

# BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL CONQUER EUROPE

the phenomenon of Polish Arabian horses

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photos by Giulia Botempi and Łukasz Kowalski thanks to Totalizator Sportowy

*On Saturday, 21 October, at the Służewiec Racecourse in Warsaw, the All-Polish Show of 3-year-old Purebred Arabian Horses in Racing Training took place, which is part of the KOWR Ranking (otherwise known as the Polish Classic Arabian Cup), held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and organised by the National Agricultural Support Centre (KOWR), with the Polish Jockey Club as the main patron and Totalizator Sportowy - TWK Służewiec Branch as the executive coordinator. This racing and show selection programme, held for the first time in the 2023 season, is intended for 3-year-old horses that meet the pedigree*



## Judges & judge probationer



requirements set out by the Heritage Arabian Racing Club (i.e. those that do not contain in their pedigree the blood of the stallions Amer (SA), Baroud III (FR), Burning Sand (US), Dragon (FR), Saint Laurent (FR) or Tiwaiq (SA)) and have completed a minimum of one race.

Where did the idea for such a ranking come from? It is primarily based on the idea of the now-defunct, aforementioned HARC organisation established in 2015 on the initiative of Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (UAE) in reaction to the disappearance of a certain type of Arabian horse: strong, healthy, suitable for riding performance, but

still undeniably recognisable as an Arabian horse. His Majesty had great respect for the Polish and Russian traditions of using racing as part of the breeding selection process. In addition, his aim was to preserve the broadest possible gene pool of Arabian horses, which means caring for old, traditional populations that are disappearing these days. The definition of a 'HARC horse' was constructed on the basis of an analysis of race times. It was noted that for about 150 years, average race times over given distances remained constant. However, in the last 25 years or so, these times have regularly decreased (by up to 10 seconds) in races won by the offspring of specific stallions.







Encarino - Best in Show Stallion

The unprecedented speed, especially without the basic breed traits going hand in hand, was contrary to the HARC philosophy and therefore these horses were excluded. Because the HARC philosophy comes out of the implementation of the Polish breeding programme and at the same time is recognised worldwide, on 10 January 2023, during a meeting initiated by the President of the Polish Jockey Club - Krzysztof Kierzek, representatives of Arabian horse breeding associations and State Studs representatives, made the decision that from the 2023 season the existing "exterior" races will be replaced by a programme based on this very idea. For the 2023 season, 71 horses meeting the

criteria for these races have been entered. As the programme is intended to select horses that are not only brave but also beautiful, it has been decided that the final score will also consist of a phenotype evaluation at an in-hand show dedicated to the horses participating in this programme, and additional points will be added for any achievements in shows organised by international breed organisations - ECAHO and AHO.

The All-Polish Show of 3-year-old Purebred Arabian Horses in Racing Training was held in groups for mares and stallions separately, judged by a judging panel consisting of:



Encarino - third place in the Presentation Race





**Andryjanka - during  
Presentation Race  
(placed 4th)**

*Alicja Poszepczyńska (ECAHO judge), Małgorzata Łojek (racing trainer), Tomasz Tarczyński (ECAHO judge).*

*In the group of mares the decisive triumph was won by Andryjanka (Pogrom - Atanda/Eden C (US)), bred and owned by Andryjanka Stud Edward Siecinski, while in the group of stallions, where the scores of the first three were very even, the eventual winner was Wizard KL (FA El Rasheem (AE) - Wieza Czarów/Vitorio TO (US)), bred by Klikowa Sp. z o.o. s.k., owned by Klikowa Rzepka Sp.j.*

*An event accompanying the show was the selection of the*

*"Best Horse of the Show" (separately in the stallions and mares category), which aims to popularise Arabian horses among the public. The winners of this title, selected by a committee consisting of: Krzysztof Kierzek (President of Polish Jockey Club), Joanna Krawczyk (Stud Book Registrar) and Jakub Kasprzak (Head of the Breeding and Racing Department of Polish Jockey Club), decorated by the General Director of National Agricultural Support Centre - Waldemar Humięcki were: the aforementioned, highest scoring mare - Andryjanka and the stallion Encarino (Shiraz De Lafon (FR) - Eneria/QR Marc (US)) bred and owned by Janów Podlaski Stud.*



**Andryjanka - class winner of the mares section  
and Best in Show Mare**



Cuks - winner of the Presentation Race



An additional attraction held that day was the Presentation Race, in which we could see the horses participating in the ranking - this time under saddle, over a distance of 1600m. The winner of the race was Cuks (Equator - Cejhyra / Avangard (RU)), bred and owned by Robert Talarek.

We hope that the attractive prize pool obtained thanks to the organiser will be a significant support for the breeders who honour the Polish breeding tradition of pure-bred Arabian horses, and that the final result of the ranking will be an opportunity to present Polish horses from their best side - as versatile animals. This undoubtedly refers to the Polish breeding tradition started by passionate visionaries such as Dzieduszycki, Sanguszko, Potocki or Branicki and their

successors, whose foresight, knowledge of the matter and determination led to the creation and consolidation of a horse population valued worldwide. The ranking can therefore become the first significant step towards activating a new market for horses combining sporting bravery with the preservation of the Arabian type that has been valued by breed enthusiasts for many years.

The next big shows of the 2023 season and the beginning of the 2024 season are ahead of us and, having great hope for the next successes of Polish-bred horses, we invite everyone to Poland, where you can get to know, watch and finally - buy beautiful and brave Polish Arabian horses.

Porto Rico - second in stallions class

