

*Penny Walster and her stallion Bytham Justin Time lead Rebecca Mann's Edcombe Aladdin during the 'Historic Caspian' Display at Martin Clunes' Buckham Fair, near Beaminster, Dorset in August.*

# THE CASPIAN

## MAGAZINE OF THE CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

REG. CHARITY NUMBER 1076026

### AUTUMN/WINTER 2016

Meet the members, breeders and owners of Caspian Horses in New Zealand, Iran, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden  
Read how Caspians help children from inner cities & war zones.  
Catch up with Team Khoja....

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

What is a UELN?

Hungary's Caspians Work Hard to Help Traumatized Children

More New Owners in Europe

The Importance of Handling foals and Young Stock... and much more!

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## THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER – RUTH STAINES

Now the temperature is dropping and the nights are drawing in, it is time to look back over the summer and look forward to the year ahead.

An event that may well have major implications for the horse world was the June referendum in UK resulting in the narrow majority for Brexit. DEFRA assures us there will no changes to the passport regulations and Zootechnical legislation (for breed societies) for at least two years, but clearly they, like the government and everyone else, have no plans, and no idea, of what is to come. With close equestrian connections to Europe, it seems likely that EU rules and regulations will remain.

One part of EU legislation that is starting up, even after the vote, is the new Central Equine Database. All horse passport data should be on it by the end of the year: Passport Issuing Organisations are being taken on board gradually. As I write this, CHS is still awaiting instructions.

We have had new ventures into shows this year. We had increased entries, and dry weather, at Ashby this July, but before that Rebecca Mann and her hardworking family moved complete with caravan to the Royal Bath and West Show for the week at the beginning of June. This they have done for many years under the auspices of the CBS, but the CHS is very happy this should continue under its name. In August we attended Buckham Fair in Dorset at the invitation of Martin Clunes. There are more detailed reports of all these in the magazine.

Individual Caspians in UK, Kineton Khoja in Driving Trials, Darkhorse Inshallah in junior Endurance and Pony Club activities, partbred Bytham Abigail at many local shows, Rebecca Mann's Caspians at her riding school and on loan are flying the flag for the breed, while others are being handled, broken and schooled. In Europe Caspians are ridden in several disciplines in Sweden, and there are new breeders and owners in France, the Netherlands and Germany. They are proving their worth with children in Hungary.

Again you will see more detailed reports in the magazine.

We are still looking for more owners who can show what Caspians are capable of. Please let us know what you are doing! Write about your Caspian – whether a much loved member of the family or a prize winning competitor – for the magazine and the website. Get writing over the winter!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2017

(\*CHS stand & Caspians present)

2016

\*Newark Tractor & Heritage Show (Rare Breeds) Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>.

2017

\*Royal Bath & West Show, 31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

AGM – Likely to be held in May/June (TBA)

\*Ashby Show – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July

\*Other shows under consideration – will be announced in the February Newsletter.

### MEETINGS OF COUNCIL:

WINTER (Skype), SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

SPRING– Shawell, April (TBA)

SUMMER - Shawell, June (TBA)

AUTUMN - Shawell October (TBA)

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# COUNCIL BUSINESS

## CO-EDITORS

Vicki Shortis and Liz Webster

We are proud to present this Autumn 2016 issue of our cyber magazine 'The Caspian'. Contributions from our members are always welcome – indeed essential – if we are to have a magazine that truly reflects our membership. You will find plenty of stories and reports in this issue and we thank our contributors for their time and for telling us of their adventures with Caspians. It's nice to hear of renewed interest in Caspians in France, for example and the signing of a new accord (particularly post-Brexit) between Britain and France in the registration of French-bred Caspians.

Our hard-working Registrar, who is also our Chairman, continues to work towards the proper recognition and registration of all Caspians in Europe, following the various and often-changing directives from DEFRA. She explains her work here. How will Brexit affect the horse establishment?

There is a new emphasis on getting Caspians into work and in the next year we will be going further into this. You will see in these pages several interesting reports and articles on handling young stock, showing, riding and driving, revealing all that the Caspians can achieve, if given a proper opportunity. In Hungary, for example, they are helping war-weary and poor city children to experience a few moments of peace and joy in their difficult lives.

We hope you will find enjoyment and inspiration from within this issue – please do keep the magazine in mind, whatever you do with your Caspians and their promotion – and tell us about it. Should you wish to contact any of the contributors, CHS will be happy to pass on messages.

## Treasurer's Report – Nicola Waddicor

Although funds are currently healthy, more outgoings than incomings have reduced the overall bank balance. A large slice of this was due to the paying of the DNA test fees, which had perhaps skewed the view on the bank balance at the end of our financial year. We had previously received the funds from members for the testing, but not the invoices from the Texas laboratory!

Gift aid is always a welcome boost to funds, so please, if you are able to, do sign the form. HMRC have now paid us our previous claim, which is great news and additional 'easy' money for us.

And finally, to echo past pleas from previous Treasurer John - **Don't forget to buy all your Christmas presents through 'Easy FundRaising' and nominate CHS as your charity. We will receive a (variable) % donation at no cost to you. Most major retailers participate in the scheme - John Lewis, Amazon, Ebay, PC World - to name but a few. Go to [www.easypundraising.org.uk](http://www.easypundraising.org.uk)**

## Secretary's report - Angela Davies

The Caspian Horse Society continues to grow, with a number of new members bringing a wealth of experience to the organisation.

We are moving into the electronic age with the majority of members being contactable by email, which is great for keeping in touch and sharing information.

CHS is not paperless yet, but we are creating an electronic archive. Looking back over the years reminds us of the hard work that members have put into maintaining the Caspian breed. With initiatives like the Gene Bank Project it is hoped to prevent the loss of the Caspian's unique characteristics for future generations. If this matters to you, please help us grow the fund. You can donate on the website.

## Registrar's report – Ruth Staines

I am now issuing the new formation passports. They do take a bit longer to put together!

Passport applications are coming in for this year's foals – which have been born in UK, Netherlands, France, Germany and Norway. Sweden, of course, has measures in place to register Caspians and produce its own passports. I have issued three stallion licences in UK this year.

I am constantly busy trying to 'clean up' our database prior to uploading it onto the new Central Equine Database. I am waiting for instructions, but this should happen before the end of the year. If owners' names are not on their passports, please contact me for a Transfer form.

[chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com](mailto:chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com)

Please note it is a legal responsibility for owners to send their passports for transfer within thirty days of acquiring a horse. I would rather not upload incorrect owners onto the database, but in the absence of the information I have to.

Breeders please remember your foal should have a passport by December 31st of the year in which it is born, or when it is six months old, whichever is the latest. Your stallion returns should be with me by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please ask me for more covering certificates if you need them.

## Membership Secretary's Report

– Sheilagh Nisbet-Brown

Firstly, I owe a big thank you to Pat Bowles for patiently and comprehensively handing over the reins of the role of Membership Secretary to me. Angela Davies was also a great help and I have been grateful for the warm welcome from other council members.

We are delighted to welcome new member, Janine Kuiper, and to welcome back Birgitte Plesner, bringing our total membership to 115. The Society relies on the enthusiasm and financial support of its members, so that we can continue to promote and maintain this particularly beautiful equine breed, and I would like to extend sincere thanks to our members for this. Please spread the word and encourage your friends and family to join us.

I would be grateful if the small number of members who do not pay by standing order and who have yet to pay their subscription for 2016/17 would please do this as soon as possible. Standing order is cheaper, removes the need to remember your annual subscription and makes it easier for the Society to monitor payments; a form is available from the CHS website.



## CASPIANS GO TO BUCKHAM FAIR

21 August 2016 - Ruth Staines

*(Our cover story)*



*Long Close Gardens, Woodhouse Eaves, described by 'Great British Gardens' as 'a real plantsman's garden'.*

### CHS AGM, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

Ruth Staines

The Society's Annual General Meeting this year was held once again at Long Close Gardens, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, LE12 8RZ, by kind permission of the owner, John Oakland.

Nineteen members attended, and three new members were appointed to Council - Nichola Waddicor, Angela Leadbetter and Rebecca Mann. Nichola is the owner of Kineton Khoja, enjoying great success in his first year of driving competitions, (you can read more about him elsewhere in the magazine). We are very pleased to welcome two former members of the Caspian Breed Society onto Council: Rebecca Mann, who has bred a number of Caspians (she runs a riding school with Caspians and breaks them to ride and drive) and Angela Leadbetter, who brings her lovely mare Lanhill Antimay to Ashby each year and won Reserve Champion this time.

Nichola, who works in finance at the Cotswold Wildlife Park near Burford, is now our Treasurer and we thanked John Sansome for stepping into the breach again after he thought he had retired! Pat Bowles, interim Membership Secretary for longer than she had intended, hoped that a member in Scotland, Dr Sheilagh Nesbit Brown (who has bred a Caspian Skyros cross) would take on the role, as she had expressed an interest. As you can see, Sheilagh took up the post soon after the AGM and we are all - especially Pat! - extremely grateful to her.

After the formal business, the meeting was opened to the floor, and subjects such as the Gene Bank and registration decisions taken some time in the past, mostly concerning Caspians in France, were discussed.

After the AGM we all enjoyed a delicious lunch supplied by council members, as always.

Although the weather proved imperfect again, members were free to explore the five acres of beautiful gardens once the meeting had closed.

Last year, Council Member Farokh Khorrooshi managed to persuade the actor Martin Clunes to record the commentary for the English version of the video produced to promote the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar.

The popular star of TV's 'Men Behaving Badly' and 'Doc Martin' is also well known for his passion for horses, having presented the documentary series 'Horsepower' and also being President of The British Horse Society since 2011. He owns, among other horses, two fine Clydesdales – rather the opposite of Caspians!

In 2007 he bought a Dorset farm at Buckham Down, near Beaminster, which included a piece of land he thought would be perfect for holding a fair, as well as a small pony and dog show, for both his family and local interests. Buckham Fair started in 2008, and has grown bigger and better ever since. He was kind enough to contact Farokh earlier this year and invite the CHS to bring its stand. And then came an invitation to present a display of Caspians in the Main Ring!



*Justin proved to be a perfect gentleman on the stand and attracted many admirers for his good manners as much as his good looks.*

Several owners rose to the occasion - Penny Walster brought Bytham Justin Time (in-hand stallion) for the CHS stand and Rebecca Mann and her family brought Edcombe Aladdin (driving), Edcombe Cassima (ridden lead rein) and Edcombe Amethyst (in hand mare). Janet Dedicoat and her dedicated helpers made the journey to Dorset with Henden Nasri and Henden Shakir (in-hand stallions).

Farokh, Liz Webster and Ruth Staines drove to the site the evening before to set up the stand. Penny arrived later, after a lengthy drive from Newark with the pens and Justin on board. She unloaded the pens and then drove back to stay with a friend near Yeovil for the night. We were very grateful to Penny and to Helen Thirlby, who had repainted the pens for the occasion. From our site there should have been a magnificent view, but we could not see very far at all. We arrived amidst strong winds and rain and left wondering whether the tent would still be there the next morning!

We need not have worried. The weather cleared up overnight and the view was there in the morning in all its glory! The fair looked down over a valley and rolling hills. The CHS stand was in a perfect position between the Secretary's tent and the 'Heavy Horse Village' and directly opposite the display ring. The full extent of the fair now became apparent: there were the usual fair rides for the children, many stalls with food and drink, arts and crafts, vintage cars, equipment for horses and dogs – but none of the big names seen at the major agricultural shows up and down the country. There were four horse rings and six rings for the dogs, as well as the display ring.

Visitors started arriving in their droves as soon as the gates opened at 9.00am. We had never seen so many dogs – from a Chihuahua in a tutu (there were dog fancy dress classes!) to Great Danes. The classes for horses and dogs in the many rings had an emphasis on fun and the opportunity for all ages and abilities to participate. Martin Clunes was judging some of the dog classes.



*John Webster introduces Penny and Justin Time to the Buckham crowd, with Janet Dedicoat's stallion, Henden Nasri, in the background.*

Justin Time was installed in his pen on the stand and loved all the considerable attention he got. Many visitors could not believe that he was fully grown – or a stallion! He was the perfect gentleman and a great crowd-puller. Kate Adie, the BBC foreign correspondent, came to the stand, as did CHS members and colleagues known to us previously only through email. Kelly Marks of Intelligent Horsemanship talked to Penny and Farokh at some length.



*Rebecca's gelding Aladdin behaved impeccably in the show ring*

Displays in the main ring included Border Force Dogs, Dog Agility and Gun Dogs, Clydesdales, Racehorse Rehoming and a local Riding Club Musical Ride. The Caspians made quite a contrast to the heavy horses! They presented two displays. We have never had such large audiences! Prof. John Webster

(husband of Liz) gave the commentary, revealing the history of the breed in Iran and then in the west, with information about the horses in the ring. The second display was followed by the Heavy Horse Show, with Martin Clunes showing his own Clydesdales.

The local charity benefitting from this year's Fair was the Weldmar Hospicecare Trust. A recent press release (which mentions the Caspian Horse Society display) announces a record breaking profit of £90,000!

Sadly Martin Clunes was so in demand that he did not have time to visit the stand, but we understand that he was able to watch one of our displays and thanked Farokh for bringing the Caspians.

Will we have an invitation to return next year? (Sunday 21 August 2017) We hope so!

[www.buckhamfair.co.uk](http://www.buckhamfair.co.uk) [www.weld-hospice.org.uk](http://www.weld-hospice.org.uk)



*Relieved Buckham pioneers after the event!*

## THE ROYAL BATH AND WEST SHOW 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Angela Leadbetter**

Hilary and I decided to go to the Bath and West at the last minute, but we had a marvellous time, as usual, with Rebecca and family. We were especially pleased to welcome a special visitor, the newest member of the "Mann Clan" baby Oliver Christopher Shere. We were very busy with the Lucky Dip and had a good "wrapping team"! Edcombe Cassima was her usual happy self, drew lots of attention and enjoyed her evening walks around the showground with Annie Dog.



*Edcombe Cassima, 2015 breed champion at Ashby Show, represented the Caspian horse for the CHS.*

**Rebecca Mann**

We set up the stand on the Monday before the show started and I arrived with Cassie the night before in the pouring rain. Ruth and I sorted out the display and settled Cassie into her



stable as the rain lashed down and the wind howled outside. By Wednesday morning and the start of the Show, the weather had improved and it got better as the week progressed.

We had lots of visitors to the stand, and as always the Lucky Dip was very popular. Amelia and Khoja won their driving class in the main arena and Gareth Roberts did well with his part bred pair in the scurry, so the Caspian was well represented.

Cassie was 9 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and she had her photo taken with Sophie, a visitor to the stand who was also celebrating her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday!



Another visitor on the last day was the latest member of our family, Oliver, with Rachel and Terry.

It was good to be able to exhibit at a show which has had a Caspian stand for so many years, and to see old friends and make new ones. Thanks to my family for all their help, and to Ruth and Angela and Hilary for making the journey down, and of course Nichola and Team Khoja, who got me into the main arena!!

## ASHBY SHOW 2016

Elizabeth Webster

As ever, Janet and I had worried that we would not have enough entries to make decent classes at Ashby, but at the eleventh hour we got some! Among them were Janet's four stallions – the first time most of them had been out of her yard since their arrival 18 months ago, unhandled and frightened – and still quite a handful!

The previous night three of us had managed with some difficulty to erect the tent in the wind, and we had to be quick with the tent pegs despite the fact that Ashby's ground is very stony beneath the grass. We bent several pegs before we got some to hold well enough.



*Henden Saeed found it all HUGELY exciting!*

We are always nervous about leaving anything there overnight when windy, (remembering the wreckage that greeted us the second morning of Suffolk Show a few years ago), but we lifted the display stands and merchandise onto the wooden tables, zipped up

the tent, and crossed our fingers. We found everything still there in the morning, thank goodness.



*Ruth, Liz, Amelia and Nicola Waddicor with Khoja and Jerry.*

One lovely surprise was to meet up with Fred Hall, Ashby's sound equipment supplier, who has now become a friend of CHS. Fred proudly announced that in the horse committee's Planning meeting he had asked for us to have our own separate ring. Knowing that we'd had to change rings due to the huge M and M classes over-running in Ring 6 for the last two years he realised that we had hardly been able to use his sound equipment! Thanks to Fred, a new Ring 7 had been



*Lanhill Petit Niki*

created especially for us and for the first time we had the luxury of knowing we could start on time. Thank you, Fred!

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July was bright and dry, thank goodness, but even windier! The first class, for males four years old and over, was spectacular. We had nine entries, including Janet's stallions. All were very well turned out. Remarkably soon, even Janet's handsome young chestnut stallion, Henden Saeed, had settled down to behaving far more like a gentleman. In first place Judge Ian Edmunds chose Kineton Khoja, the chestnut gelding owned by Nicola Waddicor and



*Kineton Khoja, and Amelia Waddicor*



shown by her daughter, Amelia. Second was Henden Shakir, owned by Janet Dedicoat.

By contrast, the mare class was far barer than in previous years. Only Angela Leadbetter turned up, with her lovely mare Lanhill AntiMay, who deservedly won the class. Let's hope for more entries next year.

The Young Stock class was another with sparse attendance. Only Harry and Helen Thirlby's two nice yearlings were entered, at very short notice. They were understandably unaware of the niceties of showing! The bay colt Holloway Pirouz (Brian) took the judge's eye over his blond field-mate Holloway Minou (Harriet). They are the first foals of two newly-licensed Arjuna stallions and looked very promising.

The Part-Bred Caspian class was won by the smart part-Welsh chestnut gelding Bytham Lindsay (*below*)



*Bytham Lindsay was a good example of a Caspian/Welsh cross and won his class for Penny Walster.*

Lindsay narrowly beat the dark bay mare Bytham Mini Lace (*below*), whose show name reflects the family's lace-making business, aka Bytham Abigail, (*below*) another well-presented Caspian x Welsh cross, handled by 9 year old William Mason. Abigail turned up again in the Ridden Class, this time beautifully ridden on the lead-rein by his sister, 4 year old Annie Mason, to take first place (*below*).

William and Annie Mason were awarded Best Young Handler and Best Rider rosettes respectively. Many congratulations to them and to their hard-working mother, Joanna. Second was that nice grey gelding, Darkhorse Inshallah, a veteran of Ashby, ridden by 11 year old Lizzie Sales.



*Annie Mason and Bytham Abigail impressed the Judge by their manners and turnout*



*Our Show Champion was the colt Holloway Pirouz - our Head Steward wanted to take him home with her! He is owned by Harry Thirlby and was shown by Jade Chulan.*

Lanhill AntiMay was our Reserve Champion. All competitors then took part in the usual Parade of Caspians, watched by a small but appreciative audience, while I struggled to stop the commentary being blown away by what had become an extremely brisk wind. I was saved in the end by a heavy hand owned by John Sansome!



*Darkhorse Inshallah in traditional rug, with owner Lizzie Sales, took part in the Parade of Caspians.*

Janet and I were very pleased to sign plenty of well-filled Performance Points Cards. This is very encouraging, as it shows that owners are taking their Caspians to plenty of shows and events. Entering at Ashby earns you double points, a useful thing to remember.

The officials and stewards at Ashby were as welcoming and helpful as ever and delighted to see us so happy with our new show ring! After a relieved cup of tea and a sit-down, we summoned enough energy to dismantle the tent, pack up and set off for home. It had been a great weekend. We love to see so many happy, friendly people chatting away and to meet some members, Caspians and supporters in person.

Warmest congratulations to all our prize winners, especially our Champion and Reserve Champion!

As you might expect – Janet and I have just one heartfelt request to make of our owners.... ***DO COME TO ASHBY NEXT YEAR - and to save our nerves, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES ON TIME!!!***



## POINTS FOR PERFORMANCE WINNER 2016

### *CONGRATULATIONS TO TEAM KHOJA!*

...and our heartiest congratulations also to Nicola and Amelia Waddicor, the mother and daughter who form a vital part of what has become known as 'TEAM KHOJA'. Just over a year ago, the 11 year old chestnut gelding KINETON KHOJA, bred by the late Suzanne Dore, was watching the days go by, doing nothing, at a riding stables that had no job for him.



Since then, Team Khoja has travelled the country to compete in Driving Trials and One Day Events. They have appeared at least four times in multi-page spreads in 'In Harness' magazine and Khoja is hailed as a 'Miracle Pony'. His popular trainers, Horsedrawn Promotions, have issued You Tube videos of his training on Facebook. To say that Team Khoja has burst like a star upon

the driving scene is to put it mildly, having won or been placed at almost every event they've entered. Khoja and Amelia have earned themselves a whopping 257 points in 2016! This includes 21 Highest Placed Caspian occasions. So numerous are Khoja's competitions that I'm afraid we have given up sending him HPC rosettes as he already has a roomful of rosettes!

Following very closely behind them are 4 year old Annie Mason, (and the essential keen mum, Joanna), with Bytham Abigail, (aka 'Mini Lace') a 12 year old part-bred Caspian/Welsh mare. Their card is also full to bursting and they have earned an amazing 212 points!

In third place is Angela Leadbetter's 9 year old mare Lanhill AntiMay, who has earned 48 points for being shown in hand this year.

Darkhorse Inshallah and Lizzie Sales have amassed 35 points this year for attending local Endurance Rides and Pony Club events – well done to you both.

Abigail, AntiMay and Inshallah may not have attended such high-profile events as Khoja, but they have also made it possible for many more people to know about Caspians and see them doing a great job. Well done all of you and keep it up in 2017!

Khoja deserves a treat of carrots and his Special Points for Performance Rosette and Sash, which will be on its way to Amelia before Christmas, with our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for another stunning season next year.

Huge thanks to all of you who requested and returned a Points Card this season. Each year, participation in the CHS Points Scheme grows. It makes the Caspian more and more visible and attractive to showing and competitive horse-lovers, who could make all the difference to establishing a more realistic market and future for the Caspian. Everything is linked - if breeders will carefully break and school their Caspians before selling them to good working homes, we already know the horses will perform well, demand will increase for Caspians and breeders can be financially more secure.

Caspians and part-bred Caspians must be beautifully prepared and presented to earn top places at shows and events in order to attract the right people. Caspians themselves seem to be far happier being busy and having a job to do, especially if they can show off at the same time, as Caspian stallions love to do!

Can you beat Khoja's points score next year?

**NB:** CHS Points cards are valid for the 12 months between 1<sup>st</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> October, so if you are likely to compete anywhere over the winter, ask Helen to send you a new card as soon as possible. [helenthirlby@gmail.com](mailto:helenthirlby@gmail.com)

## TRAINING FOALS AND YOUNGSTERS FOR THE FUTURE.

Jane Holderness-Roddam,  
West Kington Stallion Centre

You can never start too early to handle your foal once it has had time to bond with its mother after foaling. If the mare is confident with humans, the foal will soon learn that we are not that frightening and quickly accept our role in their life. Most Caspians are wonderfully self-sufficient and will more than likely foal in the field quite naturally or be in at night where their progress can be monitored more closely, especially if first timers.

If it is possible, catching the mare and bringing the foal into a stable or barn within the first few days, so that it gets used to being caught, handled and gradually touched all over, will make life so much easier later on. Gently putting on a well-fitting foal slip, running your hands over the foal's body and down its legs will all help to get it accustomed to you and others. Pick up its feet gradually, so that it will be easier for all on the farrier's first visit. Do this several times until the foal seems happy and accepting and then it is best not to over-do the handling, depending on the personality, perhaps just bring them in once a month or fortnight thereafter as a little reminder.

It is always worth talking to your vet within the first couple of weeks or earlier if you have any concerns about the way your foal is developing and if its legs are straightening properly on



all four limbs. A lot can be done to correct any limb abnormalities, if caught in time before the growth plates have set, usually around 6 weeks. Most studs will do a foal check at 24 hours to ensure that all is well, the foal is drinking properly and has received the right amount of antibodies from its mother's colostrum through the IGG test.

Talk to your farrier and work out a plan on when to trim. Most foals are trimmed between 4 - 8 weeks and then as necessary thereafter to keep them in good condition. It is very important to keep them well balanced if they are to develop correctly into adulthood.

Any foals that have a weakness at birth should be kept in until they are strong enough to start a gradual exercise routine but luckily such problems are rare with Caspians. However, should they arise it is a wonderful opportunity to handle the foal. The other situation that can arise with foals is if they become over familiar and start kicking out at you or trying to rear up and put their front feet on you! Never let this happen as once they have learnt this it is difficult to stop. In this situation it is best not to handle them too often and if possible turn them out in the herd if appropriate where the other mares and foals will sort them out and put them in their place!

Leading your foal as soon as possible with its mother is vital so that it learns to do this from an early age. Try not to pull or push but let it follow. Give a little guidance by tapping on its bum if necessary and a gentle hand on its chest. Most learn how to do this in a couple of days but do still have their naughty moments! If you are able to load them into a trailer with their mothers during the summer months this is another useful lesson learnt before weaning and even better if you can get them to a show or just go for an outing somewhere for experience. Don't make the trip too long as, like children, they won't stay quiet for long!

Do remember to register your foal and get the passport before it is 6 months old, as required by law. Set up a suitable worming programme with your vet, who can also advise when to start your flu and tetanus inoculations. Give your foals a good start in life, good luck and have fun with them!

## TRAINING AND PRESENTATION OF THE CASPIAN HORSE - Part 1

Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell, Rotherwood Stud

The first and lasting impression we want anyone to have of a Caspian horse is of a beautiful small horse, obedient, well-mannered and showing a good temperament.

The training and presentation of the Caspian horse, particularly if exhibiting at a Show or an Event, has to be of the highest standard. Before the question of turnout and presentation, the schooling and discipline MUST take place.

This entails walking quietly alongside the handler and obediently 'trotting on' when asked to do so. And stop when asked. A very important lesson is to STAND STILL for a period of time until asked to move on. Standing still is vital for when



*Standing still - William Mason and Abigail show how it's done.*

you are presenting your horse to a judge, who will want to inspect it from all angles.

A very good idea is to please handle them from both sides. It can be helpful to have a second handler/helper walking behind to help keep them up to the job. As an aid to getting them to obey, use a roller and side reins, even if only attached to the sides of a head collar, but preferably when bitted. Walk around in figures of 8 so they become supple in both directions. If the handler requires the horse to turn around please always turn AWAY from the handler. They must become supple and obedient.

Use your VOICE and always the same commands. Your Caspian must always turn away from you if needing to turn around. If leading to and from their field, ask them to halt and stand still half way to getting there. Make them stand still before letting them go for their freedom.

Just 10 minutes every day should achieve good results.

*(Part 2 will follow in the Spring issue)*

## THE WORK OF THE REGISTRAR

(UELN numbers explained)

Ruth Staines

Have any of you who own horses wondered how the long number allocated to your horse when a passport is issued is made up, or indeed what it means? This is the Universal Equine Life Number – there is even a website for it: [www.ueln.net](http://www.ueln.net). This is a worldwide system not confined to the European Union, rolled out in the early 2000s, that makes up a part of the unique identity of each horse. There are 15 digits in total, the first three denoting the country in which the horse is registered/passported, the second three specifying the organisation responsible for this. The CHS' first six digits are 826 – United Kingdom, and 017 – Caspian Horse Society. The other nine digits are to be used for the stud book number, and any other information the organisation may wish to show. CHS uses the stud book number, plus the ISO3166 country code (two letters) to denote the country of birth (CHS registers Caspians in other European countries which do not have recognised Caspian societies/stud books of their own.) So the UELN will tell you which organisation, in which country, first registered the horse and issued the passport.

Issuing the UELN is one of many procedures I have to go through when registering a Caspian and issuing a passport.

The system starts with sending covering certificates, on request, to stallion owners. These are in triplicate – the first page should be returned to the registrar by the stallion owner in the year of covering. When the foal is born, the breeder fills in the second page, with details of the foal's birth (page three is kept for their records by the stallion owner) and sends it to the registrar, who checks it against the stallion return and then sends the registration and passport application/ID forms to the breeder.

New EU regulations have come into force this year, so I (and my computer-literate husband) have had to spend much time changing the template for printing the passports so they comply with EU specifications and further requirements from DEFRA. Some of the forms of course have also had to be redesigned!

It is a legal requirement in UK that every horse has to have a passport by December 31 of the year it is born, or by the age of six months, whichever is the later. Microchips have been required for all passports issued since July 2009 (including for replacement/duplicate passports and passports for older horses who have not had a passport before.) In UK they must be inserted by a veterinary surgeon (who also completes and signs the identification form.) DNA parent verification is required for the registration of purebred Caspians, and the vet will take a hair sample from the foal at the same time. The registrar must check that the vet appears on the RCVS register, and send the hairs to a laboratory in Texas (which holds the largest Caspian DNA database).

To keep costs down for the society and for breeders/owners, I do all the printing and binding of the passports. (This is only possible while such small numbers of Caspians are being bred.) This is quite a complex operation as they should not be easy to reproduce or amend, and we have to be on the lookout for fraud. Some pages have to be typed in by the registrar from the ID form, some photocopied, some printed direct from the database, which has to be kept, not just for the studbook: this is another legal requirement and details must be readily available if DEFRA officials or enforcement officers require (police or Trading Standards.) A new Central Equine Database is being set up in UK now, and all organisations' data will have to be entered in this, making the checking of data by the authorities in UK and EU that much easier.

Records of pure bred Caspians are also entered in the International Caspian Society Studbook (this can be done online) so that it should be possible for the pedigree of any Caspian (back to the Foundation horses) registered worldwide by a Caspian Society affiliated to the ICS to be looked at online [www.caspianhorses.org](http://www.caspianhorses.org) (for a small annual fee).

Records of amendments, transfers and deaths must be recorded in the CHS database. Checking and amending the database is a constant operation, and depends, of course, on owners sending updates of information promptly to the registrar. This is another legal requirement, as is the reporting of those flouting the requirements to Trading Standards.

All Passport Issuing Organisations were audited during 2014/5. I am happy to report that the Auditor (someone who had a good understanding of both the horse and passport worlds) was, after a few minor amendments, happy with what he found. I recently received an email from DEFRA saying that our audit is now closed. However we must not rest on our laurels so I urge all breeders and owners to comply with CHS Rules and Regulations. This makes life far easier for all concerned. The Rules and Regulations, Legal Responsibilities of Equine Passport Holders and other information, can be found on our website, [www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk](http://www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk) on the Registration, Passports and Stallion Licensing page. For any queries and to request forms please contact me at [chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com](mailto:chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com)

## NEW STALLION LISTINGS PAGE FOR CHS WEBSITE

Elizabeth Webster



*Bytham Orient (Our thanks to Fred's owner Anna Bergmann for this fine example)*

Stallion owners who want to attract mare owners have had to make do with a rather dull page of text until now, with a few small, unconvincing photographs. This used to be either printed out and sent to members or handed to enquirers at shows. Very few facts were supplied, and it gave little incentive to discover more. Few foals have been born in the last few years, maybe due to the recession, but possibly because we haven't been professional enough to convince mare owners it's a good idea to breed to a Caspian?

With the co-operation of stallion owners, we hope those days will soon be over. We aim to provide owners of Caspian or native mares with a visual feast of stunning Caspian stallions to choose from. We must create a strong desire to use a Caspian stallion next season! Then we must persuade them to visit the stud and see the chosen stallion for themselves.

To achieve this, we encourage owners to send us better photographs for our stallion pages. However, to upgrade the entire experience, no photo is better than a poor photo. If so, we will show the facts only and wait for a suitable photo to be supplied. In some cases it may not be available until summer coats come in, but keeping our standards high must benefit the whole breed as well as individual stallions.



If we get information in time, the new pages should be online in the next few weeks. Stallion owners please note! Then we will start on upgrading the For Sale pages!

## OUR POPULAR WEBSITE

[caspianhorsesociety.org.uk](http://caspianhorsesociety.org.uk)

The CHS website is proving to be very popular indeed. Our page view average is well over 200 hits a day, which is remarkable. We are introducing many more features to the website shortly.

### How can you help us?

We need more Caspian stories with good photographs. Have you been entering shows or competitions with your Caspians recently? Why not write a short account of the day and send it in?

**We are interested in your Caspian diaries.** Have you just acquired a new Caspian? Do you have a pregnant mare? Have you got a new foal? Please send us your stories and we will do our best to publish them on the website. A presence on our popular website is a sure way to generate interest in your Caspian Horses.

**Entries from all countries are welcomed.**

**Farokh Khoroshi, CHS Webmaster**

## CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHS URGENTLY WANTED!

*Just a quick reminder to all our Caspian owners and breeders...*

*CHS Council had intended to produce an A4-sized Caspian Calendar for 2017 and, if possible, in future years, to raise funds for the CHS Welfare Fund*

*Unfortunately, photo contributions have been too slow in coming to make it for next year. Please look out your favourite Caspian photo and send it to either myself, or Vicki Shortis, to be considered for inclusion for the 2018 calendar.*

***With Christmas and the New Year 2018 in mind, please let us have your best photos, ideally by early Summer 2017. Thank you.***

Barbara Smathers and Vicki Shortis

## INTERNATIONAL SECTION

### ICS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Brenda Dalton

I am afraid that I am going to have to start the ICS Chairman's slot with a gentle 'ticking off'.

When the Livestock Conservancy in the USA offered to conduct a census on our behalf, it proved to be too expensive and compounded by varying privacy laws, so we decided to conduct our own. This would have corrected any mistakes in the ICS and given us vital activity information. To put it briefly, the response has been abysmal – and, even after a long extension, only a handful of people have supplied information. But thank you to those people who *did* make the effort.

You will notice some slight changes to the ICS Constitution and Rules for Membership when they are updated at the end of the year. The post of Treasurer will no longer be a voting position. The two year rule has been better explained, along with the Prefix rule.

I have now come to the end of my term of office as Chairman and, as I have served two terms, this will be the last ICS Chairman's Letter that I will write. Next year will see a new ICS Council. Whether they will find it worthwhile to re-issue census forms next year, we will have to wait and see. Please remember that a Council can only do what its members enable them to do.

Sadly, many of the people who established the breed around the world are either no longer with us or have retired. Some have become discouraged by lack of interest and are feeling a little disillusioned. Having dedicated your lives to the breed, scale down by all means, but please don't give up. We need you.

To those who are still developing their studs, despite the lack of a proper market for Caspians over several years of recession, let us know what we can do to help you, within the bounds of legislation.

On a lighter note, it is a joy to be kept updated on the increasing success of Kineton Khoja and his team, and I am only saddened by the fact that Suzanne Dore is no longer with us to see what a phenomenon she bred.

Iran has held two Breed Shows this year and the standard of their breeding and handling increases year on year. We have had reports of several foals being bred in Europe and we look forward to adding these to the ICSB.

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*If your horse says no, you either asked the wrong question, or asked the question wrong.*

*Pat Parelli*

*He knows when you're happy,  
He knows when you're sad,  
He knows when you're confident  
And he always knows when you have carrots.*

*-Author Unknown*

# THE 15TH NATIONAL CASPIAN BREED SHOW

Gilan, Iran

Ateshé Firouz-Larssen

I was asked by Houshang Afshari, owner of the Taktaz Riding School and one of the biggest breeders of Caspians in Gilan, to judge the 15th National Caspian Breed Show. This event is held annually at his equestrian center in Anzali, Iran. The Gilan and Mazandaran provinces are the birthplace of the Caspian and still claim a large population of these magnificent little horses. Many are now raised by dedicated breeders, but one can still come across the odd one pulling a cart, grazing on the side of the road or wandering in the surrounding mountains and 'Qoraqs' (grazing areas) with other animals.

Rain had been forecast for the day of the show but Mr. Afshari was prepared for the downpour. The indoor arena, which is surrounded by two levels of stalls, was spotless and tribunes were set up on two sides. There was not a spare seat to be found.



*The show began with speeches by the local authorities, followed by an exhibition of Caspians jumping, driving and - the highlight - a Caspian Carousel.*

I am a strong proponent of sport as a means to ensure the future of the Caspian and I was absolutely delighted by the level of horsemanship – such an improvement on previous years! At 22, Louise Firouz's stallion Bayram still carries his



*Two young competitors show off their mares.*

little riders effortlessly over an obstacle course. The Breed Show consisted of nine classes, from foals to mature stallions and mares.

The overall quality of the horses was excellent. The Jihad in Gilan Province had a number of top quality entries as well. They have acquired many of the Caspians from the Khojir Research Center, just outside of Tehran. A few new entries

stood out as well. One was a young stallion who had been found pulling a cart in a nearby village. He looked like a real life version of the bas-reliefs at Persepolis. Mr. Afshari's mare, Kimya, who is by Bayram, won the mare Championship title.



*Mr. Ghavidel's enchanting dapple grey stallion, Cyrus, won the title of Champion stallion.*

On a rather sad note, last week Cyrus suffered a terrible bout of colic. Although everything was done to save him, he did not survive. The Caspian community has lost a great stallion.

Despite the quality of entries, a note of caution must be added. Many of the Caspians entered shared the same weaknesses or faults, especially crookedness in the forelimbs and overly developed muscles on the underside of the neck. Is insufficient rigour applied to the choice of stallion? Or is the genetic pool too restricted? Caspian breeders should look far and wide in their choice of stallions in order to prevent such characteristics from becoming an endemic problem.

## CYRUS, IRANIAN CALENDAR STAR, IS DEAD

Farokh Khoroshi

Sadly, as you can see in Ateshe's report above, we have been told of the death - from colic - of Cyrus, the dapple grey stallion that represented 'August' in the fabulous 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar. As Cyrus reared high in a moonlit rice field, his spirit and magnificence were beautifully captured by equine photographer Colin Barker, who worked with me in many countries to capture twelve amazing images of Caspians for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar. The month of August shows Cyrus in one of the most arresting sights in the calendar.

In the Iran Calendar Diaries, Day Four on the CHS website, I described our first, unexpected, encounter with Cyrus:

"We walk into an old fashioned yard, which has a line of lovely trees right in the middle. Beautiful old stables on one side and rice paddies on the other. The sky is scarlet by now. Tethered to one of the trees is what can only be described as a mythical figure. A dapple grey Caspian stallion with a head unlike any other I have seen. Although he is dapple grey, his skin is almost pink. Is he really that colour, or is it the light? We must have him for the calendar!"



## YOUR CASPIAN NEWS!

From our British members:

### ‘TEAM KHOJA’ UPDATE

Nicola Waddicor

#### First year driving – Part 2

As many readers of the various newsletters and magazines over the past few months will know, Amelia and Khoja have been going from strength to strength – we seem to be getting used to being at the top of the line!

After Ashby we headed back into what was now becoming the familiar territory of driving trials.



Photo by Stuart Gregory

We decided it was about time to give a One Day Event (ODE) a go; it follows a similar format to the ridden discipline with dressage, cones replacing show jumping and outdoor obstacles replacing cross country jumps. Another dressage test to learn! This time in an 80m x 40m arena.

We headed to deepest Wales, somewhere between the Black mountains and the Brecon Beacons, just below Builth Wells. We had identified that Eppynt Carriage club were holding an ODE on the Saturday and an Evolution class on the Sunday. We were keen to go for the Evolution as this is what Team Khoja had qualified for at the Nationals in Cirencester, so they needed the practice (also the small matter of Drivers' Championship points at stake!) so we packed the tent and headed off for a weekend of competition.

The weather was glorious, the views stunning. This was the first time Team Khoja had tackled solid obstacles before - usually at indoor and club events they are collapsible, but not these ones. They really were solid; and on a hill; and four of



*Tethered to one of the trees is what can only be described as a mythical figure.*

‘What is his name?’ I ask Arash.

“Cyrus” he says proudly.

“Where did you find him?”

“Oh we found him grazing on a roadside up the mountains one day and bought him on the spot.”

“So they do still exist in small villages?”

“Of course they do!” replies Arash



Rest in peace, Cyrus, and thanks for the memories...

## NEW CASPIAN DNA DATABASE TO BE HELD BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Ateshe Firouz-Larssen

Cornell University, USA (Louise Firouz's alma mater) has agreed to house a worldwide collection of Caspian DNA samples. The aim of the project is to collect samples of all known Caspians (or small horses that bear a very significant resemblance to a Caspian and are geographically in a location whereby they could be considered as Caspians) for use in research. Cornell will house the collection at their data bank :

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/research/biobank/>.

I think it is a very exciting project and will hopefully help with the preservation of the Caspian as well as future scientific studies of the breed.

Details are still being worked on and more information may be available by the Spring 2017 issue of 'The Caspian'...

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*“All I pay my psychiatrist is food and hay and he'll listen to me all day” – Author Unknown*

them (we normally get two and you do them twice).

Remarkably, it all came together and they WON! We were so stunned – their first ever ODE and they were first!

It was chilly overnight, and somewhat foggy in the morning but it promised to be another bright and sunny day – Khoja had a pen of grass, so he was happy. It was time to re-cap on the Evolution dressage test, learn a new cones course and a different set of obstacles.

There were 11 in the class including the winner of Keysoe (we won't mention the previous disaster there) and a couple of others who had been well placed. It was all a bit of a blur, but Team Khoja came out victorious, two wins in two days. Incredible!

Over the rest of the summer they took part in various other ODE and Evolution classes, continually coming up trumps. We are so delighted with the way that they have come together over the season; Cirencester and the National Championships were looming close on the horizon.



To cut a long story short, they didn't win at Cirencester, ☹ but were an astonishing 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve). For some reason, Khoja just wouldn't settle for the dressage, normally one of their strong points. It was probably

because the dressage was done around the cones course and he knew what was coming next but, by smashing the times in the cones and obstacles, they managed to claw their way back to be pipped for the top slot by 2 penalties.



We could go on about 'what if' but there is no point, and the reality is that, having been driven for one year and two days, the £50 redundant riding school pony came 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Championships, which is pretty awesome. To cap it all off, Amelia did win the Drivers' Championship for the Evolution class over the season.



Prize-giving at the Championships.

(Amelia and her back-stepper Morag Patrick are in blue)

It was still a wonderful day. So many people turned up to support Team Khoja! They included a young lady called Katie Locke, who had broken him in to ride many years previously at the

riding school. She recalled Khoja and his mum (Henden Mahtab) and taking them to the Caspian Breed Society shows; it was her brother who took Khoja to his first in-hand class. She has promised to fish out a few photos of him for us. She also knew Khoja's brothers – I think we worked out that Saskia has one of them now.



So thank you to all those who came to support and have popped up to support us over the season: - Liz and Ruth (CHS) and Liz's daughter Nathalie, Farokh, my mum, my husband James, Amelia's boyfriend Brad, Judith (who taught Amelia to drive) Alison and Amy (fellow carriage drivers), from work Alan (great photos) Karen, Wayne, Tracey, Katie, Kylie, and the Park vet Emily, to Sharon and Laura and Deb and finally Mark – long suffering husband to Ace back-stepper Morag.

They won at Putloe Court - however Khoja did get a bit above himself as he now knows what is coming and was really motoring (not good). They won by over 30 penalties.

Went to camp. They spent a lot of time trying to re-focus him and get him back under control! They won the camp competition but he was still a bit nutty.

I'm just trying to organise to get back on the lessons with James Broome, especially as we have the first indoor competition on 16th October, when they start their campaign to try and qualify for Keysoe next Easter.

*Right: Khoja's 2016 rosettes earned up to 5<sup>th</sup> September!*

*Left: Tackling the obstacles at the Championships, Cirencester*



**Update:** At the David Broome Event Centre, Crickland on 16<sup>th</sup> October, Khoja and Amelia again finished first, beating their nearest opponent by a fantastic 39.04 penalty points – their 155.01 to the nearest score of 194.04 – by far and away the fastest time of the day and picking up very few penalties for accuracy in the obstacle and cones sections.

#### Events attended this year by 'TEAM KHOJA'

January :Cricklands Indoor driving - 5th  
February: Cricklands Indoor driving - 1st  
March : Cricklands Indoor driving - 5th  
April : British indoor champs - let's gloss over that one!  
May : Le Trec Eynsham, 1st & Reserve Champ, Cones – 2nd  
May : Tan House, Obstacles - 3rd  
June : Royal Bath and West, Exercise Class - 1st,  
And Qualified for Osbourne Refrigeration BDS nationals and Victoria Foods Championships.  
May : Royal Three Counties. Exercise class – 2nd  
May : Cricklands Evolution Class - 1<sup>st</sup>



### More events attended by Team Khoja this year

Also qualified for the British Carriage Driving Nationals Championships at Cirencester Park in September.

June : Smiths Lawn - 4 wheel exercise class – 6th  
June : Cricklands, Evolution class – 1<sup>st</sup> (and qualified)  
July : Ashby Show 'Males over 4 years old' in hand - 1<sup>st</sup>  
July : Cricklands All-in-One driving - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
July : Eppynt, (Wales) ODE, Evolution – 1st  
August: Eppynt ODE - 1st  
August: Powys driving club, Evolution, - 1st  
September: Cirencester, National Champs, Evolution - Reserve Champion and Amelia won Drivers' Championship.  
September: Putloe Court, ODE – 1<sup>st</sup>  
September : 'Carriage Camp' – 1<sup>st</sup>.

### New Winter Season:

October 16th: Crickland, All-in-One, Novice Pony – 1<sup>st</sup>

## NEW CARRIAGE DRIVING VIDEO LIBRARY LAUNCHED BY HORSEDRAWN PROMOTIONS

Mel and Barry Hook, (Trainers of Khoja)

We really enjoyed training Khoja and are so proud of what they have all achieved together! Nicola and Amelia have done so well with him and it's great for us to see them enjoying their driving.

We have recently launched a new Carriage Driving Video Library which explains more about our philosophies on training horses to harness, including case studies on individual horses, as well as veterinary talks and discussions on why we believe in using soft rubber bits and not metal, for example. We also have other films on YouTube showing other clients' horses that we have trained - our basic belief is that they need to be safe, which means they need to have confidence both in themselves and their driver and they should also be happy to do what they are being asked to do.

I think it's a shame that the Caspian isn't more well-known as a driving pony because the ones we have met have all made wonderful harness ponies, so I really hope that we get some more to train in the future! They have a great attitude towards life - intelligent, willing to please and with a good work ethic.

If we can be of any assistance in the future just let me know and we will do our best to help - I could always put a link to the Caspian Horse Society on the videos of Khoja if you think that would help people find out more about the breed?

<https://www.facebook.com/horsedrawnpromotions/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/barryhook2>

*(Eds: We are very grateful to Barry and Mel. Look out for our website link with their You Tube videos of Khoja's training. All their videos are eye-opening and worth watching)*

## JERRY'S PROGRESS

Nicola Waddicor

I first saw Revilo Jericho back in June 2015, when my friend Ali and I went down to see the delightful Rebecca and meet a few more Caspians; my only experience of having seen one being Kineton Khoja, who we had stumbled across five months earlier. We were keen to compare notes with a knowledgeable Caspian owner (and driver).

I must say, it was sort of love at first sight, but then I do have a real soft spot for greys having owned several (non-Caspian) in the past; little Pavlova, a Section A, had been Amelia's first pony, who we broke to drive and she was just adorable. Anyway, I digress.

Rebecca jokingly (?) said she would loan him to us; but hey, I must be realistic – why do I need another one??

Ashby 2015 came – along with Jerry. Admittedly I did have a spare space in the trailer and he very nearly came back then. But I resisted!

Amelia and Khoja were starting to fly; and she kept muttering about getting another one (what on earth for??) she had definitely fallen for the breed and seemed to think that having two would be a good idea. I stuck to my guns. Then Royal Bath and West Show came along. Rebecca kindly agreed to back-step for Amelia and Khoja whilst I hid at the Stand with Ruth (I can't bear to watch.)

Well, that was it. Amelia and Rebecca ganged up on me – and a month later, the week before Ashby 2016, Jerry arrived at ours. OK, it didn't take too much to push me over. At 5yrs old he is very well handled but unbroken. The plan (according to Amelia) was to break him to ride and then to drive.



The following week we took Jerry with Khoja to Ashby. In the strong male line up he came a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> – and was most definitely the best behaved.

So now the hard work starts. The dentist came out and did his teeth (very well behaved) and the little rubber snaffle we ordered arrived. We gave him a few days for his mouth to settle down after the wolf tooth removal and rasping before fitting him with a bridle and the bit. We left him for about half an hour each day to have a chew, until eventually he stopped chewing and seemed happy.

We started introducing the lunge (very confused to start with) but within a few days he was trotting around happily, if a tad unbalanced. The saddle came next, along with the bucking, but that soon stopped and we moved on to stirrups down and swinging. We never rush youngsters and certainly don't like to overload their brains.

We've been throwing things around, he is constantly chased by Monty the dog when on the lunge, and he wears a rug happily. He can be a little jumpy at times but as long as you are positive he responds well. The farrier came and did his feet.

Amelia jumped on board – Jerry was rooted to the ground, unable to move! She might be tall but is certainly light, but this new sensation confused him again. Eventually they managed to walk a couple of circles before we finished and let him digest this new experience.

A couple of days later we ventured into a trot, he was all over the place, but it was a trot. Steering was still a bit erratic but it was early days. We don't have much space at home - a small 'sand pit' of approx. 18m x 35m, not really big enough to get off a circle but small enough for starting off. However, we do own a couple of acres about 2 miles from our house with plenty of really good hacking; the 'boys' go to the field once a week for a couple of days for a change, but not too much grass. We have been walking Jerry in hand with Cosmo and Khoja back and forth to the field so he can see the world; sometimes we box there just so he is used to travelling in our lorry.

Having got Amelia on board we decided that the best way to make progress and build up his muscle was to start hacking out. There is fantastic hacking from the field and a mile down the road is a sleepy village with plenty of dogs, people washing cars and a couple of livery yards.

Off we went, Khoja wore the blanket and, with a wobbly start, we potted off down the track through the woods – a good place to start as Jerry is familiar with this route, so nothing to worry about except his rider. We only went out for about 20 minutes as he is lacking in the necessary muscles and is by no means fit!

After following Khoja out, Jerry was brave and took the lead on the way home. Stop start, stop start, but he eventually got into the swing of things and we arrived back at the field in one piece; first trip out was a success.

And so this little routine continues, they have broken into a trot and his balance is improving, the fog is lifting and he now seems keen to head off each evening on a new adventure. He is totally different to Khoja, much more inquisitive and a lot



more loving; he is also easier to read – Khoja just looks at you and you wonder what's going on in his head as he never lets on, whereas Jerry is constantly asking 'what you doing??'

The nights are drawing in so we will continue with our hacking until the clocks change and gradually start introducing harness, blinkers and crupper before hopefully embarking on the road to producing a driving horse.

## TALES OF ARTHUR AND ROSTAM

### A Tandem Team in the making?

*(Continued..)* Saskia Murk-Janssen

*(Eds. - Saskia took on two entirely unhandled stallions saved by Janet Dedicoat at short notice on the close-down of Henden Stud. Despite living together peaceably until then, they soon reverted to stallion behaviour when she put*



*them into a field with other horses and had to be gelded. Saskia's ambition is to train them as a competition tandem team. It has not been entirely straight-forward!*

The last year has been a most interesting learning experience - definitely for me and I hope for the two ex-stallions! Much time has been spent managing them, rather than doing much actual training.

Even after they were gelded, Arthur and Rostam continued to fight each other so vigorously that I had to keep them in different fields, with an empty field in between. I divided the other horses and ponies between them so they had company, but taking the others out of the fields they were in was never trivial. We either had to be quick and lucky or additional help was required to divert the colts' attention while sneaking one of the others out, otherwise they would come barrelling in to fight you off!

As the winter continued, the land was becoming poached so I had to bring all the horses into the school and the yard. Managing the two of them in confined spaces was not easy - on one occasion Arthur came out over a stable door! At this stage it was a case of getting through the winter unscathed until their hormones finally calmed down.

Many hours were spent discussing strategy and it was an old stallion man in Wiltshire who finally gave me a tip that caused the break through - a herb called *Agnus Castus* or *Chasteberry*. I ordered it on line and fed them copious amounts of the powder in their feeds twice a day. The difference was almost immediate! They settled down and became much more manageable - they were even amenable



to training without fighting me every inch of the way - but they still had to be worked on their own.

Over the summer I put them together in a field so that my neighbour's daughter was able to ride the other ponies. At the end of the summer they had settled down together so that I could even lead the two of them at once. Time had clearly worked its customary magic and we could now get on with their education.

I have always been very protective of my horses' mouths - driving horses often have the reputation of having mouths like concrete, but I pride myself on mine being different! After lungeing the Caspians and reminding them about wearing harness, I started long-reining. Rather than driving them off a bit, I put a lunging cavesson over the bridle and attached the reins to the side rings. We began by walking round the school to establish the basics and then I took them into the empty fields. At this stage arguments are mostly caused by lack of comprehension. As I prefer to avoid unnecessary battles, our routes around the fields are at times somewhat erratic, but we are making progress!

Arthur remains the problem child - he still fights the others for possession of "his" mate. I will be focussing on him in the hope that regular work will help to bring him into line!

*Eds. - We commend Saskia for her patience and perseverance and wish her luck with training her feisty geldings into a tandem team with plenty of 'presence'!*

## UPDATE ON THEODORUS, FIRST CASPIAN/SKYROS CROSS

Sheilagh Nisbet-Brown



Theo, by Caspian stallion Bytham Orient out of my Skyros mare Anastasia, has enjoyed his third summer and is romping towards autumn with more than a little extra 'padding'. As he and his herd-mates out-winter, such 'biological hay' at this time of year causes me no concern and it allows a slightly later start to feeding forage.

Throughout spring and summer, I have maintained regular but light basic training with Theo, while leaving the horses that he runs with to discipline him and teach the social skills

that a horse needs. I plan to continue this low level of work with him until well into his fourth, perhaps fifth, year, to allow time for his brain to mature and become ready for more serious training. My small herd occupies a large area of grass over the summer and this has afforded Theo a sizeable 'playground' to run around and jump in, helping develop in particular his skeleton and muscles. Interestingly, he spends a lot of time with my Exmoor gelding, away from the Skyros mares. I'm not sure who is taking time out from whom.

So he is becoming nicely behaved, although I have seen instances of the equine 'terrible twos' when he seems unable to resist a coltish nip or is not quite on board with grooming and leading. He is testing his boundaries, of course, and this is to be expected of a spirited and intelligent young horse.

His first foot trimming experience was lively but, thanks to our patient and widely-experienced farrier, ended in four perfectly shaped hooves. I feel sure this will go less eventfully next time.

Theo has become a rich, dark bay. If you mixed the lighter bay of his father with the dark brown of his mother, you would get exactly Theo's coat colour. He has a prominent mealy muzzle and eyes, primitive features found in both the Caspian and Skyros, but his mane and tail are of the more refined Caspian type. Compared to a pure bred Skyros of the same age, Theo has a much improved conformation and will have a more generous height, which is what I had aimed to achieve. On this note, I was delighted that Vicki Shortis, Caspian breeder and CHS council member, found time to visit us during her holiday in Scotland and to give me her views on Theo and the Skyros mares; she was pleasantly surprised that the latter were not as bad as I had led her to imagine, and she considered that Theo's developing physique shows promise.

## BYTHAM ABIGAIL (AKA 'MINI LACE')

Joanna Mason

Five year old Annie Mason of Calverton, Nottinghamshire, has had a phenomenal season on her part-bred Caspian mare Bytham Abigail (1/2 Caspian 1/2 Welsh Sec A).

Annie's showing began as a four year old with a trip to her local riding club, of which she has been a member since she was two. Admired by all, Abigail is such a well behaved pony and Annie always helps with the bathing and grooming prior to their outings. It is no wonder that they are always very highly placed in tack and turnout classes.



The partnership of Annie and Abigail has gone from strength to strength throughout the season, with them being placed first on many occasions and going on to compete in Supreme Championships. In addition to the local riding club shows,

Annie and Abigail have also been awarded Supreme and Reserve Supreme further afield, at Laxton Show, Wellow Charity Show, Turnditch and Windley, Collingham Ploughing Match and Southwell Ploughing Match (*below*).



They compete and win in a wide variety of classes, ranging from Style and Appearance and Handy Pony to the more serious Equitation Classes. Always keen to take part in the working hunter classes, they began the season with a steady trot, but have now progressed to a lovely jump over the rustic fences. This, combined with her excellent show pieces, has gained many well-deserved red rosettes. Always making Annie giggle are their exploits in the Handy Pony classes where they enjoy dressing up, crossing shark infested waters, fishing, pegging out the washing and 'going round the world'. Their most recent exploits have been in the pony lead-rein games, where a very competitive and determined Annie has cantered back to the finish line, sometimes having to steer back with Mummy in tow!

Annie was very proud to take part and show off Abigail in the Caspian classes at Ashby show this year. She enjoyed seeing all the other Caspians on show and meeting everyone involved.

They finished their show season by coming first in all five classes at Lambley Riding Club and qualifying at Collingham for the BSPS Summer Championships 2017.

In early October they will be taking part in an organised '15mph, Make it Law' Walk from Wollaton Park to the centre of Nottingham, where the organisers will be presenting a petition to MPs to get a law passed to make motorists slow down around horses. Annie is excited about the prospect of this long walk through the city. Annie and Abigail are looking to finish the year by taking part in some local hunt rides, and can't wait to see what next year brings.



## 'HORSE AWARENESS DAY', NOTTINGHAM

As told by Penny Walster

Riding her mare Gladys, Penny acted as Marshall - collecting stragglers and helping children who fell off during the Horse Awareness Day Ride at Nottingham in early October, Penny spoke to local journalists of her experience of 40 years of riding on roads, describing several 'near misses' she had experienced as 'absolutely terrifying'. Another rider said that a car had once overtaken her horse so fast and close that a stirrup had been torn off!

By slowing traffic behind a large body of riders through Nottingham town, they hoped to reinforce the message that cars *must* slow down for horses.

Also taking part, and staying resolutely at the front of the ride all day, was young Annie Mason, riding her part-bred Caspian Abigail, aka 'Mini Lace' led by her Mum, Joanna, who said that Annie was determined to stick next to Jump jockey and local celebrity 'Wocket Woy' all day!



*Annie and Abigail (and Joanna!) made sure they stayed at the front! Penny can be seen waving, behind them.*

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council's Community Safety Committee, said: "It's all too easy for motorists to take for granted that they are on a clear open road, particularly on winding rural lanes that are often used by horse riders."

To find out more, click on these links -

<http://www.nottinghampost.com/horse-protest-brings-roads-to-a-standstill-to-encourage-drivers-to-slow-down/story-29770740-detail/story.html#comments>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-37534079?SThisFB>

*"A horse which stops dead just before a jump and thus propels its rider into a graceful arc provides a splendid excuse for general merriment" HRH Duke of Edinburgh*





## DARKHORSE INSHALLAH

Olwen Law

For mainly family reasons, Darkhorse Inshallah has not been to many events this summer, although he has continued to be regularly ridden at home by my daughter Lizzie (aged 11).

He did attend the Lindum Festival of Endurance, which is a multi-day event in late July. One of the quoted traits of Caspian Horses is their long stride and their ability to keep up with much larger horses and this is often commented on by other riders at events. Inshallah enjoys being ridden out on the trail much more than being schooled in an arena.

Unfortunately children grow and as Lizzie is growing taller every day we are starting to consider a future occupation for Inshallah.



Our plan is to start him to carriage driving. We've successfully long-reined him and we are now looking to buy harness and carriage with the aim of doing driving trials.

If anyone can advise on a trainer and suitable harness, please do contact Olwen Law on [olwenlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:olwenlaw@hotmail.com) or 07903 154721.

### THE WELFARE FUND

The Welfare Fund has been able to help several Caspians and find them a happy-ever-after home, thanks to your donations! There may be more Caspian Horses that need our help, so please consider donating to the Welfare Fund.

Please remember a lost and beloved horse with a donation or leave a bequest in your Will, knowing that the money you give will be dedicated to giving a living Caspian Horse the chance of a better future.

## MONKEY BUSINESS!

Polly Clark

From cantering along the coastline to trotting down his first centre line, Costessa Feysul (aka 'Monkey' to his friends at home), has had the most positive and willing attitude to the start of his ridden career.



After less than a week under saddle, we took Monkey on a holiday to the Northumbrian coast, where he behaved impeccably and had an amazing time!



Shortly after this, Monkey attended his first outing under saddle and achieved over 65% in both Intro and Prelim before being ridden around the showground by 7 year old Zara for the duration of the afternoon. Together, Zara and Monkey received many compliments and are now aiming for the top.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP CHS TO RAISE FUNDS...

*Remember to think of CHS whenever you buy from the internet. Well known outlets taking part in [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) will pay a percentage of the value of whatever you buy to your nominated charity. To collect larger donations for the Caspian Horse Society, try Compare and Raise - with car insurance, broadband and TV, or even swapping your gas and electricity suppliers ready for the winter months.*

## CASPIAN NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

From TeAra Bergström

**Spring report:** (Eds: Apologies to TeAra - This arrived too late to be included in the Spring magazine)

My very small Caspian news is that my 10 year old son Ethan is really enjoying hunting out on his Caspian, Tristan, who never gets het up.

We have yet to get him jumping but he managed a good gallop this last time. Tristan always gets lots of nice comments when we are out.



*A happy boy, out with the hunt*

It would be nice to have a saddle cloth with a Caspian logo on it, would you have a jpeg of it I could use?

(Eds: This was supplied, with our best wishes)

### Autumn update

On the Caspian front, things tick along here to the level that I can do with the abilities and facilities that I have.

Ethan and Tristan continued to have some great hunts. Tristan's calm nature was very much admired and was a great opportunity to educate people on how fantastic Caspians are. Hunting here is more of an autumn/early winter thing. We

shall definitely be hunting again next winter, but possibly on another Caspian.



Once hunting was over we then re-joined Pony Club, which has a fortnightly rally on a Saturday or Sunday. Tristan is so laid back that trying to turn him

into a games pony was a bit of an uphill struggle, so we sent Cyrus off to the trainer's for a week, to tune him up. I was gifted Cyrus by Rosemary Stone, his breeder. He had had a free life running on the hills in the north of New Zealand.

We did scrub him up and take him to the stallion parade (six years ago) but didn't get enough response to justify leaving him as a stallion;

Also although very pretty, he does dish with his off-fore. After gelding he was



*Hope (left, 3 year old Caspian x TB) with Te Koha Cyrus (Caspian).*

used intermittently, usually when all the neighbour's children turned up at once!

*Ethan and Tristan  
- very laid back!*



Although he was never officially broken in, Cyrus took it all with

good grace. He is very free moving and as Ethan's riding has moved past the 'leg flapping small child' stage I thought that he would be able to ride Cyrus with sensitivity to keep him free moving and that he could make a good games pony. He's also beginning to jump him.

I hope to get a full year of Ethan riding him as, with having a lesson on him once a week, I'd like to think we would see some good progress with both boy and pony. It will also mean that he can go on to be used by a child rider, rather than sitting around in the paddock and it will be good for Ethan to have to ride in a conscious fashion!

Affie (Cheleken Aphrodite, now 31 years old) is still with us and is being ridden by a neighbour's daughter. We had her vet-checked just last week and all her leg joints are good and flexible, maybe she's a little stiff in the back but she can still roar down the beach at a good pace!

Our other project for the summer is Hope, who is the filly by Tristan out of a TB mare. She's just turned four and she'll go to the trainer for a couple of weeks. Then my younger daughter is back from university and is working from home this summer, so she will be able to ride her on. Hope has grown well. When last measured she was just over the 14hh. She is sweet natured and very calm, just a big Caspian!

## CASPIAN HORSES IN HUNGARY WORK WITH THE CHILDREN OF WAR

Dr Marcus Hasler & Antonio Anderson

Liechtenstein couple Gabriela and Markus Hasler share many passions in life; one of the biggest ones is their love and appreciation of their Caspian horses.

Although the main residence for the Haslers is beautiful Triesenberg, in the Principality of Liechtenstein overlooking the Rhine valley, they decided to make a second home in Hungary over a decade ago.

They found a beautiful place on the countryside nearby Lake Balaton, and they have now built up what can be called an





estate in Hungary, complete with the Children's Village Senti and impressive stables.

In total their Csobanc Stable has 34 Caspian horses. It is worth mentioning that it is the only Caspian stable in the whole of Hungary. All of the horses have their DNA tested by the globally recognized A&M University in Texas.

*This year a colt foal was born to Csobanc Shila. His name is 'Bak', the Hungarian word for 'Capricorn'.*

Apart from using the horses in their breeding program, the Haslers have also set up a charitable organization.

The idea behind the charitable organization was to be able to offer children with lesser means, from war-torn zones, orphans and city children a real holiday experience. It was with this in mind that the Children's Village Senti was built up.



Village Senti consists of five newly built wooden houses that can house up to fifty children and ten adults.

*Gabriella, with German-bred stallion, Dra Farzaneh.*

Apart from the Children's Village Senti, the area also contains a fully restored grain mill situated nearby. This estate contains a great hall that can host as many as 160 guests as well as beautifully kept gardens which can seat more than 50 guests. There is also an ancient but renovated cellar that has room for a further 50 guests. The hall is often used and rented out for Wedding and Birthday celebrations. The premises also house a restaurant which offers local cuisine and the hall can also be used to screen movies when the weather does not permit outdoor activities. The chairs and tables of the great building are moveable and allow for fast and easy changes if weather conditions should suddenly take a change for the worse.



*Mares Csobanc Tavasc (nearest) and Csobanc Shila take the children round the countryside.*

The organization enjoys support from Liechtenstein charitable Foundations and Trusts, as well as main support from the founding family, the Haslers.



It offers the guests accommodation that holds an international standard, food from the restaurant located on the premises, transport to and from the resort and access to the Caspian horses and many other indoor and outdoor activities. The children are taught how to ride and the horses are also used for travelling cross country by carriage. The estate and horses are cared for by employees of the Hasler family. The children arrive by bus in groups and they are accompanied by

external staffs responsible for the children. They either share the same language or are supported by a translator.

During the last summer one group of children from the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine came to spend two weeks at the Village Senti. Three more groups of children followed later in the summer; one from Sarajevo, Bosnia and two local groups from Hungary.

The organization works closely with other charitable organizations such as the Lovebridge Foundation, Green Cross and SOS Children's Villages International etc.. These organizations bring children to Hungary to enable them to enjoy what most of us take for granted, a peaceful holiday. The experience for both the staff and the children has been unforgettable.



*The experience for both staff and children has been unforgettable.*

The scenery and nature of the area is the perfect setting for a quiet yet eventful holiday. The region has no heavy industries and the production is based around agriculture. The surrounding area to the village is a mixture of forests, vineyards and farmland and especially the beautiful Lake Balaton. In short, a perfect place for children to find a safe place to enjoy a much deserved rest.

If you are involved in a charitable organization that seeks to provide children in need with safe and fun holidays, why not get in touch with Markus or Gabriela through the CHS.



## NEWS FROM SWEDEN

Emma Lindahl, Nordiclighs Stud

We are still renovating a lot at the new farm but my parents have at last finally moved there. We have more sheep now and we have also started with Dexter cows!

We have had five foals this year, but no Caspian foals. We covered some (Caspian) mares last year, but it was really late in the season, so they didn't get pregnant. This year we have covered two mares for other breeders so there will be some (Caspian) foals here in Sweden next year. We have also sold Sirhowy Omid and Maleke\* to a new breeder. They will also be ridden.

SCHA will be at the Sweden International Horse Show this year again, with more Caspians than before! In the small arena we will have a dressage program, with four Caspians. One Caspian will also join one of the big shows in the big arena, the breed parade and will be in the Christmas show! We are really happy that we can manage to have so many Caspians to come this year. There will also be a Caspian on the SCHA stand. The Show lasts from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November. Here is a link: <http://www.swedenhorshow.se/>

*Our mare, MCC Tabriz's Sham, has been out on a few dressage competitions this year with her rider Ida Knutsson (right) and they have done a great job!*



There have also been Caspians on Breed Valuing shows in different places in Sweden. This year, the Swedish Horse Board had an extra award for all the young handlers, so there have been a lot of young children showing their horses, which is great.

*Nordiclighs Firouzeh, (below) got 40 points and has been gold awarded. Her owner is the little girl's mother Lena Grönroos Carrasco.*



*The essential joy of being with horses is that it brings us in contact with the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and fire – Sharon Ralls Lemon*

## BONJOUR FROM FRANCE!

Brian & Fran Smith-Boyes

There is quite some news since our letter last autumn!

2015 saw the greatest number of coverings in one year for the Rosmear stud, with the result that 2016 has seen seven Rosmear offspring born.

The first to foal was Rosmear Tiz-Taz-Too, now in Germany, who produced 'Minu' (filly) sired by Sirhowy Sanjar (SJ); 2<sup>nd</sup> into the world, from R Zarini, was Roxane Mirane (filly) also sired by SJ; shortly after her came Roxane Farrokh (colt) from Henden Taluhla x R. Kourosh. Both these mares are now with Laurène Meignié, near to us.



Back to Germany, where R.Alish produced the super filly 'Roya' (means 'dream') and finally, for the pure bred Caspians, R Sholeh (Toffie) produced a cute little colt, Rosmear Anoosh, (shown left at three weeks old) in September. The foal was born with some lower

teeth already through; this caused intense discomfort to



*Opal's extended family.*

Toffie, as most natural feeding mothers can probably attest.

In August we also had a pure bred black Arabian and a black  $\frac{3}{4}$  Arabian  $\frac{1}{4}$  Caspian from R. Elske. These three have been featured on Facebook.



We sold three colts in 2014, which have gone to a luxury home where all three will be kept entire. This is a rare opportunity to allow these males to fully mature before having to decide whether to use them for breeding. Rosmear Azad (left, at 22

months) is a flaxen chestnut, from where, we know not; R. Soren at three years old measures just 106cm (10,2HH). However, we need new bloodlines in France and so the



search is on to find a new stallion for which we are preparing a 'specification'!

During this year, R Namarki has featured in harness in a series of theatrical productions with a childrens' theatre.

In April, our stallion Costessa Siyroun celebrated his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday on the same day as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which prompted us to try and trace his offspring. This illustrated how quickly and easily even registered horses can 'disappear', but also disclosed a number that had died but the Registrar had not been notified. We did make contact with a number of former owners, all of whom were happy with his progeny. We hope to obtain more photos from the past to put together an album.

In December 2015, an 'Accord' was signed between the French national horse registration entity (IFCE) and the CHS that finally brings the registration of Caspians born in France into line with Euro rules. This means that unless a stud book is established in France, all Caspians born here have to be registered with the CHS by CHS rules, who then register them with the French national equine database. With the £ in virtual free fall, working out the fees will present something of a headache!

However, this accord only covers pure bred so we are still negotiating for the same status for part bred, particularly where the non-Caspian part concerns only one other breed. This would finally permit us to pursue the main objective of our stud. We could have sold R Elske (Costessa Siyroun x Black Opal - Arabian) many times over, but alas she remains the only Caspian/Arabian cross in France and it is now too late for us to continue that course.

As I write this I am wearing a "Caspian Pony Society" sweatshirt, bought at the Caspian Breed Show in 1987!! A quality product.

## FRENCH-BRED CASPIANS MOVE TO GERMANY

Katharina Mensch

Dear friends of the Caspian small horse, we would like to introduce ourselves here as new Members of the CHS. We are a small stud in the South of Germany and breed American Shetland Ponies, American Miniature Horses, and Amerigo Ponies. But rare and critically endangered animal breeds are the focus on our farm and so it didn't take long before we got to know about the Caspian small horse breed.

After several years of research and study of individual blood lines, in early 2015 we finally found what we were looking for: two beautiful, small Arab-type purebred mares bred by the Rosmear stud in the South West of France. After some talks with Rosmear Stud, I also chose the right stallion to cover the two mares before they would move to us in Germany; a Caspian stallion of the same type and different bloodlines.

In the autumn of 2015 we were finally ready to have the horses and take the long trip south. Brian and Fran (*Smith-Boyes*) kindly met us halfway, so that we met at a horse farm near Marseilles to pass over the horses. I had seen the mares only on photos., but I had hardly opened the front door of the trailer before I saw inquisitive noses and big, beautiful eyes in front of me. I was completely enchanted by these beautiful animals.

In the evening a very bad storm moved in with heavy rain and we had to go as quickly as possible back to Germany to escape the worst weather. The drive overnight was very exhausting for us due to the heavy rain. The horses, however, were totally relaxed during the journey. Initially, because the two animals were very thin and they had been covered not long before, we still didn't know whether the mares were really pregnant. As there is over 800 km distance from us to the next pure-bred Caspian stallion, we fervently hoped that we would get foals the following year.



We were granted this wish! In April, Rosmear Tiz Taz Too got a very wonderful strong filly (*below left*) who will be the image of her mother. When she trots over the pasture, she hardly seems to touch the ground, so she got the Persian name "MINU", which means "Sky".

Rosmear Alish (*below*) has stalled us slightly longer, but she also gave birth to a very charming little brown filly in August.



She is stunningly beautiful, and is therefore called "ROYA", which means "Dream". If you have so far bred ponies like we have, and have been dedicated to the

genetic health of the ponies, it is very obvious that Caspian small horses are, in many ways, something completely different to the large horses that we have and which I've met so far - they are only outwardly similar. The character of Caspian small horses is something entirely new among pony and horse breeds for me. They have thoughtful behaviour, learn very quickly, and seem to have sometimes more

thoughts than I can describe, but, as keepers and breeders of Caspian small horses, I am sure it is clear to you what I'm saying.



ROYA – the dream foal

I always wanted to have horses that look like Arabian horses in miniature size. Today I have something that is much more than that: A horse which is small, looks like an Arab, has an excellent character, and, in my eyes is the finest breed of

horse in the world - because your family tree goes so much further than that of the Arabian Horse.

I would never have dreamed that I would breed horses that still surpass the famous Arabian horses. Therefore, I am particularly proud to have these valuable animals in my stable.

*Eds: This article has been translated from the German in which it was supplied. We apologise to Katharina if she spots any inaccuracies.*

## UTA'S CASPIANS FOUND!

Nina Witwar, Germany

*When German Caspian breeder Uta Horak died suddenly a few years ago, her beloved Caspians had to be hurriedly rehomed and some effectively 'disappeared'. Nina has been on a quest to find them.*

"How many ponies do you have?"

"Ponies? No! We only have horses". With a wink, you get this answer. Curiosity is aroused. Wherever we go with our horses, interested eyes and questions follow us.

We found our first original Caspian horse in 2013. Uncertainty prevails. The heart remains strong. After a long search we gradually found some horses from the late Uta Horak's Caspian stock in Germany (Dra prefix). Some of them were well hidden. For others we drove through Germany for hours and found all but one. Our first two foals from our Caspian Horse stallion Henden Aljaba (by Zeeland\*) were born. For us this was like a double jackpot (in Germany we would say 'twice six in lottery').

According to the regional foal show by our German breeding association we were invited with BITA Darayavahoush to the Foal Championship. In this year the Championship was our highlight. So we could introduce the breed to a wide audience and collect many experiences.

We also visited a leisure tournament and participated in a horse agility contest with our mare, Bitu Banu. Among larger horses, she stood up confidently to the tasks and occupied fourth place in the overall evaluation.



*Bitu Banu took part in a Horse Agility Contest*



*Bitu Darayavahoush and her mother Dra Solal at the Foal Championship, 2015*

Curiosity and openness makes a Caspian Horse an ideal partner for all occasions. Depending on the animal and their preferences, we have a wide range of possibilities that we can do with them.

So, one accompanies me with my bike to the horse agility training, the next is an ideal children's riding horse. Others like to work on the ground, long-rein work or even be small works of art. Others are just there to be loved, to cherish and to nurture. But they all have one thing in common: they are hearty companions and bring us joy every day.

**Family Witwar / Ponyhöfchen – Caspian Horse Germany / Prefix "BITA"**

## THE RESCUE OF THREE CASPIANS

Petra van de Velden, Netherlands

A Belgian horse dealer with a very bad reputation had offered three Caspians for sale on Facebook. When I went to see them, they had one mare (Darkhorse Zariéh) tied up on a broken fence and two people were chasing the other mare (Darkhorse Givenchy), who was in a blind panic! I was afraid she would break a leg because there were rabbit holes all over that pasture. The horses were skinny but had big bellies (they were almost due to foal), no shiny coats, hollow eyes, long hooves, dreadlock manes and they were apathetic.

*(The stallion) Darkhorse Shiraqi was in a dark barn. When they took him out he was blinking his eyes because of the sunlight.*

Back home I told my husband what I had seen and we decided that we would try to purchase Darkhorse Zariéh first because she was in the worst condition. She could not walk because her hooves were too long and had grown crooked and she was in pain.

The next day I went to pick her up. I had to trim her hooves before she could get into the truck. She was on strong painkillers for a week and I had to feed her seven or eight times a day, because if she got too much at once she could have a colic attack.



*Zariéh's hooves after her first visit from the farrier.*



(C) Samantha Bol 2015



One week later we should have gone to pick up Darkhorse Givenchy (left) an Arab x Caspian part-bred mare, but they told us not to come because she had strangles.

To make a long story short, after six weeks we were told that she was dead and her unborn foal too, and that Darkhorse Shiraqi had been sold before the strangles broke through. I could not believe this, (that horse dealer had

told so many lies) so we went to search for them and found them still alive! Luckily all were alright - but Darkhorse Givenchy had lost her foal. All three had wounds in their mouths and tongues, but Givenchy also had scars on her tongue caused by abuse.

They are now all doing great! Darkhorse Zariah had a beautiful colt foal (Moiras Zahar) two and a half weeks after she was rescued and she is a true nanny for all foals. Darkhorse Givenchy has also produced a beautiful colt this year and has turned into a real sweetheart, but she is still a little bit shy when there are strange people with me in the pasture.

Darkhorse Shiraqi loves the attention of children and lets the children make funny hairdos with his beautiful mane. He was sold in March to be a riding horse for two children. He did great, but two months ago I got a call that said that he was again with a horse dealer in a terrible state, so he had to be re-rescued. He has now found a great new home and still has faith in humans!



*Darkhorse Givenchy (Caspian x Arab), with this year's colt foal.*

I hope that I can show other people how great Caspians horses are and I will go with my Caspians to animal events and horse events and maybe in the future they might be therapy horses. But for now

they are my top models for showing my show sets and I enjoy their company every day.

## THE CASPIAN HORSE - IN SO MANY WAYS A UNIQUE HORSE!

Nanda Smit-le Poole, Levend Landgoed NOVA

When I read an article about the Caspian horse, I did not know how unique this breed really is. Even when the first beautiful horses arrived at our place in January 2006 from Australia (top right), I did not know how special these horses are.

*One reason why they are unique is because they are rare.*

When I told people that I had bought Caspian horses, few had heard of them. I knew then that much work needed to be done.

*The history of the Caspian horse is unique, intriguing, interesting and special.*

Thanks to the people who took care of them and worked so hard, so we can enjoy them today.

*It is the oldest foundation horse breed in the world!*

The Przewalski horse is an ancient breed, but no domestic horse breed came from these horses and it is now known that Konik horses did not originate from the Tarpan. This makes the Caspian horse the only ancient original horse breed!



*Everyone who has ever worked with the Caspian horse knows that, in temperament, we can honestly say they are special and unique.*

Since our first horses came from Australia, we were luckily able to buy or loan Caspian horses from England, France and Belgium. Most were beautiful horses with lovely temperament, intelligent, playful, funny, honest, loving attention and our companionship. Some did not have such a good history. They were shy, unapproachable and some even attacked, but despite their bad start, they relaxed and their real personality came through. They can take in so much and still be open for change. The mare with a lot of distrust according to humans, is now the best, most honest children's mount you can imagine. I am so proud of her.

Twice I participated at a lecture which showed the genetic diversity of horse breeds and I was happy to see that the Caspian horse is one of the most genetically diverse of all horse breeds. *This also is unique!*

*Rare woolly coated pigs (below)*



When we look at the breeds today, we see that genetic diversity is one of the biggest problems of domesticated animals.

Genetic diversity helps to avoid health problems.

*However, the most important reason why I believe the Caspian horse is unique is its health and strength.*

Here we have, and breed, several rare and special breeds. Because of this, I see and learn, seeing a lot of breeds struggling and this makes me think about the future of the Caspian horse

When people breed animals for sport, meat, milk, eggs, companionship, etc. we often forget the basics. In my opinion an animal should be self-reliant. They need their health, correct build, ability to move, eat and chew, get pregnant easily, give birth and take good care of their offspring as nature intended. But a lot of domesticated animals and breeds are unable to do this anymore. I think everyone will know many examples of breeds with health problems.

In the old days, most animals (breeds) had a purpose, a job. When they were not healthy enough or their temperament



made it difficult to work with them, they were not used for breeding and were mostly sent to the slaughter house. Pure breeding was usually less important. This necessary selection kept the breed healthy with a good temperament. People could not afford to keep an animal just for fun.

I believe that when I choose to breed, I have influence on a breed, both positive and negative. The smaller the population, the bigger is the influence. Also I try to select animals good enough to sell, so when someone chooses to breed with them, their offspring can be a good contribution to the breed. Nature normally does the selection. Not all animals born will be strong, smart and/or healthy enough to have offspring, nor should all the animals we produce be bred from.

*Since the first Caspian foal was born at Levend Landgoed NOVA in 2006, we have bred more than 25 foals.*



When we choose the combination of stallion and mare, we consider important things like health, build, Caspian characteristics, bloodline, etc. We do not consider certain height or type. What we also consider is colour. It is less important, but we keep in mind that certain colours are rare and we do not want to lose them.

Every foal born at our place is a different combination of mare and stallion, to spread the genes as much as we can. When a colt is gelded, we consider the same combination or

when there is an age difference of several years. We hope in this way to contribute to the Caspian breed.

I am worried that when we start breeding beautiful “pictures”, or make a big argument about “pure” bred Caspian horses, we do not select strictly with breeding in mind and lose genetic diversity. When we do this we will lose our unique Caspian horse and will face the same problems a lot of other breeds are facing. I hope we will learn from the mistakes and choices other breeders and breed societies made and make better choices for our big love, **the unique Caspian Horse**.

## WINTER IS COMING – BE PREPARED!

- Make sure you have a good enough stock of feed and bedding to last any sudden bad weather.
- Check water pipes are lagged. Insulate taps and keep water tanks full.
- When very cold, leave one tap slowly dripping if you can do it where it will not form ice on the ground.
- Check horse rugs are repaired, dry and ready to use.
- Keep de-icer handy to defrost locks.
- Stock up with salt and sand before it sells out.
- On tracks, lay leaves or soiled straw to walk upon.
- If very muddy, smear Vaseline on horses’ heels and inside hooves to stop ice from balling up. (Clean and dry them first)
- Feed plenty of fibre to help keep a horse warm
- Completely remove any Sycamore leaves lying on the ground where horses graze. They are toxic to horses.
- Poisonous Ragwort will still grow in winter, so keep checking for any leaf rosettes, dig up, roots and all and remove entirely from grazing

**Vicki Shortis**

### DISAGREEABLE POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

CHS has been disappointed to hear of unacceptable posts on social media, by people who claim to love the Caspian. This is not what we’re about folks...



*Photo by Nanda Smit-Le-Poole*



## PLEASE SLOW DOWN FOR HORSES!

The 'Slow Down for Horses' Campaign started in 2015. Riders were becoming increasingly concerned about their safety when riding on our roads, with drivers failing to slow down when passing horses.

To make drivers notice horses, some riders even stripped off to raise the awareness of drivers to the need to SLOW DOWN when passing horses.

Today only a small proportion of drivers has anything to do with horses, hence the lack of knowledge about them among drivers, who seem totally unaware that horses can easily be frightened and spook to the danger of all. Perhaps it's time that teaching drivers how to drive when near animals should be introduced as part of the driving test?

Always make sure you can be seen when riding or carriage driving on the roads by putting 'hi viz' wear on your horse and yourself when hacking.

## BOOK REVIEW

Vicki Shortis

**The Ride of my Life**, Memoirs of a Sporting Editor.  
Michael Clayton, £20. ISBN 9781910723210

Michael Clayton has enjoyed a fascinating career as a professional journalist in Fleet Street, the highlight being his time as Editor of 'Horse and Hound'. Michael has also been a past Vice President of CHS. This is a must-read book for all who are interested in horses.

Available from [www.merlinunwin.co.uk](http://www.merlinunwin.co.uk) and all good bookshops.

## MEMBER'S RECIPE

### - LORD WOOLTON PIE -

*Vicki Shortis describes these as Winter Comfort Foods. She enjoyed Lord Woolton's Pie in a National Trust restaurant.*

Take an equal selection of diced winter vegetables  
(Carrots/Swedes/Potatoes/Leeks)

3 Spring onions, chopped

1 teaspoonful vegetable extract (Marmite)

1 tablespoon oatmeal

Herbs, spices and/or grated cheese to taste

Salt and Pepper

Mashed Potato or Pastry for crust.

Cook all vegetables and oatmeal together for 10 minutes.  
Allow to cool, then put into an oven-proof dish.

Add any preferred seasoning, herbs, spices and/or grated cheese to taste.

Cover with a crust of mashed potato or preferred type of pastry. Bake in a moderate oven until nicely brown and serve.

Follow it with:

## LEMONY RICE PUDDING

"A family favourite."

2 oz Short Grain Rice

1 oz Sugar

3 - 4. Tblsp. Lemon Curd

1 pint Milk

1 oz Butter, cut into small pieces

Grated zest of 1 Lemon

Grease an oven-proof dish

Mix rice, sugar and lemon curd together and spread over bottom of dish.

Add 1 pint of milk and dot pieces of butter on top. Sprinkle with lemon zest.

Bake in a slow oven for 3-4 hours until cooked. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream.

## A PLEA FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY!

We are very grateful indeed to have so many enthusiastic members and especially grateful to those who save us time and hassle by paying via Standing Orders. However, a few may not understand that, although they pay a membership fee when they join – whatever the time of year – their annual subscription is payable each April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our membership form now makes it clear that after the initial payment, their Standing Order should be paid by or before 1<sup>st</sup> April. Members could help us by ensuring that their bank understands and complies with this. Thank you.

Sheilagh.

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS ISSUE OF 'THE CASPIAN'...

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE OR REPORT for 'The Caspian' magazine, we would love to receive it, but please remember the following requirements!**

**Text:** Send your editorial in Word (not pdf), so it can be manipulated to fit into the space available.

Please restrict it to 400 words maximum, (slightly less if you send a photograph) unless requested to write more. We may need to edit or précis your submission, but can send you the précis version to check if time allows. It is best to check your word-count before sending.

**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 as required, without losing clarity. Please do not embed photographs in the text – they will have to be separated. **Please send all submissions to both and REMEMBER THE DEADLINES: 1<sup>st</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> October!** After 10 days' grace, we regret that late articles will have to be filed for the next issue. Thank you.

[vickishortis@gmail.com](mailto:vickishortis@gmail.com) and [lizwebster08@gmail.com](mailto:lizwebster08@gmail.com)

# AUTUMN WORDSEARCH 2016

## 'FIND THE STUD PREFIX!'

*Search vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards. Good luck!*

G	T	S	Y	N	V	U	A	S	S	E	T	S	O	C	N	Y	W	I	D	H	N	V	I
U	R	M	O	H	D	X	A	Y	C	G	N	Y	F	A	U	W	B	P	G	N	L	V	N
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V	J	E	T	R	U	N	N	Y	M	E	D	E	Z	B	G	S	Y	Y	E	H	B	A	H
X	Z	L	F	T	E	S	Q	Y	W	N	T	Z	S	I	I	F	M	T	X	G	P	V	H
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K	Y	I	R	B	W	C	W	Q	Z	B	G	P	A	P	R	K	C	K	L	G	F	V	O
U	O	S	B	V	O	T	Z	Q	R	X	G	R	Q	V	S	I	N	E	I	R	S	M	I
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E	V	F	B	T	G	U	I	F	R	U	A	O	H	I	G	C	P	E	L	R	R	I	W
U	S	E	P	H	E	D	Z	V	N	J	Y	N	E	R	T	W	M	G	I	U	D	F	X
R	D	J	V	Z	T	L	V	A	G	D	I	W	X	T	F	S	H	F	X	V	T	S	A

ARJUNA

ACHNAH

ALBORZ

XERXES

TANDARA

SPARK

SIRHOWY

RUNNYMEDE

ROSMEAR

PERSICUS

NOVA

MIRAN

LANHILL

KINETON

HOLLOWAY

HOPSTONE

HENDEN

EDCOMBE

CHELEKEN

COSTESSA



# CHS BUSINESS PAGE

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please contact Pat Bowles (contact details on last page)

**NB: Membership is valid from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the following 31<sup>st</sup>**

**March.** SO = Standing Order. New members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> January need not pay the following April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 for free
- 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. The pure-bred offspring of an unlicensed stallion 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, DEFRA 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 CHS 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:

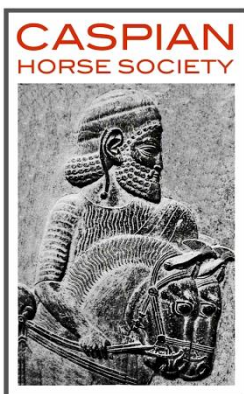
Register your unique Prefix	£28
Standard Stallion Licence	£15
BSA: Inspectors' expenses only	No fee
*DNA Verification for registration	£25
Duplicate Registration Certificate	£8
Duplicate Passport	£15
Transfer of Ownership	£5
Changes (e.g. gelding/colour)	£5
Change of Address	No Fee

Documents will be posted to UK addresses by 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

(\*Subject to exchange rate fluctuations)

*For Stallions at Stud and Horses for Sale/Lease/Loan, please visit our website: [www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk](http://www.caspianhorsesociety.org.uk)*

*Owners should contact Ruth Staines to update entries  
<[chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com](mailto:chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com)>.*



# CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1076026

**PATRON:** Mrs Ateshe Firouz-Larsson  
**PRESIDENT:** Mrs Jane Holderness-Roddam, CBE, LVO  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Mrs Elizabeth Mansfield-Parnell  
**HON. MEMBER:** Dr Gus Cothran  
**MEMBER EMERITUS:** Mrs Pat Bowles, MBE  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY :** Mrs Sheilagh Nisbet-Brown

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mrs Nichola Waddicor, (Treasurer)  
Mrs Elizabeth Webster (Co-Editor, Shows)  
Mrs Vicki Shortis (Co-Editor)  
Mrs Janet Dedicoat (Council Member, Shows)  
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Mr John Sansome (Council Member)  
Mrs Helen Thirlby (Council Member)  
Ms Penny Walster (Council Member)  
Mrs Angela Leadbetter, (Council Member)  
Mrs Rebecca Mann, (Council Member)

## ADVISORS TO COUNCIL

Mrs Brenda Dalton (International Chairman)  
Ms Kay Taplin (International Registrar)

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1076026    REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER 3763510  
LIMITED BY GUARANTEE    REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES  
REGISTERED OFFICE: 10, Water Lane, Castle Bytham, Grantham, NG33 4RT  
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