Aisha Aljassimya graced the cover of our Paris edition.



Emma Maxwell

Number One Endurance Rider, Nicki Thorne, who just happens to be a group member. Her talk about competing in the Tevis was very moving and she had us gripped with her experiences of taking on this most amazing ride. For the second part of the evening, we had asked members to dig into their video archives and we had put together footage from the



group over the past 20 or so years. Great fun!

With such pressures came another collapse, so this edition has been brought to you courtesy of Day and Night Nurse! I am already dreaming of next week and a calmer month! Our cover, once again, is the Scottsdale Show, and we thank them for their continued support of the magazine. The 61st Show is sure to be special!

However, more sad news came this month with sudden passing of Khaazari – and certainly the sense of emotion from so many across social media showed just how loved this amazing horse was. You can read his story on page 88.

Of course, life has possibly changed forever once more this month, with the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November. For all of us packing today to leave to Paris tomorrow, the attacks are, naturally, on our minds. But we stand united and we are all looking forward to the show, even if there is a part of us that will be relieved once we are all safely back on home soil. Love and peace is so important – not hate and war – and I am sure that I am not alone in hoping for a safe solution to the troubles in the world being found soon.

So – the World Championships! Tomorrow, we head to Paris, and there are some incredible horses competing once again. As usual, *The Arabian Magazine* will be there, bringing you the news live across social media – Facebook, The Arabian Magazine; Twitter, @TheArabianMag; and thearabianmagazine on Instagram. We will also post a summary on our site, *The Arabian Magazine Online*, so there will be bits of news to enjoy before the February 2016 edition.



Our last cover for 2015.

December - the month (and year) ahead

We have already enjoyed some snow this year in the UK but our calendar image for this month is a snowy image of GR Alicia (GR Faleeh x GR Anastacia), owned and photographed by Erwin Escher from Germany. Our 2016 calendar is selling well and makes the ideal Christmas present – you can order yours now at www.thearabianmagazineshop.com.

As for my diary for December – it is clear. I have chosen to cancel a trip into London as that can easily be postponed until next year. I have friends and family to see and catch up with, starting with a trip to – finally – seeing *Spectre* at the cinema with my parents and Steph on 2 December. My mum will be off to the King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre Championship Show in Dirab, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the middle of the month, and then it is Christmas.

While I will be enjoying a break from deadlines, there will be plenty to occupy me. As well as my making and baking for Christmas Day and festive gifts, I will also be working on my novel and writing for other people/publications as well.

I will also be working on the magazine – the world has changed so much since *The Arabian Magazine* began 10 years ago, and print media

is now a world that is, perhaps, in jeopardy. The internet is becoming all encompassing, accessible everywhere at anytime, invading our lives, interrupting our sleep, shutting us off from real conversations as people go out to dinner and sit staring at their phones instead of engaging in the present all around us. For so many, if something is even a minute old, it is 'old news' – so where does that leave the world of print, where a turnaround time of up to two weeks from print to arriving on your doorstep takes place?

The answer is – I am not sure. I know that there very much is a place for print in the Arabian industry, and that this runs in conjunction with social media and the internet. But whether it is the same format as we have been doing for the past 10 years remains to be seen. I firmly believe that knowledge is something that can only be found by talking to people, by reading books and by sharing experiences – researching on the internet will only get you so far, and discovering the real stories for yourself is far better. And what better way to do this than for someone to share and write down, and then print in a magazine? Something that will remain there for all eternity, and not suffer from a bad signal or broken links. When I first started *The Arabian Magazine*, I always said that I would do 100 editions and that was my

ultimate aim. That 100th edition is now very close – in fact, the very next issue will be my 100th edition. And in that time, the world has changed – and is changing on a daily, if not hourly basis. Meanwhile, my plans for 2016 are already taking shape, and they consist



Here is to a peaceful 2016 for us all.

of me sitting at this desk, at an airport, at a farm, uncovering a beautiful story, and ready to share it with you through the physical pages of the magazine. My first trips of 2016 see me head east to Saudi Arabia, west to Las Vegas, and more locally to farms in the UK and Europe that I wish to visit. As part of the beauty of the Arabian industry is that the stories that we love to read so much can be found everywhere – and to craft them well, to share them fully with the glossy photographs that we all love so much, we have to share them through print. No other medium will do.

So with that, my final thought is that I will see you in 2016 – for the next milestones in my life, both professional and personal – and I thank you all for sharing this journey with me thus far. Have a blessed holiday season, here is to a peaceful 2016 for us all.

- Samantha 🐾

