

STOP PRESS!

"December in Sweden"

Photo by Colin Barker

THE ***50TH ANNIVERSARY*** CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE!

With your help, this Limited Edition, self-funded Calendar will raise funds to set up the **CASPIAN GENE BANK**. It features Caspians in many countries, stunningly photographed by Colin Barker. The presentation of a Calendar has been accepted by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh.

2016 is not far away - this wonderful project needs *your* support *now*!
Buy the poster-sized Calendar as a superb and unique Christmas present for someone you love...
...treat yourself, or share its twelve beautiful (and frame-able) prints with friends.

VISIT www.caspianproductions.co.uk to see the VIDEO, hear actor MARTIN CLUNES talk about the Caspian's history and to PREVIEW and BUY the CALENDAR!

THE CASPIAN

MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

The 4th International Caspian Conference at Rasht, Iran
The Breed Show at Anzali
Ashby Show Results
News from Breeders and Owners ... and much more!

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THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER - Ruth Staines

This 50th Anniversary Year has been an eventful one for the Society, even though we were only able to make an appearance with our stand at one show, Ashby, where we also held our annual Caspian classes. However, members old and new were out and about with their Caspians, at shows, driving competitions and endurance rides (reports in the magazine).

The event of the year was, of course, the International Caspian Conference hosted by the Equestrian Federation of Iran in early September. A number of members attended and it was good to meet Caspian enthusiasts from Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, USA, Canada, Oman and of course, Iran. The hospitality was second to none and the enthusiasm for the breed in its native country was wonderful to see. The Breed Show had around 80 entries, of a generally high standard.

Talks ranged from a photographic tribute to Louise, through registration matters and stallion licensing to genetic research and artificial insemination. We were also treated to trips after the lectures in the Gilan Province (on the Southern shores of the Caspian Sea) where the host town of Rasht is situated. We only encountered two problems – too much food and too little time for much-needed discussions with the delegates.

Brenda is now working with the Registrar in Iran on the inevitably lengthy procedure of identifying Caspians for inclusion in the Iranian Stud Book.

Finally, the eagerly anticipated Caspian Calendar is now on sale from www.caspianproductions.co.uk. The launch was held at Asia House in Mayfair, London, hosted by the Iranian Heritage Foundation. It was attended by CHS members from UK and Europe, guests from the equestrian and veterinary worlds and many Iranians. It was introduced by the IHF's CEO Dr John Curtis (late of the British Museum where he co-curated the exhibition on the horse in 2012). Liz Webster gave a brief history of the Caspian over the last 50 years and Farokh explained both the concept and the purpose of the Calendar. Guests were then treated to an exhibition of the stunning photographs produced for the calendar by Colin Barker.

It is hard to describe the amount of intricate work that has gone into this calendar and it has to be seen to be believed.

It will make a very special Christmas present, which can be treasured for many years to come, as it has been designed so that each fabulous print can be framed to grace your walls.



As the magazine is just going to press we have heard of the sad death of Michael Thomas, who many of you will remember as a charming man, always ready to help with Caspians. We send our thoughts and condolences to his daughter Naomi and her family at this sad time.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

CO-EDITORS -

Vicki Shortis and Elizabeth Webster

Another year has flown by! 2015 is the 50th year since the Caspian Horse was rediscovered by the late Louise Firouz. For many reasons it has been a memorable year, as you will discover as you read through the magazine. We have articles from several owners telling us about their experiences, which always make interesting reading.

As you will see, there are two important themes in this issue of 'The Caspian', as well as reports on the International Conference and Show. The first is that purchasing an Anniversary Calendar will hugely help to preserve the Caspian breed and the second is that producing working, schooled and performing Caspians is our best way into a rewarding market for breeders. The economic recession has reduced the number of foals being bred recently, so now that the Calendar has opened the doorway, we urgently need Caspians ready to meet demand!!!

It's sad that we couldn't continue to print and post the previous version of the magazine, but we hope you will like the new A4 layout via email. We hope you will agree that the money saved on print and postage can be better spent on greater promotion of the Caspian. For those without access to emails, or who request a printed copy, we will be happy to print and post it to you. Either way, to make sure that you get your magazines and newsletters, please ensure that Pat Bowles has your

current postal and email addresses. It's an extra-big issue this time, with much exciting news to tell you!

Your editors would love to hear from you if you have any contributions, which would be of benefit to the Caspian Horse, for inclusion in the Spring issue.

We wish members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. To Caspian owners - we hope you have lots of success and fun with your Caspian - and please remember to take your camera and let us know about it!

(For those who wish to print out and keep the Caspian magazine in A4 size, Ryman Stationery (office suppliers), sell the ideal binder. The covers are clear, strong plastic and the hinge side has a central clip. Pull this out to place your pages in and then push the clip back to bind them. No holes to be punched! They cost £1.89, ref. 0499030830 and will hold up to 30 pages. (Visit www.ryman.co.uk to obtain from the internet. For free delivery there is a minimum order value.) Liz

REGISTRAR'S REPORT - Ruth Staines

I am about to register two colt foals and a filly in UK, a filly from Belgium, and a filly and part bred colt in the Netherlands. Three stallions in the Netherlands have gained licences.

The CHS is now the *ONLY* DEFRA recognised Caspian Society in UK and the only UK society to be eligible for listing in the International Caspian Stud Book. It now manages passports issued by the Caspian Breed Society.

I urge breeders to check the Rules and Regulations (which can be found on the website) and to use up-to-date forms for registration, passports, transfers and stallion licences – which I can supply on request, as EU Rules and Regulations change from time to time, especially post horse meat scandal. For example, next year the ID form for the passport application may change to comply with a new passport layout. Please contact me *BEFORE* you act! It may prevent many of the problems which can arise with incorrect paperwork.

I feel the X section of the CHS and ICS Studbooks needs explanation. This was brought about when EU regulations required that all 'pure bred' animals must be entered in their breed register, even if they were not bred according to the society rules. CHS and ICSB rules require a stallion to be licensed before covering a mare. If this is not the case, even if the stallion subsequently receives a licence the resulting foal and all its progeny will be placed in the X register, with an X shown before its registration number. Appeals may only be made in exceptional circumstances.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Pat Bowles MBE

We have gained *fourteen* new CHS members this year, our best intake yet! We extend a warm CHS welcome to you all! Let's hope we will meet some of you at a Caspian event in 2016. CHS now has well over 100

members! It's hard to tell you the exact number because a few people have still not adjusted their Standing Orders to pay on 1st April each year – so if this applies to you, I would be most grateful if you could see to that straight away to save us administrative problems.

If you have merely forgotten to send payment for your 2015 subscription, I look forward to receiving it as soon as possible! We would like to keep sending you our newsletters and magazines, so we really hope you will want to stay with us and keep supporting the Caspian!

TREASURER'S REPORT - John Sansome

The Society always needs to raise funds and the great new intake of members certainly helps. As we are a charity, it also increases the possibility of raising more for CHS via Gift Aid. So, once again, if you are a UK taxpayer, please make sure you have given us permission to apply for it in your name. If you need a form I can send it to you, or please complete the Gift Aid form when you join CHS and thank you for supporting the Caspian Horse.

The website easyfundraising.org.uk is another easy way to raise money for CHS. Like Gift Aid it won't cost you a penny extra. Just go through their website when you buy from most well-known retailers on the internet.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Angela Davies

I took on the role of temporary Secretary in October 14 and following the death of Rosemary Harris, I was nominated as CHS Company Secretary and elected to this role at the AGM in May. Most of this year has been taken up by meeting our Council members, accustoming myself to how CHS does its business and finding ways to improve communication with members through the latest technology.

I have been working with Pat Bowles and Ruth Staines to create a new database for memberships and helping to amend the Constitution, following votes taken among CHS members at the AGM. This has involved correspondence with the Charities Commission. I have also met a few of our general members and very much enjoyed being present at the AGM and the Launch of the Anniversary Calendar in London in early October.

Both our NEWSLETTER and MAGAZINE are now sent out to members by email. If you have not received one, or know of somebody else who did not receive one, please contact pat.bowles@btinternet.com to make sure that we have your current email address. Those without email will receive the magazine by post. Archived copies of past newsletters and magazines can be seen on our website.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Caspian Horse Society. No part of the magazine may be copied or reproduced in any form without the written permission of the Caspian Horse Society. Under the Data Protection Act (1984), members should be aware that their details may be held on computer in accordance with the Act. This information will be used for circulating Society material and the compilation of member lists and is not released to outside organisations.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The Annual General Meeting for 2015 was held on Sunday 17th May at Long Close Gardens, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, by kind invitation of Mr John Oakland. John's garden is a National Gardening Club favourite. He maintains the garden virtually single-handed and generously opens it for charity in summer.



Long Close Gardens. Photo by Elizabeth Webster

In the official business, John Sansome was again voted in as temporary Treasurer and Angela Davies was voted in as our new Company Secretary.

Amendments to the Constitution included matters concerning Trustees, passed at the 2000 AGM and agreed with the Charities Commission but not incorporated into the Articles, plus the use of electronic notification to members. All were passed unanimously.

In her Chairman's Report, Ruth Staines lamented the deaths of five notable breeders in the last year. She spoke of the 50th Anniversary since Louise found the Caspian and the International Conference and Calendar which will mark the occasion. Our magazine would now be emailed to members to save funds for other promotion and our website had been redesigned and now carried far more information and photographs of the Caspian. Members had been showing their Caspians and CHS expected to take the stand to three shows this summer.

On breeding - two more foundation bloodlines had been added from stock imported to Hungary. Henden and Lanhill Studs had closed. CHS is now the only DEFRA approved Caspian Society in the UK and officially administers passports issued by the Caspian Breed Society. She was pleased that more foals were due this summer in both UK and Europe, as little breeding had been done during the financial recession.

The Constitution was being over-hauled and updated. Our Patron, Ateshe Firouz-Larsson, was warmly thanked for organising the Conference in Iran, as was Brenda Dalton for her unceasing work for the International Caspian Society. The members of CHS Council were praised for their hard work for CHS. Lastly, John Sansome was thanked for continuing to stand in as Treasurer while we look for his replacement and Angela Davies was welcomed as our new Secretary.

Questions from the floor dealt with the financial provisions required for the proposed Sperm Bank and the serious lack of schooled Caspians available to meet

the increased interest now being shown.

Council members provided a delicious buffet lunch for the sixteen members and guests. After lunch, guest speaker Dr Mim Bower gave a fascinating talk on 'Ancient DNA and the History of Horse Husbandry in Central Asia', which gave us Caspian enthusiasts a new understanding of its place in equine development.

Sadly, little time remained to walk around the gardens, not least because by then it was raining, but they were hugely admired by those who did.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Ashby Show, by Janet Dedicoat

The morning of Ashby Show 2015 filled me with dread. The weather was horrid, so different to last year. We had competitors and helpers travelling huge distances to support this annual gathering for Caspian Horse owners to exhibit their stock, at a show that is still new to the breed. Our numbers are always small, but the Committee of Ashby Show is helpful and encouraging, irrespective of our entries.

This year the entries were promising across the board, with much to look forward to - an opportunity for like-minded people to meet and chat about Caspians. But would they look at the weather and decide to give it a miss? Who could blame them?

I got my yard ship-shape and our two Caspians ready to travel. The rain was horizontal and so heavy that I could hardly cross the yard to the lorry with the stallion. He dug his toes in defiantly against going anywhere, completely out of character. After a short battle I thought better of it and loaded the little Darkhorse waif, who was happy to oblige. As Show Secretary, I had vital paperwork and needed to be on the showground, hoping that others would turn up.

I set off for Ashby. With the windscreen wipers barely clearing the water, we battled up the motorway against aquaplaning vehicles and traffic hold-ups. Then the remarkable happened...the rain stopped, the sun came out and the rest is history.



A Shetland competitor shelters from the early rain at the CHS stand, with Mr John Oakland, Liz Webster and John Sansome. Photo by Ruth Staines.

A wonderful display of horses, exhibitors from near and far and well-supported classes! There was plenty of variety for our judge, Mr Ian Woodward, who had to work hard to select his prize winners. To have more variety in the ring was so interesting and rewarding. Mr Woodward is an experienced Arab and Caspian judge. He had a different view as to what he was looking for and gave the reasons why he placed each horse - refreshing ideas, different opinions.



Rachel Shere with her Champion mare Edcombe Cassima, Darkhorse Inshalla in the background. Photo by Ruth Staines

I feel that all those who braved the elements had a wonderful show, with a great atmosphere, lots to chat about and a chance to have their stock judged by an experienced international eye. Well worth the effort. Keep supporting. Upwards and onwards for 10/7/2016!

RESULTS FROM ASHBY SHOW

Judge: Mr Ian Woodward

Licensed Caspian Stallion/Gelding:

1. Runnymede Felfel (Penny Walster)
2. Kinton Khoja (Nichola Waddicor)
3. Bytham Justin Time (Penny Walster)
4. Revilo Jericho (Rebecca Mann)

Caspian Mare/Brood Mare/Mare with Foal at Foot:

1. Edcombe Cassima (Rachel Shere)
2. Lanhill Antimay (Angela Leadbetter)
3. Lanhill Alima (Harry Thirlby)
4. Edcombe Amethyst (Rosie Mann)

Part-Bred Caspian, any Sex/Age:

1. Bytham Lindsay (Penny Walster)
2. Edcombe Asparag (Rebecca Mann)

Ridden Pure or Part-Bred Caspian, any Age/Sex:

1. Kinton Khoja (Nichola Waddicor)
2. Darkhorse Inshallah (Olwen and Lizzie Sales)

Champion: Edcombe Cassima (R Shere)

Reserve Champion: Runnymede Felfel (P Walster)

Best Turned Out: Bytham Lindsay (P Walster)

Best Young Rider: Lizzie Sales, 10 years old

Best Young Handler: Ruby Roden (9 years old)



Congratulations to you all!

Tell Helen Thirlby where you'll be showing - you could qualify for a Highest Placed Caspian Rosette! (Two weeks' notice needed please)

PERFORMANCE POINTS WINNER 2015

Our winner this year is RACHEL SHERE, whose lovely 8 yr old bay mare, EDCOMBE CASSIMA, has earned 93 points for her performance at four shows and events this year! Her score was much boosted by her Championship win at Ashby, which earns double points. Cassie is by Henden Noah out of Henden Morgantina.



Photo by Brenda Dalton

In 2nd place is Nichola Waddicor's KINTON KHOJA, with 72 points. Tied in 3rd place are Angela Leadbetter with LANHILL ANTIMAY and Olwen Sales with DARKHORSE INSHALLAH, (see article by Olwen) who both have 36 points.

Rachel will be receiving our Points for Performance special rosette and sash with our warmest congratulations. Well done to them all for showing off their Caspians and promoting the breed!

We would very much like to encourage – no, *exhort!* – *all* our owners to take their Caspians out and about, whether pure or part-bred. Caspians cannot promote the breed from a stable or a paddock! If they are not seen at events, preferably being ridden or driven and performing as we KNOW they can, nobody will be aware of them or willing to buy them for performance.

Remember to get them seen in action wherever possible. Let us know where you have been and how you got on. We need photographs for the Website Gallery too!

POINTS CARDS FOR 2016

Performance Points cards for next year can be obtained from Helen Thirlby. Apply for them in February so you are ready to record the whole Spring and Summer's worth of events with your horse.

Visit the CHS website for more photographs of Ashby
www.caspianhorsesociety.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 2016

January	Winter Council Meeting (Skype)
March	Spring Council Meeting (Shawell)
April 1 st	Copy deadline for 'The Caspian' magazine
May	'Meet the Caspian Day' at Gt. Horwood, Bucks., for the Iran Heritage Foundation
June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
July	Summer Council Meeting (Shawell)
July 10 th	Caspian Classes – Ashby Show, Leics.
October 1 st	Copy deadline for 'The Caspian' magazine
October	Autumn Council Meeting (Shawell)
<i>Venues, dates and any additional events will be notified in the March Newsletter, 2016 and on the website.</i>	

LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Brenda Dalton

The Conference in Iran was a great success. It was evident just how seriously the Equestrian Federation are taking the revival of the Caspian breed and we were surprised at the amount of work that is being carried out.

The esteemed photographer Henry Dallal, a friend of the Firouz family, and Touran Reddaway, a granddaughter of Louise, opened the Conference with a very moving photographic exhibition and film of Louise's life. Also taking part were representatives from Cornell University, USA, The West Kington Stud, UK, University of Gent, Belgium, and various laboratories, Universities and government offices in Iran. There were also speakers on registration, stallion licensing, the horse's mind and a very well received talk on Caspian performance by Margareta Lindahl from Sweden.



Mr Hasan Rokni, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, presents a rug to Brenda Dalton, with Ateshe Firouz Larsson and her brother Caren. Photo by Henry Dallal

A large number of horses of Caspian type attended the breed show and again it was evident that these had been filtered to ensure that only entries from suitable animals were entered. It was encouraging to see the improvement in standard of the younger horses, particularly the stallions. It was fitting on this 50th anniversary that stock bred by the Firouz family won the yearling and 4-6 year old stallion classes. The classes were decided on points from three judges. The third judge was the renowned Iranian judge, Mr. Babak Shaki.

Three assessors were also required to decide on Caspian type. The third assessor, Mr. Ebrahimpour, had worked with Louise for many years. It was encouraging that his thoughts were similar to those of Elizabeth Webster and mine. A great deal more work now needs to be done.

Thank you to all who sent their good wishes for the Conference. I would like to pass on the gratitude of the organisers to those who sponsored many parts of the event.

To see an Iranian press presentation on Caspians click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd87cWqK6L4>

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: A few members are 'out of kilter' with the payment dates of their Standing Orders (and a few with cash/cheques too!). All Annual subscriptions are due each 1st April once you have joined CHS (unless you joined after January 1st, in which case you can miss that year). We would be grateful if you would now make sure you have paid your 2015 subscription and changed your bank arrangements to pay your Standing Order on 1st April as from 2016. Thanks so much for your support.

CASPIANS ON DISPLAY AT ANZALI

Ateshe Firouz-Larsson

Day three of the 4th International Conference of the Caspian Horse dawned with much anticipation. For two days we had listened to fascinating talks about the Caspian, but except for a brief encounter during the workshops, we hadn't seen any live Caspians. Despite a late start, the bus transporting the foreign delegates and speakers to the 'Caspian Breed Show and Beauty Pageant' at the TakTaz Equestrian Centre was positively buzzing with excitement. The venue looked stunning in the bright sun of the Rasht morning. The stands were packed and we were greeted as enthusiastically as we had been on previous days.

There were almost 80 entries on the day and the breed show started off with the foal class, first of nine classes. A pre-assessment had been carried out to limit the number of entries. Furthermore, many of the Caspian horses that had competed in previous breed shows were not entered on this day.



The quality of the entries was very high, especially amongst the younger horses. This made the judging all the more difficult, especially as an assessment of the horses for entry into the stud book was being carried out simultaneously.

The young stock classes drew many crowds and there was much excitement among the entries as young studs showed their paces. More than a dozen entries filed into the arena for the 2-3 year old males. The handlers had a very hard time containing their young competitors' exuberance on many an occasion, as the colts vied for the attention of the crowds. It must have been very hard to pick out a winner, given the overall quality of the horses.



The 4-6 year old male class was won by the stallion Persian Firouz Rostam, bred by Caren Firouz from Kocholoo out of Maple,

Male Champion was the veteran stallion Bairam, owned by TakTaz. The young mare class was also of great interest, with many high quality mares. The Female Champion was Mahnaz, owned by Mr. Assemi, who recently acquired the last horses of the Khojir breeding herd, sold as a result of funding problems. This was the herd acquired by the Jihad from Louise Firouz many years ago. When I asked Mr Assemi about his plans for the Caspians, he replied that he wanted first and foremost for the herd to receive proper care.



*There were good entries for the Young Mare class.
Photo by Nanda Smit-le-Poole*

Caspians are being used more than ever in the numerous equestrian centres throughout the country. Although not organised into any cohesive bodies such as pony clubs, a number of riding schools are now specialising in teaching children.



At the start of the breed show, the young riders of the Taktaz Equestrian Centre took their mounts through their paces. Photo © Caren Firouz



Between classes there was also a very moving exhibition by Ghazaleh Montazam and her dedicated team working with Caspians and disabled children.

Many of the issues facing Caspian breeders and owners in Iran are familiar ones. Lack of a vibrant market makes it very difficult to sustain long-term breeding. There is also much that can be done in the way of promoting training and care programs, simple veterinary advice such as good worming schemes, proper foot care and nutrition. Most importantly, the market could be stimulated by pony clubs and competitions designed to

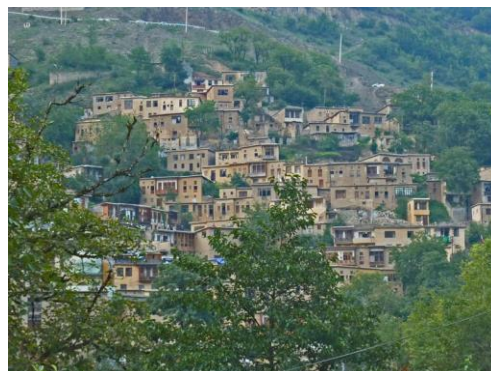
encourage riding on Caspians and ponies in general. This would help the new generation of riders tremendously, as they would be able to acquire the basics of correct horsemanship.

While the Western countries have grappled with economic crises and downsizing Caspian breeding operations, there is no doubt that there is a renewed pride and appreciation of the Caspian in Iran. Perhaps it is the international isolation of Iran that has encouraged Iranians to appreciate one of the world's equine treasures and to take steps to ensure that it is preserved for generations to come. The Equestrian Federation of Iran hosted an event of international calibre, with some of the world's leading experts in the fields of genetics and reproduction techniques. This is a clear indication that they consider the Caspian to be a very important part of the country's equine heritage.

(Photos 1, 2 & 5 from Touran Reddaway & Ateshe Firouz-Larsson). To see the Iranian news coverage of the event, visit <http://presstv.ir/Video/2015/09/10/428603/Iran-anniversary-Caspian-horse-rediscovery>

SHIRAZ, PERSEPOLIS, ESFAHAN, KASHAN... Brenda Dalton

Ruth Staines, John Sansome and I had chosen to break the five hour journey from Rasht to Tehran by re-visiting Masouleh, an ancient village on a mountainside in Gilan where the roofs of one avenue of shops and houses perform the function of road for the next level. Our Conference hosts had treated us to a trip to Masouleh at the end of the second day, when the lights lent a magical appearance to the mountain. During the daytime we saw a different perspective to this quaint and ancient village where crystallized fruits, honeycomb, herbs and village crafts were displayed in abundance. Our tourist status seemed to allow us preferential parking, a privilege that our English speaking guides and drivers managed to acquire for us many times over the next few days.



Masouleh mountain village

Once again we were warmly welcomed by the local people and Iranian tourists alike and this welcome was extended throughout our entire visit to the country.

Our English-speaking driver helped us through check-in for the flight to Shiraz, where we found EhsAn, our next guide for the journey to the Pars Hotel. Conference

business kept us up until after 11 p.m. EhsAn was still hard at work.

We had arranged an early morning start to Persepolis to avoid the worst of the day's heat and to stand, finally, on the vast elevated platform that supports the complex of halls and palaces of Takht-e-Jamshid as it is known in Iran. It felt quite surreal and emotive for me, having intended to visit Persepolis with Louise.



Iranian guides Maryam and EhsAn at Persepolis, with Brenda Dalton and John Sansome. Photo by Ruth Staines

EhsAn was joined by Maryam, whose detailed description of the many stone reliefs meant that, although it was difficult to take it all in during one visit, we could almost breathe the grandeur and history of the ancient Palace. The remains of seating from the Celebrations of 2,500 years of the Peacock Throne were still visible, as was the white stone that evidenced the fire started by Alexander the Great. Our main focus was the grand Apadana Staircase depicting the tribute bearers, whose gifts included what Louise believed was the Caspian horse. In fact we found six different types of small horse, one being smaller than the others and one having originated in Europe!

Although we left Persepolis with reluctance, this was short-lived. Only a short distance away, we came to Naqsh-e-Rostam, where the tombs of Darius, Artaxerxes and Darius II were built high in perpendicular rock. In the centre at the base of the cliff is the famous Sasanian relief of Shapur I. Those of you who have read Christina Dodwell's 'A Traveller on Horseback' will have seen a photo of her riding past this relief, though it isn't possible to get so close today.

Following another sampling of Iran's delicious cuisine, we visited the tombs of two of Iran's best loved poets, Saadi and Hafez. We passed several well-known landmarks in this beautiful city, including the Quran Gate and the fabulous Shiraz Hotel and, interestingly, the Nemazee Hospital, in which Nancy Firouz had played an important part in the construction whilst he and Louise lived near Shiraz. We couldn't go back to the hotel without sampling the award winning Shiraz ice cream to which our guides treated us, sharing with us their preferred choice with the consistency of tiny worms! Our chosen flavour was rosewater, which we had already enjoyed in crushed ice form in Rasht, as a refreshing drink at Persepolis and found to be a speciality in Kashan.

It was easy to see why the Nasir-ol-Molk mosque we visited the following morning was a favourite of EhsAn.

The intricate facets of the tiled ceilings were fascinating, but the colours thrown by the stained glass windows across the walls and floors of this mosque were spectacular and the building had been planned so that the light threw a perfect sharp reflection in the courtyard pool from any angle.



Pasargadae, the tomb of Cyrus.

The next location on our itinerary was Pasargadae, the tomb of Cyrus, where his body was laid in a golden coffin in 530BC, situated on the road from Shiraz to Esfahan and breaking the five hour journey to the next city on our trip. The site also hosts the ruins of his Palaces which, unlike those of Darius, are within 'visiting' distance rather than combined and they are undergoing similar restoration.

Our guide had stopped at one of the many roadside fruit sellers and had bought pomegranates, which he proceeded to 'peel' for us to accompany another delicious meal during the only short fall of rain that we experienced in our entire stay in Iran.

Another 'find' on our journey was a Caspian-type pony tethered at the roadside within a Qashqai nomad encampment. At first outraged by our interference, they soon became friendly when EhsAn explained why we had stopped and Ruth spent several minutes showing their small son how to take photographs with her camera.



The Music Room in the Ali Qapu Palace, Esfahan. The openwork allows sound to circulate around behind it.

Finding the hotel in Esfahan was an experience in itself. Just as in all the other towns and cities, traffic poured into four lanes from either side; bicycles carrying families, zooming motor bikes, cars and buses all took

their chances at filtering into what was now the rush hour stream, with only a horn to signal their intentions. EhsAn hadn't been to this particular hotel before but took it in his stride as he stopped in the heaving traffic to ask other motorists if they knew where it was. No-one seemed to mind waiting and everyone seemed to have a different idea of where he could find it.



In this deeply religious city we were again greeted extremely warmly. Kashan is also noted for distilling rosewater, which we found waiting for us at an exquisite small hotel, one of the historical houses of Kashan. Nine rooms, with doors neatly hidden from view, surrounded a quaint indoor courtyard overlooked by yet another excellent restaurant.

It was worth the wait. Our previous accommodation had been impressive, but this huge glittering hotel was a former caravanserai and had rooms round all four sides of an enormous courtyard filled with pools, fountains, bridges and dining tables. The Abbasi Hotel is featured in a YouTube video 'The Beautiful and Historic City of Isfahan/Esfahan, Iran', although an impressive golden stallion had been added to the foot of the staircase for our visit.

We were sad to say a final goodbye to EhsAn of whom, in such a short time, we had become very fond. Our next guide was waiting in the hotel foyer and, while we checked in and handed over our passports, he arranged the embarkation of our bags. We just had time to visit the famous covered Si-o-Seh Pol (Bridge of 33 arches), along with many Iranian tourists. They seemed genuinely delighted to meet us and asked to have photographs taken with us, much to the annoyance of our guide, who was anxious to show us more of the city before an early night and an early start the next day.

We started our tour of Esfahan at the huge Friday Mosque, one of the largest in Iran. We passed the site of the vast bazaar, which is being rebuilt after suffering a hit during the Iran/Iraq war – we were pleased to see traditional brick building methods were being employed.

The centre of Esfahan is the huge Imam Square, filled with fountains and gardens and surrounded by mosques, bazaars, shops and the Ali Qapu Palace, which was built by Shah Abbas. Like that of King Darius, it was built by workers who were paid a fair wage. Sleek horses pulled buggies for tourists round the square where they had once played polo, a sport which is often depicted on the lovely miniature paintings worked on camel bone in some of the surrounding shops. Ruth and I succumbed, as we all did at the premises of one of the beautiful enamel-ware painters. Together with the beaten silver and table cloths which we saw being made, they make breath-taking displays in the bazaars. Our original driver between Rasht and Tehran had kindly agreed to keep some of our luggage because of a discrepancy between the weight we could carry internationally and within Iran. He now reunited us with it as he was our driver and guide between Esfahan and Tehran, visiting Kashan to break another long journey on the way.

Here we visited Fin Garden (*photo, top, by Brenda Dalton*), the oldest Persian garden in existence and primarily a water garden. The feature works on the qanat system, which originated in Iran, feeding water from a spring on the hillside without the need for expensive and unreliable mechanical means.

A four a.m. start on the final morning was accompanied by a packed breakfast. For the consumption of this, our driver somehow managed to acquire VIP tables in the equivalent of one of our motorway cafes, which normally only allowed the consumption of food purchased from the establishment. The management kindly added bread and other accompaniments to our already ample breakfast. The arrangement by our Conference hosts for our departure from the CIP lounge made the perfect relaxing end to our trip. All we had to do was to carry our hand baggage on board and fly home. (*Photos 1,3,4 and 5 supplied by Brenda Dalton*)

To see the Programme and some of the papers presented at the International Conference, visit the Iranian website (Douran Portal). Works best if you paste the link into your search bar, rather than click on it. Once on the site, you should be able to right click for translation (which is somewhat incomplete...)

<http://www.caspianhorse50cnf.ir>

For Iranian publicity, visit

<http://www.presstv.ir/Video/2015/09/10/428603/Iran-anniversary-Caspian-horse-rediscovery>

NEWS FROM CASPIAN BREEDERS & OWNERS...

Olwen Sales reports: Darkhorse Inshallah is an 11:2hh, 14 year old gelding (by Darkhorse Karoun, out of Dam Winstay Bist O Yek). He has been ridden by Lizzie Sales (aged 10 years) for almost 3 years. Inshallah is a pleasure to own and will stand patiently for hours to be bathed, groomed and plaited.



Darkhorse Inshallah and Lizzie Sales

Lizzie is a member of the Ludlow Hunt Pony Club and takes Inshallah regularly to pony club rallies and pony club camp. She also competes in endurance and in July 2015 Inshallah completed a total of 40 miles at the Lindum Festival of Endurance, qualifying for the Pony Club Championships in the process.

Lizzie has also started to do some show jumping and he is proving to be an accurate, enthusiastic jumper. Their

visit to the Caspian Show at Ashby in July 2015 was their first attempt at showing (both in-hand and ridden); they had a great time and are looking forward to next year.
Eds.: Olwen is Managing Director of 'In the Saddle' which organises worldwide riding holidays
www.inthesaddle.com

EDCOMBE STUD, Somerset - Rebecca Mann

Rebecca has recently loaned a young Caspian gelding to Philippa Williams to break in and work with as part of her therapy for children and adults with psychological problems.

A supervised research project investigating the relationships between horses and their riders is being carried out at the University of Buckingham. Philippa has asked riders, owners and grooms to fill out a survey as part of a new branch of research. Each response will add new findings to the psychological knowledge of the equestrian industry. To find out more, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8ZT5JN6>

Dick Kearley, of DIMAR CASPIANS, Florida, has been telling us about the 'Multi-Hitch Demo' they gave at shows a few years ago. He also gave an insight into the occasional ups and downs of driving multiple hitches! (We have featured Dick's training diaries in past issues of 'The Caspian')

On October 15th, 2007, his Caspians gave the Multiple Hitch Demonstration at the National Drive, in Kentucky Horse Park. The Demo started with Arman, a single Caspian, driven by a novice.

Then with the experienced Bob Gyles at the reins, the stallion Kiyan was added (who liked to bite his partner during hitching unless restrained!). They were driven first as a Pair and then as a Tandem team.



A third horse - Triumph – soon joined them to make a Unicorn.

At times the horses were deliberately allowed to become entangled, to demonstrate how the intelligent Caspians can sort themselves out!

Finally a fourth horse was to make it a Four-in-Hand, all with a running commentary by Bob. Sounds complex and interesting enough already, but then it got a little too exciting! Dick and his helpers knew that the fourth horse, Onyx, could sometimes fire off when being hitched, so they had chosen a knowledgeable and calm horseman to bring him in and hold him.

You can see what happened (*top right*)!



A novel opening gambit from Onyx

Dick tells us now: "I am not driving like I was seven or eight years ago, but I have added some new horses to the hitch. Arman is still the rock and is in most combinations. Onyx is still the best leader. I'm trying to get Kiyan, who is now a gelding, to take on the role of second lead horse, but he is still messing around and is WAY too slow on his responses to keep up with Onyx. We hitched the four with the two of them on lead and darned if we didn't end up running into a few trees because he was just not responding to the rein cues fast enough. At least he works in the team without biting now. I've also got two stout horses for wheelers. Catch and Cappy have good size and mass and move the load just fine, but they will never be leaders, because they lack the spark of greatness. We last drove about two months ago, but now we are in the heat of summer and it is just too much to sweat through the harnessing. With luck I'll be back at it in the fall."



The Four-in-Hand team (including a now reformed Onyx) at the end of the demo. All photos courtesy of Dick Kearley

HOLLOWAY STUD – Harry Thirlby, Leics.

After sending two mares away to Barbara Smathers for covering last year, we were very pleased to welcome their fantastic foals this summer. Lanhill Minoo had a beautiful and very rare red dun filly by Arjuna Zarrin Shah on 17th June, who we have named Harriet. Not wanting to feel left out, Bytham Parimetta then foaled much earlier than expected, producing a striking bay colt, known as Brian, by Arjuna Amir Shahdi on the 27th! We are very happy with both of these foals.

The plan is that Harriet will be retained as a future broodmare, although we would ideally like to see her out under saddle at some point too. Brian is proving to be a slightly tougher decision, as we'd love to see him go



on to be a ridden gelding, but also think that he could offer something to the breed as a stallion - which seems to be his favoured option judging by his current behaviour! That decision will have to be made this winter.

Breeding foals for next year has not been so successful, as the original plan to breed all three of our empty mares has resulted in only one being in foal. After much time, effort and expense it was eventually too late and too logistically challenging to cover the two mares again, despite the vet declaring that they both looked entirely reproductively sound. Hopefully they'll have more success next year. However we are very pleased to confirm that Lanhill Alima is scanned in-foal to Vicki Shortis' lovely chestnut stallion Costessa Kassam and we are eagerly awaiting the foal's arrival in early April!

Planning for next year is still in its early stages, but with multiple empty broodmares here, various possible stallions to use on them from all corners of the country and three 3 year olds that need starting under saddle, I'm sure we'll be kept very busy!

Helen Thirlby, Leics.

The mares Bytham Star and Bathleyhills Aluhla are currently turned out with Poppy, my old cob mare. Star is a six year old pure bred mare. In the spring she will possibly be put in foal and/or backed by an excellent young rider that I have discovered in the village! Star is loyal and extremely trainable (as long as she thinks you know what you are doing!)



Young mares Holloway Mahvash, Holloway Pareevash and Bathleyhills Amenable. Photo by Elizabeth Webster.

Aluhla (Amelia) is a four year old part-bred. She is by Penny Walster's super Welsh B stallion Thistledown Copper Lustre out of Henden Aludi (Caspian). She was backed in 2014 by my son Harry's girlfriend, Jess, who did a lot of work with her this summer.

Amelia loves working and has inherited her father's fantastic temperament. She will pick up her groundwork again in February half-term next year.

All the girls will winter out in a large herd, where they feel happiest and can socialise with horses of different ages. They will live a natural life, with as little extra feeding as possible."

ARJUNA STUD - Barbara Smathers, Staffs.

Spring began with a photo-shoot by Rob Powell, from Horseplay Photography. Although the Caspians are still sporting winter coats, the photographs are full of natural beauty and, I think, do capture something of the spirit of the Caspian horse. I am so proud of our girls, since one of the photos of four Caspian mares is being used as a fine art print. The photo can be found at www.horseplayphotography.co.uk

Summer brought a dun colt foal, Arjuna Zarrin Firouz (proposed name), pictured below, soon after birth.



'Billy' the Jubilee foal, (aka Arjuna Zarrin Firouz) soon after his birth. Photo by Barbara Smathers

He was bred to honour Louise Firouz in the Golden Jubilee year of her rediscovery of the Caspian Horse and he obliged by being golden himself! He is out of bay mare, Henden Farideh Ai Banou and by red dun stallion, Spark Zarrin Shikhan and is the first foal for both. Three of his four grandparents carry Louise's Persicus prefix, and the fourth was bred by Brenda Dalton, from foundation horses. I am delighted that the Firouz family have agreed to allow him to share their family name.

Two of our newly licensed stallions also had their first foals, this year! Arjuna Zarrin Shah and Lanhill Minoo have produced a beautiful red dun filly, 'Harriet'. Arjuna Amir Shahdi and Bytham Parimetta gave Harry Thirlby his first colt foal, a very handsome bay, 'Brian'.

Our foal, nicknamed 'Billy' was born around the same time as my father, Fred, was diagnosed with cancer. So now we are going into autumn and it seems an appropriate time to say 'Thanks Fred!' If he had not come across Mehran on display at the Royal Show in 1977, and pursued Caspian horses until he found

Achnaha Kinnara and Achnaha Klio for sale in 1992, then encouraged me in all ways to breed 'a small herd', none of our Arjuna Caspians would exist, and I wouldn't have enjoyed this amazing Caspian adventure.

Looking forward to 2016, we have covered Alison Brown's beautiful, young Touran-family mare, Lanhill Aliona, with Arjuna Akbar Shah. Also Henden Sophia has been covered by Arjuna Zarrin Shah. My grateful thanks to both Harry Thirlby and Alison Brown, for their confidence in our stallions and their continuing help in breeding the next generation of Caspian horses.

THE ROSMEAR STUD, France

- Brian Smith-Boyes

There is renewed hope for the Caspians in France, as a project initiated at the beginning of 2014 finally begins to roll. Six Rosmear Caspians are now owned by Laurène Meignié, who has a long-term plan for the breeding and promotion of the Caspians here. Her primary interest at present lies in training the horses for jumping. We are still optimistic that Rosmear Noushin (height 104cms) will start her competitive life very soon.



Tiz-Taz-Too at our village fair - her 'rider' was 18 months old

There has also been interest shown by two other people to start breeding herds, although these projects are still in the very early stages.

Negotiations to hold a regular 'spectacle' in the town of Pau next summer are just beginning. It will be backed by the mayor and feature a children's theatre act and a Caspian horse (or two).

At the beginning of October, Rosmear Tiz-Taz-Too and R. Alish left France for a new life in Germany with Katharina Mensch. We were sorry to see them leave but Katharina was extremely pleased for them to arrive (see the thread on 'The International Caspian Group' on Facebook). Along with the activities of Nina Witwar, there is now the genesis of a 'group' in Germany to carry on what the late Uta Horak started.

With the loss of these two mares and no foals this year, we are looking forward to two or three Caspian foals being born in France next year. This will represent the first proper breeding programme for Rosmear since 1999 (due to the regulatory régime).

This year will hopefully see the full implementation of EU equine regulations by the French administration. The



Rosmear Kamal (Rosmear Ashok x Henden Taluhla) at point of departure. Photo by Brian Smith-Boyes

transition in France from the former closed shop environment which started around 2001 to this harmonised system will have taken just 14 years. Once this 'Accord' is signed between the CHS and the Institute Française de Cheval & Equitation (IFCE – formerly the Haras Nationaux) all Caspians born in France will be registered as such (currently they are 'imported'). They will have UK passports but be entered into the French National Database (SIRE) by the CHS. There are still a few admin procedures to finalise, particularly with the €/GBP but we hope all will be achieved prior to the introduction of the new passports for next year.

Iren Andersson – Sweden

Iren is Chairman of the Swedish Caspian Horse Association. A colt was born to her mare, Nordiclighs Elize this summer.

Sadly, last year's filly died at a few days old, so the new foal is most welcome.

The pure-bred colt, 3 days old in the photograph, is by Qviers Kolak, who has the Shirine line on his dam's side.



Elize (lower right) was bred by Margareta Lindahl, out of the chestnut foundation mare Maleke and was sired by MCC Kerdar's Knight.

Photos courtesy of Iren Andersson.



Eds: Unfortunately, we hear that Iren is now seriously ill in hospital. We send her our very best wishes for her full recovery.

DRIVING CASPIANS

Dr Saskia Murk Jansen

Saskia is breaking in two rescued and previously unhandled Caspian stallions, Kineton Kastor (Arthur) and Kineton Kristy (Rostam) to harness.



"Who? Me?"

Photo of Arthur by Saskia Murk-Jansen

The last few months have been interesting – very much in the sense of the old Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times'!

I had been working them regularly, but always in the same order – Arthur first, then Rostam. Then one day I changed the order. What a performance that provoked from Arthur! He tried to scramble out over the stable door, when that did not work he gave the stable walls both barrels and tried again!

To save my stable further punishment I let Rostam go in the yard and went to catch Arthur in the stable. It took a little while, but eventually we were in the school. All went well until Arthur spun round and set off away from me – I did not even try to hold him as I knew it was a lost cause. With the lunging rein dragging behind him, he galloped down the school in a panic.

This seemed like the perfect opportunity to teach him not to be afraid of things trailing behind him. Taking the lunging whip in my hand, I stood in the middle of the school and kept him trotting and cantering round me, talking to him all the time so that he felt that I was still in charge. Every time he slowed down, I drove him on. I wanted him to be so tired that the trailing lunging rein had long stopped being an issue by the time I allowed him to stop. Sure enough, when he eventually came to a halt by the gate he was very sweaty but hardly flinched when I picked up the rein and flicked it over his back. I then did a repeat performance with Rostam – although this time with a long black rope, rather than my precious lunging rein!

They had been making really good progress so I took the plunge and put them into a field with my two pony geldings. At first it went well and they formed a jolly little herd which was great fun to watch! Unfortunately in a little while Arthur decided that the two geldings were his and he started fighting Rostam for them.

It was fascinating to watch the two of them displaying wild stallion behaviour but I felt rather silly because it had not occurred to me that this might happen over a couple of elderly geldings. Soon both were covered in

bites, scratches and bruises. Arthur became completely un-catchable and more than half inclined to keep me away from the two geldings too. With some difficulty we managed to get the two geldings out of the field, but Arthur and Rostam kept on fighting. In the end we just had to have them gelded - there was no chance of driving them together with them standing up and boxing whenever they were within reach of each other.

Eds: Let's hope Saskia will have fewer problems now!

KINETON KHOJA

Nichola Waddicor

Khoja is another rescued Caspian, who is now starting to show his true colours...

6th January 2015.

That's the date which I shall always remember - the day I first set eyes on Khoja.

I work at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, near Burford. January was wet and Christmas just over; a quiet time of year with not a lot going on. It was one of the zebra keepers who just happened to come into the office the day before who posed a question....

"I don't suppose you want a pony?" was her opening comment.

"How big?" I asked.

"Small," came the reply.

Well actually.... I was looking for the next driving pony for my daughter; we have a rather lovely Dartmoor Hill Pony but she was moving out of Junior classes into Adult and we wanted something with a bit more wow! A nice Section A, I thought.

"Well, as long as it's not over 12hh, I could be interested..."

2 hrs later –

"11.2hh, and he's a fully registered Caspian."

My ears really pricked up then - I remember hearing of these Caspians back in the 1980's when they were brought over, but have never even considered one since.

"What's wrong with him?"

"Nothing! He's in a riding school, but too sharp for small children so he's done nothing for the last year. The owner seemed to think he might make a good driving pony and as you drive I thought I'd ask. Otherwise he could end up in the lion pen."

So next day at morning tea break we popped round. It was still raining. And there stood this sodden little man who was the most amazing chestnut colour I have ever seen. Then I saw him move. Hooked I was, instantly. I have a 7 sec video of his trot, which blew me away.

£50 she wanted. £50!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I had a shuffle round at home with the other ponies, sent his picture to Amelia (my daughter) "Aahhh! Isn't he sweet!" and on the 24th (her birthday) we collected our new purchase and brought him home.

That was just over eight months ago - and what a roller coaster ride those eight months have been! Khoja was

brought back into work, we started to break him to drive, he starred on the 50th Anniversary Calendar, he's been to boot camp to learn to drive properly and cope with any situation, he's been to shows in-hand and driven, he had a brilliant day at Ashby, featured in 'In Harness Magazine' and on 26th September we took him to Addington Manor to compete at the Osborne Refrigeration National Carriage Driving Championships.



Amelia Waddicor driving Kinton Khoja at Addington Manor. The groom is Judith Cowles, her driving tutor. Photo courtesy of Ruth Staines

What a man!

So that's his story so far... and I'm sure there will be other chapters to follow. He and Amelia are having lessons with James Broome and are thinking of dipping their toes into driving trials over the winter. We will see. Hopefully this is the start of a long running driving career for the nine year old chestnut, who had been standing around doing not a lot for the past few years and had an uncertain future.

To see Khoja during his training, visit:

https://youtu.be/PW7qmooi_rc

CASPIAN HORSES AT COWDRAY PARK

Colin Barker

Fifty years after Louise Firouz discovered the Caspian Horse, the aim of the self-funded Caspian Calendar project is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their rediscovery by Louise in 1965 and raise awareness of the breed, whilst also providing funding for a Caspian gene bank to be started.

Research shows that the Caspian Horse pre-dates the Arabian horse and is the ancestor of many hot-blooded breeds that we know and love today. To help to preserve such a valuable horse, a partnership was formed between me and Farokh Khoroshi, a film producer friend originally from Iran, with full support from Ateshé Firouz-Larsson, youngest daughter of Louise and Narcy Firouz.

There is much to do to make sure that we don't lose this historically important breed. For this reason we have travelled the world to find some of the finest specimens and photograph them in unusual and spectacular locations. We visited Iran, the US, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Scotland and locations around the UK.

Wishing to demonstrate some of the Caspians' amazing abilities, I conceived the idea of photographing them

being ridden at the nearby Cowdray Polo Club, at Ambersham. After an exhaustive search throughout the UK for ridden Caspians, I finally arranged last summer for two Caspian Horses to be brought up from Somerset.

They travelled up with owner Rebecca Mann and arrived late afternoon at Cindy and Peter Bradley's house, in Graffham. They were greeted with great enthusiasm, especially by Sabrina, their ten year old daughter, who could not wait to mount a Caspian horse. The Caspians quickly bonded with Sabrina, whilst she rode them around the sand school. They appeared quite relaxed after their long journey.

Caspian Horses are well renowned for learning quickly, just what is required for a polo mount and soon Sabrina was able to practise whilst riding with her mallet.

Just after dusk she helped prepare the bedding for Aladdin and Cassie, each provided with a stable at her parents' farm.



Sabrina and Aladdin at Cowdray Polo grounds. Photo - Colin Barker

Next morning, up bright and early, Sabrina helped to prepare for the day's photo-shoot at Cowdray Polo fields. The day was long but really exciting for all, broken by lunch and refreshments for us and the horses. Sabrina shone throughout the day, showing great spirit and determination and using all her experience as a member of the Cowdray Hunt Pony Club and as part of the winning team for the National Pony Club Polo Championships, to achieve the results I had visualised.

Finally, with twelve photos selected from thousands taken for the Caspian Horse 50th Anniversary Calendar, the layouts were sent to our chosen printers in Bow, London. Farokh and I were delighted to see the successful results of over two years of travelling around the world in search of the very rare Caspian horse. The memories of all the beautiful and unusual locations we visited came flooding back, an emotional moment for us both.



Colin, Sabrina and Farokh at Asia House for the Calendar Launch. Photo courtesy of Colin Barker

The launch of the Caspian Horse Calendar was at the Iranian Heritage Foundation in Mayfair on 7th October, during which they were warmly congratulated for their

support and commitment to the cause. Sabrina's enthusiasm was clearly apparent during the evening. Not only was she the only child to attend, but she made a strong impression on the members and friends of the CHS, helping to ensure that the evening was a very moving, memorable event.

For further details on the project and to buy a Calendar and help to fund the Sperm Bank cause, visit: www.caspianproductions.co.uk

IN APPRECIATION OF CASPIAN HORSES Navid Yousefi-Mashouf

It is my pleasure to say hello to the Caspian Horse Society as a new member from Iran, the homeland of Caspian horses. I have this honour by great favour from Elizabeth Webster, who helped me improve a lot and now, following her advice, I am writing to explain how I got involved with Caspian horses.

A brief introduction to myself - I am currently a master student at the University of Tehran, studying Animal Breeding and Genetics, and I'm specifically interested in the conservation of Persian breeds of horse.

The first event which pushed me into the world of Caspian horses was an email I received from Dr Farshad Maloufi in autumn 2009, who was deeply concerned about registration of Caspians born in Iran. By that year, no foals from Iran had been registered in the ICSB since 2007, something that exposed them and their future offspring to the danger of being permanently deprived of registration in the ICSB. This problem motivated us to start up serious endeavours to inform Iranian breeders about the ICS and to encourage them towards registration.

And ever since, I have had the following honours regarding Caspian Horses:

- Prepared a preliminary list of people active in Caspian horse breeding in Iran, 2009;
- Translated the ICS rules for registration, Rules for inclusion of pre-foundation stock, and the Caspian Breed Standard to Farsi;
- Visited Aspris Berjis, one of the biggest Caspian Horse breeding farms in northern Iran which resulted in a report to the ICS, 2009;
- Authored and published brochures to introduce the ICS to the Iranian breeders, 2010;
- Collaborated in holding a seminar to promote registering Caspian horses with the ICS, in Rasht (Northern Iran), 2010;
- Active member in Beauty Festivals (Breed Shows) of Caspian horses since 2010;
- Speech and presentation on Introducing the ICS and Registration of Caspian horses, in the Caspian Horse Assembly, Anzali, 2011;
- Designed a data form to record information on Iranian Caspians and identification of around 100 horses using it;
- Designed and launched an online database for registering Iranian horses, including Caspians;
- Translated for Elizabeth Webster in a workshop on judging Caspian horses, April 2015;



Photo by Jane Cadman

- Translated Dr. John Webster's presentation with Elizabeth Webster at the Caspian Horse Conference, 2015 (*photo above, article below*);
- Secretarial assistance to the judges at the Breed Show of the Caspian Horse, September 2015;

At the end, I feel it is necessary to sincerely appreciate the kind spirit of Ateshe Firouz-Larsson and Brenda Dalton, whose help played critical roles in my professional life.

UNDERSTANDING THE HORSE Elizabeth Webster

With extracts from a presentation by Dr John Webster, MA, PhD, Vet MB, DVM (Hon), MRCVS, Professor Emeritus, Veterinary Science, Univ. of Bristol, at the International Caspian Conference, entitled "What we do to Horses: As seen by the Horse"

On the opening morning of the International Conference at Rasht, I presented a talk on behalf of my husband, John, who had been unable to accompany me due to visa problems. I was deeply grateful to my friend Navid Yousefi-Mashouf, (who introduces himself on this page), a fluent English speaker, reader and writer, who agreed to translate for me, with little time to prepare. He eloquently turned every few lines into Farsi, which took careful co-ordination but seemed to go down well with the distinguished audience.

I have John's permission to use extracts from his talk to illustrate a principle on which we both strongly agree.

First, a direct quote, which explains a great deal about the horse:

"Horses evolved on the open, short grass plains of Asia, Europe and North America. They have a digestive tract suitable for sustained grazing, a musculo-skeletal system intended for survival through flight and a social system of security through numbers."

A stabled horse is already 'out of his depth'. He may be fed starchy concentrates in brief, indigestible meals, instead of the sustained short, dry, high-fibre grazing his gut was designed to cope with. He cannot avoid new and possibly harmful experiences through flight and has no herd to hide in. No wonder he may be apprehensive. Box-walking, weaving (and perhaps attempting to jump out) usually arise out of frustrated escape behaviour, loneliness and boredom. Door bars prevent this, but obviously increase the frustration.

I will include points (*in italics*) from John's talk, rather than quotes from now on:

How we feed the horse directly affects his welfare.

Acid indigestion and discomfort are particularly prevalent in hard-working or competition horses due to the concentrates they are fed. Many weaned foals fed on starchy meals suffer painful stomach ulcers. Crib-biting and wind-sucking usually arise from an attempt to reduce discomfort by increasing saliva flow. They may lead to the stereotypic behaviours that we humans call 'vices'.

Rich, high-sugar pastures increase the risk of agonising and crippling Laminitis (which John likens to slamming all your fingers in a door and then being forced to walk on your finger-tips). Well-run and well-equipped establishments may be able to control both over-grazing and worm burden, but a child's pony turned out while the children are away at school can suffer health damage on both fronts.

Breeding as fashion dictates

John also talked about the dangerous practice of breeding to the whims of fashion – e.g. the increasingly flatter faces of pug dogs, which can lead to permanent respiratory distress and eye problems and hip dysplasia in German Shepherd and other large dog breeds. His greatest scorn was reserved for those Arab horse breeders who favour such exaggeratedly dished faces that the unfortunate horses may suffer from lifelong breathing, dental and sinus problems. When a 'breed' is created, it is no longer subjected to 'survival of the fittest'. We have supplanted nature and must be careful what we demand of animals in the name of fashion.



Notice any facial resemblance? (Also note the foal's mis-aligned jaws). Photos courtesy of Google

The horse is a sentient animal

The welfare of any sentient animal is affected by how it feels when facing good, bad or indifferent situations. 'Bad' feelings include pain, hunger, fear of the stick and fear of novelty. 'Good' feelings include comfort, security and satisfaction (reward). The horse is attracted by rewards for desired behaviour (positive reinforcement) and tries to avoid discomfort, pain or fear to achieve the desired behaviour (negative reinforcement).

From this we can see that some 'naughty' behaviour may be based on a horse's innate instinct for survival. This wild instinct is very evident in some of the recently rescued - and apparently entirely unhandled - adult Caspians.

The sensitive use of bit and reins should be based on the relief, rather than application, of discomfort.

Positive reinforcement should be considered from the horse's point of view: a carrot means far more to the horse than a pat on the neck, especially when linked to the action that earned it. An unpredictable handler will produce an unpredictable horse; consistent cues and reinforcements will produce consistent responses.

There are inevitably differing views on how to break-in a horse. "You can always tell a horseman, but you cannot tell a horseman anything!" quoted John from somewhere (I'm not sure how that went down in Farsi). Some horsemen and women may be resistant to change, but others *are* willing to try different ways to understand and get the best out of a horse.

The horse is an adaptable animal that willingly performs many actions to suit us. In return, it does not particularly seek our love. It values comfort, some pleasure and most of all the physical and emotional security of knowing it is safe and unlikely to be startled by new alarms or confusing messages.

Imagine spending your life expecting the worst to happen at any minute! It's self-evident that it's kinder to both horse and handler to gently accustom a foal to human contact as soon as possible, to earn his trust first and then educate him, as his age permits, while he is young! Older Caspians can certainly be trained, but it takes longer and will be more difficult for all if they have already suffered from the neglect of this principle.

We are now custodians of the Caspian 'breed'

Our Caspians don't deserve to be thrust unprepared into a world that can often be frightening, nor should they be allowed to waste their lives languishing in field or stable with nothing to do, as too many Caspians have been in the past. As animal-lovers we should try to make an animal's life as interesting as possible and free of fear, pain and stress.

Caspians love to have a job to do. It makes them feel even more important! There is now a slow but very welcome increase in interest in the Caspian for performance and we *must* be ready to meet it. Confident, well-educated Caspians in knowledgeable, thoughtful homes will have far better lives than their unhandled, wild fellows. Their lives will *matter*! Appreciated and valued wherever they go and whatever they do, they will hugely increase the desire to own a Caspian Horse.

TRAINING MY CASPIANS

Fran Smith-Boyes

I am assuming that your Caspian is already handled and you can lift his feet, lead etc. When I say lead, I don't mean just calmly walking, but running fast in any direction beside you and not with head in the air and four feet in the ground thinking "Hey! What's going on?!" Luckily I had two teenage riders, so the horses were trained in three days. Even with a headstrong mare of 16 the process took only five days. By the end they could be ridden with bit or (my preference) bit-less, in the woods and would stay quiet when cars or tractors passed. They could also jump. This hardly counts, as I have not yet met a Caspian that doesn't love to jump.

Only Koochooloo would jump just over the obstacle, not leaving more than 2 feet clear of it like the rest!

So the last four days I started on Roshak, aged nearly seven.

Day 1 - a little honey on the bit, can't get molasses here. Bridle on minus reins. I left him for about three hours to get used to this strange thing.

Day 2 - Bridle on plus reins. Also saddle cloth, after showing it to him, I placed it all over him, even the top of his head. Then the saddle - he just looked at that. When the girth was done up he turned his head with an expression of "Ooh! I don't like that."

I pulled both legs forwards so there were no creases and checked it was tight enough. Next I found a plastic stool and gently lowered myself into the saddle. I made a fuss of him and scratched him from behind the ears to his tail. He turned his head as if to say "What now?" So I gently squeezed with my legs until he was happily walking forward. (I usually talk all the time).

Then it was up the road to the wood, which involves turning a few times. No problems, he only raised his head slightly the first time. I kept my hands light and exaggerated my leg signals. A car was approaching, so I slowed it down. They are very good here and usually stop. This one did, and laughed as he told me that the last time he had seen me I was coming slowly down the road on the back of a Tamworth boar - did I not have a larger horse to ride? So I explained that my previous riders were at university now. Although I was too heavy and tall for this brave little horse, he was already willing and easier to ride than Mr Pig!

Once in the woods I urged Roshak into a trot. No problems but he wanted to go much faster. So with mostly voice, we walked, practiced stop and start as well as turns and then headed home.



Day 3 training! Photo courtesy of Brian Smith-Boyes

Day 3 -Bitless, the same as day 2, but with a little canter and a small jump, as there was a log across our return path. What amazes me is that I have never seen any of our horses rear or buck. They really seem to enjoy everything and are so willing to please. Tomorrow I shall start with Asa, thankfully she is taller.

I also took Kaliefie, who had been ridden a long time ago, but she is far too fat and I felt I was sitting on a ball, trying to balance. When we got to the wood I was ready to turn back, but Madam had no intention of this. She just wanted to go on and on. She would have done too, apparently oblivious of the weight she was carrying. When we got back she demanded that we go along the road to see our neighbours. I got off and walked beside her, as I was sure I would have fallen off if I laughed. Then I was filled with envy when I saw Teresa as she usually is, tiny, thin and with sparrow bones. I have never yet managed to persuade her to sit on a horse.

Needless to say there is a lot to do to achieve perfection. For example, the lunge ring - never lunge at an early age. I don't ride before the horse is at least 6 and a half to 7 + if it is a tall horse and not before 8 if it is one with a long neck!

That will be my subject for the next magazine. Enjoy every moment with your wonderful Caspian.

(PS - I am 5'7" tall and weigh 54.5 kilos).

THE FARRIERS' APPRENTICE

Part Two - Chris Fluskey

Whilst I have passed my Forging Certificate course, I am still searching for a training farrier, but honing my skills at a local forge until I find someone local to train me in the fine art of shoeing. I have to pay to use the equipment, but it serves to keep my eye in, as it were. I must admit it is most satisfying to create something from nothing, how to create and shape many different things from little more than a short oblong piece of mild steel!

I have been able to create such things as an un-welded eye, a wood splitter, centre punch and a "hot chisel", to name but a few. The process has taught me to be accurate in my work - it would be no use making a pair of shoes for a horse if they were wonky! I have learned how to join metal in several ways using heat, the art of "fire welding", where two or more bits of metal are heated and hammered together to form a joint. When cooled correctly they form a very solid single piece. I have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about Electro-Arc Welding, (with electrodes, not gas). I have learned the different ways in which you can weld metals together and that different types of materials require a variation in equipment. For example stainless steel can be joined, but needs a different setting on the equipment and a different consumable (rod).

I now understand the need for safety in both forging and welding. Most forging is done in the region of between 800-1200°C (depending on the material being worked) and when welding we work at close to 6000 °C, so one quickly learns the need to wear protective safety equipment. I have learned about tempering and powder coating and what works well with what.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this part of my training.

Anagrams: 1. Old Chinese Curse, 2. Cotswild Wildlife Park, 3. Anniversary Calendar, 4. International Chairman, 5. Arjuna Zarrin Firouz, 6. Darkhorse Inshallah, 7. Multi-hitch demo, 8. Understanding the horse, 9. Peacock Throne, 10. Caspian Productions, 11. Easy Cheese Biscuits, 12. Dates for your Diary, 13. Sycamore trees, 14. Treasurer's Report, 15. Equestrian Federation of Iran, 16. Fourth International Conference, 17. Happy Christmas to all members, 18. Easyfundraising, 19. Louise Firouz, 20. Persian Garden, 21. Imam Square, 22. Cowdray Hunt Pony Club, 23. University of Tehran, 24. Thistle-down Copper Lustre

Whilst hot and difficult, I hope it will prove fruitful and enable me to contribute to the continuing health and good treatment of horses. I also hope in future to continue my studies to degree level, enabling me to advise people even further on treatment and shoeing.

The workload is very heavy and there is little time to stop. When we do, it's for a much needed rest, as we work in a hot environment and the work is very physical. I hope you enjoy reading this and if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Eds.:Apologies to Chris - This article was intended for an earlier issue, but arrived too late for inclusion.

WINTER REMINDERS

Vicki Shortis

- November/December is the time all horses should be treated for encysted small red worm.
- Check all water pipes are lagged to protect from frost.
- Stock up with salt and sand to use on icy areas.
- If you use rugs, check they are cleaned and repaired and ready for use.
- Make sure you always have a stock of feed in, in case of bad weather.
- Check your fields for Sycamore trees. The leaves and seed from the tree are fatal for horses.
- In icy weather make a path with old straw from the stable, or use dried leaves.
- Always feed carrots whole, never slice them as it can cause a horse to choke.

BOOK REVIEW

THE TV VET HORSE BOOK

A Farming Press Book.

This is a very useful book for horse owners to keep on their bookshelf. It covers recognition and treatment of common horse and pony ailments, is easily understood and has over 300 action pictures.

The Contents are divided into sections under the following titles.

GENERAL: Advice on general diseases and conditions of the Head Region, Thorax/Chest, Abdomen, Legs and Feet.

APPENDIX: Covers common substances and plants which are poisonous to horses. Curiously it does not cover Sycamore poisoning, which has only recently been proved to be deadly to horses.

Copies of this book can be found on the internet. Always seek professional help with any health problem.

OUR WEBSITE:

www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk

This has been such a busy autumn! We will be loading photographs from the Iran Conference and Breed Show as soon as we get some breathing space, so keep visiting!

MEMBER'S RECIPE

EASY CHEESE BISCUITS

("Messy but addictive!" - Pat Bowles)

4 oz Melted Butter
4 oz Plain Flour
5 oz Grated Cheese
2 pkts Crushed Crisps
Powdered Mustard to taste
Chives,
Seasoning

Mix all together with a knife and form into balls with your hands. Place on a greased oven tray with room to spread a little and flatten slightly. Bake at 180° C for 10 minutes or until browned.

BE WEBWISE!

Useful contacts

www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk Our own very comprehensive website with associated links. It is regularly updated with news, photographs and information.

www.caspianhorses.org Website of the International Caspian Society. This site holds the International Caspian studbook and enables electronic entries by national member registrars. Lots of information, news and links to useful sites, including ICS member societies' websites. To add a link, contact the ICS Registrar, Kay Taplin <icsregistrar@hotmail.com>

www.caspianproductions.co.uk Producers of the 50th Anniversary Calendar. Visit this site to preview and buy the Calendar and read the fascinating Calendar Diaries.

Other useful sites:

www.laminitisclinic.org Informative and helpful site for anyone with a laminitis problem.

www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk This site offers a voucher for free ACTH blood test to diagnose Cushing's Disease. Lab fees are covered but you pay the vet's call-out charge.

www.yourhorseshealth.com/health_care/colic Very useful for help with colic. (Note: health_care)

www.bhs.org.uk The BHS covers a wide range of issues affecting horse, rider and related subjects on a daily basis.

www.sweet-itch.com Information to help overcome Sweet Itch.

www.grasssickness.org Visit this site to learn more about this very distressing disease.

www.ragwort-ulk.com and www.ragwort.com

Two sites for advice about dealing with ragwort, which is highly toxic to horses

www.pcuk.org Website of the Pony Club in the UK.

www.nntta.co.uk Useful site if you tow a trailer. Advice on towing and where to find urgently needed spare parts.

www.stolenhorseregister.com To report a stolen or missing horse contact the Stolen Horse Register. Tel 0870 870 7107

UNSCRAMBLE THESE ANAGRAMS!

Use the clues, which refer to names, reports or articles featured in this issue (not necessarily in order of appearance)

1. An Asian spell? SCHEDULER IS ONCE (3,7,5)
2. A central UK animal reserve - FIDDLESTICK ALLOW PROW (8,8,4)
3. Something special for this year - VINEYARDS RACER ANNAL (11,8)
4. Worldly chief? ARITHMETICAL ANON IN RAN (13,8)
5. A Jubilee newcomer - FUZZ AJAR RUIN IN ROAR (6,6,6)
6. Rescued and doing well - HILL ROARS HANDSHAKE (9,9)
7. All went well in the end - LITHIUM COD METH (5-5,4)
8. Like learning a new language? SHED UNRESTRAINED THONG (13,3,5)
9. Something really valuable in Iran - HEARKEN COP COT (7,6)
10. Makers of No. 3 - ORDINATION CUPS CAPS (7,11)
11. Untidy, but apparently worth it! YACHT ISSUES ICE BEES (4,6,8)
12. Fruit for your memoirs? RESIDUARY TRAY FOOD (5,3,4,5)
13. Deadly to horses - STARRY COME SEE (8,5)
14. Good at maths? RAPTURES RESTORER (10,6)
15. An Iranian governing body - OFTEN REQUISITIONED FAR ARENA (10,10,2,4)
16. There have already been three - ARCHITECTURAL INFERNO OFTEN NONE (6,13,19)
17. It's that time of year! ASTROPHYSICAL BALM HEMP TERMS (5,9,2,3,7)
18. A simple way to make money – DAIRY FANS SUEING (15)
19. She started it! - ZOO LIEU US FIR (6,6)
20. A beautiful place, far away - END SPARING ERA (7,6)
21. Where ancient kings and queens held matches - SIMMER AQUA (4,6)
22. Somewhere skilled young riders can play - BUNCH UPWARD NOT COYLY (7,4,4,4)
23. One of our contributors studies here - VETERINARY INFO SHUT (10,2,6)
24. Oh what a lovely boyo! - SOUTHWESTERN COLT RIPPLED (11,6,6)

(Answers on page 17)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE FOR 'THE CASPIAN'?

This is *your* magazine, so we'd love to hear from you, but please remember the following requirements!

Text: Send your editorial in Word (not pdf), so it can be manipulated to fit into space available. Please restrict it to 450 words maximum, (slightly less if you send a photograph) unless requested to write more. We may need to edit or précis your submission.

Photographs: Please email photographs as jpegs, in original size if you can. Ensure the quality is as good as possible and send it as an attachment - we can reduce and crop it as required, without losing clarity. (We can also crop and slightly enhance most home-scanned historical photographs).

Send all submissions to both vshortis@sizzel.net & lizwebster08@gmail.com

DEADLINES: 1st April (Spring/Summer) & 1st October (Autumn/Winter).

We start collecting material for the next magazine as soon as the previous one is issued. If you have anything to submit for the Spring 2016 issue, please send it any time before 1st April.

Several weeks of work lie between receiving your article and sending you the finished magazine. We can stretch the deadline to 15th of April and 15th October if we must, but otherwise it is hard for the type-setter (Liz!) to deliver the magazine on time. We need your input, so keep sending it in, but please help us to meet our deadlines! Thank you! Liz and Vicki

CHS BUSINESS PAGE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please contact Pat Bowles (contact details on last page)

NB: Membership is valid from 1st April to the following 31st March. SO = Standing Order. New members joining after 1st January need not pay the following April 1st but should resume in future years.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

Voting Membership (V) Non-Voting membership (NV)
LIFE (V): One payment: UK £175. Overseas £200
ANNUAL UK (V): £17 cheque or £15 (SO)
FAMILY (UK) (2 *Voting adults + up to 2 children below 18 at same address*): £27 cheque or £25 (SO)
JUNIOR (NV): £9 cheque or £7 (SO)
OVERSEAS (V): £20 cheque or £18 (SO)
OVERSEAS (NV): £12 cheque or £10 (SO)

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Register young-stock at reduced prices
- Opportunity to be on Council
- Vote at Annual General Meetings
- Include your stock on Stallion and Sale lists
- Reduced Entry Fees at Breed Shows
- Receive Bi-annual Newsletters and Magazines
- Take part in the Performance Points Scheme
- Qualify for a Special CHS Rosette when showing
- Qualify for CHS awards

REGISTRATION DISPUTES

The Society is only a registration authority and cannot decide ownership or financial disputes, which are matters for the courts. When buying or leasing a horse or having a mare covered, do make sure that the paperwork is correct before proceeding. It is far easier to get it right at the outset than to have an acrimonious dispute later.

TRANSFERS

Selling your Caspian? It is a legal requirement for the new owner to transport the horse *with* its passport when moving it to its new home and then to send the passport to the Passport Issuing Organisation (*or PIO*), i.e. the CHS for UK-registered Caspians, to be amended within 30 days of change of owner. Please return the Registration Certificate for amendment at the same time.

STALLION LICENSING

CHS requires both pure and part-bred stallions to hold a valid licence BEFORE covering a mare - or the offspring will be put into the X-section of the studbook, as will all its descendants.

For the Standard (vet only) licence: Please apply to the CHS Registrar for an application form, to be completed and returned with the £15 fee. A CHS-approved vet must inspect the horse.

Stallion Assessment to the Breed Standard (BSA) is also available for licensed stallions - or pre-licensing for advisory purposes. Can be done free of charge at Ashby Show if requested beforehand or for home visits, expenses will be payable. Contact Ruth Staines (Registrar).

FOAL REGISTRATION AND PASSPORTS

Whether pure or part-bred, the EU requires that a foal should be registered, micro-chipped and receive a passport by the time it is 6 months old. DNA parent-verification is now mandatory for pure-bred registration, for which at least 40 pulled mane or tail hairs, *with follicles attached*, will be required with the application. A unique stud prefix is mandatory, finalised *before* registration with Ruth Staines, Registrar.

IMPORTANT: Breeders and owners please note that EU, DEFRA and the Society make changes to the Rules and Regulations from time to time. Updated R and R can be found on the website. Please do not use old forms – request up-to-date forms from the Registrar. Please refer to the R and R and Registrar BEFORE taking any actions which might prejudice your paperwork – this can cause problems in later years. Contact Ruth Staines, Registrar.

REGISTRATION FEES – INCLUSIVE OF PASSPORT

<i>Pure-bred:</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Non-members</i>
Colts up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Fillies up to 6 months	£20	£39.50
Colts 6-24 months	£25	£49.50
Fillies 6-24 months	£35	£69.50

<i>Part-bred:</i>		
Colts up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Fillies up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Colts 6-24 months	£25	£49.50
Fillies 6-24 months	£25	£49.50

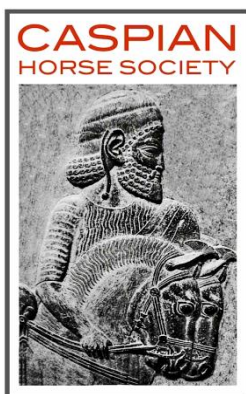
CHARGES:

Register your unique Prefix	£28
Standard Stallion Licence	£15
BSA: Inspectors' expenses only	No fee
DNA Verification for registration	£25
Duplicate Registration Certificate	£8
Duplicate Passport	£15
Transfer of Ownership	£5
Changes (e.g. gelding/colour)	£5
Change of Address	No Fee

Documents will be posted to UK addresses by 1st class post unless Special Delivery is requested and paid for in advance. Additional Overseas postal costs, both standard and Special Delivery, will be added to invoices.

For Stallions at Stud and Horses for Sale/Lease/Loan, please visit our website: www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk

Owners should contact Ruth Staines to update entries.



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