

A Year of Horses, Friends, Deadlines & Airports

THE 2013 EDITION

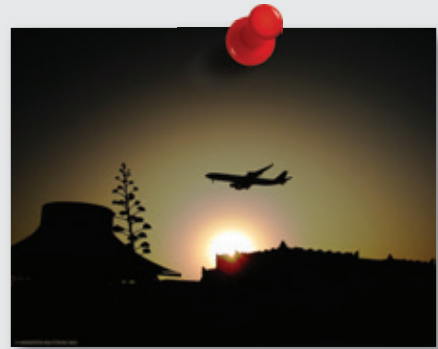
Words and photography by Samantha Mattocks (unless stated)

Following the popularity of last year's *A Year of Horses, Friends, Deadlines & Airports* feature, I have been convinced to do a similar piece for this edition – in spite of vowing never to write one again! The views of others won out, so please sit back, get yourself a cup of coffee, and enjoy reliving some of the highlights of the year, including my favourite moments of 2013.

January – the month of snow

Christmas 2012 was a complete wash out for me as I was one of many stricken by a wonderful chest infection. As if it were not bad enough that I was unable to enjoy all the festivities, including all the food I had prepared and baked – those that know me know that cooking is one of my passions – I also had to miss out on a family party on New Year's Eve that also celebrated my cousin's 50th birthday. Instead, I made it through half an episode of Jonathan Creek, went to bed just after 10pm, awoke briefly at midnight when the neighbours let off some fireworks, and then didn't wake again until gone midday. Going with just what the doctor ordered, I curled up on the sofa under a blanket with Merlin Cat, a fire in the hearth and a brilliant trio of films on the television – *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins!*

As so many of you know, there is no rest when you run your own business, and the first weekend of the New Year, I was in my office, contacting people about the first edition of 2013; yes, the deadlines had begun again! Having had the black livery on *The Arabian Magazine* since its inception in 2005, it was decided that it was time for a refresh. We chose to use the lighter look of our annual *Collectors' Edition* for this, in keeping with our online websites. We also restyled the appearance of the front cover, and the feedback was positive. As you will have noticed, we have also now



refreshed the *Collectors' Edition*, and we hope that you like it!

Our cover star for this first edition of the year was the fantastic straight Egyptian stallion, Ansata Nile Pharoah (Ansata Iemhotep x Ansata Misty Nile by Ansata Hejazi out of Imperial Impress), a stallion I had seen over the years on my travels in both the USA and New Zealand. Owned by Rhodium Arabians on New Zealand's North Island, this superb grey stallion is siring excellent stock and the terrific Stuart Vesty photographs made for a brilliant front cover for our *World Edition*.

One of the main features in this edition was on QR Marc (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams by Magic Dream CAHR out of Kouream de Ment), a stallion that had gone World Champion in Paris the month before. It is no secret that I am a huge fan of QR Marc, and I also very much enjoy writing in-depth features. So it was a treat for me to be able to write about this stallion



and his achievements, as well as those of his offspring, in depth. It was towards the end of this deadline that the snow arrived – and lots of it! The UK was blanketed by snow, as were parts of North Europe, and over here in Norfolk, where we normally avoid the worst of the weather, we were under a white carpet for 10 days or more. Sadly, being a typical girl and not used to driving in the show in a rear-wheel, automatic car, I crashed mildly but firmly into a ditch as I attempted to



go to the local farm shop. My poor dad had to come and rescue me, and slipped on the ice, hurting his wrist. If I hadn't felt so guilty, it would have been funny! Instead, with dad slightly incapacitated, and the water pipes at the stables frozen, meaning that we had to take water down in containers, and my mum due into hospital for an operation, I had



Class winner at the PSIAHF - AV Dalia.

Wieslaw Pawlowski



The beautiful FT Shaella - Gold Champion Mare at the PSIAHF.

Jan Kan

to make a decision about the newly-titled Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Arabian Horse Festival, previously Al Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival. I was due to fly on 21 January, and while I do enjoy this show and the early chance of sunshine away from a British winter, my sense of duty won out and I chose to stay at home, look after the horses and help my parents. While it was a shame to miss the show, we do need to remember, sometimes, that family has to come first. However, we still ran coverage of the show in the March edition, thanks to Francesca Hannay.

The month ended with me actually enjoying a birthday at home, and a happy evening was spent with family and friends in my favourite local restaurant. The year had begun!

February - Qatari days

With the start of the month spent with my family as my mum recovered from surgery, it was very soon on to the March edition – the *Americas issue*. The front cover for this edition went to Australia's sweetheart, Parada (Magnum Forty Four x Presence by GLF Apollo out of Prevue). Tragically, her sire had just passed away so we ran a tribute for him in this issue, which very much celebrated the amazing legacy he has made for Mulawa Arabians, breeders of Parada.

Running parallel to putting this



edition together was my first trip of the year, to Qatar, for the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club (QREC) International Arabian Horse Festival, which included in-hand showing and also some thrilling racing. I was away for eleven days in total, and I was also able to visit



The Qatar skyline at dusk.

some stud farms while I was there.

The Qatar International Show is very relaxed and has been known to feature some of the greats of the industry including, very memorably one year, Al Adeed Al Shaqab (Ansata Halim Shah x Sundar Alisayyah by Ruminaja Ali out of Imperial Sayyah). This year, the big winners included Baanderos (Marwan Al Shaqab x HB

Bessolea by Besson Carol out of Credit to Society), who many are expecting to go Platinum World Champion Stallion in Paris, which takes place the weekend following my writing of this feature.

The show is also a good place to catch up with people, and here I was introduced to Marion



Tabarak was the big winner at the Qatar Racing in February.

Claudia Purdie

Wichmann, who is now the Manager at Al Aryam Arabians. I enquired about one of my all-time favourites, Maleik el Kheil, and was told that he was still alive and well. Even better, I was invited back to Abu Dhabi to see him, and I was delighted to receive



Baanderos

Erwin Fischer



e-mail confirmation of this while I was still in Qatar.

It was also good to meet Val Bunting of Esteem Bloodstock, who I have conversed with for many years. I also met Dr Michael Kersebaum and his wife, Susanne; Michael is the Chairman of VZAP, the German Stud Registry and the organisers of the All Nations' Cup and German National Championships. A fun night was spent with them, American Michele Fischer, who works in the American racing industry, Jan



Al Shahania Stud

and Eveline Calis of the Netherlands, celebrating England's win in the Six Nations Rugby over France. There are many optional visits and excursions arranged for visitors to the Qatar Festival, and two stud visits stood out, one being to the famed Al Shaqab Stud, part of the Qatar Foundation, where everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening. However, it was the trip to Al Shahania Stud that captivated me the most. Set in beautiful surroundings, located outside of Doha, Al Shahania is a wonderful mix of racing and showing bloodlines, and it was lovely to spend a relaxed morning strolling around the farm before brunch. Some people even took advantage of the camel rides, although I chose to sit and talk to the international guests.

I had one very special experience with Al Shahania Stud, as during the racing that was to follow, they held a dinner for special friends and guests of the farm. I was lucky enough to be invited along by Manager Alexandra Newman, and the event took place outside a hotel, down by the waters of the Arabian Gulf. With Doha lit up in the background, and the moonlight sparkling on the water, it really was a very special evening; thank you.

The Festival is also part of the very exciting race meetings that take place in late February. Held over three days, the meet culminates in the HH The Emir Sword Group 1 Race, held over 2,400m. With Lisa Deymonaz from Al Shahania having patiently explained everything that there was to know about Arabian racing to me, I watched the meets with a new interest. The winner was Tabarak (Nizam x Altesse Daroco by Manganate out of Asbaa Daroco), owned and bred by Umm Qarn, and it really was a thrilling finish. Preceding the racing was



Arrival at Al Shahania Stud.

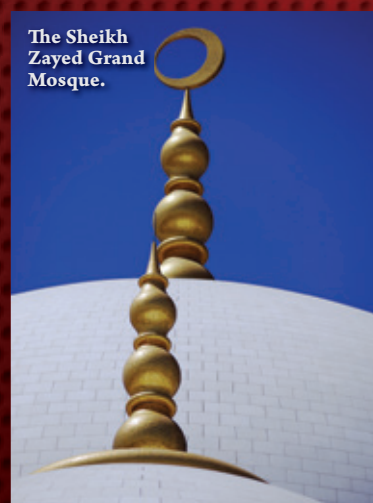


Merlin Cat keeps an eye on things in the office.

I will say it again; I could not do what I do without the support of my wonderful team and also my very wonderful family. Many of you know my parents, Tina and Trevor, and it is an honour and a blessing to be able to share so many experiences with them. All the same, it is good to know that all at home is in safe hands while I jet off again, including the ever-famous Merlin Cat! As for my team, they are remarkable and they never complain – thank you all.

For once, this year, I was home on Mothering Sunday and able to show my appreciation to my mum in person. I often think that the simple art of appreciating what you have at home, and counting your blessings for that, is overlooked or forgotten. So to actually be home for this day, and share it with my parents, was very special indeed.

On 18 March, I took up Marion's offer and flew into Abu Dhabi. I used to do this trip annually, every February, to visit Al Aryam



The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.





The impressive architecture of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Arabians, then run by Jennifer Jennings with Barry Shepherd training the horses, and to go to the Abu Dhabi International Arabian Horse Show. With so many places to visit, shows



Samantha with Maleik el Kheil.

to attend, and farms to write about, it is impossible to stick to the same schedule every year. However, it did feel good to land back in Abu Dhabi Airport once more and step out into the sultry night.

Al Aryam's current trainer, Gerard Paty, collected me on the Tuesday morning and drove me out to Al Aryam Island. I was keen to get there, and you can read all about my visit in this year's October edition. On arriving, I went straight through to the barn with Marion; one special horse had been left in for me to see before we enjoyed a late breakfast. This was the incomparable Maleik el Kheil (El Shaklan x Muneera by Fakhr el Kheil out of Muzri). This beautiful grey stallion was born in 1979 and, as I stepped into his stable, I burst into tears.

There is something about these wonderful old souls that moves me so much, and I know I am not alone in feeling this. It was lovely to spend some quiet time with him, before we returned to the office area for breakfast.

Joining us was another person that I had met in Qatar, Marco Kray, General Manager at Röwer & Rub, a German company that builds stables. After breakfast, Marco headed back to Dubai while I went off to walk the barns; having been coming here since 2007, I know the horses inside out.

Marion then arranged a photo-shoot for me with Maleik, and it was so lovely to have these treasured images. Now 34 years of age, Maleik was interested in the mare standing in front of him, but not enough to do anything! Those huge, soulful eyes were alert and inquisitive, his tippy ears forward, and he was as gentle as anything. I spurned the offer by the grooms to lead him back to his paddock, and took him myself – my chance to spend some special moments with him, and say goodbye were it to be the last time I ever see him. And yes, I did cry!

From there, I drove up with Marion to Dubai for the Dubai International Arabian Horse Championships. On the way, we stopped at the breathtaking Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, a building I had seen so many times over the years but had never been inside. It was truly remarkable, and I was happy that I had a decent camera with me to capture some images.

I spent the evening in the company of Barry Shepherd, and we went for dinner and a good catch up. It has to be said that Barry has made a great career for himself in the Middle East, and seems to be enjoying his role as trainer at Albidayer Stud very much.

I was up early on the first day at the Dubai Show as there was, for me, a very special horse in the endurance horse class. This was Sha'heil Ibn Sadik (Prince Sadik x Sirella Blue by St John out of Blue Vanity), bred by my parents and part of the W'rsan Stables in the United Arab Emirates. I vowed that I wouldn't see 'Alfie' before his class but, as his was towards the end and the classes were taking so long, I went round to the stables. I stood there, in front of him, and said "Alfie" several times – and after a moment or two, his expression changed; he remembered me, even though I haven't seen him since 2007. I cried, again; this was an emotional trip to the Middle East!

Alfie showed well in his class and just missed out on the Top Five, having been Reserve Champion here in 2011. I went to the collecting ring afterwards and had some photographs taken with him; I think my face says all that you need to know about how it felt to be reunited with one of our homebreds again!

The ethereal Emandoria (Gazal Al Shaqab x Emanda by Ecaho out of Emanaja) was one of the big winners here, along with two super yearling colts by Marajj. Both bred by Al Hawajer Stud in the UAE, Bad'e Al Hawajer (ex Valentyna F by Psytadel out of Veronia by Abakan), now owned by Al Muawd Stud, took Gold while Nashmi Al Hawajer (ex Maniba Bint Ibn Narav by Ibn Narav out of Marena by Kubinec) stood Silver. Two very smart colts.

The show ended on the Saturday early in the evening, and I dined with Christine Jamar. Sadly, I would wake at 5am and spend the next 11



Samantha reunited with Alfie - the look on her face says it all.



hours being very ill with suspected food poisoning! I finally made it outside to meet Marion and to get some Sprite into my system, when I collapsed and was rushed off to one of the Dubai hospitals in an ambulance, blues and twos going; not my finest hour! By this point, I was the guest of Albidayer Stud, as I was doing a profile on Marajj (Marwan Al Shaqab x RGA Kouress by Kouway



Bad'e Al Hawajer and Nashmi Al Hawajer.

Emandoria, Gold Champion in Dubai.



Bey out of Angophora), and Manager Dawn Martin, along with Barry, came to rescue me from hospital! Suffice to say, it took me several days to feel back on my feet again. The downside of being so poorly was that I missed two presentations I really wanted to attend – the Dubai Arabian Horse Stud, where Marajj was standing at the time, and

Al Zobair Stud. Alas, they will have to be enjoyed next time, inshallah. To visit Albidayer Stud was a lovely experience, even if it did rain!

Marajj is doing an amazing job and he really stamps his progeny. On my last morning in the Middle East, Dawn and Barry took me to the Dubai Stud so that I could see Marajj in person, and experience the power of this stallion close up; I think I could have just stood there and absorbed his presence all day, he really is that amazing. You can read all about this wonderful horse in the July edition of *The Arabian Magazine*.

On returning home, and recovering from the food poisoning fully, it was a peaceful time as I enjoyed Easter with my family before turning my attention towards another month, and another deadline. The first quarter of the year had truly flown by.

April - seeing Justice

Once again, I landed on another deadline. This time, it was for our Egyptian edition, which we had moved back from its regular March spot. I do love working with the Egyptian breeders, I have to say. They are, on the whole, the most positive, enthusiastic group of people and they are always happy to share their knowledge with others. This edition was the prequel to the US Egyptian Event and as such, it was full of beautiful horses belonging to these bloodlines.

Our cover horse this time was Nada Al Shahania (Besson Carol x MFA Annies Song by Ludjin El Jamaal

out of MFA Lilac Tyme), owned by Al Shahania Stud. This three-year-old filly would win the title of Gold Junior Female Champion at the Menton Show the following month.

Yet again, the deadline had to be rushed so that I could make my next flight, this time to Las Vegas for the 7th Arabian Breeders' Alliance World Cup. A wonderfully glitzy show, Vegas is host to a very enjoyable Arabian show and this year, WH Justice (Magnum Psyche x Vona Sher-Renea by El Sher-Mann out of Renea) returned to the American showing once more. The cheers as this stallion came in could have raised the roof, and he won his class in style. However,



Allan and Samantha enjoying the Hard Rock Cafe in Las Vegas.



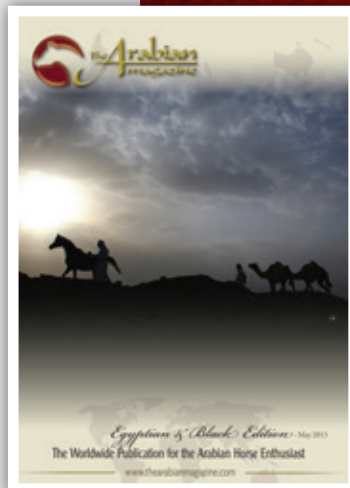
WH Justice in Las Vegas.



in the championships, it was the young Polish stallion Pogrom (QR Marc x Petla by Pepton out of Pestka) that would take the Gold title with the 14-year-old Justice in Silver. However, WH Justice's lease to Aljassmya Farm has been very successful and the foals that have been

born there show much promise. The full Vegas report was featured in the June edition of *The Arabian Magazine*.

I flew into Vegas a day early in order to spend some time with the international judge, Allan Preston from Australia. Since first meeting Allan in Aachen a few years ago, he and I have become close friends and it was lovely to be able to spend some time with him and catch up with life Down Under. That evening, I spent time with Anna Bishop, Executive Director of The Pyramid Society. Anna and her team work tirelessly to promote the Egyptian Arabian, culminating in the annual US Egyptian Event, held every June. As those of you who constantly go to shows know, it is generally impossible to catch up with people and have time for little more than a passing 'hello', so to be able to sit down and have a chat with Anna about our plans really was lovely.



Mention must also be made to artist and sculptor, J Anne Butler, who was working on her statue of WH Justice at the show. To watch the horse take shape before your eyes was fascinating, and it is always



enjoyable to catch up with Anne and her husband, Ray. The only difficulty is in not being tempted by more of her beautiful works! While in Vegas, I managed to catch up with the super-talented Shannon Lawlor from Canada, who I had first met in Poland two years ago. An amazingly talented artist, Shannon is painting an incredible series on the horses that she saw at the State Studs, and it was wonderful to be able to spend time with her and share ideas, visions, and dreams. I was privileged to see a preview of the whole series as it stood then, and it was just breathtaking. Also joining us for some of the time were Dawn and Barry from Albidayer Stud, and much merriment was had by all. Shannon and I were invited to the premier of the new Horsefly Film, *Of Gods and Kings – The Skyros Horse*. Sophia Dia Pegrum and Jen Miller, the ladies behind Horsefly Films, are making a new series on endangered equine bloodlines, and this film was absolutely riveting. This year, having gone on to travel around the United States in previous years, I headed straight for home once the show was over. There is only ever so much travelling that any one person can do and this year, I wanted to explore some studs closer to home.

May - keeping it local

May, which saw the beginning of our very glorious summer, began with a few days away with my mum for some precious mother-daughter time. Then, the day after the May Day Bank Holiday, I headed to middle England, to Delyth Gamlin's Peakland Arabians, where I had an appointment with a very special horse.

The horse in question was one Ffatal Attraction (Sanadik el Shaklan x Falling in Love by Kaiyoum out of Half Moon Bay), now 23 years old. To see him was just wonderful, and to share the story of one of the UK's most enduring stallions in the July edition was very special indeed.

It was also fun to spend time with Delyth and help out at her Parents & Teachers' Association meeting for her local school! The things you get invited along to when you are travelling ... Before I left, Delyth kindly took a couple of snaps of me and Ffatal, a lovely memory. He really has been a super sire in this country, and his progeny have won across



all disciplines. It was also good to walk the paddocks and see the Peakland Arabians; there were a couple I would have liked to take home with me in my car!

From the Peak District, I then headed down to my friends at Howell Arabians,



Jayne and James. This was more of a social visit, but it was lovely, as ever, to walk through their stables and enjoy their horses. ROE Laheeb (Essteem x ZT Ludjbroasiaa by Ludjin el Jamaal out of ZT Shabrosiaa) impresses me more each time I see him. Now 11 years old, this bay stallion is woefully underused, and with his classical lines, combining Ali Jamaal, El Shaklan, and Bey Shah, he really has a lot of potential for breeders.



Returning home once more, I enjoyed a family anniversary before beginning work on the June edition. The theme for this edition was, as usual, Crabbet/Russian, and the Crabbet community had much to look forward to this summer as a World Crabbet Convention was taking place here in the UK. But more on that later!

Our cover horse this time was the very impressive, and I think unbeaten, EKS Alihandro (Marwan Al Shaqab x OFW Pshlhouette by Padrons Psyche out of Hafati Julianna). This three-year-old colt, bred in South Africa by Willie Brown, and owned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Athbah Stud, has won around the world and is currently on course to take the Junior Male World Championship title. EKS Alihandro truly is a show horse and he deservedly has a legion of fans, all more than ready to



cheer him on.

Every year, since 2008, I take part in the Race for Life, to raise money for Cancer Research. Initially, this was done in the name of Jackie Keen, a proof-reader for *The Arabian Magazine*, who bravely fought cancer for a number of years. Sadly, she succumbed to the disease, and I still take



Getting ready to do the Race for Life!

part in the Race for Life every year in memory of both Jackie and another very dear, close friend who I lost in 2010. This year, taking part with me in 'Team Tamini' were Teresa Watker, who raced with me last year, Toni Le'vell, her daughter Kiri, and Mandy Burgess. So, on a very overcast and mid-May Saturday, we arrive at the Royal Norfolk Showground to complete our 5km. We raised a phenomenal £2,095 – thank you so much to everyone that so generously sponsored us, and we will be back again next year!



Shiran and Rachael on their wedding day.

Devakumar archives

The long bank holiday weekend at the end of May saw the wedding of Rachael Nelson to Shiran Devakumar. Rachael is a well-known face on the Anglo/part-bred and ridden circuit, having enjoyed much success with her and her mum, Vivienne's, horses over the years. The wedding, held near Rachael and Shiran's home in Wales, was beautiful, sunny, and a truly happy occasion. It was good to catch up with other horsey friends there, and have a dance to the brilliant live band. Congratulations again to Rachael and Shiran – we all wish you a lifetime of happiness together. May ended with the June edition going off to print, and the firm arrival of what was to be a very hot and long summer!

June - a new arrival

The month began with me returning to Heathrow Airport once more and this time, boarding a flight to Lexington, Kentucky, for the US Egyptian Event. Transferring through Chicago, I was told that my flight from there to Lexington had been cancelled due to the tornados and thunderstorms that were a part of the area at that time. I had a choice of stay in a hotel for the night and leave on the first flight out in the morning, or go on the standby list and hope that I got a seat. I chose the latter, and called Chris Fichaud of Etaya Egyptian Stud, who was collecting me from Lexington's Blue Grass Airport, to say that I might be a little late. The last flight of the day, for which I was on standby, was due to leave at 6.30pm. By 9pm, we still hadn't boarded and I had no idea whether or



The US Egyptian Event.

Amy Austin

not I would get to Lexington that night. I was first on the standby list but an announcement came over to say that the flight was overbooked and would three people please come to the counter, accept compensation and fly the next day; if not, the last three people that checked in would be bumped to the next flight. My chances of getting to Lexington that night looked slim! One lady did take the money and run but there were still two overbooked passengers, and me on the standby list along with four other people. Finally, around 9.30pm, people began to board. I kept going to the desk



The stickhorse class

Amy Austin

Amy Austin



TF Prince De Beers

Amy Austin

Amy Austin

and asking, hopefully, but was told that until everyone was on the plane, they wouldn't know. Finally, the first of the two possible offloads boarded, and then the second; I went to the desk and the attendant rang up the

crew. A smile, a nod, I was given a boarding card, and I got on the plane – to a few cheers from some of the passengers I had been talking to! I was the last person able to board, and if the earlier lady hadn't taken the money, I would have been staying in Chicago that night – so thank you! Poor Chris; I didn't arrive until almost 11pm into Lexington – and it was straight to the bar for a much-needed glass of wine! It was lovely to be back at the Event and in the company of great



people. There were some wonderful horses there this year, but my personal pick would have to be TF Prince de Beers (Botswana x SS Queen of Hearts), a nine-year-old bay gelding. Having won his Hunter



The lovely opening ceremony for the US Egyptian Event.

Amy Austin

Amy Austin

Pleasure Championship during Saturday's finals, he left the arena via the exit gate before coming straight back in, having been stripped, and proceeded to win the Gelding Championship. Just how an Arabian horse should be – versatile and willing to give each time, TF Prince de Beers certainly earned his colours that day!

As we all know, the world can be a very small one, and it was while talking to Gail and Joe Mailloux of Two Silos Farm after the championship classes had finished that Gail mentioned her parents were stationed in Norfolk during the Second World War. It turns out that they were stationed at my local airfield, and plans are being made for Gail and Joe to come to the UK next summer and take in some local sights. It really was quite the moment!

An easier flight home and I landed back into the UK on Monday 10 June.

Two days later, I went with my mum to indulge my other passion – cooking, and James Martin! – to the BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham, along with a family friend. The perfect way to recover from jet-lag, and I also got to meet my foodie hero!

As mentioned earlier, I spent time talking to Amanda Smith when I was in Qatar and, as a result, it was agreed that *The Arabian Magazine* would sponsor two races this season. The first of these was up in Fakenham, north Norfolk, on 16 June, and a beautiful day dawned. Having gone up early to soak up the atmosphere, it was disappointing that the meet had to be cancelled due to lack of a medical team. Still, it was good to catch up with Hannie from QREC, who was there, and also bump into Ann Unwin, who first started Arabian Racing here in the UK and whom my mum worked for back in the 1960s, thus developing the family passion for Arabian horses.

The Fakenham meet coincided with Father's Day, so I cooked for my father the next day. Having left the meet early, we stopped at our favourite restaurant for homemade pizza and beer – possibly every man's ideal!

Now into the second half of the month and Menton was calling. However, as I left for my friends, Nina Hutton-McKenzie and Mark Copeland, down in Hertfordshire, our mare went into labour. Rosaliah

Gold (Golden Silver x Siala by Shiffal out of Sa'lilah) is our straight Crabbet AHS Premium Mare, and the dam of our British National Champion Shams Al Thahabiyya (by Psadisho Ibn Esstashan by Esstashan out of Psyada Bint Psyche by Padrons Psyche), and this was her second foal. And, just as she foaled Shamsi as I landed in Jordan in 2008, so she waited until I was gone again this time!

Just after 9pm on 20 June, she foaled a colt, Saachi Gold, sired by Andrea Taylor's homebred stallion, Vivegas (Vervaldee x La Dolce Vita by Versace out of Bint Bint Mierka), and yet again, I



Menton: Jayne, Nina, Samantha, Mark, James, and Sue.

Erwin Escher



Menton

Erwin Escher

would have to wait until I got home to meet the foal. This was our first foal since 2009 and the urge to leave Nina's and drive back home again was strong!

However, off to Menton we went, and it was gorgeous. As well as Nina, Mark, and myself, there were Jayne and James Howell, and Sue Hatch. We all had a terrific time together, although I did feel bad leaving them on the Friday night to go to the Caballus International Dinner in Monte Carlo. As reported on in the September edition, Caballus International is aimed at offering an exclusive Arabian horse lifestyle, and the evening was sensational.



Samantha meeting her hero, James Martin!



Prussia MI

Erwin Escher

As for the Menton Show itself, there really were some lovely horses there this year. Prussia MI (Abha Qatar x Parada), bred in Australia,

first shown in the US, and owned by Al Mohamadia Stud from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, impressed once more. Having seen him, very showily, go Gold in Vegas, he added another golden garland here. Baanderos continued his bid towards the Paris Platinum title, and our 2013 cover horses, Nada Al Shahania and EKS Alihandro, both took Gold in their respective sections.

Leaving the sultry and hot south of France, we arrived back to grey skies and cooler weather, and I returned home to meet Saachi Gold.

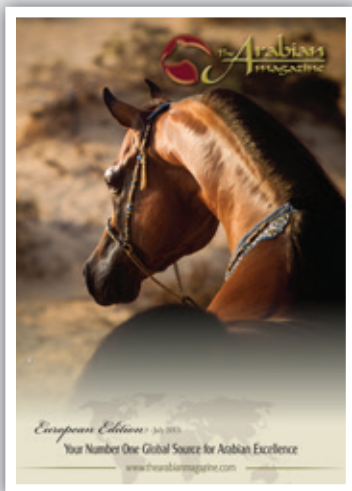


Samantha and her parents welcomed a new foal in June - Saachi Gold.

He proved to be a very smart and showy chestnut colt, more so than his maternal half-sibling, which is saying something, and we look forward to having some fun with him in 2014. The deadline for the July edition began the day I went to Menton, and the rest of the month was spent time-wasting while watching foals, and working away on our European Edition. I also indulged my other passion, for photography, and I hope you like the images that are scattered through this feature.

July - World Crabbet Convention

So – the July edition! The cover for this issue was just stunning, and has to be one of my favourites from the year. Glenn Jacobs beautifully captured the stallion, Maraji,



and my in-depth feature on the horse ran in this edition. I also included my trip to Peakland Arabians and Ffatal Attraction, and this issue had a great response.

We always have a break once the July edition has gone to print but this year, there was something else taking place that seemed to eat into the precious holiday time; the World Crabbet Convention.

First, however, there was the President's Cup Group 1 Race

at Newmarket to enjoy, part of the Piper-Heidsieck July Festival and Abu Dhabi Day. I went with my parents, but enjoyed the hospitality of ARO and it really was a glorious summer's afternoon. The President of

the UAE Cup, the UK Arabian Derby Group 1 Race, was very exciting and saw an unexpected winner in Djet Taouy (Dahess x Win Taouy by Drug out of Edwina), who broke his maiden in style. It really was a thrilling race, and it was great to be there – thank you ARO!

The focus, for us, was then on the World Crabbet Convention. Organised by the Crabbet Committee here in the UK, the Convention was held from 19-21 July, with stud visits starting on Monday 22 July. A host of international visitors from across Europe, the USA, and



The Aussie contingent at the Crabbet Convention.



PHA Silvern Risalm



The Crabbet Convention finale.



Gadebrook Stud

Australasia came to the Convention and it really was a great weekend. The Parade, held on the Saturday, was enlightening in terms of seeing the Crabbet horses here in this country, while Sunday's Conference was extremely interesting. On a personal note, it was lovely to have Rosaliah Gold's maternal half-sister, Saraphina Sunset (by Grecian Idyll by Silvern Idyll out of Grecian Gilt by General Gold) make her show-ring debut as part of the General Gold family group, and we hope to bring her out again in 2014. A full report of the Convention was run in the September edition, while the tours were featured in the October issue.

The two stud visits on the Monday – to Gadebrook Stud and Moonlight Arabians – will forever be remembered as the day the future King of England, HRH Prince George, was born. It made the



Crabbet Convention even more of a celebration, and the atmosphere for the rest of the tour remained buoyant.

From there, we arrived back home on that Monday evening and had just one day to pack everything up before we headed to the British



Qasaria was Overall Crabbet Champion at Malvern.

National Championships on Wednesday. *The Arabian Magazine* tradestand was there once more, capably run by Bec, and it was lovely to catch up with so many of you at the show.

Once again, *The Arabian Magazine* sponsored the British National Champion Foal class and all four horses forward were lovely – it was a shame, to be honest, that one had to leave without a prize as they were all worthy. However, it was exciting to see Shahbander Al Muawd (Stival x V Exotic Enchantress by Versace out of BFA Enchantress) for the first time. Owned and bred by Al Muawd Stud, this very classy bay colt is a full sibling to Stivalery BJ, who captivated and enchanted here at Malvern in 2010, when she made her debut, and Shahbander certainly followed in her footsteps. It really was a pleasure to be able to present all three champions with their prizes, and we will watch the future with interest.



SH Sabrina - Princess Muna Family Group winner.



Zobeyni Nurani

The weather managed to remain glorious until the very end, when, in time-honoured fashion, the heavens opened for the championships. And when I say opened – they really did! The deluge that followed was intense and unrelenting. I felt so sorry for the poor mares, some of whom had foals at foot, that were waiting to come in for final judging. I also felt sorry for Bec, my dad and I, as we had to finish loading up the tradestand into the van in the downpour! One stiff cup of tea later, and having seen Designed secure the Gold Stallion Championship, we made our way back to Norfolk. The journey, I have to say, was horrible and I had to stop several times to let the rain die down a little. It amazed me that, in the dark gloom and with virtually zero visibility, there were still drivers without their lights on!

Having made it home safely, our attention turned back to the Crabbet Convention Tours once more, and mum and I made a quick trip to Alexia Ross's Zobeyni Stud to see her beautiful collection of Arabians. Her yearling colt, Zobeyni Nurani (Grecian Idyll x Narishka by Ranadi out of Nafranta) easily stole the show. Alexia has cleverly been able to breed a straight Crabbet bay, and Nurani loved to show off in front of the group of visitors. He will be one to watch, for sure.

Also this month, it was lovely to catch up locally with Louise Clark, who used to work for the late Eileen Tatam at her Sutton Hall Stud. Louise and I spent many a summer at Malvern, talking horses – and boys – and it was lovely to spend some time with her and talk about our plans, and dreams, for the future. Naturally, the evening revolved all around the horses once more, and it really was fun to reminisce about time gone by.

August - the Polish Arabians

The month began with our own stud visit as part of the Crabbet Convention Tours. Founded by my parents, we have never had an Ivy Arabians open day before, and we duly invited some local friends along to bring their horses and join in the fun.

Ros Gladman and her partner, Murray, from Tasmania, arrived the evening before the open day and they joined us, and trainer Mark



Silver Cognac at the Ivy Arabians open day.

Gamlin, who had come to show our horses for us, for dinner. Alicia Bratby, a long-time friend and whose filly, Rusheena A (Rusleem x Silvern Sheena by Silvern Sceptre out of Crystal Sheen), would be making her showing debut with us, also arrived to join in the fun.

The next morning, Louise kindly turned up with her husband, Charlie, and beautiful daughter, Tallulah, to help prepare everything, while

Alicia took charge of the stables! We were thrilled to have so many people come along and enjoy the morning, and thanks must go to all that helped and made the day so very special.

Ros and Murray enjoyed our part of the UK so much that they stayed an extra day. Following our open day, Ros, Murray, mum, and I, all piled into the car and headed off to a local market town and then



Ros and Murray from Tasmania enjoy time in East Anglia with Samantha, Tina and Trevor.



The iconic skyline of Warsaw.

down to the Suffolk coastline to enjoy the still-glorious weather as well as the many beautiful scenery that this part of the world has to offer. With the World Crabbet Convention nicely wrapped up, the next stop on the agenda was the Arabian Horse Days in Poland, a

highlight of the summer for many, and this year was no exception.



In the main ring at Poland!

Every year, there is one youngster that always stands out – we have had Perfinka, Pogrom, Wieza Mocy, and this year, it was the turn of Piacolla (Enzo x Polonica by Ekstern out of Panika), who wowed judges and audience alike to take the Junior Female Championship. At the other end of the spectrum, the beautiful Gazal Al Shaqab daughter, Norma (ex Nina by Monogramm out of WN Nastasea by Nabor), also wowed and reduced people to tears with her beautiful performance. Unsurprisingly, she was awarded Best in Show.

Poland is such a special place. If you have never experienced the Arabian Horse Days before, you really must book yourself a visit. There is nothing quite like spending your August days wandering around the State Studs of Janów, Michalów, and Białka, and to do so in the company of friends, while admiring the most beautiful horses, makes it even more special. Just visiting these farms in Poland alone would give you enough memories to last a lifetime. My report from the show was

run in the December edition, while the stud tours will feature in the February 2014 issue; yes, we are already that far planning ahead!

One exciting moment for me this year was when I was able to go in the main ring at the Polish National Show and present a prize. Another good friend, Julia Turner, also met in Poland, sponsors the show ribbons for the show through her and her father, Nate's, St Martin Arabians Stud, located in Texas, USA. Julia could

not make the show this year and so asked me to go into the ring on her behalf and present the senior stallions with their ribbons. This was a very fun moment, and to be able to enjoy the pomp of Poland from this side was great; thanks Julia!

With my parent, we caught a late flight home from Warsaw the day after the tours finished. This allowed us time to explore the very beautiful city, as well as buy some of the famed Polish amber.

Once again, I was home

for just one day before I went down to the Eurostar terminal at Ebbsflee, to board a train to Lille for my annual appointment with QR Marc and Knocke Arabians. Paul and Ria Gheysens always put on a wonderful weekend for their friends and guests, and this year, I was commenting once more. While my report will still be fresh in your minds, having just been featured in the December edition, I will say again that Mikado KA (QR Marc x Migracja by Gazal Al Shaqab out of Mandala) is worth keeping an eye out for; just so showy. And it is always a pleasure to see QR Marc, and his wonderful foals. One newborn this year that was especially noteworthy is Marius Madonna



Norma was one of the many Polish beauties that captivated.

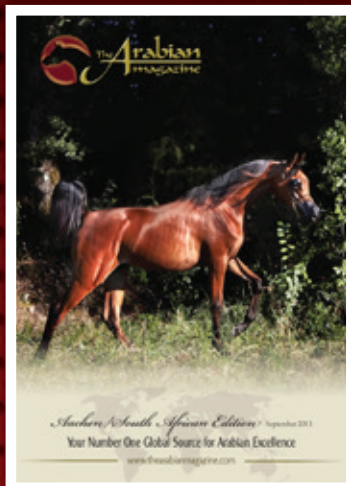


Marius Madonna KA is a future star for Knocke Arabians.

KA (ex FS Magnums Madonna by Magnum Psyche out of Tai Bey Brittney by Bey Shah), and I will watch out for him with interest.

I had some time to spare before my return train to Ebbsfleet on the August Bank Holiday, so my driver took me to Ypres. A pivotal town in the First World War, I spent a quiet hour exploring the area, and was humbled by all the names of the fallen on the Menin Gate Memorial. A





cup of tea was quietly enjoyed, and then it was time to return to Lille, and England, once more. Arriving home, and having to sadly miss the UKIAHS so that I could be at Knocke, it was on with the September edition. The deadline began the week before, when I was still in Poland, and it was good to get home and be able to focus on this issue. The Aachen/South African edition had Aljassimya Farm's yearling filly, Minwah (Kahil Al Shaqab x LC Primavera by Padrons

Psyche out of WN Samana) on the cover. This beautiful bay is already a Gold Champion winner, having taken the Yearling Filly title in Menton earlier this year. So feminine and refined, it was lovely to have Minwah grace our cover for the Aachen edition.

September - glorious, glorious horses!

By 4 September, the Aachen edition had gone off to print and I had a varied month ahead. The fun began with dad's birthday on 9 September, and I returned to my second love, that of cooking, to come up with a delicious three-course meal for he and mum to enjoy. We were meant to celebrate his birthday in Prague, but sadly the show there was cancelled; maybe next year.

Then it was off down to London for the annual *Horse in Art* exhibition, run by the Society of Equestrian Artists, where *The Arabian Magazine* was, once more, sponsoring a prize.

Held at The Mall Galleries, the art and sculpture in this year's show was very impressive and Debbie Dunbar SEA showed me around the exhibits. I then had the job of selecting my winner from the Arabian horse exhibits, and chose Neil McDonald SEA. His work, *Arab Mare* was, to my mind, captivating, and it was an honour to be able to present him with his award later that day.



Samantha presents Neil with his award.



Charlotte Barr with her homebred filly, Monaco Beau.

Somehow, September managed to pass without a deadline starting, and I made a trip down to one of our staff writers for the weekend. This was Charlotte Barr, and it was lovely to visit her stables and meet her horses. Her filly, Monaco Beau (Vivegas x Angelica Bint Ben Raja by Aja Ben Rajah out of Ross Estara), took the Futurity title at this year's British National Championships, and it was lovely to have a cuddle with her. Sadly, Charlotte lost Estara less than a month after my visit, and all our thoughts are with her and all that have lost a loved one this year. It never gets any easier...

By now, the end of September was approaching and that can only mean one thing - Aachen! The All Nations' Cup remains the best show on the circuit, with class after class of breathtakingly beautiful horses. From stallion power to the graceful femininity of the females, this show really is the best in terms of quality, depth, excitement, and the 'wow factor'.

Again, the report from this show was in the December edition but I



Ryan Jones shows the lovely Perfinka to Gold Junior Female Champion in Aachen.



Abha Qatar

QR Marc with Tom Schoukens

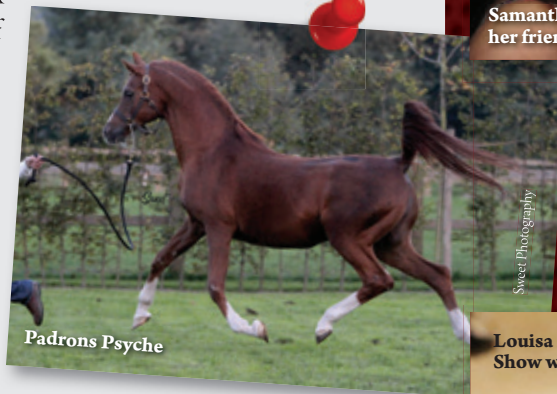
think, once again, the mare classes have to be the highlight. It was also lovely to watch Perfinka take the Gold Junior

Female title with Ryan Jones - congratulations all! The quality at this year's show was just incredible, and fun times were had by all.

From there, it was on to Belgium for what has become our annual post-Aachen tour. Taking with us a group from the UK - Jayne and James, Jane Fraser-Brown, Marilyn Sweet, and Brenda Marsh - mum, dad and I made our way to Jadem Arabians as our first stop. Christine Jamar is always so welcoming for this event, and it is the perfect way to relax after the excitement of the show. Again, I was commentating and it was lovely to present horses such as Abha Qatar (Marwan Al Shaqab x ZT Ludjkalba by Ludjin El Jamaal out of ZT Shakalba), who had taken another Gold Stallion Championship the day before.

From there, having persuaded fellow Brits Pat and Francesca Hannay, Amanda Holloway, and Val Jones to come on with us, we arrived at

Schoukens Training Center, where poor Tom had already started the commentary due to the delays on the roads on our part. This is where I really know that I have the best job in the world. Having introduced the successful show string, we came to the climax of the parade, which included the very popular stallions MCA Magnum Gold (Magnum Psyche x Litique by Litigator out of Thee Egyptian Angel), QR Marc (Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams by Magic Dream CAHR out of Kouream de Ment), and Eden C (Enzo x Silken Sable by Genesis C out of Touch o Mink), it was time for the finale. Then, it was the turn of the living legend himself, 25-year-old Padrons Psyche (Padron x Kilika by Tamerlan out of Kilifa), and I somehow managed not to cry as I saw him walking down towards the presentation area, and continue the introductions instead. What a moment! There was barely a dry eye in the house and Padrons Psyche certainly enjoyed his moment in the spotlight, just as much as we all enjoyed seeing him. Thank you Paul and Ria Gheysens for sharing him with us!



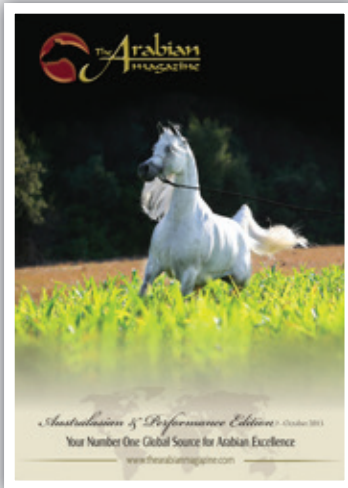
Padrons Psyche

Sweet Photography

All that remained for us to do was wander the barns, and then head to our hotel for the night for an evening of animated chatter about the most incredible and memorable of days.

October - celebrating the ridden

1 October saw us all return to the UK, and straight into a deadline. It was time for the annual Australasian edition, which this time ran alongside the performance issue. Al Shahania's mare Abha Opalina (WH Justice x Om El Amira Estopa by Sanadik el Shaklan out of Bint Estopa) graced the cover of this edition and I am sure that I am not alone in looking forward to seeing this beauty return to the show-ring at the World Championships in Paris.



Partway through the deadline, it was time for mum and me to make our way to the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) where *The Arabian Magazine* was, once

more, sponsoring the Pure-bred Ridden Arab Mare class. We turned up on the Thursday night to watch everyone riding in, which was great fun. Silvern Sheena, the mare that Alicia Bratby owns with Emily Cooper, made an emotional return to the HOYS arena, having recovered from a lameness that both ladies thought would be permanent. It was very moving to see both Alicia and Emily with Sheena as they stepped on to the hallowed sand. The classes themselves were exciting, and we were delighted that our



Samantha with her friend Diane.

friend, Louisa Biles, took the Pure-bred Ridden Arab Horse of the Year prize with Adawy – more about him on page 20! Having seen the October edition off to print, it was time to get into my car once more for more visits. My first stop was with my dear friend, Diane Bell, who I try to spend a weekend with once a year at her home just outside of Oldham. Having spent a lovely weekend with Diane, it was time to head down to South Wales, to Bychan Arabians, where I had two interviews to conduct. The first was with Sue Jones for the *What a Year!* feature, which is



Louisa Biles is thrilled as she wins at the Horse of the Year Show with Adawy.

Brenda Marsh

included in this edition. The second interview was with her son, Rod, and you would have read all about him in the December edition. The tail end of the year certainly gets very busy indeed! It was lovely to be there in Wales once more, especially having had to miss the annual Bychan open day due to our own event for the Crabbet Convention, and walking the barns with Sue remains a real treat. It was also



Samantha presenting the prize to Karaselle at the Horse of the Year Show.

Brenda Marsh

lovely to meet Rhydian, Sue's grandson, who was born a matter of days before my visit. Congratulations to Rhiannon and Stuart! Arriving home, I then had something slightly different to do – speak at my old high school as part of a Leadership Conference. Thankfully, talking about horses and my life with the magazine is something that comes naturally to me, and it was a very enjoyable, and different evening. Having firmly booked out the last



The Jones family welcomed Rhydian Howells (Stuart x Rhiannon) in October.



weekend of October as holiday, much time was spent watching the live stream from the European Championships. With so many live streams from shows around the world, it has made the need to travel a little less as you can enjoy these events from the comfort of your own front room – in my case, with a cat on my lap and a fire in the hearth!

I then went down to Romney Marsh to interview Beatrice Paine; again, you can read about that trip and her story in this edition. I must say, it is a privilege to be able to spend time with so many inspiring Arabian breeders the world over, and it is an honour for me to be able to share their stories. I really do hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy writing and researching them.

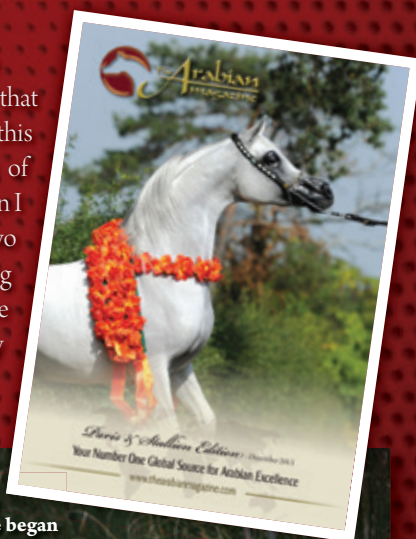
While visiting Mrs Paine, I was lucky enough to be taken to Poplars Hall, her old house, and visit the stable where Ben Rabba (Aurab x Rollicka by Sarolle out of Coalani) lived when he was in the UK, and also to see where his son, Aurelian (ex Estrella by Halma out of Rexbaya by Ibn Irex) was born. It was a very emotional moment, to stand there and sense the history all around you. I will always remember my visit to Mrs Paine.

November – long days

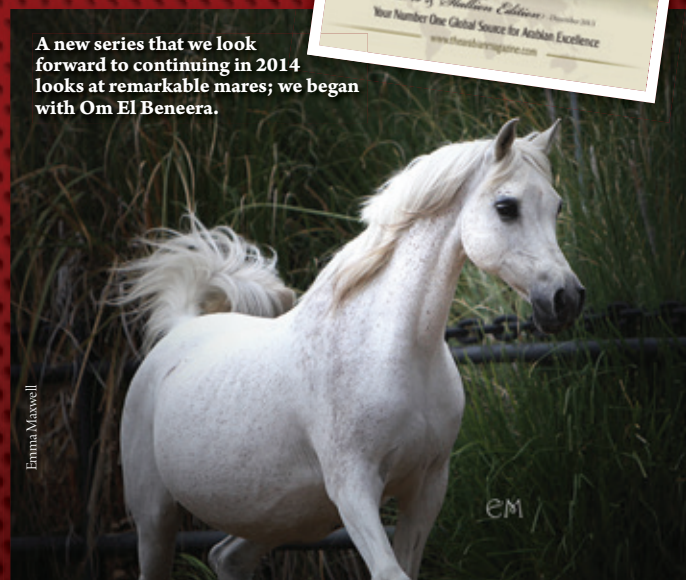
On to November! Anyone that knows me understands that this is my least favourite month of the year, and it is the time when I go into hibernation. We do two editions at once, the idea being that we can then have some time off in December to enjoy family time.



Samantha spent time with Beatrice Paine in October, discovering more about the Ben Rabba story.



A new series that we look forward to continuing in 2014 looks at remarkable mares; we began with Om El Beneera.



The month began, straight into the Paris edition, with the very successful Baanderos gracing the front cover. Within 15 days, we had put the whole edition together, and started on this issue that you are reading now. Within 11 days of the Paris edition going off, this, too, will be

going to print. It is quite remarkable when you think about it, especially as we are such a small team. Both Claire, the Artistic Editor, and myself have battled illness this month, but we still try our very best to bring you a decent magazine. We hope you enjoy...

This month will end with the drive over to Paris on 28 November, and then it's the World Championships. I can't wait!

December – the promise of Christmas

As for December, it looks like being a good month – hopefully with less illness than occurred last year! Sunday 1 December sees us enjoying championships day in Paris. Will Emandoria earn her Triple Crown? Who will triumph in the stallions? And how will Perfinka get on in the tough Junior Female section? We will bring you the full report in the February edition.

The rest of the month will be spent with our horses, spending time in London for my mum's birthday, visiting friends and family, and lots of baking and making of Christmas treats!

The Arabian Magazine offices will close their doors on 19 December, and open again on Monday 6 January 2014; I wonder what the New Year will bring?

Looking back, it seems that I have done less travelling than usual this year but it has still been a very busy time. Merlin Cat has kept me company in the office all year, and we have continued to develop *The Arabian Magazine Online*. I have many new ideas in place for 2014, and I am looking forward to this precious time off so that I can clear my head and be ready to start all over again in January. A month in Australia beckons, as will trips to various shows and studs around the world. As much as I would love to be everywhere, I sadly can't, and decisions will need to be made on which events I can feasibly do. If you have read this and felt inspired, and would like your story to be part of *The Arabian Magazine's* journey in 2014, then please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

However, there is the promise of Christmas to look forward to first, and I am very much looking forward to spending this most precious of times with friends, family, the cats and, above all, the horses.

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all a very happy Christmas with your friends and loved ones – two and four-legged! – and here's to a wonderful 2014 for us all. I look forward to sharing your adventures through the pages of this magazine once more, and I thank you all sincerely for the support you have given me over the years.

Will see you all on the flip side -

"Happy New Year to you all" xx 🐾

